

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

**144th Annual Convention  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
November 9-13, 2010**

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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**

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- 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**

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- 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**

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- 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 - 2010**

Master	Edward Luttrell	1616 H Street, NW Washington, DC 20006	202-628-3507
Overseer	Jimmy Gentry	1734 Wilkesboro Highway Statesville, NC 28625	704-878-0000
Lecturer	Pete Pompper	1608 Culbertson Ave. Myrtle Beach, SC 29577	609-820-6239
Steward	William "Chip" Narvel	911 S. Governors Ave. Dover, DE 19904	302-734-4653
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	PO Box 335 Myrtle Point, OR 97458	641-572-4117
Treasurer	Dwight Baldwin	2606 Highway 224N Kellogg, IA 50135	641-526-3420
Secretary	Judy Sherrod	333 Crossfield Drive Knoxville, TN 37920	865-862-8211
Gatekeeper	Scott Sherman	178 Weaver Hill Road West Greenwich, RI 02817	401-226-4118
Ceres	Linda Chase	491 Hollis St. Dunstable, MA 01827	978-649-7184
Pomona (Pro Tem)	Linda Lewis	21305 Chase St. Canoga Park, CA 91304	818-998-0983
Flora	Patti Lee	11067 Beloit Road Belvidere, IL 61008	815-544-4259

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chairman	Betsy Huber (2010)	362 University Road Lincoln University, PA 19352	610-932-4387
Secretary	Phil Prelli (2011)	12 Alexandria Drive Barkhamsted, CT 06063	315-462-3067
	Marty Billquist (2010)	5980 Galen Road Anaconda, MT 59711	406-563-7891
	Joe Fryman (2011)	14512 County Rd. P16 Blair, NE 68008	402-426-5773

**ASSEMBLY OF DEMETER**

High Priest of Demeter	Thomas Severance	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
High Priest Emeritus	Woodrow Tucker	1623 Ministerial Road Peace Dale, RI 02883	401-783-2070
High Priest Emeritus	John Valentine	7034 W. State Road Portland, IN 47371	260-726-2337

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

National Grange Headquarters	(888)-447-2643
Controller	Amber Bell
Communications	Barbara Jones
Executive Assistant/Meetings Planner	Jessie Cope
Information Technology	Stephanie Wilkins
Legislative Affairs	Nicole Palya Wood
Sales, Benefits, & Programs	Samantha Johnson
Trademark Protection Manager	Leroy A. Watson

Junior Grange	Charlene Shupp Espenshade	213 Black Swamp Road Bainbridge, PA 17502	717-361-2844
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 11, 2010:

Executive Committee	Betsy Huber Duane Scott	Pennsylvania Wisconsin
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**DELEGATES**

AK	John Poirrier, P.O. Box 111897, Anchorage, AK 99511
CA	Bob McFarland, 3830 U St., Sacramento, CA 95817 Leo Bergeron, 3830 U St., Sacramento, CA 95817
CO	John & Trudie Hagan, 3150 Weld CR 87, Roggen, CO 80652
CT	Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron, 115 Prospect St., Moosup, CT 06354
DE	William & Barbara Narvel, 4201 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808
FL	Barbara Borderieux, 3915 38th Ave. E., Palmetto, FL 34221
ID	Don & Mary Johnson, 3895 W. Lake Hazel Road, Meridian, ID 83642
IL	Lyle & Patty 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 (CHECK MINUTES)
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, 1730 Chamberlain Way, Haslett, MI 48840
MN	Donna Champion, 4820 Pioneer Trail, Greenfield, MN 55357
MT	Marty & Joyce Billquist, 5980 Galen Road, Anaconda, MT 59711
NE	Joe & Tammy Fryman, 14512 Co Rd P16, Blair, NE 68008
NH	James Tetreault, 35 Keene Road, Apt. 35D, Winchester, NH 03470 Arthur Merrill, 107 W. Elm St., Antrim, NH 05440
NJ	John M. Benedik, 1401 Cobblestone Court, Flemington, NJ 08822 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, P.O. Box 121, Fredericktown, OH 43019-0121
OK	Donna & Brad Keeton, Route 1, Box 106, South Coffeyville, OK 74072
OR	Larry Rea, 643 Union St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 Phyllis Wilson, 643 Union Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-2462
PA	Carl Meiss, 20 Erford Road, Suite 216, Lemoyne, PA 17043 Betsy Huber, 362 University Road, Lincoln University, PA 19352
RI	Steve & Claire Logan, 26 Taber St., West Kensington, RI 02892

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, P.O. Box 90, Barre, VT 05641  
Kendal Holden, P.O. Box 337, Underhill, VT 05489  
VA James Taylor, 12600 Bundle Road, Chesterfield, VA 23838  
WA June & Jack Hendrickson, P.O. Box 1186, Olympia, WA 98507  
WV Jim & Earlene Foster, Rt. 1 Box 105, New Milton, WV 26411  
WI Duane & Kim Scott, N2552 Strunk Road, Ft. Atkinson, WI 53536  
WY No Delegates  
John Trimble Youth - Victor Salazar (CT)

**2010 CONVENTION COMMITTEES****AGRICULTURE**

Linda Chase, MA \*\*  
Bruce C, NY \*  
Gordon Groves, IN  
Maurice Wiles, MD  
Joe Fryman, NE  
Jimmy Gentry, NC  
Jack Smithers, TX  
Phil Prelli, CT (H)  
Victor Salazar, Youth (H)

**AUDIT & BUDGET**

Donna Keeton, OK \*\*  
Judy Sherrod, TN \*  
William "Chip" Narvel, DE  
Dwight Baldwin, IA  
James Owens, ME  
John Benedik, NJ  
June Hendrickson, WA  
Joan Smith, Potomac (H)

**CITIZENSHIP**

Donna Champion, MN \*\*  
Anita Gentry, NC\*  
Trudie Hagan, CO  
Mary Johnson, ID  
Calvin Chase, MA  
Tammy Fryman, NE  
Hazel Hammett, SC  
Kendal Holden, VT  
Earlene Foster, WV

**CONSERVATION**

Errol Briggs, VT \*\*  
Randy Lewis, CA (H) \*  
Jodi Ann Cameron, CT  
Don Johnson, ID  
Roger Bostwick, KS  
Larry Rea, OR  
Jim Foster, WV  
Beth M, NH (H)

**EDUCATION &  
HEALTH**

Linda Brumbaugh, OH \*\*  
Melanie Bostwick, KS \*  
Leo Bergeron, CA  
Barbara Narvel, DE  
Patti Lee, IL  
Chris Johnston, MI  
Karen Orton, NY  
Claire Logan, RI  
John Hammett, SC

**GRANGE GROWTH**

Duane Scott, WI \*\*  
Donna Wiles, MD \*  
Jody Cameron, CT  
Kathy Baldwin, IA  
Pete Pompper, NJ  
Oliver Orton, NY  
Carl Meiss, PA  
Jack Hendrickson, WA

**GRANGE LAW**

Rick Grotton, ME \*\*  
Joyce Billquist, MT \*  
Linda Lewis, CA (H)  
John Hagan, CO  
Gary Brumbaugh, OH  
Arthur Merrill, NH  
Betsy Huber, PA  
Dan Bascom, NH (H)

**LABOR & JUDICIARY**

Bob McFarland, CA \*\*  
Jimmy Taylor, VA \*  
Barbara Borderieux, FL  
Connie Johnston, MI  
Brad Keeton, OK  
Phyllis Wilson, OR  
Kim Bascom, NH (H)  
Sharon Croucher, NY (H)

**TAXATION &  
TRANSPORTATION**

Lyle Lee, IL\*\*  
Maureen Prelli, CT (H) \*  
John Poirrier, AK  
Lucille Groves, IN  
Marty Billquist, MT  
Karen Jenson, MN  
James Tetreault, NH  
Scott Sherman, RI (H)

\*\* *Chairperson*

\* *Secretary*

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

7 a.m.

Freshmen Delegates Breakfast

8 a.m. to noon

Committee Meetings

Noon

Distinguished Grange Awards Luncheon

2 to 5 p.m.

Committee Meetings

7 to 9 p.m.

Host Region Welcome Dinner

10 to 11 p.m. Committee Meetings

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

9 a.m.

Pre-Convention Tour for Delegates

*The Billy Graham Library*

2 p.m.

Opening of the 144th Annual Convention  
in the Seventh Degree

2:15 p.m.

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

2:30 p.m.

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

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

6 p.m.

Session Closes

7:30 to 11 p.m.

Committee Meetings

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

8 a.m.

Salute to Agriculture Breakfast

Speaker: Johnny C. Wynne, Ph.D., Dean  
and Executive Director for Agricultural  
Programs, NC State University

10:30 a.m.

Session Opens in the Fourth Degree  
Committee Reports and Actions

Noon

Session Recesses

12:15 p.m.

Luncheon

Speaker: Kathleen Franco, Executive  
Director, Public Policy, AT&T Services, Inc.  
Topic: "Broadband Access for Rural  
America"

2:30 p.m.

Session Reconvenes

4:30 p.m.

Session Recesses

4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Idea Fair & Best of Show Preview

6:30 p.m.

Youth Orientation/Expectations

7:30 p.m.

Session Reconvenes

Youth visit National Grange Session

Speaker: Amanda Nolz, Contributing Editor,  
BEEF News

9:30 p.m.

Session Closes

9:30 p.m.

Youth Get Acquainted Party

10 to 11 p.m.

Committee Meetings

11 p.m.

Youth Officers Parade

11:30 p.m.

Youth Vespers

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11**  
**Veteran's Day**

8:30 a.m.  
Business Session Opens  
Committee Reports/Actions  
Election of Officers  
Directors' Reports

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Youth Tour  
Discovery Place

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
General Tour  
The Billy Graham Library  
Metrolina Greenhouses

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Idea Fair & Best of Show

10 a.m.  
Junior Grange Registration

10 to 11:30 a.m.  
Junior Grange Activities

Noon  
Session Recesses

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.  
Past Delegates Luncheon

2 to 4 p.m.  
Junior Grange Activities  
Walking trip with a stop for ice cream

2 p.m.  
Session Reconvenes in the Fourth Degree  
Committee Reports/Actions

3:30 p.m.  
Memorial Service - National Chaplain

5 p.m.  
Session Closes

5 to 7 p.m.  
Committee meetings as necessary

5 to 6:30 p.m. Youth Workshop  
Speaker: Amanda Nolz, Contributing Editor,  
BEEF News

6:30 to 8 p.m.  
Youth and Junior Pizza Party and Slideshow

8 to 9:30 p.m.  
Junior Pajama Party

8 to 9 p.m.  
Assembly of Demeter

8 p.m.  
Youth Directors Conference

9:30 to 11 p.m.  
Youth Costume Party and Dance  
Theme: Down Home Fun!

11 p.m.  
Youth Vespers

11:15 p.m.  
Youth Officers Parade

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

7 a.m.  
Chairs/Secretaries Breakfast

7:30 p.m.  
Youth Officers Practice and Pictures

8:30 a.m.  
Session Opens  
Youth Opening  
Junior Grange Presentation  
Committee Reports/Action

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Idea Fair & Best of Show

9:30 to 10:15 a.m.  
State Junior Directors'/Committee Workshop

10 a.m. to noon  
Youth Workshop  
Topics: Race to Re-election;  
Grange Growth Summits

10:15 to 11:30 a.m.  
Combined Juniors and Directors Workshop  
Crafts, projects, games and activities

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Seventh Degree Walk-Through

Noon  
Session Recesses

1 to 2 p.m.  
Evening of Excellence Rehearsal/Sound Check

1 to 4 p.m.  
Junior Tour  
Levine Museum of the New South

1:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
Youth/Membership Workshop  
*Speaker: Rusty Hunt*

2 p.m.  
Session Reconvenes  
Installation of Officers

5 p.m.  
Session Closes

5 p.m.  
GROW Club and Youth A.O.L.E. Dinner

6 p.m.  
Horizon Leadership Ambassadors Pictures

7:30 p.m.  
“An Evening of Excellence”

10:30 p.m.  
Youth Progrm  
Hosted by the Eastern Region

11:30 p.m.  
Youth Vespers

Noon  
Junior Grange Degree

1 p.m.  
Seventh Degree Conferral

1:45 to 4 p.m.  
Junior Grange Activities

2:30 p.m.  
Junior Grange Auction with JG Dollars

7 p.m.  
Grange Celebration Banquet and National  
Grange Auction  
Entertainment: Jimmy Gentry

Following Banquet- Grange Dance

Midnight  
Youth Vespers

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

8 a.m.  
Seventh Degree final preparations

8 a.m. to noon  
Idea Fair & Best of Show

8 a.m.  
Junior Breakfast and Super JG Awards  
Ceremony

8:30 to 9:30 a.m.  
Dogs for the Deaf Demonstration  
Presenter: Robin Dickson

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Workshop  
Presenter: Jennie Gentry  
Topic: “Better Granger Workshop”

10 a.m.  
Sixth Degree Conferral

**DAILY RESUME****144th ANNUAL NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION****PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES**

Sandor Szima, National Grange building engineer, was the first to arrive at the Hilton Charlotte University Place with convention materials on Thursday, Nov. 4, 2010. Others arriving early on Thursday, Nov. 4, were Executive Assistant/Meeting Planner, Jessie Cope; Communications Director, Barbara Covington Jones; Programs Assistant, Grace Boatright, 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 arrived on Friday; and Legislative Affairs Director, Nicole Palya Wood, Controller, Amber Bell, Leadership/Membership Director, Rusty Hunt, and Youth & Junior Development Director, Charlene Espenshade, arrived on Saturday. Members of the Host Committee also arrived early.

The members of the Board of Directors arrived on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010. On Saturday afternoon, National Master Luttrell met with the staff. The Board of Directors, spouses, and staff met for dinner at 7 p.m. followed by the Executive Committee meeting.

**PRE-CONVENTION****Sunday, November 7, 2010**

Rusty Hunt (WA), Membership/Leadership Director, welcomed the new Delegates to the 144th National Grange Convention on Sunday, November 7 and held a workshop from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. New delegates are Steve and Claire Logan (RI), Larry Rae (OR), John Poirrier (AK), Carl Meiss (PA), Jim Tetreault (NH), Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron (CT), John Benedik (NJ), Don and Mary Johnson (ID), and Barbara Borderieux (FL). A noon luncheon was held for the Executive Committee and new delegates.

Nicole Palya Wood, Legislative Director, conducted a workshop for Committee Chairs/Secretaries beginning at 4 p.m.

A reception welcoming the National officers, delegates and staff was held beginning at 6 p.m.

Beginning at 7 p.m., a convention overview for officers and delegates, Foundation Meeting, and National Master's budget meeting were held. Introductions of new staff members were made by Master Ed Luttrell. Board of Directors members Phil Prelli and Marty Billquist gave a brief session overview. National Overseer, Jimmy Gentry, announced new delegates and their mentors as follows:

Steve & Claire Logan (RI)	Chris & Connie Johnston (MI)
Larry Rae (OR)	Duane Scott (WI)
John Poirrier (AK)	Jack Smithers (TX)
Carl Meiss (PA)	Jim Taylor (VA)
Jim Tetreault (NH)	Oliver & Karen Orton (NY)
Jody & Jodi Ann Cameron (CT)	John & Trudie Hagen (CO)
John Benedik (NJ)	Pete Pompper (NJ)
Don & Mary Johnson (ID)	Lyle & Patti Lee (IL)
Barbara Borderieux (FL)	Donna Champion (MN)

Board of Directors member Joe Fryman gave a financial report of the Grange Foundation. Jimmy Gentry announced there was an endowment by Galludet University in Washington, D.C., to give a scholarship for room, board and transportation for one intern for one semester. Beulah Winter (MI) was the National Deaf Chairman when the scholarship was started several years ago. Jimmy also reported that starting last year a new grant program was available for deaf awareness, and that program will likely continue next year as well. This year, three states received Deaf Awareness grants – Michigan, Idaho, and New Jersey.

Linda Chase gave an update on High Priest of Demeter, Tom Severance. He is undergoing chemotherapy and is not able to be with us this year at convention. Dan Bascom also reported he recently spoke with Tom and urged everyone to continue to send cards to Tom.

Copies of the budget were passed out and both Master Ed Luttrell and Chairman of the Board, Betsy Huber, gave information and answered questions regarding income and expenses.

Brother Ed announced we would try something new this year in that all committees would work on resolutions all day on Monday in order to attempt to get all committee work done before the session opens on Tuesday afternoon. The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

### **PRE-CONVENTION**

#### **Monday, November 8, 2010**

Beginning at 7 a.m. the freshmen delegates met for breakfast.

Committees met for work on resolutions beginning at 8 a.m., working until lunch time.

The Distinguished Grange Award Luncheon was held at noon. The Invocation was given by Chaplain, Phyllis Wilson (OR). The Distinguished Granges honored were as follows: Community Granges – Dunstable Grange #31 (MA), Elizabethtown Area Grange #2076 (PA), Five Mile Prairie Grange #905 (WA), Grantham Grange #968 (NC), Humptulips Grange #730 (WA), Kuna Grange #59 (ID), Medford Grange #188 (MD), Redland Grange #796 (OR), Russellville Grange #91 (PA), Stanford Grange #808 (NY), Stelvideo Grange #295 (OH), Uxbridge Grange #200 (MA), Washington Grange #82 (WA). State Granges -- Idaho, Maryland, and New York.

Following lunch, committees again met for work on resolutions until about 5 p.m.

Crystal Allen, (NC) Chairman of the Eastern Region Host Committee and the members of the Eastern Region (New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, and Potomac #1), welcomed the delegates for a delicious barbeque dinner.

The Invocation was given by Sister Phyllis Wilson (OR), Chaplain of the National Grange. Jimmy Gentry (NC) welcomed everyone for the evening event and urged everyone to take this year's theme to heart and "have some down home fun". He introduced the entertainment for the evening, Grass Street, a bluegrass band from Raleigh, North Carolina.

Rehearsal of the National Grange Officers began at 9:30 p.m. Sessions committees met to continue working on the 2010 resolutions.

**FIRST DAY**  
**144th National Grange Convention**  
**Tuesday, November 9, 2010**

CONVENTION SUMMARY

The day began at 9 a.m. as a busload of delegates and officers traveled to the Billy Graham Library, returning to the hotel at noon.

Dan Bascom (NH), acting High Priest of Demeter in the absence of Tom Severance, called the 144th Annual Convention of the National Grange to order in the Seventh Degree at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010. The session was held in the Lakeshore Ballroom at the Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The National Officers marched in and formed an altar circle. The soloist for the opening was Linda Brumbaugh (OH) and Fern Kulp (PA) served as the pianist.

National Master, Ed Luttrell (OR), opened the Grange in full form in the Seventh Degree. High Priest pro tem, Dan Bascom (NH) 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 pro tem Dan Bascom (NH) 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 Eastern region, including Barbara Borderieux (FL), Jimmy Taylor (VA), Jim Foster (WV), Maurice Wiles (MD), Carl Meiss (PA), John Benedik (NJ), Joan Smith (Potomac), and John Hammett (SC).

