



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

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[Embrace challenges with a growth mindset](#)

By [Christine E. Hamp](#), National Grange President

Hey there! Ever feel like you're just barely keeping your head above water in this crazy ride called life? Trust me, we've all been there (or are experiencing it currently). But here's the thing – keeping a positive attitude is like having your own personal superhero cape.

So, you're facing some tough currents, right? It happens to the best of us. The key is not letting those challenges define you. Think of them as waves you can ride, not as something that's going to sink you. You've got more strength in you than you realize.

Now, let's talk gratitude. When things get rough, take a breather and count your blessings. It could be the support of your awesome friends, those little moments that bring a smile, or the lessons you're learning along the way. Gratitude has this magical power to shift your focus from what's missing to what's already good in your life.

Surround yourself with good vibes. Seek out stories that lift you up, throw in a few motivational quotes, or hang out with folks who radiate positivity. The energy you soak in totally shapes your mindset, so choose wisely.

Here's a game-changer: embrace challenges with a growth mindset. See them as opportunities to level up, not roadblocks. Remember, setbacks are just pit stops on the road to becoming a stronger, wiser version of yourself.

And don't forget – asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness. Reach out to your crew, whether it's friends, family, or pros who've got your back. You don't have to navigate this crazy sea solo.

So, even when it feels like you're barely staying afloat, know that a positive attitude isn't about ignoring the struggles. It's about acknowledging them and choosing to focus on the possibilities and strengths that are inside you. Ride those waves, my friends – you've got this! **Grange Strong!**

[What's your communication style?](#)

By Philip J Vonada, National Grange Communications Director



I'm a big fan of Mark Murphy, an author of several leadership and employee engagement books, including *Generation Y*, *Hundred Percenters*, and *HARD Goals*. I highly recommend reading them if you're working to get ahead in your career or want to become an effective leader in your Grange or community.

Recently, I was on Murphy's Leadership IQ website and read about his interpretation of [four communication styles](#), and how they work for you and your "team" – whether that's at work or in Team Grange. Are you feelings-led? Do you focus on intuition? Maybe need the data and details to lead and

communicate.

According to Murphy, the four styles of communication are **Analytical**, **Intuitive**, **Functional**, and **Personal**. Let's break it down:

- **Analytical Communicators** are unemotional in their communication style. They like focusing on specifics and technical components, and want as much supporting evidence as possible.
- **Intuitive Communicators** like looking at the big picture and cutting to the chase of what they're looking for. They don't like wasting time and don't always work or communicate in a linear manner. Intuitive communicators are also the ones most likely to challenge the "norm" and conventions. *(For the record – this is me!)*
- **Functional Communicators** are focused on the process – they like well-thought-out plans and timelines and are very focused on the details. They want to ensure all members of the team are on the exact same page.
- **Personal Communicators** are more informal and friendly, using emotional language to connect. They're good listeners, more diplomatic than other communicators, and want to keep things harmonious.

There are, of course, pros and cons to each communication style – both for the communicator and the audience. But there are also great reasons to build a team that includes each style. I suggest you go [take the quiz](#) on the Leadership IQ website to learn about your own styles and read more in-depth about each one.

It can be incredibly helpful to learn how to communicate one-on-one with each of your Grange members. I know that while many members in one of my Granges are big-picture thinkers, there are a few who want to know every detail of a plan before a vote is taken. According to Murphy, "tailoring your message to suit your audience does not make you a manipulative communicator. In fact, it's one of the most necessary communication skills. It makes you deeply empathic and high in emotional intelligence, with enough self esteem to recognize that people have different communication styles."

The [website](#) also includes information about practicing assertive, but not *aggressive*, communication to work with your team, and how to identify other people's communication styles. I'm sure I will revisit this topic a few more times this year, but I want to leave you with one more thought from Murphy:

"Remember that no one communication style is inherently better than another. The key to effective communication is using the verbal communication style that best ensures your message will be heard."

