



## NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION IS JUST WEEKS AWAY



The National Grange's 158th Annual Convention is just 18 days away from officially opening in Bettendorf, Iowa - but there's still time to register and plan to **Meet Us at the River!**

The late registration period is open through November 1st - after which time, registrations WILL still be available on site, though no additional meals will be available. Visit

<http://www.nationalgrange.org/158thconvention> to register today!

We encourage and urge members of all ages to come to the Quad Cities of Iowa and Illinois for this year's convention right alongside the Mississippi River.

The Midwest Host Region has been hard at work planning a convention like no other, ensuring that there is plenty to do for ALL members - no matter the sash being worn.

With over 400 attendees expected, members will have the opportunity to explore the region, including visits to John Deere Davenport Works and the John Deere Pavilion, Cinnamon Ridge Farms, Lagomarcino's Chocolates, Rock Island Arsenal, the Figge Art Museum, and other locations.

More than 60 individual workshops are being offered throughout the week, with topics ranging from meteorology to Grange law, from learning how to decorate cookies to conflict mediation, from a youth mental health panel with Rural Minds to a Grange-themed Dungeons and Dragons night. Members of all ages are invited to the workshop rooms throughout the day to learn and engage in lively topics and discussions that will help inform their work as they head back to their home Granges. A full list of workshops and times can be found by visiting <http://grange.biz/158workshops>.

"We look forward to an exciting and productive convention on the banks of the Mighty Mississippi," said National Grange President Christine E. Hamp. "The host committee has worked hard and has succeeded in creating a convention that highlights the region, educates our members,

*continued on page 3*

## IN THIS ISSUE

National Grange Convention is just weeks away .....	1
Hamp: "The Grange is who I am" .	2
Grange Foundation seeks Board of Directors Candidates .....	2
Gold sashes up for grabs at 158th Convention .....	4
View from the Hill .....	4
Older adults are at increased risk for severe RSV .....	5
Share Your Rural Health Story in Honor of National Rural Health Day .....	6
National Grange presents Events Webinar .....	7
Register for the Webinar: Managing Postpartum Depression in Rural America .....	7
Grouper pays you for social wellness .....	8
Volunteers needed for standards development .....	9
Grange Member Benefit: MemberDeals .....	10
Grange Store: Grange Strong Socks .....	10

## UPCOMING

**October 30 @ 8:30pm ET**  
"Shortcuts to Success" webinar  
Register: <https://grange.biz/successzoom>

**November 1**  
Final Deadline for  
National Grange Convention Registration  
<https://grange.biz/ng158>

**November 5**  
Election Day

## HAMP: “THE GRANGE IS WHO I AM”

*National Grange President Christine Hamp was recently interviewed by Glenn Vaagen of the Pacific Northwest Ag Network. An article and podcast episode were each created out of this interview.*

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It's only been a year since Chris Hamp was elected President of the National Grange, but in that time, she's worked hard to share with the farming community why the Grange is important in the 21st century. Hamp noted that the Grange is there to encourage children, and young adults to be individuals and advocate for themselves.

“Long before this phrase you know ‘it takes a village to raise a child’ was something that was part of our vernacular, it was what Grange did and what it continues to do is make sure that that our members are part of something bigger than themselves that that you grow and learn for a lifetime.”

In a world where phones and electronic devices rule the lives of so many, what has the Grange done to stay relevant? Hamp says they focus on

Rural America, and how those needs greatly differ than the needs of those living in more metro areas.

“That they have education and that they have health care and that they have connections to the ability to stay there and farm if that's what they want to do,” Hamp said. “I think there's lots of issues out there that that we can help make sure that if you want to call rural America home and you want to raise a family on a small farm in a small community, that we can make sure that that that happens.”

Hamp added they continue to work at the local and national level to find the next leaders of the Grange, and those interested in steering the organization into the future.

Read more and listen to the podcast episode here: <https://pnwag.net/hamp-the-grange-is-who-i-am/>

Hamp also spoke with Vaagen about the current failure to pass a farm bill. Listen to that episode here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdOEgF7ou5E>

## GRANGE FOUNDATION SEEKS BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

submitted by Joan C. Smith

*Chair, Grange Foundation Board of Directors*



The Grange Foundation is seeking candidates to join the Board of Directors, with election to be held on November 11 during the National Grange Convention.

The two-year term runs from November 2024 through November 2026. We will be electing two members for the expiring terms of Joan C. Smith (DC - not seeking reelection) and Marty Billquist (MT). The Board of Directors meets 8 times a year, every other month; five (5) meetings via ZOOM and three (3) face-to-face at National Grange Leaders' Conference and at the National

Grange Convention.

