



Livestream Schedule

Thursday, Nov. 16

9:30 am -

Communication

Workshop (USPTO)

10:20 am -

Building the
memberSHIP

11:10 am -

Revitalizing the
Grange in your

Community Panel

2:00 pm -

Rural Minds Mental
Health Crisis

Friday, Nov. 17

10:00 am -

Opening Session by
NGYOT

3:00 pm -

Installation of Officers

7:30 pm -

National Grange Hon-
ors Night



Follow the Fellows on social media, and stay up to date with the happenings at this year's Convention.

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PATRONS CHAIN

The Official Newsletter of the National Grange

Accomplishments of Grangers throughout History

BY MANDY BOSTWICK

Senior Communication Fellow

Created in 2015, the Grange Hall of Fame recognizes Grange members who has a significant role in the history of the National Grange. According to Hall of Fame Committee Chair, Ethan Edwards, there are two major things that qualify someone to be nominated into the Hall of Fame.

Nominees should have had an impact on the development and growth of the Grange and contribution to their community for the broader good. "Good service is not enough, though we love our 80 year members they need to have done something out of the ordinary. A distinguished contribution, noteworthy, and something broader than just local."

Nominees must have passed away, but are not limited to a specific amount of time to have been deceased. Edwards says this is to make it a potential cause of unnecessary contention between living Grange members.

To nominate a Granger, one must fill out the short form. This is intended as a screening process to ensure that the nominee has met the requirements to be considered for induction. Once the short form has been accepted, then the nominator will fill out the long form, which is the

complete, detailed information that the committee will use to be put on the Hall of Fame website if inducted.

While the process may seem daunting, Edwards says that it shouldn't be daunting. The standards are high, but not impossible.

"There are overlooked heroes in the Grange, we don't know what happens in every state so we as Grangers need to be excited and creative about identifying nominees. Look beyond Grange membership and advocacy. Look for community significant contributions." Edwards also states that as an organization we are boastful about a woman's presence in the Grange but there are only 2 women in the entire Hall of Fame. "We need more female members in the Hall of Fame!"

This year, there are four inductees into the Hall of Fame: Adrian DeVries, Alonzo Golder, and Ezra & Jeanne Carr.

Adrian L. DeVries joined Parvin Grange in Whitman County, Washington in 1955. In 1974 Adrian was named the Broadcast Editor of both radio and television for the Washington State Grange, a position he held until his death in 2003. Adrian

will always be fondly remembered as The Voice of the Washington State Grange. It did not take long for the National Grange to hear of Brother Adrian's work in Washington State. In 1975 he was



Adrian L. DeVries
Photo Provided

Continued on page 3

National Grange to provide free COVID and influenza vaccine clinic on Thursday

STAFF REPORT

The National Grange, the United States' oldest agricultural fraternity and rural service organization, opened its 157th annual conference and legislative session in Niagara Falls, New York on November 14, 2023. With nearly 600 elected officers, Delegates, Grange members, and guests attending, the annual convention serves to set national legislative policies for the organization and is also a major networking and social event for members from across

the country. It will run through November 18 at the Niagara Falls Convention Center.

While most events during the week are for members-only, the National Grange will be offering a one-day Vaccination Clinic which will be open to the public on Thursday, November 16 - National Rural Health Day - from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. In partnership with McUlsky Health Force, the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists and PharMerica, the vaccination clinic will be open in the Cataract Room of the Niagara Falls

Continued on page 5

Three Quilts of Valor presented to region members

BY KARIE BLASINGAME
Senior Communication Fellow

On Wednesday, November 15, 2023, the National Grange Lecturer Ann Bercher, Chris Hamp, and Barb Frost from the New York Quilts of Valor presented three Quilts of Valor® to distinguished veterans and service members of the armed services.

The National Grange is a trusted partner to the Quilt of Valor® Foundation, and the Vice President of the National Grange is a member of the Quilt of Valor® Foundation board. According to their website: “A Quilt of Valor® (QOV) is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, “Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation.”

