

NATIONAL GRANGE

OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY



JOURNAL OF P PROCEEDINGS

**143RD ANNUAL CONVENTION
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
2009**

**Journal of Proceedings
of the
National Grange
of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry**

**143rd Annual Convention
Grand Rapids, Michigan
November 17-21, 2009**

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THE GRANGE MISSION



The Grange provides opportunities for individuals and families to develop to their highest potential in order to build stronger communities and states, as well as a stronger nation.

The Grange will accomplish this mission through:

FELLOWSHIP

- We give our members the opportunity to meet with and get to know their neighbors in a safe, family-friendly atmosphere.
- We provide a place where children, youth, and adults can grow, develop their talents and social skills, and learn leadership techniques.

SERVICE

- We provide our members with the opportunity to discover and solve community needs.
- We give assistance to individuals in crisis.
- We provide a great place for community networking.

LEGISLATION

- We have a grassroots approach to local, state and federal legislative change.
- We give our members a voice in state and federal government forums.

NATIONAL OFFICERS- 2009

Master	Edward Luttrell	1616 H Street, NW Washington, DC 20006	202-628-3507
Overseer	Jimmy Gentry	1734 Wilkesboro Highway Statesville, NC 28625	704-878-000
Lecturer	Judy Sherrod	333 Crossfield Drive Knoxville, TN 37920	865-637-3780
Steward	Jay Pfeiffer	505 FM 474 Boerne, TX 78006	830-537-4330
Assistant Steward	Roger Bostwick	9578 110th Street Ozawkie, KS 66070	785-876-2751
Lady Ass't Steward	Beth Merrill	107 West Street Antrim, NH 03440	603-588-6615
Chaplain	Phyllis Wilson	643 Union Street NE Salem, OR 97301	503-316-0106
Treasurer	Joe Fryman	14512 County Rd. P16 Blair, NE 68008	402-426-5773
Secretary	Henrietta Keller	955 Keller Lane O'Fallon, IL 62269	618-632-4322
Gatekeeper	William Narvel	911 S. Governors Avenue Dover, DE 19904	302-734-4653
Ceres	Nancy Swainston	1810 Village Lane Dorr, MI 49323	616-262-9928
Pomona	Linda Lewis	3830 U Street Sacramento, CA 95817	916-454-5805
Flora	Linda Chase	491 Hollis Street Dunstable, MA 01827	978-649-7184

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Betsy Huber (2008)	362 University Road Lincoln University, PA 19352	610-932-4387
Secretary	Phil Prelli (2009)	12 Alexandria Drive Barkhamsted, CT 06063	315-462-3067
	Marty Billquist (2008)	5980 Galen Road Anaconda, MT 59711	406-563-7891
	Pete Pompper (2009)	63 Pecks Corner Road Salem, NJ 08079	856-935-0395

ASSEMBLY OF DEMETER

High Priest of Demeter	John Valentine	7034 W. St. Rd. 26 Portland, IN 47371	260-726-2337
Priest Archon	Daniel Bascom	123 Franklin St. Rochester, NH 03867	603-332-2164
Priest Annalist	Bruce Croucher	2514 County Road 25 Clifton Springs, NY 14432	315-462-3067

DEPARTMENT HEADS

National Grange Headquarters		(888) 447-2643	
Controller		Amber Casey	
Communications		Jennifer Dugent	
Information Technology		Stephanie Wilkins	
Legislative Affairs		Leroy Watson	
Sales, Benefits, & Programs		Samantha Johnson	
Junior Grange	Anne Kurburski	9278 Middle Village Dr. Harbor Springs, MI 49740	213-526-7102
Membership	Rusty Hunt	1845 Road 14 NE Coulee City, WA 99115	509-632-5600
Youth Activites	Charlene Shupp Espenshade	213 Black Swamp Road Bainbridge, PA 17502	717-361-2844

ELECTIONS

The delegates elected the following National Officers on November 20, 2009:

Master	Ed Luttrell (OR)	Gatekeeper	Scott Sherman (RI)
Overseer	Jimmy Gentry (NC)	Ceres	Linda Chase (MA)
Lecturer	Pete Pompper (NJ)	Pomona	Linda Lewis (CA)
Steward	William Narvel (DE)	Flora	Patty Lee (IL)
Asst. Steward	Roger Bostwick (KS)	Executive Committee	Phil Prelli (CT)
Lady Asst. Steward	Beth Merrill (NH)		Joe Fryman (NE)
Chaplain	Phyllis Wilson (OR)	High Priest of Demeter	Tom Severance (MA)
Treasurer	Dwight Baldwin (IO)	Priest Archon	Daniel Bascom (NH)
Secretary	Judy Sherrod (TN)	Priest Annalist	Bruce Croucher (NY)

DELEGATES

AK	Gaye Hunt, PO Box 111897, Anchorage, AK 99511
CA	Bob & Wendy McFarland, 3830 U Street, Sacramento, CA 95817-1345
CO	John & Trudie Hagan, 3150 Weld CR 87, Roggen, CO 80652
CT	Robert & Marge Sendewicz, 2 Cole Place, Danbury, CT 06810
DE	William & Barbara Narvel, 4201 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808
FL	Ruth Gray, PO Box 714, Wiersdale, FL 32195
ID	Donald & Jeannie Billmire, PO Box 367, Meridian, ID 83680-0367
IL	Lyle & Patti Lee, 11067 Beloit Road, Belvidere, IL 61008
IN	Gordon & Lucille Groves, 16105 CR 22, Goshen, IN 46528
IA	Dwight & Kathy Baldwin, 2606 Highway 224N, Kellogg, IA 50135
KS	Roger & Melanie Bostwick, 9578 110th Street, Ozawie, KS 66070
ME	James Owens, 567 Main Street, Madison, ME 04950 Rick Grotton, 40 West Street, Gardiner, ME 04345
MD	Maurice & Donna Wiles, 5543 Buffalo Road, Mt. Airy, MD 21771
MA	Calvin & Linda Chase, 491 Hollis Street, Dunstable, MA 01827
MI	Christopher & Connie Johnston, 6241 Grand River Road, Bancroft, MI 48414
MN	Donna Champion, 4820 Pioneer Trail, Greenfield, MN 55357-9625
MT	Marty & Joyce Billquist, 5980 Galen Road, Anaconda, MT 59711
NE	Joe & Tammy Fryman, 14512 Co Rd P16, Blair, NE 68008
NH	Beth & Arthur Merrill, 107 West Street, Antrim, NH 03440-3612
NJ	Pete Pompper, 63 Pecks Corner Road, Salem, NJ 8079
NY	Oliver & Karen Orton, 100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY 13045-1330
NC	Jimmy & Anita Gentry, 1734 Wilkesboro Hwy., Statesville, NC 28625
OH	Gary & Linda Brumbaugh, 16303 Village Parkway, Fredericktown, OH 43019
OK	Donna & Brad Keeton, Route 1 Box 106, South Coffeyville, OK 74072
OR	Phyllis Wilson, 643 Union Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-2462 Mark Noah, 1407 Modoc Street, Springfield, OR 97477-4126
PA	Betsy Huber, 362 University Road, Lincoln University, PA 19352 Brian Ebersole, 635 New Bloomfield Rd, Duncannon, PA 17020
RI	Scott Sherman, 178 Weaver Hill Road, West Greenwich, RI 02817-2255
SC	John & Hazel Hammett, 134 Colonial Drive, Chesnee, SC 29323
TN	Judy Sherrod, 333 Crossfield Drive, Knoxville, TN 37920
TX	Jack & Margaret Smithers, 7361 Parkett, San Antonio, TX 78223
VT	Errol Briggs, PO Box 90, Barre, VT 05641 Kendal Holden, PO Box 337, Underhill, VT 05489

VA James Taylor, 12600 Bundle Road, Chesterfield, VA 23838
WA June & Jack Hendrickson, PO Box 1186, Olympia, WA 98507
WV Jim & Earlene Foster, Rt. 1 Box 105, New Milton, WV 26411
WI Duane & Kymm Scott, N2552 Strunk Road, Ft. Atkinson, WI 53536-9025
WY Lee & Evelyn Johnson, 156 South Gap Road, Wheatland, WY 82201
John Trimble Youth Sarah Gearing, New York

2009 CONVENTION COMMITTEES**Agriculture**

Jack Smithers, TX
Bruce Croucher, NY (H)
John Hagen, CO
Gordon Groves, IN
Maurice Wiles, MD
Linda Chase, MA
Jimmy Gentry, NC
Lee Johnson, WY
Phil Prelli, CT (H)
Sarah Gearing, Yth (H)

Conservation

Gary Brumbaugh, OH
Randy Lewis, CA (H)
Marge Sendewicz, CT
Roger Bostwick, KS
Jack Cottrell, RI
Errol Briggs, VT
Jim Foster, WV
Norm Keller, IL (H)
Jeff Swainston, MI (H)

Grange Law

Arthur Merrill, NH
Joyce Billquist, MT
Ruth Gray, FL
Rick Grotten, ME
Oliver Orton, NY
Betsy Huber, PA
Linda Lewis, CA (H)
John Valentine, IN (H)
Dan Bascom, NH (H)

Audit & Budget

Beth Merrill, NH
Judy Sherrod, TN
Gaye Hunt, AK
Chip Narvel, DE
Dwight Baldwin, IA
Jim Owens, ME
Joe Fryman, NE
Kendal Holden, VT

Education & Health

Chris Johnston, MI
Jeannie Billmire, ID
Patti Lee, IL
Melanie Bostwick, KS
Karen Orton, NY
Linda Brumbaugh, OH
Brian Ebersole, PA
Margaret Smithers, TX
John Hammett, SC

Labor & Judiciary

Scott Sherman, RI
Jimmy Taylor, VA
Bob McFarland, CA
Trudie Hagen, CO
Connie Johnston, MI
Brad Keeton, OK
Kymm Scott, WI
Maureen Prelli, CT (H)
Sharon Croucher, NY (H)
Jay Pfeiffer, TX (H)

Citizenship

Robert Sendewicz, CT
Anita Gentry, NC
Donna Champion, MN
Tammy Fryman, NE
Calvin Chase, MA
Hazel Hammett, SC
Earlene Foster, WV
Duane Scott, WI
Kim Bascom, NH (H)

Grange Growth

Don Billmire, ID
Pete Pompper, NJ
Barbara Narvel, DE
Kathy Baldwin, IA
Donna Wiles, MD
Phyllis Wilson, OR
Jack Hendrickson, WA
Henrietta Keller, IL (H)
Nancy Swainston, MI (H)

Taxation & Trans.

June Hendrickson, WA
Mark Noah, OR
Wendy McFarland (CA)
Lyle Lee, IL
Lucille Groves, IN
Marty Billquist, MT
Donna Keeton, OK
Evelyn Johnson, WY
Nancy Valentine, IN (H)

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

7:00am

Freshman Delegates Breakfast

8:00am – 11:30am

Committee Meetings

12:00pm

Heroes of the Grange Luncheon

2:30pm

Opening of the 143rd Annual Convention in the Seventh Degree (Seventh Degree members wishing to witness the opening should be in the Session Room by 2:15pm)

2:45pm

Admission of Fourth Degree Members
Roll Call of Officers, Introduction of Staff
Roll Call of States, Partial Credentials Report
Adoption of Order of Business

3:00pm

National Master's Address
Edward L. Luttrell
(session at ease)

Reconvene Session in Fourth Degree
National Master's Internal Report
Committee Reports & Action
Announcements

6:00pm

Session Closes

7:30pm – 11:00pm

Committee Meetings

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

8:00am

Salute to Agriculture Breakfast

10:30am

Session opens in Fourth Degree
Committee Reports & Actions

12:00pm

Session recesses

12:15pm

Luncheon

2:30pm

Session reconvenes
Committee Reports & Actions

4:30pm

Session Recesses

4:30pm – 5:30pm

Idea Fair & Showcase of Excellence
Preview
(invitation only)

6:30pm

Youth – Orientation/ Expectations

7:30pm

Session Reconvenes
Youth – visit National Grange Session

9:30pm

Session Closes

9:30pm

Youth – Get Acquainted Party

10:00pm-11:00pm

Committee Meetings

11:00pm

Youth Officers Practice

11:30pm

Youth Vespers

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

8:30am

Session Opens in the Fourth Degree
Committee Reports & Action
Election of Officers
Directors' Reports

8:30am

General & Youth Tour

9:00am – 5:00pm

Idea Fair & Showcase of Excellence

10:00am

Junior Grange Registration

10:00am – 11:30am

Junior Grange Activities

12:00pm

Session Recesses

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Past Delegate Luncheon

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Junior Grange Activities

2:00pm

Session Reconvenes in the Fourth Degree
Committee Reports & Actions

3:30pm

Past Delegate & National Officers Recognition
Memorial Service – National Chaplain

5:00pm

Session Closes

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Committee Meetings as needed

5:00pm – 6:00pm

Youth Workshop
Speaker: Rusty Hunt

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Youth & Junior Pizza Party

6:45pm – 9:00pm

Junior Pajama Party

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Assembly of Demeter Business Meeting

8:00pm

Youth Directors Conference

9:00pm – 11:00pm

Committee Meetings

9:30pm – 11:00pm

Youth – Costume Party and Dance
Theme: 1980's

11:00pm

Youth Vespers

11:15pm

Youth Officers Practice

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

7:30am

Youth Officers Practice & Pictures

8:30am

Session Opens / Youth Opening
Junior Grange presentation
Committee Reports & Actions

9:00am – 5:00pm

Idea Fair & Showcase of Excellence

9:15am – 10:00am

State Junior Director's/Committee Workshop (for adults) Heritage Hill Room
Theme: "What's Your Story"

10:00am – 12:00pm

Youth Workshop
Speaker: Hannah Crosson, FFA Eastern Regional VP

10:00am – 11:00am

Communications Workshop
Presenter: Jennifer Dugent
Topic: Online Communication Tools for Beginners

10:45am – 11:30am

Combined Juniors and Directors Workshop
Crafts, Projects, Games and Activities

11:30am-3:00pm

Junior Tour & Lunch
Van Andel Museum Center

11:00am – 12:00pm

Women's /Family Activities Workshop

11:00am – 12:00pm

Lecturers' Workshop

11:00am – 1:00pm

7th Degree Walk through

12:00pm

Session Recesses

12:15pm

Chair/Secretaries Luncheon

1:00pm

Evening of Excellence Rehearsal

1:30pm – 3:30pm

Youth/Membership Workshop
Speaker: Rusty Hunt

2:00pm

Session Reconvenes / Installation

5:00pm

Session Closes

5:00pm

GROW Club & Youth A.O.L.E. Dinner

7:30pm

Evening of Excellence

10:30pm

Youth Program Hosted by the Midwest
Region Youth

11:30pm

Vespers

1:00pm

7th Degree Conferral

1:45pm – 4:00pm

Junior Grange Activities

2:30pm

Junior Grange Auction with JG Dollars

7:00pm

Grange Celebration Banquet
Following Banquet – Grange Dance

12:00am

Youth Vespers

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

8:00am

7th Degree Final Preparations

8:00am – 12:00pm

Idea Fair & Showcase of Excellence

8:00am

Junior Grange Breakfast &
Super JG Awards Ceremony

8:30am – 9:30am

Dogs for the Deaf Demonstration
Presenter: Robin Dixon

9:30am – 11:30am

Youth Workshop
Presenter: Charlene Espenshade and
Jennie Gentry
Topic: “Better Granger Workshop”

9:30am – 11:30am

Junior Grange Activities
Special Workshop

10:00am

6th Degree Conferral

12:00pm

Junior Grange Degree

DAILY RESUME**143rd ANNUAL NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION****PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES**

Sandor Szima, National Grange Building Engineer, was the first to arrive at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel with Convention materials on Wednesday, November 11, 2009. Others arriving early on Thursday, November 12th, were Executive Assistant/Meeting Planner, Jessie Cope; Communications Director, Jennifer Dugent; Programs Assistant, Molly Thompson; and National Master Ed and First Lady Celia Luttrell (OR) to finalize plans and begin pre-convention activities. Sales, Benefits, and Programs Manager, Samantha Johnson; Marketing Coordinator, Beverly Mitchell; and Legislative Affairs Director, Leroy Watson arrived on Friday. Amber Casey, Controller; Rusty Hunt, Leadership/Membership Director; and Charlene Espenshade, Youth Development Director arrived on Saturday. Members of the Host Committee also arrived early.

The members of the Board of Directors arrived on Saturday, November 14, 2009. On Saturday afternoon, National Master Luttrell met with the staff. The Board of Directors, spouses, and staff met for dinner at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Executive Committee meeting.

PRE-CONVENTION**Sunday, November 15, 2009**

Rusty Hunt (WA), Membership/Leadership Director, welcomed the new Delegates to the 143rd National Grange Convention on Sunday, November 15th from 9:00 until 4:00 for a workshop. New delegates are: Errol Briggs and Kendall Holdon (VT), Lyle and Pattie Lee (IL), Duane and Kymm Scott (WI), Bob and Wendy McFarland (CA), Donna and Brad Keeton (OK), Brian Ebersole (PA), and Lee and Mildred Johnson (WY). A noon luncheon was held for the Executive Committee and New Delegates.

Leroy Watson conducted an hour workshop for Committee Chairs/Secretaries beginning at 4:00.

A reception welcoming the National Officers, Delegates and staff was held beginning at 6:00 p.m.

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE**Sunday, November 15, 2009**

At 7:00 p.m. Worthy High Priest, John Valentine (IN) called the Special Session of the 143rd National Grange Convention to order. National Master Ed Luttrell (OR) opened the meeting in the Seventh Degree. There being no further business in the Seventh Degree, the meeting was lowered to the Fourth Degree.

Roll Call of officers showed all present.

A quorum of fifty-four delegates representing thirty-four states were present.

Secretary Henrietta Keller (IL) read resolution SS1, "Sale, Encumbrance or Transfer of Real Property". The resolution was adopted as amended.

Secretary Henrietta Keller (IL) read resolution SS2. "Real Property Owned by Granges Which Surrender Their Charter in a Consolidation." The resolution was adopted as

presented.

Sister Henrietta Keller read resolution SS3 “E-Membership.” The resolution was adopted as amended.

There being no further business in the Special Session, the meeting was closed in due form in the Fourth Degree.

Master Luttrell gave a Convention Overview for Officers/Delegates. He stated that we would be honoring eight Heroes of the Grange during this session. We will also be honoring Past National Grange Officers.

Brother Pete Pompper (NJ) reminded us of our Sixth Degree obligation. He stated we should show courtesy, charity, and respect to all.

Brother Jimmy Gentry (NC) reported on the Grange Foundation. He stated there would be a new Deaf Awareness Grant Program.

Sister Betsy Huber (PA), Chair of the Executive Committee, presented the budget. It was noted there is 100% occupancy in the National Grange Building.

Master Luttrell recognized the New Delegates.

Brother Marty Billquist (MT) reported on the rededication of the National Grange Building on June 26, 2010. This will be the 50th anniversary of the building. Brother Pete Pompper reported there are projects to repaint the building before the rededication. Several Granges have pledged to give some money to the project. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

PRE-CONVENTION

Monday, November 16, 2009

At 8:00 a.m. two buses of National Delegates and Officers traveled to Country Dairy Farm for a tour in New Era, MI. Following lunch at The Shack in White Cloud, MI, the group then departed for a tour of Fredrik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. The tour ended at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

The delegates and officers began working on resolutions after their return from the tour.

Jeff Swainston (MI), Chairman of the Midwest Region, and the members of the Midwest Region, including Michigan, Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Illinois, and Wisconsin welcomed the delegates at a delicious Host Dinner. Brother Swainston stated that the room we were having dinner in this evening was the same room that the 1958 National Grange Session was held in.

The invocation was given by Sister Phyllis Wilson (OR), Chaplain of the National Grange. Brother Swainston introduced the head table. National Grange Master, Ed Luttrell (OR), welcomed everyone to the 143rd Convention of the National Grange. He stated we will have much debate, discussion, and deliberation, but in the end will remain friends. He then introduced the National Grange Officers, Demeter Officers, and staff. Brother Swainston introduced the Masters from the host states.

Special music for the evening consisted of state songs of the Midwest States hosting this convention led by Sister Linda Brumbaugh, First Lady of the Ohio State Grange.

The speaker for the evening was Dr. Frank Fear, Senior Associate Dean in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University. Dr. Fear served as acting associate director of MSU Extension Service. He thanked the Grange for their work with the Cooperative Extension Service. Dr. Fear congratulated the National Grange for the Blueprint for Rural America and said it was a great document. He said we share

tremendous history and we need to make sure leadership qualities remain.

Each state in the region gave a brief presentation of its Grange history.

Gary Brumbaugh, Master Ohio State Grange thanked Viola Wayne and Edythe Walter for all their efforts in the organization of the Host Banquet.

Brother Jimmy Gentry (NC) introduced the new delegates and their mentors.

Dinner music was provided by Mark Naylor, Overseer Ohio State Grange.

Rehearsal of the National Grange Officers began at 9:30 p.m. Sessions committees met to continue working of the 2009 Resolutions.

FIRST DAY
143rd National Grange Convention
Tuesday, November 17, 2009

The day began at 7:00 a.m. with the Freshman Class Breakfast.

All Committees worked on resolutions in the morning.

Eight Heroes of the Grange were honored at a 12:00 luncheon. The honorees were: Wib and June Justi (OH), who coordinated the Grange-Germany USA program in 1950 and continue to stay in touch with the Alumni; Ted and Zula Bryan (WA), membership directors of Washington State Grange; Marge Bernhardt (CT), a lecturer who leads with her heart; Jessica Horton (NC), Membership and Youth Director and a member of the staff of the North Carolina State Grange; Jack Cottrell (RI) manager of the New England Grange Building Store; and Carl Meiss (PA) Membership Director of the Pennsylvania State Grange.

John Valentine (IN), High Priest of Demeter, called the 143rd Annual Convention of the National Grange to order in the Seventh Degree at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 2009. The session was held in the Ambassador Ballroom at The Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The National Officers marched in and formed an altar circle. The soloist for the opening was Linda Brumbaugh (OH), and Mark Naylor (OH) served as the pianist. National Master, Ed Luttrell (OR), opened the Grange in full form in the Seventh Degree. High Priest, John Valentine (IN) led the salutation of the Seven Degrees. The American Flag was presented.

There being no further business to come before the Grange in the Seventh Degree, Priest Annalist, Bruce Croucher (NY), and High Priest, John Valentine (IN), were escorted from the hall to make preparations for the conferral of the Seventh Degree. The Grange was then lowered to the Fourth Degree and Fourth Degree members were admitted.

The Grange Flag was presented by a team of members from the Midwest region, including Jeff Swainston (MI), Gordon Groves (IN), Edythe Walter and Viola Wayne (OH), Duane Scott (WI), Lyle Lee (IL), and Doug Baldwin (IA). "To Thee Beloved Grange" was sung.

Roll call of National Officers showed all officers present.

Master Luttrell introduced the staff of the National Grange; Leroy Watson, Legislative Affairs Director; Jessie Cope, Executive Assistant/Meeting Planner; Rusty Hunt (WA), Membership Director; Jennifer Dugent, Communications Director; Beverly Mitchell, Marketing Assistant; Samantha Johnson, Sales, Programs, and Benefits Manager; Charlene Espenshade (PA), Youth Development Director; Molly Thompson, Program Assistant; and Amber Casey, Controller.

The roll call of states showed all states represented, as well as John Trimble Legislative Representative, Sarah Gearing (NY).

Chairman of Audit and Budget, Beth Merrill (NH), gave a partial credentials report. Report was adopted.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the order of business as printed. Motion carried.

The Worthy Master requested Worthy Overseer, Jimmy Gentry (NC), assume the Master's station as Worthy National Master, Ed Luttrell (OR), gave his National Master's Address. The Master's address will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings. Worthy Overseer Gentry (NC) assigned sections of National Master Luttrell's Address to the various committees.

Master Ed Luttrell gave his Internal Report. Jimmy Gentry assigned section of this report to various committees. This report will appear in the Journal of Proceedings.

The meeting was called back to order after a brief recess at 4:27pm.

The minutes of the Special Session were approved as presented. The report of Monday Activities were approved as corrected.

A letter from Past National Master, Kermit W. Richardson, stating they will not be able to attend the 2009 convention was read.

Arthur Merrill (NH), chair of Grange Law, gave a partial report.

Sister June Hendrickson (WA), chair of Taxation and Transportation, gave a partial report.

Brother Don Billmire (ID), chair of Grange Growth, gave a partial report.

The first day of the 143rd Annual Session of the National Grange closed in the Fourth Degree at 5:40 p.m.

Mark Naylor served as the pianist for the day.

The hospitality room was provided by Indiana State Grange.

The committees met to work on the resolutions during the evening.

SECOND DAY

143rd National Grange Convention

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

A Salute to Agriculture Breakfast was held at 8:00 a.m. The speaker for the breakfast was Colonel Martin Leppert, Special Assistant to the Director, Army National Guard. Col. Leppert showed slides of Afghanistan and spoke of the work being done there by the National Guard. He said we should be proud of your American Soldiers. The goal is to "Win hearts and minds of the local people and win the lives of farmers".

Master Ed Luttrell (OR) opened the second day of the 143rd Annual Convention of the National Grange in the Fourth Degree at 10:45 a.m. following an entrance march by the National Officers.

Roll call of officers found all present and roll call of delegates found all states were represented as well as and the John Trimble Youth Representative Sarah Gearing (NY).

Minutes of the first day of the 143rd National Grange Convention were approved as corrected.

Sister Beth Merrill (NH) chair of Audit and Budget gave a partial report.

Brother Arthur Merrill (NH) chair of Grange Law gave a partial report.

Brother Don Billmire (ID) chair of Grange Growth and Development gave a partial report.

Brother Scott Sherman (RI) chair of Labor and Judiciary gave a partial report.

Brother Robert Sendewicz chair of Citizenship and Public Affairs gave a partial report.

The session was recessed at 12:00 for a luncheon with Janet McUlsky, Senior Director of Alliance Development, Pfizer, Inc. She stated that she and Pfizer were happy to be partnered with the National Grange on many issues.

The session reconvened at 2:30p.m.

Brother Robert Sendewicz, Chair of Citizenship and Public Affairs continued his report.

Sister Beth Merrill (NH) gave a final report of the Audit and Budget.

Brother Gary Brumbaugh (OH) chair of Conservation gave a partial report.

Sister June Hendrickson (WA) chair of Taxation and Transportation gave a partial report.

Brother Scott Sherman gave a partial report.

Jack Smithers (TX) chair of Agriculture gave a partial report.

The Grange recessed at 4:40 p.m.

The Delegates, National Officers and Guests previewed The Idea Fair and Showcase of Excellence from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The session reconvened at 7:30 p.m. Master Luttrell welcomed the Youth and Guests to the session.

Sister Phyllis Wilson (OR) Chaplain announced that Brother Hammet (SC) has returned from the hospital. Brother Hammett called Worthy Master Ed Luttrell during the recess and asked permission to leave the session because of health reasons. Permission was granted.

Roll Call of states was called and Grangers representing their states were recognized.

Brother Jack Smithers(TX) chair of Agriculture continued his report.

Sister Betsy Huber (PA) presented badges and hats to the executive committee. Worthy Master Luttrell was also presented a pair of handcuffs.

Brother Scott Sherman (RI) chair of Labor and Judiciary gave a final report.

Sister June Hendrickson (WA) chair of Taxation and Transportation gave a final report.

Brother Arthur Merrill (NH) chair of Grange Law gave a partial report.

Chris Johnston (MI) chair of Education and Health gave a partial report.

Mark Naylor (OH) served as the pianist for the day.

The Youth Orientation and Guidelines was conducted at 6:30 p.m.

The second day of the 143rd session was closed in due form at 9:30 p.m.

The youth enjoyed a Get Acquainted Party in the evening.

Illinois Grangers were the host in the hospitality room.

THIRD DAY

143rd National Grange Convention

Thursday, November 19, 2009

The third day of the 143rd Annual Convention of the National Grange opened in the Fourth Degree at 8:30 a.m. following an entrance march by the National Officers.

Roll call of officers found all present. Roll call of delegates found all states represented except South Carolina who has been excused because of health reasons, as well Youth Representative Sarah Gearing (NY).

Robert Looney, VP of Government Affairs, CHS was the guest speaker. Mr. Looney spoke on the federal issues that affect farmers. "We need to contact our legislators, to vote against The Cap and Trade Act. It does make a difference," stated Mr. Looney.

Worthy Master Ed Luttrell called for the election of officers of the National Grange.

Balloting proceeded in due form.

Edward Luttrell (OR) was reelected Master of the National Grange.

Jimmy Gentry (NC) was reelected Overseer of the National Grange.

Chris Johnston (MI) chair of Education and Health gave a partial report.

Brother Phil Prelli (CT) was reelected to a two-year term of the Executive Committee.

Brother Joe Fryman (NE) was elected to two-year term of the Executive Committee.

After a brief recess, Brother Chris Johnston (MI) chair of Education and Health continued.

Brother Pete Pompper(NJ) was elected as Lecturer of the National Grange.

Brother William “Chip” Narvel (DE) was elected steward of the National Grange.

Brother Gary Brumbaugh (OH) chair of Conservation gave a partial report.

Brother Roger Bostwick (KS) was elected Assistant Steward of the National Grange.

Sister Beth Merrill (NH) was elected Lady Assistant Steward of the National Grange.

Brother Don Billmire (ID) chair of Grange Growth and Development gave partial report.

Sister Phyllis Wilson (OR) was elected Chaplain of the National Grange.

The session recessed at 12:00 p.m. Forty-one Past Delegates were honored at a luncheon. Sister Linda Chase (MA) emceed the luncheon. Sister Celia Luttrell (OR) First Lady of the National Grange was the speaker. Her subject was All That We Have Learned in the Grange. “Appreciate what you have at the time but look forward to the future. Think outside the Grange Hall. Don’t get comfortable with success,” she told the past delegates.

The session was called back to order at 2:00 p.m.

The past delegates of the National Grange were escorted into the hall.

Brother Dwight Baldwin (IA) was elected Treasurer of the National Grange.

The following reports of the Directors of the National Grange were given: Rusty Hunt, Leadership/Membership; Leroy Watson, Legislative Affairs Director; Amber Casey, Controller; and Samantha Johnson, Sales, Benefits and Programs Manager. These reports will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings.

Sister Judy Sherrod (TN) was elected Secretary of the National Grange.

Jennifer Dugent, Communications Director and Jessie Cope, Administrative Assistant/Convention Planner gave their reports, which will be printed in the Journal.

Scott Sherman (RI) was elected Gatekeeper of the National Grange.

Sister Linda Chase (MA) recognized the past delegates of the National Grange.

Master Ed Luttrell, Overseer Jimmy Gentry and Members of the Executive Committee read names of the Past National Grange Officers and presented those present with pins.

After a brief recess Master Ed Luttrell called the Grange back to order.

An impressive memorial service was held under the direction of National Chaplain Phyllis Wilson (OR). Henrietta Keller (IL) Secretary along with State Masters representing the states of the deceased members assisted with the service.

Special music was performed by Mark Naylor (OH), Dan Mutchler, and Ron Purinton, from Lyme Grange #147, Lyme CT.

Brother Arthur Merrill (NH) chair of Grange Law gave a partial report.

Brother Don Billmire (ID) chair of Grange Growth gave a final report.

Linda Chase (MA) was elected Ceres of the National Grange.

The National Grange officers turned their sashes over to their spouses or other members of their choice to close the Grange. The Session was closed in due form at 5:05 p.m.

Pianist for the day was Mark Naylor (OH)

Wisconsin provided the refreshments in the hospitality room.

The Annual Convocation of the Assembly of Demeter met at 8:00 p.m.

FOURTH DAY
143rd National Grange Convention
Friday, November 20, 2009

The fourth day of the 143rd Annual Convention of the National Grange opened in the Fourth Degree at 8:30 a.m. following an excellent entrance march by the Youth Corp of the National Grange.

The following Youth served as officers:

Joe Stefenoni (CA) Master	Orrin Schnetzky (OR) Gatekeeper
Carson Yost (OH) Overseer	Courtney Gray (NC) Ceres
Katie Stevens (NC) Lecturer	Hope Murphy (OH) Pomona
Andrew Keiffer (PA) Steward	Megan Taylor (NJ) Flora
Carnille Harrieson (NC) Assistant Steward	Executive Committee
Jo Barringer (NY) Lady Assistant Steward	Olivia Suing (OR)
Heidi Henderson (NY) Chaplain	Carrie Wade (IL)
Tiffany Paul (OH) Treasurer	Justephanie Chandler (OH)
Allison Orton (NY) Secretary	Jennifer Nauss (PA) Pianist

The Youth Secretary, Allison Orton (NY), called the Roll of Youth Officers. Escorted to the Master's Station were Youth Mentors Gail Switzer (PA) and Cody Stevens (NC), who gave their reports. Charlene Espenshade (PA), National Youth Development Director was escorted to the Master's station. She gave her annual report, which will appear in *Journal of Proceedings*. Worthy Youth Master recognized all the youth and juniors present. Sister Anne Kurburski, Junior Development Director, was escorted to the Master's Station and gave her report, which will be printed in the *Journal*. Two outstanding Junior Ambassadors Joshua Dixon (NC) and Ashley Mohn (PA) were present and presented Worthy Master Ed Luttrell (OR) and Worthy Overseer Jimmy Gentry (NC) with hula skirts for the Junior beach program. Juniors marched in the meeting and Sisters Mary Joseph (IL) and Carrie Wade (IL) led the delegates in "The Baby Shark" song.

Brian Ebersole (PA) moved that the National Grange encourage Youth members to run for offices at Subordinate, Pomona, State, and National levels. Motions seconded and carried.

Youth Overseer Carson Yost read a letter from the Youth concerning the Youth running for office.

Worthy National Master, Ed Luttrell presented Youth Master Joe Stefenoni (CA) a gavel for to remember this occasion.

Roll call of National officers found all present.

Roll call of Delegates found all states except South Carolina, who were excused because of health reasons, were represented including John Trimble Legislative Representative Sarah Gearing (NY)

Sister Betsy Huber (PA) moved to release work of Wednesday afternoon and Thursday to the press. Motion seconded and carried.

Brother Scott Sherman (RI) moved to name High Priest, John Valentine, to High Priest Emeritus. Motion seconded and carried.

Brother Tom McKern (WA), Chairman of the Board of Grange Insurance Association (GIA), was escorted to the Master's Station. He gave the report of GIA stating that the financial status of the company is very good.

Minutes of Thursday's meeting were approved as presented.

The meeting reconvened at 10:20 a.m. after a brief recess.

Brother Duane Scott (WI) presented Worthy Master Luttrell with an apron.

Brother Robert Sendewicz (CT), chair of Citizenship gave a partial report.

Sister Linda Lewis (CA) was elected as Pomona of the National Grange.

Brother Chris Johnston (MI) chair of Education and Health gave a final report.

Brother Jack Smithers (TX) chair of Agriculture committee gave a final report.

Marty Billquist (MT) moved that the rulings the National Masters made during 2009 be published in the Journal of Proceedings, motion seconded —Motion carried.

Betsy Huber (PA) moved that the office staff make any necessary spelling and grammar corrections to the Journal. Motion seconded and carried.

Daune Scott moved to allow the executive committee be authorized to approve the Friday Session minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

Sister Pattie Lee (IL) was elected Flora of the National Grange.

Beth Merrill moved to substitute 117(NH) "Industrial Hemp on Pine Ridge Reservation" for a portion of the Agriculture committee report. Motion was seconded and defeated.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the program that installation will be conducted at 2:30, motion carried

Arthur Merrill chair of Grange Law gave a final report.

Brother Robert Sendewicz chair of Citizenship committee gave a final report.

The session recessed at 12:00 p.m.

A Chair/Secretaries luncheon was held at 12:15.

The Session reconvened at 2:30 p.m. for the installation of officers by High Priest John Valentine (IN)

The installation team consisted of: Installing Officer—John Valentine (IN), Lady Marshall—Mary Johnson (ID), Regalia Bearer—Bruce Croucher, Implement Bearer—Dan Bascom (NH), Installation Master—Don Johnson (ID), Installation Chaplain—Jim Foster (WV), Pianist—Mark Naylor (OH).

Following the installation of officers, Jay Pfeiffer (TX) past Gatekeeper and retiring Steward; Henrietta Keller (IL) retiring Secretary, Nancy Swainston (MI) retiring Ceres and John Valentine (IN) retiring High Priest of Demeter were escorted to the Masters station and presented past National Officer Pins.

Brother Robert Sendewicz continued his report.

Brother Gary Brumbaugh (OH) chair of the Conservation Committee gave a final report.

It was announced the hospitality room will open at 7:15 a.m. for the Seventh Degree cast only.

Bruce Crocher (NY) announced volunteers for door duty should report at 11:00 a.m. at the Ambassador Ballroom.

Photos of the officers will be taken on Saturday.

National Master, Ed Luttrell, announced that Brother and Sister Norman and Henrietta Keller have been appointed as National Deputies for Eastern Missouri.

Leroy Watson, Legislative Director, gave members an opportunity to sign postcards to be sent to member of Congress regarding need for availability of internet access to rural areas. Regulations had begun earlier this year, but have ceased. The signed cards will be sent via e-mail to members of Congress and the Federal Communications Commission.

High Priest, John Valentine (IN), gave the 2010 Annual Words to National Master Luttrell. Secretary Judy Sherrod (TN) read the roll call of State Granges to receive the Annual Words.

\$340 was collected from cell phone tolls in session.

Brother Duane Scott (WI) thanked National Master and staff for speedy and efficient resolution to meeting business.

Overseer Jimmy Gentry (NC) reported he is excited to host next year's annual convention in Charlotte, North Carolina and invited all to attend.

The 143 Session of the National Grange closed in the Fourth Degree. Everyone present formed a circle, joined hands and sang "God Be With You Until We Meet Again."

Ohio manned the hospitality room.

Mark Naylor served as the pianist for the day.

At 7:30 p.m. the Evening of Excellence was held in the Ambassador Ballroom, Sister Judy Sherrod (TN) and Youth Mentors Gail Switzer (PA) and Cody Stevens (NC) introduced the participants in the Talent, Public Speaking, Sign-a-Song and 2009 Horizon Leadership program. The top three Grange Families of the Year were recognized and presented.

The following workshops were held throughout the day: 9:15 a.m.– 10:00 a.m. State Junior Directors. The theme of the workshop was "What's Your Story?" Hannah Crosson, Future Farmers of America, was the speaker at the Youth Workshop from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The Communication Workshop, with Jennifer Dugent as the speaker, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with her topic being "Online Communication Tools for Beginners"; 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Combined Juniors and Directors Workshop with Craft, Projects, Games and Activities. Rusty Hunt presented a Youth/Membership workshop from 1:30 to 3:30p.m.

The Grow Club luncheon was held at 12:15 p.m.

FIFTH DAY

143rd National Grange Convention

Saturday, November 21, 2009

The Junior Breakfast was held at 8:00 a.m. Super JG Awards were presented during the breakfast.

Robin Dixon presented a Dogs for the Deaf demonstration beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Charlene Espenshade (PA) and Jennie Gentry (NC) presented a workshop for the Youth beginning at 9:30 a.m. covering the topic Better Granger Workshop.

The Sixth Degree was conferred courtesy of the Midwest State Granges.

The Junior Grangers from Michigan performed the Junior Grange Degree at 12:00 p.m..

The Seventh Degree was conferred in the Ambassador Ballroom at the Amway Hotel with a total of 106 candidates under the direction of High Priest of Demeter John Valentine (IN) and Priest and Priestess, (OH). The following cast exemplified the Seventh Degree:

High Priest – John Valentine (IN)

Priest Archon – Daniel Bascom (NH)

Priest Annalist – Bruce Croucher (NY)

Priest Treasurer – Joe Fryman (NE)

Priest Interpreter – Don Johnson (ID)

Priest Archivist – Maurice Wiles (MD)

Priest Hierophant – Phyllis Wilson (OR)

Priest Orator -- Dale Sanderson (VT)

Sacred Oracle
Slide Illustration – Duane Scott (WI)
Soloist – Nancy Blair (MI)
Pianist – Angela Kurburski (MI)
Directors – Jen Russell (OH)
Backstage Assistants – Harold & Carolyn Hill (CA)
Harold & Dorothy Eckert (OH)
Video Technician – Patty Dyer (OH)

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evening began with the invocation given by Chaplain, Phyllis Wilson (OR). The Cedar Creek Cloggers provided the evening's entertainment. A delicious dinner was served. A Grange dance followed the evening's festivities. Thus ended the 143rd Annual Convention of the National Grange.

COMBINED SEVENTH DEGREE BUSINESS MEETING AND CONVOCATION

Assembly of Demeter of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry

Grand Rapids, Michigan 2009

The combined Convocation and Business meeting of the seventh Degree was held in the Pantlind Ballroom of the Amway Grand Plaza hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan on Thursday, November 19, 2009. Priest Herald, Kevin Klenklen, conducted the officers and cast to their proper stations. Priestess Hierophant, Phyllis Wilson, gave the opening prayer.

High Priest, John Valentine, opened the meeting in full form. High Priest, John Valentine, welcomed all to the convocation and was glad to see there were many who could attend. The Convocation is for the new Seventh Degree members. The bible that is used was presented in 1869. The gavel and gavel block are made from marble from Greece. There are three Sacred Records. Priest Archon, Daniel Bascom, has the current Sacred Record, which can be observed by the members. The original is also here for observation. The Charles Gardner version is at home in Indiana.

High Priest, John Valentine, opened the business meeting of the Assembly of Demeter. The minutes of the previous meeting were read. The Worthy High Priest announced that he had received the Seventh Degree in Grand Rapids fifty-one years ago. He loves the ritual. He feels that we need to consolidate into one ritual. There was an unfortunate occurrence when some were asked to leave the hall. He knew of some delegates that had not received the fourth degree. Each state should regularly exemplify the degrees as the lessons are important. Lessons of the Sixth Degree are equally important to the lessons of the Seventh Degree. We need to think about these lessons.

The rumor that the Seventh Degree would cost \$64,000 this year was untrue. We need to preserve the ritual so as not to become a social group.

High Priest, John Valentine, introduced High Priest Emeritus, Woodrow Tucker. He shares the concerns of High Priest John Valentine. He was also concerned about the members who were escorted out because they did not have the password. Inconsistency in the ritual and rules causes this kind of problem. They did have a dues card so were entitled to remain in the meeting. It is incumbent on this body and the National Grange to not let this happen again. Brother Tucker belongs to Grange because he loves people. Mr. McDowell was the first High Priest and was a vintner. Love all and love what we stand for and live by the morals of the Grange.

Worthy National Master, Ed Luttrell, was introduced for remarks. He asked if all felt the living, breathing passion of High Priest Emeritus Tucker. We need to develop pride in ourselves for doing a good job. We should have pride in our organization. One recognizes Grange wherever they go in the country. We are one great organization with a local focus. Take the ritual to heart on do it with the best of your ability.

High Priest, John Valentine, introduced Scott and Jen Russell, Carolyn and Bud Hill, Harold and Dorothy Eckert, and Patty Dyer. He thanked them for their work. Some changes have been made in the Seventh Degree to make it better. The Russells said it

was a pleasure to serve as directors and invited all to attend the degree. High Priest, John Valentine, then thanked the Croucher family for the trunks they donated, the committee, the Hills, Eckerts, Patty Dyer, and Duane Scott for their work. He announced that the Eckerts were retiring after this year. He thanked Jessie Cope for ironing out difficulties with the hotel in setting up for the degree. High Priest, John Valentine, introduced the cast of the Seventh Degree and the officers of the Assembly of Demeter. He then quoted the Declaration of Purposes, "The office shall seek the man, not the man the office". John Valentine then announced that he will not accept another term as High Priest. He finds himself unable to focus on the future. The Assembly should elect someone who will follow the rules of the order.

The Assistant Steward and Lady Assistant Steward counted 92 possible ballots. The first ballot for High Priest was declared invalid as 94 ballots were counted. Two additional people had arrived so the possible number of ballots was now at 94. Tom Severance was elected as High Priest and agreed to accept the office. Daniel Bascom was elected Priest Archon and agreed to accept the office. Nancy Valentine spoke briefly. Bruce Croucher was elected as Priest Annalist and accepted the position. The number of candidates will be added to these minutes after the degree. There were 106 candidates.

The closing song was God Be With You. The meeting was closed in proper form.

Fraternally Submitted,

Bruce M. Croucher, Priest Annalist

**Annual Address of the National Master
143rd Annual Convention
Grand Rapids, Michigan
November 17, 2009**

National Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters,

The National Grange meets this week for the 143rd time. Few organizations reach the age of our Order. Even fewer have the distinguished history that our members have established through their hard work. However, this report isn't about our wonderful and glorious history, it is about our exciting present and the bright future that we are building this week.

I wish to bring to your attention issues that concern me about the health of our great Nation. Each member should consider these issues and look at ways that our Grange can address them in innovative ways.



Agriculture

Agriculture is the backbone of America. It is the base of our economy and an important reason that we've enjoyed so many decades of prosperity as a nation. The problem now is that agriculture no longer speaks with one consistent voice.

The first voice is production agriculture. Production agriculture has been the source of the strength of our country for many years. Our farmers have fed the world using constantly evolving farming practices that take advantage of the newest technologies. While many organizations have claimed to speak for these farmers, there have been few major disagreements in the message that Congress has received.

The current challenge is that these farmers, without question the most productive farmers in the history of the world, are now beginning to retire. How do farmers transfer these working farms to the next generation when even a small farm can value in the millions of dollars. Estate planning and transfer is an issue that requires our attention.

The second voice is specialty or niche agriculture. These tend to be smaller farms that have found niches to add value to their bottom line. Farmers raising turkeys that choose to raise some heritage birds that add value to the operation, farmers who choose to be certified organic to add value, or farmers who create corn mazes to entice the public to their farms all show that ingenuity is alive and well within American agriculture.

The Grange recognizes the importance of this second group to the health of the agricultural community. Many of those in this group are small operations, but all help support the infrastructure of agriculture and their community. Equipment dealers to sign makers to beauty shops all depend upon having enough business to make a living. Without specialty or niche agriculture each would have a more difficult time.

The third voice is the individual or family who puts in a garden in order to preserve some food for winter or even just for fresh vegetables during the summer. Previous generations considered a garden a requirement, but over the past few decades few worried about the trouble of gardening. The economic downturn last year created renewed interest in gardening and many people put in their first garden.

This reconnection is great news for agriculture. It is an opportunity to reach out to urban and suburban people and help them connect to American agriculture. People want a safe and ready supply of food. When they do not understand where their food comes from they may create barriers against the very things that they desire.

The business plan for specialty farms does not resemble the business plan for production agriculture of the past. If we wish to minimize the potential conflicts between the different parts of agriculture, we need to create the opportunity for all to come together and find solutions to the challenges that face us.

The Grange continues to offer that meeting place. We support farmers no matter which business plan they choose to employ. We bring together ranchers, fishermen, loggers, and folks who live in town to work in harmony and to create understanding of the challenges that each faces.

Debate and Partisanship

In this new world we live in, we are free to associate with others of similar belief without regard to where we choose to live. Social networking websites like Facebook, Yahoo, and a hundred other virtual internet groups, news from people we choose to listen to when we want it, email blasts that reach hundreds of thousands of people in minutes, all of these sources let us know more, quicker than ever before, but the reality is that all of this information is not necessarily balanced, correct or accurate.

One result of this new ability is that the world we live in has become increasingly polarized. We can listen to those we agree with on the radio, we can watch those we share common interests with on TV, we can read the publications that advocate for what we believe, and we can surf the websites and subscribe to the emails and blogs of people and groups who are like us. We are so bombarded with so much information that it is easy to filter out things we don't like and only focus on the things that reinforce our current beliefs.

It appears that many people are becoming less civil and less tolerant of differences of opinion, especially political differences. I have heard people speak despairingly of others simply because of their political beliefs or even due to who they choose to listen to or which news channel they select to view. I have even heard people say they were going to drop their membership because of one policy in our large National Grange policy book. This intolerance is not new to America. Every now and then a wave of partisanship sweeps across our nation. Often it ebbs away after a short while and once it was a major factor in creating the conflict we remember as the Civil War. Due to all the increased advances in communication technology the current wave of partisanship is as strong and powerful as our nation has ever seen.

Major issues that today impact every American citizen are now being presented as simplistic partisan choices rather than as complex questions that need sober contemplation and discussion to create consensus. The current political environment is only about winning for "our side". It is not about finding a solution that does no harm and benefits the majority. Healthcare, taxes, business regulation, and global warming are issues that need to be approached with logic, facts, and open debate rather than as partisan issues.

The Grange, with its fundamental principle of non-partisanship creates a neutral place where people can meet without being in an adversarial mode. Few places in American communities can bring together as diverse a variety of views while striving to keep friendships and personal relationships out of the discussions. Each Grange needs to let their community know that we encourage discussion, we empower each member to have

their say, and when we set a policy we do so through collective deliberation. Our goal is not to give you exactly what you want or to be a reflection in your personal philosophical mirror. Instead our goal is to challenge every Grange member to find and promote the common interests between themselves and their brothers and sisters in order to give you the opportunity make a difference within your community. Each Grange member has the chance to change the hearts and minds of others without bias or anger. We bring people together to work on issues of mutual concern and to allow each to share their opinions without fear.

The Grange is not afraid of getting into the middle of big issues. We are not worried about being dismissed by those who disagree with our membership's decisions. We do care about our principle of non-partisanship. We will not affiliate ourselves in any way with any political party, we will never support candidates for office, and we will always encourage our members to be involved in the party or political campaign of their choice. Once the election is over, we proudly pledge to work with those elected officials regardless of their party affiliation.

We often walk a lonely path with our non-partisan principle, a path that we have walked for 142 years. And just as Grange member and poet Robert Frost once wrote about the ultimate benefit of taking "The Road Less Traveled," time has proven that this path is worth walking. We bring people with different perspectives and beliefs together to build our communities, our states and our nation. The Grange will continue to talk about the big issues and work to draft policies that reflect our grassroots membership. The focus of the National Grange will continue to shift toward more of an educational and program process to aid our Granges in the implementation of the grass-roots legislative agendas they create. I challenge each Grange member to avail themselves of all the communication tools available to them through their community, state and national Granges to education themselves. I call upon each Grange to reaffirm our basic principle of non-partisan participation in the discussion of the issues of the day.

Ethics

This past summer a news commentator in my home state suggested that throwing people out of office because of their mistakes in their private life was not the proper course of action for thoughtful voters. After all, if they are doing a "good job," why should they be punished for lying, or doing other improper things in their private life?

Grange members have always been forgiving as we realize that we are each human. God forgives us when we stumble and we also tend to forgive those who make mistakes in their lives. However, we are also aware that there are consequences for our actions. The famous 19th Century evangelical preacher Henry Ward Beecher noted in his sermons that "circumstance follows character," meaning that our position in life in regards to our family, community, colleagues, neighbors and friends depends in no small part on our personal conduct. This old-fashioned idea seems to be out of favor in our current political environment.

Our elected officials need to be held to a higher standard than they currently are. In our democracy, elected office is a public trust and, as such, confidence or trust in an individual in elective office is very much a function of personal character and not just an arithmetic calculation based on a voting record. If this were not the case, there would be no civic reason to differentiate the office from the individual temporarily holding the office. Without personal accountability in public office, our high national standards adhering to the Rule of

Law and protection of the rights of the minority would quickly denigrate into a simplistic Rule of the Majority and “to the victor goes the spoils,” thus breeding even greater levels of public cynicism and popular disenfranchisement from the political process. We must demand a higher standard from our elected officials regardless of how much good we perceive they are doing. The teachings of our Order inculcate a high standard of action. We should not be shy about sharing the values and principles of the Grange. Fear of being ridiculed because we take a stand that is not “popular” should never stop our members from calling attention to the failings of our elected public officials, even those who regularly vote to implement Grange policy into law.

Fiscal Responsibility

How many members can visualize a billion dollars? What about a trillion dollars? Our government has created deficits of a stunning, record level again this year. In the fiscal year just completed, the federal deficit was more than three times the level of the previous annual record. We are spending more money than we are receiving every day. Congress has approved TARP, stimulus, and many more acts that spent taxpayer monies in record setting amounts. Approximately 28 out of every 100 dollars spent in the United States this past year on everything, was spent by the federal government, a percentage of national income not seen since World War II. Watching Congress over the past three decades it doesn't seem abnormal to see a continued increase in spending and deficits, but the size of our current and projected national debt as a proportion of our national income defies historical comparisons, even compared to those debts we incurred when our nation fought for four, long years to defeat world fascism or faced down the threat of nuclear annihilation at the hands of a communist dictatorship during the decades long Cold War.

Congress is working hard to pass Cap and Trade legislation which if passed will most likely dramatically increase energy costs for every American. They are working hard to pass a health care reform bill which has been estimated to increase the deficit of the United States as much as an additional two trillion dollars. The question each American needs to ask is how much can we afford?

The Grange calls upon Congress to halt the increase of the federal deficit and to begin the process to shrink it over the coming years.

Basic economics and common sense tells us that there is no free lunch. If we give someone something for free, we need to take it from someone else who has earned it. Our American system balances the individual's right to be successful with reasonable regulation that prevents harm to, or unfair advantages over, others. It is not based in ensuring that we all earn the same living or that our lives are full of entitlements to a wide variety of things simply because of our citizenship.

America is a successful country because we give each citizen the opportunity to live a life full of freedom and in pursuit of happiness as each person perceives it. We choose where we want to live, we chose what career we want to pursue, and we participate in the activities that we are interested in. This freedom is based in the basic principle that we as individuals have the right to work as hard as we choose to earn the standard of living that we desire and that what we earn is ours to do with as we decide.

The property that we own is ours to do with as we please within broad guidelines. The government gets their share through income, property, and sales taxes as well as a multitude of user fees and taxes hidden in the costs of living. The issue of how much the government should take from each of us as our share of the public cost is an issue that

impacts all. When a person becomes more successful, should we require them to pay a higher percentage of their income to support government? Should we punish those who achieve too much success? Should we punish those not yet born or not yet participating in the workforce and who can not vote for themselves, with a future of higher taxes to pay down the debt we incur for our personal benefit today? How will we define too much government benefit? There are no easy answers, but the debate on this American value must include every citizen not just a few outspoken organizations.

Ownership of property and the ability to earn and acquire wealth is one element of American liberty that is often ignored by the general media. People invest in large companies to prepare for everything from college to retirement. When large companies are demonized, often for political purposes, I question whether the writer or speaker is considering all the people who depend upon that company for their livelihood or for a portion of their income.

The Grange believes that every student should be taught civics and how our American liberties are connected with the basic premise of capitalism. If we do not educate students on America's guiding principles and how they relate to the real world, we will have an increasing number of uneducated voters making decisions with little understanding of the impact those decisions have on every member of society.

Conclusion

As we begin the 143rd year of activity and advocacy by the National Grange it is imperative that each Grange member invite their friends to come and be a part of an organization which seeks solutions to the great issues of the day. The challenges to our Nation are many, but as those members in our past pulled up their bootstraps and tackled the problems they faced, so we shall also emulate their actions and deal with the issues of today.

The Grange opens its doors wide to all who see value in our principles. We pledge to work with all other organizations who seek to find solutions to our problems. Our membership will continue to find ways to improve the communities they live in and to advance the values of our great nation.

Fraternally Submitted,

Edward L. Luttrell, National Master

**National Master's Internal Address
143rd Annual Convention
Grand Rapids, Michigan
November 17, 2009**

National Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters,

For the 6th time in 142 years, we meet in the state of Michigan. The first two sessions hosted by Michigan were in Lansing in 1887 and 1902 and the 1919, 1943, and 1958 sessions were in the beautiful city of Grand Rapids. I hope each member gets to experience the history that this city shares with the Grange.

I want to thank the members of the host region for their hospitality and the effort they've expended on our behalf. The host team that has assisted in so many ways is one of the reasons that we have started this Session so well this year.

2009 has been a year to remember for many reasons. We've had many successes and even more challenges. Pockets of growth are popping up in many states. I am seeing Grange leaders going back to basics and experiencing remarkable achievements. There is no magic solution, no instant fix, only the opportunities of growth that are created by people who are passionate about the Grange and work to share our principles throughout each community which we serve.

As we begin this Session we must remember that we are building the Grange of tomorrow with our effort and time. As I report on what has happened in the Grange today and what I hope will happen in the coming year, I challenge each delegate to keep in mind that the decisions of this Session will have a major impact on the Grange of tomorrow.

Name Protection

I never dreamed in November of 2007 that such a large percentage of my time, or the majority of the time of our Legislative Director, could be spent on protecting our Grange name. I did not anticipate two years ago that we could spend approximately \$600,000 in a two year period on the legal issues of protecting our trademarked Grange name. I also did not guess that this issue would do more to pull our organization together than any other issue.

In this past year two large global corporations discovered that our organization still had teeth and would fight for what was ours. Many small businesses and individuals have discovered or are discovering that we are still alive and aware of the value of our name. Four businesses decided that we would make a great partner and have chosen to negotiate a license to use our name under mutually agreeable terms since last November. Several more are currently in negotiation.

I wish to commend the staff for their hard work on this crucial issue. Leroy Watson has been our lead staff member on the legal defense side of our efforts. He has been an outstanding liaison with our trademark attorneys and has done more to educate your Executive Committee and our State Masters than any other person. Jennifer Dugent prepared a strong and aggressive media campaign that we implemented for less than two days before pulling it back due to negotiations which led to Tyson Foods acknowledging our ownership of the Grange name. Molly Thompson jumped into whatever task was given her and has performed in an outstanding fashion and two interns, Mark Scheuster, Bucknell University, and Tyler Mattera, St. Francis College contributed an exceptional amount of

help.

The support of our members has been wonderful to experience. While the financial side of this battle has been difficult to deal with, we have seen many members remember that we are a national organization and that together we do have significant strength. I truly want to thank every member and every Grange that has contributed time or money to aid in this struggle. The volunteer response from State and local Grange members in working on the Grange wine trademark issue and in the research on the use of Grange trademarks in commerce has been invaluable. We can not say thank you enough to all who have given so freely of their time and/or money.

I remain confident that the four point plan to address this issue will be successful and we will be able to reduce our financial outlays over the next year on trademark protection. The outline of the plan is as follows:

First, the delegates of the National Grange will have the second reading of a digest amendment that will codify what our trademark means within our rules and how we use it.

Second, we continue fighting every attempt to administratively take any portion of our trademarks and we will continue to demand that those we find using our name either cease and desist or become licensed to use it.

Third, we are proceeding to file on every subcategory possible under our trademarks to discourage businesses from trying to file for specific categories and forcing us to go through the administrative cycle, which can last for up to 18 to 24 months.

Fourth, we are submitting legislation to Congress to give us the same enhanced trademark protection that 37 other organizations have. When signed into law, this will be an effective tool to prevent deep-pocket entities from draining our resources by challenging our trademark in the administrative arena.

These four points are each important parts of our effort to reduce the expenditure of time and money we are spending and together will aid us to protect our Grange name and trademarks for the foreseeable future.

Finances

The National Grange finances have continued to be front and center in the minds of each of us who serve you on the Executive Committee. I am pleased that we have been able to expand our services to members and Granges while at the same time dealing with such a large legal expense. We have a balanced budget, but it does not provide as big a buffer as we would wish.

I believe that each member of the Board would prefer that at the end of each year we would be able to transfer money into the invested funds to prepare for a rainy day. However, the fact that it is pouring now and we are still financially stable speaks well of our predecessors and our current staff, officers, and members.

I would challenge every member of our Order to look at the financial state of every level of the Grange. We must find ways to increase our investment in ourselves. Leadership development and Grange growth are essential to our future and should not be the sole

responsibility of the National and State Granges. Pomona and Community Granges need to find ways to invest a small portion of their resources to aid officers and members to grow and develop within our organization. These will be our future State and National leaders and we need to invest in ourselves in order to develop a deep pool of leaders to draw from.

Internal Issues

There are a number of important issues and intriguing ideas that will be before the delegates during this session. In addition to these I would like to suggest that the Grange Law committee and delegates reflect upon two issues that will need to be addressed in the future.

We have moved away from being a secret organization. I remember Brother Tucker speaking of the “privileges of membership” many years ago. There are no secrets within our membership, but there are things that only members are to be given access to. I would suggest that we consider reviewing our degree and ritualistic work from the Junior to the Seventh degree and consider if there are substitute words for “secret” or if the word “secret” remains appropriate to our Order today.

Second I have been asked about members participating and voting during Grange meetings through the use of modern internet and telecommunication technology. I have reviewed our rules and believe that 4.7.1 would prohibit a member who was not present from voting even if they could effectively participate in any discussion.

I am sure that when this section was written that no member was imagining the technology we have today. I suggest that this issue deserves some serious thought as I do believe in the value of members engaging in discussion and debate before making a decision and it is obvious that today’s technology allows interaction between members in different geographic locations. Yet I also believe that modern technology can not replace the face to face meeting, but the question for you is “to what point should communication technology supplement or enhance the meeting?” We’ve proven some of this technology with committee meetings which meet under different rules, now how or should we modify our Grange meeting rules?

Growth of our Grange

If we truly wish to see the Grange grow, three leadership factors must be considered. Our leaders must have vision. Leadership must have the discipline to stay true to their vision. Lastly, leaders must turn ownership of the vision over to their teams and constantly be working to expand their teams.

Every Grange leader must have a vision for the future. Over the past 35 years I’ve heard a lot of different visions for the Grange. They ranged from “we’ll only lose a few members” to “if we can just hold our own” to “we are going to increase our membership this year.” Which statement inspires you? Which vision says we are going to grow?

What we say to others about our future sets the foundation for our planning, our implementation of those plans, and the effort we are willing to put into that plan. In this case, words mean something. I’ve been told you have to be realistic; no problem, I believe growth is realistic. I’ve been told it will be hard to do; OK, isn’t that normal for worthwhile things? I’ve been told we can’t do it alone; fine, let’s work together to achieve our goals.

It is time for every State Master, every State Grange Officer, every Pomona member, and each Community Grange officer to say to their fellow members in a loud clear voice,

“This is our year to achieve success! Will you join me?” If any officer in the Grange doesn’t believe in our future enough to say that “now is our time,” why are you serving in that position? Each of us needs to have a positive vision for our Grange. Without that vision, we have no hope. Without hope, there is no effort and no future. Each officer needs to be leading the Grange with vision, energy, and determination to succeed.

Grange growth requires discipline from our members and our leaders. We have to stay true to who we are as an organization, honest with the rules we operate within, and focused on the future we wish to create.

I ask each member to look at our organization and find those things that they are proud of. Change for change’s sake seldom fixes anything. Change to improve something requires you to look at the entire picture. You need to know what is already working and doesn’t need change, what isn’t working, and what the possible consequences are of a potential change. If you are going to be true to our organization, stand up and fight for those things you believe are working and are important. Suggest solutions for those things that are not. Most importantly, keep an open mind so that you can anticipate the consequences of potential changes with the input from your fellow members.

Everyone likes rules they agree with and few like rules they disagree with. Our challenge as members and leaders are to follow the rules of the Order to the best of our ability. Many problems exist today in the Grange because someone decided that certain rules did not really apply to them.

If our rules are not applied equally to all members, at all levels of the Grange, we forfeit these rules. Without the Constitution, By-Laws, and Code of the National Grange and the By-Laws of the State and Community Grange we have no structure and therefore no future. If a rule isn’t relevant anymore, use our process to amend the Digest or your By-Laws. Laziness, apathy, or ignorance is often blamed for rule breaking. Ask yourself, what would a traffic court judge say if you used that excuse for a traffic violation? Why then should a Grange leader accept or ever use such an excuse?

I ask that each Grange Master, at all levels, read our rules and then become a teacher. Not a strict disciplinarian, not a feared judge, but a valued instructor who empowers his members to work miracles within our rules.

Those members who desire to do things that are in violation of the Digest of Laws or their State By-Laws need to understand that your National Grange leadership and your State Grange leadership are charged with obeying and enforcing the rules as adopted by the delegates. I would hope no member would drag our organization into court or force us to initiate legal action to enforce the rules we operate within, but I assure all members that your leadership at the State and National level will do what is required of us.

Our society has become very litigious and it seems some of our members are willing to drag us outside our fraternal world rather than work to find solutions within our rules. If we as leaders fail to stand up for our rules and enforce them equally, we risk allowing judges, by deciding these suits, to rewrite our rules and By-Laws on a state by state or even county by county basis. At that point, we as State and National delegates would lose control over our own internal governance procedures to those who have no interest in our Order. In some of the legal issues we are facing, we are today reaping the results of actions, or lack thereof, from only a few years in the past.

Last November every State Master present made a public pledge in four areas. Nine States have exceeded at least one of their pledges. 13 States have met at least one of their pledges. The pledges that were not achieved have still benefited the States that have been working on them. I remain convinced that growth is ours for the taking. If we are willing

to work for it, we will achieve it. For a change of pace, I am doing something twice in a row. I am requesting that each Master make a public pledge for 2010. Last year every Master who put a zero on any of the four areas achieved that goal. Is that a goal you wish to repeat? Be realistic but be bold. Keep your goal achievable, but make sure it is inspiring and challenging to your members.

As each of you discovered, sometimes it is easy and sometimes it seems difficult to create opportunities for growth. I challenge each State Master to ensure that 2010 is the year that their state achieves success. Failure to set goals should become unacceptable in our Grange. Failure to work to achieve our vision of the future must be intolerable in every Grange. Failure to get back up and try again when we stumble should be unheard of. We must make the word “success” a crucial part of our Grange life. We succeed when we learn and grow, we succeed when we need to set new goals, we succeed when we must train new members how to become leaders, and we succeed when failure becomes only a temporary setback.

Each State Master faces difficult choices and decisions, sometimes almost on a daily basis. Each Master has earned the respect that those who sit in the hot seat of the Grange truly deserve. Cal Chase (Massachusetts) Beth Merrill (New Hampshire), Jack Smithers (Texas), and Randy Lewis (California) have all faced a number of serious challenges in the past two years as Masters of their respective State Granges. I single these four out not because they did the right things, but because they made hard and occasionally unpleasant decisions, that others have often chosen not to make, in order to do the right things. They have dealt with challenges that many Masters do not have to deal with, they have grown as leaders, and I am proud to call them partners and friends. I know other Masters have faced tough choices and have done great work, but I believe that these four have had great obstacles to face and each have shown the personal courage that great leaders must have. For this reason I have chosen to recognize them today as the type of leaders all Grange leaders should emulate.

National Grange has built programs that each State Grange may adapt to aid them in revitalizing their Community Granges, reorganizing the Granges that have become inactive, and to start new Granges. Rusty Hunt has done a fantastic job building the Membership/Leadership program and promoting the philosophy of teambuilding in the past two years. This year we will continue to build upon our efforts to teach Grange members how to create growth at the foundation of our Order, the Community Grange. In addition we will expand our training in the areas of team work and team building.

In Memoriam

Each year different chairs within our Order become empty. The members who filled those chairs are gone, but never forgotten. While we grieve for our loss of our friends and miss their counsel and guidance it should give us comfort that they are with the maker of our spirits.

We must remember that not only do we have precious memories of each of these members, but we carry their legacy with us in our Order. Their legacy is embedded in our structure, in our projects and activities, and most importantly, within each of us. These members left their mark on who we are and it is up to each of us to ensure that the legacy they’ve left us is continued into the future. A growing Order is the greatest memorial we can build for those whose work on earth is over.

Thanks

I want to recognize a number of people who have given so much of their time over the past year. Jimmy Gentry, Betsy Huber, Pete Pompper, Phil Prelli, and Marty Billquist have all been a tremendous strength to me and served our Order in an outstanding fashion. The officer team has exemplified excellence in all their duties. The staff of the National Grange have proven their abilities and demonstrated their many talents. They have earned my admiration and respect for their dedication and commitment.

I also want to thank the many members who sent me emails, called me, or wrote letters. I do appreciate these members who tell me what they think and see.

The most important person to me is my spouse of the past 29 years. Celia is my proofreader, my advisor, and friend and this position would be so much more difficult without her.

Conclusion

I've covered a lot of ground in this report. Our Order has a number of large challenges that we are facing. We also have so many positive things going for us and our members are expressing their optimism and support for our organization. I ask that each member take the time to read and reflect on this report. Take the positives back to your Grange and offer solutions to the problems through our process.

As the 143rd Session of the National Grange proceeds, let each delegate, officer, and member dedicate themselves to creating the Grange of tomorrow. The Grange of tomorrow will be an exciting place filled with ideas, energy, and great achievements. It will be a place filled with new members and new leaders working and learning in partnership with our long-time members. The Grange of tomorrow starts today, here in Michigan at the National Grange Session. Let every member join me in saying, "Today is our day!"

Fraternally Submitted,

Edward L. Luttrell, National Master

REPORTS OF THE STATE MASTERS**Alaska**

Since May 2008, once a month and sometimes twice monthly, organizational trips were made to the Kenai Peninsula (440 miles round trip). Our first success was October 2008 with the organization of Slikok Creek #12 in the Kenai/Soldotna area. Our second success was August 2009 with the organization of Homer #13. These successes would not have been possible without the help from Bob McFarland of California, Ted and Zula Bryan of Washington as well as Rusty Hunt, National Membership/Leadership Director, and Ed Luttrell, National Master.



Despite each of these new Granges having approximately 20 Charter Members each, our total state membership hovers around 100. Our quest for increased membership continues.

Community involvement remains strong. Homer Grange #13 is starting off at the get-go with an ambitious project of obtaining public transportation for the Homer area. As of their organizational meeting, they had located five, nearby mothballed buses in excellent condition, a potential bus barn, bio-diesel source and have partnered with existing 501(c)(3) organizations to obtain stimulus money for this project which is being held by the State of Alaska.

Our 2010 annual meeting will be Saturday, May 1 at Two Rivers, which will also be the 50th Anniversary of Two Rivers Grange #3. Because Alaska is new at being a State Grange, we've never held a 6th Degree and hope to do so on the evening of Friday, April 30, 2010. We enthusiastically invite you to attend our celebrations.

Fraternally Submitted,
Gaye Hunt, Master

California

My wife Wendy and I bring greetings from the Golden State. We're honored to be amongst you. But I must confess, as a new State Master, with so much to learn and so much to accomplish in California, we're more than a little homesick. Experience is the best teacher, we're told. So we are hoping you have much to teach us this week.

Like other states, in California we find ourselves cinching-up our belts. Not an easy thing to do, when you consider all those potlucks. When exploring ideas on how to best serve our members, we must ask ourselves, can we afford it?

In 2008, our members asked us to make our annual conventions more affordable and accessible. Last month, with a theme of "Back To Our Roots", our 137th convention was held at a community Grange. A committee of Grange members planned the meeting, housed all of our events, and even arranged with a high school culinary class to feed us lunch and dinner for three days at a cost of only \$60 per person. By keeping costs down, 60% of our 206 Granges were represented, with more Delegates in attendance than for the



last five years. And I am proud to say that this year our convention actually showed a profit.

Continuing with the theme, “Back to Our Roots,” this year our leadership promises accountability and transparency, fiscal responsibility, and will focus on growing membership and supporting our community Granges. It’s exciting to see so many of our talented volunteers coming forward to do their part.

This coming year, we will roll out our new “Ambassador Program”. California is a big state. Our Ambassador team will put more “boots on the ground”, building stronger partnerships with our community Granges. Our Ambassadors will have a somewhat different focus than our Deputies. Their primary goal will be to spread goodwill and assist Granges with membership growth and community programs.

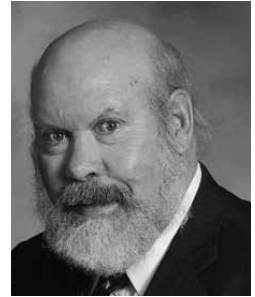
Like so many of you, in California we’ve suffered from a downward trend in membership that has plagued us for many years. In 2010, we will finally reverse that trend and report positive growth. For the past 10 years, we’ve closed 39 Granges. We simply refuse to close any more Granges. Instead, we will revitalize, re-organize, and start-up new Granges this year.

It will not be easy. It will require dedication, work, and faith. But we will do it. We’re Grangers like you. We take pride in our past. And there is promise in our future.

Fraternally Submitted,
Bob McFarland, Master

Colorado

2008-2009 year was an eventful year, marked with positives and some negatives. Spring brought the formation and training of teams to start new Granges and rejuvenate ones that are in the doldrums. Two of the two-person teams traveled to Nebraska for training with National Membership Director Rusty Hunt and the other team went to Idaho for training with Rusty. The teams have talked and counseled several Granges asking for guidance. An attempt has been made to start a new Grange, and the process is ongoing with little success to date. The area had a Grange many years ago and the community seems an appropriate place to start a Grange again. Different approaches will be tried to reach our goal and establish a Grange.



Deaf activities and the Mandy Project, which helps hearing impaired children, continue to impress under the steady hand of Cindy Greer. Twelve families have received monetary help with their children’s hearing deficiencies. Education about hearing problems by Cindy and her committee continue to generate donations for the program.

Subordinate and Pomona Granges around Colorado participate in the “Ag in the Classroom” program where materials are sent to elementary schools to explain what agriculture involves and the impact on our daily lives.

The Leadership/Scholarship Foundation awarded fourteen \$1,000 scholarships to Grangers and children and grandchildren of Grangers attending college or vocational school in Colorado.

Colorado Grange Museum continues to attract attention and is open for several events at the Plains Conservation Center and Grange events. July 9th saw a visit from 35 Grangers from Nebraska, visiting Colorado on a bus tour. The group was served lunch at Victory Grange in Aurora by Colorado State Grange officers, and their hosts at the museum were

Miles and Jeanne Davies, and curator Dorinda Dembroski.

Miles Davies, member of the Executive Committee of the Colorado State Grange, was inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame in March. Three Colorado Grangers received awards for 75 years of membership in Grange: LaVeta Tresize, of Loch Lomand Grange; Frank “Jimmie” Petticrew of Maple Grove Grange; and Grange Hagen of Homestead Grange. It was a very good year.

