



NATIONAL GRANGE INTRODUCES NEW YOUTH FAIR COORDINATORS

by Philip J Vonada
National Grange
Communications Director

The National Grange is pleased to announce that President Christine E. Hamp has appointed Brittney and Jonathan Pittman of Warden, Washington, as the new National Grange Youth Fair Coordinators.

The Pittmans have been involved in the Grange Youth Fair Program since its inception in Washington State in early 2021. Jonathan ("Jonny") is the president of Moses Lake Grange #1151, and Brittney is the Grange Youth Fair Coordinator for Grant County. Together, they have worked with multiple county and community fairs and the leaders of several Grange Youth Fair Programs. Most recently, Brittney chaired a committee for the Washington State Grange to update the program's record book templates. Brittney also serves on the Executive Committee for Washington State Grange.

As coordinators, they aim to fill the role of being a contact at the National Grange, well-versed in the program and its functions within the State and Community Granges. They hope to answer procedural questions and, more importantly, get to know the movers and shakers in each state within the fairs program so that they can accurately direct inquiries to those on the ground working.

"We are not Directors, we are Coordinators," Brittney specified, "We want to make sure there



Brittney and Jonny Pittman, members of Moses Lake Grange #1151 in Washington, have been appointed as the new National Grange Youth Fair Coordinators.

Photo by Philip J Vonada

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UPCOMING

December 18

8:30pm ET / 5:30pm PT

Membership Matters

Join: <http://grange.biz/matters>

December 25

Christmas Day

1st Night of Hanukkah

The National Grange Office will be closed December 24 & 25 for the Christmas holiday.

Staffing will be limited from December 23-January 1.

Please be patient when contacting us!

ALLEGHENY GRANGE GROWS, IMPROVES

submitted by Quincy Shaffer
Allegheny Grange #1843 (PA)

Significant developments are underway at Allegheny Grange #1843 in Muncy, Pennsylvania. They have successfully replaced a substantial portion of our roof, addressing numerous issues that have long plagued the structure. Additionally, they are pleased to announce the installation of a new, large sign, which is designed to be both inviting and representative of our Grange's values. Allegheny Grange extends their gratitude to all members for their dedication and hard work in enhancing our facility.

On the afternoon of November 2, 2024, members of Allegheny Grange #1843 hosted their first



Allegheny Grange #1843 (PA) recently installed a new sign on the front of their Grange Hall, inviting members and the community in to learn and enhance the community.

Photo provided

evening spaghetti "Take Out" dinner. This event was organized to raise funds supporting our holiday food donations for families in need, as well as for community educational programs, road litter clean-up initiatives, various service projects, and the overall maintenance of the Grange.

Allegheny Grange would also like to highlight their growing Junior program, which is dedicated to imparting essential leadership skills, promoting community giving, and providing training in agricultural processes to the younger generation.

The dinner was a resounding success, fostering a spirit of camaraderie among members and guests alike.



A team of volunteers enjoys fellowship before their first-ever spaghetti take out dinner in November.

Photo provided

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NATIONAL CONVENTION TO SET SAIL IN 2025

by Makayla Piers

National Grange Communication Fellow



Prepare for the voyage of a lifetime as the National Grange's 159th annual 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 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 National officers and delegates conduct the critical 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 seeking adventure at the water park, relaxation at the spa, or engaging in conversations with fellow Grangers over dinner, each day brings new possibilities.

Beyond the stunning destinations, your cruise experience includes countless on-board amenities and activities. Commemorate your journey with exclusive Grange merchandise, including custom shirts, cups, bags, and beach towels, which can be purchased in advance through the host committee.

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 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 more manageable for everyone.

Only a limited number of rooms remain available at the National Grange's exclusive rate - you **MUST** book by January 14th to guarantee you receive the rate!

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 sail from Miami for this once-in-a-lifetime Caribbean adventure.



More information will be coming from the Eastern Host Region as we get closer to setting sail, including a potential Grange members-only excursion, youth and Junior activities, on-board gatherings, and more. Stay tuned to *Good Day!* magazine and the *Grange Today!* newsletter for the most up-to-date information.

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



Carnival Gift Cards, available almost anywhere gift cards are sold, make great gifts - and they can be applied directly to the cost of your cruise!

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://nationalgrange.org/
159ngconvention](http://nationalgrange.org/159ngconvention)

EDITORIAL: WHY GRANGE IS NEEDED

submitted by Marybeth Southworth
Jefferson Grange #1384 (PA)

This editorial was written as an entry to the Pennsylvania State Grange Lecturer's "Pen In Hand" contest, and won 1st place.

Grange is the only national organization that is open to both men and women and children of all ages. The country is in need of family organizations. Only 62% of Millennials were raised by both parents, compared to 71% of G Xers, 85% of Boomers, and 87% of Silents.

