



NEW NATIONAL YOUTH & JUNIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM SELECTED

by Molly Newman

National Grange Communications Fellow

The 2025 Junior, Youth, and Young Adult Ambassadors were announced during National Grange Recognition Night on Friday, November 15th. This announcement celebrated the remarkable individuals selected to represent the Grange at the national level in the coming year.

2025 Junior Grange Ambassadors

This year, two outstanding candidates were selected as National Junior Grange Ambassadors for the 2025 Grange year.

Justin Dusko of Pennsylvania, a member of Virginville Junior Grange and the son of Nancy and Jason Dusko, is an 8th grader who plays trumpet in his school

band. He is a fourth-generation Granger.

Laci Liles of North Carolina, a member of Juniper Grange and the daughter of Joshua and Anna Liles, is a 7th grader who participates in the Beta Club and sings in her school choir.

When asked about the upcoming year, Justin said, "It feels great to be selected. I'm very in awe of everything still, but very excited for the year to come and see where this Ambassadorship takes me."

Laci added, "The thing I'm looking forward to most is going to regionals and going to different Grange camps."

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Thank you to everyone who made the 2024 National Grange Convention a success. From the host committee to the attendees, and everyone in between, we are grateful for your dedication and support, as we all work together to be **#GrangeStrong**.

In addition to post-Convention coverage, the November **View from the Hill**, our legislative department update, is available on page 6.

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



<http://grange.biz/grangetodaysubmit>

LEADERSHIP TEAM CONTINUED

Outgoing National Junior Grange Ambassador Gayle Reyburn reflected on her term, stating, "It has been such an honor to serve as the 2023-2024 National Junior Grange Ambassador. The year was filled with so many amazing opportunities that I am thankful for and will always remember." To the new Ambassadors, she offered advice: "I'm so excited for the new National Ambassador Team. I know they're going to have a great year filled with awesome opportunities and experiences. I encourage them to not stress too much during the year and to enjoy every moment because it will go by so fast."

Congratulations to Justin and Laci!

2025 Youth and Young Adult Ambassadors

The Youth and Young Adult programs also had a strong field of candidates this year, with four applicants for Youth Ambassadors and three for Young Adult Ambassadors.

Youth Ambassador Candidates:

- Carter Settle (NC) - Little Mountain Grange #601
- Melissa Kudsk (WA) - Haynie Grange #169
- Taylor Rogers (NC) - Camp Grange #1299
- Shae Smith (PA) - Elizabethtown Grange #2076

Young Adult Ambassador Candidates:

- JC Junkman (OR) - Clarkes Grange #261
- Desira Rickenbach (PA) - Virgenville Grange #1832
- Ashlan Smith (PA) - Elizabethtown Grange #2076

The 2025 Youth Ambassadors are Taylor Rogers of North Carolina and Shae Smith of Pennsylvania. Ashlan Smith of Pennsylvania was named the Young Adult Ambassador.

Taylor shared, "I'm really honored to be selected as the Youth Ambassador because I never thought I'd make it this far in the Grange. I didn't grow up in the Grange, and seeing my growth is really cool in a place I never thought I'd be."

Shae expressed excitement about serving alongside Ashlan, stating, "I'm looking forward to being Youth Ambassador so much with Ash. When we were representing Pennsylvania together, it was fantastic in itself, and being able to now do that again on the National level just has me so excited."

Ashlan said, "I am very excited to be named Young Adult Ambassador. I'm looking forward to traveling and the opportunity to connect with new members

and see how other Granges and other states work."

Outgoing Ambassadors Reflect

The outgoing Junior, Youth, and Young Adult Ambassador teams passed off their sashes during the ceremony.

Outgoing Young Adult Ambassador Ashley Holloman said, "It has been an honor this past year to serve as the National Outstanding Young Patron. I have been able to talk about Grange in my classroom, community, and to new people all around the US. When I began this year, my goal was to advocate for Grange and to share the Grange story. It has been an honor to do that this year!"

Outgoing Youth Ambassador Asheton Meldlin advised the incoming team: "I hope you guys have the best year and take our youth program to new heights." Reflecting on her term, she said, "It has been an honor to represent our youth during this year of change, progress, and growth!"