In the field of linguistics (I was an English major for a little while...) there's a term called "Code-Switching," where speakers may take on the traits of the people with whom they're talking to communicate better. For example, people in minority communities may speak in English or their native language, and sometimes switch back and forth within one conversation; or teachers who may pick up and use current slang from their students to connect better.

There's no problem with code-switching your communication style. Do what works to be the best communicator you can be.



Advocacy Playbook: High-Speed Internet for ALL

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

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is investing around \$65 billion to ensure everyone in America has access to high-speed internet. This effort is being administered through seven federal programs:

Administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA):

- [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment](#) (BEAD) Program (\$42.45 billion)
- [Digital Equity Planning, Capacity, and Competitive Grants](#) program (\$2.75 billion)

- [Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program](#) (\$2.0 billion)
- [Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program](#) (\$1.0 billion)

Administered by other federal agencies:

- [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) (ACP) (\$14.2 billion)
- [Rural Broadband Programs](#) at U.S. Department of Agriculture (\$2.0 billion)
- Private Activity Bonds (\$0.6 billion)

BEAD will prioritize coverage of unserved and underserved locations, mostly in rural and small-town America:

- Internet providers must serve all unserved locations first. These are locations without reliable internet service and with download speeds below 25 Mbps and 3 Mbps upload speeds.
- Next, internet providers must serve all underserved locations. These are locations without reliable internet and with download speeds below 100 Mbps and upload speeds below 20 Mbps.
- Lastly, internet providers are then free to offer higher-speed connectivity to other locations.

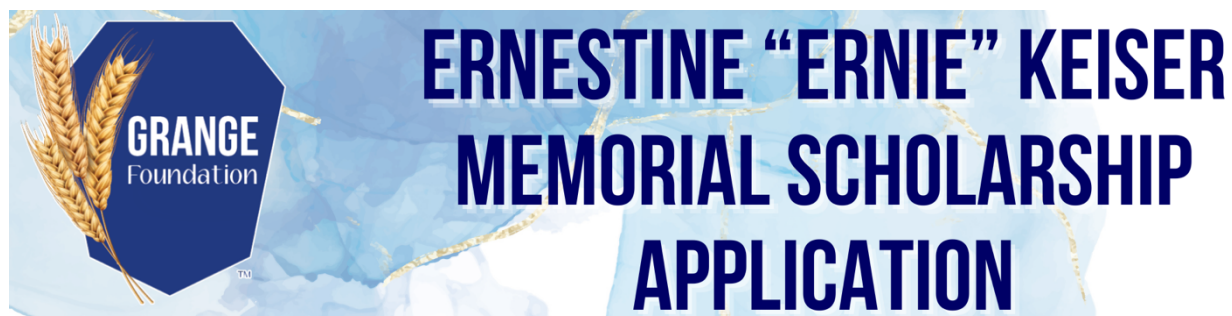
State broadband offices are now submitting their state broadband deployment plans to the NTIA for BEAD funding. If approved, project funding from NTIA will follow. Grange members are encouraged to contact their state broadband offices and review the plans to be sure they reach the last mile of country roads in your area.

WHY IT MATTERS

The Grange at all levels has worked for over two decades to get internet - *any* internet - into rural and small-town communities. Large-scale broadband expansion to the unserved and underserved communities of our country is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Similar to rural electrification and telephone initiatives of the 1920s and 1930s, and the interstate highway system of the 1950s and 1960s, rural and small-town America could never have achieved access to high-speed internet connectivity without a subsidy of this magnitude. And few in Washington believe another opportunity like this will be possible for a long, long time.

Grange Foundation's Ernestine Keiser Memorial Scholarship

By [Joan C. Smith](#), Grange Foundation Chairperson



In November, the [Grange Foundation](#) announced the creation of a new scholarship in memory of Ernestine "Ernie" Keiser, a long-time Grange member and youth supporter from Virginia. In the upcoming issues of the Patrons Chain, we will be highlighting some of the application requirements for the scholarship – we hope you'll apply!