Chris Hamp, Vice President of the National Grange and member of the Board of Directors for the Quilts of Valor® Foundation told of the history and her love for the organization when she first was introduced to the organization when they presented her father with his Quilt of Valor in recognition of his service in Vietnam with the U.S. Army’s 4th Infantry Division.

It is Hamp’s responsibility and pleasure to inform others about Quilts of Valor® and to encourage groups and individuals to join them in making quilts that honor, comfort, heal our Service Members and Veterans touched by war.

She reported that the Quilts of Valor® Foundation continues to grow. They now have 10,957 members in 674 local groups located in all 50 states. “There have been 362,564, no, now 362,567 including 26,503 year-to-date,” Hamp said. Thank you to all those Grange members who have had a hand in any way in adding to those totals.

Barb Frost, NY State Coordinator, Quilts of Valor® Foundation and leader of Finger Lakes Quilts of Valor® was introduced has led a group of members, Mary Lou Zerby from Western New York Quilters for a Cause and Autumn Frost, representing Finger Lakes Quilts of Valor in awarding our three Grange members with their Quilts of Valor®.

The first quilt presented this evening was for James Meserve. James served in the Army from September 1976 through

August 1979 in Germany. James is a member of Chelsea Grange #215 in Chelsea, Maine and has been a member for 50 years holding many offices. He is also a 6th and 7th Degree member. Jim is currently a member of the Executive Committee of the Maine State Grange. Thank you, James, for your service.

The second quilt presented this evening was for Mark Mackey. Mark served in the US Army from July 19, 1989 – September 30, 2011. Mark earned an E8 First Sargent rank during his time of service. During his 2007 deployment in Iraq, he was part of a 10-man military training team where he lived with 500 Iraqi soldiers. This was a very active deployment, and his vehicle was destroyed by an improvised explosive device earning him a Purple Heart. While in the 82nd Airborne Division, he had 133 jumps. He is currently the President of Fredonia Grange, a position he has held for seven years.

Our final Quilt of Valor Recipient of the evening was MAJ AshLee Coye who served in the Air Force and Army National Guard. AshLee recently celebrated 20 years of service in the military. On August 7, 2003, she enlisted in the United States Air Force Reserve at Westover Air Force Reserve base, Chicopee, Massachusetts. In December 2006 she transferred to the New York Army National Guard and contracted with the Reserve Officer Training Corp serving with the 42nd Infantry Division G1 as a Simultaneous Membership Program Cadet.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University at Albany in May 2008 and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in July 2008, branched Adjutant General Corps.

Upon commissioning she continued service with the New York Army National Guard where she would continue working in a full-time capacity for the



Quilts of Valor recipients and their quilts at the 157 National Grange Convention
Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

next 10 years. During her tenure she also mobilized with the 102nd Military Police Battalion, based out of Auburn, NY, as the Brigade Adjutant for the Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Joint Detention Group, Guantanamo Bay in 2014. Post company command, in August 2018 she moved to Arlington, Virginia and began serving at Army National Guard Bureau as a Readiness Analyst.

In 2020, she was selected for a special assignment with Headquarters, Department of the Army G1, Army Talent Management Task Force where she served until August 2021. In July 2022 she began her current assignment serving as the Operations Officer and Retention Program Manager for the Strength Maintenance Division Attrition Management Branch.

Her major awards and honors include the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Staff Identification Badge, three Meritorious Service Medals, and three Army Commendation Medals. She plans to retire from the Army National Guard in 2024 and continue to serve her community in a different capacity by retraining as a

Clinical Mental Health Counselor. She is accompanied by her fiancé, MAJ(R) David Heino, USMC.

Each of the Veteran was presented with a quilt that was shown to the audience and then to them, then folded and wrapped around them with a hug, given by Barb Frost and Mary Lou Zerby for their service and sacrifice to our country.