Outgoing Youth Ambassador Garrett Phelps added, "I wish the next team good luck with your year. Remember that you are the only one who can make your year memorable." Reflecting on his experience, he said, "It's been an honor to serve the National Grange and interact with the members. Thank you for allowing me to make a difference and grow."

Congratulations to all the new ambassadors as they embark on a year of growth, service, and connection!



Outgoing Youth Leadership Team members gave their closing remarks and thank yous on Friday morning.

THANK YOU, CONVENTION LIAISONS

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron, (CT) for their exceptional work as the 2024 Convention Liaisons. Their dedication and commitment working with both the National Grange staff and leadership and the Midwest Region Host Committee has been invaluable. From the earliest stages of planning to the final moments of the convention, their leadership has been a steady force, ensuring that everything ran smoothly and efficiently.

The Camerons' tireless efforts in coordinating logistics, fostering communication, and managing all the intricate details did not go unnoticed. They played an essential role in creating an environment where members could come together, learn, and grow. Their attention to detail and collaborative spirit helped bridge any gaps between the National Grange and the

local hosts, ensuring that the convention was a true success.

We are incredibly fortunate to have had such dedicated and skilled coordinators who worked tirelessly to make this event a memorable one. Jody and Jodi Ann, thank you for your outstanding leadership, your hard work, and your unwavering support. Your efforts have left a lasting impact on the National Grange and the Midwest region, and we are all deeply grateful for everything you have done.



NATIONAL GRANGE RECOGNIZES MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

by Makayla Piers

Communication Fellow

The National Grange celebrated outstanding achievements and service across multiple departments at its annual awards ceremony, the Grange Recognition Night. Recognizing excellence in leadership, community service, and agricultural advocacy.

Starting the evening out, we recognized our Distinguished Granges, who hail from many states and local Granges nationwide. Connie Johnston, MI, now serving as the administrator for the Distinguished Grange program, recognized 4 states as Distinguished Granges and nearly 40 Granges who have been selected as Distinguished Granges for anywhere from 1 to 15 years of outstanding work. That night, Makayla Piers, RI, introduced her creation of the Distinguished Junior Grange Program, which will open the doors for Junior Granges to be recognized in this program.

Following that, we introduced Junior Grange Contest winners from across the nation. Awards were given in Creative Art and Writing contests. Tessa Ryan, NY, was recognized for the Agriculture Awareness Award. Several Junior Grangers completed hours for their Cape of Honor community service hours, and a new team of National Junior Grange Ambassadors was named. In a touching leadership transition, the ceremony bid farewell to 2023-2024 Junior Grange



The Beamon family (PA) accepts the 5th Year Distinguished Grange Award on behalf of Hamburg Grange #2103.

Ambassador Gayle Reyburn and welcomed new Junior Ambassadors Justin Dusko (PA) and Laci Liles (NC).

The Communications Department recognized four Communications Fellows: Samantha Wilkins, who served as Senior Fellow (TX), alongside Diana Echavarria (TX), Molly Newman (KS), and Makayla Piers (RI). The Publicity Contest celebrated excellence, with the Oregon State Grange winning first place in-house, while Washington State Grange dominated the professional category. Chris Hamp was recognized for excellence in TikTok/Reels content.

Continued on page 4

AWARDS NIGHT CONTINUED

Philip Vonada, National Grange Communications Director, recognized several members from across the nation for the excellence in state and local communications with the National Grange Connector Award. They were presented to North Carolina State Grange, Scholls Grange (OR), North Fork Grange (CA), and Terri Fassio (CT), who creates the newsletter layout for both Connecticut State Grange and Washington State Grange.

The Community Service Department prides itself in recognizing some of our nation's best community service participants. National service awards honored Stephen Sandstrom of Washington (National Firefighter of the Year), Jeanne DeMelim of Rhode Island (National Teacher of the Year), and Rick Ferguson of Washington (National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year).

Tom Gwin, National Grange Lecturer, presented various awards in photography to Junior and Community Grange members. Quilt Block winners were announced along with awards in the Garden Design and Design-a-Program contests, and the Weather Watcher Challenge.

Membership & Leadership Development director, Amanda Brozana, announced the members of the 2024 National Grange SHIPmates Class II who serve as regional liaisons for membership growth and development. Brozana also recognized several members who have done outstanding work in membership growth, representatives from each region were awarded a Cultivator Award for their work.