"Community Service benefits you with a sense of accomplishment and a chance to better your neighborhood." (blog.catchafire.org) in a city of 100,000 the Brennan Center found that a new nonprofit community organization leads to a 1.2% drop in the homicide rate and 1% drop in violent crime and 0.7% reduction in property crime. (blog.catchafire.org) Community Service can help people get out of their comfort zone by helping them to make friends or strengthening existing relationships. (blog.catchafire.org) It is an opportunity to problem solve and be mentally stimulated. People who volunteer over 1000 hours a year are some of the healthiest in the United States. Volunteering values include destressing, burning belly fat and preventing illness such as heart disease. Volunteering gives people

the opportunity to brush up on old skills, and master current and new skills. (blog.catchafire.org)

Grange gives opportunities in public speaking, leadership, working with others, and displaying various skills in the state and national contests. Community Service is an important part of most Granges. Community service is fun; it gives you an opportunity to interact with others and build relationships.

Nonprofits create more equitable and thriving communities. Every person in the United States benefits from the work of nonprofits in one way or another. (councilofnonprofits.org) The National Grange encourages families to band together to promote the economic and political wellbeing of the community and agriculture. (wikipedia.org) Grange benefits members of the community especially in rural areas.

The Grange provides the ability to make a real difference in linking legislative and community issues. Grange gives an opportunity for camaraderie and friendships. Grange provides opportunities for personal growth and networking. (ctstategrange.org)

Today more than ever we need Grange. It is an organization that has changed with the times and is poised for the future.

PATRONS, CARRY WITH YOU A FEELING OF
COMPASSION FOR THOSE WHO STRIVE TO
MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

Installation Ceremony; Installing Officer



YOUTH FAIR

continued from page 1

is a cohesive program across the states and are looking forward to making connections between state programs while growing the program even more.”

The Pittmans are looking forward to connecting with leaders and working with the National Grange staff and workgroups to get the Youth Fair Program families plugged into the programs and opportunities the National Grange offers. Their first order of business is to collect the contact information for the program leaders across the West Coast to establish communication lines.

Brittney and Jonny can be reached at grangeyouthfairs@grange.org.

The National Grange extends our heartfelt thanks to Lillian Booth of California, who has served as the National Grange Youth Fair Coordinator for several years. Lillian has been instrumental in the success and growth of the Youth Fair Program, designing and developing programming and ensuring that the program operates the same way in all states. She has helped hundreds of Youth Fair participants with projects over the years. Thank you, Lillian!

“The Grange Youth Fair Program wouldn’t be what it is without Lillian’s involvement,” said Hamp. “The National Grange is incredibly grateful for her years of dedicated passion for this program. She will be a tremendous asset for Brittney and Jonny as they step into the role, and I look forward to working with them to continue to expand the program.”

About the Youth Fair Program

The National Grange Youth Fair Program offers Junior and Youth Grange members (ages 5-19) the opportunity to exhibit at county fairs and expositions that recognize and approve the program. This program works alongside other nationally recognized programs, including 4-H and FFA.

The mission and purpose of the Grange Youth Fair Program is to provide an opportunity for young Grange members to participate in an educational setting designed to increase confidence; strengthen character; and teach the importance of self-discipline. The program encourages learning opportunities involving all generations; working with voluntary adult leaders, and exhibiting the results of the projects at Fairs and Exhibitions.

The Grange Youth Fair Program is over 30 years old, with current participants in California, Nevada, Washington, and Idaho. Operating as a committee within a local Grange, the program encourages connection to rural America through livestock and other fair exhibits through a guided program book.

Through the leader’s planning, teaching, and encouragement of these young people in their hands-on projects and the cooperative and competitive experience of exhibiting at fairs, they will become more responsible, self-directed, and successful citizens in our society.



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www.grangestore.org

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

A note from the Grange Store: The Grange Supply Store will remain open over the holidays, however shipping may be impacted by higher volume of holiday mail. Order early to ensure on-time arrival!

5 IMPORTANT LESSONS FROM RURAL LIFE INITIATIVE



You might already know that The National Grange, in partnership with Pfizer, launched the **Rural Life Initiative (RLI)** this year, celebrating significant anniversaries of both organizations by supporting the unique culture of rural America. We have been working with Granges from seven pilot states this year, seeing how we can be **Grange Strong** through

real actions! In this article, we want to share with you important lessons we learned:

Lesson 1: The Unique Nature of Implementation

Like the Grange itself, RLI is unique. When RLI was first thought of, there was only a vague outline of what implementation would look like. Yes, it might be different for each Grange involved even if they were each doing something similar like having a booth at the County Fair. Yes, volunteers would be needed to help. Yes, someone needed to write a proposal and make a report. But it would be incorrect to assume that everyone did—or even thought of doing—the same thing. That, most assuredly, did not happen.