If you have any questions about the Quilts of Valor® Foundation or how a Grange could get involved, reach out to Chris Hamp here at convention, text or email when arriving home or go on the website for the Quilts of Valor® Foundation. www.qovf.gov



2024
NATIONAL GRANGE
CALENDAR
featuring the
Heirloom Program

NATIONAL GRANGE
CALENDAR

VISIT THE FELLOWS IN THE
BUSINESS CENTER
TO PURCHASE

\$10



Alonzo Golder
Photo Provided

asked to produce, voice and syndicate a regular weekly program on a national basis and The Grange Point of View radio program was born. Adrian was also a regular at every National Grange convention during this time and through the 2002 convention just a few months prior to his death.

Alonzo Golder as the first Master/President of the Illinois State Grange, he was instrumental in laying its organizational groundwork while guiding and promoting it through its first years. He represented Illinois at the first delegate meeting of the National Grange in 1873 and served on the National Executive Committee from 1875 to 1877. He was a proponent of keeping the Grange non-political and non-partisan. Oliver Hudson Kelley said about Golder, whom he personally knew, “In his own state he was a leader and an active worker. As a man and brother, he was firm in his convictions, honest in his



Ezra Carr
Photo Provided

dealings, genial in his intercourse and earnest in his friendships.

Ezra and Jeanne Carr: Ezra had a major impact upon the Grange as a historian and professor. His book preserves the early history of the Grange on the west coast of the US. His advocacy for practical education helped to lay the foundation for Grange support of technical colleges as well programs like the FFA. Jeanne was one of the first women to break the glass ceiling of Grange leadership. Not only was she a speaker supporting women’s suffrage, but she also kept the issue in our minds eye for the years that followed. Due to Ezra’s health she also presented many of his speeches within the Grange and elsewhere.



Jeanne Carr
Photo Provided

Luncheon places focus on connecting ag to the present day

BY LEXIE SUING
Senior Communication Fellow

On Wednesday afternoon, Lynette Schaeffer, National Executive Committee Chair, welcomed attendees to the Salute to Agriculture luncheon.

Honored guests included Kendra Lamb from Lamb Farms and Sean Hennessey, Director of the New York State Fair.

Hennessey briefly talked about the “four F’s” - Food Founding, Fun and Family.

“It is an honor to be here to celebrate the impact of the Grange. The people, families and communities it has helped throughout this 150 years” Hennessey applauded. He also touched on a survey they do every year to find out what the fair-goers like the most.

Hennessey was appointed in August by Governor Kathy Hochul, who communicated her goal for the State Fair, “We need to refocus the fair... Agriculture is the base of our fair and we need to get back to that, Hennessey recalled from his conversation with the governor.

After further discussion about his experience with agriculture, Schaeffer thanked Hennessey for joining us and offered a parting gift of goodies.

Kendra Lamb spoke next, covering her life in agriculture. Contrary to the name, Lamb Farms is a multi-family owned collection of dairy farms. She married into the Lamb family, but had prior experience coming from a dairy family herself.

Lamb spoke about her husband’s family farm and their facilities they have. Before moving to this area of New York, she tended to the calves that live on one of the farms bringing a true example of “living and breathing” the farm life.

On their farms, there are at least 10,000 dairy cows including calves and heifers. While being in such a large production, the Lamb farms have not forgotten how to take care of their Cows.

“For our farm, I would say our passions are producing wholesome milk, taking care of comfortable cows and



Kenda Lamb (second from left) and Sean Hennessey (second from right) pose with Kay Stiles, Lynette Schaeffer, Allen Stiles, and Kevin Cooksley, all of whom are farmers. Photo by Philip Vonada

sustainable farming practices.” Lamb says. After her presentation, Lynette presented Kendra with a gift, as she needed to return to the farm.

Barbara Borderieux commented on her impression of Kendra’s presentation, “She [Lamb] just made it down to earth. Sometimes, we hear presentations on that [multi-facility farms] and it’s all legislative and that’s not real. That’s not something you can take back and know something about the farms and what they go through and what all went into it.”