The Massachusetts State Grange Agriculture Expo Planning Committee was recognized from the Northeast Region. Sara Ellwanger (IL), recognized in the



Midwest Region; The Wilkins Family (TX), recognized in the Great Plains Region, North Carolina State Grange for the Eastern region; and Susan and Paul Hanks (CA) from the Western region.

Posthumously, Edgar Hicks from Nebraska was also honored with a Cultivator Award for his outstanding work with the Diversity Task force and the Nebraska State Grange. Unfortunately Hicks passed away earlier this year. However, his passion and work in the Grange left a legacy that will continue on for generations. Amber Obert received the Heirloom Award for Best of Show.

Loretta Washington, National Grange Sales, Benefits, & Programs Director, Celebrated our State and Local Grange in Action recipients who have been working hard all year to be a Grange doing projects to support their communities. Also honored were families who have had a multi-generational commitment to the organization. The Smith family of



The Smith family (IN) was honored as a 7th-generation Legacy Family on Friday evening.

Indiana led with an impressive seven generations of Grange membership, followed by the Hilpert family of Washington with six generations. Four families were recognized for five generations of membership: the Ritchie family (NC), Smith family (IN), Walker family (NC), and Worley family (WA).

Youth achievements were a central focus of the evening. In the Public Speaking Contest, Cade Howerton of North Carolina captured first place with his moving speech "There's No Place Like Grange," while Nettie Hartley of Rhode Island earned second place with her powerful address on "The Importance of Mental Health."

Additional youth honors included Ashlan Smith (PA) receiving the Junior Mentor Award and Daniel

AWARDS NIGHT CONTINUED

Wilkins (TX) earning the Wib & June Justi Community Service Award.

The event also included heartfelt farewells from the 2023-2024 youth team - Ashley Holloman (Young Patron), Asheton Medlin, and Garrett Phelps (Youth Ambassadors). The Grange welcomed its incoming team including Youth Ambassadors Taylor Rogers (NC), Shae Smith (PA), and Young Adult Ambassador Ashlan Smith (PA), wishing them the best of luck in their new roles.

The evening concluded with an announcement that full details of all award winners will be published in the January issue of *Good Day!* magazine, with Communications Director Philip Vonada available for any corrections or additions through December 6.

The ceremony showcased the National Grange's ongoing dedication to fostering excellence in



The 2024 National Grange Communication Fellows pose with National Grange President Chris Hamp (L) and Communications Director Philip Vonada (R)

agriculture, community service, and creative arts while celebrating the achievements of its members across all age groups and categories.

A WALK IN THE RED SHOES

by Kimber Newman

'Junior' Communication Fellow

Junior Grangers from around the country came together to celebrate the 158th Convention of the National Grange. While there were workshops Junior Grangers and members of all ages could partake in throughout the week, specific Junior Activities were laid out over a two-day span at the end of the week.

November 15th, 2024 was the Junior Tour to the Putnam Museum and Science Center, located at 12th St. Davenport, Iowa, about a 15-minute drive from the hotel/convention center. We loaded about half of the bus with Grange and Junior Grange members.

We went to multiple exhibits and had loads of fun; we did tug of war, made energy using cranks, used Newton's cradle, came closer to one another, and enjoyed several more interactive activities.

November 16th, was Junior Activities Day. We had two presentations, one from Laci Liles and the other from Justin Dusko, on this year's Ag Awareness project, Water in Agriculture. This helped us Junior Grangers understand more about water and agriculture and how they work/help each other. Then we played games for a bit, and then we ate lunch; Casey's pizza, a Midwest staple, was brought in, and we spent the afternoon



talking and enjoying time with new and old friends.

Overall, everyone had a great time, made new friends, and even hung out with old friends. However, the moral of the story is that we made amazing memories with each other that will last a lifetime.



NATIONAL GRANGE

OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

View from the Hill



NATIONAL GRANGE POLICY UPDATES & ISSUE NEWS

November 2024

WASHINGTON OVERVIEW

The elections are behind us and big changes are in the wind politically and policy-wise for Washington. Republicans are now in control of the House, the Senate, and the White House. President-elect Trump is rapidly rounding out his White House staff and announcing his choices for his cabinet positions. There are supposedly fifteen names on the "short list" for Secretary of Agriculture.