The roll call of officers found all present with the exception of High Priest Tom Severance (MA) due to health problems. The roll call of delegates showed all states represented except Wyoming (who is excused) as well as John Trimble Legislative Representative Victor Salazar (CT).

Chairman of Audit and Budget, Donna Keeton (OK) 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 annual 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.

Upon returning from recess, Master Ed Luttrell gave his Internal Report. Jimmy Gentry, Overseer, assigned sections of this report to various committees. This report will appear in the Journal of Proceedings.

- Duane Scott of Grange Growth Development transferred CT-110 to Grange Law.
- Linda Brumbaugh of Health & Education transferred IO-103 to Transportation.
- Rick Grotton of Grange Law transferred MN-103 to Growth & Development.
- Rick Grotton of Grange Law transferred WV-103 to Growth & Development.
- Errol Briggs of Conservation transferred WA-101 to Agriculture.
- Errol Briggs of Conservation transferred CA-102 to Agriculture.
- Linda Brumbaugh of Health & Education transferred NH-107 to Conservation.

Donna Champion of Citizenship transferred RI-102 to Grange Law -- NH-101 to Grange Law -- CT-108 to Labor & Judiciary -- IA-101 to Labor & Judiciary -- MI-102 to

Labor & Judiciary – Ohio-114 to Labor & Judiciary, and SC-107 to Labor & Judiciary.

It was reported by National Master Ed Luttrell that NH-106 must be removed from your packet (Citizenship), because it was not passed in their state.

Bob McFarland of Labor & Judiciary transferred CT-107 to Transportation and MD-117 to Citizenship.

Phyllis Wilson, Chaplain, made an announcement that cards will be circulated to be signed for Lee Johnson, Master of Wyoming. His mother is having heart surgery this week. The Overseer of the Virginia State Grange passed away last night. Brother Jerry Hancock was also the past State Master in Virginia. Tom Severance, High Priest, is dealing with serious health problems.

Brother Scott Sherman reported that he has learned that he, as Gatekeeper, is responsible for keeping charge of money that will be collected due to the ringing of cell phones during session. The charge is \$10 and the money will be given to the Youth and Junior Departments of National Grange.

Rick Grotton of the Grange Law Committee gave a partial report.

Audit & Budget committee chair, Donna Keeton, gave a partial report.

Conservation committee chair, Errol Briggs, gave a partial report.

Each of mentors introduced the new delegates they are assisting during this session.

- Don & Mary Johnson (ID) introduced by Lyle Lee (IL)
- Steve & Clarie Logan (RI) by Chris Johnston (MI)
- John Benedik (NJ) by Pete Pompper (NJ)
- Jody & Jodi Ann Cameron (CT) by John Hagen (CO)
- John Poirrier (AK) by Jack Smithers (TX)
- Jim Tetreault (NH) by Oliver Orton (NY)
- Barbara Borderieux (FL) by Donna Champion (MN)
- Carl Meiss (PA) by Jim Taylor (VA)
- Larry Rea (OR) by Duane Scott (WI)

#### Announcements:

- Chip Narvel (Steward) announced to the delegates that the sashes they are wearing are theirs until the close of business, reminding that they are responsible for them.
- Bruce Croucher, Priest Annalist, asked for assistance for the Seventh Degree. Return any unused Seventh degree certificates to him.
- Dan Bascom, High Priest pro tem, asked for a point of personal privilege. He issued a “thank you to my big Grange family” for sending cards to him at the time of the death of his father.
- Mary Johnson asked that Western states Masters meet tomorrow night after session close.
- Roger Bostwick (Assistant Steward) announced that National Officers should meet at 9:30 p.m. for practice for opening tomorrow.

The first day of the 144th Annual Session of the National Grange closed in the Fourth Degree at 5:30 p.m. Closing Song – Let There Be Peace On Earth.

Fern Kulp (PA) served as the pianist for the day.

The hospitality room was provided by the North Carolina State Grange.

Resolutions on the large screen were managed by Allison Fowler (NC).

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

**SECOND DAY**  
**144th National Grange Convention**  
**Wednesday, November 10, 2010**

**CONVENTION SUMMARY**

A Salute to Agriculture Breakfast was held at 8 a.m. The speaker for the breakfast was Dr. Johnny Wynne, Dean and Executive Director for Agricultural Programs at NC State University. Also speaking was Zane Hedgecock, a representative from the North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture's office.

Master Ed Luttrell (OR) opened the second day of the 144th 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 except High Priest Tom Severance and roll call of delegates found all states were represented except Wyoming (who is excused) as well as the John Trimble Youth Representative, Victor Salazar (CT). Opening song was "It's a Good Thing to Be a Granger."

Announcements were made by Overseer Jimmy Gentry (NC). Today is the birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps. All Marines were asked to stand. Financial sponsors for this convention were announced. Flowers need to be ordered beginning today. Reminder to come by the Host Office to make sure your return home transportation is noted for the Transportation Committee.

Minutes of the first day of the 144th National Grange Convention were approved as corrected.

Brother Rick Grotton (ME), chair of Grange Law, gave a partial report.

Brother Duane Scott of Grange Growth & Development gave a partial report.

Announcements before recess. Anita Gentry gave lessons in speaking properly in the South. It requires taking a one syllable word and stretching it into at least two. Word of the day is: Bear. Sometimes pronounced by Southerners as "Bire" or "Bar." Meeting with Midwest Masters to meet before the session reconvenes this evening.

The session was recessed at noon for a luncheon with guest speaker Kathleen Franco, Executive Director of Public Policy for AT&T Services, Inc. She spoke about universal broadband service and solutions.

The session reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

Brother Lyle Lee, Master of the Illinois State Grange, introduced past Illinois State Masters, Russ Stauffer and Henrietta Keller and husband, Norm. Henrietta is also past National Grange Secretary.

Brother Rick Grotton of Grange Law brought back to the floor resolution GL-102, Elimination of Term Limits, which had been returned to his committee for rework of language, but after discussion was once again sent back to committee.

Brother Marty Billquist moved that all pertinent information be released to the public.

Brother Duane Scott of Growth & Development continued his report.

Jim Foster moved to reconsider WI-102, Insurance Coverage for Local Grange Chapters, but the motion to reconsider failed.

Brother Duane Scott, Chairman of Growth & Development continued his report covering the Policy Statement, which was adopted.

Brother Scott Sherman, presented a care package to Linda Chase, from the Northeastern States, to aid her in the first year as National Ceres.

Sister Donna Keeton (OK) chairman of the Audit & Budget Committee presented the proposed budget for 2011, which was adopted. The policy statement was presented, and too was adopted.

Brother Bob McFarland (CA), Chairman of Labor and Judiciary, gave a partial report. Labor and Judiciary transferred PA-106 to Citizenship.

Linda Brumbaugh, Chairman of Education and Health, gave the committee report, which was adopted.

Report was given regarding Sister Ruth Gray from Florida. She has a broken bone in her arm from the fall this morning at breakfast.

The Grange recessed at 4:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Honored guests were escorted to the Master's station and introduced --National Grange Legislative Director, Nicole Palya Wood and Amanda Nolz Radke, Contributing Editor of BEEF News. Amanda, the guest speaker for the evening, was introduced by Nicole Wood. Her presentation was entitled "Breaking Barriers – Redefining Agriculture".

Brother Ed recognized Past National Master Kermit Richardson and wife, Margaret who are in the hall this evening.

Rick Grotton, Chairman of the Grange Law Committee continued his report.

Linda Chase, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, gave a partial report.

The second day of the 144th session was closed in due form at 9:30 p.m. Closing song was "America The Beautiful".

Fern Kulp (PA) served as the pianist for the day.

The Youth Orientation and Guidelines was conducted at 6:30 p.m. The Youth enjoyed a get acquainted party in the evening.

Hosts in the Hospitality Room for Wednesday were Delaware, New Jersey & Potomac.

The resolutions projected on the large screen in the session room were taken care of today by Grace Boatright, Programs Assistant.

### **THIRD DAY**

#### **144th National Grange Convention**

#### **Thursday, November 11, 2010**

The third day of the 144th 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 with the exception of High Priest Tom Severance. Roll call of delegates found all states represented except Wyoming who has been excused, as well John Trimble Youth Representative Victor Salazar (CT). Opening Song was "This Old Grange".

Leroy Watson was escorted to the Master's station to receive a Proclamation for his 25 years of service to the National Grange in the Legislative Department, many of those years as Director of Legislative Affairs. We are fortunate to have him continue his work with the National Grange as a consultant, working directly on the name protection activities. We thank him for his continued commitment and counsel in this ongoing fight, and are indeed grateful to him for his extensive Grange knowledge that we have drawn on for years. Because of his impact on the Grange and all of us, Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010 will be known as Leroy Watson Day.

Duane Scott read a special resolution entitled “Ode to Leroy”. Resolution was adopted. Leroy gave remarks to the delegate body in appreciation. Several members of the delegate body offered remarks of memories of working with Leroy.

Worthy Master Ed Luttrell called for the election of two Executive Committee members of the National Grange. Balloting proceeded in due form.

Betsy Huber (PA) was re-elected as a member of the Executive Committee.

Duane Scott (WI) was elected as a member of the Executive Committee.

The following reports of the Directors of the National Grange were given: Trademark Protection, Leroy Watson; and Sales, Benefits and Programs Director, Samantha Johnson. These reports will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings.

Past Master of the National Grange, Kermit Richardson, and wife, Margaret, were escorted to the Master’s station, each offering comments to the delegate body.

Steve Logan from Rhode Island recognized past National Secretary and Past National Flora, Shirley Lawson, and her husband, Jack.

Reports of the Directors of the National Grange continued with Nicole Palya Wood, Legislative Affairs Director, which will be printed in the Journal.

After a brief recess, Master Ed Luttrell called the Grange back to order. At 11 a.m. on 11/11, National Lecturer, Pete Pompper asked that because today is Veteran’s Day that we stand and take a moment of silence to pause and think about what our service members have done in the past, are doing today, and will do in the future. We are very thankful for their unselfish sacrifice on our behalf.

Reports of the Directors of the National Grange continued with Jessie Cope, Administrative Assistant/Convention Planner; Barbara Covington Jones, Communications Director; and Rusty Hunt, Leadership/Membership Director. These reports will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings.

Today is Jimmy Taylor’s birthday, and the delegate body joined in wishing him a happy birthday by singing to him.

Pete Pompper thanked the staff at the D.C. office for all their hard work in helping make the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the National Grange Building a huge success.

Linda Chase, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, gave a partial report.

Session recessed at 12:20 p.m. 46 past delegates were honored at a luncheon. National Grange Flora, Patti Lee (IL) emceed the luncheon. Brother Phil Prelli, National Executive Committee (CT), was the speaker.

Session was called back to order at 2 p.m.

Brother Pete Pompper announced a challenge between two Grangers that has been set. An ice cream eating contest between Jack Lawson, past delegate from Rhode Island, and Rusty Hunt, National Leadership/Membership Director. The money collected will go to the Name Protection fund.

Brother Joe Fryman reminded everyone of the silent auction with the proceeds going toward the Name Protection fund. The silent auction ends on Saturday at noon. The live auction will be at the celebration banquet on Saturday evening.

Brother Marty Billquist (MT) moved that we release all pertinent information from yesterday’s session to the public. Carried.

Sister Linda Chase, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, continued her report.

Brother Rick Grotton, Chairman of Grange Law, made a partial report. Recess.

Following recess, the past delegates of the National Grange were escorted into the hall. Sister Patti Lee, National Flora (IL) recognized the past delegates of the National Grange, asking each past delegate to introduce themselves and tell the years of their service.

A moving memorial service was held under the direction of National Chaplain Phyllis Wilson (OR). Secretary, Judy Sherrod (TN), Pomona Linda Lewis (CA), Ceres Linda Chase (MA), Flora Patti Lee (IL), along with State Masters representing the states of the deceased members assisted with the service. Sister Mary Johnson (ID) gave the benediction. Pianist Fern Kulp (PA) provided the music for the memorial service.

Because today is Veteran's Day, Lecturer Pete Pompper presented a tribute to service men and women present, as each serviceman was asked to stand as the song for their branch of service was played by the pianist. He read a prayer for soldiers written by

Roy H. Parker, Chief of Chaplains U.S. Army. (Printed in Good Housekeeping Magazine in 1951). A display of the flags of each branch of the service was displayed near the altar, loaned by the Oregon State Grange. A group photo of all veterans in the room was taken.

Following call to order, Rick Grotton, Chairman of the Grange Law continued his report. The report of the Grange Law Committee was adopted in its entirety.

Brother Maurice Wiles recognized Maryland Past State Master John Thompson and wife, Betty.

Donna Keeton, Chairman of the Audit & Budget committee, gave a final report, which was adopted.

Lyle Lee, Chairman of the Transportation and Taxation committee, gave a partial report. Announcements before closing.

The 3rd day of Session was closed in due form at 5 p.m. Closing song "Side By Side".

Pianist for the day was Fern Kulp (PA)

Hosts in the Hospitality Room today were Florida, Tennessee and South Carolina.

Grace Boatright was again responsible for displaying the resolutions on the large screen in the session room.

The Annual Convocation of the Assembly of Demeter met at 8 p.m., followed by a surprise baby shower for Scott and Jennifer Russell, directors of the Seventh Degree (OH).

#### **FOURTH DAY**

#### **144th National Grange Convention**

#### **Friday, November 12, 2010**

A Chair/Secretaries breakfast was held at 7 a.m.

The fourth day of the 144th 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:

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| • Valentin DeLeon (NC) Master          | • Jeff Johnson (OR) Gatekeeper     |
| • Andrew Kieffer (PA) Overseer         | • Jenna DeLeon (NC) Ceres          |
| • Elizabeth Faulkner (NC) Lecturer     | • Kari Schnetzky (OR) Pomona       |
| • Orrin Schnetzky (OR) Steward         | • Ashley Mohn (PA) Flora           |
| • Lynn Clark (NH) Assistant Steward    | • Braden Gourley (PA) Exec. Cmtee  |
| • Janice Knott (WA) Lady Asst. Steward | • Heidi Henderson (NY) Exec. Cmtee |
| • Corey Spence (MA) Chaplain           | • Matt Clark (NH) Exec. Cmtee      |
| • Cody Stevens (NC) Treasurer          | • Allissa Estes (NH) Exec. Cmtee   |
| • Courtney Gray (NC) Secretary         | • Jennifer Nauss (PA) Pianist      |

The Youth Secretary, Courtney Gray (NC), called the Roll of Youth Officers. Escorted to the Master's Station were Youth Mentors, Junior Ambassadors, and National Youth & Junior Development Director, Charlene Espenshade.

Youth Mentors Caroline Tart (NC) and Christopher Szkutak (MA) gave remarks. The Junior Grange Ambassadors, Grace Dunderdale (ME) and Kennedy Gwin (WA), were introduced and each told about their home states. Charlene Espenshade (PA), National Youth & Junior Development Director, gave the annual report for the Youth Department as well as a short report from the Junior Department, highlighting a thank you to Anne Kurburski for her years of service to the National Junior Department. This report will appear in the Journal of Proceedings. Sister Espenshade recognized all the Youth and Juniors present. All Youth and Junior members present today carried a banner consisting of paper hands that were signed by Youth and Juniors across the country at regional conferences this year, telling about activities they do in their home states. The 40-foot long "hands banner" was stretched along the sides of the hall and the Youth and Juniors led the delegates in singing "If You're Happy and You Know It". The Youth Officer Corp presented an impressive exit drill. Youth and Junior activities will be going on throughout the day.

Worthy National Master, Ed Luttrell, presented Youth Master Valentin DeLeon (NC) with a gavel to remember this occasion.

Roll call of National Officers found all present, with the exception of High Priest, Tom Severance.

Roll call of Delegates found all states were represented except Wyoming, who is excused, including John Trimble Legislative Representative Victor Salazar (CT)

Brother Cal Chase (MA) moved to release work of Thursday to the press. Motion seconded and carried.

Chairman of Conservation and Natural Resources, Errol Briggs, presented the policy statement.

When the meeting was called back to order, First Lady of the North Carolina State Grange, Anita Gentry, gave the word for the day – July. You might think this is a month in the year, but in the South it is sometimes used by mothers to ascertain whether their children are telling the truth, i.e. "July (Did you lie), you better not!"

Donna Champion, Chairman of the Citizenship Committee, gave a partial report.

Duane Scott, Chairman of the Growth & Development Committee, gave a final report, which was adopted.

The session recessed at noon.

At 2 p.m. the installation of two newly elected Executive Committee members, Betsy Huber (PA), and Duane Scott (WI).

The Installation Team consisted of: Installing Officer: Dan Bascom; Lady Marshall: Alicia Brazie (MA); Regalia Bearer: Kim Bascom (NH); Implement Bearer: Sharon Croucher (NY); Installation Master: Bruce Croucher (NY); Installation Chaplain: Hannah West (NH); Pianist: Fern Kulp (PA).

Following recess.

John Poirrier -- Point of personal privilege – Alaska extends thanks to those who have helped Alaska become what they currently are and appreciate the work of Grangers across the country to help get them on the path to success. Grangers from 17 states traveled to Alaska at their own expense to confer the Sixth Degree, the first ever in the State of Alaska. He gave the list of officers who conferred the degree.

Bob McFarland, Chairman of Labor and Judiciary, presented a final report, which was adopted.

Following the installation of officers, Marty Billquist (MT) was escorted to the Masters station and was presented a Past National Officer pin.

Donna Champion, Chairman of the Citizenship Committee, presented a final report,

which was adopted.

Thomas Kern, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Grange Insurance Association (GIA), was escorted to the Master's station. He addressed the delegate body and told that insurance writings are down due to the economy, but is proud to report that GIA has had modest gains, and maintains a rating of A minus.

Linda Chase, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, gave a final report, which was adopted.

First Lady of the North Carolina State Grange, Anita Gentry, gave a second word for the day – awl. You might think this is a carpentry tool, but in the South it is what we change in our car motors every 3,000 miles.

Lyle Lee, Chairman of the Taxation and Transportation Committee, gave a final report, which was adopted. (MT-101 was withdrawn and was not on index sheet - add)

Linda Brumbaugh, Chairman of the Education and Health, gave a final report, which was adopted.

Announcements by Jimmy Gentry.

Dan Bascom reported that the hospitality room will be open beginning at 7 a.m. tomorrow morning for cast members of the Seventh Degree. Rehearsal will begin at 8 a.m.

Pete Pompper, Lecturer, announced that the Evening of Excellence begins at 7:30 p.m. and seating could be limited.

Bruce Croucher (NY) announced volunteers for door duty should report at noon tomorrow at the University Ballroom.

Resolution from the Youth Department was presented by Kathy Baldwin.

The ice cream eat-off will be tomorrow at 3 p.m. at a local restaurant.