It’s enlightening to see how relevant that agriculture is for our organization. It was also interesting to see how serious of an impact that we can have in government, that the Governor herself expressed the desire to get back to an agricultural focus for the State Fair. Taking a standcelike this prove that the Grange can and still makes a difference when it comes to the voice of rural America to this day.

“There is now springing up among the farmers of our country; an organization (the Grange) that will teach them their rights, and, knowing them, they will dare to maintain them,” - D. Wyatt Aiken, 1872 (Reading from Journal of Proceedings Vol. 19-21) “May Grange continue to help influence and aid agriculture in our country.”



AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

Helping Households Connect

ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN SIGNING UP, OR HAS SIGNED UP BUT HASN'T YET HEARD FROM A COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR SHOULD CONNECT WITH THE OREGON INSTITUTE FOR A BETTER WAY AT CONVENTION. IF YOU'RE NOT ATTENDING CONVENTION, CONTACT AMANDA AT MEMBERSHIP@NATIONALGRANGE.ORG FOR YOUR INFORMATION TO BE COLLECTED AND FORWARDED TO THE NAVIGATORS.

Welcome to our new Delegates



BY CAROLYNN CHAMLEE
Senior Communication Fellow

Meet Corey Spence
Home Grange and State: Beverly Grange #306 in Massachusetts.
How long have you been a Grange member: 43 Years.
Family: Lives with his husband, Spike Dean, and their paper mache cat named Chauncey.
What is your profession/Job: Corey does the weekday recap for the Old South Church in Boston.
What is your favorite thing about the Grange: The friends and food.
What do you hope to accomplish at this year's Convention/what excites you about this year's Convention: Setting national policy, making friends, and seeing other friends from past years.
Where do you see the Grange in 50 years: If we cultivate connections between Granges, we will be stronger.



BY MEAGAN McDONALD
Communication Fellow

Meet Sandra Green
Home Grange and State: Cuba Grange #799 in New York.
How long have you been a Grange member: Before she was born.
Family: Single and no children.
What is your profession/Job: Master of New York State Grange, caregiver for her mother.
What is your favorite thing about the Grange: It's a safe space, Junior Grange didn't allow kids to be picked on, and went to youth weekends four times a year.
What do you hope to accomplish at this year's Convention/what excites you about this year's Convention: It's so close, less than two hours away. To get more enthusiasm going, mainly with youth, juniors and to try new things, and get unstuck.
Where do you see the Grange in 50 years: The Grange will still be around. The country keeps fracturing and polarizing. The Grange is one of a few places where we can come together with differing opinions.

“Training the Trainer” highlights ACP

BY KARIE BLASINGAME
Senior Communication Fellow

The Affordable Connectivity Program became so much clearer today for those who were able to attend the Train the Trainer workshop held by the Federal Communications Commission. Alma Hughes and David Savolaine of the FCC presented and will be here all week in the Showcase.

Today, they helped members in attendance learn more about how to help people sign up for the ACP program. The ACP is an FCC program that provides a monthly internet service discount and a one-time connected device benefit from participating internet companies for qualifying low-income consumers.

They shared the application form, showed how to fill it out each way on the internet or on paper depending on what people will be more likely to utilize. This program is more about the affordability of connectivity than connecting people to the internet according to Savolaine.

As Ambassadors of the ACP program, Granges can only do so much. The consumer must complete the second step of contacting the internet provider themselves. Hughes and Savolaine covered being able to use the outreach toolkit located on the FCC website to rebrand handouts to share the Granges own information.

Granges are also able to contact the FCC and request printed handouts of up to 1000 per event or to schedule virtual presentations that they can have the public or their own members attend. They need to allow at least 2-3 weeks for UPS delivery and can only be mailed to an address not to a P.O. Box and need to allow 3-4 weeks for coordinating a virtual presentation. One concern that many consumers have is keeping their information private. Hughes and Savolaine were clear that this information is collected only to confirm identification of a person and then deleted.

