



REGIONAL CONFERENCES PROVIDE EDUCATION, FUN, NETWORKING

submissions from Dave Roberts (CT)
and Diana Nordquest (OH)

North East Lecturers Association Conference

The recent North East Lecturers Association (NELA) Conference, held in June in Norwich, CT, was a unique and significant event in the Grange community's calendar. Hosted by the Connecticut State Grange, it was the first regional Lecturers Conference in five years. It brought together Grange Lecturers and members from around New England and New York, fostering collaboration and shared learning.

This year's conference theme was "Cultivating Leadership and Community," reflecting the Grange's commitment to empowering individuals and strengthening local communities through education and service.

One of the conference's highlights was the keynote address delivered by Joan C. Smith, Grange Foundation Chairwoman. In her speech, she emphasized the importance of the Lecturer's role within the Grange organization, highlighting how Lecturers serve as educators, cultural promoters, and community leaders. She encouraged attendees to bring the knowledge and skills gained at the conference back to their local Granges to inspire and educate their members. She also discussed the Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors (RRSS) program and congratulated Connecticut State Grange on being the first State Grange to complete all the requirements to receive a monetary payment for promoting RRSS.

The conference featured workshops covering various topics relevant to



Joan C. Smith, Chairperson of the Grange Foundation, provided the keynote address at the North East Lecturers Association Conference, held in Connecticut in June.

Photo submitted

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UPCOMING DEADLINES

July 31 - Early Bird Registration
Deadline for 158th Annual
National Grange Convention
nationalgrange.org/158thconvention

August 1 - Distinguished Grange
Applications Due
nationalgrange.org/distinguished

September 1 -
Applications/Entries due for most
National Grange Contests

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

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Grangers participate in one of the workshops presented at NELA.
Photo submitted

Grange Lecturers. These included sessions on G.R.I.T 101, the Heirloom Program, artificial intelligence, community service, marketing, and membership. Expert speakers and experienced Grange members led the workshops, providing valuable insights and practical advice. Attendees particularly appreciated the interactive nature of the workshops, which allowed them to engage in discussions, share experiences, and ask questions.

In addition to the educational sessions, the conference also offered opportunities for networking and fellowship. Friday night was fun, with games hosted by each state, a KAHOOT quiz on participants' knowledge, and musical chairs.

The camaraderie was palpable as Grange Lecturers and members from different states bonded over their shared commitment to the Grange's mission. Conference attendees also donated almost 400 pounds of non-perishable food items for overseas military servicemembers as a North East Region service project called "For the Troops," coordinated by Rhode Island State Grange.

The North East Grange Lecturers Conference was a successful event and a catalyst for growth and empowerment within the Grange community. The conference has strengthened the Grange community and empowered its members to continue their valuable work in local communities by providing a platform for learning, sharing, and networking. As attendees returned to their home states, they carried the inspiration and tools needed

to make a positive impact in their Granges and beyond.

Midwest Region Leaders Conference

Grangers from the Midwest Region went back to college for their Leaders Conference, as the host state of Ohio chose Bowling Green State University as the location this year.

Fellowship, fun, and learning filled the weekend, including workshops on "Upward Thinking," age awareness, communication, and "Getting Your Grange in Order." A Grange scavenger hunt allowed everyone to explore the campus. During the community service project, Grangers made 21 jump ropes, 28 bead kits, and 27 infinity fidget cubes. These will be donated and packed in shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

National Junior Grange Ambassador Gayle Reyburn led an excellent workshop on corn. She taught attendees how to make cornhusk dolls and gave us popcorn! Gayle and her parents added greatly to our conference!

National Community Service and Youth Team members provided updates from their departments, and members from the 2024 Convention Host Committee highlighted the variety of tours and workshops planned for this year's National Convention in Bettendorf, Iowa.

The conference ended Sunday morning with a worship service on Faith. Goodbyes were said, and everyone left with memories of dorm life. Indiana will host the 2025 Midwest Leaders Conference.



National Junior Grange Ambassador Gayle Reyburn presented a workshop on corn - the Junior Grange Ag Awareness project - at the Midwest Leaders Conference.