Fraternally Submitted,
John Hagen, Master

Connecticut

Marge and I are happy to extend greetings, from the Constitution State, to the officers and delegates of the 143rd. National Grange Convention. We look forward to working with our friends and meeting new ones in Grand Rapids Michigan.

Having just completed a very productive 125th annual session we are still in a working mode. Sister Beth Merrill, National Lady Assistant Steward, did an outstanding job as our National Representative. We enjoyed her fellowship and wisdom.

The Granges in Connecticut continue to do outstanding work in their communities although several are struggling with attendance issues. To rectify this several members of the state Grange have availed themselves of the opportunity to attend the Grange growth summits presented by the National Grange. These were very instructive and they returned home with an enthusiasm to improve our Granges. We now have a program in place and are conducting it in Granges.

We continue to work with the state Granges in our region through the Northeast Leaders Conference, the Northeast Lecturers Conference, and the Northeast Youth Conference. We find these meetings invaluable to the strong presence of the Grange in our region.

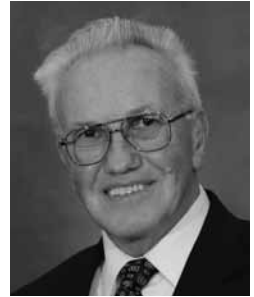
The State Grange in Connecticut continues its work with the Connecticut Farmland Trust and the Working Lands Alliance to preserve farmland in our state. Those of you who attended the Ag breakfast, at last year’s session, heard firsthand of the great job these organizations do and we are proud to be a partner with them.

We do our best to further the interests of education and agriculture. At our state session this year we gave three \$2,000.00 scholarships to Grange members attending college. We also gave an agriculture award for the farmer of the year and donations, from our Granges, to the FFA and the Heifer Project.

Our agriculture and legislative committees combined to present a fantastic program at the Ag day celebration at our state capital this year. I think we attract so many of the legislators to our booth because of all the homemade cookies we give out, but at least they know who we are and what our policies are.

In closing, I wish to thank the delegates and attendees of last year’s National Session for all the gracious comments I received at its conclusion. It was a combined effort of the Northeast Region and I am glad that you enjoyed it so much.

Fraternally Submitted,
Robert J. Sendewicz, Master



Delaware

Greetings from Delaware! Barb and I are privileged and honored to represent the Grangers of the “Blue Hen State” at the 143rd Session of the National Grange. We are pleased to report that Delaware had a gain of 22 new members this year, and have additional applications that are being processed.

This spring, agriculture started out on a positive note. Farmers had a majority of the fields planted, and then the rains came. Some had to do a second planting, and others were late getting some of their crops planted. Now that it is harvest time they are having a decent year, and the harvest is pretty much on time.

Delaware, as many states, is suffering from the loss of jobs. We have lost 2 major auto industries this year, and many of the banks and other businesses have been reducing their work forces. All of these losses have affected other local businesses.

At Delaware’s 132nd Session, we were honored to have Sister Betsy Huber as our National Representative. We were also honored to have Brother Pete Pompper, National Grange Executive Committee member and Master of New Jersey State Grange. We are fortunate that the Masters of Pennsylvania and New Jersey lived so close to Delaware and visit our State events. I feel very fortunate to have the two of them as friends. We try to meet on a regular basis and bounce ideas off of each other to find new ways to help all of our Granges grow. At this time, we are planning a Tri-State Grange Growth Summit to be held in February, 2010.

Each January, the Delaware State Grange officers hold a planning meeting to set the dates and plan the activities for the year. Since our State Session is held the first Friday and Saturday in December this gives some of the new officers and Committee Chairs some time to do some planning.

In February, Barb and I attended the National Masters Conference in Bentonville, Arkansas. The workshops we attended Friday night and Saturday were very good and we put our learning to use Saturday afternoon. We were broken out into teams, and went into several different towns to try to locate Granges in the area and to recruit new members. The National Membership/Leadership Director, Rusty Hunt, had done some preliminary scouting. We talked to people in local stores and restaurants and put up flyers. We took with us a feeling of accomplishment and learning tools that we were able to take back to our states to help us gain new members and to revitalize current members.

We held our annual Scholarship banquet in April. During this event we present two scholarships to students at Delaware State University and two to the University of Delaware in Agriculture and in Home Economics. We also have a Grange Scholarship that is awarded to a Grange member who has been a member for at 2 years and is entering their second year of college.

The University of Delaware Cooperative Extensive Service hosted an event in May called “A Day on the Farm.” This year it was held on a Dairy Farm where the milk is used to make homemade ice cream and sold at the farm. They do a fantastic business there. The State Grange sets up our display and hands out Grange pamphlets and talks to the local people about what the Grange is. We cook scrapple sandwiches for people to try and only ask for a donation. This year we gained two new energetic, enthusiastic members from this event.



In July, the Delaware State Grange holds our only fundraiser event for the year. We prepare and sell chicken and ham platters, hamburgers and hot dogs at our Food Booth at The Delaware State Fair in Harrington, Delaware. Our members, along with members of 4H and FFA, help us prepare and serve our platters which consist of ¼ of a chicken, homemade potato salad, fresh corn on the cob, sliced tomato, and roll and butter. This is a big challenge since everything is prepared fresh each morning. We prepare 450 lbs. of potato salad, 25 to 35 crates of corn; cook about 1000 pounds of chicken each day, in addition to ham, hot dogs and hamburgers. Without the help of our dedicated Grange members, the FFA, and the 4H, this would not be possible. While sales and profit were down some this year, we made enough to meet our usual expenses.

Barb and I attended the Eastern Region Grange Growth Summit in Wytheville, VA in September and built upon our learning from the Masters' Conference. After our workshops Friday night and Saturday morning, we broke into three groups. Two of the groups visited existing Granges to help them to re-vitalize. The other group planned to meet with people to try to organize a new Grange. After that weekend the Masters from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware decided to hold our own Grange Growth summit with Membership/Leadership Director, Rusty Hunt's blessing. We are planning the event now and will be holding it in February 2010.

Although we have not met our promise to the National Master's challenge for creating, re-organizing and re-vitalizing new Granges in our state, we are on our way to meeting them. With the new applications we have received, we hope to be re-vitalizing two Granges in the near future and are working on creating a new Grange. Persistence and the right learning tools eventually pay off. We're not giving up!

I also want to thank the National Grange delegates for electing me to serve as National Gate Keeper for the last two years. It has truly been an honor.

Fraternally Submitted,
William "Chip" H. Narvel Jr., Master

Florida

It is a great honor that I bring you greetings from the state of Florida at this 143rd National Grange Convention.

Florida had a very successful Leadership Conference in February with Rusty Hunt in attendance.

I am looking forward to my fourth State Session as Master of the Florida State Grange in Altamonte Springs in January 2010.

Our priority this year was to get new members. We had a Core Committee that worked very hard helping our Granges and we gained a new Grange. The new Grange is Strawberry Ridge #214 and they are doing well and gaining more members. We would like to try to gain one every year!

We are continuing our project to make baby hats and baby blankets for our area hospitals. A great number of our Grangers do volunteering to help our communities such as hospitals, soup kitchens, senior centers, schools etc. Some of our Granges have participated in the Dictionary Program.

Florida still remains one of the leading agricultural states, and there are about 40,000



farmers who produce more than 250 different crops. Florida produces a large amount of the following products such as oranges, grapefruit, snap beans, tangerines, sugarcane for sugar and seed, tomatoes, bell peppers, cucumbers and watermelons. The orange crops are going to be less this year due to a late freeze last spring when the buds were out.

Due to the economy crisis the tourist industry has dropped this year and new housing has slowed down and many homes are being foreclosed on or up for sale. Unemployment is way up, restaurants, small factories are closing all over Florida.

Remember whenever you come to visit the Sunshine State, we would love to have visitors anytime at our Grange meetings.

I join with the other Delegates in expressing my appreciation to the States of the Midwest Region Granges' for hosting the 143rd National Convention.

Fraternally Submitted,
Ruth G. Gray, Master

Idaho

Greetings from the great state of Idaho! We have just completed our first state session as Master and First Lady of Idaho. It was such a pleasure to have National Secretary Henrietta Keller and her spouse, Norman, as our representatives from National Grange. They were a tremendous help and support throughout the session.

After getting settled in Meridian in December we were excited to have the opportunity to get better acquainted with the grangers in southern Idaho as we attended their meetings and activities. During the year we visited 18 different Granges throughout the state. We are currently working with our deputies to identify and schedule granges that need revitalization programs.

One of our first projects after we got settled was to upgrade the internet system in the office to a high-speed system.

In February we attended our first Master's Conference. Since neither of us had been in Arkansas before it was certainly a learning experience. We have tried to put to good use what we learned during this conference.

In March we were privileged to host the Grange Growth Summit in Coeur d'Alene with an attendance of 64 people. Grangers from Washington, Oregon, Montana, Colorado and Idaho attended. As a result of the Grange Growth Program we have reorganized one grange, revitalized two granges and are currently in the process of bringing this program to the southwestern part of Idaho.

During the month of June we attended our Grange Family/Jr. Camp at Farragut State Park.

The Western Regional Youth Conference in Montana was attended by ten grangers from Idaho. One of the highlights was the raft trip in Glacier National Park. It was a good time of fellowship and getting to know everyone that attended.

Splitting our time between northern and southern Idaho this year seemed to work very well. It gave our granges good representation at both ends of the state and brought us closer together. We appreciate Overseer Don Johnson's willingness to take such an active



part in covering the responsibilities of the state office while we are up north.

We are planning on having regional conferences and another Grange Growth Summit this coming year. Revitalization will remain a top priority in our state for the coming year.

We, again, look forward to seeing all the State Masters and their spouses in Michigan at National Grange Convention.

Fraternally Submitted,
Donald Billmire, Master

Illinois

We changed the name of our previously annual Educational Conference to Grange Resource and Information Training (GRIT). The change was made as some members believed that they did not need any education but that the use of the word “training” might be more appealing. GRIT was held in the southern area of the State—attendance was up a little from previous years. In the future, GRIT will alternate from being held in one area of the State one year and in both the northern and southern areas the next year.

Our 138th Annual State Convention was held in Rochelle, IL with Beth Merrill as our National Delegate. The Convention was preceded with an outstanding and most informative tour of a local grain elevator and livestock feed processing plant. The membership Department held a workshop on membership and Beth led a workshop on Leadership with emphasis on what she had learned from working with horses. Both workshops were held as part of the Session. The delegates voted to change the name of the Family Homemaking Products Dept. to a more meaningful name of Family Activities.

We again had a booth at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield. One new member has been obtained as a result of our booth. As in the past, we were one of the sponsors of the Farm Family Day at the Fair. Norman and Henrietta Keller were honored as one of the five outstanding families in Illinois during Farm Family Day.

We awarded college scholarships to eight of our youth members.

A couple of years ago, we established a Hall Improvement Fund to encourage Granges that owned their meeting places to keep them in good repair. The Fund is financed from our Closed Hall Account. A Grange is eligible for up to \$5000 in one-to-one matching funds once the improvement project is approved by our Executive Committee and the project is completed. This year the Grant was provided to two Granges for replacing the roofs on their meeting places. Another application for the Grant is pending.

As usual our Youth were very busy attending Spring Fling, Midwest and having a summer camp at our Youth Director’s family farm. Their Sunday morning drill and opening of the Sunday Session of the Convention was absolutely Tops! Membership continues to be of great emphasis. After having a significant net gain (according to our figures, but not recognized by the National Membership Director) in the 2007-2008 membership year, we experienced a loss of 19 members this past year.

Our Legislative Department participated in the Illinois Agricultural Association’s annual Ag Day at our Capitol. Each year this provides us a readily available access to a large number of our State Legislators where we are especially involved with advocating



for funding of the Illinois Council on Food and Agriculture Research (CFAR), University of Illinois Extension and Soil and Water Conservation.

As the State Grange, we donated \$1500 to the Tyson Fund. A number of Community Granges made donations from \$500 from one Grange and \$400 from a Pomona Grange to smaller amounts in accordance with their availability of funds.

Almost all of our Community Granges participated in the Dictionary Project.

Fraternally Submitted,

David Donley, Immediate Past Master

Indiana

Lucille and I bring greetings from Indiana. We are delighted to be a part of the Mid-West Host States for the 143rd annual National Grange Convention!

We had a successful 139th annual session of the Indiana State Grange. Many thanks to National for sending Kim and Dan Bascom as National Representatives. We sure enjoyed their comments and enthusiasm. They made new friends here in Indiana.

Lucille and I attended Mid-West Leaders Conference at Elkhorn, Wisconsin and led workshops for our State, since our Lecturer could not attend. We attended our state meeting and our state picnic. Pat, Steve and Jeff Plank, and Lucille and I attended the Grange Growth Summit in Dubuque, Iowa. Steve, Pat, Lucille and I also attended the 2nd annual Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Ride hosted by Norm and Henrietta Keller.

The local granges near Norm and Henrietta provided a carry in supper, which we all enjoyed.

Recently, we attended Michigan State Grange's session for the 10th year in a row. We had a great time relaxing and renewing friendships with our Michigan friends.

Lucille will be Director of the Home and Family Arts building at the Elkhart County Fair in 2010. She keeps very busy for the 2 weeks of our fair, checking in projects, Making a list of the placing in the dairy shows and also paying out the premium money.

Indiana had 2 granges with a net gain in membership and I challenged the members each to get at least one new member. If they would, our membership would double.

Lucille and I wish each State Grange a successful year and growth in membership. Words cannot express the fun and fellowship we receive from our Grange family.

Fraternally Submitted,

Gordon Groves, Master

Iowa

It is with great pleasure that Kathy and I bring greetings from the members of the Iowa State Grange at this 143rd Annual Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We thank the Midwest Region State Granges for hosting this National Grange Session.

The 140th Session of the Iowa State Grange was held in Manchester, Iowa this year



with Delaware Pomona as our hosts. We were honored to have the National Executive Committee member Phil Prelli and Maureen at our session.

I wish to thank the Officers and Delegates of the Iowa State Grange for their Dedication in making our session a productive one. Our State Lecturer was busy with programs in the state this year. She and her committee worked hard to put together a new cookbook of favorite Iowa family recipes.

The Legislative Director worked to keep us all informed on what is going on in the government locally and Nationally during the year.

Our Youth and Junior Department had a great camp with 30 campers in attendance. They had activities with swimming, crafts and a morning of ritualism. The Youth and Juniors served two Breakfasts at the Grange Camp to earn money to support their activities. Our State Youth Director is also President of the National Grow Club and has been very busy planning the activities for the Youth at the National Session.

Once again the Iowa State Grange sponsored the Iowa State FFA Creed Speaking Contest at their State Convention. Contributions were received from the Granges to help with the cost.

While membership continues to be a problem for Iowa we need to work on retaining old members and getting new one. WE REORGANIZED THE FIRST GRANGE IN IOWA THIS YEAR IN OVER 60 YEARS. We are so proud of this grange. It just took one person with a spark to get them started again. We have the Hopes of reorganizing a second in the next year. I have confidence that good things are going to happen in the coming year.

Iowa was the host for the Growth Summit in the Mid West and we had a great crowd in attendance. There were 11 in attendance from Iowa. Other States in attendance were from Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Florida, and Connecticut for a total of 39. We hope to put together a couple teams to work on membership.

It has been a very trying year in Iowa this year. We have had above normal rainfall and very cool temperatures, which has delayed harvest. But we will persevere and the crops will be harvested.

Once again I extend our thanks to the Midwest Region for hosting this Annual Session of the National Grange. We appreciate the work that goes into this convention.

Fraternally Submitted
Dwight Baldwin, Master



Kansas

The members of the Kansas State Grange send our sincere thanks to the Midwest Grange States and their members for hosting the 143rd National Grange Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We also congratulate the seven states of the "Northeast Connection" who did a wonderful job of hosting the 142nd National Convention in Connecticut in 2008. They were very accommodating to all who were in attendance.

In February, Melanie and I attended the State Masters Conference in Bentonville, Arkansas. It was at this conference that we learned that Tyson and the National Grange were finally in negotiations over the Grange trademark. A few weeks later the Tyson

ordeal was resolved when Tyson withdrew it's filing to register and trademark the term "Grange and Grassland".



The main topic at the Masters Conference however was Grange Growth. At the National Convention last year the National Master asked each State Master to set membership goals for the upcoming year. After much pondering and thought I hesitatingly wrote down the following: Kansas would organize two new Granges, reorganize three Granges, revitalize five Granges and organize/reorganize one Junior Grange. Sadly, these goals were not accomplished this year. In fact two Granges actually decided to close. It is times like these, which can discourage even the most faithful of members. One thing that helps get me through is remembering the charge in the Masters installation from the many times that I have installed officers in this organization ... "you may encounter difficulties, overcome them, remembering that difficulties are but opportunities to test our abilities". . Recently I spoke with the National Master about the loss of two Granges and the apathy from some members over the loss. He asked me to think about the Kansas State Grange and if I felt we were going in the wrong direction and to get back with him. I replied; I don't have to think about it, I know we are. We have members in this organization that preach doom and gloom and would rather not try to get new members, would rather just keep saying, "Well, that's the way we have always done it." He assured me that as a State Master I was not alone. Each state has members just like that.

Members, I challenge you to tune in to the needs of your community, open your doors to new events, find a project to benefit both you and your community and get everyone involved. Be proud of your Grange. This could be the year of many positive changes—what better time to encourage those around you to make the change and join the Grange. Our new Youth and Young Adult Directors have found a way to work around the "I haven't got time" menace. They planned a Community Service project that each Youth could participate in without leaving their own community. Each youth was asked to participate in their home region Relay for Life event. This allowed many more youth to participate in community service that might not have had the opportunity otherwise. I am proud to announce that for the first time in many years that Kansas has a Youth Ambassador attending the National Grange Convention.

In August there were about twenty in attendance for a potluck picnic lunch hosted by our state Junior Director. After the picnic, those in attendance walked through a rose garden, and then we walked to a carousel where several rode on the restored merry-go-round and then finished up as a group by a ride on the Gage Park train. This is the form of family activities that many people in today's society are looking for. Something for every one of all ages, low cost entertainment for families on a tight budget (\$1.00 for the train and \$0.75 for the carousel), good social interaction with friends and families. It reminded me of the picnics and events many Granges held when I was growing up. This was a fun event, which I hope will become an annual part of the Kansas Grange calendar.

In closing, I will recommit to the growth pledge from last years National Grange Convention. And to help achieve these goals I have spoken with Rusty Hunt about Kansas hosting a Grange Growth Summit for 2010. We are still in the planning stages but it is projected to be sometime in April.

Fraternally Submitted,
Roger Bostwick, Master

Maine

The 136th annual session was in the capital city of Augusta. This was very convenient as our State Grange Headquarters was only about a mile from the convention site. We were pleased to have with us Brother Jay Pfeiffer as our National Rep.



I bring you greetings from the Pine Tree State. As usual our members have kept very busy with participation in many activities. Several of our members attended the North East Leaders' Conference in Massachusetts and North East Lecturers' Conference hosted by Rhode Island. Many of us worked at the New England Grange Building during the seventeen days of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts, as well doing the preparatory work throughout the year. Many members have manned membership booths at various agricultural fairs in Maine and spent many hours preparing and displaying domestic and agricultural booths at the fairs. Countless hours have been spent on community service projects. The Dictionary Project continues to be very popular.

A number of successful degree days have been held throughout most of the state with several candidates becoming members, and many who have been obligated, observing the degrees. More degree days will be planned following this National session.

And last, but by no means least, I am extremely pleased to announce that we are in the process of reorganizing a Subordinate Grange. One meeting was held at the end of October with eighteen members. The charter was held open until a meeting in November when more wish to join. We look forward to seeing this Grange grow and hope that we will be able to organize more Granges this coming year.

Fraternally Submitted,
James A. Owens, Master

Maryland

Sister Donna and I extend Greetings from Maryland to all who are a part of the 2009 National Convention.

We, in Maryland, have just concluded our 135th Annual Convention with many encouraging signs of progress. First of all, we had nine entries in the Community Involvement competition. That is the most we have had in quite a long time. That is a great compliment to Community Involvement Director, Sister Kay Summers. Another positive sign was the number of resolutions that were presented to the delegate body for action. Agriculture, Legislative and Health topped our Agenda.



We were honored to have as our guests, Brother Roger Bostwick, National Grange Assistant Steward, and Sister Melanie Bostwick, First Lady of Kansas State Grange. They proved to be a treasure to all who met them and an asset to our Session.

I am happy to report that we had a net gain in membership for the second year in a row. What makes this even more encouraging is the fact that we have had people fill out cards expressing an interest in joining or learning more about the Grange at the State Fair.

We had two members attend the Membership Growth Summit in Wytheville, Virginia. We will receive a full report of the results at Leader's Conference and proceed from there. They were both impressed by the meeting.

This past year we started our "Pennies Make Sense" campaign to help raise funds for the co-hosting of National Grange Convention 2010. The "Coveted Copper Award" this year went to Linganore Grange. We will continue collecting pennies until State Session 2010.

We had several Granges contribute to the Tyson trademark infringement legal fees. Even though Tyson withdrew, we still have Granges contributing to the Trademark Defense Fund.

Words for Thirds is a continuing and expanding project. For the investment, you get far better returns than the stock market.

This past year, at the suggestion of Sister Donna Wiles, we held a "Back to Grange Night". We invited former members with the hope that as they communicated with their former associates they would rejoin. What a wonderful idea and what a turnout! Well, guess what? Not one former member appeared.

However, we had a terrific meal and great fellowship with those who came with high hopes. Will we try it again? I certainly hope so!

We continue to support 4-H and FFA. We also contributed monies to state winning Dairy and Beef Judging teams to ease their financial burden when traveling to International Competition.

We continue with our Night of Excellence, which allows anyone with one talent or anyone with one-half talent to "strut their stuff". It is a fun evening and everyone is a winner.

We in Maryland have not yet set the Grange on fire, however, I'm starting to see flames coming from the embers.

Fraternally Submitted,
Maurice L Wiles, Master

Massachusetts

"The Massachusetts State Grange is a pre-eminent rural grass roots organization supporting and improving our local communities." So says the citation read at the Ag Day at the State House. Our Fairs have carried on and it is very gratifying to hear that the Ag exhibits at a Grange fair are better than at a much larger commercial fair.

Our Grow Grange teams have been of limited success this last year. Team requests were disappointing with only two requests. The first request resulted in a Grange merger rather than a closure. Our Grow Grange teams will continue to be available this coming year.

The Mass State Grange has been unaware that we are entitled to a seat on the State Commission for Soil, Water and Related Resources by act of the Legislature. Having been notified by the Secretary of State, I have been nominated by the Executive Committee to fill this seat.

Our Foster Care program is an outstanding project. We are supplying needed items,



including diapers, care kits, clothing and food cards to local DFS offices for the children coming into the system. When we started this program four years ago, the question was raised about this being a continuing program. I view it as nearing a signature program and involves local and Pomona Granges. I was cited by the Div. of Family Services for creating and supporting this project.

The dictionary project is also a project that has great impact upon the local communities. This is a program that can be financed by the Grange outright or the Grange can solicit monetary help from the community. Either one is a good thing for Grange visibility and Grange community involvement.

The State Grange News is going electronic as of January 1, 2010, by vote of the Executive Committee. The electronic State Grange News will be posted the first day of the month of issue. It will be available to anyone who can access our website at www.massgrange.org.

I want to commend Br. Randy Vail, our State Secretary and Sister Brenda Chamberlain, our CORI/SORI coordinator, for doing an excellent job in this area. Br. Randy, working closely with Sister Chamberlain, has presented to the Executive Committee a revised Youth Protection policy that has been adopted. It includes timely revisions and policies that have now become clearer after working with the process for a few years.

I am proud of our State Grange and equally proud of what we have accomplished in the last four years. We are gaining recognition as the go to organization in rural Massachusetts as emphasized at Ag Day at the State House. We have accomplished so much with Foster Care that they are now coming to us for specific help and getting it.

Fraternally Submitted,
Calvin Chase, Master

Michigan

Welcome to the 136th Annual Session of the Michigan State Grange. I would especially like to welcome Brother Marty Billquist of the National Grange Executive Committee to our convention.

This last year at our State Grange Convention the delegate body voted and elected me to this position. I thank you all for your support and confidence you have bestowed in me. This year has been a learning process and an exciting adventure.

Shortly following the convention in Grayling we were making plans to fly to Cromwell Connecticut for the National Grange Convention. I knew when we decided to fly that it was going to truly be a trip as my wife gets motion sickness and Dramamine was not very helpful.

We were very excited to be at another National Grange Convention only this time in an entirely different kind of way. When we arrived at the hotel we were greeted by Melanie Bostwick, who is the wife of the National Grange Assistant Steward and a friend we had met over the years attending Regional Youth conferences. It was nice to see someone you already knew. Then we found Pete Pompper who we had the pleasure to meet when he was the representative at our convention a month earlier. Then it wasn't long and it seemed like we knew everybody and their histories.

The National Session from the prospective that I know is truly amazing. When we



received our resolution packet my first thought was how are we every going to get through all of this. Then by Friday night when they held up the start of the evening of excellence so that we could finish resolution and close I understood it a whole lot better. The full circle of the resolution process is really quite an enjoyable thing to see. I hope that since we are hosting the National Grange Convention next month many of you will be able to sit in on some of the session and see the business workings of the National Grange.

In February I was on a plane again this time by myself on my way to Arkansas for the Annual Masters Conference. There were a few factors that allowed the National Master to decide on Arkansas. The major reason being it is the home of Tyson Foods International. Another reason was that the National Master Ed Luttrell and National Leadership/Membership Director Rusty Hunt are in a serious push for the revitalization and organization of community Granges across the country. In 1992 Arkansas lost their State Grange due to a loss in community Granges. While we were there we had a bit of education on the Grange Growth Summit. We were then sent out into the state to put our newfound education to use. We found, I believe, to be more than what they were anticipating. There are apparently still some Granges actively working in Arkansas without National Grange knowledge.

At the National Grange convention last November all State Masters were asked to Sign our name under our State and pledge to open so many new Granges, Junior Granges, re-organize Granges, and revitalize Granges. I pledged to open 1 new Junior Grange, Revitalize 1 Grange, re-organize 2 Granges, and organize 1 new Grange. Surprisingly there are not enough hours in a day or days in a year.

Brother Rich Hazen Membership Director of the Michigan State Grange, Sister Stacey Bower Junior Director of the Michigan State Grange and I visited Leonidas Grange in December and at least one of us was there through May. The members that would actually come to a meeting were excited about keeping the Grange going. Plans were made to have a teen dance. A decent turn out was present though not enough people to cover the costs of the DJ. The members later planned a pork dinner again not enough people showed to cover the costs. Leonidas Grange is still going and still needs a lot of support and ideas to make a full turn around. I wish to thank Brother Michael Langworthy Master of Leonidas Grange for his continued support and his drive to keep the Grange going.

I have not been able to put the effort into organizing or re-organizing the Grange's that I would have liked to. But I have two jobs and a responsibility to my family that I must keep. I work my other job at Meijer Distribution Center in Lansing five days a week, some weeks. It is a part time job but it is also a 40 hour a week job. The members of the management staff have been very accommodating in letting me have time off when I need it. I could not do this job without their support as well as yours and my families.

I have also visited a Grange in Ionia County that many of you who have been a around for a while might remember hearing about. Banner Grange contacted me last January about their desire to close. I contacted the Master at Banner Grange and asked him what he knew about it; his response was that he was waiting for this phone call. We decided that we should get together with all of the members and discuss this further, and maybe when it was a little warmer. I had gotten busy with other projects and so had he; we were finally able to get together in August. I informed their members that at their next meeting they would have to vote at the following meeting to close. The Master was very reluctant to give in that easily. I told him that if he could get 13 people willing to join or to stay on then I would be able to keep them going, if not then I would have to pull their charter. The next meeting was set for September 17th and again Brother Rich was going to be there with me.

I was truly impressed when I pulled into the Masters driveway and didn't go far because of all of the cars already in the drive. After some needed discussion about the Grange and a little history from the only man still alive that helped to build their hall I gave the obligation to 17 new members. This is a 106% increase in membership for this Grange. Since that night I have received a notice of the intent to drop from 11 of their original members. In away I am saddened that we have to loose this many members at once, on the other hand if they wanted to close they could stay on and make this Grange a failure. This way they can go on about their business and let this Grange prosper. My sincere thanks to Brother Donald Heppe Master of Banner Grange and to his Sister Donna for all of their hard work and dedication to keeping this Grange alive, based on a promise they made to their father before he died last year that they would do everything they could to keep it going. Brother Rich and I are going back to Banner on Monday evening for their next meeting where we will elect officers and maybe install them.

My pledge to organize a Junior Grange was probably the easiest. I received a phone call from Sister Sharon Strebbsing stating that Plymouth Westland Grange wanted to get their Junior Grange going. I would like to think that every Grange could do the same thing. Sister Sharon thank you for all your hard work at Plymouth Westland Grange, It really is worth it.

National Grange Convention 2009 is just around the corner literally, it seems like it has been eons in the coming, now only 5 weeks away. The members of this great organization from all across the country will flock to Grand Rapids for the first time in 51 years and for only the 6th time in the history of the National Grange. I hope that everybody has their rooms reserved and arrangements made.

During this past year every Grange in the country was asked to donate \$1 per member, which they called the National Grange assessment. The intent of this is to raise enough money over the next few years so that the cost of hosting for each individual region will not be as expensive as it currently is. The money collected will go into an interest bearing account with the National Grange and only the interest earned every year will go to the host region.

Also, this last year a plea letter was sent asking for donations to help with the National Grange name protection legal fees. At the time of the letter Tyson Foods International was the main focal point. Tyson later withdrew their request for the "Grange" name. However since then the National Grange has talked with and succeeded in stopping several smaller companies from their infringement as well. Here in Michigan we are no different, we also have companies that are using our name. One that the National Grange is dealing with currently is Aldi Foods the discount grocery store. Another that is actively being taken care of by the National Grange team of trademark lawyers is "The Grange Kitchen and Bar" in Ann Arbor. This is a restaurant that is specializing in farm to table service with nothing being served that is not from within a hundred miles of the restaurant. I have discussed this with National Master Ed Luttrell and he assures me that it will be dealt with in a timely fashion. I have given him the support of the Grangers in Michigan and assured him that we will do nothing to possibly harm the outcome of the legal action.

Last year the delegate body voted to end the operations of the Michigan State Grange Headquarters as the central office. In April this was implemented. As of the first full week of April the Michigan State Grange Headquarters was closed. On a bright sunny Tuesday, members from across the state came to the office building. A lot of cleaning was done and a lot of the furniture that was to be kept was hauled to either the Secretary or the Masters home. Then, in August, a dumpster was brought in and the officers that had shown up for

the officers meeting filled the dumpster with items from the basement that were beyond saving, and things that just needed to be thrown out. The Michigan State Grange has rented a 10x20 storage shed in Haslett where the session items and things that have yet to be sorted are being stored. The work of the Elected Secretary is being done from her home and the work of the Master is being done from my home. There was a bylaw change that took place last year that gave the Treasurer's duties back to the elected Treasurer in place of the hired Secretary, this has not happened yet and will not until the books are completely straight. At the end of the convention last year the Executive Committee voted to hire a CPA to audit and straighten out our books so as to make the financial reports more easily comprehensible. In doing this we ran into a few little problems and since we are still in the process of getting all of them corrected, we felt this would be better to have all the bugs worked out before attempting to train a third person on how the books are set up and then changing them. After the Executive committee meeting that we had yesterday we are a whole lot closer to making this final transition. I want to thank each and every one of you that have helped in making this transition, from one State Master to another, and from one central location to many, an easy and exciting transition.

Fundraising—This is the one way we can help to increase income to the Michigan State Grange without having to raise our dues. Should we find a fundraiser that would be sufficient in bringing in a substantial amount of income then I could foresee lowering dues in the future. With not having the headquarters expenses this year that we have had in the past, mainly the Secretary's salary, we have been doing well since June as far as transferring money from the invested funds. We will be, before this week is out, right here on the floor discussing methods of fundraising that is legal, first, and then profitable next. After all, you are the ones that come every year and you are the ones that are passionate about keeping this Grange alive. So let's make it up to us and not just Kathryn Strouse and her committee. These ideas need to come from everybody. We need to have projects that are fun for everyone and not just the few that do everything. Kathryn, I feel you have done a wonderful job and I know that you are ready and willing to move forward with the next project shortly after this one is over. Thank you, Kathryn.

Membership – As I mentioned earlier about Banner Grange, Brother Rich and I are excited about this Grange. We are ready to go to their next meeting and we will help them to understand what there is they need to know about being a Grange. We will be implementing a plan for all State Officers to visit at least 3 Granges this next year. My plan for this is to get in touch with the Granges like Banner that we never hear from. Yes this means that several Granges will get visited more than once by different officers. Also, the officers will not be visiting Granges in their county if at all possible. I realize that for some of you this means you may have to travel a little ways. But the membership can only grow if we let the Granges that are either unable to attend the different conferences know what happened at them, and about all the different perks the Grange has to offer. We did not have a net gain in membership this year as we did last, however we are headed in the right direction this year. Remember we are already half way through the membership year that ends June 30, 2010, together we will make this organization grow.

Juniors – This year's camp was held at Colon Grange and yes I did sleep on the air mattress the whole weekend. I have decided that I am too old to sleep on hardwood floors for more than five minutes. We had a wonderful weekend. The temperature was as hot as hot could be and there are ceiling fans at the Colon Grange hall that were great if you were under them. That is until it came time for lights out, then lo and behold the fans go out as well. The two box fans were nice to have from what I hear, they were on the other side of

the hall from where I happened to be located. The hall was full upstairs with bodies when it came time for bed. This was great to see, I have to thank the members of Colon Grange for their hospitality and to Stacey and her helpers; we had a blast. Thank you.

Youth—Well the Youth and Young Adults had their camp at the same time as the Juniors which really works out great. However, there is this one little thing missing from the Youth Department and that is a Director. I am still in need of a new director. The last Directors we had, one said to me that he was too busy, and the other said that she was ready to enjoy the rights of being a camper now. My reply to my wife was I understand. In June my wife and I drove down to Indiana for the Mid-West regional camp. Along with us was Allison Driskell, the current Michigan State Grange Female Youth Ambassador who will be representing Michigan at National Grange as a Horizon Leadership Award winner. Allison is the granddaughter of Michigan State Grange Lecturer Sharon Popler, and she will be joining us later this week.

I thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your State Grange Master. I must remind you that this organization does not run just by me doing my job, but also by everyone of us not only doing what is best for the Grange just down the road but also for the Michigan State Grange and for the National Grange. Together we can and will build this Great organization to be the organization that everybody wants to belong to. Thank you once again for all your hard work in the Grange and your support of me as your State Grange Master.

Fraternally Submitted,
Christopher D. Johnston, Master

Minnesota

Greetings to all the officers and delegates of the National Grange. This has been a whirlwind of a year. In January, we had the pleasure of a visit from Worthy National Master, Ed Luttrell, when he came to Minnesota to install me as the new State Master. It was a real honor to have him here to do the instillation. We quickly put him to work cleaning and repairing windows that had been broken in a hail storm at the Kelley Farm, as Sunbeam Grange was there working on a community service project that day. He dug right in and had a great time.

Our members participated in two regional conferences this year. May found 3 of our Grangers driving to Wisconsin to participate in the Great Lakes Leadership Conference. They reported that it was a good conference and would like more members to attend the next one. And June found 6 other members driving to Iowa for the Grange Growth Summit in Dubuque. This conference was also very good and we learned a lot about getting new members. Randy Hunt took us out of our comfort zone and taught us some new skills.

Our State Grange Picnic was held at the Kelley Farm in June. We had our picnic lunch in the Grange Room of the historic house. It has been many years since we have eaten in the house and was fun watching all the visitors through the parlor window. There was a wedding at the Kelley Farm that day and the bridal party was walking around in their tuxes and long dresses taking pictures. I wonder if Oliver Kelley ever ate in the parlor.



Our Membership Director, Ann Bercher and I have been helping one of our Granges revitalize their membership. It was easier than I anticipated as they had all the leg work done and all we did was ask them to join. They have added 5 new members just this summer and fall. We will continue to work on some of the other granges in the state. It will take time but we will get there.

This has been a year of many emotions for me. It started out being scary, but quickly moved to challenging, exciting, and interesting. I look forward to my continued work with all the Minnesota Grangers and want to thank them for their patience and understanding they have given me during this time. And I also want to thank all the National Grange officers and delegates for their support they have given to me in my first year of being Master of the MN State Grange.

Fraternally Submitted
Donna Champion, Master

Montana

Greetings from Montana. Our Grange year has not had the successes that I, as the State Master, had promised or hoped for. We have had some mild successes and some disappointments. Most of our Granges continue to grow in membership but wane in participation. I am hoping for more successes in 2010. We had a strong Montana participation in the Grange Growth Summit held in Coeur D'Alene and are working to build teams to re-energize and revitalize the Granges in the state.

Montana hosted a very successful Western States Youth Conference this past July. We were fortunate to have Rusty Hunt, National Membership Director, attend along with Charlene Espenshade, National Youth Development Director and Ann Kurburski, National Junior Development Director. Their workshops were very helpful, informative, and fun. The weekend was a huge success with participation from all of the Western States. The highlight of the Conference was the white-water rafting trip. Larry Salomon, Montana State Youth Director, and his wife Candy went above and beyond in planning and overseeing the Conference. The members of the Flathead Pomona Granges did an awesome job keeping everyone well fed and cared for. Junior Grange Camp continues to be one of the activities that our Grange families look forward to. This year, one of the camp experiences was a fieldtrip to the Grant Kohr's National Historic Site. Both children and adults had the opportunity to observe blacksmiths in action, visit the chuck wagon to learn about ranch cooking the 1800's, and some enjoyed a hayride. To end the day, the group enjoyed a picnic and swimming. Junior Director Darlene Salomon had many outdoor activities and crafts planned to emphasize the theme of "No Child Left Inside".

The highlight of our State Session in Thompson Falls was having National Representative Betsy Huber in attendance. Our membership enjoyed her guidance and words of counsel.

My Grange year has kept me busy with traveling to National Executive Committee Meetings and traveling to Texas and Michigan as the National Grange Representative. It has always impressed me that once you arrive at a Grange Session, you are immediately



part of the family because of the Grange fellowship and values.

Our family continues to be actively involved in the Grange. We have 4 generations that are members. We now have 4 grandchildren whom are growing up in the Grange and learning the important values and lessons that our ritual teaches.

Fraternally Submitted,
Marty Billquist, Master

Nebraska

Greetings to all from the Nebraska State Grange! This is my fifth report as Master of the Nebraska State Grange. There have been many Grange successes and accomplishments over these years but many challenges remain. I am encouraged and supported by a great group of loyal and dedicated officers, directors and patrons of the Nebraska State Grange. As with most families, there are occasionally differences of opinion but at the end of the day we are a family of brothers and sisters who depend on and care for each other. We continue to seek others to join our family in order to enjoy the benefits and pleasure of this fraternal bond. The Grange has been a blessing and an opportunity for me and my family.



There are so many people to thank for their Grange efforts I hardly know where to start. To the officers and directors of the Nebraska State Grange I say thank you! I thank every Grange member in Nebraska for their efforts, support, and encouragement! I want to thank the leadership and staff of the National Grange for the assistance that has been given to Nebraska and the initiative that has been exemplified.

The Nebraska Rural Radio Association has continued to support the Nebraska State Grange by allowing us radio air time on their Lexington, West Point, and Scottsbluff radio stations to present our views and Grange news. The Friday Nebraska State Grange Report is aired each week at approximately 1:40 PM from Lexington, West Point and Scottsbluff radio stations. The Nebraska State Grange continues to be a part of the Associations quarterly meetings where we are afforded an opportunity to present a Grange report. I thank them not only for this opportunity but also for their unwavering advocacy for agriculture in Nebraska.

Each year the Nebraska State Grange has several patrons who enter that paradise, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, to receive that welcome plaudit "Well done good and faithful servant". So it is this year also. All of us in the Nebraska Grange were shocked when State Overseer Paul Hansen passed away last June. Paul contributed in many ways to the Grange and many other organizations. I know I speak for all in the Nebraska State Grange to again offer our sympathy to Judy and the Hansen family.

America has faced many challenges in the past year, as did agriculture. Beginning with the housing market and followed closely by the banking industry, the economy entered a recession and is only now showing signs of recovery. Billions of dollars have been spent on stimulus programs and incentives. We often perceive the mid section of the country as being less affected by economic swings but this time the heartland of America did not escape the rough waters. For several years now, livestock producers have found it difficult if not impossible to maintain profitability. Grain prices have fallen dramatically from a

year ago, to the relief of the livestock producer but at the expense of grain producers. Input costs for fertilizer, seed, chemicals and the like increased significantly making this the most expensive crop per acre ever produced. Fortunately some areas of the state received enough rain, which created less demand for irrigation and the expenses associated with it. Some areas of the state are on track to produce record yields while once again other areas have experienced drought, hail, and wind damage. The fall harvest was delayed by unusually wet weather and late planted crops that were slow to mature and dry out. Such continues to be the story of agriculture in Nebraska.

Mother Nature is not the only one who can challenge a farmer or rancher. Animal rights groups are challenging many of the methods used in livestock production. American farmers and ranchers continue to produce the safest, most abundant, and least expensive food in the world, yet are criticized daily for producing food that is unsafe. This is without evidence, proof, or scientific data to base this criticism upon. Unless Grangers unite with others to get accurate information to consumers, these distorted perceptions of the products we produce and the distorted methods we are accused of using will become reality in the minds of our consumers. These groups have an agenda. We had better have one also!

There are several issues in the spotlight at the time of this report. On the world level, or at least in the United States, climate change is on one of the hot burners (pun Intended). Many folks believe climate change is real. The question then becomes how much of this is being caused by man and how much is a repeat of history. Recently I received a letter from a long time Grange member from New Hampshire. In going through some of his papers he came across an essay written on April 26, 1912 for a Grange publication. It is an interesting essay on rural life while living on the Nebraska/Kansas border. I would like to quote from this essay. I quote: "As our soil is being more intensively cultivated, we notice certain climatic changes. Dry spells are less frequent and less severe and also less wind, rains from many different directions and more snow during the winters ". End quote. I wonder if the writer lived long enough to experience the Dirty Thirties. Often the next climate change question that arises is what should man's response be and what are the consequences. Some feel a cap on greenhouse gas emissions is necessary along with the trading of carbon credits, commonly known as Cap and Trade. This takes voluntary carbon sequestration and carbon trading to a more mandatory level. Agriculture producers who are able to qualify for these incentives through reduced tillage or no tillage or those who may opt to plant trees on their land could receive payments for these practices. The downside is that not all producers are in a position to qualify through no fault of their own. It is generally accepted that energy and fertilizer costs would increase as a result if cap and trade is implemented. This would result in some agricultural producers while not qualifying for incentive payments facing higher input costs. Another question that arises is whether other countries will also implement cap and trade or will they choose not to put on self imposed restrictions, thus giving them a competitive advantage over the United States. Will cap and trade cause even more manufacturing to go outside the country? What are the chances that countries like China and India will take up the cause? Without cap and trade will the EPA impose restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions that are unrealistic or unworkable on agricultural producers?

With the change in administration in Washington DC has come a push for health care reform in the United States. Concern for rising health care costs and concern for those not covered by health insurance has renewed the debate and controversy over providing health care for those living in the United States. As diverse as the membership in the Grange is, it may be difficult to come to a consensus on the issue.

The Nebraska Grange again in 2009 provided input to the Nebraska Unicameral. I want to thank Legislative Director Richard Janing and the members who assisted him in this effort and to those who attended the Nebraska Ag Breakfasts with State Senators.

Grange family activities director Phyllis Tooker and her committee are to be commended for their initiative and dedicated work for the Nebraska Grange. From fund raisers such as the krystal kandles to the country store at our State Convention, they add much to the success and pleasure of the Grange.

This year the Nebraska summer bus trip was to Colorado, where we were welcomed by the Colorado State Grange at Victory Grange near Aurora for lunch and later at the Colorado State Grange Museum. It was an enjoyable trip and I look forward to next year's trip to Minnesota.

2009 was the last year the Nebraska State Grange will have a booth at the State Fair in Lincoln as the fair is moving to Grand Island in 2010. This move should present challenges and opportunities for many in the area and in the state.

Likewise, the future of the Nebraska State Grange will involve challenges and opportunities along with pleasures and enjoyment. Our efforts in the area of membership recruitment must continue. The Grange Growth Summit, which was held last winter in Grand Island, set the stage for renewed efforts to revitalize some Granges and to start new Granges. National Master Ed Luttrell and National Membership Rusty Hunt led the event. Two recruitment meetings were later held in the Grand Island area which began the process of starting a new Grange there. I feel with perseverance we can get a new Grange started in the Grand Island area. Thank you to all who assisted in this endeavor and I encourage you to continue in this work. Membership Director Edgar Hicks has also been working in the Omaha area to start up a Grange in this area.

The 2009 Nebraska State Grange Convention was held at the Riverside Inn/Howard Johnson Motel in Grand Island, Nebraska. Our National Grange representative was Jennifer Dugent, National Grange Communications Director. She conducted workshops on benefits and programs sponsored by the National Grange and communication tools available to Grangers. I would highly recommend inviting her to your state to present upbeat and informative presentations. Jennifer also entertained us with her nationally recognized abilities as an Irish dancer.

I encourage you also to be creative in your programs for your Granges, whether it is at your meetings or working on a project that your Grange has undertaken. Do something interesting your neighbors would want to be a part of. Serve your community in ways that you are able.

In two years the National Grange Convention will be in the Great Plains section of the country when it is held in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 2011. Nebraska Grangers will be a part of this event.

I would like to conclude this report with another excerpt from the essay written in 1912. It talks about change on the farm. I believe it is still somewhat relevant today. It reads: "To a person living in New Hampshire hearing this story of all the riding machinery for all kinds of field work will come to the conclusion that farm work in Kansas must be more pass time but such is a mistaken idea. Improved machinery has not made the work on the farm any easier; it has simply changed the farm. A man of energy will do all he is able to do whether it be on a complicated machine or with a simple machine and he will be about as tired when night comes with one as the other. But he will produce much more with the big machine. We never go back from the big machine to the old simple machines even though it is harder work to handle the big machinery. For instance it is harder to run a

self binding grain machine for three weeks than it is to swing our old fashioned cradle. But there is such a fascination in doing lots of work that a man won't look at a cradle when he can cut and bind 12 or 15 acres of grain in a day with four horses and a binder. The same is true of all lines of work. These improved and complicated machines have made the labor question more complicated and the larger the machine the more difficult it is to get a man competent to run it

There was a time when there was but one crop grown in the country, corn, but that has gone with the pioneer days. Now there are many sources of income from the Kansas farm. Our orchards are now surplus producers. Along with the alfalfa has come the honey bee with its tireless energy piling up its surplus of sweeteners by the tons and of a very fine quality. The alfalfa plant has doubled the price of our lands because every sort of an animal eats it and thrives on it. As the country has changed from one crop to many crops and many kinds of domestic animals it has changed from poverty to prosperity". This ends the excerpt.

The Nebraska Grange of the future will be what you want it to be, if you want it bad enough. As a Granger knows, success in a good cause is gained only through perseverance. The values and principles of the Grange are as right today as they were in 1867 when the National Grange was organized or as in 1872 when the Nebraska State Grange first began. The challenges and opportunities may have changed over the years, but they are still there. Let's make the changes and adaptations we need to succeed as we work and have fun together in an organization we can be proud of.

Fraternally Submitted,
Joe Fryman, Master

New Hampshire

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as the Lady Assistant Steward of the National Grange for the past two years.

2009 has been a long, excruciating year for the leadership team of the New Hampshire State Grange. The Executive Committee met fifteen times throughout the year. One of the main focuses of these meetings started out as an examination of the current financial status of the State Grange, which led to a series of meetings with financial planners, resulting in a better-informed board in the matter of investments. During this process, the Executive Committee came to the decision that despite the difficult economic times, it was necessary to go to the members and ask for a substantial increase in dues paid to the State Grange. A special session was called for August and the \$9.00 per year increase was approved by a very narrow margin after some excellent debate. The Executive Committee is currently overseeing the sale of Starr King Grange Hall in Jefferson.

The only regional event hosted in New Hampshire this year was our annual New England Go to Church Sunday held the last Sunday in June at Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge. This event has been held for years and years at this venue because members near and far love the beauty of this location. Startlingly, the worship area lost its canopy of pine trees as a result of the devastating 2008 December Ice Storm, which left many in NH, including Arthur and me, without power for almost two weeks. By the hand of the Great



Creator, an expanded view of the distant mountains enhances the reverent atmosphere.

Our GRIT teams that were trained last year by National Grange Leadership Membership Director, Rusty Hunt, have been working diligently. Teams are currently working to revitalize four Granges, and a team is working on reorganizing one Grange. Plans are in the works to train more members to assist in this important work. Riverhill Grange has been revitalized with a dozen or more new members interested in preserving their historic Grange Hall.

As a result of last year's two special study committees: we are still trying new ways to encourage Pomona Granges to be of greater service to the Subordinates in their jurisdiction. Pomona Committee Chairmen are being asked to also serve on their corresponding State Committee. This has achieved mediocre success, so far, but we will continue working to develop the idea. A number of the Pomonas accepted the challenge issued by the Executive Committee to be responsible for collecting the \$1 assessment fee for the National Grange Hosting Fund. Some Pomonas held special fundraisers to cover the assessment fee of all Subordinate members within their jurisdiction, while others worked directly with the Subordinate Granges to collect the fees on behalf of the State Grange. The second study committee from last year has evolved into the formation of a Board of Directors for the proposed New Hampshire Grange Foundation, which, once formed, hopes to qualify to receive a \$100,000 bequest from a former member wishing to establish a new scholarship program.

Our new Session Coordinator, Ken Berry, has been busily seeking out new venues for our future State Sessions and has helped to secure the Radisson Center of New Hampshire in Manchester to hold the 2013 National Grange convention. The New Hampshire State Grange is excited to host the National Grange for the first time in 100 years and is gearing up to start making plans for a memorable convention. The 2009 State Session was held for the first time ever at the Ashworth by the Sea resort at Hampton Beach. We were extremely proud to host National Grange Master, Ed Luttrell and his wife Celia as our national reps. Brother Ed proved himself to be a very good sport when he joined 20 brave-hearted souls, most of whom were decked out in full costume in the event dubbed "the Patron's Plunge". Participants splashed in the surf of the Atlantic Ocean on Halloween Day. This one-time event was a successful fundraiser for us and the pledges given to Brother Luttrell have been dedicated to the Trademark Protection Fund.

Thanks to all our out-of-state contributors!

State Lecturer Marie Hall; General Deputy Tricia Taylor; Family and Community Director Nancy Bean; Grange Services Director Connie Carr; Legislative Director Jim Tetreault; Membership Development Director Stephen Tracy; Youth Director Chris Heath; and Junior Director Rhonda Lambert hosted events and sponsored programs which challenged and enlivened the Grange experience for all members who participated.

Our second annual Spring Fling event had support from most departments and was a fun day of workshops on topics beyond the usual scope of State Grange gatherings. We were pleased and honored to have Lorraine Merrill, Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of New Hampshire as a special presenter, as well as Gordon Gibson, Legislative Director of the Connecticut State Grange. The event received rave review on members' evaluation sheets once again.

Chris Hadsel of the Curtains without Borders organization in Vermont has been surveying and photographing any and all historic painted stage curtains that can be found in our state. Previous to this effort, her group has documented several hundred curtains throughout Vermont and they've done restoration work on many of them. We are looking

forward to working with Chris over the next year to do the same in our state. Ms. Hadsel is also looking at expanding the project nationwide to locate, assess, and restore curtains wherever they may be found.

This session is likely to be my last to attend as a voting delegate. I want to thank all my fellow State Masters, their spouses, the National Officers and the National Grange staff for all they have done to assist me in my work as Master of the NH State Grange. It has been an amazing experience to serve the Grange at this level and I will forever treasure the friendships and memories that have been created during my tenure.

Fraternally Submitted,
Beth Merrill, Master

New Jersey

I bring greetings from the Officers and Members of the New Jersey State Grange, the Garden State. The Grange is alive and well in New Jersey despite having one of the highest population densities of any Grange State.

This has been a very good year for us even though we did not meet our goals that I set for us at last year's National Grange session. While we may not have organized or reorganized any granges this year we were able to revitalize several granges this year. This may be a small step but it is the first step to growing the grange in New Jersey. Our Youth and Junior Grange Departments have a renewed energy and direction. The JG Department under the leadership of the new Leadership Team has reevaluated the program and are making changes to rebuild this program. The first sign of that was we had over 80 Junior Grangers at camp this year. The Youth Co-Directors did an excellent job this year organizing the Eastern States Youth Conference. They hosted over 100 attendees from several states and received compliments on how well they had done.



I attended the GGS held in Wytheville, Va. this summer. After the GGS Betsy Huber, Chip and Barb Narvel and I had a meeting to discuss the four of us conducting our own GGS. We set a date in February and are in the process of setting up the program to be conducted in Delaware. We are all excited about this training and have started announcing it to our members.

I look forward to the upcoming year and the possibilities of helping the granges in NJ grow. I am in the process of appointing a Membership task Force to work with granges this upcoming year. I have already appointed a Leadership Training Coordinator to offer leadership training to our Grange officers. In 2010 NJ will be hosting the Eastern States Program Directors conference; the date and location are already set. Rusty Hunt has agreed to present a program at this event and we are looking forward to his presentation. I wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season.

Fraternally Submitted,
Pete Pompper, Master

New York

The following is the report of the State Master/President for the past year. In New York, we continue to maintain a positive attitude toward Grange membership, leadership, and development. Many good things have happened this past year, which show Grange growth in New York, but, in some areas, we have had some concerns. We only stress the positive, but we also deal with the other concerns as well.



I have had the pleasure this year of working with many Subordinate (Community) and Pomona Granges in both reorganizing and revitalizing. I have yet to organize a new Grange from scratch, but I have been made aware of interest by people in a couple of spots in New York State. Revitalization has taken place in three Community and two Pomona Granges. Why was this able to happen? If I've said it once, I've said it one hundred times, **ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK**, and help will be forthcoming. Unfortunately, many Granges wait until it is too late to ask or never ask at all, and by the time we are made aware of their dire situation, there is not much more we can do except close that Grange. We have been contacted by several Granges on the brink of becoming extinct. My goal was to keep as many Granges organized as possible and keep all the members on the roll books. We then worked with them to either be revitalized or consolidated with a nearby Grange. Consolidation is very simple: The membership simply votes to join another nearby Grange and they take their membership and financial funds with them. Successful consolidations have already been made with nine Community Granges, and there are a few others considering this option. By transferring your membership to another Grange, they are helping the New York State Grange to maintain its membership levels. Plus, those individuals will still remain as members and may continue to receive Grange benefits as well as membership awards and recognitions.

I need to thank our eight Departments for their leadership during the past year. These are the very positive leaders who are always ready, willing, and able to provide any assistance with any part of their program.

Community Involvement/Service: Thank you for your efforts in promoting the Community Service Program of our State Grange. Our Director has traveled from east to west to present her program and to encourage more interest and activity in promoting Grange Community Service. This program for 2010 and 2011 will have some slight changes in that we are looking for each Grange to submit not only the application form, but a scrapbook story of their community activities.

Family Advocacy: Thank you for carrying out the Family Activities during the past year: baking, needlework, woodworking, and the like. We needed to make some changes in judging deadlines due to the fact that, for the first time, New York State Grange could place entries in the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Massachusetts. New York is now part of the Northeast Connection, which also includes the six New England States.

Junior Grange and the Special Junior Deputies: Our Junior Department has made some excellent strides during the past year. Last fall, we reported the reorganization of a Junior Grange, and this past summer and coming fall, we will have four more new Junior Granges reorganized. If we could only convince every Subordinate Grange to consider sponsoring a Junior Grange, what a tremendously successful program we would have! I have challenged each Grange to give this serious consideration.

State Lecturer: Again, because of our association with the Northeast Connection, our Lecturer's Department is now an important part of the annual Northeast Lecturer's Conference, held last August in Massachusetts. Our Lecturer presented a program on the history of North American Flags, which, in my opinion, was the most outstanding of all the programs presented. Since the Lecturer's Department works with the FAC Department, judging dates are also changed for the next two years to coincide with the FAC judging.

Legislative: Our Director continues to sponsor very successful Legislative Regional Conferences around the State as well as a State Legislative Day at our Headquarters in Cortland, New York. State and Federal legislators, as well as leaders in the education and conservation field, are invited to attend to share their views of what they feel society needs today. My office still receives calls from both the Legislature and the Governor's Office about Grange policy on many different issues. This certainly shows that we are making an impact in the legislative halls in Albany.

Membership/Leadership: Our Directors have developed new activities for the Membership/Leadership Department. They spent much time at Grange Fairs, Degree Festivals, and other events with the help of other State Grange personnel promoting membership. Plans for the next two years include Degree Days with the conferral of all four Degrees and possibly the Fifth Degree as well as a Grange Growth Summit for State Grange Officers, Directors, and other leaders. The National Grange is also looking to New York to sponsor an Advanced Leadership/Membership Training Session sometime next spring.

Sports: This past year saw an increase in participation and activities in all three sports areas. There were more participants in the Bowling and Golf State Tournaments and more teams vying for championship in the Dartball Tournament. This Department, along with the Lecturer and FAC, is also promoting increased interest and support in the Special Olympics Program.

The Youth Team: The Youth Department held two successful weekends last winter and spring, and hosted the North East Youth Conference last July in Schenectady. Participation increased in the Sign-A-Song and Public Speaking and Impromptu Speech Contests, but the highlight of the Conference was the New York State Grange Youth Drill Team winning First Place in the Drill Competition!

Website Coordinator: If you wish to see an excellent display of New York State Grange activities and happenings, visit our website at www.nysgrange.org. Thanks to our new coordinator, we have an updated website that has been continuously and professionally maintained. All Junior, Subordinate (Community), and Pomona activities are welcome to send articles and photos for the website. Our future goal still remains to have every Subordinate (Community) Grange listed with a photograph of their Grange Hall or meeting place along with other information about meetings times and dates as well as contact information.

Information Director: For the second year in a row, our Director has designed a Special Edition of the Empire State Granger, our official newspaper. This is an excellent communication device which is used to promote the programs and activities of the New York State Grange. This year's issue was distributed at the Winter Farm Days in Syracuse, Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls, and the New York State Fair. Many Subordinate (Community) and Pomona Granges also used it at their annual Festivals, Dairy Days, Community Days, Award Ceremonies, and County Fairs as well.

Special Deputies: These leaders have worked closely with me in Granges who needed help and assistance. I'm very grateful to them for their efforts in helping to maintain the

strength of the New York State Grange. When I contact them for a special assignment, they don't ask me "Why?" They simply say, "What do you need me to do?"

State Officers: These fine folks have been busy visiting Granges to act as a cheer leader for the New York State Grange. In every case, they have been welcomed courteously, provided advice and suggestions when asked, and have created a positive image that success can be accomplished when we all work together.

Headquarters Building Task Force: At our last State Session, volunteers were asked to serve on this Task Force to evaluate our 35+ year old Headquarters both structurally and financially. They began their colossal job by reviewing the energy audit ordered by the Executive Committee for the building, and spent one session just evaluating this report. They have met three to four times, and have begun the task of evaluating the lighting system. They recommended how the lighting system could be changed to make it more economical, and they began the replacement of lighting fixtures and bulbs with energy savings in mind. This Task Force will continue to operate as there is much more evaluation to be done with the other systems that make our State Headquarters functional.

Now, let's turn to the "HELP WANTED" column. In last year's report, I noted that the Executive Committee was beginning to investigate the possibility of a 501(c)(3) New York State Grange Foundation to allow donations to come to our State Grange for educational scholarships and cultural activities with tax exempt status by IRS laws. We are now ready to formulate an official Committee to investigate New York's possible Foundation. Our State Overseer will serve as Chairman. We continue our search for those who have any professional knowledge of a 501(c)(3) Foundation and might consider serving on this Committee.

A second Committee needed will be known as the National Grange Hosting Fund Raising Committee. As part of the Northeast Connection, we will help co-host the National Session scheduled for Manchester, New Hampshire in 2013. At last year's National Session, Delegates voted to assess each State Grange \$1 per member per year to help finance the National Session. Thanks to the efforts of many good New York Grangers back in the early 2000s, we raised more than enough to host National Grange in Rochester in 2004. The funds left over helped us make our 2009 contribution to this effort. But, now we must begin to raise funds for our upcoming assessments in 2010, 2011, and 2012.

In conclusion, we have seen much progress in the New York State Grange this past year, but not without some major concerns here and there. As I began, we still continue to stress the positive, but we deal with the concerns as well. By all working together, our chances of greater success are the best. Our Executive Committee and I are hoping, in fact, we are planning on it, that even greater dreams can come true for the New York State Grange in 2010.

Fraternally submitted,
Oliver J. Orton, Master

North Carolina

We were pleased during the past year to have organized two new Community Granges and one new Pomona Grange in the state. Southern Wake Grange, located outside of Raleigh, and Cape Fear Grange, located in Fayetteville, both hit the ground running and wasted no time with the development of community service activities. Southern Piedmont

Pomona Grange is composed of community Granges from three different counties, including Iredell, Rowan, and Cabarrus.

Aleta Shelton from Twin City Grange was appointed as the new Junior Director for the State Grange. We are excited about her leadership as she works toward taking our Junior program to the next level. Janet Fulton from Troutman Grange was named the new Family Living Activities Director for the State Grange. She has proven herself to be quite capable of handling the responsibilities of this position.

A new effort was initiated this year called the Primary-Secondary Education Grant program. Through this program, parents of school-age Grange members can apply for grants up to \$250.00 to assist with school activity expenses such as field trips, band instruments, special projects, or other school related expenses. We are pleased to offer this high quality benefit for our members.

We mourned the passing of Robert W. Scott, former Master of the State Grange and Governor of North Carolina. Gov. Scott was a very influential person in the state and his presence will be missed. During the year, the State Grange honored Gov. Scott with the Lifetime Achievement Award, and the presentation took place in his room at the Nursing facility in which he resided.

The annual Family Conference was held in March at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Rusty Hunt, Membership Director for the National Grange spent the weekend with us and conducted workshops on Grange growth. We were also pleased to have Pete Pompper, State Grange President from New Jersey to visit for the weekend.

A conference for the NC State Grange officers was held in April for strategic planning. Issues discussed included leadership development, membership development, new Grange development, as well as the State Grange role in the agriculture. The conference was facilitated by President Jimmy Gentry, Membership Director Jessica Newton, and Legislative Director, Allison Fowler.

An effort is underway to archive historical documents that have been collected by the State Grange over the years. David Allen, Board member, has accepted the leadership role in this project. The ultimate goal is to bring these materials out of storage and display them in some fashion. So far, we have opportunities at three different museums to place exhibits.

The NC State Grange Convention was held in September in Fayetteville, NC. A highlight of this convention was the presentation of NC State Grange Lifetime Achievement Awards to Lloyd Massey and Elizabeth Massey, long time Grange members from Brogden, NC. Elizabeth is a former Lady Assistant Steward for the State Grange and Director of the 6th Degree Team. Lloyd is former State Master as well as National Grange Chaplain and Priest Archon.

The State Grange Youth program continues to be strong, offering quality leadership training to our young members. The Youth Camp, Winter Conference, and State Convention all had good participation, and we are fortunate to have a number of our youth to participate in activities at the National Grange Convention in Michigan, including three National Youth Officers, two Ambassadors, and a Mentor. We are very proud of our youth in North Carolina.

The State Grange has entered into a new partnership with North Carolina 4-H, serving as the signature sponsor of a new 4-H Hall of Fame Program. The first induction ceremony was held this summer, and we look forward to the years ahead as sponsor of this program.

Each year the Southern Farm Expo takes place in Moultrie, Georgia, and the focus for 2009 is on agriculture in North Carolina. The State Grange joined with the NC Department



of Agriculture, NC Farm Bureau, and NC State University in placing an exhibit at this expo. Tom Ellis, Agriculture Programs Coordinator, manned the exhibit for the State Grange, promoting our organization as well as NC agriculture.

We look forward to hosting the 2010 National Grange Convention in Charlotte, NC for some “Down Home Fun.” Ya’ll come!

Fraternally Submitted,
Jimmy Gentry

Ohio

Linda and I share with the other six State Masters of the Midwest region in welcoming everyone to this 143rd annual session of the National Grange! While each state of this recently structured Midwest region has at one time hosted a National Grange session, four different states of this region have formerly had the privilege of serving as individual ‘host states’ for seven of the past thirty sessions, and now Michigan has the honor of being the first state to host a National Grange session as a Midwest region state. It has been a unique experience working with neighboring states to accomplish this endeavor, and I feel that it has truly provided a feeling of camaraderie, not only among us Midwest Masters, but also with other members of our region’s states.



We in Ohio have continued to hold the usual events, providing the Grangers of our state with various camps, conferences, contests, and rural life Sunday programs. This past year our camps provided wholesome recreation, education, and fellowship for our junior, youth, family, and forty-one and over groups.

During our annual legislative conference, we were fortunate to have our National Grange Legislative Affairs Director, Leroy Watson, provide information on the Grange trademark issue and the Tyson food situation. It was also interesting that another of our speakers was Gary Lambert, Southwest regional director for ‘Connect Ohio’, an organization striving for the availability of affordable broadband connections for all Ohioans. The National Grange has recently been taking an active part in a broadband availability program. Other one day educational conferences were held for our deaf activities, family activities, lecturers program, community service program, as well as two deputy’s/officers/directors conferences.

The Friendly Hills Grange Camp, where most of the above mentioned events were held, has been recently operated by the Ohio Grange Charitable Foundation. Those board members have worked diligently in the camp operations and were successful in ending the previous year in the ‘black’. It also appears that they will do the same this year.

We were pleased to have forty-two from Ohio attend the Eastern Regional Youth Conference last April in New Jersey. They enjoyed the weekend’s activities, including a tour of the historical Independence Hall area in neighboring Philadelphia.

After moving our state office from downtown Columbus to the small rural community of Fredericktown in 2005, the living quarters for the Master had been rented. This past March a house for that purpose was purchased at a very reasonable price, providing adequate facilities for a cost relatively equivalent to the previous renting.

Last May I had the opportunity to make a presentation about Grange to a group of Serbian farmers who spent three weeks meeting with professional counterparts in our area.

Socially, that country is now very comparable to the era of our post Civil War period and the organization of the Grange.

We are very fortunate to have an approximate 900 square foot archives room at our state office, and workdays there have allowed for the sorting, documenting, cataloging, and shelving of many items. At this point there are around 2000 Secretary's books from closed Granges, as well as from active Granges having limited storage space, already placed on shelves in our archives with locations documented on computer spreadsheets for simple and easy access. Also easily accessible are ALL Ohio State Grange Journals of Proceedings, all but the 1875 and 1886 National Grange Journals of Proceedings along with OSG rosters back to 1904 and nearly all Ohio Grange magazines back to the 1920's.

We had the pleasure of having Phil & Maureen Prelli as our National Grange representatives at our session in October. Their interaction with our members throughout the session and their input in our discussions were wonderful..

I wish everyone a pleasant and successful year for 2010.

Fraternally Submitted,
Gary Brumbaugh, Master

Oklahoma

On behalf of the Oklahoma State Grange I wish to extend my greetings to the 143rd Annual Convention of the National Grange. Our 94th State Session was held October 16, 17, and 18 in Guthrie, Oklahoma. We were honored to have Bruce and Sharon Croucher as our National Representative. We enjoyed having them at our state session.

At our session we worked on several resolutions for both state and national consideration. Paul Matthews our Legislative Director works very hard to keep grangers informed on issues, which may impact their communities.

We hosted the Great Plains Youth and Junior Conference in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma and had a large group attend. We had attendees from Kansas, Colorado and Oklahoma. Several granges across the state showed an increase.

The State Grange of Oklahoma presented 10 Grangers with education scholarships. The awardees were Jay Neal and Andrew McCann and Jera Priest from Goodwill Grange #13, Tim Keeton and Ann Keeton from Thompson Grange #352, and Clayton Krehbiel, Camille Krehbiel, Mitchel Nutter and Curtis Nutter from Cherryvale Grange #221 and Dakota Evans from Blue Jacket Grange. They were honored at the Celebration Banquet on Friday evening.

Each year Oklahoma selects someone who has exemplified leadership in the Grange and this year Edith Fox from Clear Creek Grange was named "Granger of the Year".

We continue to work with other organizations such as the Oklahoma Wheat Research Board, Highway Users Federation, Oklahoma Farmer Bureau and the Oklahoma Cattleman's Association.

Fraternally Submitted,
Donna Keeton, Master



Oregon

Greetings and Best Wishes from the members of the Oregon State Grange! We were able to maintain a membership of just over 6,400 members. We lost many of our Golden Sheaf Brothers and Sisters, but added enough new members to show a net loss of only a few.

Our 2008 pledges to National Grange resulted in the following during 2009:

Pledged:	Achieved:
1 New Grange	Tried, but not successful
2 Reorganized	3
5 Revitalized	8
2 Junior Granges	1, plus 1 pending



Achieving these pledges was the result of a dedicated leadership team, including two (2) state deputies, their wives and several members willing to travel and devote their time to our mighty organization.

Our 136th annual session was held in June in the “cowboy country” of Pendleton where we “Let ‘Er Rip” for a week thanks to the generosity of the Eastern Oregon Grangers and the Pendleton Convention Center. The Wild West Show, lassoing and branding of the State Master and spurs that jingled and jangled added to the excitement of the week. Pete Pompper was our official National Grange representative and gave a very inspiring speech to our youth members. National Master Ed Luttrell and his wife Celia encouraged us in our efforts throughout the week.

Our traditional state level events included Ag Fest – helping 3,500 youngsters plant seedlings to take home, sponsorship of the state FFA public speaking contest, Hands Across the Border with Idaho, hosting our Log Cabin during our state fair and serving a free, steak barbecue for 500 folks at our state capitol. It was hard to convince the legislators, their aides and the public that they were – indeed – getting a free, steak lunch with all the trimmings.

Many Granges contributed to National’s legal defense fund and many more took advantage of the National bonding program.

For nearly four (4) years now, we have been going forward with POSITIVITY and we are reaping the benefits with this attitude. Keep On Grangin’,

Fraternally Submitted,
Phyllis A Wilson, Master

Pennsylvania

It is my privilege to present my seventh annual report as Master of the Pennsylvania State Grange. Again we had a successful year in spreading the Grange message, thanks to our staff, departmental directors, State Officers, and members.

We had our usual booth at the Farm Show in January and also staffed the “Farmer for a Day” booth for kids again. It is important to have a presence there to let people know the Grange is alive and well. Our departmental planning meeting was held in late January and I traveled to Fayetteville, Arkansas for the National Grange Masters Meeting

in February where we received hands-on training in organizing and reorganizing Granges.

The theme of our eight Regional Meetings this year was “Revitalizing Your Grange,” and it was very well received by those attending. Some said it was the best thing they’d seen from State Grange in a long time! The Youth Department tried a Youth Winter Retreat in March that was well planned but poorly attended. Next year’s Youth Camp will immediately precede Junior camp in July, both at the same location, so we hope this will benefit both Camps.

Twenty-eight Pennsylvanians participated in the National Grange Fly-in on May 18th. Junior Camp was again very successful at Sylvan Hills Christian Camp July 4th week.

For our emphasis on the family this year, we held two Family Picnics, at two amusement parks in different parts of the state. Both were well attended and lots of fun, in spite of torrential rain at the first one. They were successful in bringing out multi-generational families to enjoy fellowship together with other Grange friends.

The 6th Annual Family Festival was the best one yet! Over 215 Grangers attended the Festival this year and it will be held again next year on July 15-18, 2010 at Centre County Grange Fairgrounds. There were more Juniors and youth than ever before, and it was great to see the generations having fun together.

August means Ag Progress Days, another statewide agricultural fair-type event. This year we gave away earplugs to represent our history with deaf awareness and our concern for family health. They were amazingly popular!

Four members attend the National Grange Growth Summit Sept. 11-13 in Wytheville, VA. This was a great opportunity to learn hands-on how to recruit members and organize and reorganize Granges. We will be hosting a Summit in western PA next September geared toward Pomona Grange revitalization; I hope you will plan to attend.

I am active on numerous advisory boards, committees, task forces, and other groups representing the State Grange in the State Capitol, as well as serving on the Penn State Board of Trustees and the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School Board of Overseers. The State Grange is well respected among agricultural interests in Harrisburg. The long summer that we enjoyed with all our Grange activities was overshadowed by the legislative budget stalemate that was finally settled 101 days after the mandated deadline. Critical human services and schools dependent on state funding found themselves cutting staff, programs and services and scraping by with reduced or non-existent funds as they awaited passage of the budget. Virtually all state programs except education received reduced funding, although agriculture fared better at the end than had been proposed earlier in the process. Next year’s state budget promises to be even more painful.

This summer we were fortunate to have a summer intern conduct a random survey of our membership. Myken Poorman completed her Master’s Degree at Penn State in May and is now teaching agriculture at Bellefonte High School. In order to provide useful benefits and services and programs, we felt it was important to learn more about our members. We appreciate Myken’s hard work this summer in compiling the report that she presented at our state session. We were shocked to discover that 70 percent of our membership is over 70 years old. This will require emergency measures if our Grange is to survive for very long into the future.

When we were in Virginia for the Grange Growth Summit, we visited two Community Granges and led revitalization meetings with them. We all noticed how excited the non-



members were about the Grange when they discovered all the things we do and can do. It was the new people who volunteered to take responsibilities and move the Granges forward. As long time members, sometimes we get complacent and forget what a great organization we have. Take a fresh look at your Grange. If you are complacent, tired, bored, you need to choose a new attitude. Stress the fun you have, the close friendships you have in the Grange. The number one reason why people join the Grange is for the friendship and fellowship—be sure to emphasize that in your conversations.

