



NEW YORK GRANGE YOUTH EDUCATES ABOUT FIRE SAFETY

submitted by Nathan Frost
Kirkland Grange #684 (NY)

Hi, I'm Nathan Frost. I am 16, and I live in a small town in Upstate New York along the scenic St. Lawrence River. I have been a Grange member since I was 5 years old. This year I was given the opportunity outside of Grange to serve as Mr. Fire Prevention in the Redwood Fire Prevention Ambassadors Program. Our goal is to educate the public on how to prevent fires, participating in parades and other local events. The program is incentive-based, resulting in a scholarship at the end of each year. It is important that we teach people about Fire Prevention, because whether or not they ever have a house fire, that information may save a family member or friend's life.



Nathan Frost speaks at the Jefferson County Fair in Watertown, NY.

Photo provided

In October, presentations were made at the Alexandria Bay Central School, and Noah's Ark Preschool. The Fire Prevention Ambassadors Team reminded everyone to make an exit plan for their home in the event of a fire, and practice it regularly. Test smoke alarms every 6 months, and replace the batteries if needed. If there is fire in the home, feel the back of the door before opening it to see if it is safe to open. Three fire departments brought trucks and equipment for the kids to see and learn about its uses. For the youngest students, the messages taught were stop, drop, and roll, firefighters are our friends, and get out, stay out. The children practiced yelling, "I'm here, I'm here", when the fireman

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OPINION: CONGRESS CAN LEARN FROM RURAL AMERICA

by Christine E. Hamp
National Grange President

In a country built on the ideals of unity and collaboration, it is disheartening to witness the growing divisiveness that is paralyzing American politics. Today, more than ever, we need common sense—not as a partisan tool, but as a guiding principle—to navigate the challenges we face as a nation and in our hometowns. From our largest cities to our most rural communities, the consequences of gridlock are painfully evident. Nobody wins when lawmakers and leaders create intentional roadblocks in legislation instead of coming together for the good of the American people; our most vulnerable populations are the ones who end up feeling the pain the most.

The founding fathers designed a system that thrives on dialogue and compromise, working together for the common good. Too often, intense partisanship overshadows progress. Common sense, defined as “the ability to use good judgment in making decisions...” dictates that no one ideology has a monopoly on solutions. Legislators must prioritize problem-solving over scoring political capital, putting the needs of all their constituents (not just the ones who voted for them) above party loyalty.

Bipartisanship is not a lofty ideal; it is necessary to ensure all citizens are represented. Issues like access to healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture, education, and economic development are not political party problems—they are American problems. Solving these complicated issues requires collaborative effort, mutual respect, and a willingness to find a middle ground. A common sense approach acknowledges that while we may not agree on everything, we can and must agree on the need to move forward – together.

History offers numerous examples of what can be achieved when leaders set aside partisan differences. The Civil Rights Act of 1964, ending segregation and prohibiting employment discrimination, became law with significant bipartisan support despite intense political and social pressures. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 also relied on bipartisan backing to pass into law. More recently, the bipartisan infrastructure deal of 2021 demonstrated that progress is still possible when leaders work together to address critical national needs.

As president of the National Grange, I have seen – and participated in – the power of cooperation in rural communities. Farmers, community leaders, small business owners, educators, and healthcare providers regularly come together to tackle challenges unique to rural life. These communities often exemplify the spirit of neighbor-helping-neighbor, setting aside differences to achieve shared goals.

The Grange believes in and demonstrates the transformative and collaborative power of community service. Projects like food and clothing drives, disaster relief efforts, community meals, and youth mentorship and resiliency programs illustrate the impact of collective action. These initiatives transcend ideological differences, reminding us that our shared humanity is far more significant than what divides us.

Legislators could learn much from these grassroots efforts. Imagine what we could achieve if Congress – and leaders at all levels – approached work with the same sense of purpose and unity that drives volunteers in rural communities. Focusing on shared objectives and taking practical, deliberate steps to achieve them could transform political stalemates into opportunities for progress.

Rural America faces critical issues: declining population, lack of trustworthy broadband, underfunded schools, and limited access to healthcare, to name a few. To adequately address these problems, unity among local, state, and federal leaders is a necessity. It requires listening to those on the ground to craft solutions that reflect lived realities. In rural communities, common sense solutions often mean pooling resources, leveraging partnerships, and looking past differences for the common good.