Photo submitted

FCC SEEKS FEEDBACK ABOUT AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is very interested in understanding what consumers that were enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) are experiencing as they navigate this funding gap in the program. Specifically we want to ensure that consumers are aware of the consumer protections that are in place, and how to navigate the agency's consumer complaint process.

The FCC is committed to supporting households previously enrolled in the ACP through the agency's consumer complaint process. By filing a consumer complaint and sharing their experience, consumers contribute to federal enforcement and consumer protection efforts on a national scale and help us identify

trends and track the issues that matter most to consumers, including internet affordability.

Access the Affordable Connectivity Program Wind-Down Fact Sheet by visiting <https://grange.biz/ACPwinddown>.

To Submit a consumer complaint:

Online: <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov>

By phone: You can submit an informal complaint over the phone by calling 888-CALL-FCC (888-225-5322)

En Español: Haga su reclamo en línea <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov>, o llame al 1-888-225- 5322 para recibir atención en español.



MINNESOTA HOLDS STATE GRANGE PICNIC

submitted by Lake Hubert Grange #735 (MN)

Lake Hubert Grange hosted the 2024 Minnesota State Grange Picnic on Saturday, June 29th. It was wonderful to be joined by members from Clear Lake, Sunbeam, and Zumbro Valley Granges, and everyone had a great time.

The picnic started with a welcoming, and then the Lake Hubert Grange Chaplain offered a prayer before opening up our baked potato bar and many desserts.

The program was provided by our Lecturer, who spoke about how many generations of families are still members of our Grange today. Vice President Tracy Princivalli gave a heartfelt response about what the Grange means to her, remembering the fun everyone had as kids - playing ball in the field outside and many gatherings at Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Her parents and grandparents have always been members of our Grange. Her Grandpa was the Master (President) for many years. Now, she loves gatherings and helping in our community.

Carl Boberg spoke about the occupations of the founders of our Grange on Lake Hubert and was surprised that only one of the 32 members was a farmer. Assistant Steward Brent Shepherd spoke a bit about the history of the Lake Hubert area. Then

Brent's daughter joined him, and they played music and sang for everyone in attendance. Paul Larson from Zumbro Valley Grange was the winner of our door prize. We ended the day with several Bingo games.

Thank you to all who came and made our Grange fellowship so special.



(Left) Members from around the state of Minnesota gathered at Lake Hubert Grange for the annual State Grange picnic.

(Above) Brent Shepherd and his daughter provided some musical entertainment for the day.

Photos submitted



ROCHAMBEAU FESTIVAL REMEMBERS A REVOLUTIONARY WAR HERO

submitted by Mark Franks

President, Yorktown Grange #862 (NY)

Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route - New York's (W3R-NY) first half signature event, Rochambeau Festival, was a great success! On May 18 & 19, hundreds of community residents and families gathered at Rochambeau Park, one of the five locations in Yorktown, NY, where French General Rochambeau and the French army encamped on the forward March to Yorktown, VA.

Rochambeau Festival is a two-day immersive experience that educates families and history enthusiasts about pivotal Revolutionary War events in our Nation's history, the critical Franco-American Alliance, and the role that French General Comte de Rochambeau and the French army performed in aiding General Washington and the Continental Army in the fight for freedom from British rule.

The Festival featured a variety of educational opportunities. W3R scholar and historian Dr. Robert A. Selig shared the rules and regulations for encampment setups. The Brigade of the American Revolution engaged parents and children in actual encampment setups, drills with model muskets, and explanations about the differences in the regimental units comprising the Brigade. A particular highlight was the Brigades' tactical weapons demonstrations and narrated skirmishes with the firing of muskets and battalion volleys and the review and salute of the troops led by General George Washington.

Guests were introduced to the local role of the French regiment, Lauzun's Legion, and the 2nd Regiment Light Dragoons, the first of four regiments raised for the Continental Army, who fought the war from Connecticut to Virginia. General George Washington, with local dignitaries, reviewed and

addressed the troops about the importance of the French in securing our independence.

Living history was recreated by General Rochambeau's lively *Indispensable Allies* presentation; Diplomat Ben Franklin, Robert Erskine, Washington's map maker, and General Pierre Van Cortlandt, who commanded the Second New York Regiment and was the founding father of New York, addressed numerous Revolutionary War questions raised by visitors throughout the event. Animals of the day, including oxen Oak and Birch, demonstrated heavy hauling while goats, geese, ducks, and chickens from Willow Hill Homestead delighted the youngsters with many photo opportunities.