Beginning in January, the Senate will need to confirm all cabinet nominees, and confirmation may be a tough vote for one or two nominees. The lame duck session of Congress began the week of November 18 and will run to mid-December or later or later if need be. Any legislation moving in lame duck will have to be negotiated between the Democratic-controlled Senate and the Republican-controlled House.

Most legislation will likely be rolled into either a short-term spending bill to take us into 2025 or a massive year-end FY 25 budget package to cover the fiscal year. Both strategies would likely include an extension of the current farm bill. In addition, lawmakers are stepping up their work this week on a package of disaster aid and relief for commodity price declines as they head toward another extension of the 2018 farm bill in lame duck. Republicans will be in no hurry to debate new or controversial legislation in lame duck, opting instead to wait for 2025 when they control all three points of the legislative process.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Stabenow releases text of her farm bill

Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) released the text of her farm bill on Monday. The bill will be used largely as reference because committee members of both parties have not had the chance to delve into the 1,300 plus pages. There's not enough time in the lame duck session for debate and passage, and Chair Stabenow is retiring from the Senate.

Dietary Guidelines Advisors Report

The Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee recommends the new guidelines emphasize the consumption of fruits, vegetables, legumes, whole grains, nuts and seafood while limiting the consumption of red and

processed meats, refined grains, foods high in saturated fats and salty snacks. The advisory report will go to USDA and Health and Human Services to advise the agencies on completing the final guidelines.

New Human Foods Program targets labeling

The Food and Drug Administration's new Human Foods Program will now focus on microbiological food safety, food chemical safety, and nutrition. The reorganization is in response to critique of the handling of the 2022 infant formula shortage. It will take over the roles of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, and the Office of Food and Policy Response. Early actions of the program will be action levels for lead in food, a rule on "healthy" food labels and a rule on front of package nutrition labeling.

Price gouging under investigation

The USDA is preparing to issue subpoenas to grocery stores, major beef processors and other food industry segments as federal officials study the impact of meat and grocery industry consolidation on consumer prices. USDA intends to more vigorously address practices in food markets that may harm fair, open, and competitive pricing.

HEALTH CARE

Lower the age for the pneumonia vaccines

The National Grange joined 21 patient advocacy groups to ask the Centers for Disease Control's Advisory Committee on Immunological Practices to support lowering the routine, age-based recommendation for all CDC recommended pneumococcal vaccines to age 50 and older. As adults age, they experience a decline in their immune response. Offering a vaccine earlier than age 65 would ensure older adults are receiving protection while their immune systems are still able to produce a robust response.

Extend telehealth flexibility plan

It is important that telehealth plans be flexible to allow employers to offer telehealth services below the deductible for people with high deductible health plans. This current flexibility expires at the end of this year. The National Grange and 76 businesses and business groups

have asked the Senate and House to vote during the lane duck session to extend telehealth flexibility.

TAXES

Extend expiring tax code provisions

Several tax code provisions that significantly impact farmers, ranchers, landowners and other agricultural and small businesses across the United States are expiring next year. Some of these provisions include stepped-up basis on property, bonus depreciation, Section 199A qualified business income deduction, Section 1031 like-kind exchange, and several more. The National Grange and 30 other tax aggie coalition members are encouraging members of the House Ways and Means Committee who comprise the Main Street Tax Team to lead the charge to retain these provisions in the 119th Congress next year.

TRANSPORTATION

Port strike delayed until January 15

Earlier this fall following a three-day strike, the International Longshoremen's Association agreed to extend their existing contract until January 15. A prolonged strike would severely impact East and Gulf Coast ports and the food and agriculture supply chains. The National Grange joined with more than 200 other entities to send a letter to President Biden calling on him to immediately use his authority under the Taft Hartly Act to end the strike.

OF INTEREST

Underserved producers to receive USDA investments

More than \$46 million will go to projects supporting veteran, underserved, and beginning farmers and ranchers to help them improve their skills and knowledge to sustain their operations. Projects will include partnerships with local experts to provide education, mentoring and technical assistance to own and operate successful operations.