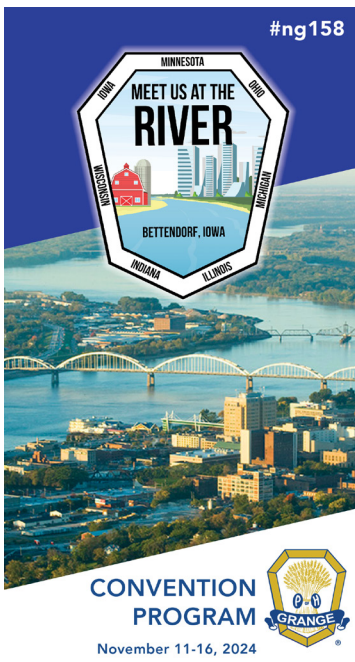
***The Grange Foundation supports youth development, promotes agriculture education and research, improves communities, and fosters culture, heritage, citizenship, and charitable activities.***

Come join your Grange Foundation Board, be part of the programming of the Grange at the National level.

Please email [ngfb@grange.org](mailto:ngfb@grange.org) telling us why you would like to be part of this Board and a short biography. I look forward to hearing from many of you. Your responses will be provided to all delegates prior to the Convention to support the voting on Monday, November 11.

Candidate information is due by November 1st.

# NATIONAL CONVENTION



and provides plenty of time for fellowship and growth in the Grange. We are thrilled to celebrate what it means to be Grange Strong with members from across the country.”

Today, we are excited to release the official 2024 Convention Program - check it out by visiting <https://grange.biz/158program> - it will continue to be updated as more information can be added or any adjustments are made

to the schedule.

If you aren't able to make it to Bettendorf, some

*continued from page 1*

events will be livestreamed on the National Grange YouTube channel, Facebook, and other social media accounts.

These events include:

**National Grange President's Address** - Tuesday, November 12, 11:00am CT

**Lukas Pietrzak, NTIA** - speaker at the Advocacy Lunch - Tuesday, November 12, around 12:45pm CT

**Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of Agriculture** - speaker at Salute to Agriculture Lunch - Wednesday, November 13, around 12:45pm CT

**Quilts of Valor Presentation and Grange Hall of Fame** - Wednesday, November 13, 7:30pm CT

**Installation of Officers** - Friday, November 15, 3:00pm CT

**National Grange Recognition Night** - Friday, November 15, 7:30pm CT

Additionally, many workshops will be recorded to be released on our channels following the convention.

We hope you'll **Meet Us at the River!**

## GOLD SASHES UP FOR GRABS AT 158<sup>TH</sup> CONVENTION

An online silent auction and online raffle will be held for the opportunity to close the Grange at this year's National Grange Convention, on Wednesday, November 13 around 9:30 p.m.

A silent auction will be conducted for the President's sash and station, while all other officer sashes and positions will be raffled. Winners must be on-site or select someone else present to have the honor of closing the Grange that evening. Winners of the silent auction or those whose name is drawn and select a speaking or action role for the closing should also be able to perform the duties well, either from memory or using a Manual.

For the remaining offices, an online raffle is being held, with a chance to win and select the office of your choice. Tickets, which are on sale now for \$20, can be purchased by any member in good standing. You can indicate indicate the three offices in which you are most interested..

Winners will be drawn at 1:00 p.m. Central Time on Wednesday, November 13, at which time they will select the office of their choice.

As each is selected, the next winner will be given the remaining options until all offices are filled. Winners should be available to be contacted to

accept and select their office if necessary. If you will be flying at selection time, or otherwise unavailable, please notify Amanda Brozana to indicate your top 3 choices or provide the name and number of someone authorized to decide for you.

Groups or Granges may pool their money to purchase tickets but only one representative for the group may serve. If a winner is selected who is not on-site, they must choose someone in attendance to serve in their place.

Zeffy, the online platform chosen for this fundraiser, is free to the Grange but adds a 17% contribution by default. You can turn this off by "adding" \$0 to your ticket purchase price or silent auction bid. To eliminate the contribution to Zeffy, select the drop-down that shows a 17% contribution and choose "Other," then make your contribution \$0.

All funds raised through the sash auctions will benefit the Grange Foundation.

SILENT AUCTION LINK for the President's office:  
<http://grange.biz/presidentauction>

RAFFLE LINK for all other offices:  
<http://grange.biz/officeauction>



# NATIONAL GRANGE

OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

## *View from the Hill*



### NATIONAL GRANGE POLICY UPDATES & ISSUE NEWS

October 2024

#### **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A FARM BILL EXPIRES?**

Congress left town at the end of September to campaign for reelection. They did not pass a new farm bill before leaving. In fact, neither the Senate nor House farm bill versions have been sent to the floor for a vote.

