A close up of a sign

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# **The final issue of The Patrons Chain**

*by* [*Philip J Vonada*](mailto:pvonada@nationalgrange.org?subject=Grange%20Today!)*, National Grange Communications Director*

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Since 2018, The Patrons Chain newsletter has reached your inboxes at least every other week, bringing you the latest news from the National Grange. This will be the FINAL time it happens.

Beginning in June, you’ll find a shift in how the National Grange delivers news to your email inbox. The Patrons Chain is being rebranded into a new newsletter: *Grange Today!*. All current subscribers to the Patrons Chain will be automatically subscribed to *Grange Today!***.** Past issues of the Patrons Chain and new issues of *Grange Today!* will remain available [on the National Grange website](https://www.nationalgrange.org/news/weekley-e-newsletter/).

The magazine-style digital newsletter will switch to twice a month – the second and fourth Fridays, each with its own focus areas. The first issue each month will focus on **local and State Grange news**, while the second issue will highlight what’s happening in the National Grange, including the Legislative Department’s **View from the Hill** and updates from other National Grange departments, staff, committees, teams, and Directors.

**So, what does this mean for you?**

*We need your news!* To highlight more of what’s happening on the ground in our Community, Pomona, and State Granges, including Junior and Youth activities, we need you to submit articles, information, and news. As I frequently say “brag on yourselves!”

You can send articles and more to [**Philip Vonada**](mailto:pvonada@nationalgrange.org?subject=Submit%20to%20Grange%20Today!) or via this link: <http://grange.biz/grangetodaysubmit>.

We’ll see you again in your inbox on June 14th!

# **Meet Us at the River for the 2024 Convention**

Fireworks over water at night

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Registration for the 158th Annual National Grange Convention in Bettendorf, Iowa, remains open

The Midwest Region invites ALL Grangers to “**Meet Us at the River**” for an exciting Convention featuring the Quad Cities of Iowa & Illinois and the Mighty Mississippi that runs through them.

This year features multiple workshops running every day, tour options to fit more schedules, meals open to all attendees, and a special Host Banquet lunch cruise aboard the *Celebration Belle* riverboat that all are welcome and encouraged to attend! Come see what the Quad Cities have in store, learn more about the Grange, build deep and lasting friendships, and be inspired to take the work of the Grange beyond the Isle Casino Hotel back into your home Granges.

**Early Bird Registration** ($40) is open from May 1 to July 31; the price will increase after that.

**Click here to learn more and Register today!**

# A white and blue logo with a ship on it Description automatically generated**2025 National Convention is Setting Sail**

A large cruise ship in the water

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Earlier this year, National Grange President Christine Hamp announced that the 2025 National Grange Convention would be like no other – setting sail from Miami and heading into the Caribbean to Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao (the ABC Islands) [from November 8-16, 2025](http://grange.biz/159cruise).

**We are excited to announce that you can begin booking your staterooms aboard the Carnival Horizon!**

National Grange Officers and Delegates will complete the work of the National Grange on the at-sea days, everyone will have the opportunity for fellowship and strengthening fraternal bonds, and the Eastern Host Region, clubs, departments, and small groups will be planning special events onboard, too.

We encourage everyone to begin booking your staterooms now. [**Follow the instructions in this document**](https://www.nationalgrange.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2025Convention-HowtoBook.pdf) or on the National Grange website. If we book all of the rooms currently held in our group block, the National Grange will make up more than 25% of everyone on board – what a great way to show how impactful and Grange Strong we all are together.

More information is available [on the National Grange website](https://www.nationalgrange.org/159ngconvention/).

# **Member Satisfaction Survey**

National Grange President Christine Hamp has announced the following goal for the National Grange: **Increase overall member satisfaction by 20% within the next year, as measured by an annual member feedback survey, through the implementation of targeted initiatives and improvements aimed at adding value to our members’ experience, addressing member needs and preferences, and preparing the Grange for 2025 and beyond.**

In order to reach this goal, we are asking members of all ages to take a survey (less than 10 minutes of your time) about current feelings and attitudes toward the Grange. Please take the survey by June 30.

**Please take the survey here**

# **Apply for National Grange training programs**

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Application deadlines for the National Grange **SHIPmates** and **Communication Fellows** programs are coming up quickly.

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Description automatically generatedSHIPmates is a training program that focuses on Grange membership, leadership and fellowship development. Launched in 2023, we are seeking additional members to join the seven individuals selected for our first class and add to our crew so, together, we will chart a course forward.

The program offers participants professional-level training on various leadership topics and a deep dive into Grange rules and traditions, organizational procedures and much more.

[**Learn more about the SHIPmates Program here**](https://www.nationalgrange.org/shipmates-program/). Applications are due June 15, 2024.

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The Communication Fellows program is in its 11th year, working to build Grange leaders and storytellers, enhancing the message of the Grange nationwide. Fellows learn and grow in various forms of media, including print, social media, video creation, podcasting, and more during the 3-month prep period and the 9 days “on the ground” at the National Grange Convention.

[**Learn more about the Communication Fellows program here**](https://www.nationalgrange.org/communication-fellows/). Applications are due July 1, 2024.

# **Upcoming National Grange events**

A flyer with text and images

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## **Grange Member Benefit: Budget Rental Cars**

**** Grange members always save **up to 25% off** Budget base rates with offer code **(BCD) R198144**, plus get other great offers like dollars off, a complimentary upgrade, or a free weekend day.

Plus with a complimentary membership in Budget Fastbreak, enjoy our fastest, easiest rental experience!

Visit [budget.com/en/association/R198144](http://budget.com/en/association/R198144) or call 1-800-527-0700 to make a reservation.

[](https://www.grangestore.org/jewelry)