VIEW FROM THE HILL

is written and compiled by

Burton Eller

National Grange Legislative Director

beller@nationalgrange.org

THE 2024-2025 NATIONAL GRANGE OFFICER TEAM



Front Row (L-R): Kay Hoffman Stiles, Chaplain; Barbara Foster, Pomona; Susan Noah, Executive Committee; Christine E. Hamp, President; Lynette Schaeffer, Executive Committee; Cindy Greer, Ceres; Debbie Campbell, Secretary.

Back Row: Roger Bostwick, High Priest; Martha Stefenoni, Priestess Annalist; Chip Narvel, Priest Archon; Buddy Overstreet, Executive Committee; David Allen, Gatekeeper; John Benedik, Vice President; Chris Johnston, Steward; Joseph Stefenoni, Executive Committee; Walter Hartley, Assistant Steward; Joe Goodrich, Treasurer; Kathy Gibson, Lady Assistant Steward; Tom Gwin, Lecturer.

G.R.O.W. CLUB CELEBRATES NEW MEMBERS, LEADERSHIP

by Molly Newman

Communication Fellow

On Friday evening at the 158th Annual National Grange Convention, members of the G.R.O.W. Club gathered for a warm reception and their annual meeting. The G.R.O.W. Club, which stands for Go Right On Working, is composed of Grange members who have participated in National Grange royalty programs, served as Youth team members, or held the role of National Grange Youth Director.

Christina Webster shared insights into the club's history, drawing from past National Grange Journals of Proceedings and conversations with former National Grange Youth Director Bill Steel. She explained that the G.R.O.W. Club originated in November 1976 during a Youth Conference, where attendees saw the need to encourage former youth representatives to continue contributing to the Grange. Over time, the club has expanded to include state youth directors, officers, and others, all united in their commitment to "Go Right On Working."

Scholarships Awarded

During the reception, the G.R.O.W. Club awarded scholarships to assist Youth and Young Adults with travel expenses to the convention:

Harvey Reyburn (PA) - \$500

Ashlan Smith (PA) - \$250

Desira Rickenbach (PA), Melissa Kudsk (WA), and Bryce Danko (PA) - \$100 each

New Members Inducted

The following individuals were inducted as 2024 G.R.O.W. Club members and received their pins:

Ashlan Smith (PA) - Outstanding Young Patron

Audrey Trowbridge (KS) - Outstanding Young Patron

Carter Settle (NC) - Youth Ambassador

Desira Rickenbach (PA) - Outstanding Young Patron



JC Junkman (OR) - Young Adult Ambassador

Melissa Kudsk (WA) - Youth Ambassador

Shae Smith (PA) - Youth Ambassador

Taylor Rogers (NC) - Youth Ambassador

Leadership Changes

Elections brought new leadership to the G.R.O.W. Club. Emma Edelen of Iowa was elected to represent the Midwest Region, succeeding Samantha Hanson, and Molly Newman of Kansas was elected to the At-Large Seat, succeeding Rob Beamon.

In a follow-up board meeting, officers were selected for the upcoming year:

Chair: Christina Webster (CA)

Vice-Chair: Molly Newman (KS)

Secretary: Emma Edelen (IA)

Treasurer: Kathy Gibson (MA)

Looking Ahead

Congratulations to Emma Edelen and Molly Newman on their new leadership roles! Their dedication exemplifies the mission of the G.R.O.W. Club to inspire members to continue making a meaningful impact within the Grange.

Special thanks were extended to Samantha Hanson and Rob Beamon for their years of service and contributions to the club's success.

As the G.R.O.W. Club continues its work, here's to another year of growth, camaraderie, and success in supporting the Grange and its values.

PRESIDENT HONORS GRANGE LEADERS

by Samantha Wilkins

Senior Communication Fellow

The National Grange has recently celebrated the extraordinary dedication and service of three outstanding individuals who have each made a lasting impact on the organization and its mission.

First, congratulations to Joan C. Smith, whose remarkable commitment to the National Grange Foundation has been a true inspiration. Joan's tireless efforts have left a significant legacy, enriching both the Grange community and the broader public.



Smith's passion for education, community engagement, and the preservation of Grange traditions has guided her work for years. From spearheading successful programs to advocating for scholarships and fundraising, Joan's leadership has strengthened the Foundation's mission. Her dedication is evident not only in the countless hours she has given but also in her heartfelt care for the people around her. Joan's legacy will continue to inspire future generations, and we thank her for her outstanding contributions.