Marty Billquist (MT) moved to allow the Executive Committee be authorized to approve the Friday Session minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

Anita Gentry, First Lady of the NC State Grange gave another southern word. Everybody would think that the word OFF would be the opposite of ON. But, in North Carolina, if you're not from here you're OFF. She stated that North Carolina Grangers have enjoyed having all of you in North Carolina. Safe travels and we will miss you.

Bruce Croucher, Priest Annalist, asked that Deputies for the gate for the Seventh Degree keep their delegate sashes for that purpose.

Pete Pompper, Lecturer, announced that he will conduct a Lecturer's conference at 5:30 p.m. regarding programs and projects next year.

Dan Bascom announced that court ladies should be back stage at 8:30 a.m. Space is tight, only 250 seats, and candidates will be seated first.

Motion by Betsy Huber (PA) to release today's business to the media. Seconded. Carried.

Marty Billquist (MT) moved that the office staff make any necessary spelling and grammatical corrections to the Journal. Motion seconded and carried.

An invitation to Tulsa, Okla., was issued from Donna Keeton, State Master from Oklahoma. The 145th annual National Grange convention will be at the Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills in Tulsa.

John Trimble Legislative Experience youth, Victor Salazar, spoke favorably and with much thanks about his experience with the delegate body during this Session. Don Johnson (ID) reminded that Victor Salazar was the Youth Master in the Youth Officer Corp at the Connecticut National Convention.

Dwight Baldwin announced that the 2011 Grange Growth Goals banner has a few blanks, which were promptly completed.

High Priest pro tem Dan Bascom (NH) gave the 2011 Annual Words to National Master Luttrell. Secretary Judy Sherrod (TN) read the roll call of state Granges and National Officers to

receive the annual words.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag was given by all.

Members of the hosting region received a large ‘thank you’ from all the delegates for a wonderful Session in North Carolina. Master Luttrell gave thanks to Jimmy Gentry as an integral part for all that was done to get this session off the ground.

The 144th Session of the National Grange closed in the Fourth Degree. Closing song was “Bless Be the Tie That Binds”. Everyone present formed a circle, joined hands and sang “God Be With You”.

Hosts in the Hospitality Room today are West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland.

Fern Kulp (PA) served as the pianist for the day.

At 7:30 p.m. the Evening of Excellence was held in the University Ballroom, Lecturer Pete Pompper (NJ) and Youth Mentors Caroline Tart (NC) and Christopher Szkutak (MA) introduced the participants in the Talent, Public Speaking, Sign-a-Song and State Ambassadors of the 2010 Horizon Leadership Program.

The following workshops were held throughout the day: 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. State Junior Directors & Committee workshop; 10 a.m. to noon Youth Workshops entitled Race to Re-Election and Grange Growth Summits. A Youth/Membership workshop was conducted at 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. presented by Rusty Hunt. The Grow Club dinner was held at 5 p.m. Lecturer’s Workshop at 5:30 p.m.

## **FIFTH DAY**

### **144th National Grange Convention**

**Saturday, November 13, 2010**

The Junior Breakfast was held at 8 a.m. Super JG Awards were presented during the breakfast, followed by Junior Grange activities until 11:30 a.m.

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

Jennie Gentry, North Carolina Youth Director, presented a workshop for the Youth beginning at 9:30 a.m. entitled “Better Granger Workshop”.

The Sixth Degree was conferred courtesy of the North Carolina State Grange.

The Junior Grange Degree was conferred at noon.

The Seventh Degree was conferred in the University Ballroom at the Hilton University Place Hotel with a total of 106 candidates under the direction of High Priest of Demeter pro tem Dan Bascom (NH) and Priest and Priestess, Scott and Jennifer Russell (OH). The following cast exemplified the Seventh Degree:

High Priest – Dan Bascom, pro tem (NH)

Priest Archon – Jack Smithers, pro tem (TX)

Priest Annalist – Bruce Croucher (NY)

Priest Treasurer – Dwight Baldwin (IO)

Priest Interpreter – Don Johnson (ID)

Priest Archivist – Maurice Wiles (MD)

Priestess Hierophant – Phyllis Wilson (OR)

Priest Orator -- Dale Sanderson (VT)

Priest First Mystagogue – Calvin Chase (MA)

Priest Second Mystagogue – James Owens (ME)

Priest Conductor – Arthur Merrill (NH)

Priest Messenger – James Taylor (VA)

Priest Herald – Kevin Klenklen (KS)  
Priest Guardian – Chip Narvel (DE)  
Priest Announcer – Gary Brumbaugh (OH)  
Priestess Ceres – Linda Chase (MA)  
Priestess Pomona – Linda Lewis (CA)  
Priestess Flora – Patti Lee (IL)  
Ceres' Attendants – Beth Merrill (NH) and Maureen Prelli (CT)

Court Ladies

Claire Logan (RI)	Earlene Foster (WV)	Mary Johnson (ID)
Jodi Ann Cameron (CT)	Connie Johnston (MI)	Barbara Borderieux (FL)
Donna Champion (MN)	Karen Orton (NY)	Donna Bates
Judy Sherrod(TN)	Karen Jensen (MN)	Barbara Covington Jones

Trumpet Girls

Haley Neer	Katie Leonard
Montana Wrigley	Darby Madewell
Missy Mueller	Rachel Haubert
Ashley Muench	Abby Moody

Marching Candidates

Meredith Fulton	Elizabeth Faulkner
Michael Gentry	John Payne

National Master – Ed Luttrell (OR)  
Slide Illustration/Sacred Oracle – Duane Scott (WI)  
Video Technician – Patty Dyer (OH)  
Soloist – Jimmy Martin (NC)  
Pianist – Kathryn Davis (NC)  
Directors – Scott and Jen Russell (OH)  
Backstage Assistants – Harold & Carolyn Hill (CA)  
Make-up: Donna Wiles (MD), Melanie Bostwick (KS),  
Yvonne Merritt (OK), Donna Keeton (OK).

The final day of the 144th Annual Session ended with the Celebration Banquet. The evening began with the Invocation given by Chaplain Phyllis Wilson (OR). Jimmy Gentry, Master of the North Carolina State Grange, provided the evening's entertainment accompanying himself on the guitar, as he sang several songs.

Worthy Master Ed Luttrell introduced the National Grange Officers as well as the Officers of the Assembly of Demeter, and the National Grange staff.

Samantha Johnson, National Grange Program Director, presented a check from Grangers across the country to the Kelley Farm. Donna Champion, State Master from Minnesota, accepted the check and gave greetings from the Kelley Farm. Samantha then drew the winning raffle ticket for a gift donated by Robin Dickson, CEO of Dogs for the Deaf. A handmade quilt from Michigan (last year's host region), was presented to the President of the National Foster

Parent Association, Irene Clements, who offered gratitude to the Grange for this quilt that they will use as a fundraising project.

Samantha Johnson then announced the winners in the National Community Service program:

- 1st -Valley #144, Maine
- 2nd - Fredonia #1713, Mich.
- 3rd - Ekonk #89, Ct.
- 4th - N. Orange #86, Mass.

A “bloop” reel from the National Grange office staff was shown. First Lady of the North Carolina State Grange, Anita Gentry, gave another Southern word.

It was reported that the ice cream eating contest between past delegate from Rhode Island, Jack Lawson, and National Membership/Leadership Director, Rusty Hunt, was won by Jack Lawson, after Rusty conceded Jack’s victory after Jack’s finishing 15 scoops of ice cream. The money collected will be put into the Trademark Protection Fund.

Rusty Hunt shared success stories of Grange growth as he presented awards for net gains. Two states had a net gain in the number of Granges in their states – California and Alaska. Eight states had net gains in membership: Alaska, California, Illinois, Iowa, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

National Master Luttrell announced that the “Grange Truck” had travelled 3,666 miles since last year’s National Convention in Michigan. It visited five states, and in the states visited, there was a gain in members of 49 and one new Junior Grange chartered. The Grange truck will go home with Brother Jack Smithers to Texas to begin its travel.

Yvonne Merritt from Oklahoma announced that next year’s National Convention will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma hosted by the Great Plains Region states of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, Wyoming, and Oklahoma.

A delicious dinner was served. A Grange dance followed the evening’s festivities. Thus ended the 144th Annual Convention of the National Grange.

### **COMBINED SEVENTH DEGREE BUSINESS MEETING AND CONVOCATION Charlotte, NORTH CAROLINA 2010**

The combined Convocation and Business meeting of the Seventh Degree was held in the Lake Shore Ballroom of the Hilton hotel in Charlotte, North Carolina on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2010. Priest Herald Kevin Klenklen conducted the officers and cast to their proper stations. Priestess Hierophant, Phyllis Wilson gave the opening prayer. The opening song was “To Thee Beloved Grange.”

High Priest pro tem, Daniel Bascom opened the meeting in full form. High Priest pro tem, Daniel Bascom welcomed all to the convocation and thanked all who volunteered to serve. High Priest pro tem, Daniel Bascom announced that High Priest Tom Severance is strengthened by the cards he has received. Tom will be setting up the next course of treatments. He needs our prayers and support. Tom is the sixteenth High Priest and Dan has known four of them: Arthur Perkins, Maine; Woodrow Tucker, R.I.; John Valentine, Ind.; and Tom Severance, Mass. High Priest pro tem, Daniel Bascom has tried to incorporate some of High Priest Tom Severance’s ideas. Tom has developed the annual words. High Priest pro tem, Daniel Bascom reminded us that there is no election unless there is a vacancy in the position of High Priest. All Seventh Degree members are members of the Convocation.

High Priest pro tem, Daniel Bascom opened the business meeting of the Assembly of Demeter. The minutes of the previous meeting were read. The Worthy High Priest pro tem,

Daniel Bascom announced that Priest Jack Smithers of Texas was acting as Priest Arcon and had the Sacred Record for any who wished to see it. Priest Smithers said that he was happy to serve in any capacity.

High Priest pro tem, Daniel Bascom told us that he belongs to the Masonic Order, The Odd Fellow and Elks as well as the Grange. He likes the Grange best. We all need to take heart. We need to gain membership and have more candidates for the Seventh Degree. There have been some changes in the presentation of the Seventh Degree and comments on the changes are appreciated. Listen carefully to the charges and lessons of the degree. To really understand the Seventh Degree you must first take the previous degrees.

High Priest pro tem, Daniel Bascom introduced Past National Master, Kermit Richardson and National Master, Ed Luttrell. Discussion of the cost of the Seventh Degree would not be an issue if we had two thousand or more candidates each year. We need to do the lower degrees in an inspiring way. At a recent conferral of the lower degrees, the candidates were interested and asked many questions. Our enthusiasm encourages new members to participate and ask friends to become members.

High Priest pro tem, Daniel Bascom attended the Maine State Grange session and saw the Sixth Degree. They did a great job and had thirty candidates. In New Hampshire, he saw a local Grange confer the degrees with many new members and they did a great job. The New Hampshire State Officers did a very good conferral of the Sixth Degree. High Priest pro tem, Daniel Bascom invited everyone to attend the seventh degree in New Hampshire, but they wanted to attend this year in Charlotte. Ritualism sets the Grange apart from other organizations.

High Priest pro tem, Daniel Bascom introduced the following participants as officers of the convocation: Priest Arcon, Jack Smithers, Texas; Priest Annalist, Bruce Croucher, N.Y.; Treasurer, Dwight Baldwin, Iowa; Interpreter, Don Johnson, Idaho; Archivist, Maurice Wiles, Md.; Hierophant, Phyllis Wilson, Ore.; Orator, Dale Sanderson, Vt.; Priest First Mystagogue, Calvin Chase, Mass.; Priest Second Mystagogue, Arthur Merrill, N.H.; Messenger, James Taylor, Va.; Herald, Roger Bostwick, Kan.; Guardian, Chip Narvel, Del.; Announcer, Gary Brumbaugh, Ohio; Ceres, Linda Chase, Mass.; Pomona, Linda Lewis, Calif.; Flora, Patty Lee, Ill. The pianist was Fern Kulp, Pa. The degree directors are Scott and Jen Russell, Ohio with Assistant Directors Bud and Carolyn Hill, Calif. The Video Director was Patty Dyer, Ohio and Oracle, Duane Scott, Wis.

High Priest pro tem, Daniel Bascom introduced Scott and Jen Russell who thanked Carolyn and Bud Hill, Duane Scott and Patty Dyer as well as Donna Wiles who headed the make-up crew.

There was no old business.

New Business: High Priest pro tem, Daniel Bascom exemplified the sign of caution, one of the archaic signs, assisted by Jim Owens and Arthur Merrill. The signs were developed in the early history of the Grange when members needed to protect themselves. Some also thought they might be used to avoid hurting someone's feelings. High Priest pro tem, Daniel Bascom mentioned that Leroy Watson knew of a hand-written code book at the National Headquarters with margin notes.

Yvonne Merritt, Convention coordinator for the Oklahoma Convention, invited everyone to attend the 145th Session next year in Tulsa. The Convention will be held at the Southern Hills Marriot. The number of candidates this year is 106.

All were asked to remain for a special gathering after the close.

The closing song was "Blest be the Tie that Binds." The meeting was closed in proper form.

Fraternally Submitted,

Bruce M. Croucher, Priest Annalist

**Annual Address of the National Master  
144th Annual Convention  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
November 9, 2010**

National Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters,

At this 144th Annual Session of the National Grange, we meet in North Carolina for the sixth time and for the first time in the great city of Charlotte. With combined unemployment and underemployment numbers at about 17 percent, nearly all Americans know someone out of work or forced to work part-time. It is not uncommon to see families struggling to avoid losing their homes, and many small businesses are questioning how long they can keep going.

These are tough times for America, yet the spirit of the founders of our Nation remains strong. Through organizations like the Grange, people are coming together and helping each other just as they have since the birth of our country.

The delegate body seated here today represents members in more than 2,160 local communities spread across 38 states. The debate, discussions, and votes that they make this week are but a reflection of what is happening in communities across our vast organization.



*Fiscal responsibility*

There is no issue with greater impact on our Nation than the fiscal responsibility of our elected officials at each level of government. If we allow our elected officials to fail to exercise prudent fiscal restraint, we destroy what our country has stood for over the past 234 years. Our nation and states cannot spend more than we receive over the long-term, and we cannot continue to raise taxes and fees without harming the initiative and strong work ethic of the average American.

Our great nation has developed a serious spending problem over the last few decades. Over the past two years, our federal government has accelerated this problem beyond any precedent. In the past year, 37 cents of every dollar that our federal government spent was borrowed. By having huge deficits in the budget, we are creating long-term debt that was unimaginable a decade ago.

Anyone with knowledge of history and a bit of common sense can see that this spending is unsustainable and poses a threat to our vitality and our national security. Our nation has been rapidly moving toward a European socialist style of government over the past two years. This is not the American dream! The result will be higher taxes, more dependence on government, and less freedom in our personal lives; three things our forefathers would detest. The strange thing is that this move is happening at the same time as many European governments are starting to move towards an entrepreneur and market-driven economy, which has defined our country for over 200 years.

The National Grange calls on all members to work with elected officials to ensure that fiscal responsibility once again becomes the order of the day. We must face the realities of our financial condition and work together to ensure that our children and grandchildren have their opportunity to live the American dream, without the burden of massive inherited debt.

We have had the opportunity to see new political movements born over the outrage felt by many citizens by the actions of a Congress and President who seem to be failing to listen

to the people. The Tea Party Movement didn't start as a party or partisan movement, it was a populist movement. Those who came to rallies in protest of government actions were people who do not have a history of activism. They are law-abiding citizens who go to work, pay their taxes, and put food on the table. Contrary to the pundits and political parties, this is a great thing for American society. More people taking an interest in their government reminds us that it is our civic duty to truly hold all politicians to their pledges and promises. That a group of average Americans, united by one idea, can be stronger than any political party or establishment is a powerful reaffirmation of our American system.

We are now a week past the mid-term elections and undoubtedly there will be changes because of the results. This is the moment that every American needs to take advantage of. We need to communicate to every elected official at the federal, state, and local level that our nation has called for change because of the individual freedoms each American treasures, not because of the hope for government largesse.

### *Agriculture*

Agriculture is changing and it is up to everyone who makes their living from this vital industry to ensure that American citizens understand its realities. Laws, regulation, and market-driven record keeping will impact all farmers, ranchers, foresters, and watermen.

Every week we hear something new about how the healthcare bill will impact small business and rural America. We are seeing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) discussing or proposing rules that contain major elements of the cap and trade bills that have, at this time, failed to pass Congress. Business has also increased their demand for preferred methods in record keeping from their suppliers as they have discovered that there is a profit to be made by being "green." Each of these elements has an impact on the viability of American agriculture.

One of the challenges facing our industry is a new vocabulary. "Organic, green, permaculture, sustainable" and other terms are tossed around by many and yet few are understood by the average citizen. Organic farming has limited federal definitions and has guidelines to certify those using this process. Being "green" appears to be a business marketing term with little definition at this point.

The term "sustainable agriculture" was addressed by Congress in the 1990 Farm Bill. Under that law, "The term sustainable agriculture means an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long term: satisfy human food and fiber needs; enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends; make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls; sustain the economic viability of farm operations; and enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole."

This definition looks great on paper, but not even those in agriculture agree which production practices are actually sustainable. Ask an organic fruit or vegetable farmer in California if the Nebraska corn and soybean farmer is engaged in sustainable agriculture. The Nebraska farmer would say he is practicing sustainable agriculture, but some using different production methods would argue against his practices. The Nebraska farmer might also counter that the organic practices used in fruit and vegetable production have been associated with higher risks of food borne illnesses while his corn and soybean crops are virtually free of contaminants when they leave his farm. However, both are concerned with the challenges that regulation of critical surface and groundwater supplies may bring.

All in agriculture must find common ground and recognize that there are different business plans and practices and that both protect the environment while providing people with the food,

fiber, and fuel they need. If we fail to unify on the big issues and educate our fellow citizens about the reality of agriculture, the anti-agriculture groups will win. If we continue to allow these groups to spread fear and factless propaganda, American farmers will be robbed of the ability to feed ourselves and the world. We must engage those who speak against us and work together to educate our national, state, and local leaders on the vitality of our daily work.

Locally grown is the best source of fresh and naturally ripened produce and the consumer is often willing to pay a premium for such food. However, we should be aware that our selection of food available throughout the year would be drastically reduced without commercial storage and transportation of American-grown food around the country, especially in the northern regions of our nation.

Even more sobering is the realization that without production farmers, each producing hundreds or thousands of acres of wheat, corn, soybeans and a wide variety of other crops and livestock, much of the world would experience famine and death on a scale we do not want to imagine. Three billion additional mouths to feed are projected by 2050 and American agriculture will be the salvation of many of those people.

We must look at American agriculture with eyes that are not blinded by our individual beliefs in certain agriculture practices. We must discover ways to work together and share information that can enhance our partners rather than point fingers. We must never imply that one segment of agriculture is better or worse than another.

The Grange remains the best established and viable way to bring the different views in agriculture together at the grassroots level. Through debate and discussion all can find common ground that will allow each to become an effective partner in American agriculture. The future of rural America depends upon each to be part of this process.