To deliver results for all Americans, we must demand common sense from our leaders. We call on our legislators to take part in:

- **Listening:** True leadership begins with listening to diverse perspectives, including those in rural communities, which are too often overlooked.
- **Collaborating:** Policymakers must seek partnerships beyond party lines, focusing on shared goals rather than political differences.
- **Acting with Purpose:** Solutions should be rooted in reality, not politics. Leaders must act decisively and inclusively to address the pressing issues of our time.
- **Engaging Communities:** Citizens, too, have a role to play. By engaging in community service and advocacy, we can build a stronger, more united nation.

In this pivotal moment, let us reject the cynicism and gridlock of blind partisanship and embrace the power of collaboration and building strong relationships. The challenges we face are significant, but so too is our capacity to overcome them—if we work together. As Grangers, as Americans, and as neighbors, let us lead the way in restoring common sense to our politics and unity to our nation.



FIRE SAFETY

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asked, "Is there anyone in there?" Preschoolers were given fire hats, fire prevention coloring books, and glow stick necklaces for visibility on Halloween. October is Fire Prevention Month.

Does anyone know who Smokey Bear is? He is the mascot for the U.S. Forest Service's wildfire prevention campaign. One day in the spring of '1950, in the Capitan Mountains in New Mexico, a large, uncontrolled wildfire was spotted by a fire tower. Soon companies of firefighters from all over Texas and New Mexico were battling the blaze. It was then reported that a bear cub was walking by the fire line. The firefighters hoped that the mother would be back to get him. After the fire went through, he was found up a tree that had been charred badly by the wildfire. His paws and hind legs were severely burned. He was removed from the tree by a group of firefighters. One of the crew members, a rancher, agreed to take him home. A New Mexico Department of Game and Fish ranger heard about the cub when he returned to the fire camp. He drove to the rancher's home to help get the cub on a plane to Santa Fe, where his burns were treated and bandaged. Soon, news of the bear cub's rescue and condition had everyone concerned. The state game warden wrote to the chief of the forest service, offering to present the cub to the agency as long as the cub would be dedicated to a conservation and wildfire prevention publicity program. The cub was soon on his way to the National Zoo in Washington D.C., where he became the living symbol of Smokey Bear.

Now to wildfires. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you

hear about wildfires? Maybe you think about places like California, Oregon, or Texas. But wildfires can happen anywhere, anytime. 84% of wildfires

in the U.S. are caused by human error. Most of these fires are preventable, by taking the proper precautions, and knowing a few key fire prevention tips.

So, how can we prevent wildfires? One way is to check the weather: The weather plays a key role in wildfires. Lightning from thunderstorms can cause dry vegetation to catch fire if the lightning strikes it. Dry spells with little rain can lead to drought, making the fire danger much greater. When conditions are favorable for wildfires, the National Weather Service (NWS) will issue a red flag warning. A red flag warning means that the combination of dry conditions and wind favors out of control fires. Be sure to check your local state regulations as some states have an annual burn ban. For example, New York's burn ban is March 16 - May 14 every year.

Another way to prevent wildfires is to know how to make a safe campfire. When you make a campfire, whether for camping or not, be sure to build it in an open area away from overhanging trees and flammable materials. When dousing your campfire, you should do 4 things; 1; Douse the fire with at least one bucket of water. 2; stir the coals. 3; dump another bucket



Frost, in red, assists with Fire Day presentations at the Alexandria Bay School. *Photo provided*

of water onto the fire. 4; stir the coals again. Your campfire should be cold to the touch before you leave.

Lastly, Let's talk about vehicles. From Cars to ATV's, vehicles are often overlooked in their ability to cause fires. Vehicle exhausts can reach over 1000 degrees Fahrenheit! That can cause any dry vegetation to catch fire. If vehicles are not properly maintained, they can create sparks, or overheat, leading to a fire. If you are hauling a trailer, make sure that the tow chains are secure, not dragging on the road surface. Make sure that your bearings, brakes, and axles are properly maintained so that they will not overheat or lockup and start a fire. Chainsaws and other outdoor work equipment are not exempt from these problems. Be sure that they are well serviced and in proper working order before you use them again.

This year, 2025, will be Smokey Bear's 75th anniversary. What would be a better way to celebrate then to practice these wildfire prevention tips; weather awareness for drought-like conditions, campfire safety, douse and stir till cold, and servicing and maintaining your machines so they don't spark or overheat!