In the meantime, the 2018 Farm Bill expired on September 30. In some ways, the current farm bill has been dying the last few years, thanks to unanticipated price inflation. The dollar is only worth 80% of what it was in 2018. The fixed reference prices for commodities in that farm bill, which define the help from USDA farmers depend on in rough times, are only worth 80% of what they were in 2018. Also, dollars set aside for research and innovation grants and certain conservation programs are only worth 80% of what they were in 2018. So, what will we miss with no new farm bill?

#### **Some programs were shut down immediately** **October 1:**

- Numerous international programs, including the Market Access and Foreign Market Development Cooperator trade promotion programs and Food for Progress.
- The Biobased Markets Program and Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels
- The Specialty Crops Block Grants Program
- The National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program
- Several animal health programs
- New enrollments in the Conservation Reserve Program, livestock projects under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and the Regional Conservation Incentive Program, and several wetland, forest and watershed restoration programs.

#### **Conservation funds outside the farm bill**

The Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act added nearly \$18 billion to farm bill conservation programs deemed “climate-related” by the law’s authors. These programs are at least partially funded outside the farm bill with supplemental funding that doesn’t have to be spent until fiscal year 2031. These funds can be used to supplement “climate-related” conservation practices in the absence of a farm bill.

#### **Permanent law**

A number of farm bill programs operate under permanent law, meaning law without a sunset date. These include crop insurance programs, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and several disaster programs. These will continue to operate but without improvements and updates that would happen in a new farm bill.

Normally when people talk about permanent law and the end of a farm bill, they are talking about farm programs dating back to the 1930’s and 1940’s that are still on the books, but which are suspended by modern farm bills. Various current commodity support programs will be extended through the current crop year then replaced with permanent law that will kick in with the 2025 crop.

Congress has chosen to leave these old laws on the books as a guarantee that it will take some action to prevent the return of these programs. The old programs would support certain farm prices far above current support prices and so far above market prices as to be disruptive to the agricultural economy and very costly to the federal government. These permanent law support prices account for rising input costs but not for vastly improved yields and input efficiencies. These “parity prices” are still published every month by USDA.

If there is no new farm bill or extension through next year, USDA would pay commodity prices under these old programs through purchases and nonrecourse loans. Milk and honey pricing would kick in January 1. The current milk price per hundredweight of \$22.80, for example, would go to \$49.43. Pricing for barley, corn, cotton, oats, rice, rye, sorghum and wheat would kick in with the 2025 crop. Corn would go from the July 2024 market price of \$4.24 per bushel to \$7.45 per bushel and wheat from \$5.52 to \$15.08 per bushel. There are no permanent law programs for peanuts, canola, seeds, soybeans, sunflower and several other crops.

### CCC Authority

The commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) has historically been used as the secretary of agriculture's emergency slush fund regardless of the party in power. The farm bill directs numerous programs to draw funding from the CCC. The secretary has broad ad hoc authority to support farm prices, farm income, agricultural marketing, exports, domestic consumption, conservation programs and to provide emergency relief. When the Department of the Treasury pays the Agriculture secretary's bills this fall, he'll have a \$30 billion line of credit to work with. This gives the secretary flexibility to operate farm income support and disaster programs to fill in behind actions not taken by Congress.

### What's next?

Congress will return to Washington after the elections for a "lame duck" session. They could spring into action and pass a new farm bill before January 1. That's highly unlikely given the mood and politics in Congress right now. Congress could do nothing and let permanent law kick in January 1. Congress can't afford that option. So, at this point it looks like the only palatable option for Congress to take is to pass an extension of the current farm bill. The only argument may be to extend for how long?



### **VIEW FROM THE HILL**

is written and compiled by

**Burton Eller**

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## **OLDER ADULTS ARE AT INCREASED RISK OF SEVERE RSV**

### ***Protect Yourself and Your Loved Ones This Respiratory Season.***

October is Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Awareness Month, an annual observance to increase awareness about the burden of RSV and how to protect yourself and others from RSV infection. As partners of [Champions for Vaccine Education, Equity and Progress \(CVEEP\)](#), we are excited to share resources and messaging to raise awareness about RSV and what older adults need to know about getting vaccinated against this infectious respiratory disease.

RSV can be very serious

for older adults and causes hospitalizations and death each year. Vaccines are available to help protect older adults against RSV, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends RSV vaccination for all adults 75 and over and those 60-74 years of age with certain medical conditions. Additionally, most private and public health plans cover RSV vaccines at no cost to the individual.

