

GRANGE



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WELCOME TO GRANGE TODAY!

by Philip J Vonada

National Grange Communications Director

Welcome to *Grange Today!*, the new bi-weekly newsletter from the National Grange.

Change is hard, and adapting to new ideas and activities can be challenging. Many of us (myself included) have gotten used to receiving the weekly Patrons Chain newsletter over the past few years. But over our more than 150 years of history, the Grange has adapted and evolved, finding new ways to connect - and, in essence, that's what this is.

This new version of the newsletter aims to help us highlight the Grange - today. Who are we at our core? What are we working on? Where are we putting our efforts?

This newsletter will be released on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. The second Friday issue will focus on community, Pomona, State, and Junior Granges, and the fourth Friday issue will focus more on what's happening at the National Grange.

This can be YOUR place to share and find ideas, see what's working and happening in Granges around the country, and learn about new and exciting additions and programs.

So what does this mean for you?

We need your news! To highlight more of what's happening "on the ground" in our Granges, including Junior and Youth activities, we are asking you to submit articles, information, and news. As I frequently say, "barg on yourselves!"

Submitting your articles and photos is easy. You can send them to Philip Vonada (pvonada@nationalgrange.org) or via this link: <http://grange.biz/grangetodaysubmit>. We look forward to seeing your contributions!

Articles may be run immediately or saved for future issues, or even for **Good Day!** magazine. No idea or article is too small, too out-of-the-box, or too "usual," as we hope to educate and enrich Grange members - current and future - with how they can be active and vibrant parts of their communities.

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FLORISSANT DESIGNATED “PURPLE HEART” COMMUNITY

submitted by Renee Caldwell
Florissant Grange #420 (CO)

The Florissant Grange #420 is a rural Grange in the center of Colorado. We are fortunate to be the one of three places in Florissant that the community comes to for fun, planned events. We are also fortunate to work closely with the volunteer fire department and the library, the other two entities that work hard to find ways to engage our community with interesting events.

In our efforts to keep our community involved with our Grange, we keep up with the local news in our county and look for things that other cities and communities are doing that could be good for our community as well.

I saw an article about our County becoming a Purple Heart designated County, which puts the county on the **Purple Heart Trail** map.

The Purple Heart is a medal awarded to veterans wounded in the line of duty. The Purple Heart Trail is used by these veterans, as they travel, as a way of knowing what places are veteran-friendly.

In the same article, it stated that the two large cities in our county were becoming Purple Heart Cities and that the hope was the other places in our County would follow and become Purple Heart Communities.

I immediately thought that was something our Grange needed to be a part of and presented the idea at our next meeting. We decided to work on being a part of this happening and also engaged the Florissant Grange quilters to be a part of this undertaking.

We called the Purple Heart veteran who was spearheading this movement, and worked together to get the Florissant Grange #420 as the community place where the Purple Heart sign that designates Florissant as a Purple Heart Community will be placed and dedicated.

Our Grange was chosen because the VFW post 1124 uses our Grange as their post and have done so for more than 30 years. We selected an area of our Grange for the VFW to showcase their awards, which is always on display.

Our Grange also has a quilting group that dedicates its time and efforts to making **Quilts of Valor** for all of the Veterans in our County and surrounding areas. Our quilters have made more than 60 quilts for Veterans in our area, not including quilts we have sent to National Grange Session and Colorado State Grange Session.

On May 25, 2024 the community was invited to join us as we dedicated the Florissant Community as a Purple Heart Community and the sign is placed on the Florissant Grange #420 property. Our county commissioners, Sheriff and a Lieutenant also be joined us and our Master/President, Alan Caldwell, read the Proclamation.

Following the dedication ceremony, we served the Veterans and community a nice lunch of Ham and Cowboy beans, veggies and finger foods.

The Florissant Grange Quilters had several Quilts of Valor on display, a Patriotic quilt in a silent auction and a fundraiser for the quilters happening as well. We will awarded two very special quilts to two Purple Heart Veterans, which have been specially designed and created for these two Purple Heart veterans by our Florissant Grange quilters.



