



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

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[Major successes at The Big E vaccine clinic](#)

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

Our grant project of vaccinations at [The Big E](#) with [USAgings](#) and the [American Society of Consulting Pharmacists](#) was very successful! The Big E ended this past Sunday with over 3600 shots administered by our team, despite five days of rain.

We greatly appreciate the cooperation of the New England Grange states in allowing us to use their lawn at the Grange Building to set up the 10' x 20' tent, tables and chairs, banners and a massive TV. Special thanks to Noel Miller, past President of CT State Grange, for all his help in receiving truckloads of packages and hauling them from his home to the fairgrounds, building the tent platform, and being there the whole 17-plus days to help wherever needed. Thank you Noel! We couldn't have done it without you.



Thank you also to the team of pharmacists from [PharMerica](#) and [ASCP](#), and [McUlsky Health Force](#) who were there every day to oversee the process and administer the shots through sun and rain, heat and cold. We appreciate your hard work.

We still have more shots to give and more vaccine education to deliver, so watch for the next chapter of this grant project. The Grange is truly the trusted voice of rural America as proven by this wonderful response.



[Autumn Leaves](#)

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



It's been quite a summer with the exorbitant heat, drought, downpours, devastating floods, landslides, fires and despair. Autumn has arrived and with it, the changing color of the landscape. I continue to be amazed and delighted by the changing colors of the leaves. Every day is different as the colors change and intensify along the drive I take around the lakes and through the neighborhoods where I live.

In the Midwest, and perhaps elsewhere, there is a pilgrimage that people follow to go to places where the leaves are changing color and pause to enjoy their glory, to

photograph them for photo contests or meditate on the change of a season of robust, loud color to a season quiet with hues of white and gray punctuated with evergreen.

I discovered through www.Well.org that there are some physical and mental reasons why people have such emotional attachments and responses to the changing color of leaves in the fall.

Fall is a time of physical change. For many of us, the change involves children going back to school and a daily routine different from the summer. But if we observe the physical change in the landscape and the changing color of leaves, we can challenge ourselves to try something new. Maybe it's a small thing like waking up a little earlier in the morning to examine what has changed overnight. Maybe it's looking for a new recipe to try for a fall dinner. Maybe we can take a longer walk at the end of the day or take a different route.

While examining the changing colors of the leaves in the morning light or in the longer walk later in the day, concentrate on those glorious colors of red, orange, and yellow scattered around you. Looking at the extreme change in colors stimulates our brains which triggers positive emotions and helps alleviate stress.

These colors may also trigger a bit of nostalgia. I recall the task of raking leaves and piling them up to remove them from our yards. While there is some new controversy regarding this activity, I am reminded of the nostalgia of raking the leaves into piles, then running and jumping into them like a maniac! Often this activity involved the whole neighborhood gang of kids with parents tolerating the activity knowing that someone so going to have to re-rake the piles again. There are other nostalgic activities related to the changing colors of the leaves; apple picking, pumpkin patches, hayrides and decorating for Halloween and Thanksgiving.

Leaves themselves are cherished collectibles. I have stashed them in books and delight in finding them later. They can be inserted into greeting cards, or added to scrapbooks or journals as a reminder of a day or event. They can be pressed between pieces of waxed paper to create a suncatcher to hang in a window. They add elegance and texture to a fall centerpiece or bouquet on a table.

For me, autumn with the changing colors of the leaves means hope. With every falling leaf in whatever blazing color, I am reminded that after the leaves are covered with a blanket of winter snow, spring will arrive again, and the trees will bud out with blooms and glorious green leaves. Have a glorious autumn!

ACCEPTING BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS



The **Grange Foundation** will accept nominations for members of the Board of Directors from September 2nd through October 15th.

Submit names and bios to ngfb@grange.org or betsy@nationalgrange.org, or by mail to the National Grange office.

Election will occur at the National Grange Session on November 13.

October Heirloom



Speak good of others, rather than evil. Gather up memories of others' virtues and pass by their faults in pity.