On Wednesday evening, Pete Pompper was honored for his exceptional service as the National Grange Community Service Director from 2015 to 2023. President Christine E. Hamp highlighted Pete's dedication to celebrating Granges across the country for their community service efforts. His leadership brought to light the remarkable work of Granges nationwide, emphasizing the core mission of serving others. Pete's devotion has strengthened the bonds within the Grange community and inspired members to continue making a difference. Thank you, Pete, for your invaluable contributions.

Lastly, following the installation of new officers on Friday, Leroy Watson received his Past Officer's Pin, marking more than 40 years of service to the



National Grange. National President Christine E. Hamp celebrated his decades of commitment, which included his roles as the National Grange Legislative Director, trademark specialist, and a member of the National Grange Executive Committee, serving over the past 10 years. Watson encouraged current members to carry on the great work of the Grange, reflecting on the many young leaders he has seen grow within the organization. He also expressed deep gratitude to his wife, Cheri, for her unwavering support throughout his Grange journey. His long-standing dedication has undoubtedly helped shape the Grange's future.

The National Grange extends heartfelt thanks to Joan, Pete, and Leroy for their remarkable service and devotion. Their leadership, passion, and dedication continue to inspire the Grange community and ensure a bright future for the organization.



GRANGE FOUNDATION ONLINE AUCTION IS LIVE!

The National Grange Foundation has launched an online auction chock-full of amazing items up for bid.

From a once-in-a-lifetime fly fishing trip to Montana, to a week stay in a private home in Florida, to 4 game tickets and lots of San Antonio Spurs swag, quilts, handmade pieces of art and more. Items have been donated from members around the country and even folks who are friends of the Grange.

"This is a great way for Grangers to go holiday shopping for a cause," said Grange Foundation Advisory Board Member Marty Billquist.

In total, there are more than two dozen items to bid on at various starting price points. Charcuterie boards, a hand-thrown French butter dish, artwork, goods from farms owned by Grange members, and so much more are part of the selections.

The auction opened on Saturday at the close of the Grange Strong Banquet and runs through December 4.

Place your bids at [**grangefoundation.org/auction**](http://www.grangefoundation.org/auction).

A promotional banner for the Grange Foundation Auction. It features a dark blue background with a subtle pattern. On the left is the Grange Foundation logo, which includes a sheaf of wheat and the text "GRANGE Foundation". To the right of the logo, the text "GRANGE FOUNDATION AUCTION" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, the dates "November 16 - December 4, 2024" are displayed in a smaller white font, with "9pm ET" on either side. Further down, the text "Gifts & Goodies for all Grangers & friends, including:" is followed by a bulleted list of items: "A week stay at a vacation home in Florida", "Child's nighttime reader basket with gift card for books and a handmade quilt", "Grange logo-engraved Waterford Crystal clock", "Quilts", "Artwork of various mediums including watercolor, stained glass, metal, and cross-stitch", "Fishing-themed Christmas Collection", "Little League World Series Baseball autographed by Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson", and "and more!". At the bottom, the text "Bid at <http://www.grangefoundation.org/auction>" is written in white.

GRANGE FOUNDATION AUCTION
November 16 - December 4, 2024
9pm ET 9pm ET

Gifts & Goodies for all Grangers & friends, including:

- A week stay at a vacation home in Florida
- Child's nighttime reader basket with gift card for books and a handmade quilt
- Grange logo-engraved Waterford Crystal clock
- Quilts
- Artwork of various mediums including watercolor, stained glass, metal, and cross-stitch
- Fishing-themed Christmas Collection
- Little League World Series Baseball autographed by Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson
- and more!

Bid at <http://www.grangefoundation.org/auction>

2024 YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM CHALLENGES YOUTH

by **Garrett Phelps**

2023-24 National Grange Youth Ambassador

During the 2024 National Grange convention held in Bettendorf, Iowa, the National Grange youth leadership team designed a unique set of challenges and games entitled "Corn Council." This initiative drew inspiration from the popular game format of Survivor, aiming to foster engagement among youth members in a competitive yet enjoyable manner.

To enhance youth interaction during designated hangout times, the leadership team organized a variety of activities, including team flag creation, trivia contests, and "minute to win it" challenges. These games were thoughtfully crafted to promote leadership, teamwork, and communication skills among participants, while also encouraging the establishment of connections and lasting friendships within the youth community.