\$1,000 Continuing Education Scholarship Information

- Applications due March 1, 2024
- Open to **any Grange member** in good standing for at least one year
- Available for any higher than high school education goal:
 - AA/BS/BA
 - Vocational School

- College/University
- Trade School
- Must be an Accredited School
- Available to full-time or part-time students
- Can apply each year, only eligible to receive a maximum of two times
- See full requirements and application form at: www.grangefoundation.org

Register for National Grange/Rural Minds introduction to “Rural Mental Health Resilience” program



The National Grange and Rural Minds are pleased to present the
 “National Grange Introduction to the Mental Health Rural Resilience Program” Webinar
 Wednesday, February 7, 2024
 6:00 pm ET; 5:00 pm CT; 4:00 pm MT; 3:00 pm PT

This **free** 30-minute webinar on Zoom is being offered **only** to members of the National Grange. As a follow-up to the launch of the [Rural Mental Health Resilience Program](#) at the Annual National Grange Convention on November 16, 2023, this webinar will provide:

- An introduction of the ‘Rural Resilience’ program
- Online tour of the program webpage (Host will share his screen.)
- Demonstration of accessing and printing program documents
- Explanation on the value of program materials
- Suggestions for how to use the ‘Rural Resilience’ program to help improve rural mental health

In recognition of the self-reliance and a do-it-yourself mindset that are common among many people living in rural communities, the Rural Mental Health Resilience Program elevates these attributes to help empower rural Americans to become part of the solution to improving rural mental health. It provides Grangers and others across the country with free online access to relevant information, content, and action items so they can help themselves and serve as a trusted source of mental health information for their families, friends, and members of rural communities.

[CLICK HERE](#) or scan the QR code for more information about the webinar and a link to free webinar registration.



JUNIOR JIBBER-JABBER

WHEN:

Sunday, January 14 at 9:00pm Eastern

WHO:

Junior Directors or anyone else interested in Junior
Grange programming!

WHERE:

On Zoom!

Login: 833 7712 0738

Passcode: 969128

or bit.ly/JuniorsYouth



Join us on Sunday evening for this month's **Junior Jibber-Jabber**. This meeting is for State or local Junior Grange Directors, or anyone interested in Junior Grange programming.

This month, National Junior Grange Director Samantha Wilkins will be discussing several important updates about the National Junior Department.

Be sure to tune in – Sunday, January 14 at 9:00pm Eastern.

Join here: <http://bit.ly/JuniorsYouth>

Register for the Virtual Legislative Fly-In



This year's National Grange Legislative Fly-In will be held virtually on **March 18**. We hope you'll join National Grange staff, federal legislators, and issues partners for this educational afternoon. You'll learn what the National Grange is working on, how it affects all of rural America, and how you can get involved.

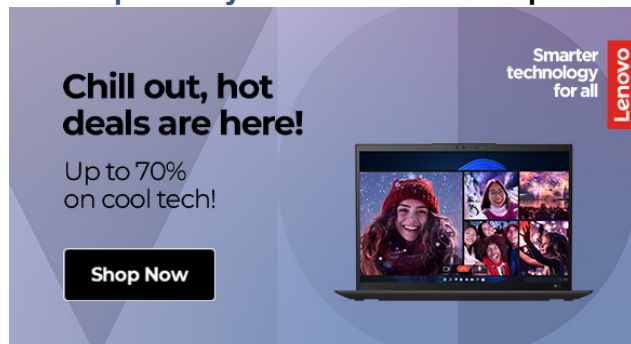
This is a **FREE** offering from the National Grange for all members and friends of the

Grange. Feel free to share this information and invitation with potential Grange members.

Register today at <http://grange.biz/flyin2024>.

Grange Member Benefit: Lenovo

Warm up to cozy deals at Lenovo! - Up to 70%



Dive into Lenovo's Winter Clearance where the savings are as cool as the season. Grab up to 70% off on the latest gadgets and tech essentials.

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.



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.



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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