Have we lost our pride in our organization? I believe this is our underlying problem, causing loss of membership, deficiency in recruiting new members, lack of publicity, boring meetings. If you're not excited about the Grange, you need to change something to create renewed interest and excitement. Fantastic things are happening in the Grange across the country! Adopt a new attitude and be part of the great future of the Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,
Betsy E. Huber

Rhode Island

“Vision without action is a day dream. Action without vision is a nightmare.”

It is once again an honor and a pleasure that Amanda & I bring greetings of the Ocean State to all our Brothers and Sisters attending the 143rd Annual Convention of the National Grange & we thank the Mid-west states for hosting this convention in Grand Rapids.

Our 123rd State Session was held from Oct 1 – 3 & we were extremely honored to have our National Lecturer Judy Sherrod as our National Representative.

At our session we were pleased to receive 24 resolutions & welcome 8 new members to our Grange family.

This has been an extremely busy year & filled with mixed emotions. In January our National Master was present as we were faced with many conflicts of leadership and personalities. After several unsuccessful attempts had been made, it was determined that the charter of this grange be suspended and that if a new grange is formed we work with those who had the best interest of the Grange at heart.

I am happy to report that in September this Grange was officially re-organized with over 30 new members in attendance for an election. What a great way to begin and all members are very energetic & ready to move forward. I would like to thank the National Grange staff members who willingly offered their support and assistance whenever needed. R.I. truly came through for their support for the Tyson legal fund by contributing a total of \$4,380.00. For a small state I was very proud of the generosity and compassion to preserve the great work of our Order.

This year our Deaf/Health Committee collected a total of 13,552 box tops for education. Another project implemented is called “Pennies for a Purpose”. This is asking every Grange to collect their unused pennies & all monies received are given to Hospice Care of R.I. This year we were able to collect \$382.92 for our annual donation.



Our Agriculture/Legislation while combined to one department have been extremely busy supporting and promoting our local farmers markets. With our economy at an all time low more emphasis is placed on our local farmers & their survival. I would encourage all members to buy local and support your local economy and producers during these difficult times.

The Granges of Rhode Island have contributed 5,178 pounds of food to local food pantries, shelters & churches. We have donated 520 pounds of tabs and a total of \$390.00 to the Ronald McDonald House. Foster Care is always a top priority with our members with a total of \$416.00 donated to their crib fund & over 900 items donated for the children in their care. We also delivered 1,800 head warmers, 45 afghans, 68 pairs of hats & booties and 300 demonstration dolls to area hospitals.

The old saying, "What a child sees makes the most lasting impression," so it goes with this organization. "What the community sees of the Grange makes a lasting impression." Our volunteers continue to contribute a tremendous amount of their time by logging 7,053 hours reported. There were 170 cards signed and sent to the Walter Reed Army hospital from our R.I. Grangers.

We turned in over 113,788 cancelled postage stamps to the Vaca Valley 4H club in California for their community service projects. However, the dictionary project continues to be our main project across the state. Eleven Granges purchased dictionaries for 43 schools for a total of 2,369 dictionaries. With the dictionary fund that has been established we were able to purchase 545 books to schools where there is no Grange in their area.

Our publicity department has made great strides in promoting the positive within our organization, as many news areas only like the negative this will continue to be an uphill battle to show the great work of this organization.

The youth of our state continue to make us proud. We are very pleased to have a representative for the ambassador program this year, this is the first in my four years. We are all very proud of what this fine young lady has accomplished.

Our junior department had a total of 19 campers and 14 adults attend our overnight camp. It was a real pleasure for me to prepare & cook their breakfast and lunch for this annual event. I am happy to report that we should have a new Junior Grange in R.I. by next years convention.

Our membership committee designed a new brochure for all our granges this year. We have provided these to any grange at no cost and in their desired amount if they choose to promote our fraternity. Brother Rusty Hunt was in our state in September & as usual he was great, it is up to all of us to "Make the Vision Grow" which is our motto for this year.

The highlight for our state was the speech given by High Priest Emeritus Woody Tucker. He reminded us all of the importance of the ritual and degree work and how it is important to the fundamental teachings of our organization and our everyday lives.

I truly feel that the Grange is on the move. I am more encouraged about the Grange across this nation than ever before. The future of the Grange is in our hands. It is up to each & every one of us to contribute of ourselves.

Earlier this year we all witnessed a major change in our lives when Barack Obama became our 44th President, our first African – American President. This was truly a break from normal tradition and a change I feel was needed for us in society. This country was willing to embrace change and WE as an organization also need to embrace this change as well. He reminded us of what our forefathers sacrificed that we may lead a better life and that the time of putting off unpleasant decisions is past. He closed by saying that we should pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and begin again the work of remaking America. This

is exactly what we need to do as an organization to uphold the principals we maintain. As we end this year and begin the next, let us treasure up the lessons we have learned both by successes and failures, we must plan wisely and hopefully for the future and we must strive to make our lives and our Grange as harmoniously beautiful and bountiful as are the works of Nature's God.

In closing, as this is my final report as Master of the R.I. State Grange, Amanda & I would like to thank you all for welcoming us to your Grange family. We have enjoyed all the opportunities we have had, but most of all the love and friendship we have made with you all. Although my tenure is drawing to a close, our friendships will remain forever. We wish you all much success & thank you all for the privilege of being part of this esteemed group.

On behalf of the R.I. State Grange, I extend every good wish for many years of good health & success to All Granges across our fine country. May God Bless you ALL & may God Bless this Great Fraternity.

Fraternally Submitted,
Scott Sherman, Master

South Carolina

On behalf of the officers and members of the South Carolina State Grange, Hazel and I extend our greetings. We are Honored to be part of the 143rd annual session of the National Grange. We look forward to a productive and harmonious session. To the MidAtlantic Grange we offer our thanks and congratulations for being such wonderful hosts. I have been fortunate to attend every session since 1991 while representing the great state of South Carolina.

We see among you many of our Grange friends and look forward to spending time with you. We also look forward to meeting new friends at this 143rd Grange session commences. Through these friendships, we have become better informed Grange members.

During the past year, we have continued to meet with our community Granges during regularly scheduled meetings. This has given us the opportunity to meet many of the fine people of our state Grange. We have also worked to contact Granges that are no longer active in hopes of reorganizing them into productive worthwhile Granges. We are still searching for methods to attract younger members and families to continue the survival of our Grange. Although our membership is not large, we are continuing to gain more members than we have lost. Things are looking up.

We always start off our calendar year by hosting a leadership conference in February. This year our meeting was held in Donalds, South Carolina, Donalds Grange sold their Grange building to City of Donalds in exchange for them to do maintenance on the building and allow the Grange members to continue to meet in this building. Most of them are getting old and have picked up six new members. We have found this one-day conference to be very beneficial.

Our annual state session was held at the Holiday Inn in Columbia, South Carolina, on August 8th & 9th. This two-day session was very productive. We were able to return



to the middle of the state for our session, discuss the cares and concerns of our fellow Granges, and look for ways to improve the quality of our Grange. We were fortunate to have Pete Pompper, Executive Board Chairman and Master of New Jersey State Grange. It was a wonderful experience getting to know him. On Saturday morning, Pete installed the newly elected officers of our Grange.

Several years ago, we lost our sponsor for our state baking contest. This led to a decrease in the participation of this contest. However, we are seeing an increase in the participation again and hope the number will continue to increase. We are glad that participation in all of our state contests is increasing. Also again this year, all members attending the state session were asked to bring stuffed animals to present for attendance.

We also continued to support the education of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind, located in Spartanburg. One of the ways that we continue to support this school is through the collection and donation of Campbell soup labels. They use the labels for the purchase of equipment that they need and are currently working to acquire a new for transportation.

Also, through our Junior Grange program, we collect soda can tabs for donation to the Ronald McDonald House program.

We in South Carolina are still recovering from having lost the largest number of Grange members in our history. After the severe damage to our state caused by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, the Grange Insurance Company was forced into bankruptcy from paying so many large claims. Many members left after this traumatic experience.

As we begin this session, may we meet in harmony, grow in unity and purpose, and depart to serve.

Fraternally Submitted

John M. Hammett, Sr., Master

Tennessee

Greetings from the Volunteer State of Tennessee. Although we are one of the smallest Grange states in the country (in membership size) we are very proud of our accomplishments this year and expect great things in the coming year.

At the 2008 National Convention each State President was asked to make and sign off on a goal for their state regarding membership growth. I promised that one Grange would be revitalized and one Junior Grange would be organized. While we fell short of that goal this year, we are on track to complete it soon. In September, six members from two Granges in Tennessee attended the Grange Growth Summit in Wytheville, Virginia. The Summit focus was on membership growth and retention. The weekend meeting was an eye-opening experience for our members who came away with renewed optimism for growing Grange in Tennessee. I attended the State President's conference in Arkansas in February, which was a time of instruction, reflection, membership growth and promotion, and problem solving for all state presidents. Another great opportunity for leadership training was in May. State Lecturer June Pinkston and I attended the Mid-Atlantic Lecturer's Conference hosted by West Virginia. Grangers from six states attended this annual leadership conference.



In October, we completed our 101st annual convention, which was held in Middle Tennessee with the Statesville Grange serving as host for the weekend. All events were held at the Grange hall. It was a great time of celebration as we looked back at a year filled with activities, completed projects, fellowship and fun. We were pleased to have Jennifer Dugent, National Grange Communications Director as our National Representative.

Again this year we had 100% participation in the community service program, with thousands of hours completed in service to our communities. Our special annual project was the donation of toiletry items for a women's shelter in the host Grange area. Large amounts of items were donated. The Lecturer reported 112 entries in the adult photography contest, and 17 in the Junior division. The Junior arts and crafts was improved over last year with 21 entries. There were also large numbers of entries in the Family Activities contests of needlework, crafts, canning and baking.

I am very happy to announce for the fifth straight year Tennessee had a net gain in membership. Two Granges showed net gains. We eagerly await the other Granges in our state making improvements in their membership numbers as well.

I realize the challenges ahead, but am encouraged by members across the state who have voiced commitments to make the Tennessee State Grange the best it can be. By keeping positive attitudes in each of our local Granges, the goals we have both for increasing membership in our current Granges and for organizing a new Grange in our State will soon become a realization. Because we have identified the problem with low membership in some of our Granges, and they now accept they need increased membership, we are better able to work toward a solution. The future is contingent on our current membership working toward a goal and we are equal to the task.

Fraternally Submitted,
Judy Sherrod, Master

Texas

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates, and members of the 143rd Annual Session of the National Grange; Margaret and I bring Greetings from Texas. We were honored this year by having National Master Ed Luttrell, Membership Director Rusty Hunt, and North Carolina Membership Director, Jessica Newton, conduct a Grange Growth Summit in Texas. Attendance at our summit exceeded all our expectations with 29 Grange members attending. During and following the workshop, Texas has gained 25 new members. Had we not purged our membership rolls, we would have shown an increase in membership for year ending June 2009. We are on the way to having an increase for 2010. We are working hard to revitalize all our Granges and organize new ones.

We had a successful fundraiser this past year. Money raised will be used to support the National Session in 2011. Plans are being made for our members to attend the session to support and assist the Oklahoma State Grange in any areas that we can. We are projecting 20 to 30 Grange members to attend the National Session in Tulsa, OK in 2011.

In July 2009, we celebrated our 75th annual session – had good attendance and participation. Our Lecturer put together a slide show of the “Years Gone By”, which was



enjoyed immensely by everyone. We were honored to have Brother Marty and wife, Sister Joyce Billquist, as National Representatives. Thanks again to the Billquists for all your assistance and helping us have a successful session.

We had good participation in our Community Service programs. Five Granges sponsored Rabies Clinics. Members did all the advertising and paper work that resulted in over 800 animals that received rabies shots. The veterinarians provided this service at a reduced cost for the clinics. Money, food, and clothing were also donated to needy families and to organizations that work with people in need. Some members work with food banks, dispensing food to families in need.

In January, we re-started our newsletter bimonthly. I have received lots of positive reviews on our newsletter. We furnish it via email or postal service to our members. The delegates at our annual session voted to continue the newsletter quarterly and a monthly "Dates to Remember" calendar.

This past year, I have devoted most of my time on improving membership, fundraising, and revitalizing membership in our Community Granges. I emphasize to the Granges, don't look back; press on and we will persevere. A lot of work remains to be done. There still remains so much to do and little time to do it. We must set our goals high and, if at first we don't succeed, try again.

May Good Bless and make our annual session a successful one. See you in Grand Rapids.

Fraternally Submitted,
Jack Smithers, Master

Vermont

I am honored to bring greetings from the Grangers of Vermont. Our 138th Annual Convention held in Montpelier last month was marked with the spirit of fraternity and cooperation, and business was completed in near-record time. Leroy Watson, National Legislative Director, was our representative from National Grange, and he brought a national perspective to our local legislative issues. Brother Leroy is a native Vermonter who last attended a State Session here 25 years ago.



One of the highlights of our annual session was the presentation of dozens of prayer shawls, made by Grangers, to be given to nursing home and hospice patients in the Rutland area. This initiative by our Chaplain, Annette Sharon, will be continued in 2010 and expanded to other parts of the state.

Our Home Economics Director, Charles Martin, has for several years made quilts to be raffled off at the Grange Building at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts, with proceeds going to a worthy cause selected by one of the State Granges in New England. This project yields thousands of dollars annually, and this year nearly \$4000 was given to support the rehabilitation program at the White River VA Hospital here in Vermont.

The annual Grange Legislative Day at the State House in Montpelier, under the direction of Legislative Chairman James Ballard, was especially well attended this past year. Both the Governor and Legislature presented proclamations to the Grange. This event has become a highlight of the Grange year, with participation by many Grangers and government officials.

In his report last year, Brother Clyde Berry established a goal of three new Junior Granges, and I am pleased to announce that this goal has been met. These have been established at very diverse Granges, and it will be interesting to follow their progress in years to come. The number of Junior Grangers and their enthusiasm promises us an active state-wide program, and I am encouraged to think more Junior Granges may be established as the accomplishments of the existing Junior Granges become more widely known. I am looking forward to presenting charters to our newest Granges.

Revival of our Youth Program, which has faltered in recent years, will be the subject of concentrated effort in the coming year. I have asked individual Granges to develop local initiatives in this area – encouraging youth participation and leadership in Grange and community affairs or assisting other Granges with their programs.

I regret to report that we lost one Grange, Vergennes #406, this past year, and that others still face difficult decisions in the months ahead. On the membership front, we gained 43 members through initiation during the last membership year, but lost 43 by death. We therefore would have maintained our membership were it not for suspensions and demits, pointing to the increasing importance of retention. With these statistics in mind, in my travels across the state I am sensing new resolve and a commitment on the part of many Patrons to address issues of membership, community involvement and revitalization.

Vermont will be hosting both the Northeast Leaders' and the Northeast Lecturers' Conferences in 2010, and we look forward to welcoming Patrons from New England and New York.

Fraternally Submitted,
Errol Briggs, Master

Virginia

I bring greetings from the Commonwealth of Virginia and the members of the Virginia State Grange.

The Granges in Virginia had a very busy year. Our Granges continued working on many different community service projects. We had great participation in our state wide community service program. Some of the projects were Words for Thirds, community pantry, roadside clean-ups, hosting family gatherings after funerals, supporting a domestic abuse shelter in a rural area.

The members from Beach Community and Bellefonte Granges pitched in to clean up and take care of grounds of Terrapin Neck Grange while reorganization efforts were being made. Those members cut grass, cleared undergrowth around the building, made plumbing repairs, and added a deck to the rear of the building. Beach Community Grange also held a basket bingo to raise funds to be given to Terrapin Neck for repairs to the building.

Our state membership director Melinda Hankins has had an extremely busy year visiting our Granges and growing our membership. We would like to thank Rusty Hunt for visiting and helping us with our efforts.

In September, we were please to host one the Grange Growth Summits in Wytheville, Virginia. We targeted revitalization of three Granges, and gauging the interests of forming a Grange in Wytheville. Goodwill and Cox's Chapel Granges had great turnout for the



meetings held at their Granges. Price's Fork Grange's meeting wasn't as well attended but new members were gained there as well. The members of the Virginia State Grange enjoyed meeting and working with Grange members from Maine, Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Connecticut and Delaware. The Summit was a great success with members learning how to run meetings and work as a team to build membership.

After the Grange Growth Summit, we followed up and got Terrapin Neck Grange reorganized and install their officers before our state session. Bellefonte and Beach Granges have pledged to help support and mentor the reorganized Terrapin Neck Grange, in the coming year.

During the year, we also reorganized Beach Community Junior Grange. We are seeing growth in that junior and are looking to get another Junior Grange formed in the coming year.

Beach Community Grange hosted our annual session. This is the first time in many years we had representative from every Grange in the State. The annual session was a celebration of our successes and planning for the future. We look forward to continued growth and development in the state of Virginia.

I would like to thank the members of the Midwest Region for hosting the 143rd Annual Convention of the National Grange. I offer best wishes to all Granges and a successful coming year.

Fraternally Submitted,
James E. Taylor, Master

Washington

Greetings to all of you from the Evergreen State of Washington; this has been a busy year for Grange in Washington. In December we held our annual Deputies/State Officers Conference. Rusty Hunt presented a seminar for all of those present and we divided into groups and went to nearby Granges to canvass neighborhoods and set meetings to revitalize some of the Granges. It was a great experience for everyone.

At that weekend, we introduced our new membership team, with coordinators Ted and Zula Bryan from the west side of the state and George and Wilma Penner from the east side. We have been working hard on membership growth throughout the state with quite a bit of success and we thank our leaders for their work. More and more people are beginning to see that we can have membership growth if they look "outside the box" and it is helping a great deal. We also had 19 people attend the Grange Growth Summit weekend in Idaho in March. We were able to visit some close-by Washington Granges as part of the conference and those Granges have benefited from these meetings.

Our 120th State Session was held June 17 through the 20 in Longview. We were delighted to have National Lecturer Judy Sherrod attend as our National Delegate. It was a busy time with a full election as well as many resolutions and reports and our host region did a tremendous job.

The economy has been a constant source of pressure on the activities in our state, as the pursuit of life's pleasures has been tempered by more financial considerations as the state's unemployment rate has risen and people have been more selective in their travel



and spending. We have tried to help people see how much the Grange can help improve the lives of those around them and that their dues are the best bargain around.

This summer the state of Washington held its first “top-two” primary, which created as a result of our Grange, sponsored initiative and which was successfully upheld by the US Supreme Court. It continues to be unpopular with the political parties but it is certainly popular with the people.

Our legislative liaison, Scott Dahlman, recently left our staff for new employment and we are in the process of hiring his replacement. Scott did a tremendous job for us in his three years in our employment and we wish him well. We have a great staff working for us and if anyone is ever out our way, be sure to look up our headquarters in Olympia. In our local areas we have many Granges who have taken their responsibilities to heart and are committed to helping those in need and making their halls a community meeting place. We have much work to do as we continue to increase community awareness of our great organization and all that we can offer them in membership.

We enjoy a continued good relationship with the Grange Insurance Association and I urge everyone in the GIA states to check into their coverage if you do not have it now. We have found it to be great insurance for years and nobody who is in the states where it is available should go without checking it out.

Washington State Grange has a separate WSG Foundation which is a separate 501(c) 3) organization which offers scholarships each year for students pursuing studies in both agriculture and other majors and which also offer several other educational grants for schools and organizations as well as Junior Grange and historical activities.

Jack and I wish you all well in the coming year as all of our states face many of the same challenges.

Fraternally Submitted,
June F. Hendrickson, Master

West Virginia

The West Virginia State Grange continues survives because of the dedication and perseverance of its members. Membership continues to be a problem. It has been emphasize many times that in order to survive we must increase membership. We were able to secure an additional \$500.00 increase in our Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policy.

In cooperation with National Grange we offer a membership package that rivals other organizations. However it is hard to entice people to join. Probably one of our biggest problems lies within our self. We have become complacent and do not emphasize what the Grange is and how we can meet the needs of our communities. As a Grange officer I am at a loss how to instill in the membership how important we are to our communities. However we will continue to fight for our survival and once again return this Great Organization to its rightful place in our state.

Fraternally Submitted,
Jim Foster, Master



Wisconsin

Worthy Master, National Officers, Bothers and Sisters, it is once again a pleasure for Kymm and I to represent the State of Wisconsin at the 143rd National Grange Convention. Having been recycled at our recent 137th convention for a second tour as State Master, I look forward to building the Grange in Wisconsin.



Being a small Grange state, we still are looking for the secret that will build membership and increase the visibility of the local Granges. The enthusiasm demonstrated by the membership at the convention to National Master Ed Luttrell's message, shows that the will to make a difference is there, we need to harness that enthusiasm over the next year. Our Grange members continue to be involved in our programs at the State level, they are involved in their communities and are making a difference. Unfortunately, we continue to hide our light under a bushel and do not publicize our accomplishments. Over the next few months I am hoping to become more visible on the World Wide Web, and allow greater access to the Grange.

I look forward to renewing friendships, meeting the new delegates, and experiencing the Grange family to the fullest, as we get together to celebrate the greatest family organization in the world.

Fraternally Submitted,
Duane Scott, Master

Wyoming

Wyoming had a good year this year. We have kept the same amount of Members. We had a meeting with Jennifer Dugent about the different paths we can take for getting new members. Our Granges have continued to work in their own regions for new members and different projects that they have going. We had a state meeting had a nice turn out for it. We are trying to move forward with getting new members. Our Granges have had bake sales and help out with different things that have been happening in the area. Antelope Grange has provided with fire protection for the firemen. Oregon trail Grange they did a fundraiser for hospice to help with the new building. Emigrant Gap Grange they help with the College National Rodeo and with a sponsor for Midwest School. Other Granges have help with community service projects.



Fraternally Submitted,
DeeDee Loomer, Master

**NATIONAL GRANGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT
2008-2009**

November 15, 2008

**Crowne Plaza
Cromwell, CT**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm 11/15/08 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Marty Billquist, Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli.

Betsy Huber was re-elected Chairman of the Board and Phil Prelli was re-elected Secretary of the Board.

Pete Pompper made a motion to approve the minutes of the 11/08/08 meeting. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and adopted.

Phil Prelli made a motion to approve the travel expenses of the delegates and officers to the National Session as presented by the National Grange Office. It was seconded by Marty Billquist and approved.

Next meeting scheduled for January 17, 18 & 19, 2009 in Charlotte, NC.

On a motion by Ed Luttrell, second by Marty Billquist and vote of the Board the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Fraternally Submitted,
F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

January 16, 2009

**Hilton Hotel
Charlotte, NC**

The meeting was called to order at 9:15am 1/16/2009 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Marty Billquist, Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli.

Betsy Huber led us in prayer asking for a successful meeting and thanking for safe travel.

Jimmy Gentry made a motion that the minutes of the 11/15/2008 meeting and the 11/25/2008 Team-speak meeting be approved as sent out. It was seconded by Marty Billquist and approved by the Board.

Phil Prelli moved and Marty Billquist seconded that we enter Executive Session to discuss internal matters at 9:20am. The motion was adopted.

It was moved by Phil Prelli, seconded by Marty Billquist and approved by the Board to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:38am.

Pete Pompper moved that we lock in the space at the Grand Rapids facility to have the 7th Degree conferred at the same facility as the National Convention and that the National Master contact the High Priest of Demeter to investigate the establishment of an alternative 7th degree that can be done as floor work that could be used in the future if necessary. It was seconded by Betsy Huber and after discussion was adopted by the Board.

Discussion was held on changes to the National Session which would streamline the process as well as giving dedicated time to Committees to do their work.

Meeting was recessed at 12:10pm.

Meeting reconvened at 1:38pm.

Master Ed Luttrell distributed the written reports of the following Directors and they were discussed by the Board:

- Leadership/Membership
- Legislative
- Junior
- Sales/ Benefits
- Communications
- Information Technology

The Board took a tour of the facility with a representative of the hotel to see the accommodations and discuss the needs of the 2010 convention.

Ed Luttrell distributed a report of the Committee appointments required by Delegate action that he has made. They are Historical; Student Grange; Alternative Installation; Sale, Encumbrance or Transfer; and Electronic Reporting.

Discussion was held on the Trademark protection issue with Tyson Foods. Part of the discussion centered on having a special dinner event to be held across the country.

In response to Tyson's letter Phil Prelli made a motion that we ask our attorneys to draft a letter to Tyson Food outlining details of a licensing agreement. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and adopted by the Board.

Ed Luttrell moved that we plan and implement a "Grange Heritage Dinner Day" on March 21, 2009. It was seconded by Betsy Huber. After some discussion Phil Prelli moved that the date be changed to April 25, 2009. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved by the Board. The amended motion was then adopted by the Board.

Marty Billquist then made a motion that the remaining members of the Grange Mutual Insurance Companies that participated in the Licensing Agreement be contacted to renew the agreement. Pete Pompper seconded it and it was approved.

Discussion was held on the plans for the 50th Anniversary of the Grange Building including a modification of some of the existing Grange Building Pins to a 50th Anniversary Pin. **On a motion by Ed Luttrell with a second from Jimmy Gentry the Board approved the acceptance of the sub-committees report to produce a pin incorporating the current building pin in a wreath and producing not more than 1000 pins with the profits going to the Building Fund.**

Meeting recessed at 5:02pm.

Meeting reconvened at 9:20am on 01/17/09

Ed Luttrell gave a report on the building. One small office is currently vacant and he is talking to a prospective tenant. As leases come due rents are being increased by a percentage.

On a motion by Ed Luttrell with a second from Pete Pompper the Board voted to go into Executive Session to discuss staffing issues at 9:45am.

Ed Luttrell moved and Pete Pompper seconded to adjourn the Executive Session. The Board approved the motion at 9:55am.

Discussion of resolutions passed at the last National Session requiring action or work of the Board was held.

Master Ed Luttrell and Leadership/ Membership Director, Rusty Hunt, are updating the materials needed in the New Grange Kit.

Discussion was held on the Master's Conference to be held in Arkansas including what

is scheduled.

On a motion by Phil Prelli, second by Marty Billquist and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.

Fraternally Submitted,
F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

**February 02, 2009
TeamSpeak Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 pm 02/02/09 by Chairperson Huber.

Participating were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli. Marty Billquist did not participate.

Discussion was held on the Trademark issue with Tyson including our response to their proposal.

Ed Luttrell moved that we reject Tyson's offer. It was seconded by Pete Pompper and adopted.

A motion was made by Phil Prelli to move forward with the Media Campaign, it was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and adopted.

Leroy Watson and Jennifer Dugent joined the meeting at 9:30 pm for discussion on the proposed legislation to protect the Grange Trademark and status of the Grange Media Campaign.

On a motion by Ed Luttrell, second from Pete Pompper the Board voted to proceed with the Legislative option.

Phil Prelli made a motion to adjourn at 10:04 pm. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved by the Board.

Fraternally Submitted,
F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

**February 13, 2009
DoubleTree Guest Suites
Bentonville, AR**

The meeting was called to order at 8:55 pm 02/13/2009 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Marty Billquist, Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli.

Discussion was held on the Trademark Issue with Tyson.

Leroy Watson joined us to discuss current negotiations.

On a motion by Phil Prelli, second by Pete Pompper and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 9:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

**February 14, 2009
DoubleTree Guest Suites
Bentonville, AR**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 pm 02/14/2009 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Marty Billquist, Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli. Randy Lewis, Master of the California State Granger joined us.

Ed Luttrell moved that we go into executive session to discuss legal matters. Pete Pompper seconded it and it was adopted. Randy Lewis was invited to join us.

Ed Luttrell moved that the executive session be adjourned. It was seconded by Pete Pompper and approved by the Board.

Ed Luttrell moved that in response to letter from Attorney Daniel F. Lula, stating that there is no such entity in Vista by the name of Vista Grange that the National Grange work with the California State Grange to ensure that the Bylaws of the National Grange are followed by Vista Grange #609. The motion was seconded by Pete Pompper and adopted by vote of the Board.

On a motion by Marty Billquist, second by Pete Pompper and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 10:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

**May 15, 2009
Holiday Inn Select
Swedesboro, NJ**

The meeting was called to order at 08:40 pm 05/15/2009 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Marty Billquist, Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli.

Discussion was held on the design for a past National Officer pin. Ed Luttrell presented 16 designs developed at National Headquarters as possible options. **Marty Billquist made a motion that design 4C be selected with a modified urn similar to the urn in the National Grange ring. It was seconded by Pete Pompper and adopted.**

On a motion by Marty Billquist, seconded by Pete Pompper the minutes of the regular meeting of 02/13/2009 and the 2 special meetings of 02/14/2009 and 02/15/2009 were adopted.

Ed Luttrell made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters. It was seconded by Pete Pompper and after an affirmative vote the Board entered Executive Session at 8:50 pm.

On a motion by Ed Luttrell, Second by Phil Prelli and vote of the Board the Executive Session was recessed at 9:30 pm.

The meeting was recessed at 9:40pm.

Meeting reconvened at 8:15 am on Saturday 5/16/09.

The following written reports were discussed:

- Financial
- Information Technology

- Junior Grange
- Youth
- Legislative
- Leadership/Membership
- Program, Sales and Benefits

Jimmy Gentry moved to approve Medical Air Service Associates on a trial basis to be re-evaluated with quarterly reports to the Board of Directors. It was seconded by Marty Billquist and approved by the Board.

On a motion from Marty Billquist, second from Jimmy Gentry the Board decided not to participate in the K Benefit Solution.

Discussion was held on defending our Trademark Name and establishing “License Agreements”.

Pete Pompper and Marty Billquist led the Board in a discussion of the plans for the 50th anniversary of the National Grange Building. These included the special pin, dedication day and possible additional bus tours.

Discussion was held on the resolution referred to the Board at the last National Session on the section of the By-Laws referring to “Sale and Encumbrance of Halls”. **Jimmy Gentry moved to amend the definition of trust in the resolution by deleting “an account and” so it reads “a bank, certificate of deposit or investment account established”. It was seconded by Pete Pompper and adopted by the Board.**

Ed Luttrell moved that we approve the resolution with section J stricken and an appropriate new article of Section 4 for definitions be developed for approval by the Board, seconded by Pete Pompper and adopted.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:20pm and reconvened at 1:10pm.

Discussion was held on the 2009 Annual Session.

The Board was presented a proposal for the 2013 session at the Manchester, NH Radisson Hotel. Master Luttrell will be looking into it further.

Phil Prelli moved that we set a deadline of October 1, 2009 to have the new Web site project fully operational and available for use. It was seconded by Pete Pompper and adopted by the Board.

Discussion was held on the employee handbook and questions on it and the need to update the material.

Ed Luttrell informed the Board the the GIA Supportive membership payment is being reduced from \$980,000 to \$900,000.

Next Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 14, 15 and 16.

On a motion by Phil Prelli, second by Pete Pompper and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

**June 10, 2009
TeamSpeak Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 09:00 pm 06/10/2009 by Chairperson Huber. Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli.

Marty Billquist was absent.

Ed Luttrell discussed work on name protection, as well as Trademark Protection and pushing Federal Legislation on our Trademark. There is a need to contact all our legacy companies as well as those companies who have been given approval to use our name.

Pete Pompper moved that we proceed with the Federal Legislation action for the Trademark protection. Jimmy Gentry seconded. Phil Prelli then moved an amendment that the National Grange Management use the funds in the certificate of deposits when they come do to fund the effort for the legislation while keeping the Board informed of the effort. Pete Pompper seconded it and the board approved the amendment and then the motion as amended.

Phil Prelli moved to offer a \$12,000 loan to the California State Grange at a 1.5% interest rate to assist with their lawsuit. It was seconded by Pete Pompper and adopted.

Discussion was held on the email received from Jessie Cope on the registration fee at National Grange session. **Jimmy Gentry moved that we accept the recommendation of staff to have a \$25. Registration Fee as an early bird and after an established cutoff date the fee be increased to \$30. It was seconded by Pete Pompper and adopted**

On a motion by Phil Prelli, second by Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 10:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

**August 21, 2009
National Headquarters
Washington, DC**

The meeting was called to order at 08:56 pm 08/21/2009 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Marty Billquist, Betsy Huber, Ed Luttrell, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli (who joined at 9:40am). Jimmy Gentry was absent.

Chairperson Huber led us in prayer for a good meeting.

The minutes of the last regular meeting, May 15, 2009, and the special Teamspeak meeting of June 10, 2009 were approved on a motion from Marty Billquist, second from Pete Pompper and vote of the Board.

The following reports were received with discussion held on each:

- Communications – We are saving \$13,000 in printing cost due to a change in printing companies. The New Grange is now being printed in Missouri. Master Luttrell and Jennifer Dugent are discussing starting a National Grange Blog.
- Financial – Discussion was held on how we can continue to encourage Granges to contribute to the fund to support our name protection efforts. A new line item will be added to the income report for “Licensing Agreements”. Master Luttrell reported that expenses were on track for the budget but revenue projections were running below budget primarily due to lower than expected donations from Granges for the legal fund.
- Information and Technology – They are looking into establishing a “pay-pal

account” to make it easier to purchase Grange items as well as improve collections. Ongoing discussion was held on the new website and need to have it implemented.

- Junior – Discussion was held on the plans for the Junior Activities at National Session.
- Legislative – A majority of the time being spent in this department this year is on the name protection issue. Leroy Watson is doing a very good job at obtaining Legislative Sponsorships and should be congratulated.
- Membership – Homer Grange has been organized in Alaska. Discussion was held on the Grange Growth Summits and plans for next year.
- Program, Sales and Benefits – Discussion was held on the Grange Insurance benefit with the Hayes Group and a possible change to another carrier. The Lockton Group has been approached. **Marty Billquist moved that National Master Luttrell and Program, Sales & Benefit Manager, Samantha Johnson, take the necessary steps to continue a Grange Property & Casualty Insurance Program for Grange Halls. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved by the Board.** There is currently \$1,307.03 in past due payments on store sales.
- Youth - We discussed the programs for the Youth being considered for National Session as well as the successful Youth Conferences.
- National Convention – Discussion was held on the upcoming conventions and steps that were taken to renegotiate the contract. All is going well for the convention at Grand Rapids, MI. We also discussed status of 2010, 2011, and 2012.
- Discussion was held on current attorney actions concerning several State legal actions and also actions on protecting our Grange Trademark.

On the matter of name protection, Master Luttrell informed us of the efforts moving forward on having a template letter drafted that State Granges can use when they discover the name being incorrectly used. This could improve the communication and assist in keeping the legal fees as low as possible. Ed Luttrell also informed us that the donations for the fund are running well below the budgeted amount.

Recessed at 12:20 pm.

Reconvened at 1:35 pm.

Discussion was held on plans for the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the Grange Building. Brothers Pompper and Billquist brought us up to date on the location ideas and logistics of the ceremony and possible tours. It was also decided that as soon as plans are finalized the National Master would send invitations to special dignitaries.

Unfinished Business

Ed Luttrell made a motion that the Executive Committee report to the delegates shall include the recommendation of the approval of the sale, encumbrance or transfer of real property pages, the sale of Grange consolidation page and the held in trust definition. It was seconded by Pete Pompper and the motion approved.

Pete Pompper moved that we have a special session of the National Grange to deal with E-Membership, sale of Grange Property and consolidation of property; Sunday evening November 15, 2009 at same location as National Session. Seconded by Marty Billquist and approved.

After discussion on plans for the 2013 and 2014 Annual Session **Phil Prelli moved to accept the Invitation to Manchester, NH for the 2013 session, seconded by Marty Billquist and approved by the Board.**

Ed Luttrell made a motion that we send Section 1 as edited on the “Archive

Policy” back to the committee for their input and review. After a second from Pete Pompper and discussion it was approved by the Board.

Ed Luttrell moved that we agree in principal on suggestion 2 and 3 of the proposal from the Historical Commission but ask that the Committee come up with suggestions on the process of implementing them. Seconded by Pete Pompper and approved.

Discussion was held on the Web site and status of implementing the new web site.

Marty Billquist moved that we start the renovation and refurbishing of the bathrooms in The National Grange Building. It was seconded by Pete Pompper and approved by the board.

Pete Pompper made a motion that we purchase 250 past National Grange Officer Pins as recommended and we would distribute pins to past officers at our next annual session. Phil Prelli seconded it and it was approved by the Board.

New Business

After discussion the Board selected a list of Heroes of the Grange from the list presented by the Directors. They will be honored at National Session.

Discussion was held concerning problems in several State Granges.

Recessed at 6:35 pm.

Reconvened at 8:15 pm.

On a motion by Marty Billquist, second by Pete Pompper and vote of the Board it was decided to promote Samantha Johnson to Director of Programs, Sales and Benefits effective 11/15/09.

Discussion was held on the Budget for 2010. More information will be presented to the Board.

Meeting recessed at 9:00 pm.

Reconvened at 8:40 am 08/23/09.

Discussion was held on new programs being planned. These included “revitalizing Pomona Granges” and outlining their purposes and benefits.

On a motion by Ed Luttrell, second by Marty Billquist and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 9:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,
F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

**November 15, 2009
Amway Grand Hotel
Grand Rapids, MI**

The meeting was called to order at 09:00 on 11/15/2009 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Marty Billquist, Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli.

Betsy Huber led us in prayer asking for a successful National Session and guidance in our meeting.

Jimmy Gentry moved to accept the minutes of the 08/21/09 meeting. It was seconded by Pete Pompper and adopted by the Board.

Department Reports:

- Communications -There is a new ad program for the new ad program for the New Grange. The Web Expansion program was discussed. Limited Testing has been rolled out. **On a motion by Jimmy Gentry with a second from Pete Pompper the Board voted that if the Web Program was not up and running by 02/01/10 that we would cancel the project.**
- Executive Assistant/ Meeting Planner - The building is currently fully rented. She is setting up new procedures for interaction with State Coordinators and planning for the Convention.
- IT Report
- Junior Report
- Legislative Report – Discussion was held on the affect on Legislative effort the Name Protection work was having.
- Membership – Plans are to continue and grow the GGS in the coming year to include team/ leadership building and Pomona Granges.
- Sales Benefit and Programs – **Pete Pompper moved that the National Master discuss with the Chairman of the Grange Growth Session Committee to eliminate the Family of the Year Contest. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry. After discussion Phil Prelli moved to postpone action till after our noon break, seconded by Pete Pompper and approved. Jimmy Gentry made a motion that we accept the recommendation to change the approach of sales at State Granges to a prepay for items they want at State Grange Conventions for one year and re-evaluate next year. It was seconded by Mart Billquist and adopted by the Board.** Discussion was held on the Long Term Care proposal and Health Proponent proposal. **Phil Prelli moved to approve the suggested Allied Service Proposal and postpone the Health Proponent proposal. It was seconded by Pete Pompper and adopted by the Board.**
- Youth Department

On a motion from Phil Prelli, Second by Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board we went into Executive Session to discuss State Grange concerns.

Ed made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session, Pete seconded it and it was approved.

Recessed for Lunch at 12:00 pm.

Reconvened at 1:45 pm.

It was decided no further action was needed on the Family of the Year award as it required no delegate action.

Discussion was held on the plans for the 50th Anniversary of the Grange Building. Work is being done on closing the street, if that is not possible other alternatives are needed. Two Community Grange one from NJ and one from CA as well as the Oklahoma Insurance Company have offered to contribute up to \$1,500 each for painting the Grange portion of the building.

We are awaiting requests bids from the Midwest for the 2014 session.

Phil Prelli moved that the Board recommend the proposed Budget to the Audit and Budget Committee. Pete Pompper seconded it.

Marty Billquist moved an amendment that the National Master's line item be changed to \$30,800. Pete Pompper seconded it and the amendment was approved.

Jimmy Gentry moved the National Master's salary be changed from \$51,500 to \$54,000. Seconded by Phil Prelli. It was approved by the Board with Ed Luttrell

abstaining.

Ed Luttrell moved that we change the line item for National Secretary to read National Officers and change the detail to be National Secretary \$500 and National Lecturer \$500. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved by the Board.

The amended motion was approved by the Board.

Ed Luttrell discussed his plans for the 2010 Grange Year including increasing outreach to the members.

Next Full Board meeting will be prior to the Annual President's Meeting on 2/12/10.

On a motion by Ed Luttrell, second by Marty Billquist and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

**REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY
(PREPARED BY THE NATIONAL MASTER'S OFFICE)
RECEIPTS AND DISBURSMENTS
1/1/08- 12/31/09**

Sixth Degree Fees: \$1,045.00
Golden Sheaf Certificates: \$5,470.00

**Membership Recognition
1/1/08- 12/31/09**

Sixth Degree Certificates: 418
Golden Sheaf Certificates: 547
40 year seals: 193
50 year seals: 691
60 year seals: 741
65 year seals: 406
70 year seals: 191
75 year certificate: 122
80 year letters: 23
85 year letters: 06
90 year letters: 01

**Organization and Reorganization
7/1/08- 6/30/09**

Junior Granges

State	Organized	Reorganized
California	1	0
Maine	0	1
Massachussetts	1	0
Michigan	0	1
Ohio	0	1
Oregon	1	0
Pennsylvania	1	0
Vermont	1	0
Virginia	0	1
TOTAL	5	4

Subordinate Granges

State	Organized	Reorganized
Alaska	1	0
California	5	0
Florida	1	0
Iowa	0	1
Massachussets	2	1
New Hampshire	0	1
North Carolina	2	0
Oklahoma	2	0
Oregon	0	1
Pennsylvania	1	0
TOTAL	14	4

Pomona Granges

No Pomona Granges were chartered in 2009.

State	Quarters	Sub. Charter Fees	Junior Charter Fees	6th Degree Certificates	Golden Sheaf
Alaska	1st 08-4th 08	\$25.00		0	0
Arkansas	1st 08-4th 08			0	0
California	1st 08-4th 08	\$25.00	\$10.00	41	12
Colorado	1st 08-4th 08			8	4
Connecticut	1st 08-4th 08			9	34
Delaware	1st 08-4th 08			4	1
Florida	1st 08-4th 08	\$25.00		1	0
Idaho	1st 08-4th 08			8	11
Illinois	1st 08-4th 08			9	15
Indiana	1st 08-4th 08			3	0
Iowa	1st 08-4th 08	\$25.00		0	13
Kansas	1st 08-4th 08			8	2
Maine	1st 08-4th 08		\$10.00	24	29
Maryland	1st 08-4th 08			7	0
Massachusetts	1st 08-4th 08	\$50.00	\$10.00	19	18
Michigan	1st 08-4th 08		\$10.00	4	5
Minnesota	1st 08-4th 08			0	0

Missouri	1st 08-4th 08			0	0
Montana	1st 08-4th 08			5	1
Nebraska	1st 08-4th 08			0	6
New Hampshire	1st 08-4th 08			10	18
New Jersey	1st 08-4th 08			0	2
New York	1st 08-4th 08			15	60
North Carolina	1st 08-4th 08	\$50.00		20	0
Ohio	1st 08-4th 08		\$10.00	12	45
Oklahoma	1st 08-4th 08	\$25.00		9	0
Oregon	1st 08-4th 08	\$25.00	\$10.00	24	20
Pennsylvania	1st 08-4th 08	\$25.00	\$10.00	28	72
Rhode Island	1st 08-4th 08			8	10
South Carolina	1st 08-4th 08			0	7
Tennessee	1st 08-4th 08			0	0
Texas	1st 08-4th 08			0	0
Vermont	1st 08-4th 08		\$10.00	10	7
Virginia	1st 08-4th 08		\$10.00	16	0
Washington	1st 08-4th 08	\$25.00		104	155
West Virginia	1st 08-4th 08			12	0
Wisconsin	1st 08-4th 08			0	0
Wyoming	1st 08-4th 08			0	0
Potomac Grange	1st 08-4th 08			0	74
TOTAL		\$300.00	\$90.00	418	547

1st Quarter 2008 - 4th Quarter 2008 Dues

Alaska	\$ 1,087.50	Maryland	\$ 4,615.00	Pennsylvania	\$ 97,512.50
Arkansas	\$ 0	Massachusetts	\$ 18,567.50	Rhode Island	\$ 8,752.50
California	\$ 82,137.50	Michigan	\$ 7,720.00	South Carolina	\$ 1,317.50
Colorado	\$ 13,505.00	Minnesota	\$ 1,273.00	Tennessee	\$ 787.50
Connecticut	\$ 24,006.50	Montana	\$ 3,350.00	Texas	\$ 2,605.00
Delaware	\$ 4,515.00	Nebraska	\$ 1,715.00	Vermont	\$ 15,120.00
Florida	\$ 1,417.50	New Hampshire	\$ 17,085.00	Virginia	\$ 2,967.50
Idaho	\$ 10,370.00	New Jersey	\$ 9,075.00	Washington	\$ 144,625.00
Illinois	\$ 12,383.50	New York	\$ 51,037.50	West Virginia	\$ 2,372.50
Indiana	\$ 3,612.50	North Carolina	\$ 29,885.00	Wisconsin	\$ 832.50
Iowa	\$ 1,472.50	Ohio	\$ 51,640.00	Wyoming	\$ 4,540.00
Kansas	\$ 2,757.50	Oklahoma	\$ 13,610.00	Potomac Grange	\$ 251.00
Maine	\$ 45,050.00	Oregon	\$ 59,804.55	TOTAL	\$ 753,376.05

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry
Washington, DC

I have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry (a non-profit corporation) as of December 31, 2008, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Grange's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry as of December 31, 2008, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Erin Bolin CPA, P.C.

April 06, 2009

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2008

	GRANGE OPERATING ACCOUNT	GRANGE BUILDING ACCOUNT	TOTAL NATIONAL GRANGE
ASSETS			
Cash on hand and on deposit (Sch. I)	\$ 403,396	\$ -	\$ 403,396
Investments (Note 4)	185,659	-	185,659
Accounts receivable (Sch. II)	10,792	-	10,792
Prepaid expenses and supplies	6,649	-	6,649
Inventory - sales (Note 2)	128,255	-	128,255
Building (at cost)	-	1,174,014	1,174,014
Accumulated depreciation - Building	-	(1,132,916)	(1,132,916)
Equipment and Improvement	56,112	812,516	868,628
Accum Dep- Equip & Improvement	(56,112)	(587,531)	(643,643)
Land	-	255,238	255,238
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 734,751	\$ 521,321	\$ 1,256,072
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	\$ 163,378	\$ -	\$ 163,378
Grange bonding	508	-	508
Security deposits - tenants	-	21,870	21,870
Due to (from) building account	6,128,397	(6,128,397)	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	6,292,283	(6,106,527)	185,756
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted - building	-	6,627,848	6,627,848
Unrestricted - operating	(5,557,532)	-	(5,557,532)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	(5,557,532)	6,627,848	1,070,316
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 734,751	\$ 521,321	\$ 1,256,072

See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2008

Schedule I - Cash on Hand and on Deposit

Operating account	\$ 353,157
Payroll account	5,351
Leadership/Membership Imprest Fund	-
Nation Convention Bank	14,825
Petty cash	350
Building Reserve - Money Market Fund	29,713

Total Cash on Hand and on Deposit	\$ 403,396
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Schedule II - Accounts Receivable

Kelly Farm	\$ 8
Youth Leader Ship	5,463
Sales	5,321

Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 10,792
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See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statements of Activities - Operating Account

For the Year Ended December 31, 2008

REVENUE	
Dues and Fees	
Subordinate Grange Dues	\$ 773,618
Subordinate Grange Charter Fees	312
Junior Grange Charter Fees	60
Sixth Degree Fees	1,145
Seventh Degree Fees	4,250
GIA	122,500
Sales Income	100,098
Interest, Dividend Income	5,492
Fund Raising Donations	20,170
Miscellaneous Income	11,382
TOTAL REVENUE	1,039,027
EXPENSES	
General and Administrative	533,132
National Master	79,196
National Secretary	500
Board of Directors	9,812
Communication Publication	138,711
Youth Activities	14,159
Junior Grange	19,415
High Priest	5,214
Membership, Leadership	63,266
Legislation	17,988
IT/ Systems	63,385
National Convention	170,287
Marketing/Sales	166,090
Representatives to State Conventions	12,235
Pres Mtg	10,997
Simple IRA	10,604
Furniture and Equipment	0
Miscellaneous	4,572
Depreciation	1,470
TOTAL	1,321,033
DECREASE IN NET ASSETS - OPERATING	(282,006)
Unrealized Gain—Investment	0
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - January 31,	(5,275,526)
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - December 31,	\$ (5,557,532)

See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY**Statements of Activity - Building Operations***For the Year Ended December 31, 2008***INCOME**

Rent	\$ 839,633
NG Building – Expense Allocation	50,841
Storage	7,645

TOTAL INCOME	898,119
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EXPENSES

Salaries and Payroll Taxes	80,422
Real Estate Taxes	114,836
Electricity, Gas and Water	106,399
Telephone	1,028
Building Supplies	3,134
Service Contracts, Inspection	109,317
Repairs and Maintenance	50,875
Insurance	20,834
Miscellaneous, Commissions	2,610

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	489,455
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CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS	408,664
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Provision for Depreciation	81,796
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INCREASE IN NET ASSETS - Building	326,868
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NET ASSETS - Building Operations – January 1,	6,300,980
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NET ASSETS - Building Operations - December 31,	\$ 6,627,848
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See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2008

CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Decrease in Net Assets - Operating	\$ (282,006)
Increase in Net Assets - Building	326,868
Total	44,864
Adjustments to Reconcile Decrease in Net Assets to Cash (Used) by Operations	
Depreciation	85,552
Decrease (Increase) in Accounts Receivable	3,095
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expenses, Supplies	(2,199)
Decrease (Increase) in Inventory	10,710
Increase (Decrease) in Grange Bonding	(1,988)
(Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable	87,797

NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	227,831
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CASH USED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES

(Increase) in from Investment Maturity	(5,017)
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NET CASH (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(5,017)
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CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES	0
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NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH	222,814
--	----------------

CASH - January 1,	180,582
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CASH - December 31,	\$ 403,396
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See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

Board of Directors
The Grange Foundation
1616 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

I have reviewed the accompanying statement of financial position of The Grange Foundation as of December 31, 2008, and the related statement of activities, change in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. All information in these financial statements is the representation of the management of The Grange Foundation.

A review consists principally of inquiries of Foundation personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an examination in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole.

Based on my review, I am not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting standards.

Erin Bolin CPA PC

April 06, 2009

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2008

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash – Operating	\$ 19,857
CD Investments	60,000
Total Current Assets	79,857
Other Assets	
Endowment Fund (Restricted)	193,781
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 273,638
LIABILITY	
Accounts Payable- Due to National Grange	\$ 5,463
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	66,170
Temporarily Restricted	8,225
Permanently Restricted – Endowment	193,780
TOTAL NET ASSETS	268,175
TOTAL LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS	\$ 273,638

See Accompanying Accountant's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

2009 Report of the Communications Department Cromwell, CT November 19, 2009

The National Grange Communications Department consists of Communications Director Jennifer Dugent, Programs Assistant Molly Thompson, and part-time printer Leon Wilkins.

New Grange

The New Grange has a base of approximately 8300 print subscribers and 100 email subscribers. It continues to be a 10½ x 13½ newspaper, tabloid format with 4 colors on the front, center and back pages.

The New Grange operated on a budget of \$65,000 for the 2009 year. This included printing of 8,400 pieces per issue, and postage. Jennifer Dugent serves as Editor and Graphic Artist for the publication.

This year the department switched from Boyd Printing to Press Journal Printing for The New Grange. As printers of USA Today, Press Journal Printing is able to save the National Grange a tremendous amount on paper and printing—saving approximately \$3,000/issue. This will save the department roughly \$20,000/year.

In an effort to make the New Grange self-sustaining, the department offers an Advertisement Sales Commission Plan where Grangers and Granges can sell ads and get a commission off the sale.

Journal of Proceedings

Harris Lithographics in Maryland printed the Journal of Proceedings. The cost of printing the Journal was approximately \$3,200 for 500 copies, saving us \$600 compared to last years printing. It is also available for download online.

Legislative Policies Book

Harris Lithographics in Maryland once again printed the Legislative Policy Book. The cost of printing the book was approximately \$4,900 for 1,000 books. The book was 116 pages with a full-color cover. The Policy Book was also made available in the May/June issue of the New Grange and in CD form, as well as the usual downloadable web version.

Grange Month

This year's theme for Grange Month was "Opportunity Knocks." All Granges were encouraged to organize an open house, recognize an outstanding community citizen, and participate in a community service activity. We included the materials in newspaper form in The New Grange and online, and also sent out an informative Grange Month packet to all Granges with posters, applications, proclamations, and press releases. The cost came to almost \$3,000. The materials were also available online.

We also offered a Grange Month Essay Writing contest. Grangers wrote about the subject “Why every community needs a Grange TODAY.” We received 15 entries from Grangers all around the country, and Sara Beth A.R. Kohut of Pennsylvania was the winner. Sara’s essay was featured in an article in *The New Grange*, she won 2 tickets to the Celebration Banquet at the 2009 National Grange Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan; and will be honored at the Celebration Banquet.

Media Relations

Dick Weiss has continued to serve as our Public Relations Consultant. Dick is a trusted friend of the Grange, and has an extensive public relations background. Dick helped with our name protect efforts and other Grange projects.

Director Jennifer Dugent has been coordinating with Dick Weiss and the State Masters to layout the groundwork for the 2010 National Mater’s Tour, which will hit all State Granges in the year 2010.

The department continues internal PR efforts with the National Grange Newscorner, which can be found on the website, as well as *The New Grange* and *View from the Hill*.

Electronic Communications

We have continued to broaden the Grange’s reach in terms of Electronic Communications and Social Networking. Director Jennifer Dugent has traveled, giving Grange Members in-person training on using these tools.

National Master Video Messages: Videos of National Master Ed Luttrell delivering a monthly message to members are created and posted on the National Grange Website. The videos are also available on the National Grange YouTube Channel. This way Brother Luttrell can be in Grange Halls and homes around the country.

National Grange YouTube Channel: The National Grange continues to operate out YouTube Channel. This Channel allows us to post Video messages from the National Master, staff, and other Grangers. Events have been featured on the YouTube Channel. People are able to subscribe to our Channel and get messages whenever a new video is posted. We are able to find videos posted by other organizations that involve the National Grange (such as Legislative Director Leroy Watson speaking on Capitol Hill) and link them to our Channel, which encourages outsiders to visit and learn more about the Grange. In 2009 we posted 30 videos, which were viewed as much as 260 times.

Web Expansion Program: The Web Expansion Program is progressing. After a few glitches with the software our technicians were able to come up with a product that we were able to test with a focus group. Grange members from Alaska State Grange participated in this group so that our technicians could see if there was anything we were missing in terms of making the software user friendly for members. Once all of those functions are covered, we will have a soft launch of the software to our list of Grange members that volunteered to be testers earlier in 200They will test the software for glitches before we do a full launch of the product in 2010.

National Grange Podcast Channel: The Communications Department has continued the National Grange Podcast Channel. Audio episodes are posted weekly that contain interviews, TeamSpeak conferences, and other information. In 2009 so far we have posted 40 Podcasts. On average, each Podcast is listened to around 116 times per month through the National Grange website and the iTunes Store.

National Grange Web Commercials: Commercials will be created and distributed online to different websites and blogs as an effort to get the Grange name out there. These commercials will include specialized themes, including our Legislative Program, Youth and Junior Programs, and Membership Program. The first Commercial was done for National Grange Convention 200The next commercial, a general National Grange commercial, will debut at National Convention. It will also be available online to download in case members want to play it at recruitment events.

E-Communications Tool Kit: The Department has developed a new tool for members to use to teach them about the various electronic communication tools out their, how the National Grange is using them, and how their own Grange can benefit from them. Distribution began at the Grange Growth Summits and will continue at Convention.

Departmental Support

The department currently works with the Marketing/Sales, Junior, Youth, and Legislative Departments on merchandise, printed materials, web graphics and files, and videos for DVD and tape. Projects for this year for other departments include:

- 2009 Sales Catalog
- The Digest
- Design and Graphics for the Grange Store, Junior Grange, and Youth Websites
- Legislative Fly-In Materials
- Legislative Policy Book and CD
- Building Anniversary Videos
- Youth Appeal Letter
- Junior Grange Program Logo
- Prescription Program Cards
- Grange Bonding Information Pamphlet
- Choice Hotels Ad
- Grange Youth Certificates
- Grange Youth Program Books
- Grange Builder Kits
- Grange Growth Summit logo
- Grange Growth Summit Packets
- Sales Merchandise: t-shirts, pins, 5th degree membership cards, Grange Initiates, receipt books, meeting notice cards, greeting cards, subordinate/alternative manuals, junior water bottles, Grange and You membership manuals, and much more.

Convention Support

The department lent its talents to Meeting Planner Jessie Cope for the 143rd National Convention. Projects completed included:

- Meal tickets
- Past Officer Pins
- Invitations
- Memorial Service program
- 7th Degree program
- Junior Grange program cover
- Evening of Excellence program
- Celebration Banquet program
- Official Convention program
- Convention shirts and pins
- 6th Degree Certificates
- Delegate binder tabs
- Name badges

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Dugent
Communications Director

**2009 Report of the Information Technology Department
Grand Rapids, Michigan
November 19, 2009**

Security System

The National Grange has maintained a complete inventory of all front door pass cards that access the National Grange building. This inventory confirms the names of individuals that enter the building, their access level as well as the company they are associated with. It is pertinent that this information remain current so that there is accurate information in the database that can be retrieved in the unfortunate event of fowl play. The National Grange has a total of 154 pass cards issued.

Sirus Systems updated the current front door access control software, WinPak 1.17, which was outdated and no longer supported by its manufacturers, Northern Computers, Inc. The front door access system is currently using WinPak SE. A supply of compatible front door pass cards have been ordered and ready for immediate use.

Computer Hardware/Software

The National Grange ordered 5 laptops to be used at the 143rd National Grange Convention. These laptops will be used by assigned committees during the convention for the purpose of editing documents. The cost of purchasing these laptops to use during convention for the next 4 to 5 years is far more cost effective than to rent the same laptops every year for one week. The savings estimated to be \$2800.00

The National Grange has renewed its ACE Certificate with Identrust. This certificate is used to file the National Grange Lobbying Reports every quarter.

The National Grange is currently discussing the need to upgrade its accounting software from Peachtree Premium Accounting 2005 to QuickBooks Premier 2010 Non Profit Edition. This multiuser license software will be used by the Accounting Department as well as the Marketing and Sales Department. QuickBooks will offer a number of advanced features not available with the current version of Peachtree. QuickBooks will also offer merchant services which will allow online credit card processing.

The National Grange purchased a new IMAC for the Communications/Publications Department. Adobe Creative Suite 4 Design Standard software was purchased for this workstation. The former IMAC is currently being used by Molly Thompson as she assists in that department. This former IMAC, which used an older version of Adobe Creative Suite, was upgraded so that it would be compatible with the newer IMAC in the Communication/Publications Department.

A HP Pavilion laptop was purchased for the National Grange President, Ed Luttrell. Mr. Luttrell's laptop showed early signs of a failing motherboard.

Two National Grange computers, still covered under the Dell lease repair contract, were serviced. The accountant's computer had its hard drive replaced. The Marketing and Sales Director's computer had its cd-rom drive replaced.

The National Grange renewed its contract with Pitney Bowes and streamlined its quarterly payments by downsizing to the DM525 mail machine. This new mail machine is smaller in size and best suits the volume of yearly mail distribution. The contract also includes the upgrade to SendSuite (a web-based mail processing software). With the new

mailing system in place it offers a substantial financial savings every quarter as well as a variety of benefits such as:

- Email notifications to recipients of shipped packages
- Allows both sender and recipient to track package through the delivery process
- Minimize cost by providing clear price comparisons
- Multi-carriers such as USPS, FedEx and UPS
- Reduce errors by informing you of undeliverable addresses
- Pitney Bowes maintenance via internet

No other computer hardware/software was needed.

Email Notices And Announcements

The following email notices and announcements were formatted for distribution in 2009:

- “View from the Hill” Newsletter
- “New Grange” Newsletter
- Memorial Notices
- Fraternal Concerns
- Promotional Sale Items
- Member Benefit Alerts
- Legislative Action Alerts
- Membership Tips of the Month
- Leadership Tips of the Month
- Leadership TeamSpeak Announcements
- Youth TeamSpeak Announcements
- Important Grange Announcements, etc.

Grange Websites

www.nationalgrange.org

The National Grange regularly updates various sections of its website with news and upcoming information. Current information has proven to be useful for populating other states newspapers and newsletters on a regular basis. The news corner section was specifically designed for state grange editors and Public Relation Directors to retrieve such information.

The National Grange website also features:

- One bi-monthly newspaper, “The New Grange”
- One monthly newsletter, “View from the Hill”
- Weekly Legislative “Action Alerts”
- Monthly “Legislative Round-Up” which features insight from several state granges;
- Leadership Tele-Conferences facilitated by the Membership/Leadership Director, Rusty Hunt

- Leadership Tele-Conferences facilitated by the National Grange President, Ed Luttell
- National Grange Presidents Message video
- Monthly Leadership & Membership Tips
- National Grange Blogs
- National Presidents Blogs
- Facebook and Twitter links
- Podcasts
- Membership Advertisements
- Announcements and others.

A new layout for the National Grange website is underway.

<http://www.grangestore.org>

The online Grange Store is functioning and accepting orders. The Grange Store website features a thumbnail image of each item for sale. An enlarged picture of these items is also available as well a detail description. The grange store features a shopping cart and checkout section where visitors can purchase items with a major credit card. Purchases can also be made by calling the National Grange Sales Department or submitting their order through mail. New items for sale are added to the Grange Store when available.

<http://www.nationaljuniorgrange.org>

Updates to the Junior Grange website are ongoing which include the monthly newsletters, “Keeping Up with Junior Grange”, as well as activities, reports, forms, junior brochures, merit badges, programs, Junior Guidebook, community service information, etc. Domain names associated with this website will be renewed.

<http://www.nationalgrangeyouth.org>

The National Junior Grange website features various important information for Grange Youth. It offers a list of programs and contest (regional and national), youth awards, and youth conference information for Midwest, Northeastern, Western, Eastern, Great Plains and National Convention. It also offers Youth videos, program updates and changes, a full year calendar as well as the monthly newsletter, “Grange2.0”, from Youth and Young Adults Director, Charlene Espenshade, and more. Domain names associated with this website will be renewed.

<http://www.grangefoundation.org>

The Grange Foundation website will be coming soon.

Domain Registrations

The following Grange domains have been renewed with Network Solutions:

- nationalgrange.org - Oct. 10, 2013
- nationalgrange.net – Dec. 7, 2011

The following Grange domains are set to automatic renew with Bulk Register/Enom:

- nationalgrange.com – Jan. 11, 2010
- nationalgrange.info – Jan. 14, 2010
- nationalgrange.biz – Jan. 13, 2010
- nationalgrange.us – Jan. 13, 2010

The following Grange domains have been renewed with GoDaddy:

- grangestore.com - Feb. 08, 2010
- grangestore.net - Feb. 08, 2010
- grangestore.org - Feb. 08, 2010
- nationalgrangestore.com - Feb. 08, 2010
- nationalgrangestore.net - Feb. 08, 2010
- nationalgrangestore.org - Feb. 08, 2010
- grangeyouth.com - Mar. 24, 2010
- grangeyouth.net - Mar. 24, 2010
- grangeyouth.org - Mar. 24, 2010
- juniorgrange.com - Mar. 24, 2010
- juniorgrange.net - Mar. 24, 2010
- juniorgrange.org - Mar. 24, 2010
- nationalgrangeyouth.com - Mar. 24, 2010
- nationalgrangeyouth.net - Mar. 24, 2010
- nationalgrangeyouth.org - Mar. 24, 2010
- nationaljuniorgrange.com - Mar. 24, 2010
- nationaljuniorgrange.net - Mar. 24, 2010
- nationaljuniorgrange.org - Mar. 24, 2010
- grangefoundation.com - Apr. 20, 2010
- grangefoundation.net - Apr. 20, 2010
- thegrangefoundation.com - May 02, 2010
- thegrangefoundation.net - May. 02, 2010
- thegrangefoundation.org - May 02, 2010

National Database

Individual files were made for each State Grange containing their respective officers (Masters, Lecturers, & Secretaries). These files were created as an online Google document providing access to state masters and secretaries only for editing. This gives State Granges the ability to update their own officers and members using a basic internet connection and without the purchasing of any specific software. Once the Google document has

been edited, an email notification is sent to the IT Manager of the change which then will reflect the National Grange Database. This process should prove to maintain an accurate and functioning database used to communicate with grassroots officers in local granges. This process will also be used to retrieve grange membership information. The following states have submitted their updated officers list. More states are scheduled to provide this information in coming months.

State	Off.	State	Off.	State	Off.	State	Off.
Alaska		Kansas		New Jersey	X	South Carolina	
California		Maine	X	New York		Tennessee	
Colorado		Maryland		North Carolina		Texas	
Connecticut		Massachusetts	X	Ohio		Vermont	
Delaware	X	Michigan	X	Oklahoma		Virginia	X
Florida	X	Minnesota		Oregon		Washington	X
Idaho	X	Montana	X	Pennsylvania		West Virginia	X
Illinois	X	Nebraska		Potomac #1		Wisconsin	X
Indiana		New Hampshire	X	Rhode Island	X	Wyoming	
Iowa							

Stephanie J. Wilkins
IT Manager

**2009 Report of the Junior Department
Grand Rapids, Michigan
November 20, 2009**

This year has been another great year for the National Junior Grange Department. You might think this sounds like what I say each year, but every year we are growing and our participation just seems to be growing by leaps and bounds. So way to go Juniors, Leaders, and State Directors. You are truly making a difference.

The tireless efforts of State Directors and Leaders is to be commended. Many thanks goes out to all of those who have chauffeured Juniors to meetings, camps, and patiently encouraged their Juniors to be the best they can be. Please remember it takes many dedicated individuals to make the Junior Grange Program work. My heartfelt thanks and gratitude goes out to all who have taken the time to make the National Junior Grange successful.

This year the National Junior Grange Program has seen many successes and I would like to share them with you. In every way the National Junior Grange Department has experienced success. Each year we strive to make our program better, and without a doubt, this is happening. So remember that Junior Grange programs help to bring great successes to every Junior Granger member. Our success today leads to a successful community Grange, and then, in turn, a successful National Grange.

2009—"No Child Left Inside" Theme for the National Junior Grange Department

- Program booklets were distributed throughout the Nation to Leaders, Directors, and Parents.
- There were many positive and supportive comments from Leaders and Directors about the program with many states choosing to use the theme as their state's theme.
- The all new theme encouraged Juniors to get out and appreciate and enjoy being outside. Each Junior was encouraged to appreciate the great outdoors. Each Junior Granger that participated was rewarded with a certificate and Junior membership pin. We have had well over 600 participants in this program. Yea!!
- Our Creative Writing Contest (Theme: Write about your favorite place outside) was a huge success.
- Creative Art (Theme: Draw a picture of favorite place when you are outside).
- I truly believe this is awesome participation—I am so proud of our Juniors. We have had such awesome participation in all of our contests and programs this year.

Regional Youth Conferences—A true success story

- I was able this year to attend Regional Conferences: Montana, Oklahoma, New Jersey, New York.
- At each conference we put on a workshop entitled "What's Your Story?", "What's our Story." It was a great opportunity to encourage everyone to share their own stories and successes. In addition, we also shared the DVD that the National Grange produced on "The 50th Anniversary of the National Grange Headquarters."
- In addition, at each conference we introduced the Washington, DC experience that we

will be holding in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary celebration of the National Grange Headquarters. This event will be held June 24-27, 2010. This will be an outstanding event for our Juniors in 2010.

- This year we held National Junior Grange Regional Public Speaking, Sign-a-Song, Manually Sign the Alphabet, and Talent contests. I am so proud to say we had 49 entries which is outstanding. We almost doubled the number of entries. The contestants all did a first-rate job and should be commended. We had top-notch participation.
- Next year we are planning to add more opportunities for our Juniors at our Regional Conference. The theme will be "Community service and making a difference in their community."
-

2009 National Junior Grange Regional Contest Winners

Eastern Region

Public Speaking 8-10 Year Old

1st place-Aaron Evans, OH

Public Speaking 11-12 year old

1st place-Andrew Evans, OH

Public Speaking 13-14 year old

1st place-Ashley Mohn, PA

2nd place-Lindsay Shroeder, PA

3rd place-Jenn Lanstrum, OH

Sign-A-Song

1st place-Jenn Lanstrum, OH

Manually Sign the Alphabet 8-10 Year

1st place-Sarah Sharp, NJ

Manually Sign the Alphabet 11-12 Year

1st place-Andrew Evans, OH

Manually Sign the Alphabet 13-14 Year

1st place-Jenn Lanstrum, OH

2nd place-Ashley Mohn, PA

Midwest Region

Public Speaking 8-10 year old

1st place- Katie Kurburski, MI

2nd place-Madelyn Johnson, IL

Public Speaking 11-12 year old

1st place- Emily Kurburski, MI

2nd place-Elizabeth Kurburski, MI

Manually Sign the Alphabet 11-12 Year

1st place-Emily Kurburski, MI

1st place-Liz Kurburski, MI

Share a Skill or Talent

Emily Kurburski, MI

Madelyn Johnson, IL

Liz Kurburski, MI

Katie Kurburski, MI

Peter Kurburski, MI

Great Plains Region

Public Speaking 8-10 Year Old

1st place-Ryan Welsh, KS

2nd place-Olivia Shufeldt, OK

3rd place-Katelyn Bailey, OK

Public Speaking 11-12 year old

1st place-Melody Shufeldt, OK

2nd place-Maggie McGee, OK

3rd place-Bailey Shufeldt, OK

Public Speaking 13-14 year old

1st place-Stephanie Nutter, OK

2nd place-Kennedy Bailey, OK

Share a Skill or Talent

Jace Couch, OK

Bailey Shufeldt, OK

Kennedy Bailey, OK

Northeastern Region

Public Speaking 8-10 year old

1st place-Lauren Good, NY

2nd place-Stephanie Lambert, NH

3rd place-Quinton Tarbell, NY

H.M.-Sarah Hyatt, NY

Public Speaking 11-12 year old

1st place-Cristian Johnston, NY

Public Speaking 13-14 year old

1st place-Annie Kelsey, NY

Sign-A-Song

1st place-Lauren Good, NY

2nd place-Quinton Tarbell, NY

Manually Sign the Alphabet

1st place-Quinton Tarbell, NY

Share a Skill or Talent

Quinton Tarbell, NY

Sarah Hyatt, NY

Cristian Johnston, NY

Jomni Tarbell, NY

Western Region

Public Speaking 8-10 year old

1st place-Kassandra Senner, MT

2nd place-Keyanna Carr, MT

3rd place-Jarad Senner, MT

Public Speaking 11-12 year old

1st place-Cheyenne Johnson, MT

2009 Junior Grange Ambassador Program

- This is new program that will enable two Juniors who exemplify outstanding qualities to be presented at the National Grange Convention.
- Juniors were required to submit an application and letters of reference. Many outstanding candidates applied and the judges had a very difficult decision. So we should all be proud of the outstanding Juniors we have in our States.
- 2009 Ambassadors: Ashley Mohn, Pennsylvania; Joshua Dixon, North Carolina

Grange Foundation-Junior Grange Fund

- This year was a very exciting time for the Junior Grange Department. We joined with the Youth Department to create an appeal letter that was sent out to all community Granges in the Nation. The Junior Department received many donations which, in turn, will provide many opportunities for our Juniors. A huge thank you to all that made donations.

It has been an exciting and wonderful year for the National Junior Grange Department. Thanks to countless hours of dedication of our Leaders and State Directors across the nation, Junior Grange provides wonderful opportunities and experience that will last our children a lifetime. Thank you for making a difference. Your dedication and support has not gone unnoticed.

I am looking forward to an outstanding Junior Grange year in 20 And remember, we will be working on "What's your Story?" in 2010 (our theme for next year).

The National Junior Grange Department continues to grow and develop. Make sure you join us in 2010 to give our Juniors the gift of success toward reaching their goals for a promising future.

With sincere thanks for a great year!!

Anne Kurburski
National Junior Grange Development Director

**2009 Report of the Legislative Department
Grand Rapids, Michigan
November 19, 2009**

Introduction

It is once again an honor to present the Annual Report of the National Grange Legislative Department for 2009.

“Celebrating the Responsibilities of Citizenship”, is the theme for the National Grange’s non-partisan, issue-oriented, grassroots legislative program. Promoting civic participation in our society has been a goal of the Grange for more than 140 years. Grange members understand that the most effective means to guarantee our personal liberties and secure our future prosperity is through greater involvement in the democratic political process.

Grassroots opportunities to participate in worthwhile legislative programs add value to Grange membership. Successful legislative activities help drive increased membership, increase community awareness about the Grange and increase grassroots participation. Today, grassroots participation, rather than the size of an organization, is the most accurate measure of political influence.

Recent observations by prominent political commentators across the political spectrum have observed that “...anger is the driving force in grassroots political participation in America today.” The Congressman who shouted, “you lie” at the President of the United States during his address to a joint session of Congress earlier this year was rewarded with more than \$1.5 million in new campaign contributions within one week. The Congressman who next appeared on the floor of the House of Representatives and said before the C-SPAM cameras that the only health care policy of the opposition party is “Please, die quickly” immediately received \$1 million in additional campaign contributions. Public opinion polls strongly suggest that trust in our major civic institutions such as Congress, the political parties, business, organized labor, and the media are at historic lows. President Obama continues to receive high marks from the public for his overall job performance but public support for many of his policy initiatives is eroding quickly. Modern technology allows ideologically narrow but well funded groups to successfully impose ‘litmus tests’ on a wide variety of issues for various candidates, especially in primary and special elections.

Clearly, the economic turmoil that embroils our nation today has an impact on the political mood of the country. But these trends are not just a reflection of hard economic times. They have been a growing part of our political landscape for several decades. The more that Americans see the political process as conflict and competition for control of the levers of government authority between separately mobilized groups of narrow interest activists, the less faith we seem to have in our institutions. This climate seems ripe for reemergence of the sensible middle, where difference of opinion is not a crime, where compromise is rewarded, bipartisanship is encouraged, and diversity of perspective is celebrated. That is the political ground the National Grange has sought to hold and defend for 143 years through its non-partisan, grassroots, issues based public policy advocacy and that this report attempts to highlight.