Each participating team aspired to excel in these competitions to earn beads that would be added to their name tags. Following each challenge, youth members voted for the Most Valuable Youth Member

based on criteria such as teamwork, assistance provided, and peer interactions. The recognition as the Most Valuable Youth Member for a specific challenge resulted in the award of a gold bead to the recipient's name badge.

The purpose of the beads was to enable a quick visual representation of team membership and performance during the competition. Each color bead corresponded to a distinct team, while the gold bead signified a member's constructive contributions throughout multiple challenges. Ultimately, participants aimed to collect the most beads in pursuit of the prestigious title of Sole Survivor.

PARADISE AWAITS: NATIONAL GRANGE TO SET SAIL IN 2025

by Makayla Piers
Communication Fellow



Get ready for the voyage of a lifetime as the National Grange's 159th Convention takes to the seas! From November 8-16, 2025, members will experience an extraordinary blend of fellowship and tropical paradise aboard the magnificent Carnival Horizon.

Imagine spending eight sun-soaked days exploring the breathtaking ABC

islands - Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao. These southern Caribbean gems are renowned for their pristine beaches, crystal-clear waters, and vibrant culture. Whether you're hoping to snorkel in some of the world's most beautiful coral reefs, go on fun-filled island tours, or simply unwind on powder-soft beaches, this itinerary offers something for everyone.

What makes this cruise truly special is the unique opportunity to combine Grange business with pleasure. As our officers and delegates conduct the important work of the National Grange during sea days, all members will have abundant opportunities to strengthen fraternal bonds through special events planned by the Eastern Host Region. With Grange members potentially making up over 25% of the ship's passengers, the sense of community will be extraordinary!

The Carnival Horizon itself is a destination to behold. This modern cruise ship offers world-class dining options, entertainment venues, and comfortable accommodations. Whether you're seeking adventure at the water park, relaxation at the spa, or engaging conversations with fellow Grangers over dinner, each day brings new possibilities.

Beyond the stunning destinations, your cruise experience includes countless onboard amenities and activities. Commemorate your journey with exclusive Grange merchandise, including custom shirts, cups, bags, and beach towels. While all world-class dining options are included in your fare, separate beverage packages are available to suit your preferences. At each port, choose from exciting excursions like swimming with dolphins or turtles, or exploring on land - all best booked through the cruise line for peace of mind. Between ports, enjoy state-specific activities, Eastern Region-hosted events, movies under the stars, and endless entertainment options. Whether you're seeking relaxation at the spa or adventure

at the water park, each day brings new opportunities for both fellowship and fun.

Booking is refreshingly simple - a \$250 per-person deposit reserves your spot, with no additional payments required until August 2025. Even better, roommates can book and pay separately for the same cabin, making planning easier for everyone.

Don't miss this chance to be part of Grange history while creating unforgettable memories in one of the world's most beautiful regions. Reserve your stateroom today and join us as we set sail from Miami for this once-in-a-lifetime Caribbean adventure!

Contact information and the group booking number are available for those ready to secure their spot on this extraordinary journey. Special needs accommodations can also be arranged to ensure everyone can participate comfortably in this remarkable convention at sea.

To Book Your Cruise:

Call Carnival Group Department at 866-721-3225

Group Booking Number: D7TC22

Learn more about the 2025 National Grange Convention at

<http://www.nationalgrange.org/159ngconvention>

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



The National Grange extends our heartfelt gratitude to the companies who sponsored this year's annual convention. Your support helped us plan and create a unique, exciting, enriching experience for all of our members!

A LAST LOOK AT CONVENTION



Left: The Youth Officer Team pose before opening the business session on Friday morning of Convention.

Below: National Grange Officers pass batons to their Youth Officer counterpart, a physical and metaphorical representation of preparing the next generation to be leaders.



Clockwise from left: Members enjoyed an ice cream social following the Recognition Night on Friday.

Team "Grange Brain" won the first annual Grange Trivia night after the Grange Strong Banquet, hosted by Karen Jackson & Tom Cullen (bottom right).

The newest members of the Grange Foundation's 1-in-1,000 Club.



Past National Grange Delegates and Officers pose during a lunch honoring their service on Friday.