The 2012 Farm Bill is already being discussed and it appears that much of the discussion is already focusing on how each group ensures that they get their piece of the pie. The reality of the 2008 Farm Bill is that 67 percent of the act is dedicated to non-farm purposes and that percentage is not likely to decline when the current administration formally presents their proposals. In fact, budget proposals have already been submitted to reduce farm supports.

The 2008 Farm Bill consists of 15 titles or areas of spending. Four of these titles use 97 percent of the 284 billion dollar allocation. 66.5 percent is spent by nutrition, a little less than 15 percent is used for farm commodity support, conservation receives 8.5 percent, and crop insurance is under 8 percent.

Due to the financial deficits of the federal government the Grange focus in the 2012 Farm Bill will be in the following areas. We must ensure that credit is available to farmers regardless of size. Rural development issues must continue to be a priority in order to provide necessary infrastructure to get our product from field to table. Research and funding of the Extension Program must be continued if we wish to ensure innovative practices and new tools beneficial to agriculture and society are available. The creation, improvement, and implementation of both primary and secondary energy sources through agriculture must remain a priority to lessen our dependence on foreign oil. Crop insurance and disaster relief must be adequately funded in order to serve as the primary way of helping farmers deal with unforeseen weather and market fluctuations.

### *Education*

From the birth of our organization, education has been a crucial component of what Grange members have advocated for. The modern world has seen an explosion of information due to electronic mediums and we strongly believe that education remains the cornerstone of success for each member of our society.

More than any other period in human history, we are challenged to learn new skills and to accept and incorporate new facts, processes, and inventions merely to keep up with the world. Yet the mind that our creator has given each of us is up to the task. Young and old alike learn and adapt to a constantly changing world.

The challenge of educating our youth is an ongoing debate and concern for all. The Grange has strong policies which allow us to work with many partners to ensure that the education system remains strong and adaptable within our changing world. The fiscal problems facing our nation may force innovation and change upon the educational system. The Grange calls on all citizens to join in seeking solutions to the financing of our educational system while ensuring the quality of that education improves during these tough times.

### *Communication*

Affordable access to broadband coverage to every American and to every business is essential to creating opportunities to succeed. From sharing family pictures to forecasting business trends, the internet has become an essential part of modern day life. We can order almost anything on-line today, from books to plane tickets to parts for a broken appliance.

Yet today, significant portions of rural America still have little, if any, choice for high speed broadband access. Dial-up connections no longer fill the need that rural Americans have to be connected in today's world. More public and private partnerships need to be created to ensure that high-speed broadband access is a given within rural America. Just as bringing telephone service to every community was once a priority, today broadband technologies must be considered just as essential.

Cost of broadband service also remains an issue. In urban America, the consumer has the choice of several different types of technology, speed, and prices to meet their needs. Many in rural America have one choice or no choice. While geography may limit some of the technologies currently in use, not having the option of a choice is a serious limitation for those wishing to use broadband services. A \$60 monthly bill for high speed technology may be affordable in Philadelphia, but in rural Wyoming that same cost may be unaffordable to many. Competition remains an effective solution to reducing cost, but public regulations should be treating broadband in similar ways as telephone service has been treated in the past. If we are committed to preserving a populated and competitive rural America, we must ensure these Americans have the tools to not just compete, but to thrive.

The U.S. Postal Service has proposed to Congress that they be allowed to reduce service to their customers, the American public. While their request notes that they wish to eliminate Saturday service, the proposed changes will allow possible future reductions in service without congressional or administrative action.

The National Grange has taken a strong stand in opposition to this proposed reduction in services in accordance with our policies that have been adopted over the course of many years. We have testified to postal regulatory officials how rural America will suffer disproportionately from the elimination of Saturday service. A 17 percent reduction in services for a 6 percent savings does not make sense at this time.

Due to the gap between rural and urban America in access to broadband service, rural citizens and businesses still depend heavily upon service from their local post office. Essential products such as medicine and parts, civic participation through mailed ballots, and agriculture products such as chicks depend upon delivery by our Postal Service.

We understand the challenges faced by the Postal Service and their financial condition. We encourage the Postal Service to explore all cost-saving opportunities, but reduction of services is not an option we can support. We also call upon Congress to deal with the

retirement early pay-out issue which has devastated the US Postal Service financially and forced it to entertain issues such as a reduction in services to customers.

### *Community*

America is a nation of communities. The things that directly benefit most citizens are based in our local community. Schools, healthcare, jobs, charity and daily recreation are provided not by the federal or state government, but by local people working together. When people focus on working together within our local communities, this is when our quality of life increases.

Few want the federal government to take care of things locally. The reason for this fact is that those in Washington, D.C., do not know the who, what, or why of things in our individual community. The same is true of our state governments. While national and state governments are necessary, we must on occasion remind our elected officials and government employees that many issues are ours to solve.

The Grange believes that community is the essential building block of our great nation. We understand that a community without strong churches, good education, healthy civic organizations, and meaningful participation by the citizens will not be attractive to employers. Our organization will do its part to ensure the continued health of every community.

There are far too many places in the world where local people's first concern is simply survival. Dictators, lack of knowledge, and poverty shorten lives and weighs heavy on the spirits of those trapped in that world.

It is time that America considers exporting not just food, machinery, and the concept of our government, but also the time-proven ways of communities coming together to make changes. The Grange stands ready to share our knowledge of building communities through a non-partisan, non-sectarian process that involves the entire family. What we in America take for granted, others in the world hunger for.

### *Conclusion*

This past year, the last speech that Albert Goss gave as National Grange Master was found. It was inspiring to listen to his words as he shared ideas with an audience in New York. While much in the world has changed since October of 1950, many of the solutions he discussed are still relevant today.

The challenges of 1950 were different from the problems of 1900 and the troubles of the 21st century are no less daunting. Grange members of each era have responded with common sense solutions and innovative answers.

It is to us that falls the task of meeting the challenges of our world in 2010. When every interested American chooses to join the organizations that they share beliefs and goals with, our nation will be stronger. The Grange vision is that in every community across our country solutions will be proposed, civil debate will be held with all encouraged to participate, and together we will meet our challenges.

The spirit of the Grange remains true to the ideals of the founders of our nation. We are convinced that the future, even with all of its problems, remains bright and full of optimism to eyes that can see the possibilities.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Edward L. Luttrell, National Master

**National Master's Internal Address  
144th Annual Convention  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
November 9, 2010**

National Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters,

At this 144th Annual Session of the National Grange we meet in North Carolina for the sixth time and for the first time in the great city of Charlotte. Just as the '44, '60, '77, '89 and 1998 Grange Sessions dealt with the issues of the day, our delegates have serious challenges and wonderful opportunities to address in North Carolina.

I challenge every Grange to discuss the issues mentioned in this report. I have attempted to share some of the crucial issues we need to address and to clearly outline the future path that the National Grange will be taking during the upcoming year.

This is a time for members to think big. During my travels, I see more and more members asking hard questions and suggesting improvements in our organization. Bold, confident, and focused on the family and community is the base of the success I see growing across our Order.

*Finances*

This past year has been another one of financial challenge, due entirely to our efforts to protect our Grange name and trademark. Due to the generosity of our members and Granges, and continued aggressive efforts to reduce attorney fees, it appears that we are going to end the year in a substantially better position than we did last year.

We have optimism that the major challenges remaining against our trademarks will be successfully concluded by the end of 2011. Regardless of when we are successful in closing this chapter, we must acknowledge that our organization has created a trademark that is attractive to business seeking a tie to local, wholesome products and trustworthy services. The result is that we will always have some maintenance cost for owning our name.

*Departments*

This has been a year of change with transitions in several departments of the National Grange. Change may be difficult, but it does present new opportunities.

After eleven years as our Legislative Director, Leroy Watson stepped down and moved to be with family in Wisconsin. I want to thank Leroy for his service, dedication to the Grange, and his friendship.

Nicole Wood has jumped into the position of Legislative Director with enthusiasm and she will continue building upon our strong legislative legacy. I want to encourage every member to take the legislative survey and to help us create a program that will aid in growing the Grange.

Due to new opportunities, Ann Kurburski chose to turn over leadership of the Junior Program. With the approval of the Executive Committee, I explored several options to further improve the transition of children from the Junior to the Youth programs. I want to thank Charlene Espenshade for going above and beyond duty during this time of transition. Due to limitations that we haven't found solutions for yet, we will be selecting a new Junior Director as quickly as possible.

I want to commend all of the leadership team of the National Grange staff. Barbara is a great returning addition to our team. Samantha, Rusty, Jessie, Amber and Stephanie continue to grow and improve how their departments serve our membership.

### *Pomona*

Revitalizing existing, reorganizing failed, and starting new Community Granges has been a key priority for the National Grange and this focus will continue into the future. While the health of our Community Granges is the key to achieving success at the State and National levels of our Order, the Pomona Grange level needs to become a stronger part of the team.

This year, we have done a great deal of research on the Pomona level of our organization. A weekend conference on revitalizing Pomona Granges was then created and conducted. The reason for this additional effort is that we believe that Pomona Granges need to be part of the organization's team that aids Community Granges to become successful.

It is evident from the survey and the members that we have spoken to this year that few believe that their Pomona is doing what it should or needs to be doing. In fact, the level of negative comments directed toward the Pomona level was significant. The issue of revitalizing Pomona Granges becomes critical in light of this information. It will be far more difficult to achieve the successes we are working for, if an entire level our organization is failing or is even perceived to be failing overall.

The Digest is clear on what a Pomona should be doing. First, the Pomona should benefit the Community Grange by strengthening and aiding them, assume responsibility for Grange growth and assist in the social, educational, legislative, and business interests of the Order. I ask each Pomona Grange to question how they are helping their Granges and if they are truly assuming responsibility for growth. It will not be easy for there is no magic solution; there is only team work and perseverance.

Second, the Pomona should be providing benefit to the members of their Community Granges in the form of monetary or material benefits as well as the social or intangible benefits. From what we have learned this year, few Pomona Granges provide monetary or material benefits and most members question the value of this purpose. I challenge each delegate to initiate a discussion in their state on this issue and to suggest improvements or changes to the Digest based upon what our members see as the responsibility of the Pomona Grange.

Third, the Pomona is to provide a variety of information to the State Grange as requested. The solution for this is for your State Grange committees to be active in requesting and using information that can be provided by the Pomona. It is up to your State committees to solve this problem by beginning to build teams of their Pomona counterparts.

And the fourth and last purpose is what is expected of the Pomona members. Pomona members are expected to be alert to aiding the Community Granges and to communicate the interests of the Order. They are also to set the example of how a Grange member is to act. Is each Pomona member doing their part to ensure the growth of our great Order?

Our plans to grow the Grange include revitalizing Pomona Granges as an additional partner to ensure that our Community Granges have every opportunity for success. I would challenge each State Grange Master to host a meeting this year to get our Pomona Grange members talking about how to revitalize their Pomona Granges in order to help every Community Grange.

### *Community*

The community is truly the base upon which our great nation was founded and is fundamental in why we have achieved so much. The founders of our Order knew that to improve the lot of the American farmer and their family, the community must remain the keystone of our Order. National and State efforts would only be successful when the local communities saw the strength in unity.

There are only a handful of organizations with more local units than the Grange and there are fewer still that give the local unit as much authority as our Order gives the Community Grange. Since early in our history we have opened wide the doors of Grange membership to the entire family. For over a century, we have welcomed those who were not farmers and today welcome all of good character. The importance of starting new Granges to benefit communities cannot be understated. It is my belief that we are on the brink of expanding into several new states and our goal must continue to be that we have a State Grange in every State in our great nation.

Looking back at the history of our Order, we should feel proud that we've also had a profound influence throughout the world. Meeting in September with the participants and children of participants of the Germany/USA Friendship program demonstrated to me the power that the simple exchange of opening our arms and hearts to others can have. The Germany/USA program existed for about six years and yet 60 years later the participants still gather to share memories and update each other about their lives. For those participants, one year of exchange became a lifetime of friendship and family.

Looking around the world at the problems of fear, poverty, and even survival facing so many nations, it is time that our members once again consider opening their doors and hearts to share our hopes and optimism with others. I would suggest that when opportunities to share the unique dynamics of our organization and our members are presented, we take the challenge and show others around the world that Americans want to help them find lasting solutions.

### *Pride*

Pride in our organization is critical. Do we brag about our Grange? Do we share things about our Grange the way we share pictures of our families or grandkids? If not, why not? I hear from our members regularly about the pride they feel about their Grange. I see Grange shirts, hats, and more worn, carried, and displayed at every Grange event that I attend. Is that pride being exhibited to the community or is it being restricted to Grange events?

It is crucial that our membership not only feel pride, but exhibit it to others. When our members show their pride, they become the best possible ambassadors for our Order. We need more positive ambassadors in each Grange as it is these people that ask others to join. Our good name will often open the door, but it is our members who will seal the deal for potential members.

One great example of pride was the 50th anniversary of our National Grange Headquarters building. Those who had the opportunity to experience that event felt, in a very real way, the power that pride gives.

One area of concern that I have is that we are not consistently using our ritualistic work as an additional opportunity to create pride within the Grange. Degree work and welcoming or obligation ceremonies, installation ceremonies, and especially the opening and closing of our Grange meetings give opportunities to each officer to create pride in their Grange.

When each officer does their part to the best of their ability, it sets a positive tone for the Grange. Regardless of which way we open and close the Grange, no matter which method we use to bring new members into our group, it is crucial that we do so with pride and to the best of our ability. The delivery of the words of our ritual must be the emphasis, not just reciting them correctly. The lessons, the emotion, and the meaning of the words will do more to impress our new and current members than simple recitation of words.

I believe that we as Grange leaders need to encourage members to take the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Degrees. It is time for our organization to reinforce our fraternal roots and to

view all our degree work as educational and bonding, as well as having historical significance. In addition, we must set our expectations high for the teams that confer this work. Each of us has different skills, and there is no disgrace in empowering those who have the skills to communicate the lessons of our ritual to the candidates. The continuation of the high standards of conferring the Seventh Degree requires that we encourage more members to partake in the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Degrees. Each level builds upon the previous degree and how members view your work will influence their desire to take the next degree.

### *Growth*

The past few years have shown that our Order remains attractive to a wide variety of people in our society. New members in new Granges, and new members in revitalized old Granges have all shown that family, community, and agriculture are all great reasons to join the Grange. Young people, families and seniors all find our organization attractive for the investment of their time, energy, and money.

I call on Grange leaders to utilize all available programs to revitalize our existing Community Granges. Teams must be formed to expand the ability of State Granges to aid every Community Grange. Our youth must be given the training and opportunity to become leaders in this effort.

Each and every Grange leader must either acknowledge that our organization can and will grow or step aside for those who do believe. We cannot achieve success unless we, as an organization, believe that we are going to attain greatness. Excuses for lack of action, or expressions of disbelief on the possibility of success, by our leadership must not be acceptable to any member. In the direction of growth we must be united, while in methods to achieve that growth each Grange can and should be unique.

This week the E-Membership proposal will be voted on by the delegates for the second time. From my perspective, there are three basic reasons to support this proposal. First, to create a gateway into regular Grange membership. This has a strong probability to benefit many Community Granges directly over the next few years. Second, to create more awareness of our organization. This will give the opportunity to expand the reach and awareness of our Order far beyond the range of our current Community Granges, especially among younger people who are increasingly reliant upon the internet for their awareness of current events. Third, it will provide a new revenue stream that has potential to aid the National Grange and each State Grange to further serve the interests of our members.

It is fascinating to read the reports from State Masters from more than 70 years ago. During a time when it seems everyone was joining the Grange, the leaders of our organization were making large pledges of growth, both in new Granges and in members. It was eye opening to see some leaders apologizing for not having as much growth as they projected. These reports show tremendous effort being expended as every member possible was brought onto the State Grange team. The reports show leaders who dreamed, thought, and acted as if success was theirs to grasp. It is evident from their own words that success then was no different than today. It rises from hard work, building teams and everyone doing their part.

“I will do my part” is a statement that is the most we can expect from each officer. Each State Master has duties that fall upon them. Each deals with similar problems and challenges, and yet there is always something new. This year I ask that during this week, each State Master make a public pledge to do something new or different to help their local Granges to grow. This is your opportunity to share the bold ideas you wish to accomplish in your State. I will also make a pledge to you. A major focus of the National Grange for 2011 will be increasing the positive public relations that we need throughout our entire organization.

I will do my part. The success of every community Grange comes down to the officers being willing to take responsibility and to do their part. We must ask others to share in our organization on a regular basis. If just the officers of each Grange were to take the challenge of doing their part in recruiting new members, we would seldom have a membership decline.

I am going to reinstitute a program from a few years ago with a few changes. After the June 30 numbers are reported in 2011, each Grange that shows a net gain in membership next year will receive a poster and a letter of congratulations from me. In addition, we will bring back the honor roll of Granges and post all those Granges achieving a net gain on the web site. The Grange that has the largest percentage of net gain and the Grange with the largest number of new members in the membership year, July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 will also receive a personal visit by the National Master to celebrate their achievement. We will also have something special for the State Granges that have the largest percentage and the largest number of new members gained net. We will post the requirements for this program on the web.

### *In Memoriam*

The great truth of life and family is even as we add new members to our fraternal family we also lose family members who are important to us. This week we will honor past National Officers and former delegates who have been called to their reward, just as State Granges have honored them for their achievements at that level.

From the simple ceremony of draping our Community Grange charter to the remembrances to be shared here this week, we should always keep in mind our departed family members. The gift of friendship and family was shared freely with us. These departed members are now with our great Creator. They have done their part and we are better for it.

### *Thanks*

There are so many people that have made this past year a blessing. The members who opened their homes, those who shared gifts, and the multitude of good wishes and comments demonstrate the real meaning of being a Granger. Thank you to each and every one of our members who has touched my life this year.

I wish to thank Celia and my family for their support this year. By the end of this year I will have spent 176 days traveling and my wife and family have given more than should ever be expected and deserve your thanks. They have done far more than their part in helping grow our Grange.

### *Conclusion*

I began this report with the admonition that we need to think big. We are on the path that leads to growth and success for the Grange. Community, Pomona, State, and National Grange are all part of one organization and it is when we support, rely, and aid each other that we achieve the greatest success.

When your Grange discusses this report, use the discussion to initiate additional solutions that will help your Grange grow. Challenge yourself as a member and officer and our organization will benefit.

I will end this report with my pledge to continue to think big and I encourage every Grange leader to think big also. Each of us must do our part to achieve success.

Fraternaly Submitted,  
Edward L. Luttrell, National Master

## REPORTS OF THE STATE MASTERS

### Alaska

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates, and members of the 144th Annual Session of the National Grange: Greetings from the State of Alaska.

This year we were honored to have the National Overseer, Jimmy Gentry and his wife, Anita, representing the National Office at our State meeting held during May in North Pole. When my wife, Kate, and I had dinner with Anita and Jimmy prior to the meeting, Jimmy invited us to visit them in Charlotte. Little did any of us know then that I would be in Charlotte as a delegate representing the Alaska State Grange. Kate is unable to attend as work and family priorities keep her in Alaska.



