



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

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[Support the Grange year-round in the 1-in-1000 Club](#)

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

With the National Grange convention quickly approaching and many State Grange Sessions happening this weekend and next weekend, many members' thoughts turn to Grange at this time of year.

Take just a moment in this busy season to think about what the Grange — your home Community Grange, your State Grange, your Grange friends and family — really means to you. I'm sure many of you, like me, don't know what you would do without it. Our lives revolve around our Grange friends, the latest fundraising project or community service effort, and maybe even resolutions that you've written that will be considered at your session this month and sent on to National.

One way to show your appreciation for all that Grange has done for you is by joining the [1-in-1000 Club of the Grange Foundation](#). A one-time payment of \$1000 gains you membership in this exclusive club for life. Your membership will provide funds to benefit the organization, and you'll get a voice in how they are spent. The Club has taken an interest in historic preservation; a funded project has been scanning and digitizing the original charter applications of early Granges to ensure they are preserved — some of these documents are 155 years old! Original drafts of the Degrees handwritten by the Founders have also been scanned for preservation; and there are many more historic documents in the headquarters that need to be preserved. 1-in-1000 Club funds can be used for any purpose approved by the Club members.

Why not take the opportunity right now to join the Club? Simply send in [the application](#) with your check and you'll receive a beautiful pin and certificate with your unique member number and be part of this special group.



[Use Convention Season to be loud about the Grange](#)

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



For a large portion of Grangers across the country, we are in the middle of "Convention Season," the time of year that includes State Conventions and Sessions and the National Grange Convention. In fact, as you're reading this, I'm on my way to the Minnesota State Grange Session, then will be at Pennsylvania's 150th Convention next weekend.

This is the time of year when we explain to friends and family where we are going for the weekend or longer, and it seems that we often do it in hushed tones or a sense of embarrassment... "Oh, it's just a Grange conference." "Well, it's where we do our business for the Grange." "It's just a weekend session."

Why aren't we more vocal and prouder to be attending these conventions and conferences, to know that we are a part of something far bigger than ourselves? Explaining where we are going and what we're going to be doing should be a privilege and bring a sense of excitement to our lives.

If you're attending your State Grange's (or the National Grange) conference as a Delegate, shouldn't that bring a sense of pride, that *you* have been selected to help set our policy? If you're attending as a general member, shouldn't you be thrilled that you're going to learn something or bring ideas back to make your Grange stronger?

I encourage you to use the opportunity of conversations surrounding your trip to your convention to speak about our Order with more pride, optimism, and enthusiasm. "I'm going to Niagara Falls for our National Grange Convention! I'm hoping to learn some new things to help make our community stronger and how I can, personally, be of more service to our town." Or "The Grange is such a huge family – I can't wait to see my friends from around the country to hear how their Granges have been doing and to pick their brains about how we can potentially try some of their projects."

If your friends or family don't know about the Grange, this is also a great time to update and practice your [Elevator Pitch](#) to bring them up to speed on who we are and what we do.

We haven't become America's oldest agricultural fraternity by keeping it a secret for 156 years. It's time to be louder, prouder, and more animated about our Grange – let's keep it going!



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.

Advocacy Playbook: Border crisis reaches tipping point

By [Burton Eller](#), National Grange Legislative Director



President Biden stunned his allies and immigration advocates last week when he announced the resumption of border wall construction along the U.S.-Mexico border. A Federal Register notice on October 4, 2023, waived several environmental and historical laws to allow for wall construction in Starr County, Texas. Both environmental and immigration advocates are livid. The chaotic aftermath of the announcement underscores the growing political concerns in the administration over immigration and the multitude of forces pulling in different directions. Mayors in sanctuary cities are calling on the federal government for help to feed and house their exploding numbers of foreign transients. In New York City alone, 116,000 undocumented immigrants have been bused or flown there over the past 18 months, with 60,000 still living on the city's tab. The city says it's now spending over \$4.7 billion a year on undocumented care. The mayor has threatened to cut spending on other needed city services by 15% to pay for it.