-Chaplain, 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 October Heirloom materials here.](#)

National Grange Convention is close!



We are just **five weeks** 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!***

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

This year's Convention will be just blocks from the Falls! The [Sheraton Niagara Falls](#) 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](#), just across the street!

Use [this link](#) 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!

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

General 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*

Please be sure to bring along NEW mittens, hats, and socks to donate to Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, which serves a vulnerable population of individuals that, through a variety of circumstances, have been underserved, marginalized, overlooked and challenging in their presentations and behaviors, including unhoused individuals, youth, adults, families, and more.

[Register for Convention](#)



Convention Feature: Vendors bring new ideas, partnerships, sales to Showcase

The Showcase room at the National Grange Convention is always a fantastic spot to get ideas, learn about the work of the Grange, and even do a little bit of shopping. This year, the Showcase will be located in the Cataract Room, just inside the Niagara Convention Center, and will feature highlights of the work done in the seven states in the Northeast Region, the Grange Supply Store, partners of the National Grange, the National Grange's grant work, and more!

Here's a taste of what you can find in this year's Showcase:

- The [Affordable Connectivity Program](#)
- [The Dictionary Program](#)
- The [Federal Communications Commission](#), the grantor of the Grange's work with the Affordable Connectivity Program
- [The Grange Supply Store](#)
- The [Jordan Porco Foundation](#), a peer-to-peer program aiming to prevent suicide and promote mental health
- The [Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute](#) (PCORI), the grantor behind the "Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors" program
- [Rural Minds](#) & [NY FarmNet](#), Grange issues partners who will be presenting about mental health in rural America; they will also moderate a panel on Thursday afternoon, as well as Saturday morning's "Talk Saves Lives" seminar
- The [United States Patent & Trademark Office](#), who will also be presenting a workshop on Thursday morning
- [USAging](#), the grantor who helped the National Grange provide more than 3500 vaccines at The Big E in late September
- Victor Grange #159 (PA), who will be selling chocolate Grange emblems (they make a great gift!)
- The collection point for the National Grange's Community Service project for [Community Missions of Niagara Frontier](#)
- *And more!*

Be sure to check out the Showcase, which opens the evening of Wednesday, November 15, and will be open all day on Thursday and Friday, as well as Saturday until noon.



Coming to the Showcase at National Grange Convention...

Milk Chocolate Grange Emblems

3.5oz chocolates

\$5 each or \$4 each for 12+

plus shipping

Meets possible in Pennsylvania

**Pre-Order now for pickup in
Niagara Falls!**

Contact **Linda**: (717) 250-1480

sold by

Victor Grange #159 (PA)

exclusively
Pennsylvania made



We need your participation

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

Since I began working for National Grange in 2011, I am not exaggerating when I say I have heard hundreds of people suggest the organization seek grants to help bolster not just the bottom line of the National office, but to assist local Granges.

Earlier this year, we were able to win our first federal grant - to help raise awareness about the [FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program](#). The grant funds allowed us to create and distribute a variety of different print products (as well as some digital assets) that Granges could request for free to post and hand out in their communities — and to provide Granges who participate with some incentive funds for their work.

Just the thing members have been calling for we have delivered. But many Granges still have not signed up to participate or have not inquired about taking part in this community service project with a benefit.

Funders look to past success to determine if an organization is worth partnering with and investing in. Are we going to be able to tell a story of success?

It's up to you.

If your Grange has not yet signed up or requested more information, now is the time.

Your choice to become involved in this project can have a huge impact on not just our ability to prove we were a worthy investment this time, but that we can be trusted as one in the future. It can also be a way to help your community and your Grange's treasury - a win-win.

So, what are you waiting for? Request more information about the project by emailing membership@nationalgrange.org or calling 301-943-1090. Your inquiry will be forwarded to our partner - **Oregon Institute for a Better Way** - which provides community navigators who can gather information, walk you through the sign-up process, get you appropriate supplies, help you report your outreach, and confirm with our office that you are eligible for incentive funds.