Lesson 2: Reflecting Individuality Through Proposals

Each proposal, each implementation, had unique qualities that reflected not only the personality and interest of the Grange doing the project but also the combined visions of the members who worked to put their plans together. The result was a great variety of ways in which Granges once again demonstrated and celebrated their community, their goals, their ideas,

and their willingness to go a lot of extra miles to make a difference.

Lesson 3: Resilience Despite Adversity

It's important to note that some amazing projects did not take place because of the horrific devastation caused by Helene in NC, but the concept, the spirit, the inclusiveness, the hard work—were all evident in the planning and implementation until nature took over.

Lesson 4: Creativity Sparked by Challenges

Lack of resources and hardship led to creativity and generosity. So often, and in so many organizations, difficulties become excuses for inaction and springboards for complaints and disaffection. Not this time. RLI programs developed from ideas and considerations of how to solve problems, meet unmet needs, and celebrate excellence.

Lesson 5: Combining Vision and Resources

In Montana, a Grange saw the need for fitness classes so that residents of three nearby communities didn't have to drive an hour each way in miserable weather to work on fitness and well-being. In North Carolina, a Grange had a



In Montana, Whitepine Grange is able to provide fitness classes thanks to a grant from the Rural Life Initiative.

Photo provided

vision about combining the diversity and excellence of the state's agriculture with the opportunity to highlight the difficulties and uncertainties of farm life, and JoCo Farm Tour highlighting the variety of NC farming was created. Later, after the storm, many Granges in the state put resources for the programs that had to be canceled into Grange initiatives offering dearest and badly needed help to their devastated communities.

We hope that this initiative will continue next year because it truly combines key elements that Granges across the country embody: fellowship, community support and service, and a focus on the values and strengths of rural America

Thank you for being Grange Strong!



Information about the Rural Life Initiative was on display by the North Carolina state government.

Photo provided

BENEFITS OF National Grange MEMBERSHIP



Educational Programs

Access to free online webinars, workshops, and a YouTube library with topics relevant to local Granges and communities.

Public Relations

Enhanced Grange profile and influence through professional partnerships and media relations.

Trademark Protection

Legal protections for the Grange name, brand, and reputation.

National Convention

An annual grassroots policy-focused National Grange session, which also provides resources for members nationwide.

Grange Month Resources

Provides a theme and resources to promote Grange visibility.

Volunteer & Leader Training

Programs like SHIPmates and Communication Fellows for local leadership and professional development.

Fraternal Network

A nationwide network of members sharing talents, skills, and experiences to develop each others' greatest potential

Website Services

Free website and email for Granges, plus a "Find a Grange" locator listing.

Consistent Governance

Charters issued and reissued to standardize Grange governance.

Skill Preservation Programs

Celebrations of folk arts and homemaking skills to preserve traditional knowledge.

Legislative Engagement

Annual Legislative Fly-In event in Washington, D.C., where members can advocate directly to lawmakers.

Historical Preservation

Management of historical documents, including 19th-century agricultural records and artifacts not found in other collections.

Membership Recognition

Professionally created certificates, pins, and awards for recognizing member contributions and accomplishments.

Unified Identity

A cohesive "brand voice" uniting urban, suburban, and rural communities nationwide.

Policy and Advocacy

A full-time nonpartisan lobbyist in Washington, D.C., representing Grange policy issues, with updates on lobbying efforts and current legislative and rural issues.

Communication Updates

E-newsletters and the *Good Day!* magazine, highlighting member and Grange achievements, and programs to be a part of.

Conference Support

Help with organizing state and regional conferences, including arranging speakers and experts.

Discount Programs

Partnerships with service providers offer substantial discounts to members.

Community Resources

Collaboration with organizations to provide local resources, such as mental health support and grants.

Learn more at www.nationalgrange.org



GRANGE MEMBER BENEFIT: GROUPER

Let Grouper Help Cover Your Grange Activities!

Your National Grange activities are more than a pastime—they're a way to connect with others who share your passion for service. That's why the Grange is proud to partner with Grouper, making it easier for you to enjoy the activities you love while staying healthy and socially engaged.

Grouper works with health plans to administer benefits that help cover the costs of group activities and these benefits include a \$50 annual payment. Whether it's service projects, club meetings, youth programs, or even having lunch with friends, Grouper helps ensure you can stay connected and active.

How Does Grouper Work?


- If you have an eligible Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plan, you qualify - it takes seconds to check your eligibility.
- Check your eligibility by visiting <http://hellogrouper.com/grange>
- Confirmed eligible? You receive a \$50 annual check from Grouper and \$20 ongoing activity payments for every three months you are active with any group.


Social connections are essential to our well-being, especially as we age. Health plans are now recognizing this by covering group activities like they cover gym memberships.

Questions? Please contact Grouper's Member Engagement Team at 833-445-2400 or info@hellogrouper.com.

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NATIONAL GRANGE

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