COLLINSVILLE GRANGE INSTALLS FLAG DISPOSAL BOX

submitted by Beverly Foutz
Collinsville Grange #2264 (OH)

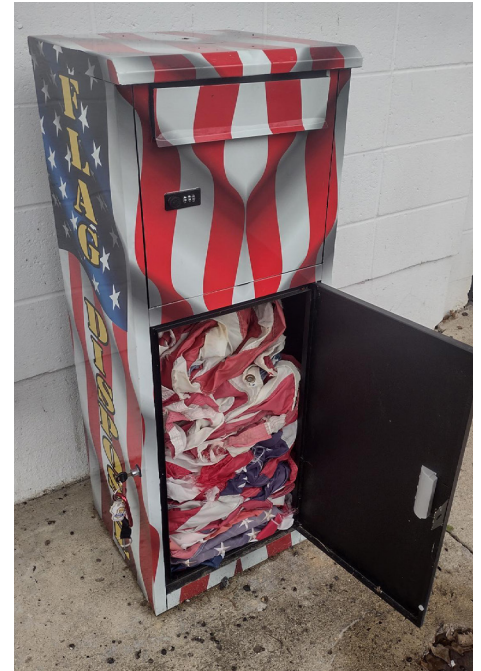
Collinsville Grange #2264 in Butler County, Ohio, launched a new community project to provide a proper disposal site for worn out or damaged American flags. With funding from a Butler Rural Electric Community Connection grant, the Grange designed and installed a flag disposal box at the Collinsville Community Center, offering residents of Milford Township and surrounding areas a respectful way to retire their flags.

Recognizing a need in the community, the Grange initially sought an out-of-service postal-style box but ultimately purchased

a commercial parcel post box for the project. Luxurious Wraps, a design company in Somerville owned by Jay Hammond, created an eye-catching patriotic wrap for the box, complete with instructions for proper use.

The flag disposal box debuted at the Butler County Fair in July, displayed in the Art Hall alongside other Grange exhibits. By late August, Grange members Bill Eisele, Kevin Blakley, and Stephan Janos, with assistance from Township Clerk Molly Hansel and maintenance worker AJ Morrow, installed the box at its permanent location.

Community response has been strong, with nearly 50 flags collected in the first weeks, and about 100 collected by the end of 2024. The first official flag retirement ceremony took place on September 13, featuring a demonstration on proper flag folding, a patriotic poem,



The flag disposal box in action, loaded with flags to be properly disposed of.

Photo provided

and a respectful burning of the collected flags.

This project won the "Spotlight on Projects" Award at the 2024 Ohio State Grange Convention.

Collinsville Grange #2264 continues its mission of service, ensuring the community has a dignified way to honor the American flag.



(Top) One of the flags being burned in proper form, after being donated in the disposal container. (Right) Members of Collinsville Grange hold a flag burning ceremony

Photos provided



Klickitat County Granges Hold Grand Event

by Claudine Mincks

*Klickitat County Pomona Grange #5
republished from The Goldendale Sentinel*

The Klickitat County Granges (WA), comprised of Bickleton, Centerville, Glenwood, Goldendale, Lyle, Stevenson, Trout Lake, and White Salmon Granges hosted their county-wide event at Centerville Grange Hall this past Saturday, January 11.

The event was originally spearheaded as a surprise retirement for Lucille Bevis, the County's Grange State deputy of the past 24 years, and recognize her with a pin and award for her 70 years in Grange. But it morphed into a much grander event. Both the Washington State Grange President, Tom Gwin, and the National Grange President, Christine Hamp, joined in along with other Grangers from around the State to surprise Lucille. Amazingly enough, the surprise was kept well across the county, and Lucille was truly surprised!

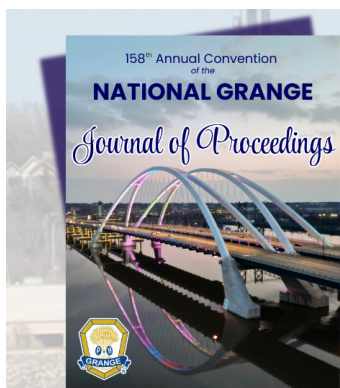
Claudine Mincks, Klickitat County Grange's new President worked with State Director for Quilts of Valor, Cindy Hoover, to present three veterans with a Quilt of Valor, thanking them for their service to our nation, up to giving their lives if circumstances deemed it, to protect and

serve fellow Americans. As Cindy read tribute to each of the three, Michael Hobbs, Cindy Furlong, and Jeff Furlong, Christine and Claudine draped them with their Quilt of Valor made especially for them. The ceremony was a powerful heartfelt one with not many dry eyes in the hall.

At the conclusion, both Tom and Christine, along with her husband and fellow Granger Duane Hamp, installed the officers of the Klickitat County Grange for their 2025/2026 terms. Sara Wade was appointed the new Klickitat County Grange Deputy by Tom with Lucille's referral. This was a special treat for local Grangers who often don't get to spend an afternoon with the State and National Presidents of Grange.