While Alaska has enjoyed statehood for 50 years now, the Alaska State Grange has been chartered for only six. In the grand scheme of things, we are a new state and new to the Grange. The Alaska State Grange held its first meeting on May 15, 2004. While our State history with the Grange does not go back very far, Community Granges in Alaska date back to 1934 when the Northland Pioneer Grange was organized in Palmer, Alaska. After a 30 year gap, the Two Rivers Grange was organized in 1960 and the North Pole, Grange organized in 1961. Four more Granges were organized between 2002 and 2009. These seven of the thirteen Granges chartered in Alaska since 1934 are presently active.

The current challenge for the Alaska State Grange is to become effective as a statewide organization and implement the procedures for operation described in our own bylaws and the national digest.

A significant happening for the Alaska State Grange was the Growth Summit conducted in Palmer by the national office during April. The highlight of our year, however, was the Sixth Degree ceremony conducted by representatives of Granges coming from 17 states across the country who traveled to Alaska at their own expense. We were impressed by their professionalism, inspired by their dedication and to them we owe a great debt of gratitude. Eleven Grangers in Alaska advanced to the Sixth Degree at that time. Most of our State Officers and Executive Committee Members are now Sixth Degree members, bringing us to a total of 16 Sixth Degree members in our State. This enables us to carry on the tradition and conduct the ritual mostly from within our own resources.

I am looking forward to working with the Granges in Alaska and serving as a delegate at the 144th National Grange Convection for my two-year term of office.

Fraternally Submitted,  
John E. Poirrier, Master

### California

Brothers and Sisters, a year ago, the members of the California State Grange determined to get “Back to our Roots,” embracing the principles that guided our founders 140 years ago. We are celebrating a Grange Renaissance that affirms our conviction that the Grange provides value and meaning to our lives.

We promised that we would exercise fiscal responsibility, provide accountability and

transparency in our affairs, promote membership growth, and refocus the resources of the California State Grange to best serve our members and their communities.

The highlight of a very good year came during our 138th annual convention, when we were able to announce our first net gain in membership since 1983, ending a 27-year downward trend. We've had a net gain of 275 new members this past year, giving historic significance of our motto this year: Growing Together.

In the past year, we have re-organized or opened 10 new Granges in California. Six out of 10 vacant Grange halls were populated with new memberships.

We have significant money from inactive Granges held in bank accounts drawing a meager one-half percent interest or less. We are exploring the possibility of using some of these funds to purchase real estate and start brand new Granges, something that has not been done since the 1950's.

Grangers have always been the tillers of the soil, the honest laborers of the day, the leaders of our communities and the stewards of our future. We have determined to carry on this legacy. Our first degree ritual proclaims, "Agriculture is the first and noblest of all occupations." Our agriculture heritage still grounds us.

Our interests in agriculture have expanded to include how our crops are grown, where they come from and how they find their way to our tables. We're learning about food safety and security. We want to reach into the classroom and educate students about healthier life choices. We're not just planning "what's for dinner tonight," we're asking, "what will our children feed their children?"

Farmers are returning to the Grange. These farmers are our friends and neighbors, and they are facing significant challenges. These farmers need and want our help, and we can do nothing less than provide it. We are creating a Farmer's Bill of Rights. The Farmer's Bill of Rights will be our declaration of allegiance to the farmers of California. The Farmer's Bill of Rights will put us back on the map as the oldest and grandest agriculture organization in the country.

We have strong, responsible officers on our Executive Committee. We've managed to turn around three years of deficit spending and return to the black. We've reduced our annual budget by \$130,000 despite significant losses in income.

We encourage our members to attend our Executive Committee meetings, and in the true sense of a grass roots organization, we are holding "outreach meetings," traveling around the state to hold meetings in community Granges to make it easier for our members to participate.

We've refocused the resources of the California State Grange to serve our members and their communities. Next year, a grant researcher/writer will join our staff to help community Granges fund their programs and hall renovations.

We're very proud of our new web site and news magazine, redesigned to make them more relevant, useful and appealing. We encourage you to take a look at the web site at [www.californiagrangegrange.org](http://www.californiagrangegrange.org). Our news magazines are online for your enjoyment.

Our Public Relations Department promotes Grange programs and events at the State and community level. We have the capability of sending press releases to newspapers and media outlets across the state. Bulletins promoting Grange local events are sent via e-mail to our membership.

Early this year, we opened the Heritage Room at the California State Grange office.



The Heritage Room has a myriad of Grange resource books, historical documents and photos, and a workstation with internet access. Any Grange member may use the Heritage Room during regular business hours.

We're renovating one of our vacant buildings on our Sacramento headquarters property into a Grange Performing Arts Center. The multipurpose Performing Arts Center will accommodate theatre, music, dance, poetry, town hall meetings, lectures and Grange events. Individual offices will be rented to various performing arts groups. It is another way for us to grow, bring attention to our organization and broaden our interests.

In California, we determined to go "Back to our Roots." Now, we can rejoice that we are Growing Together. With true Grange spirit, we celebrate our accomplishments and face the challenges ahead as we travel together, down life's pathway, ever facing the light.

Faithfully,  
Bob McFarland, Master

### **Colorado**

Colorado State Grange had a good year in 2010. Events such as chili cook-offs and pie auctions were held by local Granges throughout the state to celebrate community.

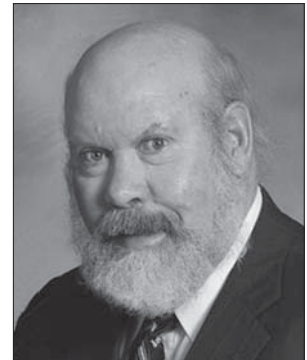
National Master Ed Luttrell paid a visit in May to explain what was happening at the National Office and the path they were following to build Granges across the country. Two meetings were held, one in Arvada and one in Florissant, and both were well-attended.

The Great Plains Youth Conference was held in Divide Colo., organized by Youth Directors Larry and Trish Corman. State Lecturer Cindy Greer held a Lecturer's Conference in conjunction with the Youth Conference, and both were well-attended. We thank Oklahoma Grangers for their presence.

The P.I.C.K. program is doing well, seeking grants and helping the youth and local Granges with various problems.

The Mandy Project helped four hearing impaired children with the path to a more normal life.

Fraternally,  
John Hagen, Master



### **Connecticut**

Sister Jodi Ann and I are honored to bring you greetings from the members of the Connecticut State Grange.

This past year has been one of change and encouragement. Our State Grange Board of Directors continued to support an organized Grange Growth process, sending seven members to various Grange Growth Summits in Iowa, Virginia, New York and Pennsylvania. From the knowledge gained at these summits, we have implemented a five-team system to Grange Growth, the first being a Grange Growth Steering Team. This team consists of the State Grange



Overseer, Lecturer, General Deputy, Membership Director and Youth/Junior Director. The team is responsible for developing, training and supporting the Grange Growth Teams. We then have a Grange Growth Team. They are charged with working with the existing Granges to assist in membership development and retention. A Grange Organization/Re-Organization Team has been charged with going to the individual communities and working in each to grow the Grange. We created a Junior Grange Organization/Re-Organization Team. It is our belief that if we do not see to every member of the family, we cannot truly promote and grow our Granges. We also have a Youth Recruitment Team that will work with the Community Grange to develop and implement Youth Membership Drives. Last but truly not least, we created a Ritual Team. The Connecticut State Grange is very proud of the Ritual of the Grange, and we do not want to lose focus on one of the more important aspects of our organization.

With this plan to address Community Grange in place, we all keep asking, “What about Pomona?” After attending the Pomona Grange Summit in Pennsylvania in September, we have developed a game plan to strengthen Pomona in Connecticut. I believe, as one of my predecessors stated, “Pomona Officers are and should be the cream of the crop of the Pomona.” This being our belief, and with the opinion that leadership is essential for any operation to succeed, our first action will be to hold a Leadership Summit for all Pomona Masters, Overseers, Lecturers, Treasurers, Secretaries, and Executive Committees. This summit will focus on the following: what is a leader, who is a leader, and who do or can we lead.

We have seen great success in Grange Growth this past year. Greenfield Hill Grange was all but extinct. State Master Sendewicz, at the time, was not going to let them just slide away. He worked with the very, very small active membership, encouraged others to affiliate and they beat the bushes. At our recent State Session, it was proudly reported that Greenfield Hill now meets regularly, has taken in over 20 new members and is on a track for additional growth. Brother Bob had some tough decisions to make during his term, and I congratulate him on not taking the easy road and accepting their charter. His hard work, and the work of others, has paid off. To them I say: “Well done good and faithful servant.”

In other news, this past October brought more change. Our delegate body voted to increase our Executive Committee from three members to five. This will enable us to be more diverse and be of better support to our Community Granges. At that same session, we had a change of leadership, many new officers and directors. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with these fine people. Our focus as a Leadership Team is to concentrate on the Community Granges. We are all Community Grange members. If we fail our Community Granges, we will lose everything, for without them there is no Pomona, no State and no National.

After our installation of officers, I set a membership goal for our state: We will double our membership in four years. This is not negotiable, and failure is not an option. If we do not take on a lofty goal, always promoting Grange membership, always assisting and encouraging our Community Grange, we will soon cease to exist. We currently have just over 3,000 members in Connecticut. If every Grange brings in one new member a month we will increase our membership by 2,784 members. This isn’t even taking into account the new Grange we will add to our ranks. One member per month per Grange; it is not that hard.

As I said earlier, our focus is on the individual Community Granges, therefore our theme for 2011 is “Community Grown.” Everything we do, and everything we are, takes us back to the community. Growth starts in the ground, roots take hold in the ground, we

are a grassroots organization made up Community Granges all over this country. Our strength, our support, our hopes and our future comes from the Community Grange.

We will succeed, because we all believe in who we are and what our purpose is, and I cannot wait to rejoice with the members of the Connecticut State Grange as we exceed our wildest dreams.

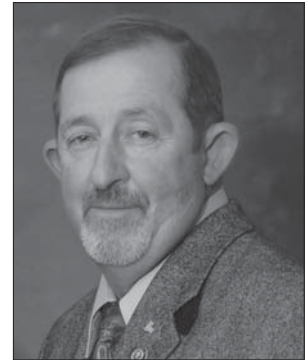
Fraternally,

Jody Cameron, Master

## **Delaware**

Barb and I bring greetings from the members of the Delaware State Grange, in The First State. Our Granges are alive and doing well and some are growing. The others are holding their own, and we have a positive attitude that they will follow and begin to grow.

This is my sixth report to National Grange. Our state has had a few minor setbacks over the years, but they have been overshadowed by the many accomplishments and successes that have come to our Community Granges, and we feel that we will continue to see growth.



I have seen our Grangers have differences of opinions but the best thing we have to build on is that we are a Grange Family. As brothers and sisters in the Grange, at the end of the day we put our differences aside, as families do, for the betterment of the Grange.

I don't know where to start; there are so many to thank. To the officers and committees of the Delaware State Grange, I say thank you with all my heart. Without your continued support we would not be making a comeback. I thank every Grange member in Delaware for their encouragement, efforts and support!

This year we were honored to have our National Master, Brother Ed Luttrell, at our State Convention along with Sister Betsy Huber, chairwoman of the Executive Committee, and the National Lecturer, Brother Pete Pompper.

We start our year with a planning meeting with the State Officers and committee chairs to schedule dates and to plan projects. This gives us a chance to get together with no stress, and if we have had elections, we can welcome the new officers and new committee chairs.

This has been a very good year. This year, Delaware exceeded in every goal I set for the year except one. This is a step in the right direction, and I feel that we will continue to see the positive growth that we have seen this year.

In 2008, Barb and I attended a Grange Growth Summit in Virginia, and after attending, we decided to use what we learned to hold a summit in Delaware. The "ECM and Barb" was formed, and we planned and held the summit in Delaware in March, 2010. Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware used what we learned and with the help of Carl Meiss from Pennsylvania we made our summit a success. The first one we had scheduled was postponed due to the first of two snow storms. The first storm brought us 26 inches of snow, and the second was about the same and came a week later. With a total 4 feet of snow, our area was paralyzed. We rescheduled for March 13 and 14. It was a very rainy weekend, but it was a successful. Members from Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland were in attendance. Some of the training that we learned was used when we went to other Granges to hold open houses.

Delaware is very lucky to have a great working relationship with the FFA and the 4-H. We have been successfully recruiting these young people, and when we bring them into the fold, we hope their families will follow. It's a lot like growing up; we take small steps to start with. Now we just need the Granges to have activities and projects that will keep them interested and involved in the Grange.

Our yearly fundraising event, the Delaware State Grange Food Booth at the Delaware State Fair, was down on yearly profits, plus we had to pay for entrance tickets to the fairgrounds for our Grange members to come work. But we are very lucky that we have this opportunity to support our State Grange.

I have been honored to serve the National Grange as Gatekeeper and now look forward to serve as Steward. Barb and I have been truly blessed to have had the opportunity to serve the Grange and to meet and make so many dear friends, that we hope will always continue.

We wish everyone a safe and successful Grange year.

Fraternally,

William H. "Chip" Narvel Jr., Master

## **Florida**

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates and Members, I bring you greetings from the Sunshine State. Florida holds its state session in January each year, making 2010 our 48th State Session. We were privileged to have the National Overseer Jimmy Gentry and his lovely wife, Anita, as our National representatives. They brought knowledge and laughter to share with us all. This was one of the best State Sessions in many years.

Last year's state community service project was to collect small stuffed animals for the Shriners Hospital in Tampa. The total collected as of State Session was over 800.

Earlier in January, Rusty Hunt was in Orlando for the International Ag Connect. The National Grange had a booth promoting Grange. Some of our members were able to attend and represent the Florida Granges and invite those living in Florida to our Granges.

It was wonderful having the Master's Conference in Orlando in February and to be able to attend as Florida's new State Master. The weather was a little chilly but not as cold or snowy as the northern states who were, in some cases, snow-bound.

Membership is still a big concern in our state. Many of our Granges are just holding on, but there have been some new members in others, so we are trying. We have a Junior Grange that is reorganizing after 44 years. Some of the children have sent entries for the national contest.

With June came warmth in both weather and excitement as eight of us headed to Washington, D.C., for the Youth and Junior conference and the rededication of the National Grange building. It was wonderful having two Juniors and two Youth attend the conference and experience our nation's capital. We walked a lot and talked a lot. Three of the young people came home with prizes from the speech contests. The highlight was touring the National Grange building and attending the rededication. We all came away renewed and looking to the future.

The oil spill in the Gulf was of great concern for our state. It had an effect on fishing,



food supply and tourism which are a big part of our economy. We are still unsure of the full extent of the damage, but we are glad the well was closed off.

It has been wonderful to speak with folks from other states on TeamSpeak these last few months. It is a great way to get information. We have a long way to go with the new technology but this was a start.

Please remember, you are always welcome to visit our Sunshine State, and if you do so, I hope you will attend one of our Granges. We love to have visitors.

I am looking forward to my first National Convention as Florida State Master and for the opportunity to build relationships with Grange members across our country.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Barbara Borderieux, Master

### **Idaho**

As I write this, we have just completed a very successful state session in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. I want to thank the Kootenai County Pomona for all the work they did putting on the session, as well as exemplifying the Fifth Degree. Several of the resolutions passed at the state session will be coming before the National Committee for consideration.

This year, our state session was held when the youth were out of school, and it was great to see so many of them participate. They took part in an old time square dance, went swimming and played at the KROC Center and toured downtown Coeur d'Alene while the rest of us were in meetings. They were also invited to sit in on the opening of the second day of session.

At this point, we have been successful in revitalizing two Granges and reorganizing the oldest Grange in Idaho. Our experience has shown that in revitalizing Granges, the enthusiasm that is brought in by new members is very contagious. The challenge is to keep this enthusiasm going forward. These Granges have gone to great lengths to upgrade their buildings, while having activities for their communities and increasing their involvement with other community organizations. In one case, it was very encouraging and great fun to obligate 38 new members in one night, have elections and fill all the offices.

This year we had a net gain in membership for the first time in years. We have turned the corner and look forward to continuing this effort in the years ahead.

We conducted district conferences in each of our three districts this year.

We appreciate Rusty Hunt and his willingness to come to southern Idaho to conduct the Grange Growth Summit. There was a good crowd, including members from Oregon, to share in this training.

The last weekend of June found us at Family Camp at Farragut State Park. There were 28 people in attendance, and everyone had a good time. The Junior Grangers practiced their drill work on the lawn, which took a little imagination on their part. They will open the State Session on Saturday in October.

In August, we attended the Western Regional Youth Conference at Black Lake Bible Camp outside Olympia, Wash. We took one of our Youth with us to participate in the Public Speaking contests. This was her first chance to attend this conference and was a great experience for her. She took second in both contests. The weather was a bit rainy and



**DON JOHNSON**

overcast, but the spirits were high and good memories were made.

Next year, Idaho will host the Western Regional Youth Conference in Boise at the Best Western Hotel on August 5 through 7, 2011. We hope to see all the western youth attend.

Plans are ongoing for the 2012 National Convention in Boise.

Jeannie and I have enjoyed our time serving Idaho as Master and First Lady these past two years, and it has been our pleasure to attend National Convention during this time.

We look forward to working with Brother Don Johnson who was elected Master of the Idaho State Grange and the excellent slate of officers and will give them our support in any way possible.

We want to thank Master Ed Luttrell, Rusty Hunt and the other State Masters we have worked with during our term in office. We have benefitted from their expertise and been able to put it to work in our state.

Have a great National Session.

Fraternally,

Donald Billmire, Past Master

### **Illinois**

I would like to start out by saying that my first year as Illinois State Grange President has been very rewarding and fulfilling.

Our 139th Annual State Convention was held at the Holiday Inn in Rockford, Ill. I am sorry to say Pete Pomper could not make it as our National Representative because of an unfortunate motorcycle accident, but I am happy to say Henrietta Keller stepped up to the plate and filled in nicely. The session was very well attended with lots of good Ag, FAC, Lecturer's, Community Service and Junior displays.



We are proud to say that Illinois had a net gain in membership of 18 for our state. We honored Orion Samuelson at our main banquet with a plaque for fifty years of broadcasting his Ag show on WGN radio and we made him an honorary member of the Grange.

We had a booth again this year at the Illinois State Fair where we picked up some new contacts for the Grange. We also sponsored the Farm Family of the Year and this year they were Les and Yavonne Wundrow and their son, all of Boone County.

Several members attended a Grange Growth Summit in Reedsburg, Wisc., put on by Rusty Hunt. As a result of this summit, we developed two teams to help our Granges grow in strength and membership.

We gave eight college scholarships out this year to Grange members wanting to continue their education.

Again, we gave \$1,500 to the Trademark Protection Fund of the Grange. Also, I know of other Granges that donated to this very worthy cause.