Above: Standing beside sign designating Florissant as Purple Heart Community - Left to Right Alan Caldwell (President), Teller County Commissioner Dan Williams, Keith McKim (Purple Heart recipient - SOG, Vietnam), John Bartlett, Teller County Commissioner Erik Stone, Renee Caldwell, and Joshua “Gremlin” Pratt (Purple Heart recipient - Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom).

Left: One of the Purple Heart quilts.

Photos submitted

SURVEY OF AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY FOR KNOWLEDGE OF, ATTITUDES TOWARDS, AND WILLINGNESS TO PRODUCE BIOENERGY CROPS



Dear Agriculture Community, your expertise is needed! **Hexas** is conducting a survey on bioenergy crops, and we need your valuable insights. Your knowledge is instrumental in helping to shape the future of sustainable farming.

This survey focuses on your understanding of, attitudes on, and thoughts about bioenergy crops. We want to hear from you about what you know, what

you think, and whether you would consider growing these crops in your community. By participating you will contribute to a comprehensive study that will drive positive change in the agricultural industry.

Participating is easy! The survey is quick, about 15 minutes to complete, no direct identifiers and impactful. It's also convenient, you can access it from your computer, tablet, iPad, or phone.

Share your insights, your voice matters.

Take the survey here: bit.ly/biomasscropsurvey

LOCAL EMS, FIRE COMPANIES TREATED AND THANKED

submitted by Ruth Vonada
Penns Valley Grange #158 (PA)

Members of Penns Valley Grange #158 (PA) donated money and goods to support the five local emergency responder groups that serve “the valley.” These included four volunteer fire companies—Centre Hall, Gregg Township, Miles Township, and Millheim—and the Penns Valley EMS station.

A Thrivent Action Teams grant was also received, adding to the donations and allowing the Grange



Grange members Philip Vonada (left) and Lisa Musser (right) present the goodies to volunteers with Gregg Township Fire Company.

Photo submitted

to provide a more significant donation than initially anticipated.

The Grange purchased healthy, high-protein snacks for these awesome, everyday heroes who work to keep the communities in the area safe! These snacks keep them fueled, hydrated, and healthy while out on calls or returning to their stations after a hard day or night of work.

Penns Valley Grange deeply appreciates all of the volunteers and families connected to these companies, and are profoundly proud to support their invaluable work.



Grange members Ella Smith (left) and Amy Smith (right) pose with volunteers of Centre Hall Fire Company.

Photo submitted

“HANDS BUSY AND HEARTS HAPPY” AS GRANGE REDISCOVERS JOY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

submitted by Greenwood Grange #1061 (OH)

Greenwood Grange #1061 in Hardin County, Ohio has turned their attention to community service projects at their meetings for the past six months or so.

Karen Fulks, Lecturer and the Community Service Chairperson, got the idea after a couple handed her \$100.00 at church one Sunday and said this is for the Grange. Fulks asked them if they would be okay if she used it for community service projects and they were happy with that idea.

Fulks decided it was time to quit reading poems and playing word games and, instead, to keep hands busy and hearts happy during the Lecturers' programs.

Last winter, a goal of sending 150 Christmas cards was set and members gathered to not just sign but make homemade cards to donate to a local group that sends care packages to soldiers.

In January, microwave popcorn bags were designed with cute snowman covers, then donated to senior living apartments on National Popcorn Day (January 19th).

The Grange's February meeting consisted of packaging hot cocoa and Hershey kisses for a Valentine treat delivered to another local senior living center.

Lastly, another facility received carrot packaging made with yummy cheese balls inside and delivered on Good Friday.

Those last three projects alone reached 120 persons with a cost of only \$64.71.

Fulks received a community grant for the April project which was a "Birthday in a Box" project donated to a local agency for children. Everything a parent would need to throw their child a birthday party is included.

The remaining balance of that initial \$100.00 donation was used in May during Military Appreciation Month to send a snack box of all favorites to young man from the Grange's neighborhood

who is stationed overseas.



Above: Grange members work on their Valentine packages.

Below: A sampling of the service projects completed by Greenwood Grange.