Hughes and Savolaine took questions about the program giving everyone a chance to get clear in their minds how they could use this program in their community to share the message and help their community out. With time remaining, Hughes and Savolaine went over other brochures that the FCC puts out that people may want to visit their table and get. Robocalls and what to do, 988 Suicide and Crisis Hotline, Protect your smartphone and how to communicate during an Emergency were gone over at the end of the presentation. Please visit the FCC table and see what can be taken home to share with other Grangers.

To view all of the slides and materials from the workshop, visit <http://grange.biz/trainthetrainer>.

Showcase opens with a splash

BY CAROLYNN CHAMLEE
Senior Communication Fellow

With a backdrop of parliamentary procedures and fellowships, the attendees were treated to a unique showcase from the local Granges as well as programs from the National Grange. There are three tables filled with pins, patches, banners, implements, and more from our Grange historical past showing just how far we have come in 157 years.

Lester Gibbs has coordinated the magnificent three-table display overflowing with Grange memorabilia and treasures from long ago.

Sam Wilkins, National Grange Junior and Youth Director, shared her favorite part of the showcase, which is the GROW Club auction. Wilkins states that its fun to see everything the State Presidents brought and that all the funds raised go towards youth funds and scholarships.

Meanwhile, some of the states of the northeastern region had displays overflowing with information on their states, Granges, wildlife, and activities. The New York State Grange, which just celebrated its 150th year has a scrolling picture frame with a collection of pictures on it from their session.

Quilts of Valor has a table on display where you can write your name and a message which will be made into a quilt and given to a Veteran who has served our country. It is one more way we can express our sincerest thank you to all of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Near the end of the hall, there are a series of binders and scrapbooks filled with community service projects from Grange's all over the country. These projects are as unique and diverse as the Granges themselves. If your Grange is feeling a little stale in its community service, this is an excellent opportunity to get some fresh ideas going from one single location.

On top of all the Grange's showing off their hard work and history, the National Grange's various programs are also on display. The Grange Revival is set for July 21-27, 2025 in Torrey, Utah.

The Grange Foundation's display shows just how far their reach spans with all the programs they support. The Communications Department has a display of *Good Day!* Magazines and other assorted articles are on its table. With every new subscription, you also get all the back issues from the 2022 year.

Poster displays of more than half a dozen gardens were awarded ribbons for their efforts. These beautiful displays of various vegetation growing this past year will surely bring a smile to your face.

While the room was buzzing with conversation and shared stories of this year's convention, there was a table calling for us to 'Meet at the River' in Bettendorf, Iowa for next year's National Grange Convention. Make sure you take the time to stop by the Show Case room and immerse yourself in the cornucopia of knowledge on display.

Officers and Youth meet & greet

Photos by Lindsay Schroeeder



Vaccines continued from page 1

Convention Center, 101 Old Falls Street, Niagara Falls, NY.

“For rural Americans, vaccines are a critical aspect of preventing serious disease and illness and what better day to offer them to our members and our Niagara neighbors than on National Rural Health Day. We hope to see many people from the local community taking advantage of this opportunity,” said National Grange President Betsy Huber.

The latest COVID and influenza vaccines will be available - free of charge. Attendees are encouraged to bring proof of insurance or Medicare/Medicaid number. A limited number of gift cards will be made available to those who receive vaccinations at this clinic. This project is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)) through USAgIng as part of a financial assistance award to USAgIng. Recently, the National Grange held a similar drive at the Big E in West Springfield, Massachusetts, administering over 3,500 immunizations.

The National Grange advocates for rural America with more than 1,400 Community Granges and 140,000 members serving their hometowns nationwide. For additional information on this convention, please visit <http://grange.biz/Convention157>.

Get Vaccinated!

What: FREE vaccination clinic
Who: Open to the public!
When: Thursday, November 16
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Where: Niagara Falls Convention Center
101 Old Falls Street, Niagara Falls

Sponsored by the National Grange, this FREE clinic offers updated **COVID** and **influenza** vaccinations.
You are encouraged to bring your insurance and/or medicare cards.