The mission of the National Grange Legislative Department is to provide Grange members with meaningful opportunities for non-partisan, civic participation in the public policy process at all levels of government.

However, implementing our mission requires us to address challenges related to main-

taining a dynamic legislative program that is based on grassroots policy development and grassroots advocacy. Granges and Grange members face difficult challenges in developing and advocating our legislative policies in an effective way. Some of these challenges to successful implementation of our legislative goals include:

Substantially diminished financial resources for legislative advocacy, grassroots training, and policy development efforts at all levels of the Grange that leads to higher turnover and contributes to a shortage of qualified and trained volunteer and/or professional Grange resources at the state and local level that are available to advocate for Grange policies and to manage Grange legislative programs.

An uncoordinated proliferation of adopted Grange resolutions and policy positions on an ever expanding multitude of issues that often create incompatible or contradictory policy goals at the state and national levels. The sheer number of adopted policy positions at the state and national level makes prioritizing long term, successful, and persuasive advocacy strategies difficult.

A lack of resources, time and formal procedures to seriously challenge factually questionable resolutions that are brought before local, state and National Granges for consideration and adoption. Adopting factually questionable resolutions can severely damage the general reputation of the Grange as well as the personal credibility of the volunteer or professional Grange advocates charged with advocating those policies.

An arbitrary and often inefficient separation of responsibility for policy development and policy advocacy responsibilities between National and State Granges. Federal policy decisions have a significant impact on state and local concerns, and, state and local policy decisions directly impact national policy decisions.

A failure 1) to adapt to rapidly changing cultural and legal circumstances impacting grassroots advocacy, 2) to seriously consider implementing creative functional restructuring of our programs and, 3) to incorporate new technologies into our policy development, policy advocacy and, grassroots volunteer training programs.

In response to this complicated and sometimes contradictory set of challenges, the National Grange Legislative Department has attempted to implement operational changes over the past few years. However, since many of these challenges cross the authority boundaries of the various Divisions of the Order, unilateral action by the National Grange Legislative Department or any State Grange legislative programs alone will probably be insufficient to fully modernize and adapt the Grange legislative program to meet the evolving expectations of our present and future members.

The remainder of this report briefly outlines our successes in “Celebrating the Responsibilities of Citizenship” during 200 For more details regarding the activities of the National Grange Legislative Department this past year, or to learn more about how you can become directly involved in “Celebrating the Responsibilities of Citizenship” in your Grange, in your community, in your state, and in your nation, please visit our website at www.nationalgrange.org

Executive Summary

Number of individual meetings with U.S. Representatives, U.S. Senators, and other government officials in Washington, DC: 61 (46 in 2008)

Number of associations, corporations, labor organizations, and allied groups that have signed letters or participated in making joint statements with the National Grange on issues of mutual concern: 596 (1745 in 2008)

Number of active political coalitions the National Grange participates in: 21 (24 in 2008)

Number of Grange initiated correspondence, coalition initiated correspondence including, testimonies, statements, joint letters, congressional briefings, press conferences & press releases on legislative issues of concern to the National Grange: 43 (82 in 2008)

Number of View from the Hill, Legislative Round Up and New Grange Articles: 98 (109 in 2008)

Number of 'Grange Point of View' Podcasts 16

Number of Action Alerts: 8 (22 in 2008)

Legislative Publications, Programs and Grassroots Outreach

Blueprint for Rural America 2009

The National Grange presented the "Blueprint for Rural America 2009" as an outline of the Grange's legislative priorities for 2009. Revised to take into account grassroots Grange delegates' voices in the 142nd National Convention in November 2008, the Blueprint revealed the Grange's most current 9-point legislative plan regarding the issues of domestic agriculture, private property rights (eminent domain), telecommunications, energy, health care, civic participation, transportation, immigration reform, and public safety.

Grange Month

The Legislative Department secured funding for production for a Medicare Part D informational DVD that was produced and distributed to each community Grange as part of the National Grange for Grange Month material in 2009.

State and Pomona Grange Legislative Outreach

- Attended State Master's Conference, AR
- Attended 50th Annual Ohio State Grange Legislative Conference
- Attended Annual California State Grange "Ag Day at the Capitol" Program
- Attended 56th Annual Lycoming County Pomona Grange (PA) Legislative Banquet
- Attended the 138th Annual Session of the Vermont State Grange
- Prepared support materials for New England Leaders Conference State Legislative Directors meeting

National Grange View from the Hill

The View from the Hill celebrated its 40th year of publication in 2009. View from the Hill is distributed as an e-newsletter free of charge to Grange members, that is e-mailed to those who sign up on the National Grange website. It may also be viewed directly on the National Grange website.

National Grange Action Alerts

The National Grange Action Alerts continue to be a major program of the Legislative Department. Action Alerts are prospective notices of pending Congressional or regulatory decisions where the immediate impact of grassroots Grange input can and does have a

substantial impact on the decision being made. We produced 8 separate grassroots Action Alerts. Action Alerts are distributed by e-mail and are also available on our website.

2009 National Grange Legislative Policy Book and Grassroots Training Manual

The National Grange Legislative Policy Book continues to be a flagship publication of the Legislative Department. Distributed widely to members of Congress, Executive Agency officials, the media, and grassroots Grange leaders it is the most comprehensive explanation of Grange legislative programs under one cover. Additional features this year included a revised index to make searching more intuitive and informational “ads” concerning Grange history, the Grange Foundation, National Grange sales items, and a full color membership ad on the back cover. Electronic versions of the Legislative Policy Book are also available on CD and on our website.

2009 Legislative Policies in New Grange

This year the National Grange continued to publish the text of the 2009 National Grange adopted policies in the New Grange. More than 9000 copies of the adopted policies of the National Grange were provided to grassroots Grange leaders in a cost effective manner.

National Grange Website Legislative Pages

We continue to make aggressive use of our National Grange website as a tool in our legislative program. Letters, testimonies, press releases, and other documents related to National Grange legislative advocacy efforts are all accessible on our website. The National Grange Legislative Policy Book and back copies of all of our legislative newsletters and Action Alerts are also available on the website.

Legislative Interns

Once again the National Grange hosted two legislative interns for the summer. Tyler Mattera and Mark Scheuster were our Legislative Interns this summer. Mattera is a senior at St. Francis College and Scheuster is a sophomore at Bucknell University. Both interns worked on projects for the Communications Department, Legislative Department, Marketing Department, and our trademark litigation cases. “I grew in many ways over the summer and it can all be attributed to the tasks and opportunities I had each and every day of the week,” Scheuster wrote. “To me the most important aspect of my time at the Grange was that it gave me a better direction of where I want to go with my life,” Mattera concluded. Special thanks to the Washington Internship Institute and Pfizer, Inc. for their support of our internship program this year.

Special Programs

Last December, four National Grange leaders met with members of President-Elect Barack Obama’s transition team in the offices of the United States Trade Representative in Washington, D.C. to discuss agriculture and international trade issues facing the incoming Administration. The Grange leaders meeting with the President’s transition team

were Jimmy Gentry, Overseer of the National Grange, Betsy Huber, chair of the National Grange Executive Committee, Joe Fryman, Treasurer of the National Grange and Leroy Watson, National Grange Legislative Director.

In a survey of Washington political insiders and lobbyists conducted by Capitol File magazine regarding the most influential lobbyists in Washington, D.C. for 2009, National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson was ranked the sixth best connected lobbyist in Washington for his extensive rolodex of contacts and alliance development successes on behalf of the National Grange over the past decade.

National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson was one of select number of Washington, D.C lobbyists interviewed by David Nelson, PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of Wisconsin who is writing his doctoral thesis on how public interest lobbying organizations make decisions about prioritizing time and resources with their interactions with congress, the White House and government regulatory agencies. Mr. Nelson will conduct follow up interviews over the course of the next year to track National Grange legislative issues as part of his research

Former Nebraska State Grange Executive Committee member Brother Edgar Hicks was appointed to represent the National Grange on the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission Agricultural Advisory Committee.

The National Grange supported the nomination of Brother Carroll Wade of Jasper, New York and Chairman of the New York State Grange Agriculture Committee to a position on the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's National Dairy Advisory Committee.

Legislative Director Leroy Watson met with Agricultural Leadership Development Programs from North Carolina and Minnesota in January and February.

Legislative director Leroy Watson was appointed to the Advisory Council for Connected Nation, a national non-profit organization working to facilitate internet access for millions of unserved and under served rural and low income communities across the country.

National Master Ed Luttrell and Legislative director Leroy Watson met with representatives of the Serbia Ministry on Agriculture in March.

National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson was invited to the White House for a grassroots outreach briefing on the updated transition to digital television on 6/12/09.

National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson Was invited to participate as a member of the discussion panel sponsored by the USDA Rural Utilities Service regarding regulations to implement the \$7.2 billion broadband grant and loan programs for unserved and under served rural areas under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in March.

Former National Grange Delegate and Douglas County, WA county commissioner Mary Hunt recorded an informational internet video on the importance of broadband to rural communities for the Internet Innovation Alliance in March.

Legislative Director Leroy Watson recorded an informational internet video on the need for swift implementation of the \$7.2 billion broadband grant and loan program for unserved and under served rural areas under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the Internet Innovation Alliance.

Legislative director Leroy Watson met with representatives of the Japanese Embassy to discuss US agriculture policy in April

Legislative Director Leroy Watson met with representatives of the German Embassy to discuss U.S. agriculture policy in April.

National Master Ed Luttrell and Legislative Director Leroy Watson met with the "Women in Timber" D.C. Fly-In delegation in April.

In September, National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson was invited by the

U.S. State Department to address a group of visiting civic leaders from the Middle East and Northern Africa as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program on the topic of “Grassroots Civic Engagement and Organizing in the United States”.

The 2009 National Grange Legislative Fly-In

The National Grange’s 2009 Legislative Fly-In was held May 17 through 19, in the historic Goss conference room of the National Grange Building in Washington, D.C. More than 50 grassroots Grange members attended our Fly-In in person, while dozens of others watched the proceedings over our first ever, live internet broadcast.

Fly-In participants started our program on Sunday May 17 with a guided tour of the historic Seawall/Belmont House, headquarters of the National Women’s Party and a museum to the Suffragist Movement and the cause of women’s equality in the United States.

Following the tour of the Seawall/Belmont House, Grange members attended a lecture delivered by Ms. Megan Keneally, a student at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. on her research into the reasons for the success and popularity of the early Grange. Keneally informed us that her research showed that following the devastation of the Civil War, that it was the social interaction that promised “...improvement through inclusion and community” that was generated by the early Grange movement, that contributed to the early and dramatic success of the organization as much or more so than the promise of benefits from economic and political cooperation among Grange members.

On Monday May 18, National Grange Master Ed Luttrell formally welcomed the Fly-In participants to the 2009 Conference. During the course of the day, Fly-In participants participated in a seven workshops on current and critical public policy issues facing farming and rural communities across the country.

Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce and co-founder of the Internet Innovation Alliance, Bruce Mehlman addressed the Fly-In participants on the need to develop a National Broadband Strategy that includes rural America.

Thair Phillips, Richard Weiss and Al Cors, respectively, resident, chairman and legislative director of the national, non-profit seniors advocacy organization RetireSafe, briefed the Granger members on the retirement security challenges facing family farmers and rural Americans in an uncertain economic environment

Maureen Thompson, Senior partner and co-founder of the Hastings Group, was the luncheon speaker and addressed the Fly-In concerning exciting new programs to provide wireless “lifeline” telephone service to millions of eligible low income Americans.

Mike Diserio, director of Public Affairs for the National Association of Broadcasters reported on the progress being made toward the national transition to digital television that occurred on June 12, 2009

Jeff Oldham, Deputy Vice President at the Pharmaceutical Research Manufacturers of America presented a comprehensive overview of proposals to reform and improve our nation’s health care system.

Tom Stenson, Executive Vice President for Agriculture Finance and Mary Waters, Vice President, Corporate Relations for the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, (Farmer Mac) briefed the Fly-In participants on the impact of the financial crisis on the availability of financing for family farmers and rural homeowners.

After a reception sponsored by the National Grange Sales Department, the final Fly-In speaker was Mr. Tom Buis, president of the biofuels organization, Growth Energy. Buis presented a comprehensive renewable fuels and climate change update to the Fly-In par-

ticipants.

On the morning of Tuesday May 19, Fly-In participants again gathered in the Goss conference room for their orientation and Capitol Hill visitation assignments. Over the course of the day, Fly-In participants conducted more than 50 grassroots meetings with their U.S. Senators and Representatives offices in Washington, D.C. Each Grange member presented their Senator or Representative with a copy of the National Grange's priority issues document, Blueprint for Rural America 200. Over the noon hour, Fly-In participants were hosted to a Capitol Hill luncheon at the United States Supreme Court Building. After completing their Capitol Hill meetings, the tired but enthusiastic Grange legislative leaders reconvened back at the National Grange headquarters for a farewell dinner where they shared their success stories and continued their networking with other Grange legislative leaders from across the United States.

Photos, video, and audio recordings of the policy conference presentations are available on the National Grange website, www.nationalgrange.org, as well as on the National Grange's YouTube channel, as well as on our free downloadable section of the iTunes store.

Conclusion

This will be the tenth year that the National Grange Legislative Department's net operating expenditures will be below the budget set by the delegates in the previous year. In addition, we generated more than \$90,000.00 in outside funding that has been invested to increase our outreach efforts to our members and support more effective direct grassroots contacts with policy makers.

Brenda Shambaugh, former legislative director of the PA State Grange continues to ably serve our department as Legislative Consultant. Brenda brings more than 21 years of experience managing a major state Grange legislative program to her assignments for the National Grange, primarily in drafting various letters, press releases, View from the Hill articles and Action Alerts. In addition, her duties have all been performed as a telecommuter. We work together entirely via e-mail, Internet and phone. We never had a face-to-face meeting all year!

Molly Thompson, our Legislative Program Assistant continues to share her talent and good humor with the Legislative Department, the Marketing and Programs Department, and the Communications and Publications Department. Molly has responsibility for our e-mail and distribution of our programs and newsletters. She has been extremely helpful in organizing the materials for the committees for this convention and is already looking at production issues for the next Legislative Policy Book.

I want to thank the following State Grange Legislative Directors, Brother Jim Tetreault, NH and Sister Allison Fowler, NC, for their assistance at this year's convention.

I especially want to thank Brother Ed Luttrell for his guidance and support during his first term as National Master. His travel schedule this year remained hectic and his commitment to a positive agenda of Grange Growth and Development is truly inspiring. The members of your National Grange Board of Directors have also been particularly interested in, and supportive of, your national legislative program as well.

My appreciation also goes out to my colleagues on the National Grange office staff and our field directors for their advice, counsel and assistance. The professionalism and dedication of the National Grange staff and field directors makes the National Grange a unique and enjoyable place to work.

The National Grange Legislative Program succeeds only because of the extraordinary, selfless efforts of volunteer Grange leaders across the nation whose only motivation to participate in our legislative program is to "Do good, seeking nothing in return..." Therefore, if we have failed, in any way, to meet the expectations of our members, it is entirely because of the limits of my talents, skills, and abilities.

I am honored and privileged to direct your National Grange Legislative Department.

Fraternally Submitted,
Leroy Watson,
Director of Legislative Affairs

**2009 Report of the Membership/Leadership Development Department
Grand Rapids, Michigan
November 18, 2009**

To the Officers, Delegates, Directors and Staff of the National Grange of the order of the Patrons of Husbandry,

My past year working for the Grange has got to rank as one of the most educational, adventurous, challenging, crazy, and fun years of my life. I have lived thru ice storms, flight delays, and splitting wood. I have had whole weekend programs go up in smoke just days before they were to begin. I have met the most interesting people and gotten to know many of them and now call them good friends. I have stuck my boot in my mouth more times than I think I should. I have been placed in a straight jacket, which many folks don't believe that is the first time (LOL) and yet I think this is the best job in the Grange that anybody could have!

My journey started out preparing for Masters Conference in Arkansas. This was a monumental task since there is only one Grange, Zion Oak, in Arkansas that we knew of. This task was help out by Brad & Donna Keeton of Coffeetown, OK. They brought Grange experience, invaluable information, and a more local contact to the effort. They also got to experience the worst Ice storm I had ever seen by chipping 3" of ice off their pick up and by playing games in the motel for 2 days while NW Arkansas tried getting back on their feet from almost an entire region wide power outage and most all roads being closed.

In January I attend my second NE Leaders Conference in MA. This event is a tradition that more states and Regions need to adopt. There is a wealth of info exchanged between states and departments along with the comradery of getting together with others in Leadership roles.

Masters Conference Finally CAME in February and most of what I had planned WENT! On Thursday before the conference I showed up in Bentonville, AR to find out that 4 of the 6 tours that I had planned for the Teams were either not going to happen or were changed. Most of the attendees never noticed and I can now say that there were many positives that came from the conference. 1. It laid a good foundation for the 5 upcoming GGS's that we did around the nations. 2. It showed several State masters and National Officers that National Grange really had a system and a plan to Organize, Reorganize, and Revitalize Granges. 3. Several State Masters took the lessons they learned and the information they had acquired back to their states and started using it to build teams and make plans for growth. 4. I still am talking to several people in Arkansas about starting new Granges there. I believe Masters Conference was a success!!!

GGS's

The five Grange Growth Summits that the National Grange sponsored this year proved to be one of the most successful membership campaigns I have ever seen. I left everyone of the weekend conferences filled with enthusiasm, charged with excitement and even more confident that the Grange is the best thing going. 22 different states had Grangers attend these 5 conferences. All that attended took home some new materials, that we call tools, and a knowledge that National Grange is here to work with them and help them along the way.

TX GGS

Texas was the first. I think it was so that they could say they were the biggest. Jack Smithers is the picture you see when you look up “excited” in the dictionary. He wanted everything we had. It was hosted in Davey Crocket Grange with almost 30 people attending. They were an energetic group that had lots of questions and a touch of skepticism in the beginning. As the weekend went on the questions began to turn to the future and “can we...” type question. By the end of the conference I witnessed them talking amongst themselves about how to proceed. It is always a good sign when the folks attending start to converse about the best course of action for the future. Success #1!!!

ID GGS

The Idaho conference was the largest attendance with almost 70 people attending. 7 different teams went out for the Saturday afternoon meetings with 6 meeting with Granges and one Lead by Master Luttrell to scout an area for a new Grange. So much excitement was in the room when we tried to start back up at 4:30 that I didn't think we would ever get them all to sit down and be quiet. All had good things to say with lots of funny stories about their meetings. The 4 state masters were there and met with the attendees from their state and were told to give each person a time to tell them what they had learned from the weekend. Then the states were to discuss and give the state master and idea of the direction that would best help their individual state. Was that an “Eye opening” experience! Those state masters got some good food for thought and great buy in to working on Growth for Grange from those that attended. I am still hearing about the on going successes in some of the Granges that were visited during this GGS. Success #2!!!

NE GGS

This was the smallest of the GGS's but it didn't lack for desire to learn and the potential for Growth. Many lessons were learned and lots of quality discussions were had. Because of the small size and the lack of travel need by the teams we took advantage of the extra class time to go into more depth of how National and the states can partner for information and resources. Some great contacts were made for a New Grange start in the Grand Island area. Success #3!!!

IA GGS

A big thank you goes out to Dwight & Kathy Baldwin. Dwight took the ball and made several trips to Dubuque IA to make all the local arrangements for this GGS. Because of the lack of any local Granges the format was changed and we did a “Revitalize” format type meeting on those attending from Iowa and Indiana. It was very interesting and I think the teams learned and the two states got some valuable info as well. Then we made up two teams from IA & IN and the rest of us did role playing. The Teams were to hold an Organizational meeting and we role players were to act and ask questions like non-grange or potential new members. This would have made for an excellent lecturers program, if you had an hour! Everyone had a great time and many new friends were made. The lessons came thru that we were striving for and I have heard good reviews by the attendees. Success #4!!!

VA GGS

The Poster Directors in the Nation are Melinda & Rob Hankins from VA! I made a scouting trip in May to help them prepare for hosting the final GGS. This proved to light a

fire under them and energize them more than I could have ever imagined. Even with a 4 hour round trip drive to the host site they prepared the most professional GGS of the year. This GGS was attended by more state than any other GGS, 11! The teams met with 3 different Granges with all three gaining (signing up) new members. A fourth team held an Organizational meeting in a community and made several contacts that will help for the next meeting. Success #5!!!

I traveled to 16 states to work with local leadership to help Revitalize the Granges and build Teams. And with the monthly Team Speak conference, e-mail, and telephone you could add another 3 states I worked with but did not visit. We started Granges, We Reorganized Granges and we met with several communities and talk about the advantages of the Grange. Several of those states took more than one visit. In total two thirds of the states now have the necessary tools to Organize, Reorganize & Revitalize Granges. For the other 1/3 of the states...well, I am ready and willing. The National Grange is dedicated to working with any and all that want it.

I would like to thank all of you that have contacted me with questions and request. You challenge me and keep me on my toes. That makes me better prepared for the future. The National Grange Office Staff and Directors also get a big "Thank You" for reminding me of those things I forget and for their patience when I am late on notices and reports. I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their service and diligence to the Grange and especially for their guidance and wisdom given to me in the Membership/Leadership development department. And to my the big boss, Master Ed Luttrell, thank you for your encouragement to ever strive to do my best, cracking the whip when I need it, sharing your experiences and your wisdom, and for the friendship that you and sister Cilia have shown Jacquie & me. And most important of all, a big Thank you to my Wife Jacquie for allowing me to travel all over this nation. It is because of her trust in all of you to take care of me, her willingness to parent our two kids alone sometimes, and her belief in this great Organization of the Grange that I am able to serve the Grange as I do.

Rusty Hunt
Membership/Leadership Development

**2009 Report of the Sales, Benefits, and Programs Department
Grand Rapids, Michigan
November 19, 2009**

PROGRAMS

The National Grange has continued to promote current programs as well as develop new programs for local Granges. Current Programs include: Community Service, Dictionary Project, Meth Labs, the Kelley Farm, Deaf Materials, and Life Line Screening. Over 500 Granges participated in the Dictionary Project and provided 77,352 dictionaries, 948 foreign language dictionaries, 25 sample kits, and 552 thesauruses for the 2008-2009 school year. We only had four entries this year for the National Grange Family of the Year. The National Grange received \$2,359.50 in donations for the Kelley Farm as of November 3rd.

Dogs for the Deaf

The Programs department is working with Robin Dickson on a new idea for our partnership with Dogs for the Deaf. The National Grange Programs department in conjunction with the Communication Department will create a ten to fifteen minute DVD. The DVD would include footage from Robin's workshop at the 2009 Grange Convention, comments from Grange members, and how local Granges can get involved, whether it is donations or local programs they could organize. A fact sheet and/or some type of materials would be constructed to go along with the DVD. Robin Dickson also did an article for the November/December New Grange Issue.

The Seed Program

This past year the Programs Department worked with America the Beautiful to distribute seeds to local Granges through the Seed Program. There were many Granges that took advantage of this opportunity and used the free seeds to work on community projects. Soon there will be a page on the National Grange website that will list the Granges that participated and the projects they worked on. This program is still available to Grange members, they can print the order form off the National Grange website or call/ e-mail me for more information.

Community Service

The Community Service program continues to be supported by the National Grange. The National Grange awards certificates to all 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place winners and all participants in all states. The prize money is still given to States with six Subordinate Grange Reports or reports from 10% of the Subordinate Granges in the State; whichever number is greater. This year the National Grange has recognized over 559 Granges in 25 States. This year the Community Service program also introduced a National Community Service program based on all first place winners from each State. Each State winner will be judged at National Convention and it will have prize money for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place winners; the winners will be announced at the Celebration Banquet. Potomac Grange #1 is sponsoring and awarding the prize money which totals \$1,000.

Lifeline Screening

The Life Line Screening Program continues to provide access to life-saving health screening to our members and hosts screening events in Grange halls wherever possible,

if your Grange would like the opportunity to host please contact the National Grange. The Grange has received \$865.81 for September 2008 through August 2009 in commission.

The National Grange Building DVD

The National Grange Building DVD was distributed to members through out this past year. The DVD release coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the National Grange Building. The Grange will mark the anniversary on June 26, 2010 and the National Grange is working on organizing a gathering at the building that will include tours of the building. The Sales department is working on a special commemorative item to celebrate the anniversary.

Christmas Trees

The National Grange in coordination with the Mid Western Hosting Committee is decorating several Christmas trees at this year's National Session. The trees will be decorated with handmade ornaments donated by Grange members across the country. The Christmas trees will be donated to local charities and hospitals in the area.

Idea Fair

The National Grange is pleased to continue the Idea Fair. This year's Idea Fair will feature local Grange program ideas, National Grange programs, Department information, local Grange community service projects, Junior Grange projects, and community service State winners. This year's Idea Fair will feature over 25 different displays and program ideas. The Idea Fair will also include the Best of Show hosted by the Mid Western Region.

SALES

We have added new versions of the Grange Lanyard, the Grange Padfolio, Grange Aprons, the Junior Grange Sports Bottle, and the Seven Sided Plaque. I also worked with Anne Kurburski, Junior Grange Director, on Junior Grange Mittens as a give-a-way, for the Junior Grangers. I am working with Charlene and Jen on a new Youth T-Shirt for 20The Grange Store is also phasing out several t-shirts to make room for newer t-shirts. The Sales department continues to reorder necessary items for the Grange Store. The Sales department produced a Winter 2009 Catalog to be handed out at the National Grange Convention and hopes to have a Spring 2009 Catalog ready for the Grange Month mailing. After reordering seals for the Membership Department and seeing the price increase, it was decided to raise the price from \$1.25 to \$1.50. A notice was sent out to all State Secretaries.

Total Sales	2009*	2008*
January	\$4,430.98	\$5,108.23
February	\$4,663.87	\$3,037.20
March	\$4,602.03	\$6,238.83
April	\$5,666.86	\$5,561.57
May	\$4,456.75	\$4,751.80
June	\$4,499.63	\$3,648.68
July	\$4,027.20	\$3,249.69
August	\$3,802.33	\$5,120.55
September	\$3,430.34	\$4,543.30
October	\$3,046.46	\$4,925.52

November	\$23,526.48**
December	\$3,694.85
Total	\$42,626.45* \$73,406.70*

** Includes National Convention Sales

*Includes freight charges

Total Sales	2007**	2006	2005	2004	2003
January	\$4,135.50	\$3,569.33	\$5,398.25	\$2,947.95	\$4,155.20
February	\$3,693.37	\$3,121.65	\$2,251.15	\$3,577.32	\$4,892.50
March	\$4,554.66	\$7,991.67	\$8,511.35	\$4,964.22	\$4,136.20
April	\$5,713.81	\$7,194.34	\$7,399.26	\$3,353.65	\$5,657.50
May	\$3,339.42	\$3,130.62	\$3,632.75	\$5,385.40	\$2,582.10
June	\$4,253.02	\$5,614.82	\$5,692.74	\$3,526.52	\$2,686.45
July	\$2,782.35	\$4,289.30	\$3,949.21	\$2,473.75	\$3,634.10
August	\$4,402.74	\$3,979.92	\$3,283.26	\$3,518.45	\$2,448.60
September	\$7,104.85	\$5,721.32	\$6,132.85	\$4,104.60	\$5,408.45
October	\$5,987.22	\$7,199.66	\$6,723.41	\$2,416.95	\$5,181.80
November	\$3,822.60	\$3,935.11	\$6,667.97	\$12,329.90	\$12,712.26
December*	\$18,170.64	\$13,284.10	\$18,436.49	\$8,099.76	\$4,781.89
Total	\$67,963.18	\$69,031.84	\$78,078.69	\$56,698.47	\$58,277.05

*convention sales included

** does not include freight charges

Sales figures do not include membership seals and certificate fees.

State Convention Sales

Sending sales items to State Conventions is now a regular occurrence and it is both a benefit to National Grange and State Granges. The way the program works is that State Granges send a list of items they would like to sale and the National Grange sends the items and when unsold items are returned an invoice is done giving the State Grange 20% off of what they did sale. As of 2008, the National Grange began charging shipping to any of the State Grange orders that required more than one box. Sending so much out is causing problems in filling orders and knowing the inventory we will have for National Convention, as many State Conventions are in October. For this reason the National Grange will implement a new policy for 2010 requiring State Granges to prepay for the items they want for their State Conventions, anything they don't sale can be returned to the National Grange and the invoice will be updated and their 20% will be taken off and the State Grange will be issued a check for the difference.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Recognition

Membership Recognition including seals and certificates are handled by Beverly Mitchell, Marketing Coordinator. The following certificates and seals have been prepared and sent this year:

Silver Star Certificates – 559

40-year seals – 257

Golden Sheaf Certificates – 513

55-year seals – 536

60-year seals – 550

65-year seals – 477

70-year seals – 218

75-year Letters – 115

80-year Letters – 22

85-year Letters – 4

Grange Recognition

The National Grange honors Granges that have existed for 100 years and 125 years. The following recognitions were issued this year:

Centennial Year Plaques: 22

125-Year Plaques: 10

Charters

The National Grange issues charters to newly organized Granges and reorganized Granges. The numbers for Granges organized and reorganized this year is:

Junior Granges: 12

Subordinate Granges: 22

Pomona Granges: 2

6th and 7th Degree Certificates

The National Grange Communications and the Sales, Benefits, and Programs Departments work together to print and distribute 6th Degree Certificates to state secretaries. 7th Degree Certificates are also printed and mailed from the National Office to the member.

BENEFITS

New Benefits

We have added one new member benefit program this year, Medical Air Service Association (MASA), but we are looking at several other new benefits the National Grange hopes to bring to Grange members in 2010.

Medical Air Service Association (MASA)

This fall Medical Air Service Association (MASA) was introduced to Grange members first through an e-mail announcement then a selected direct mail campaign, and finally an article in the New Grange Nov/Dec. issue, along with an advertisement provided by MASA. MASA is a prepaid emergency transportation assistance program. The program includes: emergency air transportation, commercial air transportation, ground ambulance, repatriation/recuperation, return transportation, non-injury transport, escort transportation, minor children/grandchildren return, vehicle return, mortal remains transport, organ retrieval, and organ recipient transport. MASA offers this to Grange members at annual rate of \$200/person and \$300/family and they will waive the \$60 enrollment fee. MASA also offers MedFlash, which is a personal health record/emergency medical record. Essentially a USB storage device to hold personal medical information that is HIPAA compliant. MedFlash is offered to Grange members at \$20 stand alone and \$15 along with membership. To learn more about MASA

Grange members can go to the National Grange website or call me.

American Income Life Insurance

I continue to work with Larry Lozano from American Income Life in continuing this benefit. This program allows all National Grange members in good standing receive a \$2,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit (AD&D) provided by American Income Life Insurance Company at no cost to Grange members. American Income Life provides other benefits as well to Grange members. This department is working with American Income Life in obtaining mailing lists from State Granges to allow members to automatically enroll in the program.

Bank of America Credit Card

The Bank of America Credit Card, formerly offered by MBNA, continues to be a successful benefit for the Grange both for members and in revenue for the Grange.

Quarter	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
1	\$2,381.43	\$3,159.36	\$3,343.20	\$3,470.10	\$2,414.93
2	\$2,615.97	\$3,492.66	\$3,556.91	\$4,146.96	\$2,754.68
3		\$3,14.61	\$3,621.74	\$3,892.48	\$2,323.15
4		\$3,526.67	\$3,968.79	\$3,952.91	\$4,615.09
Total	\$4,997.40	\$13,319.30	\$14,490.64	\$15,462.45	\$12,107.85

Prescription Card

The prescription card program has continued to decrease in Grange participation, due in great part to the availability of prescription drug coverage through Medicare Part D.

	Prescriptions	Royalty		Prescriptions	Royalty
Jan-08	78	\$19.50	Jan-09	45	\$11.25
Feb-08	55	\$13.75	Feb-09	59	\$14.75
Mar-08	57	\$14.25	Mar-09	53	\$13.25
Apr-08	73	\$18.25	Apr-09	51	\$12.75
May-08	62	\$15.50	May-09	58	\$14.50
Jun-08	46	\$11.50	Jun-09	59	\$14.75
Jul-08	45	\$11.25	Jul-09	55	\$13.75
Aug-08	64	\$16.00	Aug-09		
Sep-08	53	\$13.25	Sep-09		
Oct-08	65	\$16.25	Oct-09		
Nov-08	42	\$10.50	Nov-09		
Dec-08	49	\$12.25	Dec-09		
Total:		\$172.25	Total:		\$95.00

Choice Hotels

Our program with Choice Hotels continues to provide Grange members with a discount on hotel stays. The non-dues revenue we receive from Choice Hotels and consumption of rooms has increased for the third year in a row.

	Rooms consumed	Commission
2003	61	\$119.24
2004	94	\$323.90
2005	201	\$652.55

2006	177	\$610.93
2007	198	\$752.00
2008	431	\$1,886.29
2009	470	as of 11-2-09 \$1,821.13

2008	Nights Consumed	Commission
January	12	\$46.20
February	37	\$143.94
March	44	\$195.54
April	38	\$189.90
May	56	\$243.96
June	40	\$162.72
July	21	\$90.08
August	45	\$197.24
September	38	\$159.72
October	33	\$144.36
November	39	\$200.95
December	28	\$111.68
	431	\$1,886.29

2009	Nights Consumed	Commission
January	37	\$139.54
February	43	\$151.47
March	95	\$368.62
April	69	\$269.97
May	44	\$178.51
June	63	\$218.24
July	63	\$347.53
August	29	\$106.77
September	27	\$40.48
Total	470	\$1,821.13

Other benefits offered to Grange members include: Hertz, Beltone, Club Quarters, Pre-paid Legal, Verizon Wireless, and T-Mobile.

OTHER PROJECTS

- Updating Grange Store Website & Sales Catalog
- Community Service
- New Benefit Programs
- 50th Anniversary of the National Grange Building Celebration
- New and Reordered Sales Items
- State Convention Sales
- Membership Recognition
- Kits for Subordinate and Junior Granges
- Ideas for New Programs

Fraternally Submitted,
Samantha Johnson
Sales, Benefits, and Programs Manager

**2009 Report of the Youth Department
Grand Rapids, Michigan
November 20, 2009**

Worthy Master, National Officers, Delegates and fellow Grangers:

As I write this year's department report, I would remiss to not recognize the outstanding youth members and state youth committees for their dedication to this program. Without them, the success I have seen this year would not have been possible.

The key message I would like to leave the membership with this year is that activity in the National Grange Youth Department is up this year. We had increased participation at the five regional youth conferences, more than 500 youth achievement awards and seals issued and nearly 10 achievement award pins issued for the completion of a Grange achievement program.

Regional Conferences

The 2009 Regional Youth Conferences had an increase in attendance at all events. I would like to recognize the exceptional jobs done by the host states of New Jersey, Indiana, New York, Oklahoma and Montana. They put together a great schedule of events and I received positive comments about the work done at each region.

In April, New Jersey hosted the Eastern Regional conference. We had more than 100 youth Grangers in attendance. There were four drill teams and the youth and juniors competed in all levels of the speech and sign a song competition.

Indiana hosted the Midwestern Regional Youth Conference in June. There were about 30 Grangers in attendance. We did not have any entries in the prepared speech or sign a song contests, but several youth volunteered to present an impromptu speech.

July was a busy month with the rest of the regional youth conferences. At the Northeastern Regional Youth Conference, New York hosted nearly 100 Grangers, with youth and juniors competing in the speech contests. For "dinner entertainment" we hosted the impromptu speech competition, which provided strong participation. More than 20 youth participated in that contest.

At the Great Plains regional conference, there was about 40 Grangers in attendance. Again, we did not have any sign a song participants, but several Grangers presented speeches in the prepared, elevator and impromptu speech categories.

Rounding out the final conference was Western Regionals hosted by Montana. Despite the distance challenge, participation was good with about 35 Grangers in attendance. Youth competed in both the speech and sign a song contests.

At each of the conferences, I met this year's National Youth Horizon Leadership Program ambassadors and young couple. I reviewed what was expected for them at this year's national session and addressed any questions they might have.

As we close on this year, I would like to formally invite all of the youth to attend one of the 2010 regional youth conferences. One distinct change for 2010 will be the Eastern Regional Youth Conference, which will be hosted in conjunction with the Building Celebration slated for next June. The other host states are Illinois, Massachusetts, Colorado and Washington State. The hosts are already hard at work on plans for their conferences.

Achievement Awards

As noted in my introduction, I am pleased to announce that participation in the National Grange Youth Achievement Awards program was up this year. Many states took advantage of the program to recognize the work of their youth at state meetings.

This year we also had more youth complete all levels of an achievement program. This was made possible by the adaptation of the “gold” or top level program to include presentation at National Grange or by conducting a workshop on the specified topic.

For 2010, there are no major changes to the achievement program. However, programs will continue to be reviewed.

Youth Contests and Recognition Programs

For this year’s National Session, the youth recognition program participants are as follows:

Young Couple

- Matthew and Lynn Clark of New Hampshire.

State Youth Ambassadors

- Molly Welsh of Kansas
- Christopher Szkutak of Massachusetts
- Allison Driskell of Michigan
- Alyssa Estes of New Hampshire
- Levi Tomas Giardina of North Carolina
- Caroline Tart of North Carolina
- Myron Sinclair, Jr. of Ohio
- Melanie Fitch of Ohio
- Brandon Anglin of Oregon
- Braden Gourley of Pennsylvania
- Brittany Heltzel of Pennsylvania
- Tracie Miller of Rhode Island

Legislative Experience

- Sarah Gearing of New York

Youth Officer Team

- Master: Joe Stefenoni of California
- Overseer: Carson Yost of Ohio
- Lecturer: Katie Stevens of North Carolina
- Steward: Andrew Keiffer of Pennsylvania
- Assistant Steward: Camille Harrison of North Carolina
- Lady Assistant Steward: Jo Barringer of New York
- Chaplain: Heidi Henderson of New York
- Treasurer: Tiffany Paul of Ohio
- Secretary: Alison Orton of New York
- Gatekeeper: Orrin Schnetzky of Oregon
- Ceres: Courtney Gray of North Carolina

- Pomona: Hope Murphy of Ohio
- Flora: Carrie Wade of Illinois
- Executive Committee: Olivia Suing of Oregon, Meagan Taylor of New Jersey, and Justephania Chandler of Ohio
- Musician: Jennifer Nauss of Pennsylvania

Youth Leadership Fund

This spring an appeal was sent out requesting support for youth programming. To date, the Grange Youth Foundation has received (INSERT TOTAL) for 200. Thank you to the subordinate and Pomona Granges for your continued support of the program.

Because of the declining funds, the department is actively applying for grants to assist in the delivery of National Youth Programs and hopeful expansion of National Youth Programs.

Grow Club

The GROW Club board includes Doug Baldwin, Midwest; Jennie Gentry, Eastern; Kris Van Houten, Western; Callie (Stiles) Ballinger; Great Plains; and Matthew Clark, Northeast. The club continues to sponsor a \$500 scholarship for a past Horizon Leadership participant.

Grange Youth: Making an Impact

For 2010, I have launched the theme “Grange Youth: Making an Impact.” Big and small, the work Grange youth has longstanding effects. Many of today’s Grange leaders had their start in a Grange youth program. It is through the youth department we can help youth find their voice, focus their enthusiasm and find a Grange mentor.

Like last year, I would like to issue a challenge to all of the state granges. If your state has not appointed a state youth director, please appoint one to work with your youth. If your state does not have a youth ambassador, seek youth to participate and host the contest. An ambassador serves as the spokesperson of your state youth program, use the ambassadors to help lobby on Grange issues, reach out into the community and work on membership.

As I close this report, I can not help but reflect on the service of my mother, Judy Shupp, on my home county’s dairy princess promotion committee. When asked why she continues to donate her time to a program that I have long since graduated from, she shares a story on missed opportunity. When my mother was eligible to run for the county dairy princess title, the group that oversaw the program decided to disband. This left my mother, at the time a willing teen, shut out from an opportunity to participate in the dairy princess program. When they decided to reorganize the program several years later, my mother joined the board with one mission in mind – to make sure if there was a girl who wanted to be dairy princess, she would get the chance.

How does this relate to Grange? I was told by one state youth director about several youth that wanted to participate in a state youth event, however there was not an adult willing to drive them three towns over to participate. It is the story of missed opportunity

because there was not an adult Granger willing to take the time to bring the youth out.

We need adults willing to commit to support Grange youth and it is more than just cutting a check to the state and/or national youth departments. That support can come from carpooling youth to events, helping them behind the scenes to make sure their event is successful and giving them the chance to grow in this organization.

I am sure if you think about it, there is that one person – in your family or Grange – that helped you on path to Grange success. Be that person for a youth.

Fraternally Submitted,

Charlene M. Shupp Espenshade
Youth Development Director

COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS INDEX

<u>RES#</u>	<u>MASTER</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
601		2 ND VOTE	DEFINITION OF DEPENDANTS	Grange Law	Adopted By Delegate Action, 2 nd Reading
602		2 ND VOTE	NATIONAL GRANGE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	Grange Law	Adopted By Delegate Action, 2 nd Reading
716	Hunt	AK	GRANGE SPONSORED EMERGENCY INFORMATION CARDS	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
SS1		BOARD OF DIRECTORS	SALE, ENCUMBRANCE OR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY	Grange Law	Adopted By Delegate Action, 2 nd Reading
SS2		BOARD OF DIRECTORS	REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY GRANGES WHICH SURRENDER THEIR CHARTER IN A CONSOLIDATION	Grange Law	Adopted By Delegate Action, 2 nd Reading
SS3		BOARD OF DIRECTORS	E-MEMBERSHIP	Grange Law	Adverse By Delegate Action, 2 nd Reading
603		BOARD OF DIRECTORS	REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY GRANGES WHICH SURRENDER THEIR CHARTER IN A CONSOLIDATION	Grange Law	Adverse, Covered By SS2
605		BOARD OF DIRECTORS	SALE, ENCUMBRANCE OR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY	Grange Law	Adverse, Covered By SS1
606		BOARD OF DIRECTORS	E-MEMBERSHIP	Grange Law	Adopted By Delegate Action, 1 st Reading, As Combined With 606, 607, 608, And 609
619		BOARD OF DIRECTORS	DEFINITION OF THE WORD "TRUST" UNDER GRANGE LAW	Grange Law	Adopted By Delegate Action
119	McFarland	CA	LOCAL FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND FOOD SECURITY	Agriculture	Current Policy
402	McFarland	CA	FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT	Conservation	Withdrawn
415	McFarland	CA	UTILIZE NEWLY DISCOVERED OIL RESERVES IN AMERICAS	Conservation	Current Policy
416	McFarland	CA	KLAMATH RIVER BASIN RESTORATION	Conservation	Adopted
417	McFarland	CA	KLAMATH RIVER	Conservation	Adverse
418	McFarland	CA	DELTA VISION STRATEGIC PLAN FRAMEWORK	Conservation	Withdrawn
419	McFarland	CA	"TWO GATES" PROJECT	Conservation	Withdrawn
424	McFarland	CA	OPPOSITION TO THE MARINE LIFE PROTECTION ACT (MLPA), NORTH COAST REGION PROCESS	Conservation	Withdrawn
505	McFarland	CA	FOOD/DRINK PRODUCT LABELING	Education & Health	Approved As Amended
609	McFarland	CA	E-MEMBERSHIP	Grange Law	Adopted By Delegate Action, 1 st Reading, As Combined With 606, 607, 608, And 609

614	McFarland	CA	AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP	Grange Law	Withdrawn
902	McFarland	CA	ELIMINATE THE ESTATE TAX	Taxation & Transportation	Present Policy
125	Hagen	CO	LABELING FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMO'S	Agriculture	Adverse
323	Hagen	CO	NATIONAL POLITICAL CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS	Citizenship	Adverse
504	Hagen	CO	LABELING PRODUCE AND FOOD PRODUCTS	Education & Health	Current Policy
711	Hagen	CO	COMMUNITY SERVICE TITLE	Growth & Development	Adverse
CR		COMMITTEE	HEALTH CARE REFORM	Education & Health	Committee Resolution
201		COMMITTEE	NATIONAL OFFICERS COMPENSATION	Audit & Budget	Adopted
202		COMMITTEE	AUTHORIZED TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT	Audit & Budget	Adopted As Amended
203		COMMITTEE	COVERED EXPENSES FOR OFFICERS AND DELEGATES	Audit & Budget	Adopted
CR1		COMMITTEE	EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IN-COUNTRY VETERANS WITH PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS	Citizenship	Adopted As Amended And Combined
CR1		COMMITTEE RESOLUTION	REPORT OF ALTERNATIVE INSTALLATION CEREMONY SPECIAL COMMITTEE	Grange Law	Adopted By Delegate Action
CR2		COMMITTEE RESOLUTION	USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	Grange Law	Adopted By Delegate Action
CR3		COMMITTEE RESOLUTION	CHANGE TO 11.8.5	Grange Law	Adopted By Delegate Action
132	Sendewicz	CT	OVERSIGHT OF FARM PRODUCTS	Agriculture	Combined With 130 (WA)
313	Sendewicz	CT	REPAIRING NATIONAL MALL IN WASHINGTON D.C.	Citizenship	Adopted
314	Sendewicz	CT	A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ENDING GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS TO FILL U.S. SENATE VACANCIES	Citizenship	Adverse
315	Sendewicz	CT	CREATING CHEAPER COINS	Citizenship	Adverse
316	Sendewicz	CT	"DO NOT MAIL" LIST FOR ELDERLY	Citizenship	Withdrawn
514	Sendewicz	CT	MEDICARE COVERAGE	Education & Health	Approved As Amended
907	Sendewicz	CT	HOLDING PASSENGERS ON AIRCRAFT	Taxation & Transportation	Adverse By Delegate Action
701	Gray	FL	ALTERNATE TO THE VOTING SIGN OF THE ORDER	Growth & Development	Adverse
404	Baldwin	IA	BOTTLE/CAN DEPOSIT	Conservation	Current Policy
102	Billmire	ID	THE BEE INDUSTRY	Agriculture	Current Policy
116	Billmire	ID	LEGALIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP	Agriculture	Policy Statement
305	Billmire	ID	SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM	Citizenship	Withdrawn
309	Billmire	ID	TENTH AMENDMENT	Citizenship	Policy Statement
310	Billmire	ID	RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS AND EXPRESSIONS	Citizenship	Adopted As Amended
311	Billmire	ID	USE OF AUTOMATED TELEPHONE SYSTEMS IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES	Citizenship	Adverse

410	Billmire	ID	CAP & TRADE LEGISLATION	Conservation	Adopted As Amended
501	Billmire	ID	TECHNICAL/TRADE SCHOOLS	Education & Health	Current Policy
511	Billmire	ID	MANDATORY HEALTH CARE / SWINE FLU VACCINATION	Education & Health	Covered In Committee Resolution
512	Billmire	ID	HEALTH INSURANCE	Education & Health	Covered In Committee Resolution
807	Billmire	ID	THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS (SECOND AMENDMENT)	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
904	Billmire	ID	USE OF CELL PHONES WHILE DRIVING	Taxation & Transportation	Adverse By Delegate Action
905	Billmire	ID	VEHICLE LIGHTS DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS	Taxation & Transportation	Adverse By Delegate Action
307	Lee	IL	LINE ITEM VETO	Citizenship	Present Policy
406	Lee	IL	COW ENERGY	Conservation	Adopted
407	Lee	IL	ANNEXATIO/PRE- ANNEXATION AGREEMENT	Conservation	Returned To State
911	Lee	IL	LIMITED USPS MAIL DELIVERY	Taxation & Transportation	Present Policy
808	Groves	IN	UNION PICKETING	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
809	Groves	IN	PENALIZING PREDITORS	Labor & Judiciary	Policy Statement
704	Bostwick	KS	CHANGE NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION HOSTING DISBURSEMENT DATE	Growth & Development	Adverse
806	Bostwick	KS	FLEXTIME IN THE WORKPLACE	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted By Committee
335	Chase	MA	EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL SPOUSES	Citizenship	Adverse
712	Chase	MA	HISTORIC PRESERVATION OF GRANGE HALLS	Growth & Development	Adverse
109	Wiles	MD	MILK PROTEIN CONCENTRATES (MPC)	Agriculture	Current Policy
110	Wiles	MD	DAIRY PRICING	Agriculture	Adopt As Amended
111	Wiles	MD	FALSE AND MISLEADING LABELING	Agriculture	Current Policy
126	Wiles	MD	FARM BILL 10-ACRE MINIMUM	Agriculture	Adopt
127	Wiles	MD	FARM SERVICES AGENCY URGE LAWMAKERS TO READ ANY BILL BEFORE VOTING ON IT	Agriculture	Policy Statement
325	Wiles	MD		Citizenship	Policy Statement
326	Wiles	MD	FEDERAL "CZARS"	Citizenship	Adopted As Amended
327	Wiles	MD	NATIONAL CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER DISPLAY	Citizenship	Policy Statement
328	Wiles	MD	2010 CENSUS	Citizenship	Adopted
413	Wiles	MD	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	Conservation	Adverse
517	Wiles	MD	PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	Education & Health	Adverse
519	Wiles	MD	IRS AND HEALTH CARE REFORM	Education & Health	Approved As Amended
520	Wiles	MD	HEALTH CARE REFORM FINANCING	Education & Health	Covered In Committee Resolution
521	Wiles	MD	HEALTH CARE PLAN SURCHARGES	Education & Health	Covered In Committee Resoluton

522	Wiles	MD	HEALTH CARE PORTABILITY	Education & Health	Approved As Amended
523	Wiles	MD	OPPOSING NEW POLICY BAN	Education & Health	Covered In Committee Resolution
524	Wiles	MD	CATASTROPHIC HEALTH INSURANCE	Education & Health	Approved As Amended
525	Wiles	MD	PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS	Education & Health	Approved As Amended
526	Wiles	MD	COMPENSATION FOR NON-PROCEDURAL SERVICES	Education & Health	Approved As Amended
532	Wiles	MD	TV ADVERTISING OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS	Education & Health	Add To Policy Statement
617	Wiles	MD	AFFILIATE MEMBERS	Grange Law	Adverse
804	Wiles	MD	RETAIN THE RIGHT TO A SECRET VOTE FOR UNIONS	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted By Committee
814	Wiles	MD	DENY GOVERNMENT FUNDING	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
815	Wiles	MD	CELL PHONES IN PRISON	Labor & Judiciary	Policy Statement
903	Wiles	MD	EXEMPT FARMS FROM ESTATE TAXES	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted
908	Wiles	MD	MILK HAULING	Taxation & Transportation	Present Policy
312	Owens	ME	TANF PROGRAM	Citizenship	Present Policy
414	Owens	ME	UNNECESSARY PACKAGING	Conservation	Current Policy
513	Owens	ME	MEDICAL LAWSUIT CAPS	Education & Health	Current Policy
708	Owens	ME	HAND OVER HEART SALUTE AT GRANGE MEETINGS	Growth & Development	Adopt As Amended
811	Owens	ME	GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
129	Johnston	MI	SURPLUS FOOD PURCHASES	Agriculture	Adopt As Amended
615	Johnston	MI	PASSAGE OF GRANGE ASSETS WHEN INCORPORATED AS 501(C)3	Grange Law	Adverse
709	Johnston	MI	USE OF THE GRANGE NAME	Growth & Development	Adopt
324	Champion	MN	TERM LIMITS	Citizenship	Present Policy
115	Billquist	MT	PERTAINING TO HEMP	Agriculture	Adopted
705	Billquist	MT	PERTAINING TO NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION	Growth & Development	Adverse
113	Gentry	NC	SUPPORT AGRICULTURE FOR A STRONG NATION	Agriculture	Current Policy
308	Gentry	NC	AUTOMOBILE TV ADS	Citizenship	Adverse
408	Gentry	NC	OIL COMPANY PROFITS	Conservation	Adverse
509	Gentry	NC	HEALTH CARE	Education & Health	Covered In Committee Resolution
114	Fryman	NE	FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LAND	Agriculture	Current Policy
118	Merrill	NE	CHANGE IN NATIONAL GRANGE'S INDUSTRIAL HEMP POLICY	Agriculture	Policy Statement
304	Fryman	NE	SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS	Citizenship	Withdrawn
409	Fryman	NE	CAP AND TRADE	Conservation	Adverse
117	Merrill	NH	INDUSTRIAL HEMP ON PINE RIDGE RESERVATION	Agriculture	Adverse
131	Merrill	NH	FEDERAL FOOD SAFETY LEGISLATION	Agriculture	Combined With 130 (Wa)
611	New Jersey	NJ	NATIONAL GRANGE	Grange Law	Policy Statement

			BONDING PROGRAM		
612	New Jersey	NJ	USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	Grange Law	Adverse, Covered By Cr2
706	Pompper	NJ	NATIONAL GRANGE RECOGNITION OF SCOUTING	Growth & Development	Adopt
707	Pompper	NJ	RECOGNITION OF BOY SCOUT AND GIRL SCOUT TROOP OF THE YEAR	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
810	Groves	NJ	CREDIT CARD SOLICITATION	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
121	Orton	NY	PROPOSED TAX ON COW FLATULENCE	Agriculture	Combined With 120 (Pa)
330	Orton	NY	ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS CONVICTED OF A FELONY	Citizenship	Adopted As Amended
331	Orton	NY	EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IN-COUNTRY VIETNAM VETERANS WITH PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS	Citizenship	Covered In Committee Resolution #1 Adopted As Amended
332	Orton	NY	PAYMENT OF TITLE 38, VA COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR IN-COUNTRY VIETNAM VETERANS WITH PROSTATE CANCER	Citizenship	Covered In Committee Resolution #1 Adopted As Amended
334	Orton	NY	DISABLED VETERANS FAMILY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	Citizenship	Withdrawn
420	Orton	NY	CLEAN WATER RESTORATION ACT	Conservation	Adopted As Amended
421	Orton	NY	RECYCLING AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS PROJECTS	Conservation	Adopted As Amended
527	Orton	NY	HEALTH CARE REFORM	Education & Health	Current Policy
529	Orton	NY	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE OF MILITARY DOCTORS	Education & Health	Adopted
530	Orton	NY	SILVER ALERT SYSTEM	Education & Health	Current Policy But Include In Policy Statement
531	Orton	NY	ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE REFORM	Education & Health	Approved As Amended
816	Orton	NY	CREDIT CARD INTEREST RATES	Labor & Judiciary	Policy Statement
817	Orton	NY	CHILD IDENTITY THEFT	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted By Committee
818	Orton	NY	TOY SAFETY LAW	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted By Committee
819	Orton	NY	CONSUMER PRODUCTS SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
820	Orton	NY	LAW OF THE SEA TREATY	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
411	Brumbaugh	OH	WAXMAN-MARKEY BILL (CAP AND TRADE)	Conservation	Combined With 410
422	Brumbaugh	OH	TAXES ON THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY	Conservation	Adopted
423	Brumbaugh	OH	YUCCA MOUNTAIN REPOSITORY	Conservation	Adopted
528	Brumbaugh	OH	HEALTH CARE REFORM BILLS	Education & Health	Covered In New Resolution
713	Brumbaugh	OH	GRANGE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY WORKSHOPS	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
714	Brumbaugh	OH	GRANGE TITLE	Growth & Development	Adverse

715	Brumbaugh	OH	HONORARY JUNIOR GRANGE PLEDGE	Growth & Development	Adopt
906	Keeton	OK	FEDERAL HIGHWAY TRUST FUND	Taxation & Transportation	Policy Statement
613	Keeton & Huber	OK & PA	RITUAL INSTRUCTION	Grange Law	Adopted By Delegate Action
301	Wilson	OR	AGREEMENT NOT TO USE UNANIMOUS CONSENT	Citizenship	Adopted
302	Wilson	OR	NO FEDERAL PENSIONS FOR CONVICTED FELONS	Citizenship	Present Policy
401	Wilson	OR	REFORESTATION PLAN/APPEAL TIME LIMIT	Conservation	Adopted As Amended
607	Wilson	OR	E-MEMBERSHIP	Grange Law	Adopted By Delegate Action, 1 st Reading, As Combined With 606, 607, 608, And 609
610	Oregon	OR	NON-MEMBERS IN GRANGE MEETINGS	Grange Law	Adopted By Delegate Action
801	Wilson	OR	PRIVATIZE FANNIE MAE AND FREDDIE MAC	Labor & Judiciary	Policy Statement
802	Wilson	OR	REGULATION OF CREDIT DEFAULT SWAPS (CDS)	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
107	Huber	PA	REDUCTION OF DAIRY HERDS	Agriculture	Combined With 110 (Md)
120	Huber	PA	LIVESTOCK GAS EMISSIONS	Agriculture	Adopt
122	Huber	PA	HORSE SLAUGHTER	Agriculture	Combined With 105 (Wa)
123	Huber	PA	SHORTAGE OF FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIANS	Agriculture	Adopt As Amended
124	Huber	PA	COMMODITY TRADING	Agriculture	Current Policy
133	Huber	PA	COMMODITY TRADING	Agriculture	
317	Huber	PA	D-DAY MEMORIAL IN BEDFORD, VA	Citizenship	Adverse
318	Huber	PA	FEDERAL CABINET APPOINTMENTS	Citizenship	Policy Statement
319	Huber	PA	"EMERGENCY" LEGISLATION	Citizenship	Policy Statement
320	Huber	PA	CITIZENSHIP REQUIRED FOR U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICES	Citizenship	Adopted As Amended
321	Huber	PA	911 UPGRADE FUNDS	Citizenship	Adverse
412	Huber	PA	CAP AND TRADE	Conservation	Combined With 410
515	Huber	PA	INDOOR TANNING BY TEENS	Education & Health	Approved As Amended
516	Huber	PA	NATIONAL MEDICAL DATABASE	Education & Health	Covered In Committee Resolution
604	Huber	PA	CONSOLIDATION INVOLVING REAL PROPERTY	Grange Law	Adverse, Covered By Ss2
710	Huber	PA	80 YEAR CERTIFICATE	Growth & Development	Adopt
812	Huber	PA	INSURANCE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted By Committee As Amended
813	Huber	PA	SOCIAL SECURITY INFORMATION	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
616	Smith	POTOMAC	VOTING RIGHTS FOR POTOMAC GRANGE #1	Grange Law	Adverse
502	Sherman	RI	TUITION RATES FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS	Education & Health	Approved As Amended
510	Sherman	RI	HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM	Education & Health	Covered In Committee Resolution

503	Scott	WI	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING	Education & Health	Current Policy
508	Scott	WI	HEALTH CARE REFORM	Education & Health	Approved As Amended
805	Scott	WI	U.S. – ALL IMMIGRATION	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
204	Foster	WV	NATIONAL GRANGE OFFICER MEAL EXPENSES	Audit & Budget	Withdrawn
336	Foster	WV	VETERANS	Citizenship	Adverse
337	Foster	WV	CONGRESSIONAL MOMENT OF SILENCE	Citizenship	Policy Statement
620	Foster	WV	NATIONAL GRANGE OFFICER ORIENTATION	Grange Law	Withdrawn

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES#	MASTER	STATE	TITLE	COMMITTEE	ACTION
101	Hendrickson	WA	HONEY BEES	Agriculture	Current Policy
102	Billmire	ID	THE BEE INDUSTRY	Agriculture	Current Policy
103	Hendrickson	WA	OPPOSING NAIS	Agriculture	Current Policy
104	Sherrod	TN	NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (NAIS)	Agriculture	Withdrawn
105	Hendrickson	WA	HUMANE DISPOSAL OF AGRICULTURAL ANIMALS	Agriculture	Adopt
106	Scott	WI	ORGANIC MILK	Agriculture	Adopt As Amended
107	Huber	PA	REDUCTION OF DAIRY HERDS	Agriculture	Combined With 110 (MD)
108	Briggs	VT	MILK PRICE SUPPORT	Agriculture	Combined With 110 (MD)
109	Wiles	MD	MILK PROTEIN CONCENTRATES (MPC)	Agriculture	Current Policy
110	Wiles	MD	DAIRY PRICING	Agriculture	Adopt As Amended
111	Wiles	MD	FALSE AND MISLEADING LABELING	Agriculture	Current Policy
112	Scott	WI	AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS	Agriculture	Current Policy
113	Gentry	NC	SUPPORT AGRICULTURE FOR A STRONG NATION	Agriculture	Current Policy
114	Fryman	NE	FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LAND	Agriculture	Current Policy
115	Billquist	MT	PERTAINING TO HEMP	Agriculture	Adopted
116	Billmire	ID	LEGALIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP	Agriculture	Policy Statement
117	Merrill	NH	INDUSTRIAL HEMP ON PINE RIDGE RESERVATION	Agriculture	Adverse
118	Merrill	NH	CHANGE IN NATIONAL GRANGE'S INDUSTRIAL HEMP POLICY	Agriculture	Policy Statement
119	McFarland	CA	LOCAL FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND FOOD SECURITY	Agriculture	Current Policy
120	Huber	PA	LIVESTOCK GAS EMISSIONS	Agriculture	Adopt
121	Orton	NY	PROPOSED TAX ON COW FLATULENCE	Agriculture	Combined With 120 (PA)
122	Huber	PA	HORSE SLAUGHTER	Agriculture	Combined With

					105 (WA)
123	Huber	PA	SHORTAGE OF FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIANS	Agriculture	Adopt As Amended
124	Huber	PA	COMMODITY TRADING	Agriculture	Current Policy
125	Hagen	CO	LABELING FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMO'S	Agriculture	Adverse
126	Wiles	MD	FARM BILL 10-ACRE MINIMUM	Agriculture	Adopt
127	Wiles	MD	FARM SERVICES AGENCY	Agriculture	Policy Statement
128	Sherrod	TN	IMPORTATION OF EXOTIC FOWL	Agriculture	Current Policy
129	Johnston	MI	SURPLUS FOOD PURCHASES	Agriculture	Adopt As Amended
130	Hendrickson	WA	OPPOSE FOOD MODERNIZATION ACT	Agriculture	Adopt As Amended
131	Merrill	NH	FEDERAL FOOD SAFETY LEGISLATION	Agriculture	Combined With 130 (WA)
132	Sendewicz	CT	OVERSIGHT OF FARM PRODUCTS	Agriculture	Combined With 130 (WA)

POLICY STATEMENT

Agriculture is the backbone of America. It is the base of our economy and an important reason that we've enjoyed so many decades of prosperity as a nation. American farmers and ranchers are the foundation of an abundant, safe and efficient food source. The Grange continues to pledge its support for rural America and family owned and operated farms and ranches.

Farmers and ranchers have depended on increasing production year after year in order to make a decent living. We feel that the farmer must consider alternative products and markets. There has never been a more crucial time in agriculture to have a unified voice. We must work together with others in a cooperative effort to advocate for agriculture. We have the responsibility to educate and convince all people in this country that they are receiving something of value in return for their support of agriculture.

Free trade agreements are not always fair when some segments of the economy are sacrificed. Free trade agreements have been negotiated on a bi-lateral and regional basis, which have the potential to be harmful to farmers and the economy. We need to be aware of and educate ourselves on this major issue. The National Grange advocates for the creation of trade agreements that will be beneficial and flexible while protecting not only agriculture but also the American dream. The movement of agricultural products across our country as well as exports to foreign countries is vital to the economy of the nation.

The National Grange must continue to articulate our farm policy goals and then to communicate those goals to our elected leaders in Congress. It behooves America to maintain the family farm system as the cornerstone of agriculture. We must promote policies which allow our current generation of family farmers to retire with dignity, and draw on their past experiences to attract new generations of family farmers.

We must be aware of the significance to U.S. agriculture of the advancements being made in other countries in their agriculture production and export technology. We must advocate for the education of our members and the general public on agricultural issues.

With the rapid population growth in our country, it is important that our rural areas are prepared for the influx of new residents. Progressive policies will be needed that will allow people to maintain the lifestyle that they desire, while preserving the character of rural America. Growth will place added pressure on the availability of public services, and we must ensure that these needed services are available to rural citizens. Having said that, we must also ensure that we have land and adequate water available for agriculture in the future.

Farmers continue to adopt new technologies such as GPS precision agriculture production practices and multi-stacked genetically modified crop varieties. They are employing double or even multi cropping and grazing strategies to increase total output per acre. Livestock producers are controlling costs by relying more on alternative feed sources such as forage/grass and distillers dried grains (DDGs), a by-product of ethanol production.

Occasionally a person operating contrary to accepted practices is shown to the public and it is either implied or stated that this is the way things are done in order to change or even ban certain common practices. Many do not understand the significance American agriculture plays in our economy or its importance by providing a safe and plentiful source of food.

One of the major issues facing animal agriculture in our country is the effort for certain "Animal Rights" groups to define "Humane Treatment" of animals. This year in Ohio, the Grange joined with other like groups to establish a board consisting of farmers, agriculture

educators, consumers, food safety experts and others. The National Grange as well as Granges and Grangers at all levels should work to ensure that like approaches to Ohio are taken and the decisions be made using scientific facts and not based on misleading “feel good” statements.

The National Grange supports a federal policy to allow the use of biotechnology in agriculture. We recognize that genetic engineering of plants and animals has already had a positive impact by increasing the availability of food, preservation qualities, and decreasing the environmental impact of agriculture.

The National Grange insists that the Environmental Protection Agency rely only on up-to-date scientific methodology and real world data in making accurate assessments of the risk to human health posed by the use of pesticides/herbicides. We favor expanded approval of generic pesticides and herbicides for use in agricultural production.

The Grange has always been a strong advocate for agriculture in the United States. We strongly support the research of many different and new crops. Some of these products include wood pulp, switch grass and industrial hemp. The Grange supports the education and research of these and other new agricultural products. The legislative department of the National Grange should research the rules and regulations of other countries that allow the growing of industrial hemp and report the findings to the National Grange at the 2010 National Convention.

The National Grange should continue our efforts to convince Congress to extend the benefits of regional dairy programs to all dairy farmers and consumers across the nation. We realize that there is a disparity in the support price of liquid milk and manufacturing milk and will look to find ways to close this gap.

The National Grange supports the new Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) including a higher cap on production and increased benefit levels.

The National Grange urges Congress and the Office of Management and Budget to consider the administrative costs in implementing government programs affecting the agricultural producer. The funds appropriated for these programs should be used to benefit the producer and not to support the administration. We need to continue to support the producer-approved commodity check-off program.

The National Grange encourages increased participation with youth organizations such as 4H and FFA from the local to the national level, to draw on and develop the wonderful leadership abilities of these people. Local Granges should be encouraged to work in partnership with cooperative extension or other local agencies. We strongly support the work of cooperative extension and agricultural experiment stations and ask Granges to support funding of these departments at all levels of government. We as Grange members must enlist our farm, rural and urban neighbors to join us as Grange members and increase our voice in the legislature.

The National Grange supports Country of Origin Labeling and strongly urges the implementation of the program on all food products by the USDA. The National Grange encourages educating the consumer on the benefits of this program. The traceability and point of origin need to be a coordinated effort by the USDA and the Department of Homeland Security in order to reduce the administrative burden.

The National Grange is well positioned to address the constantly changing challenges that arise with agricultural and rural issues. By adopting innovative policies, the Grange can play a pivotal leadership role in providing support and guidance to farmers and rural citizens, and enhance our efforts to maintain the viability of agriculture as a significant economic force in our country.

We believe that congress should look into conflicting legislative reporting dates in different sections of the USDA such as Farm Services Agency and Risk Management Board.

The National Grange believes in our democratic process. Our answer must be to join with all interested parties to educate the public about the realities of agriculture and the principles of nature. Legislators, judges, and our citizens need to understand how and why certain methods are used and how agriculture is an essential component in protecting and improving the environment.

Covers 115 (MT), 116(MD), 118 (NH), 127 (MD), portions of the Master's address

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Human Disposal of Agricultural Animals

WHEREAS, some government entities are proposing laws that may restrict the humane and economical disposal of unwanted animals or animals that people can no longer afford to keep; and

WHEREAS, animals that can no longer be cared for are often starved or turned loose to starve if there is no commercial humane disposal process; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the State and National Grange support efforts to maintain commercial processing facilities for the humane disposal of unwanted agricultural animals.

This covers resolution 105 (WA) 122 (PA)

Organic Milk

WHEREAS, There is concern that non-organic milk could be mixed with organic milk, and thus confusing the public with their label;

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports Federal Government oversight to enforce strict labeling regulations concerning organic milk ensuring that all milk labeled organic comes from certified organic farms only.

This covers resolution 106 (WI)

Dairy Pricing

WHEREAS, the national milk pricing system is extremely confusing and complicated, with the price being affected by a limited number of trades of dairy commodities and reporting of product storage that is on the "honor system" and this leads to an easy manipulation of the price received by dairy farmers; and

WHEREAS, the Dairy Product Price Support Price is so low that it is barely half of the cost of production and is useless as a safety net; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) program suffered from a lack of full participation and needs to be replaced by a new type of supply management program that can quickly respond to market conditions and minimize price volatility; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports efforts that assist struggling dairy farmers by revising the national milk pricing system. We support a program that:

- Revamps the Dairy Product Price Support and Milk Income Loss Contract programs.

- Creates a new dairy producer income insurance program.
- Reforms the Federal Milk Marketing Order system.
- Replaces the Cooperatives Working Together program with a mechanism to more quickly respond to changing market conditions and reduce price volatility. This would include a growth management program that is flexible and responsive to market conditions while providing producers with the ability to grow;
- Provides that any Growth Management Program must contain a minimum time period of 5 years before a total buy-out of a dairy operation can be restarted or if a partial buy-out of a herd, before an increase in production from the operation will be allowed. This covers resolution 110 (MD), 107 (PA), 108 (VT), 109 (VT)

Pertaining to Hemp

WHEREAS, the National Grange opposes research, production, processing, and marketing of industrial hemp; and

WHEREAS, industrial hemp endorses and contributes to the agriculture industry – production; and

WHEREAS, there are two varieties of industrial hemp:

- Cannabis sativa, which has good fiber quality and is used for animal bedding, apparel, clothing, furnishings, litter, and mulch. These hemp seeds contain essential amino acids and fatty acids necessary to maintain healthy human life.
- Indica sativa has poor fiber quality and is used in the production of medicinal/recreational drugs; and

WHEREAS, the Cannabis Sativa, which has been approved for industrial hemp production, produces minute amounts of the psychoactive drug, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC); and

WHEREAS, the Cannabis sativa industrial hemp variety that is grown for industrial use promotes the agriculture industry; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Grange supports and promotes research, production, marketing, and processing of Cannabis sativa L. subsp. Sativa var. sativa, industrial hemp.

This covers resolution 115 (MT)

Livestock Gas Emissions

WHEREAS, the food supply of the nation should be top priority; every effort should be made to keep livestock production a viable practice in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the producers of food and fiber of the nation are constantly being economically challenged to remain profitable enough to stay in existence; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Environmental Protection Agency should not be empowered or allowed to levy fines, fees, or any other monetary pressure based on natural emissions of livestock which may ultimately affect greenhouse gases.

This covers resolution 120 (PA) 121(NY)

Shortage of Food Animal Veterinarians

WHEREAS, the majority of graduating veterinarians enter small animal practice, creating a shortage of food animal veterinary practitioners in certain areas; and

WHEREAS, an Oregon equine veterinarian, Dr. Kurt Schrader, D.V.M., has been elected to the House of Representatives in Washington DC; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Grange support legislation which offers a form of reimbursement of student loans for large animal veterinarians committing to work in private practice.

This covers resolution 123 (PA)

Farm Bill 10-Acre Minimum

WHEREAS, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) bars payments to a farm with less than 10 acres of program crops and when USDA promulgated the regulations to implement the bill it did not allow parcels of less than 10 acres that had a previous history in the program to continue in the program after a one year waiver; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast is severely affected by these regulations; and Maryland has over 4,700 such properties and more than one half of the properties in the past federal farm program in Tennessee would now be ineligible. Many such parcels could be lost to development if they are not allowed into the programs; and

WHEREAS, the only solution has been to combine these parcels with others to meet the 10-acre minimum, but this can cause problems with absentee landlords with no farm background. If they are combined with a parcel that is not close by, this can reduce the effectiveness of the crop insurance policy due to variations in rainfall; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange support the return to former Farm Bill regulations so that farm parcels that are less than the new 10-acre minimum and have a previous history in the federal farm program can continue to receive federal farm program payments.

This covers resolution 126 (MD)

Surplus Food Purchases

WHEREAS, a surplus of most agriculture products exists, (cherries, apples, peaches, milk, beef, blueberries, etc.); and

WHEREAS, these surplus agriculture products could be effectively utilized in various food assistance programs; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange encourage increased USDA purchases of surplus agriculture products for various food assistance programs.

This covers resolution 129 (MI)

Oppose Food Safety Modernization Act

WHEREAS, many people buy food locally to keep land in production and hold down transportation costs; and

WHEREAS, some areas are vulnerable to traffic cutoffs in emergencies; and

WHEREAS, agricultural producers have a vested interest in the welfare of their customers, for the well-being of both parties; and

WHEREAS, HR 875, the Food Safety Modernization Act, regards all food as potentially hazardous and would require paperwork indicating what was purchased and when it will be consumed, with total traceability all the way through; and

WHEREAS, this would add an unwelcome layer of paperwork without producing

commensurate benefits and reduce the savings on both sides; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange opposes federal legislation that would presume that all food, including food produced for local market sale and consumption, should be treated as potentially hazardous and would require family farmers to produce and maintain onerous amounts of paperwork indicating what production inputs were purchased and when food produced on an individual farm will be consumed, in order to reach an unattainable goal of total traceability of all food produced in the United States, all the way through the food system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Grange oppose federal legislation that would add an unwelcome layer of national bureaucratic paperwork to the business of producing food to meet local demand without demonstrating any commensurate food safety benefits to consumers, or cost reductions that benefit family farmers or their local customers.