If you have already signed up or received ACP material to distribute to your community, make sure to check back with your navigator or reach out to me so you can complete the process and receive your incentive.

We look forward to working with you.

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](#).

This panel is co-presented by the National Grange, [Rural Minds](#), and [NY FarmNet](#).

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 Healthcare 'Pathway to Progress' Report Now Available with the Views of Sanford Health, AAFP and More

By Jack Tiplady / Reuters Events, courtesy of [The Daily Yonder](#)

Think the challenges faced by rural health systems can be solved by utilizing solutions employed by urban providers? Think again! Financial pressures are more acute with low patient volume. Much poorer connectivity and a lack of local specialists further complicate accessibility issues.

To gain solutions for these unique set of challenges we must look to rural health leaders on the ground that grapple with these issues day to day. Featuring the latest strategies and innovations of leaders of Sanford Health, American Academy of Family Physicians and Homeward Health, our 'Rural Health: Pathway to Progress' report pulls back the curtain to

uncover the pathway to higher quality care provision for the 60 million people that comprise Rural America!

[Download the 'Rural Health Pathway to Progress Report' now!](#)

The experts contributing to this report:

Bill Gassen, **CEO, Sanford Health**

Dr. Sterling Ransone, **President, American Academy of Family Physicians**

Jenny Schneider, **CEO, Homeward Health**

Joshua Ratner, **Chief Strategy Officer, WMCHealth & CEO, HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley**

Our gathered group of experts in the rural health space will provide their visions for how we can take significant steps towards:

- **Overcoming major workforce challenges** through a combination of residency programs, further investment in programs for 'homegrown' medical students and deployment of basic automation and EMR's that are interoperable with other local providers to reduce workloads
- **Increasing access to specialist care in rural areas** by leveraging nationwide telehealth projects that negate proximity issues to provide care, developing agreements with 'rotating specialists' and providing pop up clinics and transportation services for more isolated groups
- **Fending off rampant cost pressures** by investing in teams dedicated to applying to and attaining approval for available grants, entering into partnerships with larger provider groups, and exploring the potential of more flexible, value-based arrangements in rural settings

It's time we work together to create a shared strategy for a healthier, happier Rural America! We at Reuters Events Healthcare are looking to encourage this thinking and if you would like to contribute in future please don't hesitate to reach out.

**MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS**
with Amanda Brozana-Rios

**MONTHLY
ON ZOOM**
Second Tuesdays

OCTOBER 10TH
@ 8:30PM (ET)
bit.ly/mm1867
Meeting ID: 525 965 930
Passcode: 981892



*Membership Matters this month will delve into the National Grange Membership Database and how you can help make it better! Jump on Zoom on Tuesday, October 10 at 8:30pm (Eastern) with National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana-Rios for this monthly Zoom, good for **all** members!*

Join: <http://bit.ly/mm1867>

R2S2 - Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors

By Joan C. Smith, Program Manager

Projected Outcomes and Outputs:

The Pre-and Post-Surgery Tip Sheets are to be disseminated to 1,500 Community Granges during the two-year funded period, reaching 100,000 in the first year and a total of 150,000 Grangers and others over the contract. The guides should also reach increasing numbers of non-members.

Short-term outcomes during the project period include:

Better prepared and more engaged older rural surgical patients capable of making care decisions based on a deeper understanding of their condition, making choices that are in accordance with their personal goals, values, and preferences. Build better-informed family members and other care partners who will be

capable of providing better and more effective aftercare. These improvements in engaged and individualized decision-making should improve patient satisfaction and reduce stress for both patients and care partners.

Medium-term outcomes (0-2 years post-project period) include:

Pre- and Post-Surgery Tip Sheets (Guides), videos, and website will be distributed to the Grange's 1,500 local chapters, serving a total of 150,000 members.