A limited number of gift cards will be offered to participants who receive vaccinations during this event.



Vaccinations are administered by pharmacists from the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists and Pharmacia.

This project is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)) through USAgIng as part of a financial assistance award to USAgIng.



THANK YOU!

The Communication Fellows wish to thank everyone for all of the cards, goodies, and treats recieved today.

Ten things I’ve Learned

BY KEVIN COOKSLEY, President of Nebraska State Grange

1. No job is beneath my dignity (nor anyone else’s), if it pays the bills.
2. Never asked anyone to do anything I wasn’t willing to do myself or had already done myself.
3. Just because a job is distasteful, doesn’t mean you have to do it the rest of your life. Get it done & move on.
4. The hardest part of a tough job is starting it, followed by working your way through it, resolving issues as you meet them.
5. Nothing is impossible, you just have to have the ingenuity to resolve the issues.
6. Everyone has the capacity to do more than they think they can. The trick is to always keep the bar a little higher than you think it should be.
7. The earliest (and hardest) lesson I learned as a new Lieutenant was to accept blame without making excuses, even if the failure was not of my making. If one of my soldiers failed, it was my fault. Learning to answer the question from my superior officer, when he asked “why” - with “NO Excuse-Sir”! That was a tough one! Making sure it didn’t happen again was also tough!
8. Learning from my mistakes, and making sure I don’t make the same one twice. I expect the same from employees.
9. Remembering to say “thank you”, and “job well-done”.
10. Do your best to forgive trespasses (especially the unintentional).



RURAL MENTAL HEALTH Pre-Event POLL QUESTIONS:

We are looking forward to delivering presentations at the Annual National Grange Convention with information about confronting the mental health challenges in rural America and the stigma that surrounds mental illness. To help inform the discussion, we invite you to complete the following four poll questions by 10:00 am on Thursday, 11/16. Your responses will be anonymous.

1. Of which Generation are you a member:
 - ☐ Generation Z (born 1995 to present)
 - ☐ Millennials (born 1980 to 1994)
 - ☐ Generation X (born 1965 to 1979)
 - ☐ Baby Boomers (born 1946 to 1964)
 - ☐ The Silent Generation (born 1925 to 1945)
2. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating “Not at all comfortable,” and 5 indicating “Very comfortable,” how comfortable are you discussing mental health?

Response: _____
3. If you ever experienced a mental health challenge or a loved one having a mental health challenge, which of the following best describes how you felt about it at the time:
 - ☐ I felt like it was common and that many people I know probably also experienced a mental health challenge at some point.
 - ☐ I felt like some of the people I know might have experienced a mental health challenge.
 - ☐ I felt lone; like I was the person experiencing a mental health challenge.
 - ☐ Does not apply; I have never experienced a mental health challenge.
4. Would you be able to identify behavior that could indicate you or a friend or loved one may be experiencing a mental health challenge?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Uncertain/Maybe



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Please take a moment to fill out this pre-session survey on Rural Mental Health. Pre-Survey - <https://grange.biz/RuralMindsPreSurvey> Physical copies will be available in the main session room.

Breaking the Silence of auction to GROW some attention

BY LEXIE SUING
Senior Communication Fellow



Heading into the week, there are many things to explore in the showcase room. A favorite among National Grange attendees is the GROW Club silent auction. While people post offers to go home with their treasures, it may be beneficial to know what all their contributions are helping maintain

and GROW.

Go Right On Working (GROW) Club is a program that invites Grangers of youth age to represent their States. In the beginning, representatives for the youth were referred to as the National Prince and Princess. During this era, only two people from each state could be sent as representatives. The titles later changed to Ambassador and Young Couple. This meant a total of four people could go; a boy, a girl and a married couple in the age range of youth.

Currently it is now Ambassador and Outstanding Young Patron (OYP), so a total of four people can have the chance to represent their state. Two between 14-22 for the Ambassador and two for the Outstanding Young Patron between 23-35.