At the same time, ag workforce needs are not being met on our farms, ranches, woodlands and processing facilities. Producers would like to see something similar to the temporary ag worker green card permit program of the mid twentieth century that was so popular. The current H-2A (ag) nonimmigrant visa program administered by the Labor Department is expensive to apply for, is plagued with delays that cause crops to spoil in the field, and is a mountain of paper work for the producer applicant. As well, Congress is not about to help solve the ag workforce problem. It's way too political and if Congress tackles the ag workforce issue, they're afraid it will open the flood gates to comprehensive immigration reform. The question is, why are they so afraid?

National Grange policy supports the strict enforcement of the immigration laws of the United States and the regular review of these laws to be sure they meet the needs of our country.

National Grange Convention is just one month away!



We are just **ONE MONTH** 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! **According to the hotel, the room block is VERY full – do not delay on making your reservation!**

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*

[Register for Convention](#)

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.



Convention Feature: New York Commissioner of Agriculture to speak



On Wednesday, November 15, during the Salute to Agriculture Luncheon at the 157th National Grange Convention, New York Commissioner of Agriculture Richard Ball will address Delegates and attendees.

A native New Yorker, Mr. Ball has made a living in agriculture his entire life. His inspiration to become a farmer came from his grandparents, who were lifelong dairy farmers. At 18 years old, Mr. Ball began his own career in agriculture as a farm worker on a vegetable farm. He later became operations manager of that same farm. After 20 years there, in 1993 the opportunity arose to be a farm owner and for the past 30 years, he has been the owner

and operator of Schoharie Valley Farms in Schoharie, NY, which consists of 200 acres and produces a wide range of vegetable crops, small fruits and greenhouse crops. The farm serves both retail and wholesale consumers through an onsite farm market and ships to brokers and restaurants in the local area as well as New York City.

Mr. Ball has held a number of positions within agriculture and community organizations at the local, state and national level, including the New York State Vegetable Growers Association, the New York Farm Bureau, the American Farm Bureau and the Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce.

He was honored to serve as the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) 2021-2022 President, where he helped guide the implementation of NASDA's priorities and additional policies adopted at NASDA's 2021 annual meeting. He is also the former President of Food Export Northeast.

Mr. Ball along with his wife, Shirley, reside on the farm in Schoharie and appreciate having three generations engaged in the farm operation.

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.

“Managing Mental Illness in Rural America” webinar



Join us on Wednesday, November 8, at 7 PM ET, for our next free Rural Mental Health Connections webinar: “Managing Mental Illness in Rural America.” This one-hour, moderated webinar will include one woman’s lived experience with managing her adult son’s mental illness and overcoming barriers to mental healthcare in rural Wisconsin and a psychiatrist sharing her expertise treating patients in rural America. It will be sponsored by Janssen Neuroscience and presented by Rural Minds and the National Grange.

Learn more and register for free here: <https://bit.ly/3ouagWx>

R2S2 - Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors

By Joan C. Smith, Program Manager

Patient and Stakeholder Engagement Plan:

The primary stakeholders are older rural patients facing surgery. Grange members in our five regions will review the preliminary drafts of the Pre-/Post-Surgical Tip Sheets (guides) to ensure they are clear and useful. After dissemination, patients and caregivers will be asked, via surveys or forms accompanying the printed material and on the Grange website, to report on their experiences and offer suggestions for improvements. Local Grange and civic leaders will be asked to evaluate the effectiveness of the events under their purview where the Tip Sheets are disseminated and to suggest improvements and the impact on the individuals, families, and communities of Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors.

Objectives:

- 1) To increase the uptake of pertinent information by older rural surgery patients and their families and other care partners participating in post-surgery care by distributing both a pre-surgery guide and a Planning Your Future guide that resulted from prior PCORI research and new information.
- 2) To demonstrate the success of using the Pre-and Post-Surgery (guides) to future surgical patients via qualitative post-distribution metrics.
- 3) To demonstrate Grange’s capacity to rural clinicians and residents as a trusted source for health information.
- 4) To design and distribute resources tailored to the needs of, and in the form accessible to, the rural population.

AT&T and Gallaudet University Collaborate to Make Football More Inclusive with First 5G-Connected Helmet

By Robert Weinstock, Senior Public Relations Manager for Gallaudet University

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AT&T and Gallaudet University have collaborated to create the first 5G-connected football helmet making the game more inclusive by enhancing on-field communication for student-athletes who use American Sign Language. The helmet was used for the first time in NCAA Division III competition during Gallaudet’s home game against Hilbert College on October 7 .