During respiratory illness season, it is important to know that COVID-19, flu, and RSV vaccines can all be given during the same visit, a practice known as

coadministration. This convenient and common approach helps individuals stay up to date on recommended vaccines, especially when there may not be another opportunity for future vaccination.

By getting vaccinated, we can help reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and even death caused by RSV. Let's work together to ensure our communities are protected.

Visit [CVEEP](#) to learn more about recommended RSV vaccines for older adults and access the tools you need to inform and encourage your community to receive an RSV vaccine.

# SHARE YOUR RURAL HEALTH STORY IN HONOR OF NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

submitted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health

As we approach **National Rural Health Day** on November 21, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH) is partnering with StoryCorps to highlight the impactful work being done in our rural, Tribal, and geographically isolated communities. Given your previous engagement with CMS OMH, we wanted to personally ensure you have the opportunity to participate.



StoryCorps is a non-profit organization that aims to record, preserve, and share the stories of Americans from all backgrounds and beliefs

to “to help us believe in each other by illuminating the humanity and possibility in us all—one story at a time.”

By sharing your story, you will help us continue to shape the dialogue around rural health and shine a light on the specific needs and triumphs of rural, Tribal, and geographically isolated communities.

We invite you to share your stories to showcase:

- Challenges your community faces in accessing health care.
- Positive impacts you’ve seen from initiatives and programs in your area.
- Innovative solutions and strategies you’ve implemented.
- Ideas for improving health care access and outcomes in your community.

We have provided additional details below. You can sign up directly for this opportunity using this link (<https://storycorpsappointments.as.me/schedule.php?calendarID=10584982>) . Please note that we have limited slots and will schedule sign-ups on a first come, first served basis.

## HOW IT WORKS:

Recording Dates: November 6th, 7th, 8th, 12th, and 13th.

**Format:** The virtual recordings will include two people and will last 40 minutes. We invite you

to choose someone with whom you would feel comfortable having this conversation about rural health – be it a coworker, a supervisor, mentor, family member, friend, or neighbor. At the recording, StoryCorps staff members will facilitate the recording process and provide starter questions to guide your conversation. They will also provide time for photos with your conversation partner!

**Distribution:** With your permission, StoryCorps will archive your conversation at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and in StoryCorps’ Online Archive, now the largest single collection of human voices ever gathered. A select group of recordings will also be produced into a short audio card, and with your permission, will be distributed on CMS channels. You will be notified if your recording is selected.

Slots are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. If you’re interested in participating, please sign up as early as you can. For any questions, please contact Murphy Barney ([mbarney@storycorps.org](mailto:mbarney@storycorps.org)).

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to improving health care in our rural, Tribal, and geographically isolated communities. We look forward to sharing your inspiring stories and working together to continue making a meaningful impact.

**Submit your stories,  
events, and ideas to...**



<http://grange.biz/grangetodaysubmit>

# NATIONAL GRANGE PRESENTS EVENTS WEBINAR

Join us next week for a special webinar -

**Shortcuts to Success: Add a little sparkle to your next event**

October 30 - 8:30pm ET / 5:30pm PT

Please pre-register for this special event here: <http://grange.biz/successzoom>

- How many times have you had great attendance at an event but found that it didn't translate to new memberships from among the attendees?

- How many times has someone said to you: "I wish we had known about that, I would really liked to have been there!"

- How many times has a potential new member or a community representative asked you to send/email them something in

writing about an upcoming event or program only to find there is nothing available?

We've got some ideas for you!

As part of the continuing work of the **Rural Life Initiative** that Pfizer has sponsored this year, Beth Westbrook and Nona Bear will co-host a webinar focused upon how to use tools, techniques and resources you already have to build attendance, loyalty, and donations!

This webinar builds on the August "Fun"draising Zoom. In this one-hour presentation, gather some ideas to add to



your holiday event to raise more money, and translate attendance into memberships.

And YES! Once again there will be something very special at the end - a message from President Chris Hamp about a new Rural Life Initiative grant opportunity being announced to attendees at this webinar.

## REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR: MANAGING POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION IN RURAL AMERICA

The National Grange and Rural Minds invite you to join our next webinar, "Managing Postpartum Depression in Rural America" on Tuesday, October 29, at 6pm ET/3pm PT.

During this 60-minute webinar, Dr. Keisha Renee Callins, a physician, public health professional, and obstetrician/gynecologist, will discuss how she works with mothers to manage postpartum depression. She is committed to providing women's healthcare services, especially in rural and underserved areas of Georgia.