HONORING SERVICE: Three veterans—Cindy and Jeff Furlong and Michael Hobbs—were recognized with Quilts of Valor Saturday.
Photo provided



2024 NATIONAL GRANGE *Journal of Proceedings*

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<https://grange.biz/2024JOP>

GET ON BOARD FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE CONVENTION

Grange members and friends, get ready for an experience like no other! The 159th Annual National Convention is setting sail aboard the Carnival Horizon, from November 8-16, 2025, offering the perfect blend of Grange business, fellowship, and fun on the high seas.

While we come together to conduct the important work of the National Grange, this unique convention also provides the opportunity to enjoy world-class entertainment, delicious dining, and breathtaking ocean views - all while making memories that will last a lifetime.

Youth members can take advantage of the Youth Leadership Academy, while all members can also take part in workshops, excursions, and more!

Fun Awaits You Onboard!

When the meetings wrap up, the real adventure begins! Take a relaxing dip in the pool, race down the exhilarating waterslides, or challenge friends on the SkyRide, an elevated bike course with stunning ocean vistas. If relaxation is more your style, unwind

at the luxurious Cloud 9 Spa or take in a movie at the outdoor Seaside Theater.



Dining & Entertainment

Indulge in everything from classic comfort food to fine dining at specialty restaurants like Guy's Pig & Anchor Smokehouse or the elegant Fahrenheit 555 Steakhouse. After dinner, catch a Broadway-style show, laugh out loud at the Punchliner Comedy Club, or dance the night away to live music.

Fellowship & Friendship

More than just a cruise, this is a chance to connect with fellow Grange members in a fun and relaxing setting. Whether you're a first-time attendee, a longtime member, or a friend or family member of a Granger, this convention is an opportunity to share stories, strengthen friendships, and celebrate the values of the Grange in a truly unforgettable way.

Don't miss this one-of-a-kind National Grange Convention - book your spot today!

Visit <http://www.nationalgrange.org/159ngconvention> to learn more and book today.

NATIONAL GRANGE ROSTER AVAILABLE

Do you have questions for Grange leaders? Are you looking for contact information for National or State Grange staff, officers and directors? The 2025 National Grange Roster includes all of those details - and more!

We encourage you to use the links (below) to access the Roster, as they will be updated with any changes.

All information is provided by their respective State Grange. If anything is incorrect, please contact your State Grange President to have it updated in the official Roster.

Access the 2025 Roster here:

PDF Version:

<https://grange.biz/2025rosterpdf>

Excel Version:

<https://grange.biz/2025rosterexcel>

NATIONAL GRANGE ROSTER 2025 EDITION



HOPE IS THE
HEAVENLY LIGHT
THAT GILDS OUR
LABORS. WERE WE
DEPRIVED OF THAT
SOURCE OF
CONSOLATION, LIFE
WOULD INDEED BE
DREARY.

Fourth Degree, Pomona



VACCINES ARE THE BEST PROTECTION AGAINST SEVERE ILLNESS THIS RESPIRATORY SEASON

During respiratory season, vaccines play an important role in helping protect against diseases like COVID-19, influenza (flu), and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), which spread more easily during the fall and winter months. We've partnered with [Champions for Vaccine Education, Equity and Progress \(CVEEP\)](#), to share resources and information to help raise awareness and encourage everyone to stay up to date on their vaccines this respiratory season.

Fostering conversations around updated vaccines, treatments, and the latest guidance on risk factors is essential for protecting ourselves and our communities. By spreading awareness on the importance of staying up to date with vaccines, we can significantly reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalizations, and even deaths.

It is important for everyone to know where to get vaccinated, understand CDC recommendations, and be informed about vaccine safety, including the safety of receiving multiple vaccines at once. CVEEP's website

Stay Up to Date With Vaccines This Respiratory Season

CVEEP
Champions for
Vaccine Education,
Equity + Progress



COVID-19



Influenza (Flu)



Respiratory Syncytial
Virus (RSV)



Pertussis
(Whooping Cough)



Pneumococcal
Disease

houses information and resources on these topics and more.

Visit cveep.org to access the resources on recommended respiratory vaccines.

GRANGE MEMBER BENEFIT: START HEARING

START HEARING

Helping you find the best solution for your hearing needs and lifestyle – at the best value. Grange Members and their families receive:

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GOOD DAY!™ JANUARY 2025

The January 2025 issue of *Good Day!* magazine covers our 158th Annual National Grange Convention, previews the 2025 Convention, highlights member accomplishments – including a living history of Grange memorabilia, and much more. This issue includes the final article in our United States agritourism feature, and also includes recipes that take you from stock to soup!

\$5.00 PER ISSUE
(plus shipping)

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

or subscribe at nationalgrange.org/goodday

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