Photos submitted

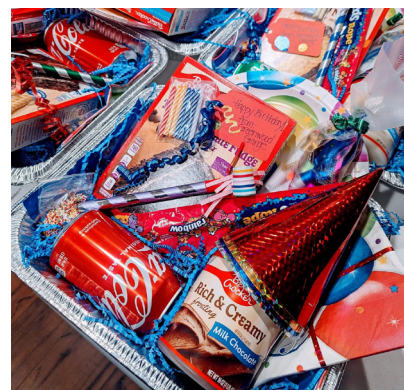
who is stationed overseas.

Fulks planned and hosted their first ever "Friday Night Trivia" in April hoping to just bring a few people together for an evening of fun. More than 60 people attended and the Grange even ended up with a nice profit from the event to help with more future projects.

Grange members have been busy planning their June Strawberry Social, but after that, will go back to reaching out to others with their service projects. Next on the list is reaching more than 50 4-H members (the club meets at the Grange Hall), who will receive a "good luck" treat from the Grange before their project judging.

Fulks reminds us all that "Community is just not a group of people, but a feeling!" This is the message she is wanting to share and remind everyone that they don't have to be large projects, but can be small projects made with big hearts.

This was realized when a thank you note was received from a fellow Grange youth friend from years ago, because his mother in one of those senior living complexes showed him what the Greenwood Grange had given her for Easter.



VIRGINVILLE CELEBRATES COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

submitted by Virginville Grange #1832 (PA)

Virginville Grange #1832 in Berks County, Pennsylvania celebrated a Community Open House program on Wednesday, May 1st.

Highlights of the night included honoring three members who received their 80-year member certificates. The recipients were: Paul J. Miller, Feryl J. Treichler & Jean A. Wetzel.

31 other members were honored for their memberships, ranging from 25 to 75 years!

The Grange's Community Service committee presented a check in the amount of \$8,000, the proceeds and donations of a bingo, to two local community members, Rodney & Angie Bashore, to assist them with medical needs.

An additional \$1,500 donation was presented to the Hamburg Historical Society to assist them with building their new museum.

The 'Syl & Sue' show was presented by Virginville Grange members.



80-year certificates were presented to Paul J. Miller (seated), Jean A. Wetzel (received by daughter-in-law Cynthia Wetzel, back), and Feryl J. Treichler by Virginville Grange President Henry Seidel.

Photo submitted



Angie & Rodney Bashore (at left) were presented an \$8,000 check to assist with medical needs, presented by Community Service committee members David Geschwindt & Allen Schaeffer.

Photo submitted

A large promotional graphic for the 2024 National Grange Convention. The background is a night scene with a city skyline and a river, with colorful fireworks exploding in the sky. Overlaid on the image is a large, stylized text that reads "2024 NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION". In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for the "MEET US AT THE RIVER" event, which includes a map of the region and the text "BETTENDORF, IOWA NOV. 12-16, 2024". In the bottom right corner, there is a call to action that says "Learn more & Register: http://grange.biz/ng158".

CELEBRATING A GOLDEN SHEAF MEMBER

submitted by Richard Lefever
Goldendale Grange #49 (WA)

Linda Williams, long-term resident of Klickitat County, Washington, was honored on May 24th at Goldendale Grange #49. She was presented with the 50-year Golden Sheaf for her longevity in the Grange. A beautiful cake was made for the occasion and shared with fellow Grangers in attendance.

Linda's membership in our fraternal grassroots organization began at Trout Lake Grange #210, a small Grange at the base of Mt. Adams in Washington State.

During her years there she served as Master (President) for a good many of them. She also served as the county's Master (President) of West Klickitat Pomona #32 before it was consolidated with the East Klickitat #5 Pomona Grange. During that time, she also took a turn at being the west end's County Grange Deputy under Washington State Grange for a few years.

While living in Trout Lake she took the job as Grange Insurance Agent for West Klickitat County for about ten years, concluding around 1985. She notes that there is much drive time in a rural wide-span county such as Klickitat County and she spent many hours on the road between the Granges.

After moving to Goldendale, Linda transferred her membership

to the Goldendale Grange #49 where she continued her service in the Grange. During the years in Goldendale, she served at the county level as Klickitat County Pomona Grange #5 Master for a few years, then as Lecturer, a position she still holds today. She also joined Glenwood Grange #94 and still holds dual membership in both Granges today.

Linda is the current Master (President) of the Glenwood Grange #94.