Also joining the webinar to speak from her

experience with living in rural America and managing postpartum depression will be Carrie Banks, Peer Support Programs Director at Postpartum Support International.

Presented live via Zoom with the option to hear audio as listen-only, this moderated webinar will include a Q&A session.

This webinar is sponsored by Sage Therapeutics and Biogen.

Register here for free: [https://us06web.zoom.us/join/wn\\_Y-i3pF9cR5a.y4J6XsOo4w](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/wn_Y-i3pF9cR5a.y4J6XsOo4w)

**MAKE TODAY A**  **Good Day!** <sup>TM</sup> **SUBSCRIBE: [NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/GOODDAY](http://NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/GOODDAY)**

# Being a Granger Pays with Grouper



**The National Grange** and Grouper have partnered to reward eligible members for staying socially active!

**GRANGERS 65+ WITH AN ELIGIBLE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE OR SUPPLEMENT PLAN RECEIVE:**

- ✓ \$50 check from Grouper
- ✓ \$20 check every 3 months for staying active



Quickly check eligibility by visiting **[hellogrouper.com/grange](https://hellogrouper.com/grange)**

**Checking eligibility for Grouper is easy** and only requires your health plan name and your age.

PROUD TO BE INCLUDED IN:



# Grouper

Call (833) 906-1700 Email [info@hellogrouper.com](mailto:info@hellogrouper.com)

# GROUPEP PAYS YOU FOR SOCIAL WELLNESS



**Did you know:** Grouper provides benefits to Grange members aged 65+ for staying socially connected and these benefits include covering the costs of group activities. For Grange members with an eligible Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plan, Grouper will send you a \$50 check! In addition, if you continue to stay active in Grange activities - like service projects, club meetings, or having lunch with

friends - Grouper will send you a \$20 social wellness payment every three months.

Social connection is critical as we age, and health plans now cover social activities like they cover gym memberships.

To redeem your benefit, visit [hellogrouper.com/grange](https://hellogrouper.com/grange).

Questions? Please contact Grouper's Member Engagement Team at 833-445-2400 or [info@hellogrouper.com](mailto:info@hellogrouper.com).



Listen to  
**THE GRANGE HALL PODCAST**  
*New episodes every other Wednesday*  
Listen on: Spotify, iHeartRadio, Apple Podcasts, YouTube, or PodBean

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO®) is seeking volunteers to participate on two technical committees working toward the development of the 2027 editions of the *Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code*® (USPSHTC) and *Uniform Solar, Hydronics and Geothermal Code*® (USHGC).

specifically seeking **consumer representatives** - or those who are the ultimate purchaser of a product, system or service affected by the standard.

The provisions of these codes apply to the erection, installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, addition to or maintenance of any solar energy, hydronic heating/cooling,

swimming pool, spa or hot tub system.

The deadline to apply to join the Technical Committee is November 15th. Anyone interested in serving on one of these committees can complete the application online at the Code Development webpage: [https://forms.iapmo.org/iapmo/committee/app\\_tech\\_committee.aspx](https://forms.iapmo.org/iapmo/committee/app_tech_committee.aspx)

# GRANGE MEMBER BENEFIT: MEMBERDEALS

## MemberDeals

### EXCLUSIVE MEMBER ONLY OFFERS

National Grange members are eligible for fantastic deals on travel, transportation, entertainment, and much more through MemberDeals!

Now you'll have access to exclusive savings on theme

parks, hotels, attractions, movie tickets, tours, shows & more.

Be sure to visit often as new products and discounts are constantly being added! Scan the QR code to access savings, or visit <https://www.memberdeals.com/nationalgrange/>



## GRANGE STORE: GRANGE STRONG SOCKS



**SUPPLY STORE**

**#GRANGESTRONG**

[www.grangestore.org](http://www.grangestore.org)

**\*NEW\* GRANGE STRONG SOCKS**  
*Limited quantity available!*

Show and wear your Grange Pride at various events and activities, especially at State and National Conventions!  
Featuring the **#GrangeStrong** logo on a light gray sock.

80% combined cotton, 15% nylon and 5% elastane.  
**One size fits most**

**\$16.00 plus shipping**  
*will be available at National Grange Convention*  
Order online through the Grange Supply Store at [grangestore.org](http://grangestore.org)  
or call Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

These #GrangeStrong socks are a limited-edition run - don't wait to order!

The Grange Store will be open online through the National Grange Convention, however items purchased will not be shipped until Nov 20. No items will be shipped from November 6 to 19.

## NATIONAL GRANGE

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**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](mailto:abrozana@nationalgrange.org) or call/text (301) 943-1090

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