This covers resolution 130 (WA) 131 (NH) 132 (CT)

PRESENT POLICY

Family Farm Policies and Farm Preservation Programs

1. The National Grange believes that policies that promote a viable family farm structure in America's agricultural sector are in the best interests of all citizens. We reaffirm our support for farm commodity programs that serve the best interests of producers and consumers. The purpose of the Federal Farm Program is to ensure Americans an adequate supply of safe and wholesome food, provide some income protection to the food producers and protect our environment by providing incentives for soil and water conservation. The National Grange supports programs that will stimulate interest and appreciation for an expanding agriculture industry that provides an abundant supply of reasonably priced food and fiber to meet our domestic needs and still export the products of one out of every three acres into the world markets.
2. The National Grange continues to strongly support family farms as an integral and important contributor to a stable agricultural production and rural communities. We call upon the President and Congress to support programs and policies that will help sustain and enhance family farms - by increasing the net farm income, providing economic and tax incentives, and credit and/or tax credits for soil and water conservation - without escalating the advantages to non-farm investors.
3. The National Grange believes that a family farm is a business or enterprise involved in the production of food, fiber and related products or services that is owned and operated by the members of a family who make the management and financial decisions and supply at least part of the labor.
4. The National Grange will continue to support the use of lands for the production of food and fiber as long as the enterprises are operated under best management practices as established by the Farm Program Division and the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
5. Federal, state, and local agencies should work for efficient economic development policies that treat the agriculture industry on equal terms with other businesses and industries such as small business loans, tax incentives, marketing practices, and other programs that would help small farmers. The National Grange supports government

rural development programs that provide local off-farm employment for rural people and that provide an improved income for small- and medium-sized farms.

6. The National Grange supports public relation programs that disseminate accurate information on the efficiency and productivity of American agriculture as well as the contributions it has made in providing an adequate supply of food and fiber, and the important role the food and agricultural industry plays in the nation's economy. A coalition of farm and commodity organizations working together on common problems is in the best interest of agriculture and rural communities. Such a coalition will strengthen and preserve the economic well being of the family farm. The National Grange will continue to support and take an active role in maintaining an effective national farm coalition. We support efforts to organize farm-city meetings, farm-city visits, as well as efforts to enlist the cooperation of the news media in presenting agricultural news. We endorse the efforts of the Agriculture Council of America, Livestock and Meat Board, Animal Industry Foundation, National Milk Producers Federation, and other agricultural organizations in a united program to tell agriculture's story to the American public. We will cooperate with and support the efforts of other agricultural organizations in their educational programs pertaining to false, unproven, and misleading statements about the production and safety of agricultural commodities in order to present a true picture of environmentally safe farm and ranch best management practices.
7. The State Granges and the National Grange urge state governments and the federal government to strengthen, expand, and enforce farmland protection programs to save our farmland for food and fiber production by designing tax laws to enable farm families to pass their land on to future generations. The National Grange supports a reduction in capital gains for retiring farmers who are willing to sell to beginning farmers. The National Grange will also work with Congress to find additional ways to contain urban sprawl through the use of purchasing development rights and conservation easements on agricultural land. However, we oppose the development of agricultural land trusts by financial institutions. We further oppose land purchase programs that involve the federal government as the purchaser and lessor of farmland.
8. The National Grange urges the USDA to strictly enforce the Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act. We further oppose the use of public funds and/or the services of government agencies in the development of U.S. based, foreign-owned agricultural enterprises.
9. The National Grange urge a high-level staff position with appropriate resources, targeting the prevention and minimization of agro-terrorism be appointed as part of the Department of Homeland Security.
10. The National Grange encourages Federal, state and local governments to protect agriculture against bio-terrorism.
11. The National Grange supports the return to former Farm Bill regulations allowing farm parcels with less than the new 10-acre minimum, but have a previous history in the federal farm program, to continue to receive federal farm program payments.

Federal Programs, Commodity Loans, Target Prices, and Farm Storage Programs

1. The National Grange supports legislative and administrative actions that will obtain an economic return for the farmer on his investment of capital, labor, and management that is equal to that of the other segments of the economy. We support permanent pro-

grams for cotton, tobacco, peanuts, rice, corn silage, wool and mohair. Farm programs should be based on units of production, not acreage, and provide the individual farmer with maximum flexibility in their planting and production decisions. Target prices for major commodities should be based on economic need; set in relationship to the national average cost of production; and set at a level that will not encourage over production. Marketing loan programs for major commodities, including soybeans and minor oilseeds, wheat, feed grains, cotton, rice, and other government-supported commodities should provide for a loan rate that is set at the national average cost of production and that redeems the loan at the lesser of the original loan or the state's monthly, weekly, or daily average market price as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. The difference between the regular loan rate and the marketing loan is to be retained by the farmer, provided the loan differential is subject to the \$50,000 payment limit. In the absence of a marketing loan, the traditional loan rate should be set at or near the cost of production.

2. The National Grange supports re-instituting the Farm Storage Facility Loans Program and a farmer-owned reserve program that will place limits on the total amount of a specific commodity that is to be held in reserve as well as place limits on the amount of a commodity that any one farmer can place in the reserve. Storage rates should be commensurate with the cost of on-farm storage to enable farmers to be in a better position to take advantage of storage payments. The Secretary of Agriculture should have discretionary authority to waive the interest charges on reserve loans. We further urge that there be a strict monitoring of grain stored under loan contracts by county, state and national USDA officers, and State Departments of Agriculture.
3. The National Grange supports port terminals and storage facilities for feed grains.
4. The National Grange encourages Congress to develop new farm programs that take into consideration the cross sector effect of such programs. We urge that competitive sectors be consulted in an effort to lessen the cross sector impact. We will continue to study the concept of the "Revenue Assurance Plan" as an alternative to present farm programs as a means of assisting family farmers.
5. The National Grange continues its long-standing support of the County and Community Committee System as the proper means of supervising and administering all farm programs. We pledge our full support for the federal government in investigating incidences of discrimination and in implementing action that will bring about changes to end racial discrimination in USDA policies. We urge stricter monitoring and enforcement of the Farm Service Agency's farm programs in order to eliminate any abuse of farm program regulations. The Grange supports funding and staffing of the Farm Services Agency at levels that are consistent with congressional mandates. In meeting these mandates, we will support co-location and cross-agency use of personnel from various agricultural agencies within counties where offices now exist.
6. The National Grange encourages the United States Department of Agriculture to enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act.
7. The National Grange supports immediate legislation by Congress, enacting the "Constructive Receipt" exemption in the 2002 Farm Bill, and in all future Farm Bills, to exempt advance program payments from taxable income for the year they are received and, instead, treat those payments as potentially taxable income for the year they were intended to cover.

Production Management Programs

1. The National Grange supports voluntary production control programs as a way of balancing supply with demand. Production control programs should be based on control of the number of bushels (amount of product) allowed to qualify for price supports and by requirements to set aside a specific percentage of a farm's crop production. We support eliminating any offsetting compliance requirements between farms related to production control programs but support maintaining cross compliance requirements for crops grown on the same farm. We support paid production diversion, with payments made in cash or in-kind, if farmers first comply with set-aside and other non-paid production control programs. We further recommend that any land diverted from agricultural production under farm programs remain eligible for conservation cost-share practices. Program benefits, i.e., loans, deficiency payments, etc. should be set at a level that is sufficient to accomplish the program's objectives and should be made available only to producers who comply with the program's requirements.
2. Production yields should be based on the proven yield of the land on that farm. We support allowing farmers to re-establish their proven yields but we further support requiring all crop production bases to be established using a soil suitability criteria rating rather than past crop history and changing farm programs so that a farmer will not lose their farm base from underplanting
3. The National Grange supports allowing small farmers to have more than 1 plot of less than five acres per farm enrolled in set-aside programs.
4. Surplus food purchased by the Government should in no way be sold at reduced prices to be in competition with ongoing farm prices. Instead, we encourage surplus foods to be given to charitable organizations. The National Grange encourages increased USDA purchases of surplus agriculture products to be given away through various food assistance programs.

Conservation Reserve and Agriculture Conservation Programs

1. The National Grange supports a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that will provide long-term solutions to natural resource concerns on our nation's farms. We believe that CRP programs should be integrated with other environmental protection programs and should have a high environmental benefit to the cost ratio by accepting only highly erodible land for 10 years at a rental rate that is in relationship to its productive value. We believe that the commodity base acres in CRP land should remain as a production reserve and only be transferred to other production acres to meet increased export demand. However, we favor eliminating the offsetting and cross compliance provisions as they relate to the Conservation Reserve Program
2. The National Grange recommends that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) enforce the inspection of CRP land for noxious weed control. CRP payments should be withheld from the owners of the CRP tracts that are infested with noxious weeds until the FCA or NRCS certifies that the noxious weed control program is being carried out by the landowner. To assist landowners in their responsibility to control noxious weeds, we further urge the USDA to change the date when mowing to control noxious weeds is allowed on CRP lands from July 15 to at least as early as June
3. The National Grange supports federal funding for soil conservation, including suf-

ficient funding to retain technical assistance for conservation. Annual Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) appropriations should be maintained at a level that will significantly help meet the conservation needs of America's farmland. Federal ACP guide-lines should provide authority to the local committees so they can best meet conservation needs. Conservation contracts should follow land ownership with penalties assessed for destruction of said practices before the final contract date. In the event any federal conservation cost-share funds are granted to states, all such funds should be made available to farmers for cost-share payments. ACP funds should be used for the cost-sharing program for which they have been appropriated and none of these funds should be diverted for administrative costs of the states' delivery systems. The Farm Service Agency should update its State ACP funds distribution formulas to help address the most serious long-term conservation needs.

Dairy Policy, Milk Marketing Orders, Dairy Prices, and Inspections

1. The National Grange supports a milk supply management program that recognizes regional differences based upon the cost and amount of production, availability of markets, percentage of production that is allocated to CCC stocks, and the percentage of Class 1 use.
2. The National Grange supports the Northeast Dairy Compact, and the proposed Southern Dairy Compact, and other regional compacts that may be advantageous to producers and ultimately, the consumers.
3. The National Grange supports the use of Basic Formula Price (BFP) in determining the base price for dairy products as well as multiple component pricing for all classes of milk.
4. We support the continued payment of Class I differentials and oppose any effort to form a national pool of Class I milk differentials.
5. The National Grange opposes any change in the classification of reconstituted milk and the depooling of Class III milk.
6. The National Grange requests of all appropriate agencies, associations, and boards that milk prices received by dairy farmers be quoted in terms to which consumers can relate, such as price per gallon rather than price per hundredweight.
7. The National Grange urges Congress to pressure the USDA to raise the support price of milk to a level for the benefit of both the producer and the consumer. The National Grange also supports efforts that assist struggling dairy farmers by revising the national milk pricing system. We support a program that:
 - a. Revamps the Dairy Product Price Support and Milk Income Loss Contract programs.
 - b. Creates a new dairy producer income insurance program.
 - c. Reforms the Federal Milk Marketing Order system.
 - d. Replaces the Cooperatives Working Together program with a mechanism to more quickly respond to changing market conditions and reduce price volatility. This would include a growth management program that is flexible and responsive to market conditions while providing producers with the ability to grow;
 - e. Provides that any Growth Management Program must contain a minimum time period of 5 years before a total buy-out of a dairy operation can be restarted or if a partial buy-out of a herd, before an increase in production from the operation will be allowed.
8. The National Grange supports the implementation of a forward contracting pilot pro-

gram for all classes of milk other than Class I. We support close monitoring of this program to assure that forward contracting does not adversely affect dairy farmer profitability. However, any monitoring or review of the forward contracting policy program must be sensitive to and protect the privacy of individual dairy farmers participating in the pilot program.

9. The Grange continues to seek an increase in exports of milk and milk products. We support funding of the Dairy Export Incentive program (DEIP) to the full limit permitted by WTO agreements. We urge milk cooperatives and other associations to become actively involved in the development of export markets for dairy products. We support additional funding for USDA to provide technical assistance to private sector dairy export trading entities.
10. The National Grange opposes the importation of caseinates and urges the adoption of tariff rate quotes on Milk Protein Concentrates entering the country. Also the National Grange urge the adoption of standards on how MPC is used and inspected to insure compliance.
11. The National Grange continues to support the National Dairy Product Promotion Program as a means to promote and increase the consumption of dairy products. We urge the USDA to periodically account to the public for any monies that have been collected from dairy farmers under any assessment programs.
12. The Extension Service, nutrition educators, farm organizations, processors, and vendors should promote the nutritional value of "Real" dairy products and should promote use of the "Real Seal" merchandising program.
13. The National Grange continues to support government purchases of dairy for domestic programs.
14. The National Grange opposes the Food and Drug Administration's proposal to allow products with the "nutritional equivalency" of a food to be labeled "substitute." We suggest that any "imitation" or "substitute" product which resembles a dairy product, whether or not nutritionally equivalent, yet includes substitute dairy ingredients, may not in any manner be allowed to bear the name of the dairy product which it is purported to resemble. This also includes imported "imitation" or "substitute" products. The National Grange supports Federal Government oversight to enforce strict labeling regulations concerning organic milk ensuring that all milk labeled organic comes from certified organic farms only.
15. The National Grange opposes legislation that requires the labeling of milk/milk products as it relates to rBST.
16. The National Grange supports legislation that would extend the present pay and trust provision of the Packers and Stockyards Act to the dairy industry. We further support a national security fund, funded by processors or secured by bonding, to protect against processor bankruptcy if the fund does not preempt a stronger state program.
17. We recognize the need for dairy farm and dairy plant inspections to help insure the highest quality of dairy products, but insist that duplication of inspections by the several government entities (city, county, state and federal) be discontinued, where possible. The several levels of government should agree to accept uniform and reciprocal dairy farm and dairy plant inspections.
18. The National Grange supports passage of the National Dairy Equity Act.
19. The federal government should extend past September 2005 cut off and refine the MILC program with the intent of supporting dairy farmers during these times of low prices without encouraging increased production.

20. The National Grange at all levels encourages the Dairy Co-ops to voluntarily initiate a program that allows membership of the Co-op to vote on any program that takes money out of the farmer's pocket with a yes vote for approval.
21. The National Grange urges the Food and Drug Administration to keep dairy as a separate food group, and assure a place on the Food Pyramid for dairy and meat products.

Tobacco Policy

1. The Grange continues to support a quota system and price support program for flue-cured and burley tobacco as well as research on methods to make tobacco marketing more efficient. The tobacco price support program should be adjusted annual-ly by the Secretary of Agriculture. The price support formula should be amended to include carry over tobacco in determining the next year's effective quota. We recommend that CCC tobacco loans be repaid on the same basis that other commodity groups pay loans. We further support programs for flue-cured and burley tobacco that are no-net-cost to the federal government and provided assessments that are charged to growers and manufacturers to covers the entire cost of tobacco programs. We support efforts within the tobacco industry to reduce the no net cost assessments paid by producers and purchasers in the future.
2. The National Grange supports continuing the lease and transfer program. The U. S. Secretary of Agriculture should establish rules to permit the combining of allotments of one farm where a tract of land is owned in a contiguous operation in adjoining counties. We further support an amendment to the existing tobacco law that will provide for emergency lease and transfer in the fall season to address natural disasters when these disasters result in a 10% or greater loss of their quota being produced. Such emergency transfer should provide that growers could lease no more than 110% of quota.
3. The National Grange recommends that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture use simple regulations in requiring cigarette manu-facturers to report only the total use of domestically-grown and imported tobacco by class or kind of tobacco, thus leaving manufacturers the flexibility to adjust blends for their various brands of cigarettes to meet their customer demand.
4. The National Grange supports programs at the federal level to help tobacco farmers diversify their farming operation by raising and marketing of alternative crops and will support new research programs to discover new uses for tobacco, such as a new source of protein.
5. The National Grange supports negotiations, regulations, or legislation to control the importation of low grade, inferior quality tobacco.
6. The National Grange supports steps to make U.S. tobacco more competitive in the world market. We urge that all tobacco that is export-ed as U.S. tobacco must be certified as 100% U.S. tobacco.
7. The National Grange continues to support the Tobacco Auction System, and support necessary improvements to modernize the Auction System to meet new packaging ideas and technology in order to facilitate the movement of tobacco through the Auction System.

Horticulture, Beekeeping, and Honey

1. The National Grange recommends continuing research to improve the development of
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more freeze resistant nursery stock and methods of frost control.

2. The National Grange recommends that a realistic tariff be placed on imported honey to protect the financial position of the U.S. bee industry that is necessary for the pollination of U.S. agricultural crops. We support the enactment of federal laws that will provide for the inspection of honeybees and honeybee hives that are transported across state lines in an effort to better control the spread of honeybee diseases and parasites. We urge Congress to set up a “bee zone” and appropriate the necessary funds to stop or at least slow down the northward invasion of the killer bees. We further recommend that the USDA promote a program to educate the general public on the importance of bees, and on the destructive Africanized bees now invading the southern United States.
3. The National Grange supports increased research through the states in growing mushroom spawn.
4. The National Grange supports expansion of Federal Crop Insurance and Multi-Peril Insurance Programs to include horticultural crops.
5. The National Grange calls upon the Department of Agriculture, Land Grant universities, and industry to continue research efforts to determine expanded uses for surplus fruits and vegetables.

Cotton, Soybeans, and Peanut Policies

1. The National Grange supports continuing the peanut program with no further reductions in price supports. We recommend closer communication between the USDA and the peanut growers associations.
2. The National Grange urges the President of the United States to allow foreign grown peanuts and peanut by-products to enter this country only if severe growing conditions in the United States have depleted the peanut supply such that the system cannot supply the peanut and processed peanut market over a six month time frame and that the peanuts and peanut by-products imported meet the same quality standards as U.S. peanuts.
3. The Grange will support a cotton program that provides for a marketing loan at a level that will encourage the continued exportation of cotton as well as research into the eradication of detrimental insects.
4. The National Grange supports the use and promotion of soybeans.

Livestock Production and Animal Care

1. The National Grange supports effective regulations to require interstate transporters of livestock to maintain transport vehicles in a sanitary condition in order to prevent the spread of the disease.
2. The National Grange seeks a federal indemnification standby program for livestock and poultry diseases that are not presently covered. Such a program would apply only in cases that require condemnation and slaughter to eradicate or control the given diseases. We further support federal indemnity programs to indemnify farmers against loss through no fault of theirs in cases such as radioactive fallout, chemical contamination, and bio-terrorism.
3. The National Grange opposes any effort of the federal government to require individual identification of farm animals sold for processing.
4. The National Grange supports exotic animal farming provided it does not create a

health hazard for the domestic livestock industry.

5. The National Grange continues to support the beef promotion programs. We urge State Beef Councils to join in cooperative efforts to target Beef Check-off Funds to larger consumer audiences. However, the National Grange recommends that the National Beef Promotion Board consider eliminating the \$1.00 "Beef Check-off" on any animal that, when sold, the farmer would receive \$20.00 or less.
6. The National Grange strongly supports the livestock, poultry and dairy industries as suppliers of food and fiber that are so necessary for today's standard of living. We will continue to inform the public of the economics and importance of the livestock industry and their contributions to a balanced nutritional diet. We will continue to cooperate with the Animal Welfare Coalition to combat misleading statements made by animal rights organizations regarding animal agriculture.
7. The National Grange supports using animals in animal agricultural research in order to advance the science of animal husbandry in the most humane and economic fashion. The National Grange opposes efforts to declare animals to be "sentient beings", and all efforts to give animals the legal protections to which humans are entitled. We support the development of educational programs that demonstrate the advantages and humanness of modern animal husbandry. We oppose any legislation and/or regulations that would hinder good animal husbandry practices. Instead, we support developing a code of "best management practices" for the care and maintenance of agricultural animals and other animals that are under human control. We also support efforts to severely punish any individuals and organizations that commit illegal actions against animal agricultural producers and animal agricultural and biomedical researchers and facilities. We support the voluntary efforts of farmers in reducing the number of injured or downer animals. We encourage livestock auction markets to continue their programs of not accepting animals that are injured or are too weak to stand. We support the efforts of commercial processing facilities to continue the humane disposal of unwanted agricultural animals.
8. The National Grange strongly opposes legislation calling for the severe curtailment of the veal industry by such measures as eliminating confinement stalls and crates. However, the Grange will work with the National Veal Association to correct or remove the veal production practices that are not within the guidelines of best veal management. We further recommend that a USDA grader be assigned to all veal calf slaughtering plants so that a farmer or seller receives a fair price from the packing plant for their veal based on the grade that was determined by the inspector and not the plant manager.
9. The National Grange supports rodeos, the use of animals in rodeos, and the great heritage rodeos represent.
10. The National Grange supports efforts to deal with concentrated animal feeding operations issues emphasizing sensible control and enforcement, the development of nutrient management plans, developing cost efficient odor reduction technology, and the zoning of agricultural districts. We recommend the development and use of "the best management practices" for the handling of animal and poultry wastes. We support liability protection for farmers who follow the appropriate regulations and "best management practices". We also support strict laws that regulate large livestock enterprises so that they apply nutrients according to an approved nutrient management plan to assure that excess nutrients will not contaminate the waters of the United States. We also recommend strict construction standards to new earthen manure lagoons and set

a phase-in period after which existing lagoons would have to meet appropriate standards. We support prohibiting indefinite storage of animal waste by requiring treatment according to federal wastewater standards if the waste is not applied to land or used in another environmentally sound matter. We further support regulations or other provisions to prevent animal owners from using contracts or similar arrangements to avoid responsibilities for animal waste management. We support imposing tough new penalties on the worst polluters. However, we believe that the implementation of any rules and regulations forcing compliance with the Clean Water Act for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations should not become mandatory until all technical expertise and funding is secured and available for the timely compliance with these directives.

11. The National Grange believes the Environmental Protection Agency should not be empowered or allowed to levy fines, fees, or any other monetary pressure based on natural emissions of livestock which may ultimately affect greenhouse gases.
12. The National Grange encourages Congress to restore the original cost-share funding of three million dollars for manure pits.
13. The National Grange at all levels seeks legislation to accomplish a national identification for livestock and poultry. The program should include safeguards to protect the privacy of the farmers and the Grange will work at all levels to have farmer privacy provisions included in the national identification for livestock program legislation.

Livestock and Poultry Disease Control

1. The National Grange supports continued efforts to eradicate Brucellosis, Johne's disease, Hoof and Mouth disease, Bovine Leukemia virus, tuberculosis, and screw worms, as well as the continued monitoring of our nation's borders against reinfestation of these and other infectious livestock diseases.
2. The National Grange supports funding of increased research to control and eradicate poultry diseases and parasites.
3. The National Grange supports blood testing for Johne's disease in cattle. We further support the development of a test that can isolate the causal organism of Johne's disease in a shorter time frame.
4. The National Grange requests that health charts show freedom from TB and Brucellosis when dairy cattle are either sold or shown.
5. The National Grange opposes any ban on the use of antibiotics in livestock and poultry feed unless the Food and Drug Administration or other agencies have scientifically established and determined that the use of these antibiotics are detrimental to human health. We oppose any proposals to reclassify over-the-counter animal drugs as prescription-only drugs unless scientifically based information suggests drugs should be reclassified on a drug-by-drug basis. We strongly recommend that all producers who use antibiotics, growth stimulants and other feed additives abide by the directions for the use of and withdrawal provisions for such products
6. The National Grange supports the establishment of firm guidelines for the management of bison and elk in the National Parks to control the spread of brucellosis and the high risk of undulant fever in humans.

Food and Meat Inspection Programs

1. The National Grange urges an increase in inspection regulations on all livestock,

feed, meats, dairy products and all by-products being imported from all countries to the United States for the protection of our animal industry. We support extending mandatory inspection regulations to seafood. We support legislation to implement pathogen detection and reduction strategies based on sound science that targets micro bio-contamination by pathogens that may be harmful to consumers. We request the USDA to strengthen the inspection process for meat and poultry that is being imported into the United States. However, we will oppose adopting “user fees” to pay for inspection services and or any changes in the system that will result in less than continuous inspection during processing of meat and poultry for human consumption.

2. The National Grange supports legislation to eliminate the unfair prohibition against the interstate shipment of state inspected meat and poultry products if the state meat and poultry inspection service is equal to or better than the federal meat and poultry inspection service system.
3. The National Grange urges Congress to fund, and the USDA to develop and disseminate, educational programs relative to safe handling of foods.
4. The National Grange will seek legislation to have the uniform expiration date stamped, not coded, on all processed food.
5. The National Grange supports legislation requiring more open notice to the consumer on products containing M.R.M (machine removed meat).
6. The National Grange opposes federal legislation that would presume that all food, including food produced for local market sale and consumption, should be treated as potentially hazardous and would require family farmers to produce and maintain onerous amounts of paperwork indicating what production inputs were purchased and when food produced on an individual farm will be consumed, in order to reach an unattainable goal of total traceability of all food produced in the United States, all the way through the food system. Additionally, the National Grange opposes federal legislation that would add an unwelcome layer of national bureaucratic paperwork to the business of producing food to meet local demand without demonstrating any commensurate food safety benefits to consumers, or cost reductions that benefit family farmers or their local customers.

Farmer Credit Programs and the Farm Credit System

1. The primary function of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) should be a lender of last resort for farmers who are unable to acquire needed capital from conventional lending sources. Caution must be exercised to avoid granting undue advantage to large operations at the expense of family-sized farming units. The Grange urges the FSA to strengthen farm loan programs and assist borrowers in “graduating” to conventional credit sources. Loan programs should provide needed short and long-term low interest credit for soil and water conservation. We believe that the local committees should have the legal authority to act upon all farmer loans. We support providing emergency loans and management assistance during times of natural disasters, commodity embargoes, or economic setbacks to expedite the application, review and granting process for these loans. During situations of economic stress facing FSA farm borrowers, we support maintaining the right of mediation on farm loan foreclosures. We further believe that the present owner/operator or beginning farmer should be given the first consideration of sale or lease in disposing of foreclosed farms.
2. The National Grange supports the separation of the truly agricultural production and

farm ownership lending programs from lending programs generally associated with rural development such as the Business and Industry Loan Program, water and sewer loans, and non-farm family homes, to free Farm Service Agency county office staff to better supervise agricultural production loans. Business and Industrial Loan Guarantee Programs should be administered so they do not interfere with providing credit to family farmers.

3. The National Grange supports Farm Credit System programs that will service the needs of farmers who are actively and directly engaged in the production of agricultural commodities. We support retaining the present tax exemptions that apply to the Farm Credit System. We specifically recommend that the Farm Credit System create policies and programs that will assist young and beginning farmers. We oppose efforts by the Farm Credit System to increase its activities regarding insurance coverage for its farm borrowers.
4. The National Grange recommends that the lending authority of the Farm Credit System be expanded to address the total needs of rural communities, including rural economic development. We support the financing of on-farm and off-farm facilities that add value to agricultural commodities or provide services to agricultural production and marketing as well as financing for agricultural exports to all foreign markets. We further support FCS financing directed toward the development of rural enterprises engaged in the development of alternative uses for agricultural commodities and the development of rural infrastructures, such as water and sewer systems and the creation of state of the art telecommunication systems for rural areas.
5. The National Grange supports requiring all agricultural lending institutions, including those under the Federal Reserve System, to consider the security and payment history of the applicant rather than relying entirely upon his/her cash flow.

Agriculture Trade Policy

1. The National Grange continues to support legislation, trade agreements and other measures that will lead to the freeing of world trade between nations on a mutually beneficial basis. We support "fast track" trade legislation to provide the President with sufficient legal authority to negotiate effectively for a reduction in trade barriers, both tariff and non-tariff. We continue to favor the principles set forth in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and will support amendments to the WTO that will call for swifter remedies to trade disputes. The Grange must continue to work for sound trade agreements for agriculture by encouraging the Administration and the Congress to aggressively ensure that American farmers achieve access to all markets covered by trade agreements.
2. The National Grange supports the permanent appointment of a chief agricultural negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. We support the strong representation of U.S. agricultural interests in all negotiations regarding U.S. trade relations, and to insure that the cost of research and development is not born solely by the American farmer.
3. The National Grange continues to work for an adequate food supply for the entire world. We encourage increased food production in developing countries. To that end, we support an international food program that provides for the support of all nations

in a cooperative endeavor to meet current and projected food needs in deficient areas and insures that food will be available and efficiently distributed. All nations should give more support for research, education and development of programs designed to improve the capability of farmers in food deficient areas to meet more of the food needs of their people.

4. The National Grange supports the development of a consistent policy on the use of sanctions by the U.S. government. The Grange opposes trade embargoes as a first choice of action, but should all choices fail, short of military action, and a trade embargo becomes the only alternative, the Grange urges the federal government to embargo all products- agricultural, industrial and technical- instead of specific agricultural commodities. If sanctions become necessary as a tool of foreign policy, then sanctions should be used only as a consequence of multilateral sanctions.
5. In any new trade negotiations or discussions in re-opening any existing trade pacts, the National Grange strongly support the inclusion of policy to protect State Laws, including defense of such laws by the proper authorities in any trade court.
6. The Granges at all levels pressure our Federal Legislators, both the House and Senate to vote No on FTAA. We believe it will only lower the standard of living in the U.S. by forcing the job market to move to other countries.
7. The National Grange insists that representatives of USDA and the Dept. of Homeland Security be present at all Free Trade negotiations to insure that an adequate supply of domestically produced dairy products be maintained. Congress should diligently scrutinize all Free Trade Agreements to protect agriculture production in the event of serious food shortages caused by natural disaster, disease or terrorism before voting the Trade Agreement "up or down."

Agriculture Imports

1. The National Grange supports strict enforcement of laws regulating the importation of harmful species of plants and animals. We further support measures which will require tighter oversight and control at port of entry and market outlets in an effort to control the importation of exotic fowl, pet birds, and the establishment of procedures for the treatment of imported cargoes to prevent the importation of plant or animal insects or diseases.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would require The USDA to certify that food products coming into the USA for human consumption have not been grown or treated with products that are not currently registered for use on food products in the United States.
3. The National Grange does not approve of using inspections, grading, health, and sanitary or labeling standards as non-tariff barriers to trade. We do support placing import quotas and/or import tariffs on agricultural commodities as a means of protecting domestic markets from seasonal and over trend market penetration surges. We urge Congress and the President to investigate dumping of food products from other countries on to the US market that affect the agriculture industry in the United States. We insist that all imported agricultural products, including value-added commodities, meet the same strict inspection, unapproved pesticide residues, grading, and labeling standards as domestically-produced products and that these standards be strictly enforced, and the country of origin supply certification that the imported product is free of harmful diseases and pests. We specifically recommend that all imported products be labeled

with the name of the country of origin until the consumer purchases it. We further support the elimination of all export subsidies on agricultural products imported into the United States or the imposition of countervailing duties to offset the subsidy value.

4. The National Grange supports strict enforcement of existing countervailing duties to offset the subsidy value on certain agricultural and timber products being imported from Canada to protect the agriculture and timber industries in states along the Canadian border.
5. Imports of animals, meat, meat products and bone meal into the United States from any country having Mad Cow Disease should be stopped until scientific data shows otherwise.

Agriculture Exports and Embargoes

1. The National Grange encourages its members to work through their commodity export promotion organizations on increasing the producers' participation in export market development. We strongly supports retaining the present system of private enterprise and cooperatives in export sales. We continue to support government export credit programs, including blended credit, and propose the establishment of a revolving export credit fund. We further support the formation of a national marketing federation of regional marketing cooperatives to cover all agricultural export commodities and better serve the world's markets. We encourage all segments of the agricultural community to increase their private investment in export market development for American agricultural commodities.
2. The National Grange supports legislation or administrative action that will continue to maintain and increase the exporting of agricultural commodities. We recommend new emphasis on cash sales for agricultural products along with aggressive exportation of high value-added products. Consideration should be given to greater participation by the USDA in the administration and distribution of United States' food aid programs.
3. The National Grange urges the Grain Inspection Service of the USDA to take all necessary steps to insure that only grain of the quality specified in the purchase be moved into the export market.
4. The National Grange supports increasing market development programs conducted through the USDA and AID with emphasis on financing and development of the infrastructure of recipient countries to facilitate the receiving and distribution of U.S. agricultural products.
5. The National Grange supports integrating and coordinating existing state and federal governments' export marketing programs, such as the Market Access Program, the Market Promotion Program, and other similar programs that are designed to develop and expand foreign markets for U.S. farm products. We believe that these programs should be limited to domestic firms and targeted to new exporting companies, small businesses and individual farmers who sell directly into export markets. We urge Congress and the USDA to reinstate the Export Enhancement Program in order to meet the price competition in world markets. New efforts should be made in the development of marketing programs to expand agricultural exports that encourages the participation of new export marketing groups, such as farm cooperatives and export trading companies. Farmers selling commodities directly into the export market should be subject to all of the protections and restrictions that apply to corporations and other commercial ventures that are selling into the export market.

6. The National Grange will oppose restrictions being placed on imports into the United States that could result in retaliatory action being taken against U.S. agricultural exports by the exporting country. We recommend that further legislative and/or administrative actions be taken to enhance the exportation of U.S. agricultural commodities. We strongly support keeping the authority to determine national agricultural export policy in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. We support all efforts to maintain the sanctity of export contracts. We support monitoring and full public disclosure of information concerning sales to foreign countries. We support negotiations to eliminate all tariff and non-tariff trade restrictions against United States' agricultural exports.
7. The National Grange will oppose any attempt to embargo, restrict or otherwise burden the export of logs or any other privately grown agricultural commodity by a complete or partial ban, quota, or tax of any nature.
8. The National Grange supports swift implementation of the Taft-Hartley Act's provisions against workers who refuse to load agricultural commodities for export.
9. The National Grange supports developing agricultural trade with Cuba. We seek means whereby Cuba might be extended loans and/or credit to purchase U.S. agricultural products.

Marketing and Cooperatives

1. The National Grange strongly supports agricultural cooperatives and the special legal status granted to agricultural cooperatives under the Capper-Volstead Act. Agricultural cooperatives should be owned and controlled by farmers. We support tax law changes that would allow cooperatives to raise additional equity capital to expand cooperative operations as long as such equity does not undermine farmer ownership and control of their cooperative. We support allowing grain-marketing cooperatives to receive commodity loans.
2. The National Grange supports purchasing, processing, marketing, rural electric and telephone cooperatives that are providing high quality products and services to their members.
3. The National Grange urges the USDA and other appropriate agencies to continue their educational programs for farmers on the use of the futures market through hedging and other marketing options to increase farm profitability.
4. The National Grange continues to support the efforts of commodity organizations to improve the promotional activities for their products.
5. The National Grange endorses federal and state legislation to protect the bargaining status of cooperatives. Purchasers should be required to recognize and negotiate in good faith with the designated representatives of their producers. The right of producers to control by democratic means the selection of bargaining cooperatives to represent them should be guaranteed by law. Processors of agricultural products should be prohibited from intimidating growers or withholding growers' contracts because of membership in a bargaining association.
6. The National Grange supports extending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1937 to include all agricultural commodities. Following the marketing order approval by a referendum of respective producers, regulations covering allocating aggregate market supply among markets in time, space, and form; trading practices; grading standards; container and other terms of sale should be issued under the order. The USDA should have the administrative responsibility to implement Federal Marketing Orders.

7. The National Grange urges the USDA to cooperate fully with the states in developing direct farmer to consumer marketing programs.
8. The National Grange recommends that the provisions of any check-off be approved by a majority of the producers of that commodity in a national referendum. Following producer approval, the programs shall be mandatory, without refunds, and that no more than 5% of the check-off funds can be used for administrative costs. The funds shall be under the control of the promotion board with oversight responsibility in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
9. The National Grange supports a study to determine the feasibility of a check-off program for wheat to fund a research, educational and promotional program on the nutritional benefits of wheat flour products.
10. The National Grange supports increased research by government and industry to discover and develop new uses and markets for agricultural commodities, including the development of value-added products with the aid of non-farm groups. We further support a national agricultural marketing policy which would encourage farmers to retain important production and marketing decisions in their own hands and that would encourage domestic regional marketing cooperatives to develop a cooperative marketing federation that is capable of entering into the international market for selling farm commodities.
11. The National Grange supports retaining present state standards for Maple Syrup, and opposes any mandatory federal regulations that would be less stringent than present state regulations.

Chemicals for Agriculture: Weed, Pest, and Predator Control

1. The National Grange urges the EPA to consult with state, industry, and user groups when developing policy and regulations that relates to pesticide industries. The National Grange also urges the EPA to use a reasonable approach in carrying out the provisions and requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. We recommend relying on impartial scientific research data that is based on the normal human consumption patterns of a product before suspending or canceling the use of a particular chemical. We urge more review and study of a chemical before the public is advised that an agricultural chemical may be harmful to their health. We support increased research and education being done by the USDA and EPA to improve integrated pest management. To that end, we support the reinstatement and full funding of the USDA's Pesticide Data Program. We further recommend that Congress provide additional funds for Land Grant Colleges and Universities to be more actively involved with biological pest control research.
2. The National Grange supports efforts to provide information to growers and farmers on actions that can be taken when adverse public statements are made questioning their use of agricultural chemicals that are legally registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We support legislation which would allow producers and handlers to seek criminal and punitive damage from people or organizations that disseminate false or unsubstantiated information which causes punitive harm to a grower or handler of an agricultural product, including seeking equal media time. We further seek legislation that would protect a farmer from criminal or civil liability regarding that farmer's use or disposal of an EPA-registered and approved herbicide or pesticide in accordance with the manufacturer's printed instructions.

3. The National Grange supports the reasonable and practical use of agricultural chemicals as well as reasonable and practical standards for reentry to fields or areas treated with agricultural chemicals. We urge the USDA to establish a certification program that encourages herbicide applicators to use best management practices to prevent damage to adjacent property. We further support adequate funding for increased research by all appropriate government agencies to develop, improve, and disseminate information on alternative or sustainable agriculture. We support developing educational programs for farmers on the safe use and disposal of agricultural chemicals, including their containers, in an environmentally safe way.
4. The National Grange supports certification and re-certification programs for all restricted use pesticides. All applicators of restricted-use pesticides should be certified in the application of restricted-use pesticides.
5. The National Grange supports allowing the continued and appropriate use of the following farm chemicals: 2-4-D for weed control; triazines as a crop protectant; Elgetol for thinning apples; Compound 1080 for predator control; Methyl bromide for controlling insect infestations in stored commodities and any chemicals found to be effective in controlling fire ants. We further encourage the EPA to reevaluate their restrictions on certain pesticides that are used for grasshopper control so that a more effective environmental control program may be offered to farmers and ranchers.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that provides increased and continuous funding for the IR-4 minor use pesticides program. We recommend streamlining the approval process for minor use pesticides by reducing the cost and time necessary for registration or re-registration.
7. The National Grange supports a federal Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) that updates standards pertaining to pesticide and chemical residue in food be revisited, utilizing new technologies for determining food safety based on the negligible risk standard. We specifically urge the Environmental Protection Agency to implement the FQPA by using sound scientific data based on actual use of pesticides and agricultural chemicals and by providing a transition period for agriculture to adjust to the withdrawal of an approved pesticide.
8. The Cooperative Extension Service and the State Departments of Agriculture, in cooperation with retail and wholesale dealers of lawn and garden pesticides, should conduct special pesticide application classes for homeowners to ensure the proper use and disposal of unused chemicals and their containers. The sale of lawn and garden pesticides should be monitored closely by local and state authorities to insure that restricted use pesticides are not sold to uncertified applicators.
9. The National Grange opposes the EPA classifying plants as a pesticide based upon genetic engineering.
10. All fertilizer manufacturers using toxic, heavy metal, chemical or radioactive wastes should be required to list those components on the package label.
11. The National Grange will support a high priority program for the control of noxious weeds on all lands including Witchweed, Tartanian Honeysuckle, Russian or Autumn Olive and Multiflora Rose.
12. The National Grange urges the USDA to continue funding for the control of the Asian Gypsy Moth; Pine Beetle; Tussock Moth; and the Asian Long Horned Beetle. We support additional funding and legal authority to restrict the importation of foreign pests into the US. We urge USDA to alert the general public to the potential threat that foreign insects pose to our native species.

13. The National Grange supports legislation allowing farmers, ranchers and others to protect their property from predators, including endangered species.
14. The National Grange urges the National Legislature to prohibit all sales of any form (live, dried, seeds) of any plant that has been placed on a state, regional or national noxious weed list.

Research and Extension

1. The National Grange strongly supports the cooperative Extension Service (ES) as well as the land grant universities in their effort to maintain a quality extension program in their respective states. The ES should continue to provide leadership to the agricultural and rural sectors with programs directed primarily to improving the quality of rural life. We recommend renewed federal funding for the State Farm Safety Specialist position and farm safety programs, establishing a job retraining program for displaced, disabled, or injured farmers and ranchers, maintaining a viable 4-H Program, and increased funding by all government entities so that the ES can provide information on alternative and sustainable agricultural practices and marketing methods.
2. The National Grange continues to strongly support adequate funding for basic and applied agricultural research from federal, state and private sources. We specifically recommend full funding of the federal share of agricultural research, especially in cases of emergencies when increased research is required. We strongly support additional research to provide the technology that is pertinent to small-scale agriculture, including more emphasis on research in the areas of marketing, insect control, disease control, energy use, improved product quality, and soil and water management.
3. The National Grange supports increased funding for the National Seed Storage Laboratory in an effort to preserve plant material and seed germ plasm.
4. The National Grange will support the goals of sustainable agriculture research and education programs that will promote the most efficient and effective Best Management Practices (BMT) to reduce soil loss due to erosion, protect water quality from degradation by substance discharge from agricultural operations, and to identify methodologies that will result in higher profitability from production through market development.
5. The National Grange supports expansion of precision agriculture practices to include poultry and livestock production to make animal nutrition more effective, reduce the amount of waste, and reduce the nutrient levels in the waste.
6. The National Grange endorses existing organic farming research and education.
7. The National Grange urges the USDA to grant the New England Agriculture Innovation Center \$1,000,000 the first year and \$1,000,000 the second year.

Biotechnology Policy, Research, and Application to Agriculture

1. The National Grange supports a federal policy to allow the use of biotechnology in agriculture. We recognize that genetic engineering of plants and animals has already had a positive impact on increasing the availability of food, decreasing the environmental impact of agriculture and creating foods that are safer, longer-lasting, more nutritious and better tasting. We further support continued research on biotechnology and genetic engineering, including further scientific research into non-human cloning. We support an approval process for genetically modified plants and animals which

utilizes science based decision making to assure the safety of agricultural products. To that end, the National Grange philosophically supports the efforts of National Science Foundation (NSF) concerning their Plant Genome Initiative.

2. The National Grange supports legislation that provides that patented plants and livestock that have been developed through biotechnology (gene-splitting, cloning, genetic engineering, etc.) will be made available to farmers by provisions that will not result in a concentration of the patented livestock in the hands of a few large firms and will not interfere with their availability to all farmers.
3. The Grange urges the FDA, EPA, USDA, and other national farm organizations to publicize the safety of GMO's to help reduce the resistance to the use of this technology.

Anti-Trust Issues

1. The National Grange recommends that Congress investigate the possibility that very large corporations that own and operate livestock/poultry slaughtering plants as well as very large livestock/poultry feeding facilities are violating anti-trust laws. We question whether or not those firms are engaged in price manipulation resulting from their control of an extremely large portion of the market; their lack of competitive bidding because of the regionally specific location of the slaughtering plants that are owned by these corporations and their access to their own large numbers of fed animals or poultry in their own feeding facilities. If any firms are found to be in violation of anti-trust laws, the Department of Justice or the Federal Trade Commission should take the necessary action to uphold the laws.
2. The National Grange calls on the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the agricultural supply, agricultural transportation, grain handling, pricing policies and the potential anti-competitive marketing practices of all large corporations in the food processing and food marketing industries. We oppose the concentrated growing, marketing and distribution of agricultural production by large corporations other than farm co-operatives in the US. We call upon the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the pricing policy of the food industry and anti-competitive marketing practices, such as the purchasing of shelf space and product location that places new and less expensive generic brands at a marketing disadvantage. We express deep anti-trust concerns regarding the control of the U.S. seed supply to both Congress and the Department of Justice and urge both to conduct a close review of recent acquisitions and mergers.
3. The National Grange urges the Secretary of Agriculture to appoint a study committee composed of representatives from farm organizations, commodity groups, and integrators to study the terms of grower contracts to determine fairness to both parties and their acceptance by lending institutions. We further support better nationwide reporting of price and contract information, including forward contract prices, and on going studies of the relationship between farm gate prices and retail prices. We urge USDA to fully fund these efforts.
4. The National Grange urges continued awareness of the address issues related to the Internet trading of grain and other agricultural production. We urge the imposition of necessary regulations on Internet trading of grain where appropriate to protect the farmer.

USDA Responsibilities, Authorities, and Organization

1. The National Grange strongly supports the U.S. Department of Agriculture remaining as an independent agency with the Secretary of Agriculture as a member of the President's Cabinet.
2. The National Grange supports the repeal of the USDA's personnel regulations that forbid USDA employees from actively participating in the meetings and other activities of farm organizations, from holding office in farm organizations, from participating in membership recruitment campaigns, or from acting as a volunteer financial or business agent of a farm organization. This should not change or alter the USDA's other regulations concerning general employee conduct.
3. The National Grange strongly urges the USDA to devise plans to reduce the paperwork for farmers to participate in federal farm programs. We urge the USDA and its agencies to format all reports, applications etc., that are to be filed by farmers, so that they may be filled out via computer media using commonly accepted word processing programs, and returned to the agency for processing.

Disaster Assistance and Risk Management

1. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation of the multi peril federal crop insurance program (FCI) that provides coverage on all program, non-program and specialty crops on a nationwide basis. We support changes in the FCI program that would include multi-peril insurance for all crops. We recommend that federal crop insurance coverage be updated annually to reflect the cost of production. We further believe that area coverage should be dropped and a realistic production base should be established for each tract of land.
2. The National Grange urges the USDA Risk Management Division to take steps to accelerate the processing and payment of claims. We support using uniform standards for grading fruits for market, hail and other damage payments
3. The USDA Risk Management Division should discontinue providing insurance coverage on a percentage basis. Coverage should be changed to insure crops on a dollar amount of loss per acre (or unit). The National Grange recommends removing any percent cut on estimated yields if weather conditions prevent timely planting. In addition, the USDA Risk Management Division should delete all of the current footnotes and should clearly state all exceptions, limitations and other provisions concerning crop coverage in the insurance policy.
4. The National Grange supports disaster aid relief that is based on individual rather than countywide losses. We urge the federal government to distribute surplus stored grain, at no cost and on a need basis, to limited resource farmers in disaster stricken areas as well as make available a recourse loan on a need basis for damaged commodities.
5. The National Grange urges the USDA Risk Management Division to allow an option that will permit wheat producers covered by the USDA Risk Management Division's crop insurance to obtain a replant payment if replanting is required.
6. The National Grange urges the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to streamline procedures that will expedite implementation of the disaster and market loss program payments. Funding for these payments must be "emergency" and not otherwise reduce any other farm bill program spending.
7. The National Grange supports the Farm and Ranch Risk Management (FARRM) ac-

count program allowing farmers and ranchers to deposit a set-aside amount of pre-tax dollars into an interest-bearing account to average income fluctuations.

8. A farm yield or county average yield history for any government farm programs shall not be influenced when a yield is less than 50% of the normal yield of a given crop and is caused by any God given weather related disaster (drought-heat, flood, wind, hail, etc.) that is out of a farmer's control.

Farm Labor

1. In the organization of farm laborers on the West Coast and other farm labor-intensive areas, it is evident that the consolidation of production units may lead to increased costs to the consumers and the producer because of possible disruption caused by labor disputes. Therefore, while we continue to support the rights of individuals to organize, we call for sound approaches when dealing with labor problems in the agricultural industry. Labor and management in the food and agricultural industries should seek solutions to labor problems without striking. To further this goal, we recommend establishing procedures for negotiating labor disputes that will minimize disruptive labor strikes, especially during critical growing and harvesting periods. We also support a prohibition on the exclusive use of hiring halls for supplying agricultural labor and a prohibition on the use of secondary boycotts.
2. The National Grange supports a youth differential minimum wage rate for youth under the age of 18 so agricultural employers will be willing to employ such persons.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that will reduce federal funding of the Legal Service Corporation (LSC), a federal agency that provides legal services to the poor, including migrant farm workers. The LSC legal services should be limited to representing the poor in the courts, not an advocacy group for farm employees that investigate perceived violations of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act.
4. The Workman's Compensation Insurance Program should be the exclusive remedy for work-related injuries under the "Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act.

Farm Safety

1. The National Grange supports a comprehensive farm safety-training program for operation of farm machinery, use of chemicals, and animal management to be funded through the Cooperative Extension Service at land grant universities.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would require manufacturers of tractors and self-propelled farm equipment that may be used on public highways be equipped with signal lights and reflectors that would be visible from all sides. Machinery and wagons should be equipped with reflector tape. Farmers should be encouraged to use lights and reflectors or a reflective material on all sides of tractors and machinery that is traveling on public highways.

Miscellaneous

1. The National Grange supports the agricultural weather forecasting service.
2. The National Grange continues to support the development of aquaculture. We urge

aquacultural farmers to use care and caution in the placement of rearing pens in public waterways so as not to interfere with other waterway uses.

3. The National Grange supports legislation that would ensure a producer the “right to harvest” any legally planted crop in spite of any environmental or regulatory action arising between planting and harvest time.
4. The National Grange opposes research, production, processing and marketing of industrial hemp as a viable agricultural activity. The Grange supports and promotes research, production, marketing, and processing of *Cannabis sativa* L. subsp. *Sativa* var. *sativa*, industrial hemp.
5. The National Grange opposes EPA regulations that concern unsubstantiated dust blowing attributed to agricultural operation.
6. The National Grange actively supports revising the standards, so that all meats in the national school lunch program are required to meet the new standards used by the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service.
7. The Grange at all levels support initiatives to encourage the use of farm structures as a base for communication antennas.
8. The National Grange seeks a more aggressive position on the issue of irrigation water shared by the U.S. and Mexico on behalf of the U.S. interest and that the period of payback for the excess usage of irrigation water be limited to two years rather than five years.
5. The Grange supports legislation which offers a form of reimbursement of student loans for large animal veterinarians committing to work in private practice.

My thanks to an outstanding group of individuals who gave of themselves unselfishly to make the Agriculture Committee a great success. A special thanks goes to Bruce Croucher for doing an outstanding job as secretary. We also appreciate the assistance provided by Leroy Watson and Lisa Tharp, Ohio Legislative Director.

Faternally,

Jack Smithers (TX), Chair
Jimmy Gentry (NC)
Gordon Groves (IN)
Linda Chase (MA)
Phil Prelli (CT) (H)

Bruce Croucher (NY) (H), Sec.
John Hagen (CO)
Maurice Wiles (MD)
Lee Johnson (WY)
Sarah Gearing (NY) (H)

AUDIT & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<u>RES#</u>	<u>MASTER</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
201		Committee	NATIONAL OFFICERS COMPENSATION	Audit & Budget	Adopted
202		Committee	AUTHORIZED TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT	Audit & Budget	Adopted as Amended
203		Committee	COVERED EXPENSES FOR OFFICERS AND DELEGATES	Audit & Budget	Adopted
204	Foster	WV	NATIONAL GRANGE OFFICER MEAL EXPENSES	Audit & Budget	Withdrawn

POLICY STATEMENT

The members of the Audit and Budget Committee commend the National Master, Executive Committee and National staff for presenting us with a balanced budget while offering value to our membership.

We concur with the Internal Report of the National Master that on all levels of the Order our monetary and member resources need to be developed and grown, thereby creating stability and a talented pool of leaders from which to draw.

We commend all the Granges and individuals who contributed to the name protection fund. This is an ongoing effort and your continued monetary support is necessary.

We would also encourage Granges to contribute to our National Grange Headquarters building reserve fund. This building is a real asset to the Order, as evidenced by the current 100% occupancy, which provides income for our organization. We urge all who can to participate in the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the National headquarters building in June 20

We recommend that the Executive Committee continue to regularly re-evaluate the insurance coverage for the National Grange building to insure adequate protection.

Remember that all donations to the Grange Foundation are tax deductible as the Foundation has 501(c)3 tax status. We encourage members or non-members to continue their financial support of the Youth Leadership Fund, the Junior fund, the Kelley Farm, the General Foundation Funds and the National Grange Endowment Fund. Members and non-members alike may wish to consider the Foundation for memorials or estate planning.

We would encourage our Grange Brothers and Sisters to continually work on increasing membership and inspiring these new members to take an ownership in our Grange so that we may be able to continue and thus increase the good work of our Order many, many more years

CREDENTIAL REPORT

This is the report of the Committee on Audit and Budget that deals with the credentials of the delegate body. The Secretary's records show the following states have 15 or more

Granges, have their dues paid for the current year, and the following duly elected delegates are entitled to be seated as representatives of these states at the 143rd annual convention of the National Grange:

California	Bob McFarland	Wendy McFarland
Colorado	John Hagan	Trudie Hagan
Connecticut	Robert Sendewicz	Marge Sendewicz
Delaware	William Narvel	Barbara Narvel
Idaho	Don Billmire	Jeannie Billmire
Illinois	Lyle Lee	Patti Lee
Kansas	Roger Bostwick	Melanie Bostwick
Maine	James Owens	Rick Grotten
Maryland	Maurice Wiles	Donna Wiles
Massachusetts	Calvin Chase	Linda Chase
Michigan	Christopher Johnston	Connie Johnston
N. Hampshire	Beth Merrill	Arthur Merrill
New Jersey	Pete Pompper	
New York	Oliver Orton	Karen Orton
No. Carolina	Jimmy Gentry	Anita Gentry
Ohio	Gary Brumbaugh	Linda Brumbaugh
Oklahoma	Donna Keeton	Brad Keeton
Oregon	Phyllis Wilson	Mark Noah
Pennsylvania	Betsy Huber	Brian Ebersole
Rhode Island	Scott Sherman	Jack Cottrell
Vermont	Errol Briggs	Kendal Holden
Washington	June Hendrickson	Jack Hendrickson

The Secretary's records show the following states have the required 6 to 14 Granges, have their dues paid for the current year, and the following duly elected delegates are entitled to one vote and are entitled to be seated as representatives of these states in the 143rd annual convention of the National Grange:

Alaska	Gaye Hunt	
Florida	Ruth Gray	
Indiana	Gordon Groves	Lucille Groves
Iowa	Dwight Baldwin	Kathy Baldwin
Minnesota	Donna Champion	
Montana	Marty Billquist	Joyce Billquist
Nebraska	Joe Fryman	Tammy Fryman
South Carolina	John Hammett	Hazel Hammett
Tennessee	Judy Sherrod	
Texas	Jack Smithers	Margaret Smithers
Virginia	Jimmy Taylor	
West Virginia	Jim Foster	Earlene Foster
Wisconsin	Duane Scott	Kymm Scott
Wyoming	Lee Johnson	Mildred Johnson

Potomac Grange #1 (DC) is not represented this year.

Sarah Gearing (NY) has been selected as the John Trimble Youth Legislative Experience participant for the 143rd annual convention, and is entitled to be seated as the youth representative.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

National Officers Compensation

RESOLVED, that the Audit and Budget Committee recommends the following compensation for elected officers:

National Master -- \$54,000 salary from \$51,500.

Secretary -- \$500 honorarium.

Lecturer -- \$500 honorarium.

This is a committee resolution.

Authorized Travel Reimbursement

RESOLVED, that the National Grange reimbursement 30 cents per mile per car to those authorized who travel by car from their home to the convention site, round trip mileage as shown by the AAA, or other reliable source, up to the amount it would be for the lowest available airfare; and be it further

RESOLVED, that those authorized to travel to the 2010 National Grange Convention by air or any other public transportation be reimbursed for the actual fare, provided that it is not first class or business class. Those authorized to travel shall be reimbursed for the first piece of luggage, but will not be reimbursed for over size or overweight charges.

This is a committee resolution.

Covered Expenses For Officers And Delegates

RESOLVED, that the National Grange pay room costs for the required days at the National Grange Convention for delegates, officers and approved non-delegates for the 2010 National Grange Convention.

This is a committee resolution.

Expense	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Budget
Personnel					
Board of Directors	15,099	10,717	9,812	10,126	13,000
National Master Expense	90,083	22,466	27,697	25,901	30,800
National Master Salary	0	51,600	51,500	51,500	54,000
National Lecturer	0	0	0	500	500
National Secretary	500	500	500	0	500
Staff Salaries, taxes, benefits	0	762,679	660,810	684,357	703,510
High Priest	3,702	2,598	5,214	3,563	3,370
Subtotal:	109,384	850,559	755,533	775,947	805,680
Departments					
Building expense	481,431	400,703	399,076	496,566	462,500
General Administration	406,903	128,630	311,779	536,027	341,000
Communications/Publications	145,294	93,502	70,987	73,606	79,850
IT Systems	66,843	24,653	14,891	17,539	44,000
Junior Grange	15,676	20,589	19,415	27,704	22,120
Legislative	119,139	8,212	22,950	25,704	33,950
Marketing & Sales	228,011	56,344	60,233	50,338	65,800
Membership/Leadership	73,801	14,882	23,266	17,885	30,800
Youth Development	18,143	16,042	14,159	15,434	19,850
Events, Services, Training					
National Convention	132,903	127,741	157,287	110,589	142,000
Presidents Meeting	13,038	11,579	10,997	17,111	15,000
Reps. to State Conventions	16,131	9,432	12,235	17,456	18,000
Subtotal:	1,717,213	912,309	1,117,275	1,405,959	1,274,870
Other Expenses					
Action Grange	0	0	0	0	0
Contributions	0	0	122	0	0
Furniture and equipment	4,712	1,482	0	0	0
Special Fundraising	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	881	653	2,884	1,823	1,000
Subtotal:	5,593	2,135	3,006	1,823	1,000
Total Expenses:	1,832,191	1,765,003	1,875,814	2,183,729	2,081,550
Gross Contingency:	(99,774)	62,280	141,636	(144,302)	8,220

My sincere thanks go out to the members of my committee for their help and advice, and Judy Sherrod for her work as secretary. I would like to extend a special thanks to Amber Casey for her invaluable insight into the budget and Executive Committee member Phil Prelli for answering any questions.

Fraternally,

Beth Merrill
Judy Sherrod
Gaye Hunt
Chip Narvel

Jim Owens
Joe Fryman
Kendal Holden
Dwight Baldwin

CITIZENSHIP & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

<u>RES#</u>	<u>MASTER</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
CR1		Committee	EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IN-COUNTRY VETERANS WITH PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended and Combined
301	Wilson	OR	AGREEMENT NOT TO USE UNANIMOUS CONSENT	Citizenship	Adopted
302	Wilson	OR	NO FEDERAL PENSIONS FOR CONVICTED FELONS	Citizenship	Present Policy
303	Smithers	TX	SOCIAL SECURITY	Citizenship	Present Policy
304	Fryman	NE	SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS	Citizenship	Withdrawn
305	Billmire	ID	SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM	Citizenship	Withdrawn
306	Scott	WI	TARGET FUTURE STIMULUS FUNDS TO BENEFIT LOWER INCOME AMERICANS	Citizenship	Adverse
307	Lee	IL	LINE ITEM VETO	Citizenship	Present Policy
308	Gentry	NC	AUTOMOBILE TV ADS	Citizenship	Adverse
309	Billmire	ID	TENTH AMENDMENT	Citizenship	Policy Statement
310	Billmire	ID	RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS AND EXPRESSIONS	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended
311	Billmire	ID	USE OF AUTOMATED TELEPHONE SYSTEMS IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES	Citizenship	Adverse
312	Owens	ME	TANF PROGRAM	Citizenship	Present Policy
313	Sendewicz	CT	REPAIRING NATIONAL MALL IN WASHINGTON D.C.	Citizenship	Adopted
314	Sendewicz	CT	A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ENDING GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS TO FILL U.S. SENATE VACANCIES	Citizenship	Adverse
315	Sendewicz	CT	CREATING CHEAPER COINS	Citizenship	Adverse
316	Sendewicz	CT	“DO NOT MAIL” LIST FOR ELDERLY	Citizenship	Withdrawn
317	Huber	PA	D-DAY MEMORIAL IN BEDFORD, VA	Citizenship	Adverse
318	Huber	PA	FEDERAL CABINET APPOINTMENTS	Citizenship	Policy Statement
319	Huber	PA	“EMERGENCY” LEGISLATION	Citizenship	Policy Statement
320	Huber	PA	CITIZENSHIP REQUIRED FOR U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICES	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended
321	Huber	PA	911 UPGRADE FUNDS	Citizenship	Adverse
322	Briggs	VT	FREEDOM TO EXPRESS OUR	Citizenship	Present Policy

			RELIGIOUS BELIEFS IN SCHOOL		
323	Hagen	CO	NATIONAL POLITICAL CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS	Citizenship	Adverse
324	Champion	MN	TERM LIMITS	Citizenship	Present Policy
325	Wiles	MD	URGE LAWMAKERS TO READ ANY BILL BEFORE VOTING ON IT	Citizenship	Policy Statement
326	Wiles	MD	FEDERAL "CZARS"	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended
327	Wiles	MD	NATIONAL CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER DISPLAY	Citizenship	Policy Statement
328	Wiles	MD	2010 CENSUS	Citizenship	Adopted
329	Sherrod	TN	PREVENT TAX DOLLARS FROM GOING TO GROUP TO KEEP ENGLISH FROM BEING U.S. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	Citizenship	Policy Statement
330	Orton	NY	ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS CONVICTED OF A FELONY	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended
331	Orton	NY	EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IN-COUNTRY VIETNAM VETERANS WITH PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS	Citizenship	Covered in Committee Resolution #1 Adopted as amended
332	Orton	NY	PAYMENT OF TITLE 38, VA COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR IN-COUNTRY VIETNAM VETERANS WITH PROSTATE CANCER	Citizenship	Covered in Committee Resolution #1 Adopted as Amended
333	Smithers	TX	HEARING AIDS FOR VETERANS	Citizenship	Withdrawn
334	Orton	NY	DISABLED VETERANS FAMILY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	Citizenship	Withdrawn
335	Chase	MA	EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL SPOUSES	Citizenship	Adverse
336	Foster	WV	VETERANS	Citizenship	Adverse
337	Foster	WV	CONGRESSIONAL MOMENT OF SILENCE	Citizenship	Policy Statement

POLICY STATEMENT

We, the citizens of the United States of America are privileged to live in a country where the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights guarantees each of us the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We must realize that these rights came at a price and we should honor those that paid the price and continue to do so on the battlefields of foreign lands

What better way to do this then by asking our legislators, as they open their sessions with a prayer, to add a moment of silence to remember these hero's, for it is their sacrifices

that guarantee our right to freedom of religion. We can honor them by strongly resisting those who would remove the religious symbols, slogans and beliefs of all religions from the walls of our public buildings and the monuments that honor those that paid the ultimate price for our freedom. We can also take the responsibility to see that privately operated memorials, to our fallen hero's, are properly maintained so as not to burden government agencies.

The greatest safeguard to our rights lies in our elected officials. We do our best to choose the person who is best qualified to represent us not the one who will do anything for our vote. So to should these representatives of the people pick the best qualified, responsible and ethical persons to fill appointed positions in our government.

We rely on the different branches of the government to act in an ethical manner for the best interests of its citizenry. In the course of their legislative duties we urge them to read and understand the bills before them and to refrain from attaching frivolous and unnecessary costs to the bills and remember the taxpayers that they serve and not those with a special interest or agenda.

We believe that our elected officials need to be held to a higher standard then they are, for without personal accountability in public office, our high national standards adhering to the Rule of Law and protection of the rights of the minority would quickly diminish.

There are many important issues facing our country today, among them are healthcare, taxes, business regulation and climate change. We believe that these issues should be approached with logic, facts, and open debate rather than as partisan issues. We in the Grange are proud of our non-partisan principle and believe that it is the best solution to reaching the important decisions that must be made.

We, in the Grange, will continue to bring together people with different perspectives and beliefs to build our communities, our states and our nation.

This covers resolutions 309 (ID), 318 (PA), 319 (PA), 325 (MD), 327 (MD), 329 (TN), 337 (WV) and portions of the Master's Address.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Effective Date For In-Country Veterans with Presumptive Conditions

RESOLVED, that National Grange supports legislation that requires the U.S. Veterans Administration to pay all benefits to in-country veterans effective the first day of the month that the veteran was diagnosed with the service connected presumptive condition.

This covers resolution 331 (NY) and 332 (NY) Adopted

Agreement Not To Use Unanimous Consent

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Senate website "A Senator may request unanimous consent on the floor to set aside a specified rule of procedure so as to expedite proceedings. If no Senator objects, the Senate permits the action, but if any one Senator objects, the request is rejected;" and

WHEREAS, unanimous consent requires no debate or even a roll call vote on the issues or the bills being introduced; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) released a study showing 94% of the bills passed by the Senate of the 110th Congress (855 of 911 bills) were passed

by a procedure known as Unanimous Consent; and

WHEREAS, according to calculations based on Office of Management and Budget spending data, federal spending has increased by 57% (30% after inflation) since 2001; and

WHEREAS, concerned citizens desire that bills which may have a significant financial impact on taxpayers, their children, grandchildren and future generations actually be debated and voted upon; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange lobby the United States Senate to adopt Rules of the Senate which would require that bills having a monetary impact of more than \$1 million not be passed using a Unanimous Consent procedure.

This covers resolution 301 (OR) Adopted

Religious Symbols and Expressions

WHEREAS, religious symbols and expressions are found in most cemeteries, many churches and other public places; and

WHEREAS, the current litigation for a cross and plaque placed in the Mojave Desert in 1934 by World War I Veterans remembering fallen troops from that war; and

WHEREAS, action by the ACLU has caused the federal government to conceal the memorial inside a wooden box so that it cannot be seen by someone driving by and getting offended; and

WHEREAS, if the ACLU, after spending possibly one to two million taxpayer dollars on this one memorial should win, and be awarded attorney fees as well as a cash award, they then would have the “ammunition” to go after other monuments and cemeteries such as Arlington in Washington, D.C. as well as other sites scattered around the United States including Veterans cemeteries; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange join with the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and other Veteran Service organizations along with churches, individuals to protect our religious freedoms and the First Amendment.

This covers resolution 310 (ID) Adopted

Repairing National Mall In Washington D.C.

WHEREAS, more Americans than ever are taking advantage of the National Park system as an affordable form of recreation in tough economic times; and

WHEREAS, the National Mall attracts more visitors than Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Park’s combined; and

WHEREAS, nearly \$400 million is needed to repair and maintain the buildings and grounds that encompass this national park; and

WHEREAS, deferred maintenance has resulted in tepid pools that kill ducks and ducklings with avian botulism, sea walls around the Jefferson Memorial into the mud, soil up and down the Mall trampled into virtual concrete where grass will not grow, among many other examples; and

WHEREAS, support in Congress is limited due to the District’s lack of a vote and the ability of legislators to send earmarks home to curry favor with constituents; and

WHEREAS, many legislators believe funding a park in Washington would be perceived by voters as congress spending the money frivolously all the while employing 1,900 workers to maintain the buildings and 450 acre grounds of the capitol complex while the National Park Service has approximately 200 workers for the 650 acre Mall and its memo-

rials; and

WHEREAS, a federal stimulus appropriation of \$50 million for 2009 will largely go towards repairing the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, the reflecting pool and the District of Columbia War Memorial; and

WHEREAS, the National Grange Birthplace Marker is in disrepair and likely will remain in this condition as long as the National Park Service's funding for the National Mall remains at current levels; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange encourage Congress to appropriate the necessary funds or to establish a funding plan or program to meet the estimated \$400 million necessary to repair and properly maintain the National Mall in Washington DC.

This covers resolution 313 (CT) Adopted

Citizenship Required For U.S. Supreme Court Justices

WHEREAS, present qualifications for persons to be a United States Supreme Court Justice do not require said persons be American citizens; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange seek and support a change in the qualifications for everyone hereafter being considered for appointment as a United States Supreme Court Justice that they must be citizens of the United States of America.

This covers resolution 320 (PA) Adopted

Federal "Czars"

WHEREAS, the Founding Fathers of this country felt that there was a need for checks and balances between the three branches of the federal government; and

WHEREAS, Cabinet Secretaries and other federal officials must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate and are questioned and scrutinized by a Senate committee, giving us a better understanding of their background, qualifications, and ideology, and exposing any potential problems in the vetting process; and

WHEREAS, in recent years Presidents are appointing "Czars" that are not subject to Senate confirmation or scrutiny under the Advise and Consent Clause and answer only to the President where the only checks on them are in the court of public opinion when serious problems arise; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange urge Congress to pass legislation that would cause any special presidential advisors appointed by the President to have to be confirmed by the United States Senate.

This covers resolution 326 (MD) Adopted

2010 Census

WHEREAS, since the federal census determines how our representation is divided in the U.S. House of Representative and state legislatures, it is extremely important that the census be conducted fairly and honestly; and

WHEREAS, until recently the census was conducted in a non-partisan manner through the U.S. Commerce Department, but the Obama Administration has changed this so that

now the partisan Chief of Staff will oversee it; and

WHEREAS, the census has always only counted actual people, but it is being proposed that there be a provision to estimate the number of homeless in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, the Census Bureau was going to use ACORN, a group that has had partisan involvement in previous elections and has countless allegations of voter registration fraud lodged against them to help do the counting; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange urges that the U.S. Census Bureau remain a non-partisan entity within the U.S. Commerce Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the census shall not include any estimates of populations of people not actually counted and be it further

RESOLVED that no organization whose leadership has been found guilty of serious criminal charges may be used to assist in the census count.

This covers resolution 328 (MD) Adopted

2010 CITIZENSHIP AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PRESENT POLICIES

Social Welfare Programs

1. The National Grange urges enforcement of current food stamp regulations and encourages related social agencies to assist food stamp recipients with information about foods that meet their basic needs. The National Grange asks the food stamp program to allow essential non-food personal articles such as laundry soap and toilet paper to be purchased using food stamps and opposes replacing food stamps with cash distributions.
2. The National Grange supports requiring additional means to facilitate the identification of each child's father for purposes of welfare recovery.
3. The National Grange supports the continuation of the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program.
4. The National Grange supports federally assisted housing programs that are designed to assist the poor, near poor, elderly, and handicapped. However, we oppose any "shared housing" concept that would force persons to share their federally assisted dwelling with other persons not of their choosing. We further oppose including 'disadvantaged persons' including the mentally ill and other categories of people, in government subsidized housing for the elderly.
5. The National Grange supports legislation, which protects senior citizens and dependent adults from neglect, physical, and financial abuse.
6. The National Grange encourages states to establish a central adoption information center where information on adoptable children could be recorded.
7. The National Grange strongly urges public transportation carriers to continue Operation Home Free that gives runaway teenagers free transportation home.
8. The National Grange supports legislation in Congress that would help revitalize rural areas by establishing a Venture Capital Fund to aid businesses in rural areas.

Native Americans

1. The National Grange supports legislation to impose a statute of limitations on land claims of not more than 40 years on legal actions that are taken by Native American

Nations to recover land they sold or otherwise exchanged.

2. The National Grange supports Native Americans in their reservation treaty rights to retain their mineral deposits.
3. The National Grange recommends that non-reservation lands that are purchased by an Indian tribe, or its individual members, should remain on the county's tax rolls. The National Grange also supports legislation requiring the U.S. government to make payments to local governments in lieu of current property taxes for all land purchased for Indian tribes under the Federal Tribal Acquisition Program.
4. The National Grange believes that those Native Americans who use modern technology when they hunt or fish away from established Indian reservations should be subject to the same laws as other citizens.
5. The National Grange supports the continuation of all rights and privileges enjoyed by Native Americans as U.S. citizens, including fulfilling all responsibilities associated with such citizenship.
6. The National Grange supports laws to prevent the robbery or desecration of Native American graves and burial sites and to require newly discovered human remains, grave artifacts and/or sacred items of Native American origin to be returned to the tribes or areas of their origin.

Elections

1. We believe that projections and/or final results of national elections should not be reported or broadcast by the news media until the polls have closed in all western states.
2. The National Grange urges all of its members to exercise their right to vote. We further recommend that all ballots and pertinent instructions for all elections be printed in the English language only and that proof of citizenship be required at the time of voter registration. We oppose same day registration voting laws. The National Grange urges legislation that will provide minimum standards for Presidential and Vice Presidential ballots in all states.
3. The National Grange urges the streamlining of the voting process for members of the Armed Forces during election time to make it easier for them to vote and ensure that their vote gets counted on Election Day.
4. The National Grange supports the current Electoral College system for presidential and vice-presidential elections.
5. The National Grange supports a change in the qualifications for appointment as a United States Supreme Court Justice requiring the candidate to be a citizen of the United States of America.
6. The National Grange supports a change in the qualifications for appointment as a United States Supreme Court Justice requiring the candidate to be a citizen of the United States of America.

Campaign Reform

1. The National Grange supports campaign reform legislation with definite guidelines regarding limits of spending. We support legislation to prohibit Political Action Committees (PACs) from making contributions to political campaigns. We support the current provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act concerning matching funds for the Presidential election campaign. We urge State Granges to support simi-

lar election and campaign reforms in their respective states.

2. The National Grange supports legislation that would make it illegal for any candidate, holder of public office, or national party, to accept campaign gifts or contributions from foreign countries and/or citizens of foreign countries—at all levels of government.

Elected Officials

1. The Grange favors changing the term of office of Congressional Representatives from two to four years. We also favor 12 consecutive year term limits for Senators and Representatives.
2. The National Grange supports a ban on automatic salary increases for elected officials and Members of Congress, separate from those of judges and other federal government employees. All Congressional pay raises should be considered by Congress during normal business hours and on their own merits as a separate entity to be discussed in open committee hearings and voted on by roll call with a three-fourths majority voting in the affirmative as opposed to being attached to some unrelated piece of legislation. Any approved Congressional pay increases should take effect at the next session of Congress. The National Grange further favors strengthening the law limiting the amount of gifts and money that members of Congress can accept.
3. The National Grange supports eliminating the current Congressional retirement system and mandating instead that members of Congress participate in both Social Security and the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS). We further recommend that all laws, including employment laws, apply to Congressional members.
4. The National Grange recommends that Congress adopt contingency provisions to maintain government continuity in the event of mass casualties among the members of the U.S. House of Representatives and/or the U.S. Senate.
5. The National Grange supports legislation requiring any elected or appointed government official who is convicted of a felony to forfeit their taxpayer-funded pension.