Long-term outcomes (3+ years post-project period) include:

- 1) To provide a paradigm for future health initiatives which can benefit rural America's medically underserved population.
- 2) To demonstrate the success of the Grange's infrastructure to improve rural health through demonstrating the uptake of critical information about health and medical issues.
- 3) To reduce the stress on both patients and their families and other caregivers leading to greater satisfaction for both patient and care partners alike, and ultimately resulting in rural seniors being able to remain safely in their homes following surgical procedures.

**SUPPLY STORE**

www.grangestore.org

GRANGE SONGBOOK PACKAGE



This new package of Grange Songbooks is available at a discount through the Grange Supply Store. The package includes:

- Grange Pianist Songbook**
- Junior Grange Songbook**
- Grange Conference Songbook**
- Grange Collection of Songs**

Individually, it would cost **\$15.50**
NOW ON SALE for
\$6.00 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

***NEW* GRANGE SOCKS**
Limited quantity available!



Show and wear your Grange Pride at various events and activities, especially at State Session!

These Grange socks feature the Grange emblem on a navy blue sock.

They are 80% combined cotton, 15% nylon and 5% elastane.

One size fits most

For each pair purchased, National Grange will donate a pair of socks to the National Grange Community Service Project - Community Missions of Niagara

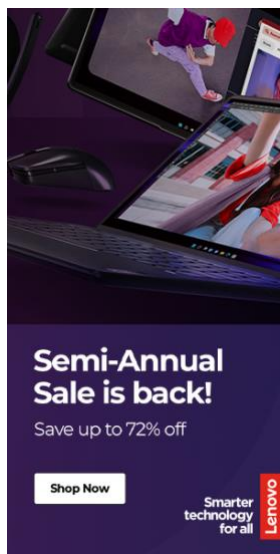
\$16.00 plus shipping

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

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 STORE NOTE: The cost for duplicate Charters has been set at \$20.00, including shipping. For more information, please reach out to Loretta at lwashington@nationalgrange.org.

Grange Member Benefit: Lenovo



Lenovo's Semi-Annual Sales Event is back!

Up to 72% off Lenovo Tech

Save up to 72% off Lenovo most popular brands of laptops, desktops, visuals, software, and accessories during Lenovo's Semi Annual Sale.

Earn BIG with MyLenovo Rewards

Sign up and earn rewards for future purchases. Plus, you'll receive expedited delivery at no extra cost!

Shop Now: www.lenovo.com/us/en/lsp

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.



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

NATIONAL GRANGE

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you're covered.

CAN I STILL GET COVID-19 VACCINES FOR FREE?

Yes! You're covered – COVID-19 vaccines are widely available at no cost to you.

COVID-19 has not gone away, and updated COVID-19 vaccines continue to be available to everyone in the United States free of cost. You may have heard about upcoming changes to how COVID-19 vaccines will be paid for, but even as these changes take place, COVID-19 vaccines will still be available and fully covered – free of cost for almost everyone.

children



Medicaid



Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)



Tricare



Private insurance



Children without insurance

CHILDREN ARE COVERED FREE OF COST

The Vaccines For Children (VFC) program is a federally funded program that provides vaccines at no cost to all children who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of inability to pay.

adults



Medicaid



Medicare



Tricare



Private insurance*



Adults without insurance**

ADULTS ARE COVERED FREE OF COST

COVID-19 vaccines are currently free through the federal government. Starting in the fall, vaccines will be covered through a combination of public and private programs.

*All private insurance plans – except certain pre-Affordable Care Act “grandfathered” plans – must provide vaccines at no cost.

**The Bridge Access program, administered by the CDC, is a public-private partnership starting in fall of 2023 to provide COVID-19 vaccines free of cost to uninsured or underinsured adults.



Have more questions about COVID-19 vaccines?

Scan to learn more about the importance of staying up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines and how you can get vaccines at no cost to you, or visit covidvaccineproject.org/covered

**COVID-19 VACCINE
EDUCATION and
EQUITY PROJECT**