AT&T is always exploring ways to use our expertise in connectivity to advance the way coaches, athletes and fans experience sporting events. When it came to developing the helmet, AT&T seized

the opportunity for 5G technology to make sports more inclusive—and there was no better partner to take possibility to reality than Gallaudet.



From inventing the modern-day huddle in 1894 to serving as the global leader in education for deaf and hard of hearing students today, Gallaudet University has long been a pioneer for innovation. Deaf and hard of hearing athletes have a long history of breaking barriers and proving their innovation and talent on the field.

The helmet will allow coaches on the sideline to select a play from a tablet that will send the play to a lens inside the helmet. The quarterback wearing the helmet will receive the play in augmented reality (AR) on the digital display located within the visor. AT&T 5G provides the reliability and low latency for plays to be sent and received at a speed that keeps up with the pace of the game.

By displaying the coach's play through augmented reality, this technology eliminates a gap for deaf and hard-of-hearing athletes, making football more inclusive. It can also reduce miscommunication and unwarranted penalties.

"We work out the same way as every other college football program, we practice the same way, we compete the same way," said Chuck Goldstein, Gallaudet's head coach. "The difference between coaching a hearing team compared to a Deaf team is first the communication. The AT&T 5G-connected helmet will change football."

"The new AT&T 5G-connected helmet will have a major impact on the game of football, especially for our deaf and hard of hearing players who lacked direct access to communications with their coaches during their high school years," said Shelby Bean, special teams coordinator and former player. "This will help to level the playing field for mainstreamed athletes. As a former player, I am very excited to see this innovative technology change our lives and the game of football itself."

According to AT&T, the applications for a 5G-connected helmet have reach beyond college football. It could open possibilities of inclusion for any sport that requires helmets. But even more possibility exists in *any* environment where there is a need for a helmet and instant communication. Could a 5G-connected helmet improve safety on construction sites or for first responders — and even potentially lead to more job opportunities for the deaf community? AT&T will continue to work with partners to explore how this technology and software can be more widely adopted and create meaningful change, both in sports and beyond.

"Together with Gallaudet, we are proving that connecting changes everything," said Corey Anthony, AT&T senior vice president for network engineering and operations. "Our expertise in connectivity combined with Gallaudet's legacy of breaking down barriers has created a helmet that not only transforms the way deaf and hard of hearing athletes engage in sports but opened up endless possibility for innovation."

In gratitude to the players and coaches at Gallaudet University for their collaboration on the development of the AT&T 5G-connected helmet, AT&T is donating \$500,000 to the school's football program. In addition to the 5G-connected helmet and devices, AT&T is also giving every Gallaudet player a new helmet.

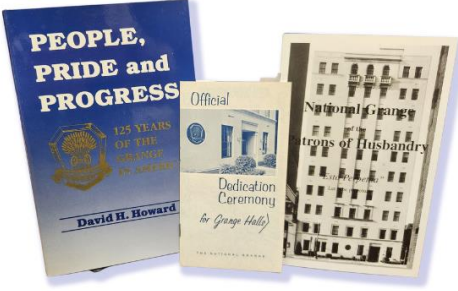
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Limited quantity available!

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

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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

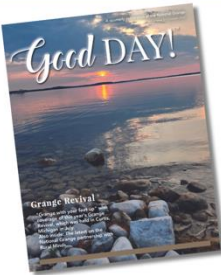
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GOOD DAY!™ OCTOBER 2023

The October 2023 issue of *Good Day!* magazine is now available! Featuring coverage of the 3rd Grange Revival, the Grange partnership with Rural Minds, a recipe section on pickling, and so much more, this issue is jam-packed with info.

Order online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.org or call Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

\$5.00 PER ISSUE
 (plus shipping)
 or subscribe at nationalgrange.org/goodday

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.



a quarter's worth

A quarterly publication for Grange Lecturers

Submission Deadline: November 1

(but sooner is better!)

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



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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.

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NATIONAL GRANGE

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