Governmental and Legislative Affairs

1. The National Grange believes: a) that all government-mandated programs and agencies must contain “sunset” provisions, including a target termination date; b) that systematic and continuous reviews of all mandated programs be made periodically by an appropriate board of review; c) that all mandated programs must be funded and financed by the government of origin; d) and that at any point funding is not provided, the mandate will be removed.
2. The National Grange supports the present status of Washington, D.C. as both a “federal city” and the nation’s capitol, which is not affiliated with any state government and not a separate state in and of itself. We further favor restricting the Congressional delegates from non-tax paying territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico to being non-voting members of Congressional committees.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would specifically make protection of private property rights and compensating private property owners for property that is taken for public use as a part of the federal statutes. The National Grange supports strengthening the Constitution’s guarantee that a person owning property has the right

to control such property, including restricting trespassers, and excluding liability for injuries to a trespasser.

4. The National Grange calls for a federal Blue Ribbon Study Commission to review all regulations enacted, seek comments from the affected persons or industries, and make needed changes in the regulatory process. We urge federal agencies to make information and forms available to concerned parties about new regulations at least 90 days before the enforcement date of new rules and regulations.
5. The National Grange supports a constitutional amendment that allows the President to exercise a line item veto for budget appropriations and authorization bills.
6. The National Grange opposes all legislation limiting the individual's ability to lobby and communicate with our elected officials either directly or through organizations such as the Grange.
7. The National Grange urges U.S. Congress to expedite funding for a resilient, mobile, wireless, data network between local and state first responders and emergency personnel with federal emergency agencies, such as FEMA, Homeland Security and the National Guard.
8. The National Grange will lobby for Congress to return the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to an independent agency free from the direction of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
9. The National Grange urges the United States Senate to adopt Rules of the Senate prohibiting bills having a monetary impact of more than \$1 million to be passed using a Unanimous Consent procedure.

Government Service

1. The National Grange supports efforts to improve the collection and dissemination of accurate and timely statistical data by all federal agencies. The National Grange opposes the decision of the Department of Commerce Census Bureau to cease including farm families in the yearly survey report as a separate category.
2. The National Grange urges the U.S. Census Bureau to remain a non-partisan entity within the U.S. Commerce Department. The census should only include people actually counted, not estimates and no organization whose leadership has been found guilty of serious criminal charges should be conducting the census count.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would make compliance with regulatory requirements regarding equipment and services for volunteer fire departments contingent upon providing financial assistance to those volunteer fire departments.
4. The National Grange encourages the federal government to provide assistance within 24 hours following the successful request by a State Governor for a declaration of a national disaster in the United States.
5. The Grange supports legislation requiring the Federal Emergency Management Agency to document and inventory all temporary housing distributed by the agency to citizens whose residences have been destroyed by a natural disaster so these units can be refurbished and reused after they are no longer needed at the original site.
6. The National Grange urges Congress to pass legislation that would require any special presidential advisors appointed by the President to be confirmed by the United States Senate.

Government Spending

1. The National Grange supports a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget as a permanent solution to our deficit problems.
2. We support efforts at all levels of government to reduce costs and excessive paperwork, to review regulations, and to generally reduce any undue influence of government on the private sector. We favor the review of all tax supported federal incentive programs for possible reduction or elimination. We encourage all levels of government to downsize or eliminate jobs where possible.
3. The National Grange supports requiring a two-third vote in the House of Representatives to increase the statutory limit on the public debt.
4. The National Grange believes that all funds left in any federal program budget at the end of each fiscal year or any treasury surplus should be applied to reducing the national debt, provided that such amounts shall not automatically be removed from the next year's program budget.
5. The National Grange opposes the federal government's indiscriminate purchase of physical assets for the public domain. Instead, it should support the retention, protection, and development of the physical domain in the best long-term interests of our citizens. If these physical assets cannot be used, they should be sold, and the money should be used to decrease the deficit.
6. The National Grange supports the enforcement of regulations to assure that government programs abide by the bidding process, when appropriate.

Monetary Policy

1. The National Grange continues to support the Federal Reserve Board's independence from congressional and presidential management or control.
2. The National Grange supports reducing the minimum denomination of Treasury Bills and Notes.
3. The National Grange supports the continued use of paper one-dollar bills rather than replacing them with a coin. We favor the continuation of the penny.

Social Security

1. The National Grange encourages Congress to positively reform the Social Security System to ensure its future solvency. The National Grange urges the continuing investigation of all Social Security programs ensuring that only those who are eligible are receiving benefits. The National Grange supports using Social Security funds for Social Security programs only. We oppose the utilization of any funds from the Social Security Trust Fund to achieve a balanced federal budget or for any purpose other than Social Security benefits.
2. We ask Congress to proceed with caution when proposing changes to Social Security and we request that the public be provided with explicit and concise information concerning any major changes in the Social Security system. We further believe that any increase in retirement age must be on a gradual basis during a preset determined amount of time.
3. Returned and/or un-cashed Social Security checks should go back to the Social Security Trust Fund.

4. We support legislation that would increase the penalties for fraud that involves the use of another person's Social Security number.
5. The National Grange endorses the present computation formula that is used to derive Social Security benefits.
6. The National Grange urges Congress to revise Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and other programs for the elderly and handicapped so that an individual's benefits will not decrease if they decide to marry.
7. The National Grange supports legislation that would remove all Social Security "Earning Limits" for individuals.
8. The National Grange supports any and all federal bills that would eliminate the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provisions, therefore restoring full Social Security benefits to public employees and surviving spouses.
9. The National Grange supports reform that would expedite the application for and processing of Social Security Disability benefits for all clients. We further urge that terminally ill persons be permitted to apply for Social Security Disability benefits upon diagnosis of the terminal illness and the application process be completed within four months of the initial application.
10. The National Grange lobbies to amend the Social Security Act to assure that a beneficiary is paid for the month of his or her death.

Veterans Affairs

1. The National Grange supports the continued operation of all Veterans' Hospitals and veterans' eligibility for medical care and benefits. We further support continuation of the current Disabled Veterans' Compensation Schedule maintaining the current benefits and the criteria for qualifying. The National Grange encourages additional federal funds to be appropriated for the Veterans' Administration for the purpose of improving the service and care of servicemen in the Veterans' Administration hospitals.
2. The National Grange supports the celebration of Veterans Day as a stand-alone holiday, and not in combination with General Election Day, or any other holiday.
3. The National Grange believes disabled veterans should remain eligible to receive all their service related retirements benefits and any other benefits to which they are entitled without offsets or reductions. Also, the National Grange supports legislation requiring the U.S. Veterans Administration to pay all benefits to veterans effective the first day of the month that the veteran was diagnosed with the service connected presumptive condition.
4. The National Grange urges all levels of government to protect the parental rights of military personnel such as custody or visitation rights while serving in combat on active duty.
5. The National Grange supports the addition of the phrase "So help us God" to President Roosevelt's quote on the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.
6. The National Grange supports allowing all veterans registered in the Veterans Administration health care system and residing in nursing facilities, both private and state owned, to receive their drugs through the VA pharmacies at the patient's co-pay price prior to admission.
7. Tinnitus is a condition caused by inner ear damage from exposure to hazardous noise levels causing constant ringing or roaring in the ear. The National Grange supports legislation allowing for a separate 10% disability rating by the Veterans Administra-

tion for each ear when veterans suffer from Tinnitus as a result of military service.

Telecommunications

1. The National Grange endorses and supports the Rural Telephone Bank.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to promote an integrated telecommunications network to assure widely available, high quality telecommunications to all of the nation's users at a reasonable cost as was originally intended by the Communications Acts of 1934 and 1996. We further believe that access to affordable and reliable broadband Internet service is vital to preserving the quality of life in rural America.
3. The National Grange supports a national broadband policy that will:
 - A) Create a nationwide fiber optic network.
 - B) Remove the regulatory uncertainty that has deterred broadband investment in rural America.
 - C) Provide the incentive for private businesses, government agencies, and private citizens to invest in rural broadband deployment and stimulate broadband competition.
 - D) Spark the creation of new service providers and new innovations that will assist a host of new technologies become more affordable, including cutting-edge wireless technologies that promise to deliver broadband to even the most remote parts of our country.
 - E) Allow Public Utility Districts (PUDs), or other public utilities to get involved in establishing the wireless communication systems.
4. The National Grange supports continued strict enforcement of the Federal Communications Commission's national "Do Not Call List". The National Grange supports expansion of the Do-Not-Call list to include computer dialed political telemarketing.
5. The National Grange supports legislation to prevent installation of the microcircuit (dubbed "clipper chip") surveillance devices.
6. The National Grange urges the Federal Communications Commission to establish pilot programs such as an easy-to-dial phone numbers for non-emergency situations.
7. The National Grange recognizes the importance of the Universal Service Fund (USF) to the American public, especially in rural communities. To this end, the Grange supports the current fair, nondiscriminatory, and competitively neutral revenue-based Universal Service Fund collection system. The National Grange opposes the Federal Communications Commission proposed connection-based "Phone Tax" as it will shift funding for the Universal Service Fund from phone companies with high volume long distance profits to rural and "necessity" phone customers who can least afford additional costs on their basic telephone service. The National Grange further urges the Universal Access charges in the 1996 Telecommunications Bill be fully implemented. The National Grange urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to approve any petitions by wireless telephone companies that demonstrate their ability to meet the obligations of Lifeline service, especially in rural areas, so they can serve low-income consumers with wireless Lifeline telephone service through the federal Universal Service Fund.
8. The National Grange recommends the U.S. Congress and the State Legislatures to enact laws that would require the communication industry to continue to transmit information on existing technology for a minimum of 5 years after new technology has been developed and is put into service.
9. The National Grange will work with telecommunications coalitions to encourage an

increase in the number of cellular phone towers in a large amount of rural America.

Broadcasting

1. The National Grange supports the concept of public broadcasting and urges improved service for our rural communities. The National Grange supports continuing the present level of federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting through self-supporting sources of financing.
2. The National Grange supports the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in its efforts to help rural areas receive satellite TV reception. The National Grange supports legislation to ensure that satellite dish owners in rural areas pay no more for their service than cable TV subscribers in the cities do. The Grange supports regulations requiring satellite television companies to provide rural customers access to more than one predetermined set of local channels including local public access channels in the customer's region.
3. The National Grange believes that the FCC should prohibit the scrambling of the 24-hour weather information. The National Grange encourages the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to issue instructions to all radio stations to include weather alerts, covering the city and state from which they are broadcasting.
4. The National Grange supports the continuation of religious broadcasts on radio and television.
5. The National Grange urges Congress to maintain the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as a watchdog agency to protect the public from unfair practices and monopolies. We oppose media mergers where one company can control all forms of media. We encourage the FCC to provide ample opportunity for new media companies and medium-sized media companies to be able to compete.
6. The National Grange supports elimination of the foul language, obscenities, and vulgar images used on TV, radio, or public places and fully supports the increased penalties for violations imposed by the FCC. The National Grange supports legislation to prohibit advertising the use of the "900" number during children's shows.
7. The National Grange lobbies the FCC to ban the use of emergency vehicles sirens in all radio advertisements to prevent hazards and confusion on the roadway.
8. The National Grange urges Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to require broadcast media to maintain a constant volume level during an entire broadcast, including commercials.
9. The National Grange supports the current financial assistance to support quality, commercial-free educational children's programs.

Patriotism, Prayer, and Religious Observances

1. The National Grange strongly supports maintaining The Star Spangled Banner as our National Anthem. The National Grange supports legislation to maintain the wording of the current Pledge of Allegiance including the words "Liberty", and "under God". The National Grange believes that the Pledge of Allegiance should be recited in every U.S. school classroom and by members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives during their opening session each day.
2. The National Grange favors making new national cemetery facilities available.
3. The National Grange supports laws prohibiting the desecration of the American Flag.

Flag desecration should be classified as a federal felony and the penalty be strictly enforced with no exception. We urge Congress to pass a constitutional amendment that will ban the desecration of the American Flag. The National Grange supports legislation mandating all United States Flags to be made in the United States from domestically manufactured materials.

4. The National Grange opposes any attempts by any federal, state or local government agency to dictate membership qualifications for any social or fraternal organizations.
5. The National Grange joins with the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and other Veteran Service organizations along with churches, individuals to protect our religious freedoms and the First Amendment. Additionally, the National Grange supports the adoption of a Religious Freedom Amendment to the United States Constitution. We support the right to practice the religion of our choice without fear of prejudice or persecution. Until then, the National Grange supports an interpretation of the U. S. Constitution, which allows schools, or any other governmental authority, to permit religious prayer, such as invocations and benedictions, as part of any function, especially at graduation ceremonies. The National Grange further supports the right of children to voluntarily participate in prayer in public schools. We support the words "In God We Trust" remaining on our currency and as our national motto. The National Grange supports all public Christmas functions, displays, and/or songs. We believe that all crosses on city emblems or municipal property should remain intact. We further do not believe that courts of law should have final jurisdiction to consider lawsuits to remove religious displays from city or municipal property. Instead, the majority of the voters in that jurisdiction should determine the final decision.

Miscellaneous

1. The National Grange supports programs that strengthen families and advocates educational programs that emphasize the importance of families and the prevention of family dysfunction. The consequences of policies and laws should be carefully examined as to their impact on the family unit.
2. The National Grange supports all rights that are granted in the United States Constitution or Bill of Rights and urges Congress not to consider legislation eliminating or repealing these rights.
3. The National Grange supports the definition of marriage to be the union of one man and one woman, and supports the necessary national laws to withhold any legal recognition from same sex marriages.
4. The National Grange opposes the creation of a National Identification Card.
5. The National Grange favors a Constitutional amendment to make English the official national language. The National Grange supports legislation to require that English be used on all forms through out the United States.
6. The National Grange favors the establishment of a new branch of the Smithsonian dedicated to the nation's food and farm heritage.
7. The Grange supports the establishment of a national tag, collar, or coat identifying a service animal as defined by the American Disability Act (ADA).
8. The National Grange supports a National Weather Service Doppler Station along the coastal area of Washington State allowing weather forecasters the ability to look at weather conditions through the Olympic Mountains and on the coast more accurately.
9. The National Grange encourages Congress to appropriate the necessary funds or to

establish a funding plan or program to meet the estimated \$400 million necessary to repair and properly maintain the National Mall in Washington DC.

I would like to thank the members of my committee for the diligent manner in which they completed the task assigned to us, and an extra thanks to Anita Gentry for recording the deliberations of our committee work. The committee wishes to thank Allison Fowler and Leroy Watson for providing their insight and advice, which aided our deliberations. Also we thank David Lin from AT&T for the information he imparted to us on telecommunications.

Fraternally,

Robert Sendewicz (CT) Chair
Anita Gentry (NC) Secretary
Donna Champion (MN)
Tammy Fryman (NE)
Calvin Chase (MA)

Hazel Hammett SC)
Earlene Foster (WV)
Duane Scott (WI)
Kim Bascom (NH)

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

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403	Hendrickson	WA	GREEN POWER	Conservation	Adopted as Amended
404	Baldwin	IA	BOTTLE/CAN DEPOSIT	Conservation	Current Policy
405	Scott	WI	NUCLEAR POWER	Conservation	Current Policy
406	Lee	IL	COW ENERGY	Conservation	Adopted
407	Lee	IL	ANNEXATION/PRE- ANNEXATION AGREEMENT	Conservation	Returned to State
408	Gentry	NC	OIL COMPANY PROFITS	Conservation	Adverse
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413	Wiles	MD	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	Conservation	Adverse
414	Owens	ME	UNNECESSARY PACKAGING	Conservation	Current Policy
415	McFarland	CA	UTILIZE NEWLY DISCOVERED OIL RESERVES IN AMERICAS	Conservation	Current Policy
416	McFarland	CA	KLAMATH RIVER BASIN RESTORATION	Conservation	Adopted
417	McFarland	CA	KLAMATH RIVER	Conservation	Adverse
418	McFarland	CA	DELTA VISION STRATEGIC PLAN FRAMEWORK	Conservation	Withdrawn
419	McFarland	CA	"TWO GATES" PROJECT	Conservation	Withdrawn
420	Orton	NY	CLEAN WATER RESTORATION ACT	Conservation	Adopted as Amended
421	Orton	NY	RECYCLING AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS PROJECTS	Conservation	Adopted as Amended
422	Brumbaugh	OH	TAXES ON THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY	Conservation	Adopted
423	Brumbaugh	OH	YUCCA MOUNTAIN REPOSITORY	Conservation	Adopted
424	McFarland	CA	OPPOSITION TO THE MARINE LIFE PROTECTION ACT (MLPA), NORTH COAST REGION PROCESS	Conservation	Withdrawn

POLICY STATEMENT

The National Grange recognizes that the protection of the environment and the conservation of our natural resources are vital national priorities if our country is to remain a pleasant, healthful, and profitable place to live. However, the zealous pursuit of unrealistic and unnecessary environmental and conservation goals can cause not only economic damage to industries that are important to our country, they can also distort the important role that private property rights play in maintaining our liberty. We do not believe that Americans must sacrifice their property or surrender their constitutional rights in order to preserve our environment. Property rights should incorporate greater expectations of fairness and due process for individuals within the context of our relationship with government and society.

We insist that the protection for private property ownership derived from the U.S. Constitution, state constitutions, and the common law be vigorously protected. We believe in limiting the role of the federal government in setting national land use goals and priorities to ensure the preservation of farmland for agricultural purposes. Adequate and full compensation should be paid in all cases of the taking of private property by the government or under the color of government authority, including, but not limited to, government grazing permits, water easements and areas designated as critical habitat for endangered species.

We need to increase our effort to be a source of outreach, leadership, and education by encouraging the support of U.S. agriculture as part of the solution to the energy crisis.

We need to encourage further protection and support increased efforts to educate the public, and, in particular, children in school, about the continued importance of the right to own property and the responsibility to protect our most vital resource — America's farmland.

We believe the continued increase in the price of fuels has had an injurious effect on the welfare of the family farm and rural America. Because our dependency on foreign oil presents a fragile, ever-changing dilemma, the increased use of alternative fuels would mean less dependency on foreign oil and increased markets for agricultural crops. There are ways for agricultural commodities to be processed to blend with petroleum to provide cleaner and less expensive fuel. The economic and environmental benefits to society of ethanol and agricultural oil based fuels are being proven. We propose the following action plan to address this crisis:

1. Support legislation to enact tax incentives to manufacturers of blended fuels to expand and develop more refineries for the use of farm commodities.
2. Accelerate any necessary funding for research and development of ample and affordable alternative fuels, insuring their compatibility to internal combustion engines with incentives being provided to companies that convert their equipment to the use of blended fuels that will help reduce our dependency on imported petroleum and reduce air pollution. We recognize use of ethanol in internal combustion engines creates maintenance issues and recommend further study to determine how to further its use.
3. Work vigorously with state and national legislators to advocate on behalf of consumers and to take any steps necessary to maintain reasonable petroleum prices and curb increasing economic inflation.

The National Grange encourages wider use of wind energy with governmental subsidy support in appropriate areas suited to sustaining wind power development. The equipment used in production of wind power must be inspected by local utility companies under the

guidelines of state Public Utility Commissions or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and when decommissioned, the wind power generation equipment must be removed and the landscape returned to its natural condition.

The Grange, at all levels, also demands responsible stewardship of our natural resources from all who own or use them. Responsible stewardship recognizes a balance between use and preservation. The National Grange supports coordination among federal, state, and local governments when developing land use management plans for federal lands. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the customs, culture and economic stability of the local area must be preserved.

The Grange recognizes the importance of and protection of all watersheds. We also recognize that watersheds do not adhere to boundaries of private and public lands. As there is a significant difference in the various watersheds throughout our nation the National Grange opposes any mandate that suggests all watersheds are to meet the same water quality standards. The Grange also opposes the “locking up” of watersheds or portions thereof for a single use by any person or agency, especially public lands that have historically been utilized in the growing and harvesting of timber, forage, and other renewable resources.

The National Grange supports respective regional representation in the appointment of qualified individuals to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The 1973 Endangered Species Act is a major impediment to sound environmental and natural resource management. The National Grange must continue to work closely with the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition to obtain final passage of Endangered Species Act reform.

We must unite our message of all Americans sharing equitably in the cost of species conservation. Cooperative efforts with states and local governments, businesses and individual landowners must be encouraged and current disincentives in the law must be removed. The National Grange will work to ensure that the cost of preserving species not be allowed to fall unfairly on individuals and communities. Adopted

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Reforestation Plan/Appeal Time Limit

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service is responsible for formulating a Recovery Plan for all portions of the National Forests which are damaged by fire; and

WHEREAS, it can take as much or more than two years for the Forest Service to formulate a Recovery Plan; and

WHEREAS, following the formulation of a Recovery Plan the appeals process is often abused by radical environmentalists which compounds this initial delay and results in four or more years of inaction after a fire while appeals are being heard by the Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, this years-long delay in decision making and issuance of salvage logging permits causes salvageable timber to rot; and

WHEREAS, the rotting timber becomes a safety hazard insofar as reforestation is concerned; and

WHEREAS, replanting of our National Forests in a timely manner is critical not only to the health of the forests but mitigates Global Warming as well; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation to establish a maximum two-year administrative deadline during which the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service is to formulate a recovery plan and complete all appeals concerning this recovery plan.

This covers resolution 401 (OR)

Green Power

WHEREAS, currently hydroelectric power is not considered green energy; and

WHEREAS, hydroelectric power is renewable and non-polluting; and

WHEREAS, only the improvements in efficiencies is considered green power; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that all domestic hydroelectric power be considered renewable green energy.

This covers resolution 403 (WA)

Cow Energy

WHEREAS, methane emissions from animal waste, especially from concentrated animal feeding operations, are a major wasted source of renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, captured methane from livestock can be used to generate electricity or replace natural gas or propane on the farm uses such as corn drying or home heating and cooking; and

WHEREAS, animal waste that is used to create the maximum amount of methane is more concentrated and easier to handle and is more effective as an organic fertilizer, being less of a water and air pollution problem; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange take a leadership role in promoting the use of renewable energy from livestock methane emissions to help reduce the United States' dependence on oil and to help increase the farmers' net income.

This covers resolution 406 (IL)

Cap and Trade Legislation

RESOLVED, that the National Grange vigorously opposes any "Cap and Trade" bill or related legislation concerning climate changes that would restrict greenhouse gas emissions.

This covers resolution 410 (ID)

Klamath River Basin Restoration

WHEREAS, the Klamath River was the third largest salmon fishery on the Pacific coast; and

WHEREAS, in September of 2002, low flows and water quality degradation caused a kill of more than 33,000 migrating salmon and similar conditions caused significant salmon kills in 1994, 1997, and 2000; and

WHEREAS, a draft Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement written by the Klamath Settlement Group (consisting of 26 stakeholder organizations) was released in January of 2008 setting forth short- and long-term restoration goals and river management strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Plan is incomplete and does not include input from all potential stakeholders and does not appear to have been acted upon; and

WHEREAS, under the Public Trust Doctrine, the waters of the Klamath River are owned by the states for the people in public trust; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange shall petition the California Legislature and the National Congress to convene hearings to achieve a Klamath Basin Restoration Plan and to fund a complete stakeholder working group to produce a definitive Klamath Basin Restoration Plan to be submitted to Congress for funding.

This covers resolution 416 (CA)

Clean Water Restoration Act

WHEREAS, a Clean Water bill has been re-introduced in Congress which would remove the words “navigable waters;” and

WHEREAS, by deleting “navigable waters” from the law would expand federal regulatory reach over every wet area in the nation, small wet areas in farmers’ fields, ditches, possibly all ground water; and

WHEREAS, this proposal would expand the present law beyond protecting wetlands and small waterways now under state control and creates a regulatory nightmare for private property owners, farmers, even town highway departments; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has ruled twice, in 2001 and 2006, that the regulatory reach of the Clean Water Act is limited to navigable waters and their tributaries with a significant connection to such; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange vigorously oppose the Clean Water Restoration Act or other similar legislation or regulation that removes the term “Navigable Waters” from any Clean Water legislation.

This covers resolution 420 (NY).

Recycling Agricultural Plastics Project

WHEREAS, American farmers now need an efficient environmentally sound and cost effective means to dispose of the plastics used on their farms; and

WHEREAS, Cornell University has developed a Recycling Agricultural Plastics Project (RAPP), which is working to solve the problem of agricultural plastics waste; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support a review of recycling agricultural plastic wastes, for example the Cornell University’s Recycling Agricultural Plastics Project (RAPP), and encourage funding from the USDA for this type of research in order to help all American farmers with this concern.

This covers resolution 421 (NY)

Taxes on the Oil and Gas Industry

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has recently proposed to raise taxes on the oil and gas industry as part of his current budget proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Obama administration proposes to repeal the percentage depletion allowance with respect to oil and gas production beginning December 31, 2010, which would result in a detrimental effect on gas and oil production; therefore be it

RESOLVED, The National Grange opposes any increase in taxes and/or any decrease in tax credits (i.e. depletion allowance) on natural gas and oil production.

This covers resolution 422 (OH)

Yucca Mountain Repository

WHEREAS, the Yucca Mountain Nuclear-Waste Repository (Nevada) has undergone comprehensive and expensive environmental studies and has been found to be a workable option for the storage of nuclear waste; and

WHEREAS, the projected opening at Yucca Mountain in 2020 would provide a disposal location for dangerous materials now in temporary storage in 39 states; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports efforts to open the Yucca Mountain site in 2020 for the storage of nuclear waste and opposes actions to delay the project.

This covers resolution 423 (OH)

PRESENT POLICY

Water Projects

1. The National Grange recommends that federal, state, and local governments work closely with each other and local landowners in the development and construction of watershed projects, dams, and reservoirs for multiple uses, such as flood control, storing and releasing surplus flood water, replenishing underground water, hydroelectric power generation, irrigation, industrial and municipal use, and recreation. Once a project has been authorized, we believe that it should be constructed, even if a moratorium has later been imposed. We urge both Congress and the President to make the necessary funds available in order to complete all planned and feasible federal water development projects and provide cost share assistance for the rehabilitation of dams and other flood control structures that were previously constructed with federal assistance. The National Grange supports efforts to provide state and federal funds to pay the recreational share of impoundment facilities on small water development projects.
2. The National Grange believes that the federal government should compensate any loss or diminution of water rights resulting from the exercise of a federally reserved right.
3. The National Grange supports legislation to consolidate the activities of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior to eliminate duplication.
4. The National Grange supports local control over state water projects.
5. The National Grange supports a national water policy requiring all alternate sources of water, including full development of desalination plants for urban uses, must be considered before approval of any water diversion project.
6. The National Grange supports the use of existing multi-purpose dams, creating possible draw downs or transfers of water from productive agricultural lands to waters that could possibly assist in flushing young salmon to the ocean, and urge the development of alternative methods of enhancing the fish population including salmon.
7. The National Grange requests the U.S. Corps of Engineers and all environmental agencies to facilitate restorative dredging of rivers prone to flooding.

8. The National Grange supports the accurate monitoring of water drawn from the Great Lakes Water Basin by industrial and agricultural entities and we believe that agricultural water usage should be exempt from any permits and/or fees resulting from the monitoring of the Great Lakes.

Irrigation and Reclamation Act Rules and Regulations

1. The National Grange supports irrigation rules and regulations that prohibit abuse of the Reclamation Reform Act and assure the fullest measure of benefits from federal irrigation projects for family farmers. The National Grange supports the continued development and widespread utilization of more efficient irrigation systems in addition to legislation outlawing the practice of using trusts, partnerships, corporations, and estates to circumvent the 960-acre irrigation subsidy qualification that favors small farmers.

Klamath Basin Aid

1. The National Grange will actively work to reverse the actions of the Ninth Circuit Court and permanently restore the flow of life-giving and life-sustaining water from Klamath Lake to the farmers and farm communities served by the irrigation systems.
2. The National Grange urges Congress to investigate the closure of irrigation facilities for the benefit of suckerfish in the Klamath Falls Basin and determine the consequences of the loss of irrigation water in the Klamath Falls Basin in Oregon and California.
3. National Grange urges Congress to convene hearings to produce and fund a Klamath Basin Restoration Plan utilizing a stakeholder working group.

State Authority for Water Rights

1. The National Grange vigorously supports state control of water rights. We oppose any federal plan that infringes on states' water rights. In particular, any water resource planning that is conducted by state or federal agencies must respect both the states' sovereignties and the agricultural sector in establishing priorities for water allocations. The National Grange firmly opposes the inter-basin transfer of water that would diminish the flow of water into downstream states unless such transfer is in accordance with an approved river basin compact.
2. The National Grange supports maintaining minimum water levels along the Great Lakes in order to continue the current amounts of commerce, hydroelectric production and tourism. We support only allowing those states and provinces that belong to the International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes to remove and use of the waters of the Great Lakes.
3. The National Grange supports a nationwide grassroots effort to stop federal government agencies' taking of individual water and water rights.

Clean Water

1. The National Grange supports federal clean water laws and regulations that are based upon realistic and obtainable goals and are enforced uniformly between the states. We regard a zero pollution standard as being totally unrealistic and unobtainable.

2. The National Grange recommends that adequate state and federal funds be provided for any soil or water conservation program required by the Clean Water Act, including at least 75% of the federal cost share on agricultural best management practices for non-point source pollution abatement administered through local conservation districts. The National Grange urges Congress and the President to clarify Clean Water Act Section 303 (d) so that the Total Maximum Daily Load will be reasonable and attainable without extreme hardships placed on agriculture and other industries.
3. The National Grange supports legislation to provide funds to study water quality regarding groundwater contamination. We further support the creation of groundwater protection and management plans that will limit the amount of toxic chemicals in groundwater realizing that a policy of no degradation is unobtainable. We support local control of groundwater management and management plans and support the enforcement of penalties to cities and towns that improperly dump waste in our streams and waterways.
4. The National Grange supports an organized effort to prevent reauthorization of the Clean Water Act that will exclude provisions requiring a state to designate any water with a population of a threatened or endangered species as an Outstanding Resource Water.
5. The National Grange urges the passage of federal legislation that would amend the regulations of the Clean Water Act, to limit the powers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency over inland waters and wetland, thus preserving States and individuals rights. The National Grange supports keeping the words "navigable waters" in the Clean Water Act or any other laws or regulations pertaining to clean water.
6. The National Grange urges the U.S. Government to engage in diplomatic negotiations on the environmental impacts that contribute to air and water pollution before permitting the transfer of electricity across the borders into the United States.

Wetlands

1. The National Grange supports legislation to improve the wetlands regulatory programs by federal, state or local governments to streamline the permitting process; delineate wetlands by categories based on readily identifiable natural characteristics, environmental value, function, and abundance; refine the wetland mitigation system; improve the system of compensation for private landowners; and increase the role of the states in the wetland permitting process. We further support exempting wetland designations from areas that are artificially created by irrigation, stock water ponds, fire protection ponds or have been cropped for one of the last five years.
2. The National Grange requests Congress to put a moratorium on the funding and design of new wetlands to aid in the control of mosquitoes carrying the West Nile virus.

Soil Conservation and Non-Point Source Pollution

1. The National Grange supports voluntary programs to control specific known point sources of pollution, as well as non-point sources of agricultural pollution. We support the concept of conservation tillage practices and other types of sediment control. We encourage broad participation in the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act studies in order to assure that quality, locally designed and controlled conservation

programs are developed in order to meet the needs of family farmers. We specifically support the continuation of cost sharing programs to establish grass strips along the boundaries of cropland, fields and waterways to control soil erosion and runoff. We also support programs offering at least 50 percent cost share assistance to correct agricultural pollution and free technical assistance prior to non-income producing practices that require major expenditures.

2. The National Grange supports the privately financed National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation, the creation of an American Conservation Corps as well as vocational programs to educate and train youths to help in the conservation of our woodlands and other natural resources, using presently established facilities. We believe that all citizens should share in soil conservation costs through tax dollars that support state and federal programs focusing on technical assistance, research, education, loans and cost sharing programs.
3. The USDA should redefine water conservation in the national soil and water conservation programs to include both irrigation and drainage.
4. The National Grange supports locally developed storm water management programs administered through local conservation districts.

Toxic and Hazardous Wastes

1. We urge the Environmental Protection Agency to work in conjunction with local government entities to determine when and if Superfund cleanup is necessary in any specified parcel of land or body of water. Funding should come from an assessment on companies that produce such wastes and from fines resulting from non-compliance. We further support efforts to overhaul the Superfund program so it will expedite clean-ups and prioritize the sites deemed necessary for clean up.
2. The National Grange supports a program to educate consumers on the proper handling and disposal of hazardous household waste, such as energy saver light bulbs and any other items containing Mercury.
3. The National Grange supports levying a fine against any company that is found to be responsible for an oil spill that is equal to the costs that the government incurs in cleaning up the oil spill, including the wages of the government and military personnel, and should not be deductible from federal, state or local corporate income taxes.
4. The National Grange supports realistic insurance coverage plans being made available by the federal government at a reasonable cost for existing and future storage tanks and other causes of toxic and hazardous waste pollution.
5. The National Grange supports legislation that would require urban sewer sludge disposal to be strictly regulated, i.e. knifing or ground injection as used in agriculture. We only support the burning if such burning meets EPA air quality standards.
6. The National Grange supports federal legislation prohibiting the dumping of waste material or raw sewage from foreign countries in landfills located in the United States.
7. The National Grange requests the Federal Trade Commission to place a warning label on CCA copper pressure treated wood and to continue research on non-toxic materials in preparing wood for building materials.
8. The National Grange supports public education of the dangers of sodium azide and legislation to set guidelines for the proper storage or disposal of all unused airbags.
9. The National Grange supports agricultural exemptions from the Environmental Protection Agency's Spill Prevention Containment and Control ruling.

Mining

1. The National Grange urges federal agencies to work with the states to develop surface mining guidelines giving the states the flexibility to control and supervise the surface mining of coal, gravel, and similar materials. To ensure against the destruction of surface mined areas, a performance and a completion bond should be required of the mining companies that would assure the completion of reclamation plans as they are developed. Such plans should require the return of the land where strip mine operations occur to a reasonable topography and fertility level and should be enforced by law. The deposits that are required under Section 402(a) of the Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 should be returned to the states for strip mine reclamation. The National Grange further supports any regulation or law that holds the coal company liable for subsidence damage to structures caused by under-ground mining.
2. The National Grange supports changes in the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act that recognize the special conditions of small independent mine operations and provides for greater forbearance in correcting violations.
3. The National Grange supports exempting counties from Federal Mining Standards as pertaining to road building materials and maintenance.

Bottle Bills and Recycling

1. The National Grange supports legislation that would require a deposit on non-biodegradable beverage containers and urges manufacturers to use recycled materials whenever feasible.
2. The National Grange supports requiring all government agencies initiate a recycling program for paper, metal, glass, etc. Government agencies should also be required to use recycled paper whenever feasible. The National Grange supports a review of recycling agricultural plastic wastes, such as the Cornell University's Recycling Agricultural Plastics Project (RAPP), and encourages funding from the USDA for this type of research in order to help all American farmers with this concern.
3. The National Grange supports legislation encouraging an economical, biodegradable, and resource-efficient approach to product packaging. We support the use of biodegradable plastic containers, packing materials that are made of cornstarch and petroleum and urge all manufacturers to use as little packaging material as possible while still retaining the quality and safety of their products.
4. The National Grange supports restricting the disposal of tires in landfills in addition to supporting all efforts to recycle all used tires. We also urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to utilize recycled materials containing polymers and other man-made materials to build and repair roads.

Energy Conservation

1. The National Grange supports energy conservation in agriculture, industry, commerce and the home by the use of tax credits and incentives. The National Grange opposes any increase in taxes and/or any decrease in tax credits (i.e. depletion allowance) on natural gas and oil production.
2. The National Grange supports economic assistance to low-income persons and those who are on small, fixed incomes to assist them in paying for the high cost of energy.

3. The National Grange supports all oil and gas price decontrol as a positive step in reducing our need for foreign oil and gas. The National Grange believes that all companies, including farm cooperatives, should be allowed to sell gasoline at both the wholesale and retail levels without divesting. However, we also support standby petroleum allocation measures that would ensure a timely and reasonably priced supply of petroleum products to agricultural producers, transporters, processors, farm cooperatives, and independent refiners in the event of a nation-wide or regional shortage.
4. The National Grange supports the following practices to guard against supply uncertainty and unreasonable high prices: 1) retain one billion barrels of U.S. oil reserve while supplies are adequate; and 2) encourage greater use of natural resources, especially those that are renewable and non-polluting. The National Grange only supports further releases from the U.S. Strategic Oil Reserves in the event of war or interruption of delivery of foreign supplies of petroleum into the U.S.
5. The National Grange supports establishing realistic new fuel economy standards. We support legislation to direct the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to set fuel economy standards at their maximum feasible level, taking into account technical feasibility, safety, and the economic impact to the public. The National Grange urges increased research and development of more fuel efficient, internal combustion engines. We further favor legislation that would prohibit any person or corporation from purchasing a patent with the intent of hindering any inventions that would conserve gasoline and other fuels.

Energy Development

1. The National Grange urges the repeal of laws and regulations that have discouraged United States' energy production by private enterprise. We support a national energy policy that will encourage the development of all forms of domestic energy, traditional and alternative, including solar, wind, geothermal, ethanol, surf/tidal, shale, tar sands, hydroelectric, agricultural products, wastes, peat, wood, coal, coal gasification, oil, natural gas, nuclear, hydrogen, bio diesel and methanol in an environmentally sound manner without exploiting our parks and wildernesses in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. The National Grange believes domestic hydroelectric power should be considered renewable green energy. We also promote the use of renewable energy from livestock methane emissions to help reduce the United States' dependence on oil and to help increase the farmers' net income.
2. The National Grange favors the complete utilization of petroleum and the other mineral resources, including the exploration and production of oil reserves on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and from any outer continental shelf lease sales in accordance with the terms of an environmentally sound development plan.
3. The National Grange supports legislation requiring the nation's motor fuels to contain a renewable component (Biodiesel and/or Ethanol). We support increased development and use of ethanol and ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE) in gasoline blends with adequate income tax incentives to make the production and use of ethanol and ETBE economically feasible. We further support the goal of at least a 10% blend of ethanol to be used in at least 50% of all gasoline sold for motor fuel to be made available in all states.
4. The National Grange supports regulated oil and gas production in the United States that protects landowners and allows adequate compensation while allowing produc-

tion to continue.

5. The National Grange supports an examination and reform of environmental laws so that new oil refineries can be built to supply our fuel needs. New oil refineries should be built, if feasible, in areas other than the Gulf Coast. We further support a study of the need for different mandated formulations for gasoline, and if possible, a reduction in the number of gasoline blends to make it easier and less expensive to refine and transport the finished product.
6. The National Grange endorses the goal of generating at least 25% of domestic energy needs from domestic renewable resources while continuing to produce safe, abundant and affordable food, feed, and fiber by January 1, 2025.
7. The National Grange urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, U. S. Coast Guard, and any other pertinent federal agencies to develop and strengthen regulations regarding the siting of liquefied natural gas terminals, and consideration should be given to the overall economic impact on the region before any site is approved.

Rural Electric Cooperatives, Public Power, and Rural Electricity Consumers

1. The National Grange supports the continued application of the existing preference concept of the Federal Power Act being granted to public power utilities in the licensing and re-licensing of federal hydroelectric facilities. We further support granting co-preference in the licensing and re-licensing of federal hydroelectric facilities to rural electric cooperatives.
2. In order to assure adequate electric and telephone service to rural areas, the National Grange actively supports continuation and expansion of the existing USDA Rural Utility Service low interest revolving loan fund to assure the financial stability of rural electric and telephone cooperatives.
3. The National Grange supports continuing electric service to urban areas that are within a rural electric cooperative's service area. However, rural electric cooperatives that provide electric service to predominantly rural areas should continue to have first priority for low interest federal financing. In addition, we urge the electricity industry to charge rates for farmers and small businessmen that are competitive with their large wholesale customers.
4. The National Grange supports legislation to establish solid waste-to-energy plants that will produce power in an environmentally safe manner that can be accessed by public utility districts, rural electric cooperatives, and municipal utilities.
5. We support maintaining the current structure of rural electric systems without forced deregulation of publicly owned plants or any other action that would be detrimental to rural electric consumers. The National Grange supports reform to the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act, so that non-utility generating stations operate to sell their output to competitive market rates and eliminate the oppressive rates being passed on to the consumer.
6. The National Grange supports requirements for increased accountability and responsibility on the part of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and power companies in the operation of any nuclear power plant. The National Grange supports the careful selection by the Department of Energy of sites for the disposal of low-level nuclear wastes, excluding prime agricultural, forest, and parkland. The National Grange supports efforts to open the Yucca Mountain site in 2020 for the storage of nuclear waste and opposes actions to delay the project. We urge that the public be involved in the decision

to conduct additional research on the long-term consequences to the environment of the disposal of nuclear wastes. The National Grange further urges the Department of Energy to conduct an extensive educational program to inform citizens of the safeguards and hazards that are involved in the disposal of these wastes.

7. The National Grange opposes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's imposition of a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) and Standard Market Design (SMD) on the Northwest Region of the U.S. We support the present cost-based rate system, as determined in the 1937 Congressional Bonneville Power Administration repayment agreement, requiring Bonneville Power Administration to adopt for pricing electricity, instead of a market based repayment pricing system. We support the present federal Power Marketing Administrations. We further recommend the establishment of Power Marketing Administrations in areas of the United States where desired and feasible. We vigorously oppose selling the Western Area Power Administration and Bonneville Power Administration to private power companies. The National Grange also supports the allowance of the Northwest Region to develop an alternate approach to strengthening the transmission system.

Public Lands Management Practices

1. The National Grange believes that multiple use of non-reserved land should be the cornerstone of the United States' public land policy in order to achieve the following objectives: energy exploration and development; sustained yield management for food and forest production; recreational uses for all citizens; responsible wildlife management; soil conservation and watershed protection. Since it is important for rural economies to keep public land in food and fiber production, we support any regulation pertaining to water rights, lease improvements and contamination remediation that allows for agricultural production.
2. The National Grange supports the maintenance of appropriate conservation practices on all public lands leased to private individuals yet will continue to support placing a moratorium on the acquisition of private land by the U.S. Forest Service. The National Grange recommends that a user fee be implemented for all commercial and recreational use of federal land requiring a permit.
3. The National Grange urges federal agencies to intensify prescribed burning on national public lands as a forest management technique. We support adoption of forest management programs in national parks that specifically exclude the use of natural uncontrolled forest fires, such as those that are caused by lightning, as a forest management technique. All local, state and federal agencies should promptly conduct an economic impact study once a forest fire is declared controlled and move expeditiously to reforest and restore the catastrophically burned landscapes. The National Grange supports the establishment of a maximum two year administrative deadline during which the Department of Agriculture Forest Service formulate a recovery plan and complete all recovery appeals. We support the efforts of "Communities for Healthy Forests" in mandating immediate restorative action. We further support federal legislation to accelerate the salvage harvest of dead and dying timber on public lands while that timber still has a commercial economic value.
4. The National Grange supports appropriations for the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service to adequately carry out an expanded silviculture program, wildlife management, water and soil protection, weed control, recreational needs, protection of

natural, historic and cultural resources, to develop additional forest campgrounds and increase the available spaces in existing campgrounds to keep them open year round where economically feasible. We also urge that U.S. Forest Service campground fees be raised to more nearly cover the costs of operating these campgrounds.

5. The National Grange favors the increased planting of lumber-producing trees on both national and state forest lands, including increased funding for federal and state tree nurseries, to produce additional seedlings for lumber. We urge the U.S. Forest Service to permit selected timber stands to reach old growth and be harvested on a sustained yield basis. Furthermore, we support prohibiting states from exercising authority to restrict the sale or export of logs that are harvested from state-owned land.
6. The National Grange recognizes the states' rights to own and/or manage Bureau of Land Management (BLM) unreserved lands, not including national forest lands. Revenues that are now received by counties should be protected when control of any federal land is assigned to state governments.
7. The National Grange supports legislation to require federal and state governments to pay a proportionate share of monies, in lieu of taxes, to those counties, cities, and communities that provide public services to the parks and recreational areas within their boundaries in addition to supporting federal legislation allowing national parks to keep a major portion of entrance fees to be used for the development and maintenance of recreational facilities.
8. The National Grange calls on federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute incidents of tree and trail spiking and the destruction of logging equipment on federal and state lands.
9. The National Grange supports amending the National Antiquities Act to include public comment.
10. The National Grange encourages the U.S. Forest Service to amend the National Forest plan to remove the 21-inch Diameter at Breast Height rule (DBH) for any National Forest.
11. The National Grange supports that any responding agency to a fire, whether it is local, state or federal, be required to notify adjacent landowners and other authorities with jurisdiction, for their own safety, of all wild and grass fires in the area.
12. The National Grange supports the use of State and/or Federal funds for the mitigation of loss of land value due to state and federal logging restrictions on riparian land be available only to small landowners and not be available to large corporations, landowners, or trusts.

Federal Grazing

1. The National Grange supports basing all decisions on federal grazing regulations, including grazing fee pricing formulas, upon solid economic principles, current live-stock market prices, and good conservation practices. We favor legislation that would further limit any overall reduction in grazing to 10 percent or less on any given allotment except in the case of emergencies such as drought. We strongly believe that federal grazing permittees should be consulted as grazing plans are developed.
2. The National Grange strongly supports considering the economic impact that restrictions on grazing in riparian areas (areas between the stream banks) may have on farmers before legislation is passed.
3. The National Grange encourages the Bureau of Land Management and National For-

est Service to carry out an aggressive program to fill all grazing allotments on Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service lands. However we support restricting the selling of federal grazing permits to anyone other than someone using the permit for grazing purposes.

Land Withdrawals and Wilderness

1. The National Grange supports releasing all public lands not currently designated as wilderness or wilderness study areas to multiple uses. The establishment of any additional national forest wilderness preserves or any large-scale government land acquisition should be prohibited. All land that is capable of producing commercial timber, farm and grazing lands or commercially-valuable minerals should be prohibited from inclusion into any established park or wilderness area that would erode a county's tax base. The National Grange recommends that in national recreational areas classified other than primitive, the broadest possible range of activities compatible with a forested area be permitted, subject to user fees. The National Grange supports legislation to significantly restrict acreage set aside for parks, wilderness, and wildlife preserves in Alaska in addition to providing access through federal lands.
2. The National Grange supports regulations governing the management of federal wilderness areas should allow for controlled access roads for emergency use as well as the salvage of timber, using modern harvesting techniques where natural disasters such as blow-downs or insect infestations have occurred. We oppose the destruction or obliteration of any Forest Service roads and further oppose designating any roadless areas of the National Forest System as permanently off limits to logging, mining or other development.
3. The National Grange believes any extension of the federal Wild and Scenic River System should not include private property. Should there be a proposed change in the designation of rivers and streams, we favor a vote by the citizens of the jurisdiction.
4. The National Grange supports the property rights of all farmers and ranchers and demands that the owner's consent be given before any action is taken by the Federal Government to acquire private land.
5. The National Grange supports legislation directing mitigation of identified losses of public and private lands from the state tax base due to federal acquisition through transfer of an equivalent acreage from federal land to public or private ownership, or by providing an annual payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT), based on an independent economic impact analysis to be adjusted annually for inflation.
6. The National Grange supports maintaining the management of all federal facilities, like the National Bison Range, by the United States federal government and not by any other sovereign nation or international entity.

Wildlife Management

1. The National Grange encourages Congress to amend the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to restore proper perspective by requiring public hearings and economic impact statements on the impacts to the affected areas before a species may be listed. We support changes to the ESA to require that only a pure biological and numerical definition of an endangered species be used without being based on sub species, distinct populations, or hybridization. We believe that only those species actual-

threatened with extinction should be listed in the ESA, taking into consideration total populations, available habitats, and recovery areas on the North American continent. We further support a review of the ESA with the following guidelines: focus on keystone species (organisms critical to the stable functions of entire habitats and ecosystems), not minor or reduced species; rely on public lands for preservation; encourage voluntary protection by individuals and corporations; curtail taking of private lands for ESA; balance human costs with ecological benefits; compensation for private property owners for loss of usage of their property due to the ESA. The National Grange supports legislation legally allowing people to defend themselves or their property from an attack by any animal listed as an endangered species without concern of retribution from government authorities.

2. The National Grange supports legislative and regulatory measures to prohibit further implementation of any Wolf Recovery Plan. We further support the passage of legislation to outlaw the propagation of wolves or wolf hybrids.
3. The National Grange believes it is the responsibility of the federal government to control the expanding populations of legally protected plants and animals where those plants or animals pose a threat to human life or health, or where those plants or animals pose a threat to established economic activity. We encourage state and federal wildlife conservation agencies to assist farmers in all cases of crop and property damage by wild game.
4. The National Grange is opposed to any Grizzly Bear recovery plan. We support legislation requiring government agencies to notify property owners when they relocate park bears or other potentially dangerous animals. The property owners to be notified are those who are within the normal range of the animals that are being released.
5. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation of licensed hunting and trapping of game animals, waterfowl, and game birds. However, we favor the levying of stiff penalties for poaching of wildlife. We further support the continued usage of steel jaw traps.
6. The National Grange believes that wildlife management areas should not be used for recreation or any other development that diminishes the value of the lands for wildlife management purposes.
7. The National Grange supports legislation to expand the hunting season of Canadian and snow geese from November 1st - April 1st. We also support increasing the daily bag limit for Canadian and Snow geese.
8. The National Grange supports any prairie dog management plan that allows people to control the prairie dog population through shooting and toxicants, without the need for a special license.
9. The National Grange opposes the listing of the eastern oyster on the endangered species list.

Preservation of Fishing Resources

1. The National Grange urges the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission to support the designation of only those marine sanctuaries that guarantee fishery usage and recognize the fishery management authority of the current sanctuary boundaries.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to reauthorize the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation Management Act. We urge all appropriate federal agencies to work closely with all state wildlife agencies to maintain sustained fishing yields by regulating sport

and subsistence fisheries in order to allow for the adequate recovery of fish and aquatic species into many areas where they have declined. We support the United States working with all countries to regulate commercial fishing to allow for the adequate return of fish into many areas where fish yields have declined. We further support an extension of the U.S. territorial sea to not less than 50 miles where foreign commercial fishing may not be performed to aid in salmon recovery.

3. The National Grange favors all reasonable measures to save the Pacific Salmon in the Columbia and Snake Rivers as long as the first priorities for these river systems is power generation, water use, and navigation. We support securing the passage of a treaty between Canada and the United States to govern the operation of the salmon industries in each respective nation. We support uniform regulation of all net fishing in the Columbia River, Puget Sound, and the Pacific Ocean before drastic economic measures to reestablish wild runs of Pacific Salmon are enacted. The National Grange recommends that fish ladders be included in the planning of any future dam construction on streams or rivers where fish migration may be affected. We favor the transport of juvenile fish, the hatchery propagation of salmon stocks, flow control, and control of the salmon harvest until a final Pacific Salmon recovery plan is in place. We support the establishment of a program to audit the harvest of salmon on the lower Columbia River. We further believe that all salmon fishing on the Columbia and Snake Rivers should be restricted to hook and line methods only. We recommend to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that spawned out salmon carcasses be planted near remote site incubators for smolt releases as a food source for the young fish.
4. The National Grange urges the federal government to continue funding the National Marine Fisheries Service at the current levels to enable them to continue the biological studies that will lead to the elimination of drift net fishing by all nations.
5. The National Grange supports adequate funding of the Marine Mammal Protection Act for use by the various states in developing appropriate marine mammal management plans and policies. In addition, we urge Congress to exclude Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions from the Marine Mammal Protection Act and place them under the control and protection of the states, including a controlled harvest season for Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions, until the yearly run of the Pacific Salmon increases to the point where the salmon will no longer be considered for protection under the Endangered Species Act. We further support efforts to utilize harvested Harbor Seal and California Sea Lion carcasses to avoid waste.
6. The National Grange supports the ongoing research of *Pfisteria* and the effects it has on major waterways.
7. The National Grange favors the regulated harvesting of fresh water clams and mussels.
8. We support legislation requiring all shipping lines to change their ballast water in the open ocean to curtail the further introduction of foreign species, such as the Zebra Mussel, into our domestic waterways.
9. The National Grange supports legislative and regulatory measures to prohibit the National Marine Fisheries Service from taking control of private lands, breaching of dams, and killing of hatchery salmon under the authority of its 4 (d) Rules. The National Grange urges Congress to order the National Marine Fisheries Service to reconsider the proposed setbacks on private property along all bodies of water or to pay for the taking of the property. We urge Congress to intervene and formulate

a true scientific basis for establishment of buffers/setbacks and buffer/setback restrictions along all bodies of water. We encourage the National Marine Fisheries Service do more to start identifying corrective measures beyond licensing and regulation to save the fish off our nation's coasts that include avoiding by catch, single-species management, ocean sanctuaries, eco-friendly gear, and consumer alertness. We further believe that alternative sources of fish production i.e. aquaculture, should be encouraged where appropriate.

Private Timber Land Management

1. The National Grange supports the voluntary use of good conservation practices and sustained yield management practices on private forestlands.
2. The National Grange believes that in return for public benefits resulting from improved forest management on individually owned forest lands, a portion of the expenses that are involved in management should be borne by the public through assistance programs and cost-sharing incentive payments. Any forest management assistance programs should recognize the multiple use aspects of private forest lands, including timber production, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, recreation, and scenic values.
3. The National Grange supports efforts to establish forests or pastures on appropriate marginal farmland.
4. The National Grange requests Congress to control arbitrary appeals of U.S. Forest Service timber sales assessing penalties to the appellant to cover the costs of failed appeals.
5. The National Grange supports legislation to require each appeal of timber sale to post a security bond.

Environmental Regulations and Controls

1. The National Grange supports requiring instigators of court actions brought against properly approved and financed federal, state, or municipal construction projects to post an adequate bond with the court that is sufficient to pay all costs that are incurred due to the delay caused by such action if the action fails.
2. The National Grange seeks legislation to clarify that national environmental impact statements must equitably weigh economic, social, and environmental impacts to reduce the delay these statements impose on many worthwhile and needed projects. Such studies should include the full economic impact on the local, state or national economy.
3. The National Grange supports the EPA's standards on the use of dangerous trace metals. We further support continued EPA programs to monitor the industrial and farm uses of materials that contain dangerous trace metals.
4. The National Grange supports new "Right to Farm" laws at the local, state and federal levels to further protect them against charges of civil or criminal violation of environmental regulations when those charges apply to normal activities that are essential to a farm operation.
5. The National Grange urges Congress to keep the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at its current status as an independent federal agency, and not elevate the agency to a Cabinet level.

6. The National Grange urges Congress to reduce the EPA to a sub-cabinet level agency.

Private Land Use, Planning, Zoning, Farmland Protection, and Eminent Domain

1. The National Grange urges the USDA, in conjunction with land grant universities, to provide assistance to local governments and citizen groups in educating the public on the importance of keeping land in agricultural production and in developing farm-land retention programs which protect the rights of landowners and the prerogatives of local governments. The National Grange supports land use planning and zoning remaining a function of local and state governments.
2. The National Grange urges that the transfer of development rights be used to protect family farms. Whenever land is designated for permanent agricultural use, farmers should receive adequate compensation for the loss in land value. We call for the immediate enactment of regulations or legislation that will require and facilitate the timely payment of fair compensation to private property owners for property losses they have sustained as a result of oil and/or gas explorations on their property so they are not forced to obtain such compensation through costly litigation and support legislation prohibiting any implementation of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative that would infringe upon private property rights.
3. The National Grange urges the Farm Service Agency or any other agency not to relinquish the use of any farmlands, wetlands, or other lands to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or any other government agency.
4. The National Grange will continue to work to improve locally controlled site-specific resource and environmental management in the Columbia Basin.
5. The National Grange supports legislation reaffirming congressional power over international agreements concerning disposal, management and use of lands owned by the United States and also protects state powers, from federal actions designating lands to international agreements. The National Grange further supports legislation protecting private interests in real property from any federal actions designating lands to international agreements.
6. The National Grange seeks legislation specifying when property is acquired by a federal agency through condemnation or negotiated price for a specific public purpose yet not used for that purpose, the original owner shall have first right of repurchase at the original price or at a lesser price if the value of the property has been decreased. We support legislation that eminent domain be used only for public purposes, such as rights of way for transportation and utilities.
7. The National Grange urges the federal government to replace, whenever possible, condemned private land with public land of equal value/productivity, and to maintain a balance between public and private lands throughout the nation.
8. The National Grange supports changing laws so that, in points of controversy, private property rights take precedence over environmental regulations.
9. The National Grange supports legislation to prohibit the Federal Government or any agency or authority of the Federal Government from exercising its power of eminent domain to be used for private economic development unless there is an immediate danger to the health and/or safety of citizens. Furthermore, the National Grange supports federal legislation to require that no state, political subdivision of a state or any person or entity to which such power has been delegated shall

exercise its power of eminent domain, for the purpose of private economic development or over property that is subsequently used for economic development unless there are situations of immediate danger to the health and/or safety of citizens. Any state or political subdivision that exercises the power of eminent domain for private economic development shall be ineligible for any federal economic development funds for any purpose for a period of at least two years.

10. We support the ranchers and other landowners in Southern Colorado who oppose the Army's proposal to take land by eminent domain for the expansion of the Ft. Carson Army Base and urge Congress to pass legislation prohibiting the Base's expansion through the use of eminent domain.

Clean Air

1. The National Grange supports a clean air policy that will best protect agricultural interests, relieve automotive passengers, freight users and carriers of costly and unnecessary restrictions, and will protect the physical and economic health of industry and the general public.
2. The National Grange proposes that Congress determine state compliance to the Clean Air Act by statute and not by administrative regulations. Until then, we urge state and national administrative flexibility in deadlines for meeting Ambient Air Quality Standards. The National Grange strongly urges the EPA to retain the existing National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ground-level ozone.
3. The National Grange opposes any national mandatory motor vehicle emission inspection and maintenance programs. We oppose any national law or regulation that would require the use of "stand alone" vehicle emission testing facilities. The National Grange supports exempting agricultural equipment and machinery manufactured prior to January 1, 1993 from the current Clean Air Act.
4. The National Grange favors the repeal of the ozone provisions contained in the Clean Air Act to allow the use of Freon for refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners.
5. The National Grange favors reducing sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions from coal-burning plants. The National Grange encourages more research into clean technology and revision of EPA standards for use of coal and gas in building new generating plants. The National Grange opposes any "Cap and Trade" bill or related legislation concerning climate changes that would restrict greenhouse gas emissions.
6. The National Grange supports changes in the United Nations Climate Change Treaty before it is ratified by the United States. We urge the Kyoto Protocol to include uniform standards for all major countries, developed and developing. In the meantime we support the following measures: expansion of voluntary efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions; scientific research and educational programs on climate; investing in the development and deployment of new technologies and urging utilities to update their older plants bringing them into compliance with the current Clean Air Act.
7. The National Grange supports a program of government incentives that will reduce commuting by private vehicle, increase subsidies for mass transportation or car pooling, and sponsor more research to make alternative energy cars viable.

My sincere thanks go out to the members of my committee for their help, advice and insight into the resolutions deliberated by the Conservation Committee. I would like to extend a special thanks to the committee secretary for his work in recording the actions of our committee.

Fraternally,

Gary Brumbaugh, Chairman
Randy Lewis, Secretary
Marge Sendewicz
Roger Bostwick
Jack Cottrell

Errol Briggs
Jim Foster
Norm Keller
Jeff Swainston

EDUCATION & HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

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502	Sherman	RI	TUITION RATES FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS	Education & Health	Approved as Amended
503	Scott	WI	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING	Education & Health	Current Policy
504	Hagen	CO	LABELING PRODUCE AND FOOD PRODUCTS	Education & Health	Current Policy
505	McFarland	CA	FOOD/DRINK PRODUCT LABELING	Education & Health	Approved as Amended
506	Smithers	TX	PAPANICOLAOU (PAP) TESTS FOR WOMEN	Education & Health	Current Policy
507	Smithers	TX	CHIROPRACTIC COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE FOR LIFE	Education & Health	Covered in Committee Resolution
508	Scott	WI	HEALTH CARE REFORM	Education & Health	Adverse by Delegate Action
509	Gentry	NC	HEALTH CARE	Education & Health	Covered in Committee Resolution
510	Sherman	RI	HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM	Education & Health	Covered in Committee Resolution
511	Billmire	ID	MANDATORY HEALTH CARE / SWINE FLU VACCINATION	Education & Health	Covered in Committee Resolution
512	Billmire	ID	HEALTH INSURANCE	Education & Health	Covered in Committee Resolution
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514	Sendewicz	CT	MEDICARE COVERAGE	Education & Health	Approved as Amended
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516	Huber	PA	NATIONAL MEDICAL DATABASE	Education & Health	Covered in Committee Resolution

517	Wiles	MD	PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	Education & Health	Adverse
518	Sherrod	TN	KEEP DRUGS OUT OF THE WATER SUPPLY	Education & Health	Transferred
519	Wiles	MD	IRS AND HEALTH CARE REFORM	Education & Health	Approved as Amended
520	Wiles	MD	HEALTH CARE REFORM FINANCING	Education & Health	Covered in Committee Resolution
521	Wiles	MD	HEALTH CARE PLAN SURCHARGES	Education & Health	Covered in Committee Resoluton
522	Wiles	MD	HEALTH CARE PORTABILITY	Education & Health	Approved as Amended
523	Wiles	MD	OPPOSING NEW POLICY BAN	Education & Health	Covered in Committee Resolution
524	Wiles	MD	CATASTROPHIC HEALTH INSURANCE	Education & Health	Approved as Amended
525	Wiles	MD	PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS	Education & Health	Approved as Amended
526	Wiles	MD	COMPENSATION FOR NON-PROCEDURAL SERVICES	Education & Health	Approved as Amended
527	Orton	NY	HEALTH CARE REFORM	Education & Health	Current Policy
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529	Orton	NY	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE OF MILITARY DOCTORS	Education & Health	Adopted
530	Orton	NY	SILVER ALERT SYSTEM	Education & Health	Current Policy but Include in Policy Statement
531	Orton	NY	ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE REFORM	Education & Health	Adverse
532	Wiles	MD	TV ADVERTISING OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS	Education & Health	Add to Policy Statement

POLICY STATEMENT

EDUCATION

Education is a crucial element in the long-term success of our nation. In order for our country to remain competitive around the globe, our nation's children must receive a world-class education.

We must encourage our youth to excel. It doesn't matter if they plan to go to college, a trade school, or enter the work force; they need to understand the world around them. A quality education opens minds to new possibilities while encouraging students to think for themselves. We also must encourage our young people to learn and grow in school in a direction and pace most appropriate to their abilities. In today's information age, we have an extremely structured educational system that often has trouble recognizing and adapting to the needs of each unique student. We must return the power of education to parents, teachers, and local school boards. Parents must be made an essential part of the decision process. We must find ways to reward teachers who encourage and empower their students to become successful.

The National Grange supports public education and the idea of strengthening and improving the public education system because we believe every child should be able to receive a high quality public education. We support the continued collaboration with the Organization Concerned About Rural Education to seek improvements to the No Child Left Behind Act. We believe that all federally mandated programs be funded appropriately by the federal government to the extent that the requirements of these programs not cause an unrealistic burden on the state and local school systems.

The National Grange supports the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self Determination Act (SRSCA) while working on a long-term solution for rural forest counties and schools.

The National Grange supports home schooling as a viable alternative to traditional education. Further, we support the use of nonintrusive regulations in order to ensure that home-schooled students receive a high quality education.

The Grange believes that every student should be taught civics and how our American liberties are connected with the basic premise of capitalism. If we do not educate students on America's guiding principles and how they relate to the real world, we will have an increasing number of uneducated voters making decisions with little understanding of the impact those decisions have on every member of society.

We support schools using agricultural based curriculums such as Ag in the Classroom and Food for America. We encourage the study of cooperatives to be included in these curriculums.

The National Grange urges local schools to remove disruptive and violent students from the classroom and provide alternate education until the underlying cause has been corrected. We further urge the reform of state and federal regulations so that schools actively addressing this problem are not at risk of being classified as failing schools.

The National Grange encourages school districts to include Armed Forces representatives at a school's Career Day.

The National Grange encourages Granges at all levels to become actively involved in the educational process of students and community members in the fight against tobacco and alcohol abuse. We also support educating the American public about the misuse of legal and illegal drugs.

We strongly encourage Grange members nationwide to play an active role in their local school systems and communities. It is essential for our members to invest in our children's education through volunteering, the donation of school supplies (such as the third grade dictionary program) and exposure to volunteerism and community service. These contributions will help us remain positive role models for school children and increase the awareness of our organization.

Health

We as individuals need to take responsibility for our own health. With the cost of health care coverage and prescription drugs on the rise, we must advocate affordable health insurance for all. Equitable billing requirements and reimbursements for medical, dental, and alternative health care treatments are essential. We support a cap to be in place on malpractice suits to help reduce the cost of health care and make it possible for physicians, especially those in rural areas, to continue practicing medicine.

In this growing age of technology, it is becoming increasingly easier for people of any age to purchase narcotics and stimulants online. Therefore, the National Grange supports banning the delivery of such controlled substances over the Internet with or without a prescription.

Even though we believe that prescription drugs should be affordable to all Americans, we need to be mindful of safety. Drugs manufactured in the United States must meet stringent FDA standards. However, we have no guarantee that imported prescription drugs will meet these standards, but we believe that with proper control and monitoring, drugs from other countries can be safely imported.

The National Grange urges that restrictions be put on the advertisement of prescription drugs.

The National Grange supports the effort to reform Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) rules so that unused controlled prescription medications can be disposed of by a broader range of professionals. We encourage a study to determine the most economical and safest means of disposal for these substances.

The National Grange encourages broader consumer education for Medicare recipients so that they can better determine any discrepancies in billing in an effort to help reduce fraud.

Defective and contaminated products imported from other countries are of great concern to all Americans. We encourage government agencies and consumer safety advocates to be diligent in safety inspections on imported products and report all findings to the public. We also encourage consumers to make educated and wise purchasing decisions. We further encourage the government to require the country of origin to be clearly labeled on all imported products.

The National Grange recognizes the importance of proper nutrition in combating obesity and the diseases that come from it. Educational programs for all ages should be provided to encourage healthy eating and to teach the benefits of exercise and reduced caloric intake. We encourage schools to take a proactive stance by offering healthy snacks, such as milk in their vending machines, and by having an ongoing physical education program.

This policy covers 532(MD) and a portion of the National Masters Address.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Tuition Rates For Illegal Aliens

WHEREAS, illegal aliens are not citizens of our country and are therefore not legal citizens of our states, counties and cities as well, and should not be eligible for the same rights and privileges as our citizens; and

WHEREAS, there are institutions of higher learning that offer a lower rate of tuition to students residing in the state; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange oppose any legislation that would allow illegal aliens to receive tuition discounts at institutions of higher learning.

This covers resolution 502 (RI)

Food/Drink Product Labeling

WHEREAS, consumers can become very sick from eating/drinking expired food products; and

WHEREAS, the expiration date stamped on food/drink products are often unreadable because the date is printed in dark ink on a dark product background; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support a uniform system for labeling food and drink products including an expiration date in a color that is readable on the background.

This covers resolution 504 (CA)

Medicare Coverage

WHEREAS, Medicare charges about \$100 a month to cover 80% of a subscriber's medical bills; and

WHEREAS, "Medi-Gap" supplemental coverage for the remaining 20% costs about \$200 a month; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange urge our legislators to investigate pricing, availability and coverage options provided by health insurance companies as supplemental coverage for Medicare recipients.

This resolution covers 514 (CT)

IRS and Health Care Reform

WHEREAS, one proposal for health care reform in Congress has a provision that would require the Internal Revenue Service to release tax return documents to another government agency which is reviewing health care reform implementation; and

WHEREAS, another proposal in Congress would have the Internal Revenue Service become the enforcement agency that regulates the implementation of the health care reform; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange strongly oppose any effort to require the Internal Revenue Service to turn over tax return documents to other government agencies which review health care decisions.

This covers resolution 519 (MD)

Health Care Portability

WHEREAS, the patchwork quilt of non-profit insurance providers does not have portability across state lines according to Federal Law; and

WHEREAS, if consumers were allowed to keep the same coverage when moving to a new state, then pre-existing conditions would become less of a problem; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support restrictions being placed on insurance companies, so that they can only cancel policies for nonpayment or fraud, and not because of new health issues.

This covers resolution 522 (MD)

Catastrophic Health Insurance

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 700,000 families in the United States will go bankrupt this year due to medical costs from a catastrophic illness; and

WHEREAS, catastrophic insurance policies are readily available to consumers and relatively low in cost; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange encourage all families to carry catastrophic health insurance.

This covers resolution 524 (MD)

Primary Care Physicians

WHEREAS, primary care physicians are vital to the success of any health care delivery system and these doctors are in short supply in the United States; and

WHEREAS, excessively costly education requirements and low salaries, which are not sufficient to repay the staggering debt incurred, are discouraging young people from entering this medical field; and

WHEREAS, the state of Maryland has a successful program that provides significant incentives to students if they commit to becoming general practitioners in underserved rural areas of the state; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National State Grange supports the creation and/or expansion of programs that encourage students to become general practitioners and that address incentives and reimbursements for primary care.

This covers resolution 525 (MD)

Compensation For Non-Procedural Services

WHEREAS, the time a patient spends communicating with the doctor is one of the most valuable tools to improve our health, but Medicare and insurance companies generally fail to compensate these doctors for non-procedural services; and

WHEREAS, the amount of money that Medicare and Medicaid pay primary care doctors is usually less than their actual cost and the paperwork required for repayment is excessive, costly and time consuming; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation to require Medicare, Medicaid and private health insurance companies to adequately compensate primary care physicians for non-procedural services.

This covers resolution 526 (MD)

Medical Malpractice of Military Doctors

WHEREAS, medical military doctors cannot be sued because of the “Feres Doctrine”, a 1950 ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court that prevents malpractice against military doctors; and

WHEREAS, if military personnel do not get the right attention, they or their families should have the right to bring a lawsuit against the medical personnel who treated them improperly; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange support legislation to override the 1950 Supreme Court ruling that prevents medical malpractice suits against military doctors with the ex-

ception of theater of war.

This covers resolution 529 (NY)

Silver Alert System

WHEREAS, there has been an increased number of people that are dealing with a form of dementia; and

WHEREAS, a number of people with dementia have wandered away from home and have been injured or died; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange support legislation that would develop a Silver Alert System for people dealing with any form of dementia.

This covers resolution 530 (NY)

Health Care Reform

RESOLVED, that the National Grange is poised to represent its members and the interest of rural Americans as the Federal government considers health care proposals. Specifically the National Grange will support a plan that includes the following provisions: Access to affordable, portable health care, health insurance and prescription drugs for every American regardless of age, race, income, health condition or location with freedom of choice of medical provider and facility

Each person should be treated with dignity, equality and respect and health information should be provided in a manner that is easily understood and comprehended.

Protection of Medicare or current health insurance coverage as they are presently provided with no reduction in coverage.

No ban on writing new policies for insurance companies.

Preventive care, screenings and services that include educational programs, immunizations and holistic or alternative medicines that assist the patient in taking responsibility for their own care but do not mandate participation

A national registry of health information that is accessible in all health care settings by health care professionals

Encourage utilization of technology, such as telemedicine, to support the delivery of care and management of patient conditions.

Address the alarming rate of medical errors in health care settings by establishing guidelines, training and standards

Oversight of any Federal health care program should be provided by a qualified health agency and not the Internal Revenue Service.

Medical decisions should be made by licensed medical professionals based on the needs of the patient

Efforts to reduce overall health care costs while providing the right care by the right provider at the right time in the right place and for the right cost.

Guidelines for revamping the reimbursement structure to support the delivery of primary care that seeks to address the needs of the most costly patients.

Programs to ensure that there is an ample health care workforce that is qualified to deliver all levels of care

Any health care program established by Congress should be acceptable to the members of Congress as required coverage for them and their families

This resolution covers 507 (TX), 509 (NC), 510 (RI), 511 (ID), 512 (ID), 516 (PA),

520 (MD), 521 (MD), 523 (MD), and 528 (OH)

PRESENT POLICY

EDUCATION

General Education Policies

1. The National Grange supports public education and supports the idea of strengthening and improving the system of public education. The National Grange urges Congress to amend the “No Child Left Behind” law so local tax dollars on education are spent more responsibly. Parents should have a choice of schools based on the schools’ performance numbers provided that those parents furnish transportation for the children. We believe that every child should be able to receive a public education, and that the state is responsible for providing said education, which shall include the following: a broad curriculum with emphasis on basic language, physical education, math, and science skills; an opportunity for students to choose either vocational or “college preparatory” training; functional buildings; frequent public reports and accountability of funds; and basic training in agriculture, including the “Ag in the Classroom” program, covering both production and consumption.
2. The National Grange supports the adoption of a comprehensive health education curriculum.
3. The Grange supports the teaching of foreign languages, including sign language. We recommend that all other subjects be taught in the English language and that all non-English speaking students and residents in the United States be given the opportunity to receive immediate instruction in the English language through programs such as English-As-A-Second-Language.
4. The National Grange supports affordable telecommunications services for rural schools and libraries.
5. The National Grange supports strong educational standards, but does not believe that the establishment of National Education Standards Testing achieves this goal.
6. The National Grange supports the retention of the Head Start program.
7. The National Grange supports the teaching of both the theory of evolution and the story of creation, allowing individual school boards and students to make their own choice.
8. The National Grange supports posting the Ten Commandments in schools, courthouses and other public facilities.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that would bring about protection of parental and/or guardian rights in the guidance, control and administration of their dependent minors’ health care. This legislation should be written to include any and all federal, state and local government agencies.
10. The National Grange supports the teaching of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, including the Preamble and the Bill of Rights, in schools.
11. The National Grange urge that United States’ citizens, rather than foreign students, be given preference in obtaining publicly-funded scholarships. The National Grange opposes any legislation allowing illegal aliens to receive tuition discounts at American institutions of higher learning.