Annemarie Sasso, Leader of Education Programs and Animal Exhibits, involved kids in hands-on demonstrations of cheese, butter, and milk production at Jerry's Barn. During the day, a guided bus tour of Yorktown's encampment sites transported riders back in time while a customized digital application called

the History Hunt encouraged guest engagement and interactions with the dignitaries, reenactors, the Brigade, and exhibitors at all locations at the Festival.

Local experts from the New York State Rochambeau encampment sites (Historical Society volunteers from Camps 13 (North Castle), 15 (Mt. Kisco), 16 & 38 Hunt's Tavern, now Freyer's Florist, 18 & 19 (Stony Point/Suffern), 35 & 36 (Suffern/Stony Point), and 39 (Salem), educated the public about what history took place at these individual sites; exhibitors, many dressed in period costume, including the Mohegan Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Yorktown John C. Hart Memorial Public Library, Town of Yorktown Museum, Yorktown Historical Society and the Copper Beech Junior High School History Club, contributed to the immersive experience.

The event also featured local musician John Griffiths, who sang the

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Attendees at the Rochambeau Festival took aim and tried out their form with fake muskets.

Photo submitted

ROCHAMBEAU FESTIVAL

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French Republic's national anthem, *La Marseillaise*, and our *Star-Spangled Banner* and led all participants in the Brigade's salute to the troops with the collective singing of God Bless America.

Rochambeau Park, dedicated in honor of General Rochambeau on September 18, 1954, with military attaché Major John Taissier of the French Embassy attending the ceremony, and the W3R-NY event partner, also known as the Yorktown Grange Fair Grounds, provided a perfect combination for the Rochambeau Festival. With its sprawling 14 acres, main and exhibit halls, barns and horse respite areas, and the tireless help of countless volunteers, history was truly brought to life, and the Festival was a resounding success. W3R-NY achieved its goal of delivering a fun-filled, immersive experience



The second annual Rochambeau Festival was held on the Yorktown Grange Fair Grounds.

Photo submitted

and educating the community about the Revolutionary War history in New York and the crucial role of General Rochambeau and the French army.

Plans are already underway to deliver an even more robust living history Rochambeau Festival in 2025.



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CALIFORNIA GRANGE COLLABORATES WITH LOCAL FFA

submitted by Sharon Waltman

Lecturer, California Grange #941 (PA)

On June 10, Danville FFA members visited California Grange #941 to share details about their program career goals in agriculture. FFA Vice President Alyssa Bergenstock, FFA Chaplain Lillyana Torres, and member Jackson Blansfield joined their advisor Michael Shultz during the visit.

The FFA members witnessed the Grange opening ceremony and compared it with similar FFA rituals. Grange members introduced each office and explained significance to help answer questions from the students. Lillyana Torres, who would compete in the FFA creed recitation contest at Penn State University, recited the creed for the Grange audience.

The California Grange has supported local Danville and Warrior Run FFA chapters with proceeds from their spring and fall chicken BBQ dinners. Following the meeting, Grange members, FFA students, and their advisor enjoyed ice cream and strawberries. It was a nice exchange for both Grange members and the FFA students.



Danville FFA member Lillyana Torres recites the FFA Creed from memory at California Grange #941. In background, left to right, Wanda Schreck (Flora), Louise Nogle (Ceres), and Libby Green (Pomona) .

Photo submitted

BE A "GRANGE IN ACTION" THIS YEAR

All Community, Pomona, and Junior Granges are welcome and encouraged to submit their events for consideration as a Grange in Action at the 2024 National Grange Convention.

Easton Grange #196 (MA) was the first Grange to submit their application (at right) this year. It's a simple way to show what your Grange has been doing in the community this year.

Learn more and submit your application here: <https://www.nationalgrange.org/grange-in-action/>

Contest Spotlight

GRANGE IN ACTION

applications due September 1



GRANGE
in action

GRANGE IN ACTION

EASTON GRANGE 196 EASTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Easton Grange participated in three community events during this 2023/2024 Grange season.