Our Legislative Department, led by Dave Donley, and our Ag committee all attended the Illinois Agriculture Association's annual Ag Day at the state capitol. We had an opportunity to meet with some legislators to give them some views of what we stand for and our concerns.

Fraternally Submitted,

Lyle Lee, Master

## Indiana

Lucille and I bring greetings from Indiana. We thank the southeastern states for hosting the 144th Annual Session of the National Grange.

We thank Dwight and Kathy Baldwin for representing National Grange at our 140th Annual Session. They made many Grange friends in Indiana.

Lucille and I attended the Great Lakes Leaders Conference hosted by Indiana, the State Spring Meeting at Deacon Grange, and state picnic, which National Master Ed Luttrell attended and held workshops on gaining new members in our Granges.

I attended Michigan State Grange and helped at Elephant Ear Stand. Lucille and I went to the Rededication of the National Grange Building with the Michigan Grange bus tour.

We had three Granges with a net gain in membership and had a successful 140th State Session.

I have been busy driving the school bus and Lucille has been busy with our county 4-H and open class activities.

Best wishes to other State Granges for a net gain in membership.

Fraternally,  
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 144th Annual Convention in Charlotte, N.C. We thank the Mid-Atlantic State Granges for hosting this National Grange Session.

The 141st Session of the Iowa State Grange was held in Wilton, Iowa, this year with Muscatine Pomona as our host.

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. Instead of contests, which had very little participation, a chili cook-off and apple pie dessert lunch was held. Tickets were sold and placed at each individual's favorite chili and apple dessert to determine a winner.

The Legislative Director worked to keep us all informed on what is going on in the government locally and nationally during the year. Several resolutions were presented and assigned to committee. Those that were passed by the delegates were forwarded to National for further action at the National Session.

Our Junior Department had a great camp with 25 campers in attendance. National Junior Director Ann Kurburski was in attendance and did a work shop with the campers on how to run a Grange meeting. We had two new camp directors this year. It was nice to have new and fresh ideas for camp.

The Youth and Juniors served two breakfasts at the Grange Camp to earn money to support their activities. Our Youth Director is on the National Grow Club Committee and helps with many activities of the youth at the National Session along with the Grow Club Luncheon held at the National Session.



National Master Ed Luttrell was in our state and held a meeting which was very informative about membership and name protection.

Once again, the Iowa State Grange sponsored the Iowa FFA Creed Speaking contest at their State Convention. Contributions were received from the Granges to support this worthwhile endeavor.

While membership continues to be a problem for Iowa, we are working on ways to get new members. We plan to work with the National Membership Director to help us with this in the coming year.

It has been a trying year again in Iowa with heavy snow and ice last winter, then followed by heavy rain and floods this summer. Still, we will persevere with the help of all our Grange families and friends.

Once again, I extend our thanks to the region for hosting the annual convention of the National Grange. We appreciate the work that goes into hosting the convention.

Fraternally submitted,  
Dwight Baldwin, Master

### **Kansas**

The Kansas State Grange sends greetings to the Officers, Delegates and Guests of the 144th National Grange Convention. Our sincere thanks go out to the members of the Grange states of the Southeast Region for hosting the annual convention in Charlotte, N.C.

Kansas was well-represented at National Grange last year. Molly Welsh of Pleasant View Grange, served as our Youth Ambassador and also as our entry in the Evening of Excellence talent show. It had been several years since Kansas was represented at National Grange with a Youth Ambassador. Ryan Welsh of Pleasant View Junior Grange, won first place in Public Speaking ages 8 to 10 and presented his speech at the Junior Breakfast on Saturday morning.

I certainly cannot forget a group of ladies who had recently become new Grange members. These four women drove to Michigan for the Seventh Degree, and from the stories I've heard, had a wonderful time in the process. On the day of the photo shoot, I noticed that they were all wearing Grange vests which they had made. I encouraged them to sign up for the Grange photo shoot. I know that they had a great time posing with National Lecturer, Pete.

I was unable to attend the National Grange Headquarters rededication on June 26, but Kansas did have several members in attendance that reported that they had a wonderful time and that the National Grange staff had planned a fantastic event.

For only the second time in the history of the Kansas State Grange's presentation of the Distinguished Service to Agriculture award, the recipient not an individual. The only other time was in 1993 when it was presented to the Kansas State Board of Agriculture.

The National Agricultural Hall of Fame and Center was this year's recipient. In 1959, Ray Teagarden, Past Master of the Kansas State Grange and Chairman of the National Grange Executive Committee received this award in part for representing the National Grange on the committee that was selecting the site for the Agricultural Hall of Fame.

The Agricultural Hall of Fame inductees include Oliver Hudson Kelly (2006).



Kansas is looking forward to being part of the host committee for the 145th National Grange Convention in Tulsa, Okla. Kansas has not been involved in hosting since 1990.

Kansas State Grange mourned the loss of five members who served as State Officers or Department Chairs. Included in those, we lost Sister Ruth Esther Shorthill. Ruth Esther and her husband, Verno, were National Grange Seventh Degree Coordinators for over 20 years. Not since 1990 has the Kansas State Grange experienced the loss of such a large number of past State Officers and Staff.

Fraternally submitted,  
Roger Bostwick, Master

## **Maine**

It is once again my pleasure to bring you greetings from the State of Maine. We have just completed our 137th annual State Grange Session in the town of Skowhegan. We were honored to have the Priest Archon Dan Bascom and his wife, Kim, from New Hampshire as our guests. 39 candidates received the Degree of Flora. 19 resolutions were debated by the Delegates. Four out of five candidates for the office of Governor addressed the members assembled at various times during the session.



Over the years, the State Grange has had to use large expensive rental trucks to transport the equipment to and from the sessions. This year, we purchased a cargo trailer with large Grange emblems emblazoned on each side, complete with information about the Grange. It is great advertisement on the road, as well as being much more convenient for those doing the work. It should serve us well for many years to come.

We have had several successful degree days throughout the year in different parts of the state with many candidates receiving the first four degrees. Our net loss for this year was relatively small. It is my hope that the gain in new interested members will more than offset the loss of members who were no longer able to attend Grange functions.

As usual, our members have kept very busy with participation in many activities. Several attended the Northeast Leaders' Conference and Northeast Lecturers' Conference, both hosted by Vermont. Many of us worked at the New England Grange Building during the 17 days of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Mass., as well as doing the preparatory work throughout the year. Many members have manned membership booths at various agricultural fairs and at other events. Many hours have been spent 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. Once again, we hosted the Ag in the Classroom annual meeting and banquet at State Grange Headquarters. We hosted the Legislative Luncheon for Ag Day at the Legislature for the 31st consecutive year, also at State Grange Headquarters in our auditorium. Every year, though we cook more food, we have larger turnouts, with well over 200 in attendance.

We were very pleased to have National Master Ed Luttrell in Maine this year to present a series of workshops. Brother Ed exudes enthusiasm, which is very contagious.

In July 2011, Maine will be hosting the Northeast Youth Conference, and we look forward to this important group of our Grange members.

After repeated requests, we have started to compile another Grange Cookbook. We have

received many delicious culinary favorites and hope to have it ready within the next few months.

We have sent out a newsletter to our Granges each month this past year. This takes the place of our State Grange publication, "The Maine Granger," as it had gotten to the point where it was no longer cost-effective. Prior to State Session the State Secretary compiled a combined program book for all departments which was printed and ready for distribution. There should be enough copies for any member who is interested.

After much frustration over our existing web site, Brother Walter Boomsma has taken on the task of redoing it. Technology has changed since this site was initially started a few years ago, and Walter will be making this web site more useful for the membership.

In conclusion, we look forward to this National Grange Session in Charlotte, N.C., and are waiting in anticipation of 2013 when the Northeast has the opportunity to host each and every one of you as we convene in New Hampshire.

Fraternally submitted,  
James A. Owens, Master

### **Maryland**

Sister Donna and I bring you greetings from the Great State of Maryland. What a year this has been weather wise! We were in a state of confusion from either all snow, all wet, all hot or all dry at any one given time! Rain finally came, but too late for the majority of the crops as the damage had already been done.

This past year found members at several different Growth Summit presentations. We all feel we have gained a better understanding of how to promote growth through organization and revitalization. This past year our greatest result was the revitalization of two Community Granges, which are both progressing nicely. We shall continue our efforts to organize a new Community and Junior Grange.

Our Community Granges continue to excel in community service. Many projects and activities in and around the community make it a better place to be.

The "Night of Excellence" continues to bring to the program new and exciting talent. Our quartet of beautiful ladies was chosen to represent Maryland at the National Grange Session in Charlotte, N.C.

We had a successful Leaders Conference this past year. We were grateful to have National Master, Brother Ed Luttrell, as our guest during our conference. Some of the ladies are so impressed with his vocal presentations that they are telling people he could talk to the grass and make it grow!

Brother Ed also attended our Agriculture and Awards Banquet during our 2010 Annual Session.

Brother Allen Stiles continues to be our super go-to guy for Agriculture and Legislative issues.

We, in Maryland, still firmly believe the Grange has a valued purpose and place in the state, and we will continue with efforts to show growth.

I am a firm believer that it is not the house you live in, but how you live in the house that determines your worthiness.

Fraternally,  
Maurice L. Wiles, Master



## Massachusetts

Greetings from Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) approached me at the Massachusetts Agriculture Day at the State House last April and asked us to partner with them to produce the 2010 Century Farm Registry book. The Executive Committee and I agreed that this would be a great outreach program and would expose the Grange in Massachusetts as being a major support organization to farms here in our state.



The Century Farm Program honors farms that have been in single family operation for 100 or more years and is jointly sponsored by Farm Bureau and by Massachusetts State Grange. The program was formally announced and some 50 farms were honored at the New England Grange building on Grange Day at the Eastern States Exposition. There was a banner flown on the New England Grange building on Grange Day announcing the program. The program at the Big-E had the president of MFBF, the Chair of the Women's Committee of MFBF and I, along with Scott Soares, Commissioner of Agriculture on stage before a packed house.

Outside, after the formal speeches, there was a banner signing, a presentation of signage and a group photo taken of the 50 or so farms represented out of the 105 honored. The MFBF will be at our State Session to formally present the program to the Grange. Charlie Tully, our Ag Director, and I will attend the MFBF annual meeting on December 2 when the book will be presented.

Our Foster Care Program continues to be a well received program and now is working to fuller potential all over the state. We supply diapers, McDonald's gift certificates and first care kits consisting of basic toiletries and personal items that are desperately needed by children first entering the system. The food certificates will provide a meal to a youngster or even a teenager while they are awaiting appointments or placement. There have been many awards and letters of thanks from the Department of Children and Families praising our support. We are the only group supporting these very needy children.

The only bright spot in membership development is Junior Grange. Again this year, we have a new Junior Grange starting up. New members have joined and we expect to have thirteen members by the end of the year.

Fraternally,

Calvin C. Chase Jr., Master

## Michigan

Worthy National Secretary, Worthy First Lady, Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters, and Friends:

11 months ago, the Michigan State Grange and six other states hosted the 144th National Grange Convention in our own Grand Rapids. This was no small undertaking, just ask anyone that was involved. Brother Jeff Swainston did a tremendous job as the chairman of the host region. Thank you, Jeff.

A first for me at the convention was the chance to serve as a committee chair at the National level. Chairing the Heath and Education committee during the biggest change in national medical



coverage since Medicare began was quite an exciting event. Serving with that bunch of people made the job a lot easier.

In May of this year, Michigan was blessed with the visit of not only the National Grange Membership/Leadership Director Rusty Hunt but also the National Master Ed Luttrell. Rusty flew into Flint on Tuesday and by Friday had visited Burns Grange, Barnard Grange and North Adrian Grange, and Cabela's. Rusty and I both have this little thing for hunting and Ed and Rusty have a little competition to see who can visit more Cabela's stores. On Friday, while Connie and the boys drove Rusty down to Ohio to meet another Grange member on his way to the Ohio Grange Growth Summit, I drove to Marshall and met the Worthy National Master Ed when he arrived for his visit to Home Grange on Saturday. Ed stayed with us until Sunday when he departed on his way to Indiana on part of his trip to all the Grange states in the country.

During Rusty's stay with us, I started a collection towards the name protection fund for the National Grange. Between the three days the collection was going on, the members of the Michigan State Grange that came to see Rusty and Ed donated close to \$500. I was glad to be able to present the National Master with a check for \$500 before he left the state. I did share a room with Rusty when we stayed in Petoskey after the Barnard meeting, and while checking my email on his computer, I realized I had access to all of Rusty's PowerPoint presentations. So with his permission I forwarded them all to myself, and I am willing to come do a program on anything you can think of since there is a PowerPoint for it.

In June, there were 54 Grange members from Michigan and Indiana that all jumped on a bus together on our way to the nation's capital for the 50th Anniversary of the National Grange Headquarters. While walking the mall, Connie and I came across the National Grange marker on the mall, which is the only privately funded marker on the mall and it marks the spot of the building that was the home of the first Grange meeting. The Youth that went with us, Sisters Karen Strouse, Alex Swainston and Allison Driskell, were special youth hosts at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce building where the re-dedication ceremony actually took place. We can all be proud of their dedicated assistance during this time with the older members.

During the National Grange Convention this past November, I was once again asked to indicate how many Granges I was going to attempt to organize, reorganize and revitalize, as well as how many Junior Granges I was going to organize. In the last two years, we have indicated at least one in each category and have managed to open two Junior Granges and revitalize only one Grange in two years. Since I am almost certain that I will be asked again this November, I would like you to indicate how many of each of these you would like to see me to put on the big map with your assistance in achieving the goal. By increasing the number of Granges in the state, we can manage to increase the number of members and increase the amount of income.

On June 29, with the decision having been made and the contractor hired, the retired Michigan State Grange Headquarters was demolished. During a special meeting of the Executive Committee and the Michigan State Grange Foundation, it was determined to give the property to the foundation. The official signing over of the property will soon take place. The financial ability of the Michigan State Grange to sit on the property and wait for the right person to come along and purchase the property has come to an end. The foundation has some plans in the works for the future of the property and more announcements will be coming in the near future.

The National Grange Name Protection has been an ongoing project of the National Grange for quite some time and will continue to be an issue until people realize that we are

not going to give up fighting for our name that we have had for 144 years. This has become a major part of the National Grange budget, and I imagine it will continue to be over the next few years. The amount of money we spend on each new conflict has been reduced since the office staff is now beginning the contact with the party infringing on our name in-house instead of through the lawyers. If anyone feels they would like to donate to the name protection fund, the money donated will be sent on to National Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Christopher D. Johnston, Master

## Minnesota

Greetings from Minnesota.

I wish to thank the Officers and Delegates of the Minnesota State Grange for their dedication in making our State Session productive and successful. I could not do this without you. Also, I want to thank the Kelley Farm for letting us have meetings in their building, for the hospitality from all the staff members and their help with the Gleaner.



Membership is a challenge, and we need to keep working to make sure we keep the members that we currently have and get new ones. Per our State Secretary, Roxy, we did come out with a gain of one member this year. Any increase, even if it is only one, is better than a loss of membership. Please keep working on this in your Community Granges, and let's have a gain next year again. I am trying to get Rusty Hunt, the National Membership Director, to come to Minnesota and give us more training on how to revitalize our Granges. I hope all the Minnesota Granges will support me in this endeavor and attend when we get it set up.

Three of us traveled to Indiana to the Great Lakes Leaders Conference in April. I drove and Karen Jensen and Ann Bercher went along. We had a great time and attended many good workshops. This conference is not just for Lecturers anymore like it used to be, but anyone can attend. This is a great place to get new ideas from other states to try in Minnesota.

In May, Clear Lake Grange hosted National Master Ed Luttrell, at Aitkin. We had a great turnout for this meeting. He spoke to us about National Grange and how they can help us. He also went over the trademark protection issue the Grange now has with a Canadian company that is trying to use the word Grange. This is an ongoing issue, and the National Grange is spending a lot of money protecting the Grange name for all of us. If we lose this fight, it will affect all of our Community Granges and how we publicize what we do.

We had a great turnout for the state picnic last June. There were approximately 30 people there. We had a great meal and a couple of fun exercises on getting to know the type of personality we are and our communication skills. These were things that Ann, Karen and I participated in at the Great Lakes Leaders Conference.

This year has been trying for the farmers in the state with the downpours of rain all at one time, flooding that followed, and the tornados that struck our homes, business and farms. I know the people of Minnesota will persevere, rebuild and get the corps in to be ready for another year to come.

I want to thank all the National Grange officers and delegates for the support and leadership that I have received this year. They are a great support network for all Grangers.

Fraternally submitted,  
Donna Champion, Master

## Montana

Greetings from Montana,

It is a great pleasure for Joyce and I to greet you from “The Last Best Place.”

We have had mild successes in Montana with a couple of Granges gaining in membership. When your state is as small as ours, Grange-wise, any increase is considered an accomplishment.

We feel that we had a very productive 2010 State Grange Session, along with a very successfully Junior Grange Camp and Junior Grange Program.

We look forward to a successful National Grange Session. The members of Montana State Grange wish all State Granges a successful growth year in 2011.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Marty Billquist, Master



## Nebraska

I extend greetings to all on behalf of the Nebraska State Grange. Thank you to the many folks who contributed to the success of the Grange in 2010.

Many of the activities of the Nebraska State Grange in 2010 were continuations of previous endeavors. Legislative input to our Nebraska Unicameral, led by Richard Janing, is a high priority. I would like to thank Family Activities Director Phyllis Tooker, Newssheet Editor Judy Hansen, Community Service and Deaf Activities Director Shannon Cooksley, Program Director Darlene Janing and Membership Director Edgar Hicks for their leadership in these positions.

A few of the events that Nebraska Grangers were involved with were the Corn States Lecturers Conference in Kansas, the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island, the Dictionary Project, and the media tour by National Master Ed Luttrell. The Nebraska Grange continues to be one of four founding organizations that participate in the Nebraska Rural Radio Association's quarterly board meetings. We are given the opportunity to present a report of Nebraska Grange activities and views at these sessions. The Nebraska Grange thanks the Radio Association for providing us air time each week to present our views and opinions as well as updating our listeners and members on upcoming events.

Our state convention was again held in Grand Island at the Howard Johnson/Riverside Inn last September. Past State and National Grange Master Ed Andersen and



Past First Lady Darlene Andersen were honored with the 2010 Nebraska State Grange Distinguished Service Award for their work and dedication to the folks in their local area, the state, the nation and even in international undertakings. They continue to serve us well in Nebraska.

Our annual summer Grange bus trip was to Minnesota this year. One of our stops was at the Kelley Farm near Elk River, Minnesota. We were hosted by Bob Quist, director of the Kelley Farm, and Donna Champion, Master of the Minnesota State Grange. We thank them for the special attention they afforded our group.

The sale of Grange halls in Nebraska has proven to be a challenging procedure. Membership retention and recruitment also has its share of challenges and rewards.

Having the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee of the National Grange has taken me to Washington, D.C., on several occasions and also to Wyoming. Tammy and I were able to attend the National Grange Building's 50 year Rededication Ceremony in Washington, D.C., last June. Ed and Darlene Andersen, accompanied by their daughter and son-in-law, were also able to attend and represent Nebraska.

