



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

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March 22, 2024

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Recap of the Virtual Legislative Fly-In



On Monday, March 18, the National Grange hosted the Virtual Legislative Fly-In, hosted live from the National Grange headquarters in Washington, DC.

The day started with updates from Grange leaders – Burton Eller, Legislative Director, and Chris Hamp, President. Each presented updates on where the National Grange is currently positioned, with Hamp giving a “30,000-foot view” of what is trending in the Grange and where she hopes the Grange will continue to grow.

Next, three updates were presented on the National Grange’s programs and projects that have been undertaken in the last year. Nona Bear, representing McUlsky Health Force, presented information about the National Grange’s vaccination efforts – to educate the public and provide free immunizations at several events – as a part of a grant from USAging. Joan C. Smith introduced the Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors program, which is an ongoing project supported by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute. This is a program and event that can be presented by Granges, or given to the public to help educate them about questions to ask prior to surgery while also preparing for emergencies. Finally, Amanda Brozana-Rios presented updates on the “Roots of Connectivity” grant program, which is currently winding down, though she urged Grange members to continue pushing the federal government to renew the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Next, Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Chair of the Senate Ag Committee, provided a video laying out current priorities of the Senate, particularly when it comes to the ongoing Farm Bill conversation. She was followed by Mikayla Bodey, senior staff for the Senate Ag Committee, who provided answers to several questions and gave more perspective on Senator Stabenow’s work.

Representative Glenn “GT” Thompson (R-PA), Chair of the House Ag Committee, also provided a video for the Fly-In, presenting his views on what’s happening in rural America. Josh Maxwell, Congressman Thompson’s policy advisor, provided a follow-up for Thompson’s remarks, and answered questions from members.

Next, Randy Rutta, CEO of the National Health Council – of which the National Grange is a member – provided information on how Grange members can protect their own health and also work to protect the health of others in their communities.

Lukas Pietrzak, Special Policy Advisor, Office of the Assistant Secretary, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), presented information regarding the NTIA’s ongoing work to keep getting rural America connected. He highlighted [Internet for All](#), and the NTIA’s [Broadband Equity Access and Deployment](#) (BEAD) Program, and encouraged Grange members to get involved. [His presentation is available for download here](#) – this can be a valuable tool to help educate your Grange about the ways they can be involved in the process.

The day’s final speaker was Charlie Cook, a political analyst and founder of the *Cook Political Report*. Renowned for his nonpartisan analysis of the current political landscape in DC and across the country, Cook served as editor and publisher of the *Report* for 37 years. Cook presented an analysis of current election trends in order to educate our members about the political process and

outlook. With the Grange priding itself as a nonpartisan organization, this segment was aimed to help make our members as informed and educated as possible leading into this year's Presidential election cycle.

Throughout the afternoon, the Virtual Legislative Fly-In reminded Grange members, friends, legislators, and issues partners, that the Grange's grassroots legislative process is what helps the National Grange advocate for not only Grange members, but for everyone living in rural and small-town America.

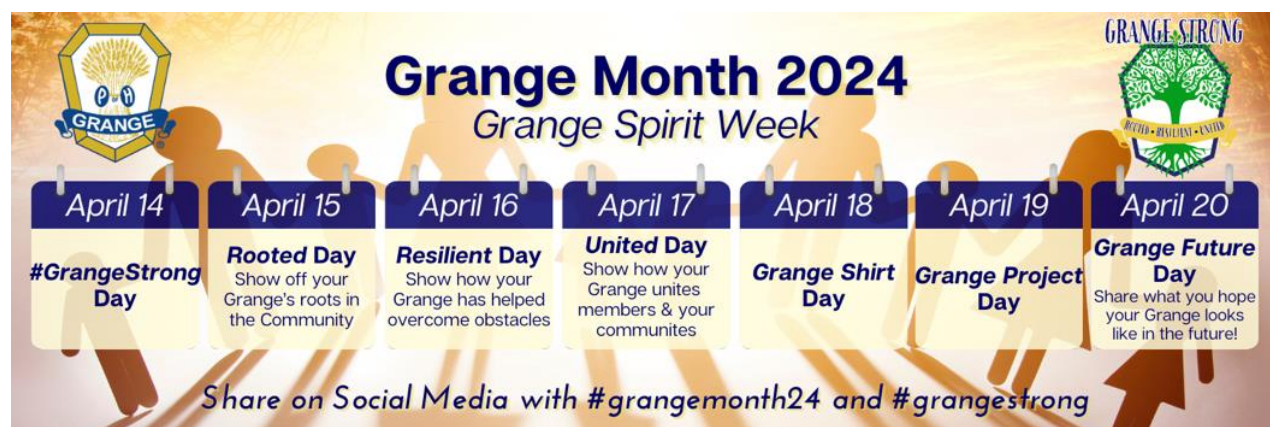
The Fly-In is [available to view on the National Grange's YouTube channel](#). Members are encouraged to share the information with other Grange members and those who are interested in the Grange's ongoing advocacy work in Washington, DC, and beyond.

Thank you to National Grange Legislative Director Burton Eller for putting together a comprehensive program to benefit all Grange members!

Grange Month materials available

Grange Month is coming up quickly in April, and it's time to start planning! New resources are available on the National Grange website, including new themes and ideas for Grange Spirit Week. This year, the theme **#GrangeStrong** will help focus the work of Granges nationwide.

Please take advantage of the materials in your Granges. Is there something you're missing that you'd like to see? Contact us and we'll see what we can do! [View the materials here.](#)



Make plans to tune in LIVE on Facebook or YouTube on April 1 at 8:30pm Eastern for our Kickoff to Grange Month, featuring National Grange President Christine Hamp and other Grange leaders.