Our Grange planned and hosted a crucial Red Cross Blood Drive in January, partnering with patriotic Veterans organization, "The American Legion Post 27".

In the spring, many Easton Grangers participated in the "Keep Easton Beautiful" town wide clean up event as well as sponsoring this successful event with a generous donation to the community organization, "Keep Easton Beautiful".

Easton Grange 196 is currently maintaining a garden plot at the Wheaton Community Farm. In addition to caring for the plot to help grow a plentiful yield this summer, our Grange is donating the harvest from this labor of love to the Easton Food Pantry.







Are you or a loved one considering surgery?
Do you need additional guidance on what questions to ask in advance?
Do you want to make sure that your loved ones are prepared?

Consider accessing this program from the National Grange.

Learn more at
<http://www.seniorsurgeryguides.com>

This program was funded through a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award (EADI #30051)

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EAGLE POINT GRANGE PRESENTS AWARD

submitted by Theresa Berezcki
Eagle Point Grange #664 (OR)



Eagle Point Grange President Joe Burns presented Donna Boutwell the Commemorative Service Award for her years of service and care to the Grange.

Photo submitted

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

with Amanda Brozana



**MONTHLY
ON ZOOM**

Third Wednesdays

JULY 17

@ 8:30PM (ET) / 5:30PM (PT)

grange.biz/matters

Meeting ID: 853 1693 0645

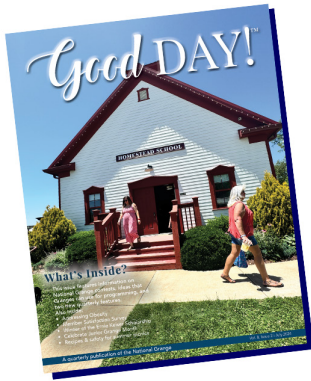
Passcode: Membership





SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.org



GOOD DAY!™ JULY 2024

The July 2024 issue of Good Day! brings together many of the current initiatives of the National Grange, including ways to address obesity and homesteading in rural America.

Also inside: Two new quarterly features – Community Voices and "A Look Back...", a Member Satisfaction Survey, recipes and safety for summer picnics, and much more!

Order online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.org or call Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

\$5.00 PER ISSUE

(plus shipping)

or subscribe at nationalgrange.org/goodday

GRANGE SERVICE AWARDS

If your Grange will be celebrating a milestone of years of service, like 100, 125, or 150 years, you can request a letter from the National Grange President. If your Grange Hall building is celebrating a milestone, we have letters and certificates available for those, as well.

If you would like a letter and a plaque, you can purchase by using [Request Forms on the National Grange website](#) or contact Loretta Washington at lwashington@nationalgrange.org or by phone at (202) 628-3507 x109.

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NATIONAL GRANGE

HEADQUARTERS: 1616 H ST. NW, SUITE 200, WASHINGTON, DC 20006 | (202) 628-3507

Publisher Christine Hamp, National Grange President. Available to members at champ@nationalgrange.org or by phone at (509) 953-3533

Editor Philip J Vonada, National Grange Communications Director. Contact to submit a story idea for *Grange Today!* or *Good Day!* magazine, request assistance with publicity, business cards, social media, and more. Email pvonada@nationalgrange.org or call/text (814) 404-7985

Leadership Training & Membership Development - Amanda Brozana, 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 abrozana@nationalgrange.org or call/text (301) 943-1090

Legislative and Policy Issues Burton Eller, Legislative Director. *National HQ*, ext. 114 or email beller@nationalgrange.org

Membership Recognition, Grange Supply Sales, Grange Programs and Member Benefits

Loretta Washington, *National HQ*, ext. 109 or email Lwashington@nationalgrange.org

Free Grange Websites, Emails, Good Day! subscription questions, and Membership Database

Stephanie Wilkins, IT Director. *National HQ*, ext. 101 or email swilkins@nationalgrange.org

Lecturer Tom Gwin, lecturer@nationalgrange.org or (360) 581-0177

Junior Grange Programming junior@nationalgrange.org

Grange Youth & Young Adult Programming youth@nationalgrange.org | nationalgrangeyouth2@gmail.com

National Grange Community Service communityservice@grange.org

Grange Foundation Joan C. Smith, Chairperson. ngfb@grange.org or (571) 662-7220