We in the Nebraska State Grange look to the future with hope and perseverance. Goals for the coming year include increased membership, education of our members and the public, becoming more efficient in the use of our time and funds, and undertaking a new project to create interest and involve more people.

As one of the Great Plains Region Grange States, the Nebraska Grange would like to invite you to the 2011 National Grange Convention in Tulsa, Okla. Come and join us as we "Party on the Prairie."

Fraternally Submitted,  
Joe Fryman, Master

### **New Hampshire**

It is my honor and privilege to submit my first report to the National Grange as Master of the New Hampshire State Grange.

2010 has been a year of growth for the leadership team of the New Hampshire State Grange. The activities of the Executive Committee have subsided considerably from last year's marathon of meetings. After a trial year of investing with two financial advising firms, a new firm has been selected and we have created the accompanying investment and spending policies. The Executive Committee is still overseeing the sale of Starr King Grange Hall in Jefferson and this summer, its painted theatre curtain was removed from the hall and is being stored until a future home can be determined.

Happily and amazingly, we have chartered our second new Grange in as many years. Organizing Deputy, Stephen Tracy, worked very hard until Croydon Grange #357 was officially organized in August.

Our GRIT teams that were trained two years ago by National Grange Leadership Membership Director Rusty Hunt, and have been working diligently. Teams are currently working to revitalize a few Granges, and a team is working on reorganizing three Granges. Plans are in the works to train more members to assist in this important work.

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, which coincided with the 50th Anniversary and Rededication of the National Grange Building. There



were 22 New Hampshire Grangers who traveled to Washington, D.C., and participated in the celebrations there.

New Hampshire Grange member Matt Clark was elected to serve as Chairman of the Trustees of the New England Grange Building at the Big “E”. Under his direction, New Hampshire Grangers are taking a new interest in volunteering at the building, including supporting a new effort to make the Grange stand out in the parade on Grange Day. Our goat float was judged the best of three entries, netting a \$200 contribution to our State Youth Program. Accompanying the goat in the parade were Grangers from the region, decked out in their state color, which is a repeat of the attire worn at the pep rally held every year at the Northeast Lecturer’s Conference.

We are still trying new ways to encourage Pomona Granges to be of greater service to the Community Granges in their jurisdiction. We are looking forward to hearing what ideas our four members who traveled to the Pomona Grange Growth Summit may be developing in the near future. We also had several New Hampshire members in attendance at the Grange Growth Summit in New York.

The by-laws of the New Hampshire Grange Foundation have been written by its five founding directors, and the application to the IRS for 501(c)(3) status has been submitted. As we wait to hear if our application has been granted, several people have been appointed as non-Granger board members, including Lorraine Merrill, State of New Hampshire Commissioner of Agriculture.

The Northeast Connection is the board comprised of State Masters and Overseers of each of the seven states within our region. In March, this board elected Beth Merrill to serve as Coordinator for the 2013 National Grange Session, which will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, N.H. Theme and logo concepts have been selected and will be finalized in the next few months.

State Lecturer Marie Hall; General Deputy Tricia Taylor; Family and Community Directors Wilber and Jane Heath; Grange Services Director Connie Carr; Legislative Director Jim Tetreault; Membership Development Director Stephen Tracy; Youth Director Chris Heath; and Junior Director Lynn Clark hosted events and sponsored programs throughout the year, which challenged and enlivened the Grange experience for all members who participated. Some of these directors also had charge of a degree team at one or both of the Degree Days that were sponsored by the State Grange this spring.

Our third 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. Topics covered in this year’s workshops ran the gamut from good Grange publicity, Grange fair exhibits, letterboxing, natural landscaping, code book reading, police dog demonstration and reiki therapy, to name a few. Plans are underway for the 2011 Spring Fling, and in response to inquiries from neighboring states, we will be sure to invite any Granger wishing to make the journey to New Hampshire for this fun day of learning.

The 2010 State Session was held in Keene, N.H. We were happy to host National Grange Executive Board Secretary Phil Prelli and his wife, Maureen, as our national reps. Despite a well-prepared and researched report of the Special Committee, the delegates opted not to sell our State Grange Building. A new slate of officers was elected, and I was elected to serve as the 33rd Master of the New Hampshire State Grange.

I look forward to continued growth and development as the New Hampshire State Grange meets the challenges of keeping the members on a positive track to success.

Fraternally,  
James Tetreault, Master

## **New Jersey**

As the newly installed Master of the New Jersey State Grange, I bring you greetings from the Garden State.

Yes, New Jersey is still the Garden State as the number of farms has increased this past year with females leading the way in the creation of those farms. The \$82 billion food and agriculture complex is one of New Jersey's largest industries, ranking third only to pharmaceuticals and tourism in the economic benefits it brings to the state.

The State Grange continues our support of the New Jersey Museum of Agriculture. The Museum is the location of one of our biggest events which is a Grange Family Day hosted by the Program Directors Department. The plans for a permanent New Jersey State Grange display at the museum are on hold due to budget cuts at Rutgers University. The State Grange was the recipient of an award as a supporter of the museum.

This has been a very busy year for the State Grange and our various committees. In partnership with the Delaware and Pennsylvania State Granges, we held a Tri-State Grange Growth Summit in Delaware. We had to delay it once because of a blizzard and the weekend we held it there was torrential rain. The attendance was greater than we anticipated with Grangers from New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland. I thank Barb Narvel for all she did to coordinate this event. We had two members from New Jersey attend, but I am proud to say they took what they learned and have started using it at their Granges.

New Jersey was also host to the Mid-Atlantic Program Directors Conference in May. Betty Lake, State Grange Program Director, and her committee did an excellent job with the program for the weekend. Rusty Hunt and Pete Pompper both presented well-received workshops stressing the importance of lecturer programs and how Lecturers and the membership team need to work together. Betty Lake presented a program on how a Grange can design a brochure tailored to that Grange. She then asked each State and Community Grange represented to fill out a form, and she made brochures for them.

After the conference, Rusty and several members from the State Grange Leadership team went to Southard Grange and held a revitalization meeting. The Grange was energized as the meeting went on, and now has a better direction and focus. I have received e-mails from them about the changes they are making to make their Grange stronger. They also have a well-done web page and they utilize Facebook to communicate with their members and the community. As the new State Master, I am looking forward to working with our Granges to build a stronger organization in New Jersey. The leadership team is going to focus on the positives that we are seeing in the Granges throughout the state.

Fraternally,  
John Benedik III, Master

## **New York**

Brothers and Sisters of the Grange family, I am pleased to report to the National Grange following the 138th Annual Session of the New York State Grange. The theme words for our next Grange year will be "We Are Family."

The family is that institution that holds a group of related people together for the betterment of all. It's the kindnesses, courtesies, love and support that is extended to everyone that makes life a great and worthwhile adventure. We, too, in the Grange are one great extended family. We may not have blood ties to one another, but we still comfort, support, assist and encourage each other as well as share our successes and failures, inspirations and

commitments, and our knowledge and wisdom. Yes, indeed, we are a Grange family.

I would like to pay tribute to our dedicated family of State Officers, Directors, Special Deputies, Standing and Special Committee Chairs and Members, whose interaction with each other over concerns, problems, decisions and the like, are the ones who make this State Grange function to carry out the ideals, traditions and values of our beneficent fraternity. Former U.S. President John Quincy Adams was quoted way back in the 1820s as saying, “if your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”



State Officers have spent the last three years acting as Ambassadors for the New York State Grange by making official visits to Community Granges and Pomonas in order to bring the good news of the State Grange family. In all cases, they have been courteously welcomed, shared a great deal of knowledge about how State Grange works and came away with a good feeling that Grange family principles and values are being upheld by our local Granges.

Some of the highlights of the Directors this past year have been:

- Family Activities Committee – had the largest attendance ever at the FAC/Lecturer’s Conference at Headquarters last May including active interest in all the family programs. They also put together a new cookbook featuring recipes for freezing, drying, canning and pickling.

- Community Involvement/Service – visited several Pomona areas across New York promoting how a Grange can get involved in their community. They offered suggestions for community projects and, by reviewing the reports turned in, several have been adopted.

- Junior Grange – had a most successful year with the addition of four Junior Granges. Reorganized are Yorktown #160 in Westchester County, Almond #319 in Allegany County, Patroon #738 in Ulster County, and a brand new Junior Grange was just chartered in Niagara County called Lockport-Oakfield #776. Some of the members even attended our State Session, and they brought some craft projects to be judged.

- Sports – held successful dartball, bowling and golf tournaments, and collected well over \$1,200 for the Special Olympics Program. If that’s not family involvement, what is?

- Lecturer – held a very successful Family Talent Contest along with the Youth Department Public Speaking program. This department participated in the Northeast Lecturer’s Conference in Vermont and contributed a fabulous program on the Thousand Islands.

- Legislative – conducted several regional meetings attended by local, state and sometimes federal legislators to share our Grange legislative goals. The culmination of their work took place at our State Session with the adoption of more than 100 resolutions of local, state and national interest.

- Youth – held two successful weekends, both winter and spring, with workshops on code reading, program planning and community service, as well as public speaking contests. Public Speaking winners participated in the Northeast Youth Conference in Massachusetts and came home with the First Place Best of Show that will represent the Northeast Region at the National Grange’s Evening of Excellence. An excellent drill team also participated in the Northeast competition and was proud to place third.

- Information – continues to issue our State Grange publication, the Empire State Granger, with color photos of Grange family activities on the front and last pages. A Special Issue,

highlighting all Grange department activities, was distributed at the Winter Farm Show, Empire Farm Days, the New York State Fair and at several county fairs and community days, and serves as an excellent membership tool to attract new families.

- Membership/Leadership – have completed work in revitalizing a Community and Pomona Grange in Washington County, and are continuing work to revitalize Granges in both Cattaraugus and Onondaga Counties. The crowning glory is the reorganization of the Putnam-Westchester County Pomona Grange family in southeastern New York with 40 new members! Officers have been elected and installed, major committee chairs appointed, and they are currently working on two legislative issues to be brought to the 2011 State Session. Additional wonderful news -- a brand new Community Grange is being organized in Niagara County as a result of the organization of Lockport-Oakfield Junior Grange two months ago.

Special Deputies have been working with Granges who have internal concerns with the hope of revitalizing them to be an active family organization again. Special Committees and Chairs were at work at our Annual Session reviewing, debating and recommending resolutions of importance for the delegate body. The results of their deliberations were 22 resolutions of national concern brought forward to the National session for consideration.

What are some of the new things going on with the New York State Grange?

Our web site coordinator continues to update the New York State Grange web site with family related news – Junior Grange Camp Week, Youth Activities and Weekends, and several Family Activities Committee happenings. We continue to add items of potential interest to Grange members. The recent addition is the New York State Agricultural Mediation Program which helped over 900 people last year from the agricultural community and addresses different conflicts and disagreements. Mediation is not just of an agricultural nature, but can include small claims and unpaid bills, bank loans, family issues of child custody and parenting plans, neighbor complaints, to name just a few. Visit our web site at [www.nysgrange.org](http://www.nysgrange.org) for further details.

We are currently evaluating our Student Loan Program to bring the student applications and co-signers forms up to date. We now live in an advanced technological world and must keep our records up to date.

After a good 25-year relationship with the National Safety Council, the New York State Grange has decided to discontinue the Defensive Driving Program. It all boils down to economics. Other groups, such as retiree groups, now offer the course for as little as \$10 per person, and there is no affiliation with the group required and no age restrictions either. The course is also offered online with little to no cost to the individual. However, we strongly encourage Granges to continue sponsoring the course as a community service project, especially for those unable to take the course online.

At the turn of the New Year, the New York State Grange will sponsor the 2011 Northeast Leaders' Conference at the Latham Holiday Inn Express, just north of Albany, from January 7 to 9. We will hold workshops for several Grange departments: Family Activities, Youth, Junior Grange, Legislative, Lecturer, Information, Membership/Leadership, and Community Involvement/Service. Each department will bring valuable information to be shared. During the Saturday session on January 8, National Master Ed Luttrell will conduct a workshop on Grange Teamwork, and a communication seminar is to be held. The highlight of Saturday's program will be a discussion and debate held by the Commissioners of Agriculture of both New York and Connecticut about "The Future of Agriculture in the Northeast." This will feature our own Commissioner, Brother Pat Hooker, and Connecticut's Commissioner, Brother Phil Prelli, who also serves as the Secretary of the National Grange Board of Directors.

On the weekend of September 24 to 26, I was privileged to attend a National Grange

sponsored Pomona Grange Summit in western Pennsylvania. Planned for the east's most populous Grange states – New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio – participants also attended from four New England states, too. A great deal of serious discussion was held about the role of the Pomona Grange in our organizational structure, and serious debate took place over questions of what top three things should an ideal Pomona have, how many Granges should a Pomona have, how often should a Pomona meet, and how do you revitalize a Pomona Grange? Should you work at the Pomona level first, which, in turn, should revitalize its Community Granges, or should you work on the Community Granges first, which will then revitalize the Pomona? This last point needs a great deal more discussion. A summary of this Pomona Summit will be sent to each Pomona Grange to discuss and debate and, hopefully, this will lead to an informal State get-together to allow New York Grangers to contribute input into revising the Pomona Grange structure and its role in our fraternity. As the current National Grange Digest of Laws for the Code of the Pomona Grange reads, "If the number of Subordinate Granges included in the jurisdiction of a Pomona falls below two, the State Grange shall readjust the jurisdiction."

Many are wondering about the National Grange assessment to finance future National Sessions. In 2007, delegates to National Grange adopted a policy that points out that the National Grange Annual Session belongs to every Grange member across this great nation of ours. When the National Master, or other National personnel, is called to give testimony to Congress, or a lesser federal agency, they express the National Grange's point of view or legislative policy in question. They are speaking for not only Seventh Degree members, but all Grangers across this land no matter what Degree affiliation they have. Thus, each Grange member should be proud to do their part to financially support the National Session. An assessment of \$1 per member per year was adopted, and the New York State Grange decided to use fundraisers to meet our annual assessment rather than raise dues or bill each Grange. When members learn of these fundraisers, we strongly encourage the support of Grangers and friends. Our National Hosting Fundraising Committee is making plans for a Penny Social in Dutchess County on February 26, 2011. State Officers and Directors have been asked to provide both theme baskets and gift prizes for this event. Plans for two bus trip, one to Lancaster, Pa., this December and one to Newport, R.I., next spring are also in the making. Details are available at Headquarters in Cortland. The Committee is also selling "used delights new to you" and both the new FAC Cookbook and Grange seven-sided emblem slate trivets (hot plates). If you are interested in either item, please contact the New York State Grange to reserve or purchase a trivet or the new cookbook.

Yes, we are a Grange family in New York State. We are an extended family who places faith in God, nurtures, hope, dispenses charity and is noted for fidelity. Brothers and Sisters, we have many major decisions to make this year, and the future of this Grange rests upon these decisions. They should be made in the best interest of the entire Grange and not of anyone's personal preference. We are all in this together, and this Grange should function with the best qualified individuals who have the ability to serve and perform the duties pertaining to the office and perform them well. This tenant should be at the forefront of our decisions.

May Providence continue to guide the New York State Grange as "We Are Family" – America's oldest and only rural family fraternal community organization with a history and tradition of the support of agriculture.

Fraternally submitted,  
Oliver J. Orton, Master

## North Carolina

The North Carolina State Grange continues to be a viable member of the agriculture community in the state, placing a great deal of time and effort into advocating for farming.

I serve as a member of the North Carolina Tobacco Research Commission. Through this commission, an assessment of 10 cents per 100 lbs. of tobacco sold is used for support of tobacco research and education. A referendum occurs every six years to allow growers to vote on whether they would like to continue the assessment. We are pleased that during a referendum conducted in November 2009, tobacco growers again approved the continuation of this program to enhance tobacco research and education.



One of our members from Edneyville Grange was named the Swisher Sweets Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year for North Carolina. Fred Pittillo owns and operates a turf farm where he grows a variety of grasses on approximately 1,200 acres. We are very proud of Mr. Pittillo for this great accomplishment.

We were also pleased that one of our employees, Tom Ellis, coordinator of Agricultural Programs for the State Grange, was reappointed to the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission by the governor for a six-year term. Mr. Ellis represents agriculture on this commission, which is charged with developing policy and regulations to protect the state's air and water resources. He is a retiree from the state Department of Agriculture and is a member of Capitol Grange in Raleigh.

Gregory Peele, a member of Nahunta Grange, was inducted into the North Carolina State Fair Livestock Hall of Fame by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. Mr. Peele was recognized for his accomplishments in swine production. His picture will be displayed, along with previous honorees in the Livestock Hall of Fame Room at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds.

Ned Hudson, Vice-President of the North Carolina State Grange, was named the 2009 Soil and Water Supervisor of the Year by the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Ned serves as a supervisor in Cabarrus County, and has been involved in local and state soil and water activities for many years. He also serves as President of St. John's Grange.

Mr. Vernon James, who previously served as a legislative employee for the State Grange was inducted into the North Carolina Agricultural Hall of Fame. A former member of the General Assembly, Mr. James was extremely supportive of 4-H and agriculture. During his lifetime, he served in many key leadership positions for many organizations. Because of his dedication to agriculture, one of the research stations in North Carolina is named in his honor. I was honored to nominate Mr. James for the Hall of Fame, and he was inducted by Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler.

We were excited that a turkey from one of our member farms was transported to the White House and pardoned by the President for Thanksgiving. Bryant and Debbie Worley, members of Oakland Grange, raise approximately 50,000 turkeys each year. They have a diversified farming operation consisting of about 1,500 acres. The Worley's were able to travel to the White House for this event.

North Carolina was the featured state at the 2009 Sunbelt Expo held annually at Moultrie, Ga. The North Carolina State Grange along with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University, NC Farm Bureau, and the North Carolina Christmas Tree Grower's Association

developed exhibits and sponsored the North Carolina Pavilion at this Expo. Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler, Dean of the College of Agriculture Dr. Johnny Wynne, as well as other representatives of NCDA and Farm Bureau, and I flew to the opening ceremony from North Carolina on a chartered state plane. Tom Ellis, coordinator of Agriculture Programs for the State Grange developed the exhibit and coordinated the State Grange's role in this event.

The North Carolina State Grange was the sponsor of the 2010 Ag Forum, held in conjunction with the state Department of Agriculture in February. The forum focused upon upcoming agricultural legislation, and issues surrounding the livestock industry, with information provided by a variety of notable speakers. After brief remarks by myself, National Master Ed Luttrell, was introduced for a presentation. In addition, Leroy Watson, Legislative Director of the National Grange served on the legislative outlook panel. Both represented the National Grange admirably.

An effort is underway in North Carolina to protect our agricultural water resources. As part of this effort, the North Carolina State Grange is participating in an Agricultural Water Work Group, funded by a grant obtained by the North Carolina Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation. When the work is complete, a strategic plan for agricultural water use in the state will be available as a guide for farmers, agricultural groups, as well as lawmakers. Tom Ellis, Allison Fowler, Legislative Director for the State Grange, and I are all participating in this effort.

