



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

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National Grange Leaders' Conference taking place now!

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

Grange leaders from around the country are gathering in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina this weekend for the National Grange Leaders' Conference. National Grange Officers, State Grange Presidents, and other directors, leaders, and more will be spending the weekend learning about the **Leaders' Toolbox Series**, which is intended to help Grange leaders at the State, Pomona, and Community levels.



Be sure to ask **your** State Grange leaders what they've learned and invite them to present at a meeting or conference.

What's on the agenda?

- There is no "I" in Team – Teambuilding Basics
- Mental Health Self-Care for Leaders (presented by NY FarmNet)
- From the Ground Up – Strengthening Grassroots Partnerships Nationally
- Building a Parliamentary Pizza
- Review of the National Grange Vision & Mission Statements
- Environmental Analysis
- SMART Goal Setting
- Accountability
- Leadership Training Simplified
- "Who's Up Next?" – Building and Transitioning a Successful Legacy
- Moving Forward with Grange Programming

We look forward to sharing this information to be used by Granges and Grangers to continue the growth and energy of the Grange nationwide.

Grace and Mercy

The National Grange staff and a team of dedicated volunteers are in the process of moving our offices from the 11th floor of 1616 H St to our temporary home on the 2nd floor. We have been pre-planning and will be doing everything humanly possible to keep up with the day-to-day operations of the National Grange. However, every workspace and the entire Grange Store must be completely moved and re-set up. Please do not wait until the last minute to make your requests – our staff is doing their best to keep up with the business of the Grange while moving. Your grace and mercy are gratefully accepted.

Did you catch it?



Last week, we announced the sale of our headquarters at 1616 H St, Washington, DC. In doing so, we hid an “Easter egg” in the PC – a picture of our **original** headquarters building at 744 Jackson Place.

It was a bit of a test to see who was paying attention to our Grange history! **744 Jackson Place** was the National Grange HQ before building 1616 H St in the late 1950s and its dedication in 1960. Jackson Place was later demolished and replaced by a new (historic recreation) building as part of the [White House's development of the President's Neighborhood along Lafayette Park in the 1960s](#).

Congratulations to Brother Errol Briggs (VT) who was the first to notice – a prize is being sent his direction!



Final Week to Order – Grange Strong Fundraiser Shirts



GRANGE STRONG

must purchase by February 23!
delivery by mid-March

T-Shirt - \$22* (Navy)
Women's V-Neck - \$22* (Steel)
Long-Sleeve T-Shirt - \$28* (Navy)
3/4 Sleeve Raglan T-Shirt - \$28*
(Gray/Blue)
Hoodie - \$40* (Royal)

*plus applicable taxes and shipping

Are you GRANGE STRONG?

Support this fundraiser through customink.com to purchase your own #GrangeStrong shirts!



grange.biz/grangestrongshirt

Are you **Grange Strong**?

If so, support the National Grange's #GrangeStrong fundraiser by purchasing a shirt!

MUST ORDER by February 23, with delivery by mid-March for Grange Month.

[Click here to order today!](#)



**FELLOWSHIP
FIRST FRIDAY**

**8:30 P.M. EASTERN
MARCH 1, 2024**

TOPIC: TEMPERANCE BALDWIN KELLEY



Fellowship First Friday returns on March 1st with a look at one of the most instrumental but less discussed figures in the initial start-up of the Grange. RSVP using this link: <http://grange.biz/FridayRSVP>. You need not RSVP to join, but those who do will receive a special gift. Anyone who attends will be entered into a door prize drawing but those who RSVP will double their prize.



National FFA Week is coming soon, and we want your pictures!

The Grange Youth Team is seeking pictures of Grange members in their FFA Jackets for a fun project during FFA week.

Please [email them to Phil](mailto:pvonada@nationalgrange.org) (pvonada@nationalgrange.org) by February 16.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

with Amanda Brozala-Rios

**MONTHLY
ON ZOOM**
Third Wednesdays

FEBRUARY 21
 @ 8:30PM (ET)
grange.biz/matters
Meeting ID: 853 1693 0645
Passcode: Membership

**Grange Foundation
1-in-1000 Club
Annual Meeting**

February 21 at 8:30pm Eastern

Join on Zoom:
 ID: 862 6283 5770
 Passcode: 172513
 or grange.biz/1in1000

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 the upcoming issues of the Patrons Chain, we will be highlighting some of the application requirements for the scholarship – we hope you'll apply! **Applications are due March 1!**

This scholarship fund was established in 2023 by friends and family of Ernestine "Ernie" Keiser. Ernie was a long-time Grange member in Virginia and was a charter member of Beach Community Grange #958 (VA) in 1959. She was very supportive of the Youth program at the local, state and national levels. Ernie was a firm believer in the importance of education and her family and friends desired to continue her legacy by establishing this scholarship program. For 2024, the value of the scholarship is \$1,000.

- Open to any Granger, member in good standing for at least one year
- Available for any advanced 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 maximum of two times
- The scholarship winner will be notified by April 10, 2024
- See full requirements and application form at: www.grangefoundation.org

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>.

Advocacy Playbook: Supreme Court Review of Chevron May Shake Up Federal Regulatory Framework

By Burton Eller, National Grange Legislative Director



What will the court review?

It's been nearly 40 years since the Supreme Court decided that courts should defer to a regulatory agency's reasonable interpretation of an ambiguous statute. In mid-January, the Supreme Court heard two cases brought by groups of New Jersey fishermen who are challenging a federal rule that requires commercial fishing vessels to pay for the professional observers who monitor their catches to ensure they comply with the National Marine Fisheries Service regulations.