Youth & Junior Director honored, thanked for service



This week's Ag Day activities in Washington, DC, marked National Grange Youth & Junior Director Samantha Wilkins' final event as Director. Wilkins has served as Junior Director since 2016, and as Youth Director since 2022.

She was presented a plaque, with many thanks for years of service, by the National Grange Youth & Junior Leadership Team on Tuesday, March 19.



On Monday, March 18, and Tuesday, March 19, the National Grange Youth & Junior Leadership Team (Ashley Holloman – Young Patron, NC, Garrett Phelps, NY, & Asheton Medlin, NC – Youth Ambassadors, and Gayle Reyburn, PA – Junior Ambassador) took part in several National Ag Day activities throughout Washington, DC.

These events included media training with the National 4-H, attending receptions hosted by Agri-Pulse, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, CropLife, and "Ag Day on the Hill" in the Capitol Visitor Center, and Ag Day events at the USDA. The team also had the opportunity to speak directly with United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

Read more about this trip in the upcoming issue of [Good Day!](#) magazine.

This week: Rural Minds and National Grange present webinar

On Wednesday, March 27, at 7pm ET (4pm Pacific) – the **Rural Minds**, in conjunction with the National Grange, will present the first "Connections" webinar in the 2024 series: "Rural Mental Health Resilience Program Launch" webinar. [Learn more and register for free here.](#)

This webinar will feature the experience of those who have already used the program to start a conversation about mental health in their rural communities. In addition to sharing best practices and hosting a Q&A session, we will briefly demonstrate how to easily access materials on the program's webpage so you can:

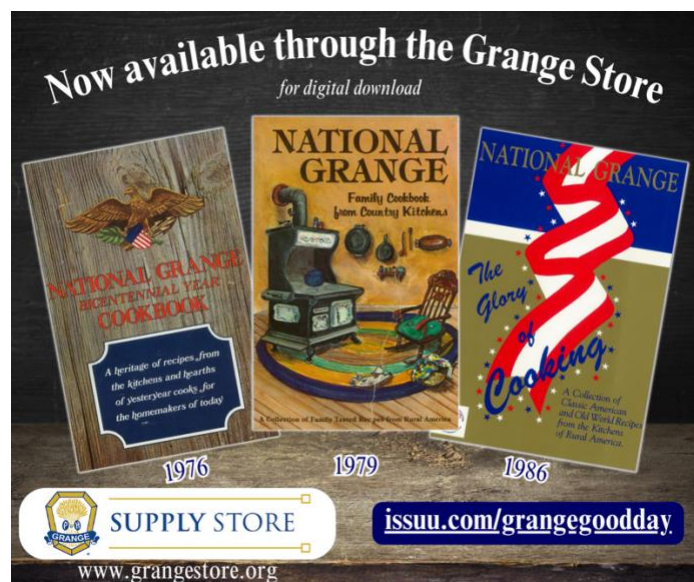
- Empower yourself and others with the knowledge to become part of the solution for improving rural mental health and reducing the stigma surrounding mental illness in your community.
- Know the facts about rural mental health challenges, mental illness and suicide.
- Confront the mental health emergency in your local community and throughout rural America.
- Encourage or lead difficult conversations about mental illness and suicide that must be heard.
- Serve as a trusted source of information so you can help your family, friends and community.



Duplicate Charter Application now available

Effective May 1, 2024, there will be a **Duplicate Charter Application** and a \$25.00 fee for a duplicate charter. This fee covers the staff time to review and authenticate the original charter applications, materials for shipping, and postage. This form is available on the National Grange website under the Member Resources tab in the Leadership Documents and Secretaries Forms.

Grange Supply Store: Digital Downloads – vintage cookbooks



The National Grange is now offering the 1976, 1979, and 1986 cookbooks as digital PDF downloads through both the [Grange Supply Store](#) and issuu.com/grangeoodday.

For just \$5 each, you can own the Bicentennial Year Cookbook, Family Cookbook from Country Kitchens, and The Glory of Cooking.

These PDF downloads stay safe from kitchen messes or accidental spills, and can help keep the Grange's love of food and cooking going in your homes.

They can also make great digital/virtual gifts for friends who may be looking for these hard-to-find cookbooks!

**SUPPLY STORE**
www.grangestore.org

***NEW* 4TH DEGREE PIN**



\$10.00
PLUS SHIPPING

This is a **BRAND NEW** 1" pin with 1/4" clutch back. Perfect for welcoming new members into the Grange, celebrating milestones, and more.
Featuring the Grange emblem, surrounded with the names of the 7 Founders.
Limited quantity available.
Order online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.org or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

Show that you are **#GrangeStrong** by purchasing your new 4th Degree Pin!

Grange Member Benefit: Budget Rental Cars



Grange members always save up to 25% off Budget base rates with offer code (BCD) **R198144**, plus they get other great offers like dollars off, a complimentary upgrade, or a free weekend day. With a complimentary membership in Budget Fastbreak, enjoy our fastest, easiest rental experience! Visit budget.com/en/association/R198144 or call 1-800-527-0700 to make a reservation.

SUPPLY STORE



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

*Do you want to see your Grange in the **Spotlight**? Send a brief write-up of an event at your Grange with a few pictures to Philip Vonada, Communications Director, at pvonada@nationalgrange.org. It may be printed immediately, or may be held for a future Patrons Chain or Good Day! magazine.*

NATIONAL GRANGE

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Leadership Training and Membership Development

Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director. Contact to learn more about membership recruitment or how to start or reorganize a Grange, leadership training and more. Email at abrozana@nationalgrange.org or call/text (301) 943-1090

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