The process to become an Ambassador or OYP is fairly simple. If you express interest in the program, be sure

to keep track of all your activities inside and outside the Grange. Make a nice portfolio talking about the things you've done for the year. Make sure to include plenty of pictures too! Inform your State Youth Director or someone who can contact them that you have interest in becoming an Ambassador or OYP.

In order to be eligible, you have to attend your State Grange Session where a panel of people will have interview questions for you to answer to help you practice when you will be asked similar questions at the National Session. During your State session, you will be given a sash for either Ambassador or OYP depending on your age.

November is normally when the National Session is held and you will be part of a group of other Ambassadors and OYP representing their states. All of the representatives will be competing to become National Ambassadors and OYP. At the evening of Excellence, the Ambassadors and Young Patrons will be announced to represent the National grange. Their Job will be to tour the country during special events and regional conferences.

By participating in representing your State, you will be inducted into the GROW club during their dinner. Once you are a GROW club member, you are always welcome and encouraged to Go Right On Working.

SILENT DISCO MOVED!

Thursday night silent disco has been moved to Porter/DeVeaux room.

Question of the Day

The Communication Fellows are asking a new question daily during the convention. Drop by our office and write your answers in, or scan our QR Code for Wednesday's Question.



If you see the folks in the blue vests in the Hospitality Room or the Convention Center, please say hi! The Connector Crew is here to help you find out what's happening around the Convention and to answer any questions you may have. Pictured: Jaimie Cameron (CT) and Lana Korte (IL)

3D Printed
SLIDE PUZZLE

Only 23 of each
available for sale
\$10 each
see Gene Fletcher



Benefiting the
Grange Foundation
Youth and Junior
Fund
Get yours now and
more fun and
exciting items will
be revealed !

Granges can glean from MemberShift

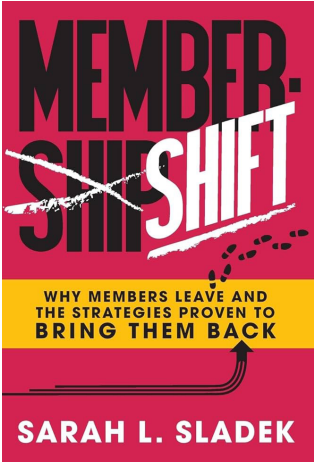
BY SCOTT LYLE
SHIPmate
Western Region

If you want to know about membership and you're willing to take an honest look at how we're doing as an organization, I suggest you read Sarah Sladek's new book, MemberShift.

Sladek's previous books, The End of Membership as We Know It and Knowing Y, have both been applicable to Grange and influenced some of the focus of our National Membership Department since 2017.

MemberShift, released in October, not only lays out how membership used to work – EX. – but also how it is working (or not) today.

Sladek's main premise was that many member organizations have put members and service to and engagement with them second.



Throughout the book she highlights the common mistakes made by organizations and associations, many of which resonated and felt reflective of the Grange.

This book does not just allow us to see where we may be failing our members, but serves as a workbook of sorts, with questions at the end of every chapter.

State Granges or committees within it may be able to read the book and take time to honestly answer the questions and be able to come up

with a blueprint to start moving in the direction for greater member satisfaction, retention and ultimately, growth.

Reading this helped to remind me – and every reader – that membership is people, and without the people we don't have an organization.

People have needs, and often join organizations to meet the need of belonging.

We need to change our mindset from, "How do we grow the organization?" to "How can the organization best serve our members?"

In all, I found myself reflecting that our success comes down to return on investment for our members. We all know the organization is worth the work. What we need to decide is, are we willing to do the hard work and be willing to let go of the good so that we can get a hold of the great.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to Kay and Allen Stiles for their sweet showing of gratitude for the work of the SHIPmates with their donation of candy.

JUST A SMILE.

Just a smile of approbation
Costs you nothing, friend, to give;
'T will a timid heart encourage,
Help a shrinking soul to live.

Just a glance of kind approval,
Just a smile of loving cheer,
Makes a dreary pathway brighter
And dispels the gloom of fear.