Their case seriously challenges the foundational doctrine of administrative law called Chevron deference which stems from the 1984 decision in *Chevron U.S.A. Inc., v. Natural Resources Defense Council*. Chevron says that in close cases, and there are many, the views of the agency take priority even if courts might have ruled differently.

Chevron supporters say it allows specialized agencies to fill in gaps in ambiguous statutes to establish uniform rules in their areas of expertise, a practice they say was contemplated by Congress and has become a foundational framework in administrative law.

Chevron opponents counter that Chevron deference leads to overregulation, and it is the role of the courts according to Article III of the Constitution, not executive branch officials, to determine the meanings of statutes. They say agencies' interpretations of statutes can change with administration changes.

Why does it matter?

Farmers, ranchers, forest owners, small businesses and entrepreneurs have complained in recent decades that the federal government has developed a culture of overregulation. They point to the recent high-profile Supreme Court case in *Waters of the United States (WOTUS)*, where the court found the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had overstepped its regulatory authority by enforcing the Clean Water Act to cover all waters of the United States. The Supreme Court's ruling

in the fishing case could have ripple effects across the whole of the federal government where agencies frequently use highly trained experts to interpret and implement federal laws.

Oklahoma School for the Deaf offers free, online American Sign Language course

Via [KFOR](#)

SULPHUR, Okla.— Anyone who wants to learn American Sign Language (ASL) can register now for Oklahoma School for the Deaf's free online courses.

Last year, 452,934 people from the United States and more than 30 other countries participated in OSD's self-paced ASL I or the advanced ASL II classes.

The community outreach courses have eight pre-recorded lessons taught by Jolene Reed, an OSD teacher who is deaf.

Reed presents videos with no audio or voice. She signs and points to words and phrases on PowerPoint slides using a cursor to help students follow along as they become naturally immersed in ASL.

Students complete 8 lessons per course with quizzes after each lesson. The courses are self-paced, which allows students to take class at convenient times and review the lessons as many times as needed to learn the content.

"These sign language online classes are awesome opportunities to build a strong foundation for communication with deaf and hard of hearing individuals," Reed said. "You'll gain knowledge of vocabulary, grammar, and contextual meanings in American Sign Language and deaf culture. This can serve as a bridge between the deaf world and the hearing world."

OSD has offered ASL courses to the public for many years. During the COVID pandemic in 2020, the school put the courses online in the spring and fall, and the new platform exploded in popularity.

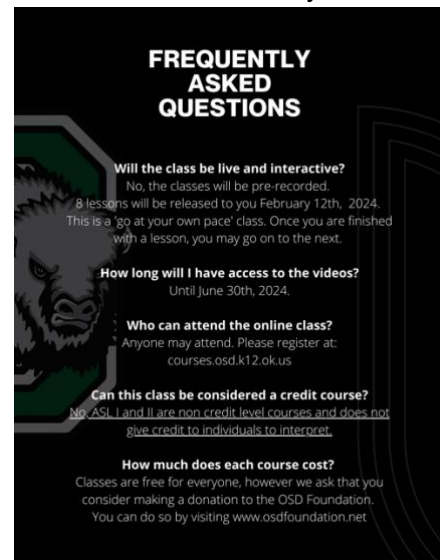
"ASL is the third most popular foreign language class taught at American colleges and universities," Dr. Laine said. "Learning ASL helps hearing people to communicate directly with deaf individuals without communication barriers. It is all about being inclusive."

"OSD's ASL online training is free in part due to the generosity of the OSD Foundation," Laine said. "We ask that students consider donating to the OSD Foundation at www.osdfoundation.net to help share expenses for our free training."

No accurate count of the number of ASL users is available. A widely quoted estimate by StoryLearning indicates between 250,000 and 500,000 people use ASL as their native language in the United States and Canada. It is the third most used language in the U.S., after English and Spanish, according to the same source.

Spring 2024 registration is available now. The ASL lessons were released on February 12.

For more information about Oklahoma School for the Deaf's online ASL classes, visit <https://courses.osd.k12.ok.us> or email aslclass@osd.k12.ok.us.



Why does it matter for Grangers: The Grange has long been a champion for the Deaf communities, promoting American Sign Language classes and usage. [Read more about the National Grange's Deaf Focus here.](#) The **Grange Foundation** also supports Deaf Awareness, and annually offers a \$1,000 grant to Granges (State, Pomona, or Community) for Deaf Awareness. [Learn more about that Grant \(or donate to the Fund\) here.](#)



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.org

FIRE SALE!



**VINTAGE GRANGE HALL
DEDICATION PLAQUE**

Limited number available!

Grange Hall Dedication plaques from 1947 –
made of wood with felt backing.

11.5" x 13" with space for your Grange to place
a dedication engraving.

Handmade – may have some imperfections –
sold as-is.

\$25.00
with free shipping!

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

Use for your Grange Hall major anniversaries, rededications, and more!

[View National Grange Executive Committee Chair Lynette Schaeffer's sale pitch here!](#)

Grange Member Benefit: American Income Life Insurance



Through a partnership with **American Income Life Insurance Company**, an Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) benefit and other no-cost offers are being provided to all members of National Grange.

Since 1990, American Income is proud to have paid over \$1.5 million in life, health, and no-cost AD&D benefits to Grange

Members and their families.

The policy covers Accidental Death (Death certificate is marked "accident") and Dismemberment (Loss of a hand, arm, foot, leg, eye). Please [review this brochure](#) for the AIL Plus program for review.

Learn more at MyBenefits.AILife.com and use the access code to sign up

Enter access code: **SGLHD**

Note: To claim the AD&D benefits, you do NOT have to purchase any other AIL products or insurances. If you feel that AIL is being pushy about selling other products, please reach out to [Loretta Washington](#).

SUPPLY STORE

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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