She says that through the Covid epidemic and in the years following, it has been difficult to meet regularly. The loss of key members to moves, death, and other obligations has made it hard to even hold a meeting with enough members to make a voting quorum.

She says she is quite ready to pass the torch to someone else at this stage in her life but loves and appreciates the Grange program too much to leave it without replacement.

Linda has been fortunate to share the Grange experience with her husband, Larry, who joined Trout Lake Grange #210 in 1974. He also transferred his membership when they moved to Goldendale and holds dual membership in Goldendale Grange #49 and Glenwood Grange #94.

Larry served as a member of



Linda Williams poses with her 50-year Golden Sheaf Certificate and a beautiful cake on May 24th at Goldendale Grange.
Photo submitted

the Executive Committee during some of his years in the Grange and thoroughly enjoys Grange potlucks!

Linda accredits Larry to being her support person through all the Grange positions held, programs offered, and activities she's participated in.

Congratulations Linda on your 50 years of Grange service!

Are you a *Grange in Action* ?

Apply to be recognized as a **Grange in Action** for being active in your community and completing events or projects

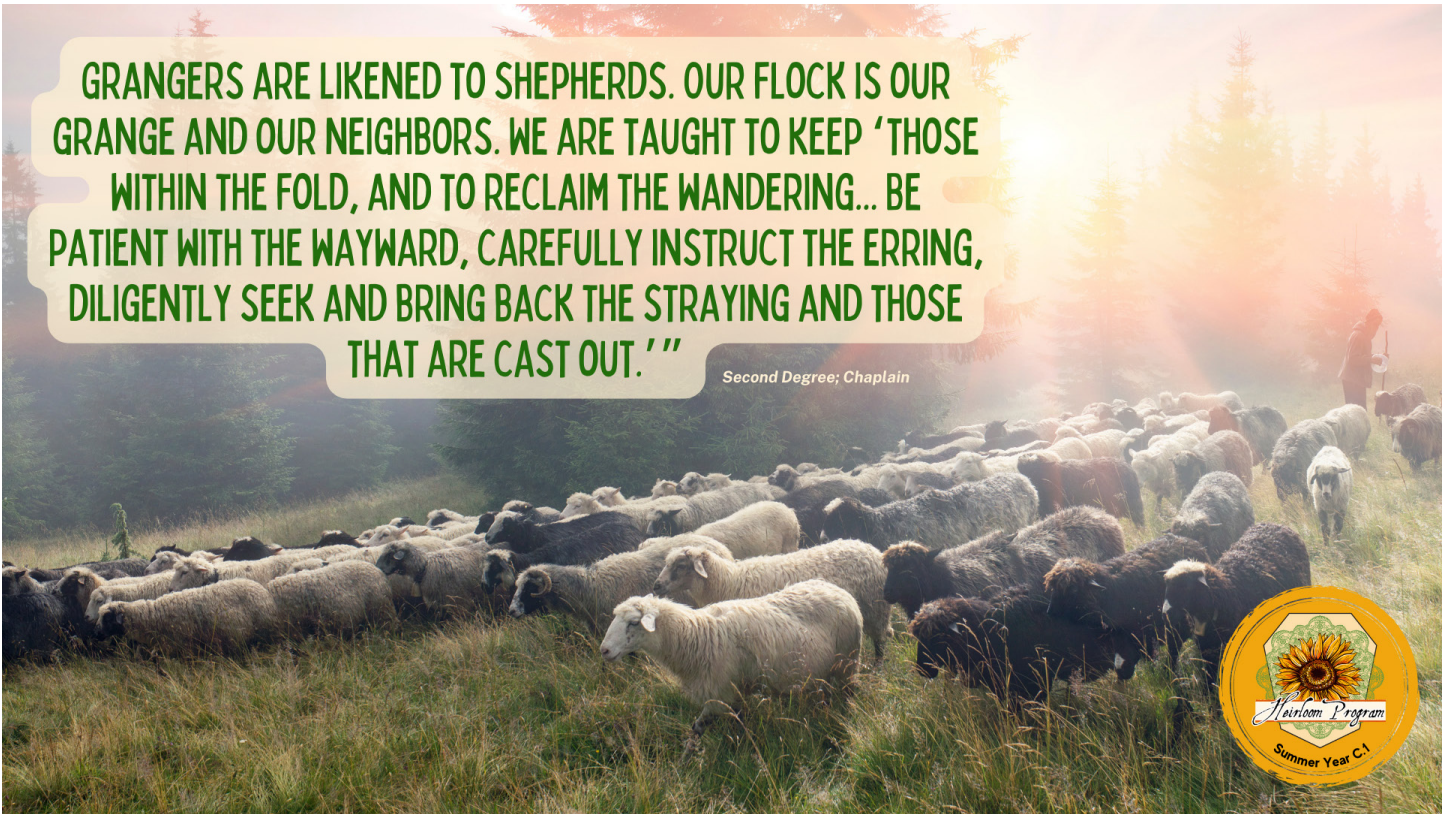
<https://www.nationalgrange.org/grange-in-action/>