12. The National Grange endorses “Read Across America”; we recommit our organization to engage in programs and activities to make Americans the best readers in the world.
13. The National Grange supports traditional educational standards in American schools by making certain that school textbooks, today and in the future, are not modified to the point where our historical family gender specific terminology is altered or lost due to political or social pressures.
14. The National Grange opposes any legislation that may be proposed permitting or requiring non-security school staff to carry firearms while at school.
15. The National Grange urges the Federal Department of Education to encourage all local school systems to retain recess for elementary school children.
16. The National Grange supports legislation to establish standardized requirements for schools nurses in all 50 states as well as legislation to adequately fund school nurse programs to be able to handle the increased workload.

Education for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Special Needs Children

1. The National Grange believes that parents of deaf and hard of hearing children, deaf and hard of hearing people, teachers, and professionals who are trained in the area of educating the deaf should assist in determining the extent, content, and purpose of the educational program, and particularly consider those program options that provide the pupil with an appropriate and equal opportunity for communication access, including the state’s school for the deaf, which may be the least restrictive environment for a deaf or hard of hearing child.
2. The National Grange strongly supports continuation of the Education of the Deaf Act to provide maximum benefit for deaf and hard of hearing persons, both in programs and services, including funding for Gallaudet University and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID).

Educational Funding

1. The National Grange supports the continuation of the federal guaranteed student loan, grant, and work-study programs. The National Grange recommends that Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Expected Family Contribution (EFC) regulations be adjusted to reflect family expenses, such as real estate taxes, medical expenses and other financial obligations in the determination of financial aid. We urge strict enforcement of the requirements for repayment of federally financed student loans with severe penalties for default. The National Grange suggests that the guidelines for student financial aid laws be revised so financially independent students are eligible to receive financial aid for their higher education.
2. The National Grange supports the retention of Federal Government Impact Aid for public school districts that lose traditional revenue sources due to a federal presence or activity.
3. The National Grange supports federal categorical aid to school library centers.
4. The National Grange believes that public funding should be used only in public schools. We support redirecting public funding to nonpublic or Charter schools, only when the money is for special needs students where the law mandates special training not available in public schools.
5. The National Grange supports federal funding for state allocation of dollars for rural

education to promote better salaries and benefits for teachers in rural education and to improve rural school conditions.

6. The National Grange urges adequate funding by the federal government for all federally mandated education programs. In particular we support equal educational opportunities for exceptional and handicapped persons including federal funding at the 40% level for federally mandated individualized education programs for special needs children.
7. The National Grange supports federal legislation protecting the Upward Bound Talent Search designed to benefit low-income students seeking college educations.
8. The National Grange supports legislation that awards grants to institutions for history teacher preparation initiatives stressing content mastery in traditional American history and the principles on which the American political system is based.

Nutrition

1. The National Grange urges adequate funding for school breakfast and lunch programs. We support the American Dietetic Association's current guidelines recommending two to three servings of dairy products daily in the school nutrition program. We urge the USDA to keep dairy products in the Food Pyramid and encourage all consumers to include adequate amounts of calcium in their diets. School breakfast and lunch programs should provide balanced diets to meet a child's daily nutritional requirements.
2. The National Grange urges the agricultural community to provide nutrition education programs for consumers and school-aged children and support continued funding for the Farmers' Market Nutrition program.
3. The National Grange supports any legislation to prohibit the sale of junk food and soda pop from vending machines in elementary and junior high schools. We also urge school districts to seek out contracts with vendors distributing more healthy alternatives such as milk.
4. The National Grange opposes any additional tax on "fat" foods for the purpose of preventing obesity. Instead, educational programs should be provided to encourage eating a variety of nutritious foods in moderation, and to teach the basic interaction of calorie intake and energy expenditure.

Food Safety and Labeling

1. The National Grange believes the agricultural industry should be free to advertise their products as long as the advertisement is accurate and is based on facts.
2. The National Grange favors strict enforcement of all food labeling laws by the Food & Drug Administration and supports a uniform system for labeling food and drink products including an expiration date in a color that is readable on the background. We encourage the National Safety Working Group and Congress to enact far-reaching legislation increasing the inspection rate and level of safety of imported foreign foods, drugs, and manufactured goods. We also support legislation requiring food companies and restaurants to clearly mark food labels and items on menus that may contain ingredients such as Monosodium Glutamate (MSG) and inform patrons if their food contains peanuts, are exposed to peanuts, or has been cooked in peanut oil. We recommend that a ban be placed on the use of all sulfites on fresh fruits and vegetables in restaurants. We further recommend that all manufacturers of food and drink who use

sulfites in their products be required to specify on the product label that a sulfite was used. However, we support each individual restaurant's right to decide whether to include calorie counts on their menu boards of calorie, fat, carbohydrates and sodium on their menus for all food and beverage items.

3. The National Grange urges the Department of Health and Human Services to review and strengthen the regulations pertaining to manufactured products used in the home canning process, including requiring a manufacturer's name and expiration date on these products.
4. The National Grange favors continued testing of cider processing but strongly urges Congress and the USDA not to require pasteurization of all commercial cider.
5. The National Grange supports the initiation of a regulated food products irradiation program. We further support federal funding for a program to educate the public about the benefits of irradiated food products.
6. The National Grange supports easy and inexpensive access to vitamins and supplements. We urge that all herbal medicines sold in the United States be labeled with a warning to consult with a physician or pharmacist before using. We further support legislation that would require manufacturers and processors of dietary supplements to report certain information to the Secretary of Health and Human Services annually, including a list of supplements manufactured and the labeling and major ingredients for such supplements.

HEALTH

Family Planning

1. We oppose any amendment to the United States Constitution that denies an individual the freedom of choice for abortion. We recognize the need for readily available family planning information for those who need or desire it. However, we do oppose partial-birth abortions. Government financing should not be available for abortions, except in cases of rape, incest, endangered health of the mother, or serious defects of the fetus. We support educational efforts, which would emphasize the necessity for licensed hospitals and medical doctors when abortions are necessary. We further support requiring all abortion agencies to provide counseling by qualified professional personnel to explore all possible options before an abortion and we favor state legislation requiring abortion and family planning clinics to notify parents or guardians of minors who are seeking drugs or abortions.
2. The National Grange supports the release of adoption records that will provide family health history.
3. The National Granges opposes the distribution of any contraceptives to middle school age students.

Health Care Consumer Protection, Patients' Rights and Accessibility

1. The National Grange supports access to affordable health care and health insurance for every American regardless of age, race, income, health condition, or location with freedom of choice of medical provider and facility. In addition, health care cost containment strategies should maintain the highest quality of care without compromising effectiveness and efficiency. The National Grange support restrictions being placed

on insurance companies, so that they can only cancel policies for nonpayment or fraud, and not because of new health issues. We favor legislation to guarantee that the attending physician's decision is the governing factor regarding appropriate medical treatment or length of hospital stay. The physician's decision should be the deciding factor for coverage whether or not treatment or hospitalization takes place in or out of the patient's home state. We believe HMOs should be required to accept the determination of the attending health care provider as evidence of the need for an emergency visitation or ambulance service. The National Grange encourages all families to carry catastrophic health insurance.

2. The National Grange will work with other organizations to develop and present a "Healthcare Bill of Rights" for Americans to Congress. We support proposals for health care reform that include the following safeguards: a) allow patients to sue HMOs for medical malpractice; b) place a cap on how much an individual may sue for per medical malpractice suit, including a \$250,000 cap on malpractice awards arising from non-economic claims (i.e. pain and suffering); c) place a cap on malpractice awards regarding product liability; d) require insurance companies to provide hospital coverage for birth as deemed necessary by the doctor; e) establish an efficient grievance and appeal process for patients when medical procedures or payments are denied by insurance companies/HMO's; f) require that insurance companies cover all legally mandated medical services deemed necessary by a doctor at federal, state, or hospital levels, including preventative procedures such as well baby check ups and childhood immunizations; h) require insurance companies to pay claims within 30 to 45 days of receiving properly completed forms and bills. We also support a health care plan that includes the following provisions:

- Access to affordable, portable health care, health insurance and prescription drugs for every American regardless of age, race, income, health condition or location with freedom of choice of medical provider and facility
- Each person should be treated with dignity, equality and respect and health information should be provided in a manner that is easily understood and comprehended.
- Protection of Medicare or current health insurance coverage as they are presently provided with no reduction in coverage.
- No ban on writing new policies for insurance companies.
- Preventive care, screenings and services that include educational programs, immunizations and holistic or alternative medicines that assist the patient in taking responsibility for their own care but do not mandate participation
- A national registry of health information that is accessible in all health care settings by health care professionals
- Encourage utilization of technology, such as telemedicine, to support the delivery of care and management of patient conditions.
- Address the alarming rate of medical errors in health care settings by establishing guidelines, training and standards
- Oversight of any Federal health care program should be provided by a qualified health agency and not the Internal Revenue Service.
- Medical decisions should be made by licensed medical professionals based on the needs of the patient
- Efforts to reduce overall health care costs while providing the right care by the right provider at the right time in the right place and for the right cost.
- Guidelines for revamping the reimbursement structure to support the delivery of

primary care that seeks to address the needs of the most costly patients.

- Programs to ensure that there is an ample health care workforce that is qualified to deliver all levels of care
- Any health care program established by Congress should be acceptable to the members of Congress as required coverage for them and their families.

3. The National Grange urges federal agencies to be more aggressive in their investigations and prosecutions of fraud, waste, and abuse in the health care system. We support efforts to maintain the National Practitioners Data Base allowing consumers to have access to malpractice reports so they can properly choose the best medical professional for themselves.
4. The National Grange supports tax deductible medical savings accounts (MSAs) in the form of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) type account to be used strictly for medical expenses. We support extending health care coverage under COBRA for all terminated employees who qualify for a period of up to 36 months or until eligible for Medicare/Medicaid and include portability of health insurance coverage — even if there is a pre-existing condition — for those who change jobs or become unemployed. The National Grange supports tax incentives for businesses to provide health insurance coverage for their employees and 100% tax deductibility of health insurance premiums for the self-employed and individuals acquiring private health insurance.
5. The National Grange favors the passage of laws, which allow parents/guardians in conjunction with their doctors to decide whether or not to keep severely physically and mentally handicapped children alive by life support systems without interference by the government.
6. The National Grange urges that the new federal and state laws on privacy of medical information be examined, and amended if necessary, so that medical practitioners may release or disclose limited information when necessary to contact relatives or others who are needed to authorize medical treatment. We further support legislation that would require patients, when physically or mentally able, to submit their medical background to health care professionals.
7. The National Grange supports legislation such as “The Small Business Health Fairness Act” or any other legislation that would allow professional associations to offer members group health insurance on a national basis thus making it more affordable.
8. The National Grange strongly urges hospitals to charge uninsured patients the same rates that are negotiated by insurance companies and Medicare for their clients.
9. The National Grange supports legislation requiring all restaurants and all public buildings to be smoke free.
10. National Grange supports legislation to amend present law to require builders and landlords to include carbon monoxide detectors as well as smoke detectors in buildings they build or manage.
11. The National Grange strongly opposes any effort to require the Internal Revenue Service to turn over tax return documents to other government agencies which review health care decisions.
12. The National Grange supports legislation to override the 1950 Supreme Court ruling that prevents medical malpractice suits against military doctors with the exception of threat of war.

Rural Health Care

1. We urge that the federal government maintain block grant/matching funds to states for community health clinics.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to ensure that fairness in price and benefits offered becomes a part of any and all medical insurance programs. The National Grange believes that payment to health care providers should adhere to a schedule of fees for services provided that is fair and equitable across the United States.
3. The National Grange supports incentive programs for doctors who will agree to practice in rural areas where basic medical care is not available and supports the creation and/or expansion of programs that encourage students to become general practitioners and that address incentives and reimbursements for primary care.
4. The National Grange supports the establishment or use of the necessary infrastructure for the expansion of telemedicine into rural areas.
5. We encourage local Granges to present programs that educate the community about pharmaceutical assistance programs.

Medical Research and Awareness

1. The National Grange supports and recognizes the value of research in increasing the quality of life. We support improvement in the quality of health care services and access to new and existing technologies. We encourage continued funding of medical research, including those using animals.
2. The National Grange encourages research to continue on alternative treatments, such as acupuncture, hypnosis, massage therapy, prayer, and meditation, which may be used in conjunction with the standard treatments that are showing results against diseases.
3. The National Grange supports the National Cancer Institute and encourages Congress to continue providing funds for research.
4. The National Grange supports the establishment of a “radiation data base” on radiation releases to the public resulting from both intentional and unintentional releases due to nuclear weapons testing and accidental releases from nuclear power plants.
5. The National Grange urges that the correct information about Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) should be given to all parents and caregivers of children under five years.
6. The National Grange urges adequate funding for agencies at all levels dealing with the HIV and AIDS problem and supports increased emphasis on testing.
7. The National Grange urges the use of government funds for stem cell research only on postnatal or adult stem cells. We further support the research and possible use of cord blood stem cells and, promote the registry and donation of cord blood stem cells. However, we support legislation banning full human cloning.
8. The National Grange supports legislation that would ban the patenting of natural occurring genes. We only support the patenting of treatment and/or alterations of those natural occurring genes.
9. We urge a Silver Alert System for people dealing with dementia.

Medicare and Medicaid

1. The National Grange supports the following reforms and changes in the Medicare and Medicaid programs: a) equity of payment between inpatient and outpatient pro-

cedures according to Medicare's Diagnostic Related Groups; b) equity in reimbursements between rural and urban hospitals; c) prohibit hospitals or doctors from setting fees or discontinuing Medicare assignments for specific diagnosis during treatment on the basis of the method of payment or from charging amounts above the Medicare limits for Medicare services; d) faster processing of claims to permit faster reimbursement; e) extended coverage to ensure sufficient time for full recovery; f) prohibit health care professionals; (g) all reimbursements under the Medicare program to all Medicare patients, medical personnel, suppliers, etc. must be made in a 3 month timeframe and (h) adequately compensate primary care physicians for non-procedural services.

2. The National Grange supports a full investigation of the causes of the rapid increase in Medicare/Medicaid costs. We urge our legislators to investigate pricing, availability and coverage options provided by health insurance companies as supplemental coverage for Medicare recipients. We further support a cap on the annual increase in Medicare deductions of no more than the general inflation rate. The National Grange strongly urges Congress to refrain from reducing payment to physicians and providers under Medicare since it would add an additional burden to patients needing to use the program.
3. The National Grange will lobby for a change in current Medicare insurance to include coverage for hearing exams and hearing aids. The National Grange urges Medicare and Medicaid to review their payment schedules and make changes which recognize recommended and accepted medical procedures and screening tests, such as: coverage for the prostate-specific antigen test (PSA); increased coverage for home health care costs; reimbursement for services of midwives and physicians' assistants; coverage for outpatient office laser surgery.
4. The National Grange favors legislation permitting retired people to deduct the cost of their supplemental health insurance from their taxable income. We support changing current regulations to permit seniors who are "grandfathered" by residence address into a Medicare supplemental insurance program to be allowed to move anywhere within the original service area without being dropped from their insurance plan. We further support a division of assets procedure for Medicaid and Medicare that would preserve the financial stability of a healthy spouse.
5. The National Grange supports the right to have a second doctor in the operating room, where medically required, for patients on Medicare.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would give eye and dental insurance to seniors age 65 plus for those procedures that Medicare does not cover, with a co-pay/deductible for amounts over 100 dollars.
7. The Grange at all levels works to convince our government that Medicare money should also be spent on health screening for early intervention of diseases which is far more economical than the huge cost of treating advanced stages of the diseases.
8. The National Grange urges Congress to pass an act allowing Medicare information to be given to an assigned representative and that the representative be allowed to act on behalf of said patient without consignment of Medicare and/or Social Security benefits.
9. The National Grange encourages the Federal Government to simplify the Medicare Part D program to achieve substantially lower drug prices for beneficiaries and require all aspects of the program to be implemented within 60 days of an applicant's enrollment.

10. The National Grange supports allowing Medicare to help cover the cost of purchasing hearing aids and eye ware. The National Grange also supports legislation to change the regulatory language that categorizes hearing aids as cosmetic devices to the category of prosthesis devices in all instances for Medicare as well as Medicare supplemental insurance.
11. The National Grange supports passage of legislation mandating the Medicare system to use an identification number other than the individual's Social Security Number.

Long-Term Care and Assisted Living

1. The National Grange supports coverage for long-term nursing/in-home care, including an allowable tax credit for long term care insurance premiums, and an allowable tax credit for adult day care expenses incurred by primary care givers of adults who cannot care for themselves. A tax credit should also be available for programs to provide assisted living to the elderly in their own homes. We urge changing the Medicare entitlement and managed health care insurance programs so that they provide payment for assisted living programs.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that will provide uniform care and services to nursing home patients and will protect their rights.
3. The National Grange encourages Congress to require Medicare to make timely payments to both acute care and extended care facilities to ensure that the correct level of care is maintained for all patients.
4. The National Grange urges the U.S. Health Care Financing Authority to allow elderly couples to be in the same nursing home when long term care for both becomes necessary.
5. The National Grange supports action that develops a comprehensive and economical method to treat patients requiring Palliative Care.

Deaf, Hard Of Hearing, and the Disabled

1. We strongly support legislation to protect the rights of deaf and hard of hearing persons.
2. The National Grange encourages manufacturers of machinery and stereo equipment to place warning labels, where feasible, informing consumers that permanent hearing loss could occur as a result of prolonged noise exposure above 85 decibels. We further support legislation requiring motorcycle mufflers to be designed so that the maximum decibels produced shall not be higher than 85 decibels at a distance of 50 feet.
3. The National Grange supports legislation requiring emergency warning messages to be both close captioned and delivered verbally, and all television stations provide closed captioning for news, weather, sports, and other live events.
4. The National Grange encourages telephone companies to make all public telephones hearing-aid compatible and install volume-controlled amplifiers. We further recommend that local, state, and national governments specify in their lease/purchase agreements with any telephone contractor that all instruments be hearing aid compatible.
5. The National Grange supports legislation that would require all health insurance

companies to cover hearing screening, test-ing, surgery, and hearing aids, including mandatory regular hearing screenings and hearing aids for children.

6. The National Grange supports legislation that would establish detection and intervention programs for newborns and infants with hearing loss. We further urge Congress to pass legislation to require hearing testing of newborns prior to their release from the hospital.
7. The National Grange urges the Department of Transportation to become aware of the need for unisex handicapped restrooms and to make provisions for them at all new or remodeled rest stops.
8. The National Grange supports legislation so that any retired military service personnel with 50% or more service-related disability rating be allowed to obtain and receive needed dental treatments at the Veteran's Administration Dental Clinics at no cost.

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Controlled Substances

1. The National Grange encourages the bold, accurate labeling of household products (including carpeting and furniture that have been treated with toxic chemicals), farm chemicals, and other products containing toxic ingredients.
2. The National Grange supports the continuation of the many programs presently fighting substance addiction. The National Grange urges that funding for addiction treatment be governed by medical personnel and not by non-medical administrators of reimbursement programs. The National Grange supports legislation to end insurance discrimination against Americans living with mental illness and addiction in order to provide necessary assistance and treatment programs that will allow many of these afflicted individuals to return to a productive life in mainstream society.
3. The National Grange believes that any product containing above the acceptable FDA limit of Dioxin should display a label warning consumers of its presence.
4. We support federal legislation, which would ban the advertising and promotion of alcoholic beverages on television and radio. The National Grange supports the adoption of more prominent alcohol warning labels on all beer, wine and liquor containers.
5. The National Grange supports the effort of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to ban cigarette and alcohol advertising that encourages children to smoke and drink alcoholic beverages.
6. The National Grange urges legislation requiring all tobacco products to carry a federal health warning label, just as cigarettes do, and that advertisements include the detrimental effects of any tobacco products as well.
7. The National Grange recommends the passage of laws making it a punishable crime to use such drugs as Rohypnol, GHB, and Ketamine on anyone for the purpose of procuring sex.
8. The use of steroid and other stimulants, unless prescribed for medical reasons, should be made illegal in all competitive sports and the National Grange supports having heavy penalties imposed upon the violators.

Prescription Drugs and Medicines

1. The National Grange supports making prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs more affordable. The National Grange strongly encourages drug companies to produce lifesaving and life enhancing medicines for a wide variety of diseases and medical conditions. We further support requiring all government and private prescription drug coverage programs to offer the widest possible selection of lifesaving and life enhancing medicines at an affordable price for those who need them.
2. The National Grange supports allowing U.S. citizens, who are visiting foreign countries, to bring back with them up to three months supplies of regulated pharmaceutical products for their own use, provided that they have valid prescriptions for those specific pharmaceutical products from their U.S. physician. The National Grange supports the current Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act provisions that generally do not allow regulated pharmaceutical products to be imported into the U.S. for sale or distribution unless those importers are also pharmacists and/or pharmaceutical wholesalers currently subject to federal and state regulation. We strongly support current law and regulations that require anyone who imports regulated pharmaceutical products for sale or distribution in the U.S. to keep accurate records tracking the origin, history and chain of custody of these products before they entered the U.S. We support legislation requiring anyone authorized to import regulated pharmaceutical products for sale or distribution in the U.S. to be financially responsible for any testing necessary to verify the authenticity and/or degradation of the pharmaceutical products they import. We support strictly limiting the importation of pharmaceutical products to drugs from licensed pharmacies and wholesalers who sell to the public in Canada. We support providing the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) with sufficient resources and authority to ensure the safety of imported drugs from Canada employing technological and other safeguards. We further support legislation requiring anyone authorized to import regulated pharmaceutical products for sale or distribution in the U.S. to be allowed to import such products only if they are shipped into the U.S. in counter-feit proof and tamper resistant packaging.
3. The National Grange supports a voluntary program, which would offer pregnant women who test HIV positive voluntary access to the drug AZT that could prevent the transfer of the HIV antibodies to the unborn child or newborn child.
4. The National Grange will work to secure legislation requiring physicians to obtain specific written approval of the patient or those legally authorized to give approval prior to prescribing experimental drugs. When the physician prescribes experimental drugs, the warning and permission form must be in clear, common layman language on a separate medical form.
5. The National Grange supports legislation that would require the pharmaceutical companies to significantly reduce the minimum dose purchase requirement for pneumococcal vaccine. We recommend that local county Health Departments include this vaccine in required childhood immunizations.
6. The National Grange urges pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmaceutical wholesalers and pharmaceutical retailers to work cooperatively to reduce the cost of drugs for consumers in the United States and will work to pass legislation to amend the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 to facilitate this cooperation.
7. The National Grange urges the Food and Drug Administration to mandate that

pharmaceutical producers label all products and commodities containing gluten.

My sincere thanks go out to the members of my committee for their help, advice and insight. I would like to extend a special thanks to the committee secretary for her work in recording the actions of our committee and also to Maurice Wiles for his consultation. I would also like to thank Allison Fowler, Legislative Director of the North Carolina State Grange for her help on this committee.

Fraternally,

Chris Johnston, Chair
Jeannie Billmire, Secretary
Patti Lee
Melanie Bostwick
Karen Orton

Linda Brumbaugh
Brian Ebersole
Margaret Smithers
John Hammett

GRANGE LAW & GOOD OF THE ORDER COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

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CR2		Committee Resolution	USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action
CR3		Committee Resolution	CHANGE TO 11.8.5	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action
SS1		Board of Directors	SALE, ENCUMBRANCE OR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action, 2 nd Reading
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POLICY STATEMENT

One of the major challenges the Grange has today is to see that we educate our members that they have power within our organization. Unlike other associations, we give limited power to our elected leaders, as the true power begins with the voting members of each Grange. We are one of the few associations where action, like legislation, begins at the grassroots level and we must reach the goal to train more Community Grange members to become leaders and participate at all levels of our Order.

We recognize the need and uses of modern technology but still believe that nothing can replace the face-to-face meeting.

We have moved away from being a secret organization. There are no secrets within our membership, but there are things that only members are to be given access to.

With the support of our entire membership and the excellent work done by the National Grange staff, we have been successful in the fight to protect the Grange's name, but we should continue to be vigilant and watchful.

In the near future, we need to work on updating, correcting, and finalizing the Alternative Manual. We encourage the National Master to appoint a committee to develop a one-source manual, which will include the traditional degree work and installation ceremony as well as optional or alternative versions.

The cost of the National Grange Convention needs to be fairly and equitably distributed to Grange members across the nation. It should not be borne by the individual hosting regions alone. Every effort should be made to cut expenses of the National Grange Convention and secure outside sources of funding.

We understand that we may not always agree with the By-Laws as written, however, we must remember that we took an obligation to uphold them. There is a procedure in place to change the By-Laws, when and if, necessary.

The Digest states in Section 4.10.9 that every level of the Grange shall furnish, at the expense of their respective Grange, a fidelity bond or other approved surety. Granges are encouraged to take advantage of the bonding service that is available under the direction of the National Grange. The National Grange staff should ensure that all Grange states are aware of the bonding program available through National Grange.

The report of the Collegiate Grange Committee was reviewed by our committee. We believe that the State Grange's authority to regulate Student/Collegiate Granges is already covered under Section 10.10.1 of the National Grange Digest.

We encourage you to become familiar with the National Master's rulings during the past year.

This covers resolution 611 (NJ), the report of the Collegiate Grange Committee, and portions of the National Master's Internal Report.

NATIONAL MASTER'S RULINGS ON GRANGE LAW AND USAGE

Gold Sheaf Affiliate Membership

I was asked the other day if a member is a Gold Sheath fraternal member and joins another Grange as an affiliate what are the grange dues they should pay at each Grange?

According to my reading if they are a Gold Sheath member then they would only pay Gold Sheath dues at any Grange they join. That would include membership in other states

as well.

The answer to your questions begins in 4.4.6 “..Such Affiliate Member shall pay the applicable membership dues..” This means they need only pay dues with no application fee when they join.

6.6.1, 6.6.2, and 6.6.3 cover honorary members of which Gold Sheaf membership is a part of. The Affiliate Gold Sheaf member would pay the dues that the Community Grange normally sets for any Gold Sheaf member.

Most States have exercised the exemption for those awarded Gold Sheaf status prior to January 1, 2001 and within those states the Community Granges have generally adopted the exemption. For these Gold Sheaf members who are exempt from dues, if they choose to affiliate with a Grange that does not exempt them, they would pay the normal dues. If the Grange they choose to affiliate with exempts these Gold Sheaf members from dues, they are exempt. It is an all or none system. No Grange can exempt only some of their members who are qualified for the Gold Sheaf exemption.

For Gold Sheaf members who are not exempt (after January 1, 2001) they pay dues as would any regular or affiliate member.

Any non-exempt Gold Sheaf member may be made an honorary member by their Community Grange under these provisions, regardless of their status as regular or affiliate members.

Tax Status

The National Grange does not insist that Subordinate/Community Granges be 501(c)(8)’s. All are 501(c) but some are 5’s, 6’s, 8’s and there may be a 7 or 10. The Granges within most states have the same status that the State Grange has. I do not know why Alaska chose to be an (c)(8), but it will be difficult to change as the IRS status affects a wide variety of things.

On the matter of a 501(c)(3) status. The Grange can never be a 501(c)(3) organization. Our Constitution, By-Laws, and code allow us to be an advocacy organization in the legislative arena. That means we may lobby on non-partisan issues. 501(c)(3) organizations are prohibited from participating in these activities. Because we are in structure one organization with different levels, none of our levels can exempt themselves from our rules. Remember that dues flow from Community to State to National Grange. In the case of supportive membership, dues money flows from the National to the State Grange.

Lobbying is nothing more than advocating for a specific legislative outcome. A letter from a Grange member, a report by a member recommending a specific action on a bill in the legislature to their fellow members, or even a visit from a Grange member to a member of any legislative body where we ask them to vote a certain way are all lobbying efforts. Congress and each State legislative assembly have rules for when a person must register as a lobbyist, but our organization encourages each member to participate in this process as a citizen and Grange lobbyist. Lobbying is far more than a State or National Grange lobbyist working on our behalf.

501(c)(3) organizations are, by IRS rules, prohibited from co-mingling their funds with organizations that perform prohibited actions. On this basis, no Grange can be a 501(c)(3) organization.

I would urge that you talk to a tax attorney to learn more about the options available to a 501(c)(8) as that is your status. (c)(8)’s are normally allowed to give a receipt for tax deduction purposes for educational activities that meet the qualifications of 501(c)(3).

They do have to provide a separate account and be able to prove that the funds are never co-mingled. I would urge you to inform members that people “may” be able to get a tax deduction, not “will”.

The above reasons are why the National Grange and some of our State Granges have formed Trusts or Foundations for the charitable work that falls within the guidelines of a 501(c)(3) organization.

Since this seems to be an important issue, please let your Granges know that I will plan to attend your State Grange Session and will take questions on this topic. I will also bring information on the Grange Foundation that may allow some of your Granges to accomplish their goals if the State Grange chooses to be their partner.

On the issue of resolutions at National Session: There will be some changes this year in the National Session due to the need to more efficiently work resolutions. As I view the issue, conducting the business of the National Grange, providing educational opportunities for our members, celebrating the successes of the past year, sharing plans for our future, and providing social and networking time is the main purpose of each National Grange Session. The business of the National Grange consists primarily of the resolutions from our Community and State Granges.

Any major change, such as you suggest to our process, must begin at a Community Grange in resolution form. I will not argue the fact that some Community and State Granges may not adequately work their resolutions to ensure a top quality resolution. Occasionally, even a National Grange Sessions Committee will place a resolution that is vague or poorly written before the delegates, but when the deliberative process works, the Community Grange, the State Grange, and then the National Grange will continually refine and improve the idea contained within the resolution to create good legislative policy or improvement to our rules.

Our process is the result of a grassroots driven philosophy that has been in place over the last 141 years. We have changed and adapted, but only because our system is designed to be responsive to our membership. Remember that as the Grange grows and expands over the next few years, more Grange members will participate in our resolution process and we must find ways to empower them, not discourage them. It has never been easy to combine our grassroots philosophy with today’s “do it now” attitude, but I have confidence that our members will continue to find the proper balance in the future.

Charter Suspension Time Limits

The answer to your question is found in 4.5.10. “..The duration and conditions of a Suspension Order shall be established by the said Master taking such action with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee of said Master’s Grange..”

This means that there is no specified time limit unless you set one in your suspension order. I would suggest the use of common sense in that you don’t want to suspend a Grange for more than a year as when the Grange is under suspension, how do you collect dues, etc. The goal of suspension is to investigate and remedy the problem for which you suspended the Charter. If you find the Grange was not acting improperly, you reinstate the Charter. If you find that they were acting improperly and you successfully implement a solution, you reinstate the Charter. If you find that they were acting improperly and can not implement a solution, or if they refuse to cooperate with an investigation or solution, then you revoke the Charter.

You must keep your Executive Committee fully informed about the progress in your

investigation and possible solutions for the Grange under suspension. The decision to revoke the Charter may be yours, but during the suspension process your State Grange Executive Committee is part of the process as they share authority in this issue.

I would therefore rule that time limits for a suspension are either set by the Suspension Order or by majority vote of the State Grange Executive Committee. If no time limits are set, the authority belongs to the State Grange Master.

Ritual on PowerPoint

Section 11.1.2 specifically states that the Degree Manuals containing the ritual for the Junior, Subordinate, Pomona, and State shall be distributed by the National Grange only to the Masters. The Masters are accountable for these Manuals. We must realize that many Manuals for the Subordinate Grange are readily available via internet sources such as E-bay and that Junior and Pomona Manuals may also occasionally be available through these sources.

The opening and closing of the Grange in the fourth degree, or the Alternative Manuals' version, may be presented on a PowerPoint presentation for educational purposes only. However, the PowerPoint presentation must be clearly identified on the title slide/page as copyrighted by the National Grange with the year of creation and any revisions. The title slide or second slide must have at least the following statement, "Grange Manuals and the ritual and instruction work contained in them remain the property of the Grange. The information contained in this presentation may only be used to educate and teach Grange members on the proper ways to open, conduct, and close Subordinate/Community Granges. As with Grange Manuals, this presentation may only be distributed to Masters for appropriate educational use and remains the property of the Grange."

All distribution must be made through the Grange Masters. Each National Grange Department Director will report annually to me on how many copies of a PowerPoint educational presentation that covers Opening and Closing of the Subordinate/Community Grange were distributed.

State Master Term

In response to your request for a ruling on the term of office of a State Grange Master who was State Grange Overseer and holds the office of State Grange Master due to the resignation of the previous Master.

4.10.8 outlines the progression and process when any officer position is vacated for any of a number of reasons. The digest is clear and consistent on all officers, except the office of Master at the Pomona, State or National Grange level.

Subsection (C) specifies that the Overseer shall become Master upon being duly installed and that the office of Overseer then becomes vacant. In recent years, previous cases of vacancies within the office of State Master have been treated by National Masters, as the Overseer completes the term of the resigning Master as the Master of the State Grange. This is not in conflict with subsection (C) and matches what I read as the apparent intent of the Digest. Common sense indicates that if the Overseer's move to Master was to be temporary, then the office of Overseer would not be declared vacant.

I therefore rule that an Overseer of a State Grange, who becomes Master of a State Grange due to a vacancy, shall serve the remainder of the current term of office as the Master of the State Grange.

“Back Off Tyson” Campaign Recognition of Support

Thank you for your generous contributions in the “Back Off Tyson” campaign. We greatly appreciate your support. Contributions are listed according to value in descending order. Values not listed.

RHODE ISLAND STATE GRANGE	RI	KEYES GRANGE #524	CA
DELAWARE STATE GRANGE	DE	CARMICHAELS GRANGE #1389	PA
PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANGE	PA	BIG SURE GRANGE #742	CA
WATERFORD GRANGE #231	OH	STEELE LAKE HIGHLINE GRANGE #805	WA
NC STATE GRANGE	NC	FAIRFAX GRANGE #570	CA
PLAINFIELD GRANGE #1727	PA	OSTROM GRANGE #751	CA
CLARK COUNTY POMONA GRANGE	WA	SANTA CRUZ LIVE OAK #503	CA
MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE	MA	ANDERSON GRANGE #418	CA
CARL SOISSON, JR	PA	CALAVERAS GRANGE #715	CA
ELMA GRANGE #26	WA	RUBIDOUX GRANGE #611	CA
STAR GRANGE #993	PA	POMONA GRANGE #31	CA
QUINEBAUG POMONA GRANGE #2	CT	MILLVILLE GRANGE #443	CA
MARY SPROAT	PA	RICHFIELD GRANGE #1654	OH
GREECE GRANGE #311	NY	BRADFORD SULLIVAN CO. POMONA GRANGE #23PA	
CENTRE COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #13	PA	LITTLE LAKE GRANGE #670	CA
ONTARIO COUNTY POMONA GRANGE	NY	MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE	MA
FAIRPORT GRANGE #467	NY	CORTLAND COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #25	NY
OKLAHOMA STATE GRANGE	OK	WALPOLE GRANGE #125	NH
MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE	MA	SELAH HEIGHTS GRANGE	WA
MARVEL GRANGE #479	CO	MERIDIAN GRANGE	WA
MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE	MA	PIERCE COUNTY	WA
OGLE CO POMONA GRANGE	IL	OTISVILLE GRANGE #1020	NY
ORANGEVALE GRANGE #354	CA	CEDAR VALLEY GRANGE #306	WA
OTEGO SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY GRANGE	NY	COLUMBIA VALLEY GRANGE #938	WA
FRIENDS OF THE KELLEY FARM	MN	GOSHEN GRANGE #121	PA
DUTCHESS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE	NY	SWAUK-TEANAWAY GRANGE	WA
NEW MARKET GRANGE #362	MD	RIVERSIDE VALLEY GRANGE #1047	WA
LEAF RIVER GRANGE #1812	IL	KIMBERTON GRANGE #1304	PA
NEW YORK STATE GRANGE	NY	HAYES GRANGE #871	MI
LA PLATA POMONA GRANGE #10	CO	OAK GROVE GRANGE #873	NY
POMONA GRANGE	PA	STUDLEY GRANGE #1174	MI
MONTANA STATE GRANGE	MT	PORTNEUF GRANGE #229	ID
CLACKAMAS POMONA GRANGE #1	OR	NEBRASKA STATE GRANGE	NE
EAST SPOKANE GRANGE #148	WA	BORING DAMASCUS GRANGE #260	OR
SUNNYSIDE GRANGE #842	OR	WEST OSHTEMO GRANGE #1630	MI
COLONEL HARPER GRANGE #1508	NY	VALLEY GRANGE #1360	PA
THE DELAWARE COUNTY POMONA GRANGE	NY	POMONA GRANGE	MI
TURKEY HILL GRANGE #1370	IL	RIVERTON GRANGE #169	CT
MIDDLETOWN GRANGE #684	PA	ELOCHOMAN GRANGE #426	WA
CONNECTICUT VALLEY POMONA #19	MA	LANE POMONA GRANGE #14	OR
ADA COUNTY POMONA GRANGE	ID	MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE	MI
RED LION GRANGE #1781	PA	WILLIAMS GRANGE #225	MA
PLEASANT RIDGE GRANGE #135	ID	BOXBOROUGH GRANGE #131	MA
SCRUBGRASS GRANGE #1705	PA	NORTH STONINGTON GRANGE #138	CT
KENNETT #19	PA	LIVINGSTON COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #46	NY
NORRIS AND NEVA WOOLLEY	NY	BROAD HOLLOW GRANGE #1806	IL
LINGANORE GRANGE	MD	ENTERPRISE GRANGE #1929	IL
BURNS GRANGE #160	MI	ROSS GRANGE #305	NY
CALVIN CHASE	MA	IRVING GRANGE #377	OR
FREDONIA GRANGE #1713	MI	CENTRAL GRANGE #1216	PA
ST CLAIR COUNTY POMONA #21	IL	CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE	CT
APTOS GRANGE #800	CA	PHIL PRELLI	CT
PATTY CARNCROSS	MI	OHIO STATE GRANGE	OH
ELK PLAIN GRANGE	WA	OREGON STATE GRANGE	OR
SEQUIM PRAIRIE GRANGE	WA	OREGON STATE GRANGE	OR
LEEDY GRANGE #339	OR	CLACKAMAS POMONA GRANGE #1	OR
DANVILLE GRANGE #85	CA	SANDRO SZIMA	DC
DA-FO-DA POMONA GRANGE	NC	GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26	CT
ALASKA STATE GRANGE	AK	CALVIN CHASE	MA
EKONK GRANGE #89	CT	KEVIN KLENKLEN	KS
MORGAN HILL GRANGE #408	CA	JUNE HENDRICKSON	WA

PHYLLIS WILSON	OR	ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY POMONA	NY
KAREN ORTON	NY	MANSFORD GRANGE #710	WA
JAY PFEIFFER	TX	FAYETTE COUNTY POMONA GRANGE	PA
CHIPPER'S CLIPPER	DE	TORCH LAKE GRANGE #1840	MI
LINDA LEWIS	CA	THE DAVID CROCKETT GRANGE #1431	TX
YVONNE MERITT	OK	EDGEWATER GRANGE #355	ID
MARK NOAH	OR	TIETON GRANGE #875	WA
GAYLE HUNT	AK	ROSS GRANGE #2766	OH
MONROE COUNTY POMONA GRANGE	NY	OAK LEAF GRANGE #569	MN
MICA FLATS GRANGE #436	ID	GINGER HILL GRANGE #1549	PA
MOSCOW GRANGE	ID	LIBERTY GRANGE #1749	OH
SOLOMAN HILLS GRANGE	CA	ERIE COUNTY POMONA GRANGE	NY
MONROE COUNTY POMONA GRANGE	NY	HOME GRANGE #129	MI
MEDFORD GRANGE #188	MD	LUMMI ISLAND GRANGE #925	WA
RHODE ISLAND STATE GRANGE	RI	OCEAN SIDE GRANGE #260	NH
SONORA GRANGE #2176	IA	EAGLE VALLEY GRANGE #656	OR
CLARA SCOTT	MT	CRESCENT GRANGE #1123	WA
FIVE CORNERS GRANGE #1000	NY	BROADWAY GRANGE #647	WA
TWO RIVERS GRANGE	AK	ST ANDREWS GRANGE	WA
MAURICE WILES	MD	CARROLL MANOR GRANGE	MD
SCOTT SHERMAN	RI	MINUTEMAN POMONA #16	MA
EDWARD LUTTRELL	OR	PORTLAND GRANGE #2	NY
MAUREEN PRELLI	CT	BARBERTON GRANGE #571	WA
HENRIETTA KELLER	IL	ISLAND COUNTY POMONA #50	WA
CLARKSTON HEIGHTS GRANGE	WA	WYOMING CO POMONA	NY
PLEASANT HILL GRANGE #101	WA	MARION GRANGE #276	WA
ISSAQUAH VALLEY GRANGE	WA	SOUTH BAY GRANGE #250	WA
GARFIELD CO POMONA GRANGE	WA	THOMPSON	OR
BAW FAW GRANGE	WA	CENTERVILLE GRANGE #81	WA
PARK GRANGE #249	NH	SUNNYSIDE GRANGE #129	WA
LIND GRANGE	WA	LAUREL GRANGE #208	WA
COWICHE GRANGE #895	WA	PENNS VALLEY GRANGE #158	PA
LONG BEACH GRANGE	WA	FORD'S PRAIRIE GRANGE #33	WA
TERRACE HGTS GRANGE	WA	SILVER CREEK/ETHEL GRANGE #150	WA
EASTERN NH POMONA GRANGE #2	NH	HAZEL DELL GRANGE #1124	WA
ROCHESTER GRANGE #86	NH	LEWIS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE	NY
MANSON GRANGE #796	WA	COLCHESTER GRANGE #78	CT
MCMILLIN GRANGE #848	WA	RIVERVIEW GRANGE #392	NE
POULTNEY VALLEY GRANGE #533	VT	RAVENA GRANGE #1457	NY
BLACK LAKE GRANGE	WA	NOB HILL GRANGE #671	WA
STEMILT HILL GRANGE	WA	HARSTINE GRANGE #568	WA
SUNBEAM GRANGE #2	MN	CORFU GRANGE	NY
WASHINGTON COUNTY POMONA	PA	WYSAUKING GRANGE #58	PA
ARMSTRONG CO. POMONA GRANGE	PA	YORK GRANGE #253	ID
MOULTONBOROUGH GRANGE #197	NH	WIDE AWAKE GRANGE	NY
SMITH GRANGE #1141	OH	FREDERICK CO POMONA GRANGE	MD
MARSHALLTON GRANGE #1394	PA	STEBEN COUNTY POMONA GRANGE	NY
NAMPA VALLEY GRANGE 131	ID	CHUMSTICK GRANGE #819	WA
FREDONIA GRANGE #545	WA	HAPPY VALLEY GRANGE	WA
PINE RUN GRANGE #250	PA	AVON GRANGE #125	MT
EAST HILL GRANGE #786	WA	SANDERS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE	MT
MCLANE GRANGE #383	WA	ROUND BUTTE GRANGE #126	MT
BEE HIVE GRANGE	WA	PLAINS GRANGE #101	MT
GRAYS RIVER GRANGE	WA	WHITEPINE GRANGE #102	MT
TUALCO GRANGE #284	WA	IDAHO STATE GRANGE	ID
SPENCER GRANGE #1110	NY	HOOKSETT GRANGE #148	NH
WASHINGTON COUNTY POMONA	ME	ROME GRANGE #226	WA
PLEASANT POINT GRANGE #2222	IA	CANYON COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #4	ID
ALLEGANY COUNTY POMONA GRANGE	NY	GRAND VIEW GRANGE #151	CO
PETERBOROUGH GRANGE #35	NH	OHOP GRANGE #812	WA
ROCKINGHAM GRANGE #183	NH	OAK GROVE GRANGE #198	OR
WEST SUFFIELD GRANGE #199	CT	GUIDING STAR GRANGE #1	MA
MOSSYROCK GRANGE	WA	GENOA GRANGE #1998	OH
FIVE MILE PRAIRIE GRANGE #905	WA	OLIVER GRANGE #1069	PA
BLACK HILL GRANGE #1547	TX	CHESTERFIELD GRANGE #83	MA
GREENWOOD GRANGE #363	ME	BAY PATH POMONA #9	MA
EAST ROCKINGHAM POMONA	NH	DUNSTABLE GRANGE #31	MA
FLORA GRANGE #1762	IL	STOCKBRIDGE GRANGE #295	MA

WHATELY GRANGE #414	MA	WINDING GRANGE #525	WV
PETERSHAM GRANGE #95	MA	SOUTH FORK GRANGE #520	WV
NORFOLK POMONA GRANGE #27	MA	RAINBOW GRANGE #527	WV
SUDBURY GRANGE #121	MA	PETERBOROUGH GRANGE NO 35	NH
PITTSFIELD UNION GRANGE #882	MI	MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE	MI
JOHNSON GRANGE #118	WA	NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE GRANGE	NH
AMBOY GRANGE #2102	IA	MARIAN WHETHAM	WA
RAYMOND GRANGE #391	NE	SPRINGWATER GRANGE 263	OR
HIAWATHA GRANGE #1480	NY	BANGOR GRANGE #967	NY
MERIDEN GRANGE #151	NH	JUNE HENDRICKSON	WA
ONEIDA COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #23	NY	JODI KEITH	PA
GOSHEN GRANGE #561	OR	MARK NOAH	OR
CENTRAL UNION GRANGE #559	CA	GAIL SWITZER	PA
MTN COUNTY POMONOA GRANGE #4	CT	CHARLENE ESPENSHADE	PA
CLARKES GRANGE #261	OR	BETSY HUBER	PA
ROSEVILLE GRANGE #1290	PA	SAMANTHA JOHNSON	DC
BRANDYWINE GRANGE #60	PA	MAUREEN PRELLI	CT
BLUE VALLEY POMONA	NE	LEROY WATSON	DC
SEWARD GRANGE	NE	WHARTON VALLEY GRANGE #991	NY
ANTRIM GRANGE #98	NH	AMMADAMAST GRANGE #379	ME
WITTEMBERG GRANGE #2079	IA	JAFFREY GRANGE #135	NH
GUILFORD GRANGE #1036	NC	CLINTONDALE GRANGE	
WALKER GRANGE #786	PA	PEMIGEWASSET VALLE POMONA	NH
ELKHORN V-E GRANGE #393	NE	TED BRYAN	WA
RATHDRUM GRANGE #351	ID	ULSTER COUNTY POMONA GRANGE	NY
NORTON GRANGE #218	MA	CLEAR CREEK VALLEY GRANGE #1843	OH
CLARENCE P RICH	MA	ROME GRANGE #293	MI
BERKS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #43	PA	WATSON GRANGE #1068	PA
HILLSDALE COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #10	MI	HALESTOWN GRANGE #287	NH
VIRGINVILLE GRANGE #1832	PA	CUPERTINO GRANGE #739	CA
BUFFALO GRANGE #1891	IL	HARMONY GRANGE #957	IL
BOONE COUNTY POMONA GRANGE	IL	HONEY BROOK TWP GRANGE #1688	PA
STONINGTON GRANGE #168	CT	ALEXANDER GRANGE 304	ME
FERGUSON GRANGE	NC	JEFFERSON GRANGE #2429	OH
BRYANT GRANGE #791	WA	TAFT SETTLEMENT GRANGE #473	NY
LIBERTY HALL GRANGE	CO	QUEEN CITY GRANGE #30	ME
LAWRENCE GRANGE #533	PA	DENMARK GRANGE #535	NY
WEISSERT GRANGE #419	NE	GEORGETOWN GRANGE #458	MI
WAVERLY GRANGE #369	NE	BRIGHTON PARK GRANGE	WA
NORTH CAROLINA STATE GRANGE	NC	NYAH GRANGE #133	MT
ST. JOHN'S GRANGE	NC	CAPE ELIZABETH GRANGE #242	ME
MESQUITE GRANGE #1654	TX	DRACUT GRANGE #216	MA
HIGHLAND GRANGE #48	MA	SPRINGFIELD GRANGE #523	CA
PATTERSON GRANGE	NC	INDIAN TRAIL GRANGE #2361	IN
LEE TERWILLIGER JR	NY	BUENA VISTA GRANGE #564	CA
BLACKWATER GRANGE #152	NH	CORRIHER GRANGE #627	NC
MATRIMONY GRANGE #771	NC	WALTON GRANGE #1454	NY
MUSCATINE POMONA GRANGE #11	IA	MADONNA GRANGE #535	CA
BLENDON GRANGE #708	OH	BERKSHIRE SOUTH POMONA #25	MA
FAIRVIEW GRANGE #1351	PA	PICKAWAY COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #26	OH
ODIN GRANGE #1254	PA	BEAVERCREEK GRANGE #276	OR
LEROY COMMUNITY GRANGE	IL	HAMPTON FALLS GRANGE #171	NH
SPENCER CREEK GRANGE #855	OR	HAMBURG GRANGE #2103	PA
RENO AND ZELLA FERRANDO	CT	WASHINGTON GRANGE #1949	PA
EKONK GRANGE #89	CT	MOHAWK MCKENZIE GRANGE #747	OR
MONTICELLO GRANGE #1357	NY	JEREMIAH SMITH GRANGE #161	NH
TEXAS STATE GRANGE	TX	SHAVERS CREEK GRANGE #353	PA
WOODROW AND MARJORIE TUCKER	RI	JOHN WATERHOUSE	CT
LA PRAIRIE GRANGE #79	WI	SILETZ VALLEY GRANGE	OR
ROGER AND JUDITH MILLER	VA	KATHRYN RUFF	CT
CHICHESTER GRANGE	NH	WESLEY'S CHAPEL GRANGE #1233	TN
HEMLOCK GRANGE #1497	NY	PROSPECT GRANGE #1235	TN
WESTBROOK GRANGE	NC	STATESVILLE GRANGE #1236	TN
ELMDALE GRANGE #2162	OH	VOLUNTEER GRANGE #1250	TN
NORTH STAR GRANGE #10	AK	DUPONT GRANGE #1253	TN
TYLER COUNTY POMONA #16	WV	SEYMOUR GRANGE #1254	TN
VALLEY GRANGE #519	WV	SHILOH VALLEY GRANGE #1807	IL
OXFORD COMMUNITY GRANGE #526	WV	PIKES PEAK POMONA GRANGE #11	CO

ZUMBRO VALLEY GRANGE #765	MN	TWIN VALLEY GRANGE #657	OH
ACUSHNET GRANGE #285	MA	PLEASANT VALLEY GRANGE #348	OR
GREATER ANCHORAGE AREA GRANGE #11	AK	CLIFTON SPRINGS GRANGE #1042	NY
NORTHLAND PIONEER GRANGE #1	AK	NARCISSE GRANGE #301	WA
JUNE HENDRICKSON	WA	MAYFLOWER NORTH POMONA #40	MA
PINE LAKE GRANGE #1044	IN	LONG BRANCH COMM GRANGE #2072	PA
HARRY AND PALMIRA FERRY	CT	PICKFORD GRANGE #1775	MI
PRICE FORK GRANGE	VA	VALLEY OAKS GRANGE #368	CA
HIGHLAND LAKE GRANGE #87	ME	HARMONY GRANGE #99	NH
KELLEY GRANGE	NY	SIPPICAN POMONA GRANGE #31	MA
DAWSON GRANGE #419	PA	HANOVER GRANGE #206	MA
ROY GRANGE	WA	FRANKLIN COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #39	NY
BRANCH MILLS GRANGE #336	ME	FORKSTON GRANGE #1153	PA
DWANE HEADLEY	WA	OLD RICHMOND GRANGE #675	NC
WOLF DEN GRANGE #61	CT	MAYFIELD GRANGE	NY
EVENING STAR GRANGE #154	VT	CLIFTON SPRINGS GRANGE #1042	NY
EUGENE MCFARLANE	WA	NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #5	CT
SLIPPERY ROCK GRANGE #1441	PA	SULLIVAN COUNTY POMONA GRANGE	NH
BUFFALO GRANGE #1523	PA	CLIFTON SPRINGS GRANGE #1042	NY
NORTH STRABANE GRANGE #1434	PA	WEST MINOT GRANGE 42	ME
MOUNT ALLISON GRANGE #308	CO	FOREST GRANGE #853	PA
MILLERS RUN GRANGE #2020	PA	PLATTE GRANGE #1328	MI
BATH GRANGE	NY	MARY CHARLES HOWE	CT
KNOX STATION GRANGE #579	ME	SCOTT SHERMAN	RI
ROSE GRANGE	NY	WHEELER GRANGE #1416	NY
CUMBERLAND CO POMONA	ME	INDIAN RIVER GRANGE #330	ME
OCEAN VIEW GRANGE #463	ME	SEQUIM PRAIRIE GRANGE	WA
MOSHERVILLE GRANGE #1351	MI	THOMAS CAMPION	CO
SPRINGWATER GRANGE #263	OR	FRANKLIN GRANGE #124	ME
WOODLAND GRANGE #178	WA	NORWELL GRANGE #410	MA
MILTON GRANGE #522	VT	SCITUATE GRANGE #389	MA
PAMELIA PINE GROVE GRANGE	NY	BLOOMINGDALE GRANGE #536	PA
NORTH BARTON GRANGE	NY	OREGON STATE GRANGE	OR
HADDON GRANGE #38	NJ	WALTER SMITH	FL
HIGHLINE STAR GRANGE #429	ID		

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Change to 11.8.5

WHEREAS, the delegates at this Session adopted resolution 708 from the Grange Growth and Development Committee which affects Section 11.8.5 of the National Grange Digest; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange Digest be amended as follows:

11.8.5 Immediately after the Grange has been opened in full form, and before the Master calls down, at the first note of “The Star Spangled Banner,” all will face the flag and give the civilian salute, which is made by placing the right hand open over the heart; then stand at salute during the singing of the first verse of “The Star Spangled Banner.” Any veteran or active military personnel may render the appropriate military courtesies to the flag.

Committee Resolution. Adopted by 2/3 vote under the 24 hour rule

Non-Members in Grange Meetings

WHEREAS, the National Grange has been allowing non-members to view the opening and closing ceremonies of the Subordinate/Community Grange and such permission is not clearly laid out in the National Grange Digest of laws; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Chapter 11 of the Digest of Laws be amended by adding: “11.8.11

Non-members may be allowed to observe the opening and closing ceremonies of the fourth degree and all aspects of a business meeting conducted in the fourth degree. Any member may object to the presence of non-members during balloting on candidates or balloting on accepting reinstatements or demits into Grange membership.”

This covers resolution 610 (OR). Adopted by 2/3 vote under the 24 hour rule.

Ritual Instruction

WHEREAS, instructional ritual meetings are helpful to Grange members to teach the proper way to perform signs, salutations, and various ceremonies of the Grange; and

WHEREAS, modern technology and visual aids would be helpful in demonstrating and teaching these procedures of the Grange; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Chapter 11 Section 11.1.2 of the Digest be amended to add the following sentence to the end of the paragraph: “Members are permitted, with the approval of the State Master, to demonstrate or depict signs, salutations, and various ceremonies of the Grange ritual (with the exception of the exemplification of the first four degrees), by using visual or printed materials, in Grange meetings or Grange-sponsored conferences or training sessions for the education of members.”

This covers resolution 613 (OK and PA). Adopted by 2/3 vote under the 24 hour rule.

Definition of The Word “Trust” Under Grange Law

RESOLVED, that Section 10.12.2 be created to read as follows:

10.12.2 Definitions “Trust”, “In Trust”, “Held in trust”

a) “Trust”, “In Trust”, “Held in trust” shall be defined as monies, accounts or property (real, intellectual or personal) held by the State or National Grange that are managed or administered for an indefinite period of time by the State or National Grange under an affirmative obligation of fiduciary responsibility to preserve capital, generate income, facilitate the organization, re-organization or continuation of an existing Subordinate/Community, Pomona, or State Grange or for other general purposes of the Order as outlined in Chapter 4, Article 11 of this Digest of Laws.

b) “Trust”, “In Trust”, “Held in trust” shall also be defined as monies, accounts or property (real, intellectual or personal) as well as any previously vested equitable rights of interest or any other formal legal interest held by the State or National Grange that are managed or administered for a definite period of time by the State or National Grange under an affirmative obligation of fiduciary responsibility to preserve capital, generate income, facilitate the organization or re-organization of a Subordinate/Community, Pomona, or State Grange within the jurisdiction from which the monies, accounts, property or legal interests were derived or for other general purposes of the Order on behalf of Granges which have surrendered or had their Charter revoked as outlined in Chapter 4, Article 12 of this Digest of Laws.

c) “Trust”, “In Trust”, “Held in trust” shall never be defined or construed at any place in this Digest of Laws to imply or require the formal or implied creation or existence of any: separate legal entity to hold or manage the monies, accounts, properties or previously vested legal interests in question; equitable right or interest that is distinct from legal ownership of the monies, accounts,

property or previously vested legal interests in question, or other formal legal interests in the monies, accounts, properties or previously vested legal interests in question, that are held by the State or National Grange on behalf of and for the benefit of another Grange and that would be recognized or constituted under any local, state or federal law in order for that State or National Grange to faithfully discharge the affirmative obligations of fiduciary responsibility created under Chapter 4, Article 11, Chapter 4, Article 12 or any other Article of this Digest of Laws.

This covers resolution 619 (Board of Directors). Adopted by 2/3 vote under the 24 hour rule.

Use of Alcoholic Beverages

RESOLVED, that the wording of Paragraph 10.11.1 be replaced as follows:

10.11.1 All Granges are prohibited from having alcoholic beverages either in the Grange Hall or on any Grange Property during any Grange meeting, except as provided in Sections 10.11.3. Granges meeting in buildings or on property not owned by the Grange may not allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages during any Grange meeting.

10.11.2 A State Grange may allow the use of alcoholic beverages at Grange sponsored activities by adoption of a policy in the State Grange By-Laws. The individual Grange shall obtain host liquor or liquor liability coverage if it sponsors any events where alcohol will be served.

10.11.3 All Granges may have sealed containers of alcoholic beverages at Grange meetings and activities for use as demonstration aids, gifts, or fundraisers. Such containers shall remain sealed at such Grange meeting or activity.

10.11.4 A State Grange may allow the use of alcoholic beverages at functions sponsored by non-Grange groups that rent or lease Grange property by adoption of a policy in the State Grange By-Laws. Such renters shall provide proof of host liquor or liquor liability coverage.

10.11.5 No Grange on any level shall apply for or hold a liquor license except for temporary permits for special events.

Committee Resolution that covers Resolution 612. Adopted by 2/3 vote under the 24 hour rule.

Definition of Dependents

WHEREAS, Section 4.4.3 of the Oregon State By-Laws states that a family shall consist of a husband and wife and their dependents or a single person and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, dependents are defined as children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren under the age of 23 who live as a member of the same household or in absence due to illness, education or military services; and

WHEREAS, some families provide professional care and services for family members over the age of 23; and

WHEREAS, this financial hardship or burden could result in lost membership to those families that most need the Grange family support, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange amend Section 4.6.5 (B) of the digest by adding the words "of any age" so that it reads as follows: "A family shall consist of a husband and wife and their dependents, or a single person and their dependents. Dependents are defined as children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, foster, adopted or step- children

under the age of 23, who live as a member of the same household or in absence due to illness, education or military service. Legal dependents of any age shall be considered part of their legal guardians' family."

This covers resolution 601. Adopted by 2/3 vote by second vote at the 2009 Annual Session.

National Grange Intellectual Property

WHEREAS, the National Grange is the owner of multiple incontestable U.S. trademark registrations for the GRANGE Trademarks, including GRANGE (U.S. Registration No. 1,872,429), NATIONAL GRANGE (U.S. Registration No. 1,817,894), NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY (U.S. Registration No. 1,816,827) and the Grange Logo (U.S. Registration No. 1,824,368), and has been using the GRANGE Trademarks since 1876 in connection with a variety of goods and services related to farms, farming, agriculture and other goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the intellectual property owned by the National Grange is vital to maintaining the growth and good public reputation of the Order; and

WHEREAS, the intellectual property of the Order is every bit as much a critical asset as other tangible assets and property, (such as financial investments, contractual arrangements, real estate and personal property, etc) that are necessary to conduct business at all levels of the Order; and

WHEREAS, the legal duties of any trademark owner, such as the National Grange, include monitoring and protecting its marks against misuse, unauthorized use, infringement and dilution, and ensuring proper usage of the Grange Trademarks; and

WHEREAS, there are no references in the National Grange Digest of Laws as to the usage, protection and appropriate management of the intellectual property assets that are registered, owned and maintained by the National Grange; and

WHEREAS, in order for the National Grange to protect itself against the increasing number of legal challenges to, commercial infringements on, and unauthorized uses of the registered names and logos owned by the National Grange, a clear policy for the management of these assets for the exclusive benefit of the Order at all levels, needs to be adopted as part of the National Grange Digest of Laws, and

WHEREAS, it is increasingly apparent that a lack of a clear policy to manage the use of these assets could create confusion among local Granges and Grange members as to how these assets should be properly used, invite additional legal challenges, commercial infringements and unauthorized uses of these assets, unnecessarily increase legal costs to the National Grange, endanger the good public reputation of the Grange, and eventually, even result in the permanent loss of the use of the National Grange's registered trademarks and logos for the exclusive benefit of the Order; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a new Article, "ARTICLE XVIII: OWNERSHIP, MAINTENANCE, PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND LEGALLY AUTHORIZED USES FOR THE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS, LOGOS, COPYRIGHTS AND OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE" be added to Chapter 4 of the National Grange Bylaws to read:

4.18.1: Ownership and Management of Registered and Non-Registered Grange Trademarks, Logos, Trade Names, Copyrights and Other Intellectual Property associated with the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.

a. All registered and non-registered trademarks, logos, copyrights and other intellectual

property related to, used by and associated with, the Order are the legal property of the National Grange, including the following incontestable trademark registrations: GRANGE (U.S. Registration No. 1,872,429), NATIONAL GRANGE (U.S. Registration No. 1,817,894), NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY (U.S. Registration No. 1,816,827) and the Grange Logo (U.S. Registration No. 1,824,368) (the “Grange Intellectual Property”). All Grange Intellectual Property is held by the National Grange for the furtherance of the general purposes of the Order

b. For the purpose of this section the traditional names of the officers of Granges of the various Divisions of the Order as well as any other names, phrases or terms associated with any or all of the various Divisions of the Order, including the Assembly of Demeter, that are found in the various National Grange copyrighted printed ritual instruction materials or that are found in any other works of the Order are the intellectual property of the National Grange and may only be used for the furtherance of the general purposes of the Order.

c. All authority and responsibility for developing and publishing guidelines, rules, regulations or prohibitions related to Grange intellectual property, including decisions related to the management, defense, lease, sale, license, transfer or abandonment of such intellectual property shall be vested in the National Grange board of directors and shall be implemented by the National Master only; provided that no specific agreement to lease, sell, license, transfer or abandon any intellectual property related to, and associated with, the Order shall be made other than in writing.

4.18.2: License to use the Grange Intellectual Property.

a. Chartered State Granges, Pomona Granges, Subordinate Granges, Junior Granges as well as the Assembly of Demeter may generally use Grange Intellectual Property for purposes that further the general purposes of the Order subject to specific usage guidelines, rules, regulations or prohibitions that may be adopted by the National Grange Board of Directors or the National Grange delegate body.

b. Chartered State Granges, Pomona Granges, Subordinate Granges, Junior Granges as well as the Assembly of Demeter may use the traditional names of the officers of Granges of their Division of the Order as well as any other names, phrases or terms associated with the various ritual ceremonies of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry that are owned by the National Grange, only in accordance with the instructions found in the various National Grange copyrighted printed ritual instruction materials and only for purposes that further the general purposes of the Order.

c. No chartered State Granges, Pomona Granges, Subordinate Granges, Junior Granges as well as the Assembly of Demeter or any officers thereof, may license, lease, sell, barter, or transfer legal authority for the future use of Grange intellectual property to any third party, private individual or Grange member as part of any transaction, including the sale or lease of real Grange property and/or the sale, lease, or transfer of any commercial concession, without first receiving the written permission of the National Master and subject to the terms of a written agreement approved by the National Master. For the purpose of this section “third party” shall include without limitation any partnership, cooperative, corporation, social club, informal membership society, or business enterprise that may be wholly or partially owned or controlled by a chartered Grange of any Division of the Order but that nevertheless has an independent legal existence separate from that charter.

4.18.3 No license to use the Grange Intellectual Property by individual Grange members.

a. Individual Grange members in good standing may not use, by virtue of their Grange membership, Grange intellectual property for any personal monetary gain or personal com-

mercial purposes without first obtaining, in writing, a license to use such property from the National Grange.

b. Nothing in this section shall prohibit individual Grange members from owning, wearing, displaying, collecting, utilizing or reselling individual pieces of personal property which depict marks or logos that are part of the Grange Intellectual Property, so long as these items were acquired through legitimate means, for their personal use and enjoyment.

This covers resolution 602; adopted by a 2/3 vote by second vote at the 2009 Annual Session.

Sale, Encumbrance or Transfer of Real Property

Resolved, that Article XI Section 4.11.1 be amended to read as follows:

4.11.1 Sale of Real Property by Subordinate or Pomona Granges – No Subordinate or Pomona Grange may sell any real property owned by said Subordinate or Pomona Grange except upon the following conditions, completed in the following order:

(A) A written notice shall be sent to the Master and Executive Committee of the State Grange having jurisdiction advising of the intent to invoke the procedure included in Article XI of these By-Laws to sell real property. Such notice shall contain a summary of the reasons for the proposed sale. The State Grange Master will send acknowledgement of receipt of the notice to the Subordinate or Pomona Grange.

(B) Upon receiving acknowledgement of receipt from the State Grange Master, a meeting will be held by said Subordinate or Pomona Grange to set date, time and location for a meeting to consider the sale of the real property. Notice will be sent in writing to all members in good standing of said Grange at their last known address, with a copy to the State Master, not less than 15 days before and not more than 90 days before the date of the meeting.

(C) On the date and time of said meeting, a vote will be taken on the motion to sell the real property. The vote must be adopted by 2/3 majority of the members in good standing of the Subordinate or Pomona Grange who are present and voting.

(D) A copy of the minutes of the above meeting shall be sent to the State Master. If the vote is in the affirmative, then a copy of an appraisal of the value of the property and the name and address of any/all licensed real estate agent(s), escrow company(ies), or lawyer(s) who will handle the sale of said real property, if such a representative is retained, shall be sent to the State Master. A decision of the Subordinate or Pomona Grange to sell the property does not take effect unless approved by written consent of the Master and Executive Committee of the State Grange having jurisdiction over the said Subordinate or Pomona Grange. Such consent shall not precede the vote of the membership as provided for in Section C above.

(E) When an offer to purchase is received, the membership will vote to accept or reject the offer.

(F) If the membership approves the purchase offer, a copy of the terms will be sent to the State Master for State Executive Committee approval before a contract is signed.

(G) When a sale of real property is concluded, the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange shall account for the net proceeds of the sale received at the time of settlement and shall remit all but the sum of \$1000 of such net proceeds to the State Grange having jurisdiction to be held in trust for the said Subordinate or Pomona Grange. The selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange shall assign all right, title, and interest to the net proceeds of the sale to be paid after the date of settlement to the said State Grange having jurisdiction; and the existence of such assignment shall be reflected in any note or other evidence of indebtedness executed by the purchaser and in any mortgage or deed of trust securing the payment of such indebtedness. Pursuant to the required assignment, the note or other evidence of indebtedness shall require the purchaser to make all payments in satisfaction of the indebtedness directly to the said State Grange having jurisdiction.

(H) The State Grange shall hold the net proceeds of the sale as provided for in Section (G) above for the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange for the following purposes:

1. Financing the purchase of real property for use as a Grange Hall;
2. Financing the purchase of real property on which to construct a Grange Hall;
3. Financing the construction of a Grange Hall; or
4. For use in accordance with the general purposes of the Order.

Use of the funds held in Trust must be approved by the Executive Committee of the State Grange having jurisdiction over the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange. All earned income derived from such Trust shall be the property of the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange, provided, however, that the said State Grange in its sole discretion may be paid up to ten percent (10%) of such earned income as a trustee's fee for administering the Trust.

(I) In the event that the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange surrenders its charter or otherwise becomes inactive, the provisions of Section 4.12.1 of these By-Laws shall be applicable; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Article XI Section 4.11.2 (C) be amended to read as follows:

(C) If the Master and Executive Committee of the State Grange consent to the encumbrance, then in that event the procedures for notice, resolution, meeting and vote contained in Sections 4.11.1 (B) through (F) of these By-Laws shall be applicable except that such procedures shall be applicable to an encumbrance of real property rather than sale of real property; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Article XI Section 4.11.3 (C) be amended to read as follows:

(C) If the Master and Executive Committee of the State Grange consent to the transfer, then in that event the procedures for notice, resolution, meeting and vote contained in Sections 4.11.1 (B) through (F) of these By-Laws shall be applicable except that such procedures shall be applicable to transfer of real property rather than sale of real property.

This resolution is presented by the Board of Directors. Adopted by 2/3 vote on first reading at the Special Session of the National Grange held prior to the 143rd Annual Convention.

Adopted by second vote at the 143rd Annual Convention

Real Property Owned By Granges Which Surrender Their Charter In A Consolidation

RESOLVED, that Section 4.4.3 be amended to read as follows:

4.4.3 (A) (2) Real property owned by Granges which surrender their charter in a consolidation:

(a) May be sold by the dissolving Granges and the proceeds there from remitted to the State Grange to be held in trust according to Article XI, Section 4.11.1 of these By-Laws. The trust fund shall be transferred to the name of the surviving Grange of the consolidation or to other Granges as part of a plan that must be submitted to and approved by the State Grange Executive Committee having jurisdiction, for uses in accordance with the general purposes of the Order as established in Article XI, Section 4.11.1 of these By-Laws.

(b) May be included in the proposal for transfer to the surviving Grange.

This resolution is presented by the Board of Directors. Adopted by 2/3 vote on first reading at the special session prior to the 143rd Annual Convention. Adopted by 2/3 vote at Second reading at the 143rd Annual Convention.

E-Membership

WHEREAS, the National Grange currently has three classes of membership; regular, associate and supportive; and

WHEREAS, a membership based upon internet access would have three primary benefits: 1st to increase awareness of the Grange to the general public, 2nd to provide a gateway into regular membership and potential new Granges, and 3rd to provide an additional revenue stream to keep regular dues affordable; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange Digest be amended as follows:

“4.6.14 E-Membership. Membership in the National Grange and in a State Grange as an E-Member may be attained by individuals who may have an interest in the advancement of agriculture, improvement of rural life, and policies and principles of the organization. Membership is gained by completing the approved on-line form and paying the annual dues for this class of membership.

(a) E-Members will receive all information and benefits via electronic means. The National Grange shall provide electronic publications and benefits. The E-Member shall not be entitled to vote on matters of Grange policy or participate in National Grange sponsored contests that are designed for regular Grange members only.

(b) E-Membership may be terminated by the Executive Committee of the National Grange for improper conduct as a Grange member, illegal action, or conflict of interest.”

Renumber remainder of section.

“4.8.1 (B) Subordinate Granges – The minimum application fee for membership in a Subordinate Grange shall be three dollars (\$3.00) for an individual and six dollars (\$6.00) for a family, except that a State Grange may reduce the fee for Junior Grange members who are graduating into a Subordinate Grange, which shall be paid to the said Subordinate Grange. A State Grange shall waive the application fee for E-Members joining a Subordinate Grange.”

“4.8.2 (F) E-Members – The annual dues for E-Membership will be twelve dollars (\$12.00).

1. Dues will be divided as follows: \$4.50 to the National Grange, \$7.50 to the State Grange.
2. National Grange will forward the dues collected on a quarterly basis to each respective State Grange. The National Grange portion of the E-Membership dues collected shall be allocated to member services and/or revitalization and organization of Community Granges.

3. All transfer of dues within the Grange shall be by electronic means unless both the sender and receiver agree to other alternatives.”

Renumber remainder of section.

This covers resolution 607 (OR). Adopted on first reading by 2/3 vote; second reading at 2010 National Convention

Thank you to all the members who served on this committee and for their guidance as we discussed these resolutions. Even though there were times we didn't necessarily agree on an issue we remembered our obligation as Grange members and deliberated with calmness and respect for each other's opinions. I cannot thank Joyce Billquist enough who served as the Secretary for this committee. The knowledge and experience that Ed Luttrell, Randy Lewis, and Rusty Hunt brought to the committee was greatly appreciated.

Fraternally,

Arthur Merrill
Joyce Billquist
Ruth Gray
Rick Grotten
Oliver Orton

Betsy Huber
Linda Lewis
John Valentine
Dan Bascom

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

<u>RES#</u>	<u>MASTER</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
518	Sherrod	TN	KEEP DRUGS OUT OF WATER SUPPLY	Transferred from Education & Health	Adopt
701	Gray	FL	ALTERNATE TO THE VOTING SIGN OF THE ORDER	Growth & Development	Adverse
702	Hendrickson	WA	NATIONAL CONVENTION ASSESSMENT	Growth & Development	Adverse
703	Hendrickson	WA	REPEAL NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION ASSESSMENT	Growth & Development	Adverse
704	Bostwick	KS	CHANGE NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION HOSTING DISBURSEMENT DATE	Growth & Development	Adverse
705	Billquist	MT	PERTAINING TO NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION	Growth & Development	Adverse
706	Pompper	NJ	NATIONAL GRANGE RECOGNITION OF SCOUTING	Growth & Development	Adopt
707	Pompper	NJ	RECOGNITION OF BOY SCOUT AND GIRL SCOUT TROOP OF THE YEAR	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
708	Owens	ME	HAND OVER HEART SALUTE AT GRANGE MEETINGS	Growth & Development	Adopt as Amended
709	Johnston	MI	USE OF THE GRANGE NAME	Growth & Development	Adopt
710	Huber	PA	80 YEAR CERTIFICATE	Growth & Development	Adopt
711	Hagen	CO	COMMUNITY SERVICE TITLE	Growth & Development	Adverse
712	Chase	MA	HISTORIC PRESERVATION OF GRANGE HALLS	Growth & Development	Adverse
713	Brumbaugh	OH	GRANGE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY WORKSHOPS	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
714	Brumbaugh	OH	GRANGE TITLE	Growth & Development	Adverse
715	Brumbaugh	OH	HONORARY JUNIOR GRANGE PLEDGE	Growth & Development	Adopt

716	Hunt	AK	GRANGE SPONSORED EMERGENCY INFORMATION CARDS	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
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POLICY STATEMENT

The Grange Growth and Development Committee supports the Master's call for Grange members to invite their friends to join the Grange, and to meet the challenges in our Communities by promoting our principles and partnering with other Organizations.