There are gentle natures round us
Wounded oft by thoughtless pride;
Generous impulse, sweet endeavor,
Rudely spurned and pushed aside.

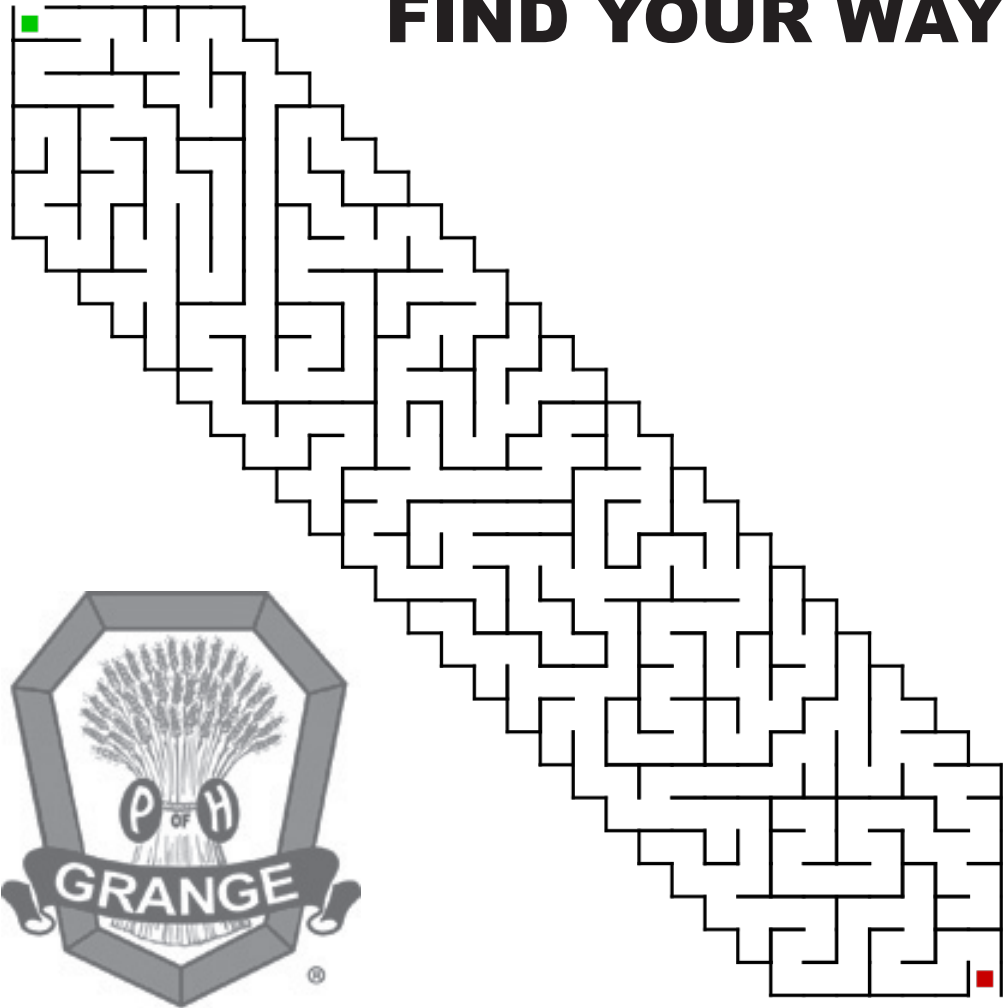
Life is full of aspirations
Nipped and frozen in the bud,
Full of meek and lowly efforts
Carelessly misunderstood.

Just a smile of approbation,
'T is the simplest of all gifts,
But it wakes a sweeter echo
In the soul that it uplifts.

BY ISABEL AMBLER GILMAN

from the book
"Echoes from the Grange" (1906)

FIND YOUR WAY



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The SHIPmates have adopted a Herd animal, but we need you to help choose their name. Stop by the Business Center area to cast your ballot from before the Friday morning Youth opening.