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 1

JUNE'S GRANGE HEIRLOOM

GRANGERS ARE LIKENED TO SHEPHERDS. OUR FLOCK IS OUR GRANGE AND OUR NEIGHBORS. WE ARE TAUGHT TO KEEP 'THOSE WITHIN THE FOLD, AND TO RECLAIM THE WANDERING... BE PATIENT WITH THE WAYWARD, CAREFULLY INSTRUCT THE ERRING, DILIGENTLY SEEK AND BRING BACK THE STRAYING AND THOSE THAT ARE CAST OUT.'"

Second Degree; Chaplain



Use the Heirloom Program to encourage your Grange members (and friends who aren't Grange members) to continue learning about the core tenets of the Grange, and what we stand for. These "digestible" bits of Grange ritual help our members grow in the Grange.

Access materials at <http://bit.ly/grangeheirloom>

DISTINGUISHED GRANGE APPLICATIONS DUE SOON



DISTINGUISHED GRANGE

Do you have what it takes to be a Distinguished Grange?

The program, now in its fifteenth year, recognizes and honors Subordinate and State Granges that

fulfill their responsibilities as part of the National Grange, while excelling in areas of membership, fundraising and service to their communities.

The 2023-24 Distinguished Granges will be honored at this year's National Grange Convention in Bettendorf, Iowa, for their work done from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Granges who participate in a program about mental health, such as our partnership with Rural Minds, are eligible to be named a GOLDEN Distinguished Grange.

Applications are due on August 1, 2024, to Loretta Washington, Sales, Benefits, and Member Programs Director, so don't delay! Questions about the program and requirements can also be addressed to Loretta. (lwashington@nationalgrange.org)

Access the application here:

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/distinguished>.

In 2023, 26 Granges and 3 State Granges qualified for the honor of being a "Distinguished Grange," truly raising them to another level of Grange service.

GRANGE SUPPLY STORE

**SUPPLY STORE**

www.grangestore.org

JUNIOR GRANGE PINS



Show off your Junior Grange pride with this 1" soft enamel Junior Grange clutch-back pin!

The JG emblem will be sure to stand out, whether you're wearing it at a fair, at a meeting, or just to show off how proud you are to be a Junior member or supporter!

\$5.00
PLUS SHIPPING

Order at www.grangestore.org or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

With **Junior Grange Month** just around the corner in July, it's time to show off your Junior Grange pride!

Whether you're a current Junior member, a Junior Grange alum or parent, or you're just a supporter of the Junior Grange programs, this is a great way to show off and represent the Juniors.

They also make great gifts, member recognition presents, and more!

Limited supply available - so don't delay.

Order at www.grangestore.org or call Loretta at (202) 628-3507 x109.

GRANGE MEMBER BENEFIT

Grange members can enjoy 20% off their membership with **Harvest Hosts**, which has thousands of unique locations across the U.S. and Canada that allow members with self-contained RVs to stay overnight on the property of an agriculturally-oriented business with no camping fees. With over 5,000 locations within the network, there is an adventure for everyone. There is an app associated with Harvest Hosts that provides maps of the destinations, trip routing and planning, and much more.

Members of Harvest Hosts can also enjoy other RV-oriented savings of over \$2,000 year-round.

Join today with the code **GRANGE20** to redeem this offer.

Learn more: www.harvesthosts.com.

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