We encourage all members to assist their State Grange leadership as they work to meet the pledge made at this session by their State Master to promote Grange growth. National Grange is aiding State Granges in this endeavor through the Grange Growth Summit program.

Leaders at all levels of the Grange should be empowered by the State Master to work on growth within the Grange and the State Master needs to lead without interfering. An important growth tool is goal setting with every member having an opportunity to set and work to achieve that goal.

One of the most difficult but important jobs of a State Master is to make the tough decision of not appointing or removing an individual from a committee whose behavior or attitude would be detrimental to the committee's success.

We encourage Granges to use a mentoring program for new members. These new Grangers and their mentors should be teamed up as early as possible to allow them to have interaction prior to a meeting. Hopefully in this way new members will feel welcomed and will be encouraged to take an active part.

The Digest and By-Laws are the set rules that we must follow if we are going to have the proper structure to encourage growth within our organization. But it is important to remember that these rules are also fluid and can be changed by utilizing the proper procedures.

Another way to achieve growth and train our present and future leadership is by asking the leadership team of the National Grange for assistance. Granges can go online to the National Grange website and download all the user-friendly tools that have been placed there for all members to use. If a Grange does not have access to this electronic media, they can call the National Grange office and the staff will ably assist them.

In today's society and economic climate, Granges should look outside of their walls and work with other like-minded organizations. Not only the traditional groups we work with, such as the FFA and 4-H, but also groups, such as the Boy and Girl Scouts of America, Boys / Girls Clubs or Big Brothers, and Big Sisters. There are many civic minded organizations we could also partner with like libraries, Rotarians or Kiwanis Clubs. Granges can also contact local colleges or groups to bring in programs about energy conservation, energy generation, or other diverse topics relevant in their communities.

Granges can also go back to our roots and work with local garden clubs and nurseries to hold training classes for the non-agriculturalists moving into our towns. Granges have great opportunities, such as allowing their halls to be used for a farmers market, food bank, or an emergency shelter. Granges should take advantage of Extension Service activities and county fairs to promote the Grange principles and policies.

Granges could work with their local EMS agencies to formulate, print, and distribute emergency information cards; this would be an excellent way to reintroduce a Grange to the community.

It is important that Granges take pride in what they are doing and have accomplished in the past. We should not be afraid to show our “Granger Pride” by sending the information to media outlets. We should wear our “Granger Pride” on our sleeve or a piece of jewelry. As we celebrate our Grange heritage by rededicating the National Building on its 50th anniversary on June 26, 2010. We should all be proud Grangers. This covers resolutions 707(NJ), 713(OH), 716(AK), portions of the National Masters address and Internal Report.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Hand Over Heart Salute At Grange Meetings

WHEREAS, by act of Congress and direction of the Chief of Staff of the United States Army, soldiers are authorized to use either the hand salute or the hand over the heart as they wish; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that each level of the Grange allow its current military and Veteran members to use either the hand salute or the hand over the heart to honor the American flag as allowed by their particular branch of the military.

This covers resolution 708 (ME).

National Grange Recognition of Scouting

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America will be celebrating its 100th anniversary of Scouting in America; and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouting program teaches the same values as the Grange; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange adopt a resolution at its 2009 annual session recognizing the values of Scouting and the impact that it has had on America’s youth for 100 years; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange provide the National Boy Scouts of America with a copy of the above resolution and resolve to work hand in hand with Scouting in promoting the Scouting and Grange programs.

This covers resolution 706 (NJ).

Recognition of Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troop of the Year

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts programs teach the same values as the Grange; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange create a program to recognize a National Grange Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troop of the Year at each annual session of the National Grange.

This covers resolution 707 (NJ)

Use of the Grange Name

WHEREAS, misuse of the Grange name for commercial gain is offensive to all Granges and Grange members; and

WHEREAS, the National Grange is charged with protecting the Grange name and supporting its membership; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that all State Granges support the National Grange in its efforts to protect the Grange name, and urges the National Grange to keep State Granges informed of their work and progress, in this area.

This covers resolution 709 (MI).

80 Year Certificate

WHEREAS, there is currently no State or National Grange Certificate honoring members with 80 or more years of continuous Grange membership, only a letter by the National Master; and

WHEREAS, these members have paid dues and worked for the good of the Grange for 80 or more years; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange develop a Certificate to honor members for 80 and 85 years of continuous Grange membership.

This covers resolution 710 (PA).

Keep Drugs Out Of The Water Supply

WHEREAS, doctors, pharmacists, and until recently, even the federal government long advised patients to flush unused pharmaceuticals down the toilet; and

WHEREAS, trace amounts have begun showing up in the nation's water supply and it used to be just flush and forget it, but we've learned in recent years that that can have an impact on the environment, on drinking water, and on aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the U.S. Geological Survey announced that tests of 139 streams in 30 states showed trace amounts of common pharmaceuticals like Prozac, codeine, antibiotics, and drugs for high blood pressure and diabetes. The Environmental Protection Agency so far has found no immediate risk to humans, but suspects that drug contamination is causing ecological harm; and

WHEREAS, the best course of action would be to have the availability of local take-back facilities for unused medicines for proper and safe disposal;

WHEREAS, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy is now urging consumers to seek out "drug take-back programs" instead of flushing their pills. Unfortunately such programs are rare, since it is illegal for patients to give their controlled substances to others, even if it is just to get rid of them. Take-back programs for controlled substances require the supervision of the Drug Enforcement Administration or other law enforcement authorities to ensure that the drugs don't fall into the wrong hands, and

WHEREAS, for those lacking take-back options, the federal government recommends mixing the drugs with an "undesirable substance" like coffee grounds or kitty litter, entombing them in sealed containers, and throwing them in the trash. OR by placing the pills in a disposable water bottle, fill with water, shake and dispose of in the trash, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange develop a program to be used by local Granges

to educate communities about the proper and safe disposal of unused pharmaceuticals. This covers resolution 517 (TN).

My sincere thanks go out to the members of my committee for their help, advice, and insight as we diligently worked on these resolutions. I would like to extend a special thanks to the committee secretary for his work in recording the actions of our committee. Amber Mills, granddaughter of Donna and Maurice Wile, also sat in on our meetings and was an excellent asset. SSGT Doug Baldwin assisted this committee on one of our resolutions and gave us the information we needed.

Fraternally,

Don Billmire, Chairman
Pete Pompper, Secretary
Barb Narvel
Donna Wiles

Phyllis Wilson
Jack Hendrickson
Henrietta Keller
Nancy Swainston

LABOR & JUDICIARY COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

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801	Wilson	OR	PRIVATIZE FANNIE MAE AND FREDDIE MAC	Labor & Judiciary	Policy Statement
802	Wilson	OR	REGULATION OF CREDIT DEFAULT SWAPS (CDS)	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
803	Hendrickson	WA	SECRET BALLOT FOR UNIONIZATION OF COMPANIES	Labor & Judiciary	Combined with 804(MD)
804	Wiles	MD	RETAIN THE RIGHT TO A SECRET VOTE FOR UNIONS	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted by Committee
805	Scott	WI	U.S. – ALL IMMIGRATION	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
806	Bostwick	KS	FLEXTIME IN THE WORKPLACE	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted by Committee
807	Billmire	ID	THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS (SECOND AMENDMENT)	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
808	Groves	IN	UNION PICKETING	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
809	Groves	IN	PENALIZING PREDATORS	Labor & Judiciary	Policy Statement
810	Groves	NJ	CREDIT CARD SOLICITATION	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
811	Owens	ME	GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
812	Huber	PA	INSURANCE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted by Committee as Amended
813	Huber	PA	SOCIAL SECURITY INFORMATION	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
814	Wiles	MD	DENY GOVERNMENT FUNDING	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
815	Wiles	MD	CELL PHONES IN PRISON	Labor & Judiciary	Policy Statement
816	Orton	NY	CREDIT CARD INTEREST RATES	Labor & Judiciary	Policy Statement
817	Orton	NY	CHILD IDENTITY THEFT	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted by Committee
818	Orton	NY	TOY SAFETY LAW	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted by Committee
819	Orton	NY	CONSUMER PRODUCTS SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
820	Orton	NY	LAW OF THE SEA TREATY	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

During the current economic crisis, the Grange urges the President of the United States and Congress to carefully review and oversee any economic bailouts of banking institutions and corporations, and make transparent the actions of the Federal Reserve, in these bailouts. Also, the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) known as Fannie Mae and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC) known as Freddie Mac were part of the bailout and these Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSE) are private corporations that take taxpayer funds to make up for bad loans. The Grange supports privatization of these two entities to make them operate from their own income and not at taxpayer expense. Investigation and possible prosecution of individuals involved in the collapse of the banking and credit industry should also be pursued. This crisis will affect citizens in every walk of life, from the farmer, factory worker, office worker, and CEO, alike. The government should extend regulation and oversight of the banking and credit industries to ensure protections for the American Taxpayer.

The credit crisis has spilled into the manufacturing and retail sectors of the economy. Companies unable to get credit are closing operations and selling off assets and the American worker is caught in the crunch. Consumer credit during this economic crisis will also be affected. With the looming possibilities of large scale personal bankruptcies, the Grange urges lawmakers to regulate credit card issuers, to make terms in easy to understand language and in large print on credit card terms and agreements and restrict interest rates to not more than five percent above the prime lending interest rate. The Grange supports limits on fees and charges imposed on responsible cardholders who pay their entire balance in full each month.

The Grange, in addressing the needs of laborers and employers, seeks an equitable balance between the two, fostering economic growth and prosperity for all. The Grange has long supported an individual's right to work for a reasonable wage in a safe environment. The Grange would implore businesses to make provisions to secure employees' pension benefits and all moneys paid into retirement plans to prevent them from being lost by beneficiaries in the event of a future merger or liquidation of the company. The Grange calls for the shift of private pension responsibility to the Federal Pension Benefit Guarantee Plan only when the retirees are affected by a total closure of the business. The Grange will continue to seek workplace safety regulations, which protect workers while not placing excessive financial burden on employers.

While free trade agreements have opened markets to United States products, some U.S. companies have found the cost of labor and operations to be more favorable in other countries. The Grange encourages the state and federal governments to provide incentives to companies to retain domestic jobs.

The Grange supports the efforts of the federal government to increase border security to stem the tide of illegal immigration, drug trafficking and the potential for foreign terrorist attack, while streamlining the process for legal immigration to allow employers in agriculture and other business sectors to secure workers. The National Grange encourages balancing the needs of employers versus the security of the United States. The Grange urges federal authorities to make tools to check the authenticity of immigrant worker documents more available to employers. Since tools to determine status are somewhat limited due to recent court rulings, employers (especially in agriculture) who unknowingly hire illegal workers should not be fined. However, those who knowingly hire illegal workers should be punished and required to pay all associated medical care costs of those illegal

workers using medical services instead of hospitals having to write off these expenses. When streamlining the immigration process, those here illegally regardless of nationality should not be given amnesty or given an advantage over those immigrating by proper channels. The Grange urges Congress to reform immigration laws to provide for an orderly, well regulated flow of immigrants to meet the needs of our country and insure a stable workforce.

The Grange supports testing to meet United States Consumer Products Safety Commission standards for imported products. Manufacturers and distributors should have a system and resources to track their products in case of recall. However, consumers should also remember the old adage of “Buyer Beware.”

Our American way of life continues to be threatened on a number of fronts. Rural law enforcement agencies are confronted with crimes heretofore associated only with urban areas. Organized gang activities, identity theft and the manufacturing of illegal drugs, especially methamphetamine, are all now a part of the rural crime landscape.

The nation’s law enforcement agencies face the challenge of dealing with crimes as diverse and far reaching as domestic and environmental terrorism, corporate and consumer fraud and electronic and internet crimes. Law enforcement faces problems of criminal offenders continuing crimes while in prison through the use of cell phones and other technology. The Grange supports Safe Prisons Communications Act of 2009, an amendment to the Communications Act of 1934. This bill authorizes the director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons or the chief executive officer of a state to petition the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to permit installation of devices to prevent, jam or interfere with wireless communications within the boundaries of a specific prison or correctional facility, requiring correctional facilities to consult with public safety agencies and service providers prior to seeking such authority from the FCC.

The internet has made it easier for child predators to contact children. The Grange supports maximum penalties for those convicted in child predator cases. The Grange supports victim advocacy programs in rural communities, many of which are ill prepared to address complex issues such as domestic violence and the rights of victims of violent crimes.

With the pervasive news coverage of some these violent crimes, the criminal gains celebrity status for their crime. The Grange urges news media to report the crimes and not give the criminal credibility and celebrity status by interviewing and giving suspects and those charged with the crime a public forum rather than allowing them make their case in the court system and not the court of public opinion.

Our judicial system continues to be overburdened. The Grange supports efforts to restore fairness to the civil judicial system at both the state and federal levels through reform of tort, liability, and malpractice law. The Grange encourages the use of alternative dispute resolution such as arbitration to reduce the judicial caseload. The Grange urges the U.S. Supreme Court Justices to base decisions on a strict interpretation of the Constitution.

Many federal, state, and local laws and regulations enacted in the past have become outdated, thereby creating a hindrance to development. The Grange urges legislative bodies and regulatory agencies at all levels of government to periodically review and purge outdated laws and regulations.

Progress, in technology and transportation, has linked nations more closely than ever before, with global trade and migration. The Grange encourages Congress to seek a fair and level playing field in global trading when entering into international trade agreements and treaties. Global treaties need to be carefully overseen by Congress to ensure that the sovereignty of the United States is not diminished or surrendered. The United States must not

cede the property rights guaranteed its citizens under the Constitution to a global authority or world organization.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE ACTION

Retain the Right to a Secret Vote for Unions

WHEREAS, the secret vote is the most precious right that we have in this country; and
WHEREAS, to form a union there must be a vote taken by secret ballot to approve the union by the workers; and

WHEREAS, the Employee Free Choice Act (Card Check) would take away that secret vote and replace it with a petition process; and

WHEREAS, this would allow workers to be coerced into signing for the union by union organizers or threatened by the employer to not sign; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange opposes the Employees Free Choice Act and strongly urges that the process to form a new union continue to be by secret ballot.

This covers resolution 804 (MD) and 803(WA).

Flextime in the Workplace

WHEREAS, studies by the United States Department of Labor show that various flex-time programs allow for a more balanced and productive workplace; and

WHEREAS, various flextime programs provide tools that can be used in a variety of ways during tough economic times to offer an alternative to layoffs, to reduce employee commutes, fuel expenses, and keeping employees engaged and committed as the business focus changes and budgets are tightened; and

WHEREAS, a demand for flexibility increases, workplaces that offer, or remain open to, workplace flexibility programs can have a strategic advantage in attracting and retaining quality employees of all ages and stages of life; and

WHEREAS, several companies large and small already implement various flextime programs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau created the "Flextime Options Project" in 2003; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau states their goals are to:

- Build national awareness of the benefits of flexible workplace solutions
- Encourage business leaders to develop or expand workplace flexibility practices, policies and programs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau defines workplace flexibility as encompassing the full range of options that offer ongoing benefits to organizations, employees and communities:

- Scheduling of Hours (e.g., flextime, compressed work weeks, shift flexibility)
- Amount of Hours (e.g., part-time, job sharing)
- Place of Work (e.g., telecommuting, seasonal relocation)
- Management of time (e.g. meeting-free flexibility, report late)
- Organization of Career (e.g., off-and-on ramp, leaves of absence)
- Other Time Off (e.g., personal days, floating holidays, vacation buying);

Therefore be it RESOLVED, that the National Grange support the "Flextime Options

Project,” as developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Women’s Bureau in 2003 in order to build national awareness of the benefits of flexible workplace solutions and encourage business leaders to develop or expand workplace flexibility practices, policies and programs by encompassing the full range of workplace flexibility options that offer ongoing benefits to organizations, employees and communities, such as

- Scheduling of Hours (e.g., flextime, compressed work weeks, shift flexibility)
- Amount of Hours (e.g., part-time, job sharing)
- Place of Work (e.g., telecommuting, seasonal relocation)
- Management of time (e.g. meeting-free flexibility, report late)
- Organization of Career (e.g., off-and-on ramp, leaves of absence)
- Other Time Off (e.g., personal days, floating holidays, vacation buying);
This covers resolution 806 (KS).

Insurance Identification Numbers

WHEREAS, identity theft through stolen or lost Social Security Numbers is a significant issue in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare program continues to use a person’s Social Security Number as the primary identification number; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government has acknowledged this issue by prohibiting states from using Social Security Numbers on drivers’ licenses or vehicle registration cards; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support passage of legislation mandating the Medicare system to use an identification number other than the individual’s Social Security Number.

This covers resolution 812 (PA).

Child Identity Theft

WHEREAS, parents are required to obtain Social Security numbers for their children before they are allowed to claim them as dependents on Federal and State taxes; and

WHEREAS, adults are allowed to put a freeze on their credit by contacting the three major credit reporting companies, paying a fee, and creating a special security code. The credit freeze must be properly released by the security code before a credit application can be approved; and

WHEREAS, legal custodians currently are not allowed to freeze children’s information so the child does not become aware their identity has been stolen until much later when they apply for a student loan, credit cards, etc.; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange supports legislation that would allow children’s Social Security numbers and other private information to be frozen by the child’s legal custodian in the same manner as adults in order to protect them from identity theft.

This covers resolution 817 (NY).

Toy Safety Law

WHEREAS, Grange delegate action in 2008 approved the need for all toys manufactured off shore to be inspected because so many popular toys were being made with dangerous paints and using other dangerous materials; and

WHEREAS, last summer Congress passed a law in the wake of a rash of recalls to toys contaminated by lead, six of these produced by Mattel Inc. and Fisher-Price, its Amherst, New York based subsidiary; and

WHEREAS, the new law sets strict limits for lead, lead paint and chemicals known as phthalates and requires third party testing for companies, big and small, that make products geared for children 12 and under; and

WHEREAS, this law mandates that all toy making, clothing manufacturers and other companies making products for young children must submit samples to independent laboratories for safety tests; and

WHEREAS, the Consumer Product Safety Commission recently, granted Mattel's request to be exempt from mandatory third-party testing and allowed the use of Mattel's own labs for testing, which gives them an unfair advantage; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange supports rescinding the exemption from third-party testing given to Mattel by the Consumer Products Safety Commission regarding strict limits for lead, lead paint and chemicals known as phthalates for that company's products geared for children 12 and under, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports requiring all companies to comply to the full extent of the law, setting strict limits for lead, lead paint and chemicals known as phthalates, and the mandatory third party testing of products geared for children 12 and under.

This covers resolution 818 (NY).

PRESENT POLICY

Wages, Employment, and Unions

1. The National Grange supports the repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act of 1930. Until that time, the threshold exemption level of the Act should be indexed to the rate of inflation.
2. The Grange opposes the establishment of a commission to draft a Farm Worker Bill of Rights. We believe any future legislation that would impose a 40-hour workweek, that places a limitation on hours that can be worked in a single day, or that requires time and a half pay for overtime on a farming operation would be counter productive and against the best interests of farm workers and farm employers.
3. The National Grange supports realistic OSHA work place safety regulations. We believe it should be both the employer and employee's responsibility to follow safe work practices. Any employer who is cited by OSHA for violating work place safety regulations should be allowed a reasonable period of time in which to correct that violation before being penalized. The National Grange believes that any OSHA reform legislation should exempt farms having fewer than 10 full-time employees. We further support any exemption from new health and safety standards for farms having fewer than 10 full-time employees.
4. The National Grange favors lifting the bans in the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1943, which outlaws work that is done in the home in embroidery, gloves and mittens, handkerchiefs, buttons and buckles, jewelry and clothing.
5. The National Grange supports allowing individuals who are collecting unemployment compensation to decline offers of employment without losing their unemployment benefits so long as they are enrolled in an accredited job training or vocational

education program provided that enrollment in these programs in no way extends the time that an individual can collect these benefits.

6. The National Grange supports legislation that requires all employers to pay at least the minimum wage regardless of whether the employees are tipped. However we also support legislation to allow younger teens (ages 13-15) to be given the privilege of working a maximum of ten hours a week for less than the minimum wage. After a probationary period, established by the employer, the younger teen should be paid the minimum wage.
7. The National Grange is in agreement with the concept of the proposed legislation that would establish the “Living Wage Responsibility Act” to provide a living wage above the poverty level for all eligible employees working on federal contracts.
8. National Grange opposes the Employees Free Choice Act and strongly urges that the process to form a new union continue to be by secret ballot. We favor binding arbitration clauses in labor contracts covering public sector employees.
9. We support the right of individuals to join any union and collectively bargain in good faith, as long as employees are not required to join or contribute money to any union or organization that claims to represent their interests in the work place. We further support mandatory restrictions on the use of compulsory union dues for political, charitable or social causes without the paying members consent.
10. The National Grange supports any legislation that allows employers to hire replacement workers during a strike.
11. The National Grange support the “Flextime Options Project,” as developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Women’s Bureau in 2003 in order to build national awareness of the benefits of flexible workplace solutions and encourage business leaders to develop or expand workplace flexibility practices, policies and programs by encompassing the full range of workplace flexibility options that offer ongoing benefits to organizations, employees and communities, such as
 - Scheduling of Hours (e.g., flextime, compressed work weeks, shift flexibility)
 - Amount of Hours (e.g., part-time, job sharing)
 - Place of Work (e.g., telecommuting, seasonal relocation)
 - Management of time (e.g. meeting-free flexibility, report late)
 - Organization of Career (e.g., off-and-on ramp, leaves of absence)
 - Other Time Off (e.g., personal days, floating holidays, vacation buying)

Sentencing

1. The National Grange supports imposing stiff mandatory sentences in criminal cases. We believe using plea-bargaining should be restrained. We further believe that convicted criminals should be responsible for restitution to their victims and society. The National Grange believes that persons who are convicted of rape, murder, or any three-felony offenses should serve their full sentence without benefit of parole or furlough. We support the death penalty for premeditated crimes ending in death. We further support the death penalty for all citizens who are convicted of military espionage in either peacetime or war.
2. The National Grange favors classifying the importing, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution of all illegal drugs as felonies under state and federal statutes. A mandatory prison sentence should be imposed upon conviction for any felony drug offense. Upon a second conviction for any felony drug offense, the penalty shall be a 30-year

minimum sentence without the possibility of parole.

Protection for Victims and Jurors

1. We support increased protection for those who serve on juries. We strongly believe all jury deliberations should remain confidential without any publication or disclosure. The National Grange also supports legislation to forbid public disclosure of information about criminal investigations that could be detrimental to the case of either the prosecution or the defense until after the case's final disposition.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to assure that victims and witnesses of violent crimes must be notified in writing at least 60 days before any and all hearings in which the person who has been convicted of that crime seeks release or a change in release status from either a prison or a mental institution.
3. The National Grange supports legislation to protect the language interpreter with an interpreter/client privilege just as lawyers have attorney/client privileges.

General Law

1. The National Grange opposes unreasonable federal regulations that would force the closing of jails, or that would require excessive expenditures of state funds.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would make the unauthorized entry or use of a computer facility or illegal tapping of phones a felony.
3. The National Grange recommends that manufacturers of goods and machinery be exempt from all lawsuits, fines, liabilities and other civil penalties if they meet all the state and federal regulations that were in effect at the time the product was built or produced. The National Grange also supports the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act or similar legislation which prohibits civil actions against a manufacturer or seller of food or a trade association for any injury resulting from a person's consumption of food including weight gain, obesity, or any associated health condition.
4. The National Grange supports federal legislation to prohibit gambling on the Internet. We further support legislation to make the unsolicited e-mailing or posting of advertisements for pornographic websites and materials both a criminal and civil offense in order to control the availability of pornographic material to children.
5. The National Grange recommends that there be no changes in the laws that currently ban the production and sale of marijuana in the United States.
6. The National Grange actively promotes and supports legislation, which will create a new Twelfth Circuit Court of Appeals to meet the needs to the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, Hawaii and the Pacific Territories.
7. The National Grange believes that state law, not federal law, should have jurisdiction over "hate crimes" and state law should be responsible for assigning specific punishment for these crimes.
8. The National Grange believes that cell phone use by inmates should be banned at all state and federal correctional facilities. Additionally, prison visitors should be required to surrender all cell phones at the facility entrance until their departure.

Firearms and the Second Amendment

1. The National Grange believes that the United States does not need any more gun control laws until the present laws are strictly enforced. We oppose legislation restricting the rights of citizens to bear arms for protection of their families, property and common defense, with the exception of assault weapons manufactured and designed specifically for military use. We favor severe and mandatory sentences, including incarceration, for anyone using firearms while committing a crime.
2. The National Grange supports laws prohibiting the sale of stun guns to the general public.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would prohibit the manufacture and sale of toy guns that are replicas of real guns.

Bankruptcy

1. The National Grange favors tightening bankruptcy rules, including additional stiff penalties for bankruptcy fraud to combat planned bankruptcies and other abuses of the law.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that will require companies or businesses that file for bankruptcy to ensure that the employees who are owed compensation are the first secured creditors.
3. The National Grange supports legislation, which would classify producers having an ownership interest in agricultural products as secured creditors in bankruptcy cases.

Civil Law

1. The National Grange supports efforts to restore fairness to the civil judicial system at the state and federal levels through reform of tort, liability, and malpractice law. We favor a civil law system in which the plaintiff, if they lose, will be responsible to pay the defendant's legal and court costs when the court rules the lawsuit was frivolous or superfluous. We further support limiting the amount of contingency fees that are paid to lawyers as well as putting caps on excessive jury awards for economic and non economic damages, such as pain, suffering, and bad faith. We support placing limits on the findings of joint and several liability and clearly established standards of bad faith action. We support incentives for alternative dispute resolutions, such as arbitration.
2. The National Grange believes that Legal Services Corporations and local legal aid bureaus should not receive any federal funding for nuisance or harassment suits against farmers. Correspondingly, the National Grange believes individuals should be prohibited from initiating so called "citizen suits" civil litigation against farmers and others for environmental violations without demonstrating any direct loss or damage to initiate such a suit.

Children and Family Law

1. The National Grange supports revising federal regulations so that the parent/child relationship created by court action is recognized for the purpose of receiving government assistance.
2. The National Grange supports all efforts to increase the public's awareness and sen-

sitivity to child abuse and the existence of child predators in our society. The Grange strongly advocates that all child abuse laws and child predator laws be reviewed, re-vi-sed, and enforced so as to secure the safety and well being of all children to the fullest extent of the law while remaining aware and protective of the rights of innocent fami-lies and individuals. The National Grange supports legislation that seeks to equalize sentencing of perpetrators of sexual abuse without regard of the familial relationship of perpetrator to the child or children. We further support legislation that imposes greater notification requirements on convicted child predators including immediate notification to authorities of address changes, community notification of the presence of a convicted child predator, a national child predator registry on the internet listing the current address of all convicted child predators and substantially increased penalties for failure of convicted sex offenders to comply.

3. The National Grange favors adoption reforms that would consid-er the best interests of the child in all proceedings, investiga-tions, or rulings by the courts.
4. The National Grange supports requiring that the biologi-cal father's name, if known and proven, be included on the child's birth certificate for purposes of determining the father's identi-fi-cation, the child's right to Social Security, and other support, which should be provided by the father.
5. We believe that in the situation of a broken home, both parents should be required to support their children.
6. The National Grange supports policies that grant legal surrogate decision-making authority to grandparent caregivers in the absence of respon-sible parents or stepparents. We support legislation to provide financial, social and legal supports as needed to grandparent caregivers raising grandchildren. We further support legislation to protect the visitation rights of grandparents. In the case of a child who is legally removed from the parents, the grandparents should be considered first as custodian of that child.

Consumer Protection Law

1. The National Grange supports legislation that would entitle consumers to a free annual credit report and allow the consumer more control over who has access to credit reports.
2. The National Grange favors a law requiring identification of all products that are foreign-made or assembled. National Grange supports rescinding the exemption from third-party testing given to Mattel by the Consumer Products Safety Commission regarding strict limits for lead, lead paint and chemicals known as phthalates for that company's products geared for children 12 and under. The National Grange also supports requiring all companies to comply to the full extent of the law, setting strict limits for lead, lead paint and chemicals known as phthalates, and the mandatory third party testing of products geared for children 12 and under.
3. The National Grange urges Congress to enact laws protecting an individual's right to privacy and to protect the confidentiality of all personal records from fraudulent use. The National Grange supports a federally funded public service program to educate individual consumers regarding privacy geared toward reporting how to report suspected identity theft activities. We also support stronger penalties for those convicted of identity theft including full restitution to all victims. National Grange supports legislation that would allow children's Social Security numbers and other private information to be frozen by the child's legal custodian in the same manner as adults in

order to protect them from identity theft.

4. The National Grange supports allowing nonprofit organizations to make continued “incidental use” of copyrighted music.
5. The National Grange seeks legislation requiring any private company not associated with government programs to disclose that information in large print, or verbal explanation during the application process.
6. Regulations should be enacted that require companies to give consumers the option of mailed billings or statements without surcharges.
7. The National Grange encourages companies to print product expiration dates in the mm/dd/yyyy format.

Banking and Consumer Credit Law

1. The Grange supports legislation to enable the family farmer or the family farm cooperative to borrow money at low interest rates.
2. The National Grange supports strong independent banks in lieu of further concentration of banking and financial powers in interstate and nationwide firms. Banks should be prohibited from purchasing insurance companies, selling securities, and entering the field of general commerce. We believe that any banks allowed to write and sell insurance must be subject to all applicable state insurance resolutions and laws as administered by State Insurance Commissions. We also believe that any banks that are allowed to offer or underwrite securities must be subject to regulation by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.
3. The National Grange supports legislation requiring credit card companies to discontinue the use of “pre-approved” in their solicitations.
4. The National Grange supports the continued independence of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and opposes the merger of the NCUA with any other government financial institution insurance fund.
5. The National Grange urges state and federal banking regulators to better monitor fees charged by banks, reduce and eliminate those that are unfair, and provide customers with protection against aggressive banking business practices. We seek passage of legislation to eliminate unreasonable delays in the availability of the funds from a deposited check. We support banking regulations that will require all banks to honor government checks that are presented to them for payment.

Insurance Law

1. The National Grange supports the efforts of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies to strengthen and improve the insurance guarantee funds.
2. The National Grange supports the current McCarran-Ferguson Act. We support state jurisdiction over the insurance industry. We support the establishment of a federally funded terrorist reinsurance program.
3. The National Grange believes that the National Flood Insurance Program should operate on an actuarially sound basis. Furthermore, Natural Flood Insurance Programs should not be available for properties that have suffered multiple losses where steps were not taken to better protect the property from further damage.
4. The National Grange urges state and federal regulators working with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) to establish the necessary safeguards

that will make it possible for the viatical industry to serve viators and investors in a responsible way.

5. The National Grange opposes legislation that would require insurance companies to comply with “The Community Reinvestment Act, 12 U.S.C. 2901, commonly known as “CRA”, or any other legislation which would attempt to accomplish the same.
6. The National Grange supports passage of legislation mandating the Medicare system to use an identification number other than the individual’s Social Security Number.

Immigration, Aliens, and Migrant Workers

1. The National Grange supports the strict enforcement of the immigration laws of the United States and further supports regular review of these laws to be sure they are meeting the needs of the United States. We support increased efforts by the U.S. government to patrol our borders preventing the illegal entry of aliens into our nation, including the assignment of military forces to assist civilian agencies in enforcing our border control policies. We support a prohibition on general amnesty for all illegal aliens of any nationality. We suggest that proof of citizenship and/or legal registered immigration be required for receiving government benefits. We also recommend that federal authorities be allowed to detain illegal immigrants and foreigners with expired visas for the duration of their investigation and processing, and be deported if immigration status is determined to be illegal.
2. The National Grange supports continuation of the legal program to bring guest workers into the United States on a temporary basis for the harvesting of seasonal crops. We support reform of current foreign guest worker programs to allow for expedited processing of foreign guest workers employed in the agricultural sector as well as reform of the H2A program so that the wage costs to farmers when hiring under the H2A program more closely reflects the prevailing local wage. We further support an amendment to the Migratory and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act recognizing that a crew chief is an independent contractor who is responsible for the general care of his crew when it does not conflict with the requirements that are assigned to the landowners.
3. Agricultural employers should not be responsible for checking the authenticity of migrant and seasonal worker documentation at the time of employment. Employers who unknowingly hire illegal aliens should not be taxed or fined.
4. The National Grange supports legislation or a Constitutional amendment to require that children born in the United States must have one parent who is already a United States citizen in order to automatically receive citizenship and government benefits.
5. The National Grange recommends that current immigration laws be revised to establish a practical and enforceable guest worker visa program. The National Grange also supports the expansion of the H1B visa program for professionals to enter the United States in order to provide services in sectors where there is a documented need.

Commercial Trade Policies

1. The National Grange believes that opening trade between nations is a far better way to increase international understanding than limiting trade because of differences in ideologies. We will actively support programs to increase the competitive position of U.S. companies in world markets.

2. The National Grange supports actions to assure that the Panama Canal remain open to U.S. shipping.
3. The National Grange encourages purchasing American-made products and recommends that all levels of government be required to buy American made products whenever feasible.
4. The National Grange supports a fair and equitable textile import policy that would provide assistance to the domestic industry, would be beneficial to the producers of fibers and would not be price inflationary to the United States' consumers.
5. The National Grange supports policy to remove trade, financial, and travel restrictions to Cuba.
6. The Congress of the United States should take steps to preclude the sale or lease of properties and/or businesses within the limits of the United States or any of its possessions to any foreign purchaser or leaser whose country prohibits the sale or lease of properties and/or businesses to any U. S. business or citizen.
7. The National Grange calls upon the U.S. government to adopt coordinated policies combating trade distorting practices instituted by foreign governments, such as currency manipulation and unilateral repudiation of sovereign debt, especially in those cases where it becomes more difficult for U.S. farmers and manufacturers to sell their products in overseas markets. The National Grange also urges the U.S. Treasury Department to reverse its previous position and support domestic investors and bond holders of Argentine sovereign debt in all U.S. court cases brought by those bondholders.

Foreign Aid

1. The National Grange urges the U.S. government to extend foreign aid only after careful investigation, or in cases of natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, droughts, or floods. We further support: a) basing the amount of foreign aid given on the humanitarian need and a greater use of agricultural products in lieu of cash transfers; b) closer monitoring of International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans and encourage making loans to Third World countries that are designed to provide self-help; c) taking into consideration the recipient countries' present foreign debt, repayment schedule, and record before providing them with new financial assistance; d) keeping in mind the food and financial needs of domestic programs when Congress considers the appropriate amount of foreign aid. We recommend that countries needing financial assistance should apply to the United Nations so that all countries would share in the economic assistance to developing countries. The National Grange supports legislation requiring any country receiving U. S. foreign aid purchase products made or grown in the United States.
2. The National Grange favors canceling all U.S. aid and supplies to foreign countries that take, hold, or kill American citizens, refuse to recognize international law, willingly permit the production and shipment of illegal drugs into our country, or allow the takeover of U.S. embassies or any property belonging to the U.S. government.
3. The National Grange supports permitting Third World countries to reduce their foreign debt in exchange for the establishment of permanent rain forest preserves.
4. The National Grange encourages agricultural research and development in and for Third World nations.

International Relations and the United Nations

1. The National Grange supports a friendly relationship with the Republic of China (Taiwan).
2. The National Grange supports a positive non-military program promoting the democratic form of government as a means to roll back or contain dictatorial forms of government
3. The National Grange supports actions by our government and other governments in condemning terrorist acts and supports efforts to secure the release of all hostages.
4. The National Grange supports a U.S. foreign policy that outlines a clear-cut position that only allows American troops to be committed to foreign countries in turmoil when it is in the strategic interest of the United States and adequate safeguards are provided. We support the United States' involvement in United Nations' military operations including funding such military operations only with the approval of Congress.
5. The National Grange urges that the United Nations be used as a forum to keep the issue of chemical warfare before the international community until a treaty is signed by all nations that look to the effective banning of this type of warfare.
6. The National Grange strongly supports extending and maintaining the protections of U.S. Constitutionally guaranteed individual rights under all international law. We urge the United States government not to ratify or sign agreements or treaties with the United Nations or any other international body that rights restrict or limit individual rights guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution or Bill of Rights or that impose taxation on the citizens of the United States.
7. The National Grange supports legislation to formally rescind the President's signature approving the Statute of the International Criminal Court made on behalf of the United States and to take necessary steps to prevent the International Criminal Court's establishment and prohibit the use of appropriated funds for the establishment or operation of the Court. We further urge the U.S. government to use all of its diplomatic and political influence to protect U.S. Service persons or U.S. citizens and nationals from being subject to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.
8. The National Grange supports legislation that rejects any merger, treaty, or agreement with any country that infringes on the sovereignty of the U.S. Constitution.

National Defense

1. The National Grange supports international agreements leading toward a balanced reduction and eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons. To complement this objective, we further support the development of strategic and civil defense systems.
2. The National Grange recommends that the federal government negotiate with foreign countries for compensation for the military defenses that we provide to their countries.
3. The National Grange supports a strong effective military. We urge Congress to appropriate sufficient funding including adequate pay for all branches of the military. We support policies which will re-establish effective security and intelligence capabilities.
4. The National Grange supports the continued presence of United States Armed Forces in South Korea.

My sincere thanks go out to the members of my committee for their help, advice and insight into the deliberations. The committee would like to thank David T. Linn of AT&T, Jim Tetreault, and Leroy Watson for their input. I would like to extend a special thanks to the committee secretary, James Taylor, for his work in recording the actions of our committee.

Fraternally,

Scott Sherman
Jimmy Taylor
Bob McFarland
Trudie Hagen
Connie Johnston

Brad Keeton
Kymm Scott
Maureen Prelli
Sharon Croucher
Jay Pfeiffer

TAXATION & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

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902	McFarland	CA	ELIMINATE THE ESTATE TAX	Taxation & Transportation	PRESENT POLICY
903	Wiles	MD	EXEMPT FARMS FROM ESTATE TAXES	Taxation & Transportation	ADOPTED
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POLICY STATEMENT

Taxation

The Grange supports taxing policies that levy both personal and business taxes based on ability to pay. We believe in and support a graduated income tax because we believe that most citizens have a greater understanding and respect for government when they have a part in providing revenue for the programs of government. Taxes should not be punitive or excessive. We feel that the tax deduction for sales tax in states that do not have a state income tax should continue beyond the current sunset provision.

The Grange has a long and consistent history in support of sound fiscal policy. We believe budgets should be balanced. We recognize there are times or circumstances to support deficit spending and the creation of debt, but that must be the result of a careful evaluation of the need and what delay will cost in the future, or how the delay will impact the current need. However, we have a grave concern about the tremendous increase in the Federal deficit and the impact this will have on future generations.

We seek a simpler set of tax regulations. Previous federal tax reform efforts have resulted in more confusion. Many millions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of hours are spent each year to file tax returns. This is an often overlooked cost of our tax collection system.

For most farmers, and small business owners, their farms and businesses are their largest retirement assets. New tax policies are required to assure that our current generation of family farmers and business owners are allowed to retire with dignity and that their productive resources are transferred to a new generation of family farmers and small business owners. Until such time as the estate tax is completely abolished, we support passage of legislation such as HR 3524 titled the Family Farm Preservation and Conservation Estate Tax Act, which would exempt farms and ranches from federal estate taxes after the death of its owner, as long as their ownership stays in the family.

We support user taxes with revenue used for the intended program. We support oversight/review of programs to eliminate spending on programs that have lost their value. Programs, once authorized, should receive adequate appropriations. We oppose non-funded mandates and using government funding to force compliance of a program that is not the result of a legislative support.

In all our dealings with government, and in our own fiscal policy actions, Grangers must follow and advocate for sound principles of fiscal policy.

Transportation

Throughout our history, the Grange has had a vested interest in transportation issues. Although there are many different modes of transportation in existence today, the Grange supports the continued improvement of all of our existing transportation systems. This has to occur if we are to efficiently and economically improve our current standard of living. The National Grange supports increased funding and training at all levels of pertinent governmental agencies to detect and deal with potential acts and devices of terrorism in all methods of transportation.

The National Grange continues to support federal surface transportation legislation. The adoption of transportation legislation that would benefit rural America is part of the National Grange's landmark Blue Print for Rural America.

Several states have enacted laws requiring drivers to slow down and move over while passing an emergency vehicle that is stopped with lights flashing. We believe this should become law in all 50 states.

We believe inexperienced drivers need more protection from distraction such as cell phones, texting or 'tweeting' devices or other such peripheral equipment. State laws should be enacted with the aim of eliminating distractions for all drivers but with special emphasis on the young and inexperienced.

National Grange supports efforts to improve highway traffic safety by urging stronger penalties for serious violations.

The Federal Highway Trust Fund (FHTF) is running out of money and is notifying some states that their allotments from this fund will be greatly reduced. We urge Congress to rescue the FHTF from its fiscal problems in the current session of the U.S. Congress.

We have grave concerns regarding the health and competitive position of our nation's railroads. Consolidation of railroad companies has resulted in tremendous concentration of railroad resources in the hands of a very few companies.

It is encouraging that the railroads recognize their responsibilities to serve the public interest by providing reliable and cost competitive bulk commodity transportation. However, talk is not enough. The Grange became involved at the national level more than a century ago in response to the need for a more effective public/private partnership between

the railroads, their customers, and society as a whole, for which we must continue to advocate.

We urge immediate passage of HR 624, the Airline Passenger Bill of Rights Act of 2009, or similar legislation that will address excessive flight delays and the needs of passengers held on-board aircraft for extended periods of time.

The National Grange realizes the United States has the best postal service in the world. However, we urge the postal service to vigorously pursue ways to keep the same quality service and to institute procedures to maintain the highest level of safety for the employees and patrons throughout the entire system. We strongly urge the continuation of the current six day postal delivery service.

The crucial link in providing universal postal service throughout rural America is our nation's rural mail carriers. We pledge our support to fight to maintain rural free delivery and to defend the interest of the dedicated mail carriers that make rural free delivery a fact of life for millions of rural Americans.

Each Grange should be encouraged to provide periodic regional child restraint seat safety checks or checkpoints. Granges should also strongly consider partnering to provide 55 Alive classes or similar programs.

The National Grange encourages the development of fuel-efficient vehicles to reduce our dependency on foreign oil suppliers. High-efficiency diesel engines are available now and should be offered to U.S. consumers as they are in other countries. Hybrid vehicles present a potential danger to emergency responders. Special training should be provided to avoid the potential dangers. Automobile manufacturers should be encouraged to minimize hazards from hybrid vehicles to emergency responders.

The profits generated by the oil companies can and should be used to find and fund alternative sources of energy for the country. Therefore the National Grange opposes any attempt to impose a windfall profits tax. We encourage the development of increased refining capacity to avoid extreme price increases for fuel during natural disasters.

This policy statement covers 906 (OK), 910 (TN) and portions of the Master's Annual Address.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Exempt Farms From Estate Taxes

WHEREAS, the death of a farm owner is the time when it is most likely that the farm will be lost to development and estate taxes increase this possibility by forcing a sale to pay the estate taxes; and

WHEREAS, current law will phase out ALL federal estate taxes entirely in 2010, but in 2011 the tax will revert to pre-2001 levels; and

WHEREAS, HR 3524, the Family Farm Preservation and Conservation Estate Tax Act would exempt farms and ranches from federal estate taxes after the death of its owner, as long as their ownership stays in the family; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange support the passage of legislation that would exempt farms and ranches from estate taxes as long as their ownership stays in the family and the farm stays in productive agriculture

This covers resolution 903 (MD).

PRESENT POLICY

Taxation

Personal Income Tax

1. The National Grange supports developing a simpler and fairer federal income tax, written in precise, plain, and understandable language. We further support simplifying the language that is used in the government's instruction pamphlets for filing individual income taxes.
2. The National Grange favors a restoration of the full income averaging procedure. We especially favor continuing five and 10-year averaging of personal pension funds for income tax purposes.
3. The National Grange favors continuing income indexing.
4. The National Grange supports preferential income tax deductions for two-wage earner families by thus removing the "Marriage Penalty" from the U.S. tax code.
5. The National Grange supports deducting state sales tax from federal income tax returns.
6. The National Grange supports a 100 percent tax deduction for all qualified charitable contributions for all federal taxpayers.
7. The National Grange supports equalizing the mileage rates for volunteer services and medical transportation with mileage rates permitted for businesses for tax purposes.
8. The National Grange favors income tax credits for those families who care for their elderly or handicapped relatives who otherwise would become residents of a nursing home. We support legislation to allow a tax deduction for all federal taxpayers for Long Term Care Insurance premiums. We further support exempting all benefits paid under Long Term Care insurance policies from all income taxes.
9. The National Grange favors making Social Security benefits completely exempt from personal income taxes. The National Grange further supports legislation that would prohibit any state from imposing an income tax on the pension income of any individual who is not a resident of that state.
10. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation of all current tax deductions allowed on real estate mortgages.
11. The National Grange supports legislation to allow voluntary contributions of \$1.00 to be solicited on all federal income tax forms to fund our national parks. The Grange supports permitting an individual to designate \$1.00 on his/her federal income tax return for the USA Olympic Program.
12. The National Grange supports a 100% federal income tax credit to law enforcement officers for purchasing their own bulletproof vests.
13. The National Grange supports allowing a total of \$500.00 in income tax credits for political contributions.
14. The National Grange supports expanding medical flexible spending accounts to allow employees or retirees to set aside part of their pre tax pay or pension. We further recommend that any unspent medical flexible spending account balance be rolled into the next year's account or refunded to the employee or retiree as taxable income.
15. The National Grange supports a 100 percent federal income tax deduction for all medical insurance.
16. The National Grange supports the elimination of the cap on Social Security taxable wages.

Business, Investment, Capital Gains, and Inheritance Taxation

1. The National Grange supports legislation to permit farmers the method of depreciation that is most suitable to the uncertainties of their businesses. We support depreciation schedules for agricultural capital assets that accurately reflect the useful life of those assets. In particular, we support a depreciation schedule of 15 years for single purpose farm structures (confinement houses, etc.). Other real property should have a depreciable usable life of no more than 25 years. We further urge Congress and the IRS to revise codes to eliminate the reporting of government funded environmental and conservation mandated cost-share monies as income to the recipients.
2. The National Grange supports the reinstatement of the Investment Tax Credit or accelerated depreciation with a \$100,000 value eligibility limit.
3. The National Grange supports preferential treatment for capital gains income. We support the abolishment of the capital gains tax. Until then, we support the concept of indexing the basic value of an asset, so that only the real gain and not the inflation value is subject to the capital gains tax. We further support excluding capital gains up to \$500,000 from sale of agricultural lands from taxable income. We further support excluding all of the proceeds on the sale or exchange of qualified farmland development rights to a tax-exempt conservation organization from all capital gains taxes. We further support, allowing farmers to invest any un-excluded capital gains from the sale of real and personal property into tax-deferred accounts, such as IRAs.
4. The National Grange strongly believes that employees should not be liable for unremitted income or FICA taxes if the employer properly withheld those taxes from the employee's pay but then failed to make the proper payments to the IRS or the state.
5. We oppose the use of income tax write-offs from farming to reduce the amount of taxes that are owed on the earnings of non-farm businesses or professions.
6. The National Grange opposes the enactment of any federal tax on securities transactions.
7. The National Grange supports the uniform application of all timber depletion allowances in the tax code to all timberland owners regardless of the size of their timberland holdings.
8. The National Grange supports legislation abolishing the federal estate tax, especially for small business and agriculture as long as their ownership stays in the family and the farm stays in productive agriculture. We support retaining current provisions for a full stepped up basis on inheritances. Until the federal estate tax is repealed we favor using the current use value as the basis for the property for estate tax purposes. The National Grange further supports a personal exemption from federal estate taxes of five million dollars per person until the federal estate tax is repealed.
9. The National Grange supports federal tax credits or tax deductions to growers or grower co-operatives that build or own ethanol production facilities.
10. The National Grange supports any legislation prohibiting employers from borrowing from an employee's pension fund. The National Grange supports legislation that would place employees or former employees who had invested in their employers stock as a part of their retirement plan to be placed ahead of payments to other creditors.
11. The National Grange supports action by the U.S. Department of Justice and State Attorneys General to actively prosecute and imprison cooperative executives and others suspected of illegal actions resulting in a cooperative declaring bankruptcy. Any ille-

gal gains obtained via these prosecutions should be returned to the assets of the cooperative, along with criminal fines imposed on cooperative executives as punishment.

Sales, Excise Taxes, and Internet

1. The National Grange opposes the enactment of any national sales tax or any form of value added tax.
2. The National Grange supports the current federal law prohibiting any charges or taxes on e-mail or the use of the Internet and supports legislation to make prohibition of Internet or e-mail taxation permanent. The National Grange supports legislation that would prohibit mail order houses or Internet retailers from being forced to collect state sales taxes on mail order or Internet purchases from out of state purchasers. We further support legislation prohibiting a federal sales or use tax being imposed on mail order or Internet sales.
3. The National Grange supports the current levels of taxation of tobacco products at the federal, state and local level.

Taxes - General

1. We support the present tax treatment of agricultural cooperatives.
2. The National Grange supports a federal prohibition on the imposition of any tax or fee on water that is drawn from private wells, lakes, and irrigation ponds.
3. The National Grange urges Congress to maintain tax policies that will preserve the ability of this nation to find and produce domestic oil and gas resources. We support the current oil import fee and the domestic crude oil fee.
4. The National Grange seeks a permanent tax exemption for income that is raised by non-profit organizations such as the Grange. Until then, we oppose IRS guidelines that classify corporate sponsorships as advertising revenue, and thus, unrelated business income for non-profit organizations. We further support legislation to raise the minimum gross income filing requirements for non-profit organizations.
5. We support a further strengthening of the "Taxpayers' Bill of Rights". We support placing the burden of proof on the IRS - not the taxpayer - under due process of law and providing a course of action in which the taxpayer could defend himself and recover his costs and attorney fees should the IRS fail to prove its case. We support giving the taxpayer the right to record all interviews with IRS people and to set a reasonable time and place for the meeting. We support prohibiting the IRS from sending out bills that are in excess of owed taxes, except for interest and penalties.
6. The National Grange supports the rights of local governments to use tax-exempt municipal financing without further limitations being imposed by Congress.
7. The National Grange supports requiring a two-thirds vote of each House of Congress to increase taxes. We further support federal legislation to deny jurisdiction or explicitly limit the authority of the U.S. Supreme Court or any lower courts of the United States to instruct or order a state or political subdivision to levy or increase taxes as a remedy for any civil litigation.
8. The National Grange opposes any sale of information from individual tax returns to any agency or individual.

Transportation

Highway Policy, Interstate System and Federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF)

1. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation and reauthorization of the Highway Trust Fund. We support removing the Highway Trust Fund from the federal budget. The National Grange also supports the creation of a Federal Mass Transportation Trust Fund from user tax revenues separate from the Highway Trust Fund and highway user taxes. The National Grange opposes increasing the federal gasoline tax for purposes other than the Highway Trust Fund. We further support federal legislation to remove federal fuel tax from fuel used to operate farm trucks. The National Grange will oppose any proposal that would change the concept of dedicating all federal motor fuel taxes to the HTF to be used for highway and highway related purposes, including legislation that would use a federal motor fuel tax increase to reduce federal budget deficits. We oppose impounding HTF monies as a means of enforcement of federal laws.
2. The National Grange favors full compensation for homes, farming operations and businesses when displaced by eminent domain for highway right-of-ways.
3. The National Grange will lobby for additional federal funds to be allocated to affected states for increased maintenance of the NAFTA roadways. Additionally, the National Grange calls for increased border surveillance to ensure that commercial vehicles and drivers based in Canada and Mexico are in full compliance with the United States' motor vehicle equipment standards and requirements.
4. The National Grange supports reauthorization of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA) in 200We particularly support including the following provisions:
 - a. Additional funding for core safety programs that is are properly directed to lifesaving roadway safety projects.
 - b. Provisions to reduce administrative delays at federal and state agencies responsible for approving highway planning.
 - c. New financial incentives for States to obligate new congestion relief funding for projects that reduce highway bottlenecks.
 - d. Full funding by the Congress for all "guaranteed" highway funds in future Transportation Appropriations bills.
 - e. Full enforcement of additional new fuel tax fraud provisions and additional credit for the Highway Trust Fund for revenue enhancements related to the new tax collection on ethanol.
5. The National Grange supports streamlining environmental requirements to expedite the completion of transportation congestion-relief projects in order to reduce pollution while promoting efficient land use and road capacity in areas designated for growth. We also support redirecting the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program (CMAQ) to fund new passenger and freight inter-modal hubs in highly congested areas to serve trains, trucking companies and bus companies. Grants should be provided to improve intercity Amtrak stations and/or to construct public freight transfer stations that combine bus service, rapid transit and other transportation services, which operate on flexible schedules as a way of reducing traffic congestion and improving the environment.
6. The National Grange recommends that the interstate highway system adopt the use of

a uniform transponder system for all-open road tolling nationwide.

7. The National Grange opposes the sale of any toll roads or bridges
8. The National Grange supports legislation standardizing the numbering of highway exits to correspond with the mile markers on all interstate highways.

Highways – Non-Interstate

1. The National Grange urges government agencies to give a high priority to conserving land for agricultural purposes when considering the location and design of highways including planting trees and shrubs along highways in places where such growth could stop soil erosion and aid in snow control.
2. The federal-aid system of highways should be continued as a federal-state partnership with more flexibility in the states' use of money for safety, construction, and maintenance of state highways, including construction of local bridges that are built to the community's needs as determined by county and local road commissions. The National Grange will cooperate with the American Highway Users Alliance and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials in urging Congress to ensure adequate resources and attention for rural roads and bridges.
3. To promote driver safety the National Grange recommends that the Highway Safety Administration require surface highway reflectors on the center lane divider of all two-way highways on the federal-aid highway system and that the federal Department of Transportation adopt standards to ensure a better and more durable road surface.
4. The National Grange supports expansion of rural intercity bus, air and rail services.
5. The National Grange supports funding to construct adequate parking or rest areas to allow commercial and other drivers to stop and rest. Funding should also be provided for adequate policing and/or better lighting for the present and future parking areas for the safety of those who use these facilities.

Highway Safety

1. The National Grange supports the enforcement of weight limits on vehicles operating on our highways
2. The National Grange will work with the federal Department of Transportation and the National Safety Council to develop truck regulations requiring the use of brushes and/or flaps that will channel the water down reducing the spray, and prohibiting the use of triple trailer trucks on all federal highways.
3. Railroad crossings in rural areas should have ripple strips installed in road surfaces on approaches to crossings, be clear of brush and other vision-inhibiting material and be equipped with flashing warning lights.
4. The National Grange supports standards requiring that all motorcycle, bicycle, and moped riders wear protective helmets, and wear clothing or have an apparatus to make them more visible to other motorists. We further recommend that federal standards for motorcycle helmets be raised to provide the best protection and visibility.
5. The Grange supports adequate government resources for an effective federal Highway Safety Program.
6. The National Grange supports requiring all motor vehicles to have a rear bumper or undercarriage guard coming within 16 inches of the ground.
7. The National Grange urges automobile manufacturers to include the following modifi-

cations on their new models by 2010: uniformly located door latches; louder and more visible interior direction signal indicators; spare tires of equal quality and size as the regular tires; uniform tow points; light sensitive sensors that would automatically turn on automobile headlights at a certain degree of darkness; daytime running lights; at least one mirror on the right side of a vehicle to reflect an undistorted view of images and a curvature type mirror to pick up blind spots; and headlights that turn on automatically with the windshield wipers.

8. The National Grange supports standardizing the cellular emergency numbers for the interstate highway systems throughout the country to just one number, Star 91.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that would penalize a driver for using a cell phone when it is a proven cause of reckless or unsafe driving or is the cause of an accident.
10. The National Grange supports regulations that would strengthen the safety standards for smaller cars and opposes any weakening of the safety standards of sport utility vehicles (SUVs).
11. The National Grange strongly supports the development of state and national laws that would require reflective tape on all existing and new trucks to help reduce under-ride accidents.
12. The National Grange supports legislation banning high intensity discharge (HID) headlights and/or driving lights and/or Xenon lights.
13. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Transportation to encourage all states to use the same laws pertaining to school bus operations and traffic control around school buses. We support legislation requiring all newly manufactured school buses to be equipped with strobe lights that are highly visible in all types of weather. The National Grange further requests that all school buses be required to have a sign on the back stating "Stay Back 50 Feet". The National Grange supports the present U. S. Department of Transportation requirement for random drug and alcohol testing for school bus drivers. We consider any proposed requirement for installed school bus driver monitoring devices on school buses to be unnecessary, expensive and counter-productive.
14. The National Grange supports legislation restricting the placement of any visual entertainment device within the driver's area of vision within a motor vehicle.
15. The National Grange urges automobile manufacturers to standardize the placement of air bag components and furnish a book on their operations to Fire/Rescue and EMS personnel for the safety of everyone.

Impaired Driving

1. We support a nationwide enactment of the "per se" law, which makes driving with a blood alcohol content in excess of .08 percent a violation and believe the dangers of drinking and driving should be included in the anti-drug campaign of the federal government's information and education programs.
2. The National Grange supports federal legislation to maintain the minimum age for the consumption of alcoholic beverages at 21.
3. The National Grange recommends that transportation authorities, both government and privately owned, be vested with the authority to randomly test employees for illegal drug and alcohol use.

Truck Transportation Policy

1. The National Grange will support legislation and regulatory policies that enhance stability and competition in truck operations for cost-effective and dependable service.
2. The National Grange supports new regulations requiring brake lights to be activated on commercial motor vehicles when a Jake Brake is used.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would require reporting of positive drug tests for drivers with any commercial license to the Department of Motor Vehicles of the issuing state. The report of a positive drug test should remain in the driver's file for a period of two years. We further support provisions to appeal positive drug testing results and mandate a second test by a different facility to eliminate false positive tests.
4. The National Grange supports Department of Transportation (DOT) reclassifying light-, medium-, and heavy-duty utility vehicles separate from on-highway (cross-country) trucks. However, we recommend that logbooks not be required on light-, medium-, and heavy-duty utility vehicles.

Water Transportation

1. The National Grange supports a moratorium on user fee increases for agricultural products transported on coastal and inland waterways. If user fees are increased, such fees should be based on the percentage of federal expenditures attributable to opening said waterways to barge traffic. These fees should be placed in an Inland Waterways Trust Fund and used only for construction and maintenance of inland waterways.
2. The National Grange supports maintaining the current United States Corps of Engineers' season for transporting grain on the Missouri River.
3. The National Grange supports the immediate implementation of "Alternative H in the Upper Mississippi Study" which encourages upgrades to the locks on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, facilitating greater barge traffic and providing an economic engine to fuel growth and prosperity in the entire Midwest.
4. The National Grange recommends that the Jones Act, which requires all freight moved between American ports being carried in American ships, be repealed.
5. The National Grange supports legislation to prevent any company controlled by a foreign government from taking over U.S. port facilities.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would require all U. S. cruise ships have emergency personnel as members of their crews.

Railroad Transportation

1. The National Grange recommends that the Department of Transportation (DOT) consider scheduling more commuter trains on their lines to offer better service to the public.
2. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Surface Transportation Board (STB), the Interstate Commerce Commission and similar transportation agencies to consider economic impact and public interests when undertaking transportation planning with regard to the impact of rail line abandonment. We support integration of rail and highway system planning in advance of possible abandonment to maximize economies to the public and private sectors as well as federal assistance to states for this purpose and to assist in rail takeovers by states where maintenance of

service is cost effective to local or state governments and to local shippers. We support economic and social impact statements from railroads to the ICC and state governments as well as meaningful local public hearings in the areas affected as a part of the abandonment process.

3. The National Grange urges that abandoned railroad crossings be returned to a smooth surface. All railroad crossing signals or signs should be removed within sixty (60) days following abandonment.
4. The National Grange encourages all levels of government to support the development and maintenance of a strong and effective rail network to enhance competition among and between rail carriers in order to ensure efficient rail service and reasonable rates, and for other purposes.
5. The National Grange supports legislation requiring warning reflectors to be placed on both sides of all railroad cars in the United States.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would require railroads to reveal to each landowner, before abandonment, the full and complete legal basis on which the railroad has claimed its right to occupy the corridor. If the railroad's right is less than fee simple ownership, the railroad should disclose to each landowner that its occupancy right would be extinguished upon abandonment. We believe that the right-of-way of an abandoned land grant railroad should revert to the last payer of taxes on the property, or by right of adverse possession or grant titles as well as the possible use of railroad right-of-ways, determined to be economically unfeasible, by adjacent landowners.
7. The National Grange will lobby for the discontinuation of remote controlled locomotives operated in the switch yards, or over a public or private highway rail crossing without an Engineer occupying the cab of the locomotive who has the required skills to stop the locomotive and its attached equipment nationwide.

Air Travel

1. The National Grange supports strengthening the English language certification for foreign pilots operating a commercial aircraft in the United States.
2. The National Grange supports repeal of the "Jim Wright Law" that requires passengers with flights originating or terminating at Dallas' Love Field to or from destinations beyond Texas, or the four states contiguous to Texas, to land, disembark, retrieve their luggage and recheck in before they may continue their flight.
3. The National Grange will urge the continuing utilization of Air Marshals on random flights.
4. The National Grange urges the United States Department of Homeland Security to scrutinize their passenger screening/security contractors to appropriately provide adequate safe airport screening/security during hours of operation.
5. The National Grange opposes legislation authorizing the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to establish fees for air traffic control and related activities, services, facilities, and equipment that initially increases user fees and taxes for general aviation such as crop dusting, pipeline patrol, power line patrol, forest fire patrol, and commuting to rural communities. We also oppose legislation turning all major commercial airlines into full partners with the FAA on matters of decision making by creating a board dominated by airline representatives who would help the FAA establish user fee pricing schedules.

General Transportation Policy

1. The Grange believes that it is in the best interest of farmers and consumers to continue efforts toward achieving a balanced transportation system at the lowest cost consistent with adequate and efficient service. However, we oppose efforts by State governments to toll expanses of the Interstate Highway System built and operating as toll free.
2. The National Grange urges federal and state weed control agencies to control noxious weeds on their highway right-of-ways and to work with the railroads in an effort to control noxious weeds along railroad right-of-ways but always respecting the land-owners' property rights and preferences.
3. The National Grange supports inter-modal ownership of transportation carriers only if the acquiring carrier establishes that inter-modal ownership is consistent with the public interest; will enable the acquiring carrier to use the other mode to public advantage in its transportation operations; will not unreasonably restrain competition and will not result in segments of agriculture and rural areas being held by captive shippers.
4. The National Grange supports creating a national uniform vehicle identification system to be used by disabled drivers. Legislation should be enacted to include blindness as a provision for issuance of a disabled parking permit.
5. We oppose efforts to replace current highway signs with multilingual signs.
6. The National Grange strongly supports a simple public announcement procedure for special needs citizens in intercity bus transportation systems.
7. The National Grange supports legislation that would expand the Lemon Law for all vehicles in all states. We further support legislation that allows independent vehicle maintenance facilities or car dealership garages to have access to the technology/programming needed to repair all makes of vehicles so that the consumer has a choice of where to take his/her vehicle for maintenance and repair.

U.S. Postal Service

1. The National Grange supports efforts by the Postal Service to eliminate waste, hold down operating costs and increase services and reliability. We make the following recommendations to the U. S. Postal Service:
 - a. We urge that any future postal rate increases be no greater than the rate of inflation.
 - b. We will also support stable rates or eligibility requirements for nonprofit organizations' postal rates. We support the retention of the third class bulk mail rate for not-for-profit-organizations at a reasonable rate.
 - c. We support reorganization of the Postal Rate Commission to include representation of the interests of mail users.
 - d. We recommend that the U.S. Postal service be returned to a service branch of the federal government.
2. The National Grange continues to support Rural Free Mail Delivery Service as an essential part of universal mail service. We support the continuation of rural Saturday mail delivery and all other mail services to rural areas. Patrons of rural post offices must be given six (6) months notice before their post office is closed and must be provided with an opportunity to express their viewpoint at a public hearing.
3. The National Grange will promote the proportional payment of retirement funds from the U. S. Post Office and the U.S. government in relation to the number of year's retirees worked for each entity. We strongly oppose any change in the current postal

employee retirement programs that would adversely affect the retirement of any postal employees, limit the retirement options of current postal employees or result in a reduction of retirement benefits for current or future postal employee.

4. The National Grange recommends that federal postal regulations require all future installation of cluster boxes be on the same side of the road as the residence or business.
5. The National Grange encourages the Postal Service to make their patrons aware that handicapped persons may apply for mail delivery to their door.

My sincere thanks go out to the members of my committee for their help, advice, insight, and commitment to our work. Also to Jim Tetreault, New Hampshire Legislative Director, for his superb help, to the National Grange production room staff, to David Lin of AT&T for his expert advice, and to Leroy Watson for his time and patience. I would like to extend a special thanks to the committee secretary, Mark Noah, for his work in recording the actions of our committee.

Fraternally,

June Hendrickson
Mark Noah
Wendy McFarland
Lyle Lee
Lucille Groves

Marty Billquist
Donna Keeton
Mildred Johnson
Nancy Valentine

ANNUAL CONVENTIONS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

Session No.	Year	Place	Master
	1867, Dec.4	Washington, DC	Birthday
1	1868, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
2	1869, April	Washington, DC	William Saunders
3	1870, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
4	1871, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
5	1872, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
6	1873, Jan.	Georgetown, DC	William Saunders
7	1874, Feb.	St. Louis, MO	D.W. Adams
8	1875, Feb.	Charleston, SC	D.W. Adams
9	1875, Nov.	Louisville, KY	D.W. Adam
10	1876, Nov.	Chicago, IL	John T. Jones
11	1877, Nov.	Cincinnati, OH	John T. Jones
12	1878, Nov.	Richmond, VA	S.E. Adams
13	1879, Nov.	Canandaigua, NY	S.E. Adams
14	1880, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
15	1881, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
16	1882, Nov.	Indianapolis, IN	J.J. Woodman
17	1883, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
18	1884, Nov.	Nashville, TN	J.J. Woodman
19	1885, Nov.	Boston, MA	J.J. Woodman
20	1886, Nov.	Philadelphia, PA	I.P Darden
21	1887, Nov.	Lansing, MI	I.P Darden
22	1888, Nov.	Topeka, KS	James Draper
23	1889, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	J.H. Brigham
24	1890, Nov.	Atlanta, GA	J.H. Brigham
25	1891, Nov.	Springfield, OH	J.H. Brigham
26	1892, Nov.	Concord, NH	J.H. Brigham
27	1893, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	J.H. Brigham
28	1894, Nov.	Springfield, IL	J.H. Brigham
29	1895, Nov.	Worcester, MA	J.H. Brigham
30	1896, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.H. Brigham
31	1897, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	J.H. Brigham
32	1898, Nov.	Concord, NH	Aaron Jones
33	1899, Nov.	Springfield, OH	Aaron Jones
34	1900, Nov.	Washington, DC	Aaron Jones
35	1901, Nov.	Lewiston, ME	Aaron Jones
36	1902, Nov.	Lansing, MI	Aaron Jones
37	1903, Nov.	Rochester, NY	Aaron Jones

38	1904, Nov.	Portland, OR	Aaron Jones
39	1905, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Aaron Jones
40	1906, Nov.	Denver, CO	N.J. Bachelder
41	1907, Nov.	Hartford, CT	N.J. Bachelder
42	1908, Nov.	Washington, DC	N.J. Bachelder
43	1909, Nov.	Des Moines, IA	N.J. Bachelder
44	1910, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	N.J. Bachelder
45	1911, Nov.	Columbus, OH	N.J. Bachelder
46	1912, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Oliver Wilson
47	1913, Nov.	Manchester, NH	Oliver Wilson
48	1914, Nov.	Wilmington, DE	Oliver Wilson
49	1915, Nov.	Oakland, CA	Oliver Wilson
50	1916, Nov.	Washington, DC	Oliver Wilson
51	1917, Nov.	St. Louis, MO	Oliver Wilson
52	1918, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Oliver Wilson
53	1919, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Oliver Wilson
54	1920, Nov.	Boston, MA	S.J. Lowell
55	1921, Nov.	Portland, OR	S.J. Lowell
56	1922, Nov.	Wichita, KS	S.J. Lowell
57	1923, Nov.	Pittsburgh, PA	S.J. Lowell
58	1924, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	L.J. Taber
59	1925, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	L.J. Taber
60	1926, Nov.	Portland, ME	L.J. Taber
61	1927, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	L.J. Taber
62	1928, Nov.	Washington, DC	L.J. Taber
63	1929, Nov.	Seattle, WA	L.J. Taber
64	1930, Nov.	Rochester, NY	L.J. Taber
65	1931, Nov.	Madison, WI	L.J. Taber
66	1932, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	L.J. Taber
67	1933, Nov.	Boise, ID	L.J. Taber
68	1934, Nov.	Hartford, CT	L.J. Taber
69	1935, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	L.J. Taber
70	1936, Nov.	Columbus, OH	L.J. Taber
71	1937, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	L.J. Taber
72	1938, Nov.	Portland, OR	L.J. Taber
73	1939, Nov.	Peoria, IL	L.J. Taber
74	1940, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	L.J. Taber
75	1941, Nov.	Worcester, MA	L.J. Taber
76	1942, Nov.	Wenatchee, WA	A.S. Goss
77	1943, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	A.S. Goss
78	1944, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	A.S. Goss

79	1945, Nov.	Kansas City, MO	A.S. Goss
80	1946, Nov.	Portland, OR	A.S. Goss
81	1947, Nov.	Columbus, OH	A.S. Goss
82	1948, Nov.	Portland, ME	A.S. Goss
83	1949, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	A.S. Goss
84	1950, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	Henry D. Sherwood
85	1951, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Herschel D. Newsom
86	1952, Nov.	Rockford, IL	Herschel D. Newsom
87	1953, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Herschel D. Newsom
88	1954, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Herschel D. Newsom
89	1955, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	Herschel D. Newsom
90	1956, Nov.	Rochester, NY	Herschel D. Newsom
91	1957, Nov.	Colorado Springs, CO	Herschel D. Newsom
92	1958, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Herschel D. Newsom
93	1959, Nov.	Long Beach, CA	Herschel D. Newsom
94	1960, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	Herschel D. Newsom
95	1961, Nov.	Worcester, MA	Herschel D. Newsom
96	1962, Nov.	Fort Wayne, IN	Herschel D. Newsom
97	1963, Nov.	Portland, OR	Herschel D. Newsom
98	1964, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Herschel D. Newsom
99	1965, Nov.	Topeka, KS	Herschel D. Newsom
100	1966, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	Herschel D. Newsom
101	1967, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Herschel D. Newsom
102	1968, Nov.	Peoria, IL	Herschel D. Newsom
103	1969, Nov.	Daytona Beach, FL	John W. Scott
104	1970, Nov.	Boise, ID	John W. Scott
105	1971, Nov.	Charleston, WV	John W. Scott
106	1972, Nov.	Hartford, CT	John W. Scott
107	1973, Nov.	Lincoln, NE	John W. Scott
108	1974, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	John W. Scott
109	1975, Nov.	Columbus, OH	John W. Scott
110	1976, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	John W. Scott
111	1977, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	John W. Scott
112	1978, Nov.	Denver, CO	John W. Scott
113	1979, Nov.	Lancaster, PA	John W. Scott
114	1980, Nov.	Cedar Rapids, IA	Edward Andersen
115	1981, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Edward Andersen
116	1982, Nov.	Providence, RI	Edward Andersen
117	1983, Nov.	San Antonio, TX	Edward Andersen
118	1984, Nov.	Portland, ME	Edward Andersen
119	1985, Nov.	Eugene, OR	Edward Andersen

120	1986, Nov.	Madison, WI	Edward Andersen
121	1987, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Edward Andersen
122	1988, Nov.	Redding, CA	Robert E. Barrow
123	1989, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	Robert E. Barrow
124	1990, Nov.	Wichita, KS	Robert E. Barrow
125	1991, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Robert E. Barrow
126	1992, Nov.	Denver, CO	Robert E. Barrow
127	1993, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	Robert E. Barrow
128	1994, Nov.	Peoria, IL	Robert E. Barrow
129	1995, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	Robert E. Barrow
130	1996, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Kermit W. Richardson
131	1997, Nov.	Springfield, MA	Kermit W. Richardson
132	1998, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	Kermit W. Richardson
133	1999, Nov.	Portland, ME	Kermit W. Richardson
134	2000, Nov.	Fresno, CA	Kermit W. Richardson
135	2001, Nov.	Cedar Rapids, IA	Kermit W. Richardson
136	2002, Nov.	Portland, OR	Kermit W. Richardson
137	2003, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Kermit W. Richardson
138	2004, Nov.	Rochester, NY	William A. Steel
139	2005, Nov.	Columbus, OH	William A. Steel
140	2006, Nov.	Springfield, IL	William A. Steel
141	2007, Nov.	Reno, NV	William A. Steel
142	2008, Nov.	Cromwell, CT	Edward L. Luttrell

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