Allison Fowler completed a two-year experience as part of the 2008-10 Agricultural Leadership Development Program conducted by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University. The North Carolina State Grange serves as one of the sponsors for this event. As part of the experience, Allison participated in a variety of leadership seminars and activities. Trips to California, Washington, D.C., and Brazil were also part of the package. We are proud of Allison for her participation in this exemplary program.

The North Carolina General Assembly approved a new Food Policy Council to develop a plan for the growing local food efforts that are emerging across the state. Phil Hudson, a farmer from Westbrook Grange, represents the State Grange on this Council.

The North Carolina State Grange Youth program continues to grow through a quality leadership development program. Our summer camp and winter youth conference provide great opportunities for our participants to develop as future leaders. Rebecca Bullock, from Southern Wake Grange, was the recipient of the Recruiter of the Year Award because of her success in bringing new members into the organization. Caroline Tart, from Grantham Grange, was selected as a 2010 Youth Mentor, and was also chosen to attend a Grange Growth Leadership Summit in New York. Cody Stevens, from Grantham Grange, served as a 2009 Youth Mentor. North Carolina is blessed with very talented youth who are loaded with potential.

In the legislative arena, there were a number of issues to monitor and lobby for or against. Those issues included annexation, agricultural water use, "cap and trade," farmland preservation, health care, estate taxes, state budget issues, Clean Water Act, and others. Allison Fowler provided testimony at a hearing regarding funding for farmland preservation in North Carolina. The State Grange also provided comments to the EPA regarding pesticide spray drift issues.

The annual Grange Family Conference was held at the Lake Junaluska Conference Center. This was a very relaxed weekend with workshops, speaker, and entertainment. Representative Ray Rapp, member of the North Carolina General Assembly, spoke on

current issues. Workshops were conducted by myself, Legislative Director Allison Fowler, Membership Director Jessica Horton, and Family Living Director Janet Fulton. An auction raised \$971 for Haiti assistance. Wonderful entertainment was provided by the very talented Cockman Family.

Our newest Grange in North Carolina is Down East Grange, located in Greenville. The idea and motivation for organizing this Grange came from a couple of our active youth who live in the Greenville area. One of those youth, Uriah Ward, was elected as the first President of this Grange.

We are proud of our organization in North Carolina, and we look forward to our continuing efforts to keep the North Carolina State Grange a key player in the agricultural community of this state.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Jimmy Gentry, Master

## Ohio

I bring you greetings from the “Buckeye State” where we enjoyed a good growing season and had wonderful harvest weather.

After Ohio served as one of the host states a year ago, I certainly am looking forward to having some good ole “Down Home Fun” and having a little more time this year to enjoy it! I thank the states of the Eastern Region for all their planning and work accomplished in hosting this year’s session.

This was another somewhat typical Grange year here with many of the normal events taking place. We were, however, unable to attend the Eastern Regional Youth Conference with large numbers as in the past, since the normal April time was changed to the last weekend in June. Only four people from Ohio were able to attend, as that change moved the event into our Family Campout/Junior Camp/Young Adults/ GROW club weekend.

We hosted a Grange Growth Summit at our Friendly Hills Grange Camp last May, led by National Grange’s Leadership Membership Director Rusty Hunt. One of our struggling Granges was indeed revitalized because of it! Last September I had the pleasure of installing their officers, many of whom were newly elected. They have already been busy planning and carrying out their projects. It’s really wonderful to observe their change!

Our Grange camp continues to operate under the Ohio Grange Charitable Foundation board and is doing well. I appreciate that board’s time and effort for all they have done to maintain its operations. Along with providing a meeting, social, dining, camping, etc., facility for the public in the Zanesville area, it also serves us well for the many State Grange events we hold there.

A concern in our state the past couple of years has been a nationwide animal rights activist group attempting to bring about ludicrous and unnecessary regulations concerning the housing of farm livestock. A group of D.C.-based lobbyists and vegetarians, their obvious agenda is to eliminate animal agriculture, not only in Ohio, but nationwide, by causing animal agriculture product prices to skyrocket. While masquerading as everyone’s local humane society caring for normal household pets, the actual portion of their multi-million dollar budget really used for this supposed purpose is very minute. After a ballot initiative was passed a year ago November that allowed for very qualified Ohio personnel



to serve on a livestock care standards board (OLCSB) — which would determine the guidelines for Ohio farm animal treatment — that activist group appeared to be preparing their own initiative which, if passed, would have mandated the OLCSB to adopt their outrageous regulations. In a surprise move last June, their representative and some local Ag leaders were lured into a questionable compromise by our now lame duck governor. This removed the ballot issue for this November, but concessions were made concerning animal care, and without a ballot being cast, this group achieved some of its goals! Uncertainty in that area continues to loom ominously.

Ohio will host the Eastern Regional Lecturers (Leaders) Conference May 13 to 15.

We exhausted our supply of Ohio cookbooks last year and have developed a new one, which arrived from the printer shortly before our October session. Early indications are good, as many cases were sold at the session and at one of our October county fairs.

In closing, Linda and I wish all of you a wonderful Christmas season and an outstanding 2011, both in your personal lives and with your Grange involvement.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gary Brumbaugh, Master

## **Oklahoma**

I send greetings from the Oklahoma State Grange. This year has been a very busy year. We had an increase of 53 members, and we only lost nine members in death.

We met the goal to start two new granges: Elm Bend Grange #358 and Cabin Creek Grange #359. State Membership Director Jerry Taylor and Overseer Dee Procter revitalized Cowskin Prairie Grange #346, and we reorganized Clear Lake Grange #347. We started a new Junior Grange - the Explorers, Junior Leader Valarie Thomsen.

We had an exciting time at the Degree Day with a snow storm that morning. There were five candidates taking the four degrees.

We had 39 Youth go to the Great Plains Youth Conference in Colorado and there were nine members that went to the Corn State Lecturer's conference in Kansas.

At the Celebration Banquet, we had a Luau at which the Directors gave contest winners their awards, and we had a talent contest. The winner will be at the National Grange Convention at the Show of Excellence.

There were 13 members who took the Sixth Degree this year and we had nine resolutions. One resolution will go on to the National Grange Convention.

There were 18 Juniors and 26 Youth who participated at the State Grange Session with the Youth conferring the Fifth Degree with a fast pace drill. I would like to thank our National Grange Representatives, National Grange Assistant Steward Roger Bostwick and Melanie Bostwick and also Jack Smithers, Texas State Grange Master, for coming and helping at our State Convention.

I would like to invite everyone to Oklahoma next year to our 2011 Regional National Grange Convention. It will be at the Marriott in Tulsa. See y'all there!

Fraternally,  
Donna Keeton



## Oregon

I bring greetings from Oregon Grangers. I hope you have an opportunity to meet those who accompanied me to this 144th Annual Convention, including our Secretary Phyllis Wilson, Lecturer Susan Noah, Youth Director Kitty Thomas, Horizon Leadership Ambassador Lorisa Schnetzky, National Youth Officers Steward Orrin Schnetzky, Gate Keeper Jeff Johnson and Pomona Kiri Schnetzky. We are especially proud of our strong youth representation. Two others were selected to be youth officers but were unable to make the trip due to school commitments.



Our 137th Annual State Session was held in June in Roseburg. During the week, delegates debated 49 resolutions. We had 43 candidates for the Sixth Degree. Our Community Service team collected 2,871 lbs. of food and \$810 in cash, which they donated to the food bank in our host area.

Since being installed as Master in June, I have been on the go, attending several Grange meetings per week. I have averaged 5,000 miles per month. To meet our current budget challenge, I am communicating with as many Grange Masters and secretaries as possible via e-mail. I am also looking for ways to make better use of technology to reduce our dependence on paper and paperwork.

Each department served as host for a day at our Log Cabin during the Oregon State Fair. Members handed out brochures, answered questions, gave school children prizes and told our Grange story.

Oregon was well represented last spring at the Grange Growth Summit in Caldwell, Idaho. We hosted National Master Ed Luttrell at two events during the summer. Our State Membership co-directors have recently conducted two training sessions to bring these ideas to our members.

In an attempt to strengthen our Pomona Granges, I have appointed all Pomona Masters as County Deputies.

We are looking forward to a good year!

Fraternally Submitted,  
Larry Rea, Master

## Pennsylvania

It is my privilege to present my first annual report as Master of the Pennsylvania State Grange. We had a very successful year thanks to our immediate past Master Betsy Huber and her outstanding leadership. I also want to thank our staff, departmental directors, State Officers and members.

We had our usual booth at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January and also staffed the "Farmer for a Day" area for children as well. This gives us the opportunity to have a presence at the Farm Show in order to let people know the Grange is alive and well. Our departmental planning meeting was held in late January. Record snowfalls prevented our attendance at the National Grange Masters Meeting this year.



Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware teamed up to present our own East Coast

Membership Summit in Delaware in March. This was a spin-off of the Grange Growth Summits presented by the National Grange, targeting our tri-state area. We had a very good turnout with 35 members from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. During the weekend, attendees went to two Granges in Delaware and two in Pennsylvania to help them revitalize.

We hosted National Master Ed Luttrell's media tour in three locations in March: Kutztown Grange #1836 in Berks County, Eagle Grange #1 in Lycoming County and Mount Nebo Grange #1872 in Allegheny County. We had a good response from the local media at the first two but unfortunately they did not show up at our third location. But we did have a very nice turnout of Grange members at all three meetings. We also had the opportunity to take Master Luttrell to the Lancaster Farming offices where we held an "editors conference" for the editors and reporters from the paper.

Our Youth and Junior departments tried their first-ever "Junior Lock-in" this year at Logan Grange #109 in Centre County. This was an opportunity to build bridges to improve retention of our Junior Grangers when they move into the Youth program.

Grange Day on May 4 will be forever known as "Pie Day" in the Capitol. We had our most successful lobbying event in years, thanks to the many Grangers who brought home-baked pies and cookies to present to their Senators and Representatives in support of Senator Vogel's bill to allow nonprofit organizations like the Grange to sell home-baked goods at their functions if they are labeled as not being prepared in a state-inspected kitchen. Word of the homemade pies spread like wildfire in the Capitol that day, and the bill was eventually approved and signed by the Governor.

Our annual Royalty Trip to Harrisburg was held in mid-June for the Junior and Youth Royalty, and they were introduced on the floors of the House and the Senate.

We had more than 30 Juniors, Youth and other members attend the 50th Anniversary Building rededication in Washington, D.C., in late June, with a number of our Youth acting as Building Ambassadors.

Our three-day Youth Retreat went back to the weekend prior to Junior Camp so many of our Youth attending the retreat could then stay on as counselors for Junior Camp. Both camps were held at Sylvan Hills Christian Camp in early July.

We expanded our family picnics this year to three, one at Conneaut Lake Park, one at Knoebels Amusement Park and the third at the historic Steam Engine Show at Williams Grove Park in Mechanicsburg. The Williams Grove picnic was the historic site of the "All Granger Picnics" in the late 1800's that used to attract upwards of 10,000 people. These family picnics are one way that we promote the "family" aspect of the Grange, attracting multi-generational families to spend time, food and fellowship.

Our 7th Annual Family Festival was fantastic. Held the third weekend in July, we saw more than 200 Grangers and their friends attend the four-day event at the Centre County Grange Fairgrounds. The Young Adults/Young Marrieds held their weekend in conjunction with the Family Festival and named our PA State Grange Young Couple Saturday night. The Family festival was the original idea of past Master Huber and has been extremely successful and well attended every year.

If it's August in Pennsylvania, then Ag Progress Days have to be fast approaching. This is largest outdoor agricultural event held each year and the Grange always has a large informational booth to get out the Grange word. This year we gave away balsa wood gliders to the kids and foam can coolers to the adults. We ran out of both at the three-day event.

As Public Relations/Membership Director, I had the opportunity to fill in for our Master

on numerous occasions to speak at Community and Pomona Legislative luncheons and dinners. While I was working to revitalize a Grange near the Maryland border, I went into Flintstone, Md., and worked with the Maryland State Grange in an attempt to open a new Grange in the Flintstone area.

We had 10 Pennsylvania Grangers attend the first-ever National Grange-sponsored Pomona Summit in September at London Grange #1492 in Mercer County. National Membership Director Rusty Hunt and Master Luttrell held several excellent workshops on how to make your Pomona Grange more effective.

This past year, Pennsylvania State Grange opened two new Granges, Susquehanna Community Grange #2106 in Clearfield County and Madison Grange #2107 in Columbia County. Both of these new Granges have been increasing their membership every quarter since they were chartered, mainly because they are coming up with some unique ideas for events and member-related outings!

Past Master Huber also had the opportunity this year to attend the Wyoming State Grange Annual Session as well as the first-ever Sixth Degree Presentation in Palmer, Alaska. Both Betsy and I attended this year's New Jersey State Grange Session. We were also honored to attend the Hamburg Grange #2103 5th Anniversary Open House. Hamburg Grange #2103 was the first of five new Granges that we chartered in the past 5 years.

While at the New Jersey State Grange Session, I heard an entertainer sing the song "AC-CENT-TCHU-ATE THE POSITIVE" by Johnny Mercer. The first verse goes,

*You've got to accentuate the positive*

*Eliminate the negative*

*Latch on to the affirmative*

*Don't mess with Mister In-Between*

These are words that Grangers should live by each and every day. We must always be positive about our great organization and project that attitude to our members and potential members -- our community. We need to eliminate all negative thoughts about the Grange. The Grange will thrive and grow! We must do like the Marine Corps: "Improvise, Adapt and Overcome." We must latch onto every positive thing our Granges do and make sure that we let everyone else know, and we cannot be satisfied with anything less than the best!

Fraternally,  
Carl H. Meiss, Master

### **Rhode Island**

Worthy Master, National Officers, Brothers and Sisters, on behalf of the officers and all the members of the "Ocean State," Claire and I extend our greetings. Our State may be the smallest, but our hearts are definitely the largest as we continue to give big.

At our 124th State Session on October 7 to 9, all our Department Heads reported record increases in donations to all our charitable organizations. It was a good year for us and a good year for our recipients. We were extremely pleased to have Sister Linda Chase, National Ceres, and Brother Calvin Chase,

Massachusetts State President, as our National Representatives this year. We were lucky that they were able to fill in for High Priest Thomas Severance who was scheduled to attend but was ill. Their presence was greatly appreciated by all in attendance.



Congratulations to Washington County Junior Grange which was reorganized and their Charter was presented to them by National Master Ed Luttrell in April while he was here on his media tour.

One week after session, we had a meeting with many of our members to discuss the future of our Grange. We are about to “boldly go where no one has ever gone” - increase our membership 25 percent. Much discussion was held on how to set up a Rhode Island Grange Dream Team.

As a couple of the new kids on the block, both Claire and I are looking forward to serving our great organization to the best of our ability, and we extend to all of you our sincere best wishes for a joyous Holiday Season and a healthy prosperous New Year.

Fraternally,  
Stephen Logan, 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 144th annual session of the National Grange. We look forward to a productive and harmonious session. To the Mid-Atlantic 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 144th 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, S.C. Donalds Grange sold their Grange building to the 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, but they 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, S.C., on August 12 to 14. This three-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.

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's soup labels. They use the labels for the purchase of equipment that they need and are currently working to acquire new 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.

We just completed our 102nd annual state convention held in upper East Tennessee in Greene County, hosted by Wesley's Chapel Grange, the oldest Grange in the state. All meetings, contest judging, displays and meals were held at the hall. The theme was "Harvest the Benefits of Grange," and the hall was beautifully decorated in the harvest theme. This was an election year for all officers, with several new officers being elected to fill a two-year term.



There was again 100 percent participation in the Community Service contest. The statewide community service project was the collection of toiletry items to be donated to a women's shelter. We again had excellent participation in the contests sponsored by the various departments. The Lecturer reported 96 entries in the photography contest, down a little this year. Certificates were presented to Lecturers who turned in reports of their work during the year, to members who read books from the annual reading list, to Granges that sent Yoplait yogurt lids to help support cancer research, aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, and Labels for Education. The Family Activities Director reported a large number of entries in the needlework, canning, baking and craft contests. The Tennessee Granger, our state newsletter, is now in its 55th year of publication.

We are one of the co-hosting states for the 2010 National Grange Convention to be held in North Carolina. Several members plan to attend to assist, enjoy the festivities, receive the Seventh Degree, or simply witness the degree again.

National Master Ed Luttrell and National Lecturer Pete Pompper visited with Tennessee Grangers at a meeting in Knoxville at the Volunteer Grange hall this Spring. Several members were present for this important discussion with the main objective being membership growth.

I attended the annual Master's conference in February, and in May the State Lecturer, State Chaplain and I attended the Mid Atlantic Lecturer's Conference in New Jersey.

I was sorry to report at our convention that for the first time in 5 years, we did not achieve a net gain in membership. We had only one Grange with a loss, but with minimal gains at some other Granges in the state, the result was a statewide net loss. We spent considerable time at the state convention talking about the necessity for organizing a new Grange or two in our state. We have names of contacts in some communities that we can work with. In August, for the first time in many, many years we had a display at a county fair where there are no Granges in the hopes of getting people interested in Grange. We received several names and will be following up with them in order to get the required number of people to organize there. 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.

Although our State is small in both the number of Granges and members, we have strong leaders and continue to press toward the mark. Our goal is to make a difference in the lives of those around us and leave our communities better than we found them.

Fraternally,  
Judy Sherrod, Master

### **Texas**

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates, and members of the 144th National Grange Session. Greetings from the great state of Texas.

We were honored in July to have Donna Keeton, Master of the Oklahoma State Grange, along with her husband, Brad, and daughter, Ann, attend our annual session. Thanks again to the Keetons for all their assistance and helping us to have a successful session.

We had another good year in community service participation. In addition to all the other community service projects, the four rabies clinics resulted in over 700 animals vaccinated.

This has been a very good year for membership. With the help of a few good positive-thinking Grangers and some hard work, we had a net gain of more than 30 members. We did not meet our goal of one new Grange this year, however it does look good for the future. We do have some Granges we must reorganize.

Our newsletter, The Texas Granger, is furnished quarterly to members via e-mail or regular mail. We received comments of appreciation for the monthly "Dates to Remember" information and the newsletter articles.

Our Rose Drill Team is working hard in preparation for their Rose Drill performance for the Sixth Degree at the 2011 National Grange Session. Also, our Grangers who will be attending the 2011 National Grange Session in Tulsa, Okla., are looking forward to helping and being involved in the various activities.

May we have a successful National Grange Session in November. God Bless our Granges.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Jack Smithers, Master



## **Vermont**

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates and Patrons of the National Grange, I am honored to bring greetings from the Grangers of Vermont.

Our 139th Annual Convention was held in Montpelier in November. Elections were held, and the proceedings of the session were productive with a number of resolutions sent on to National Grange for consideration. We were honored to have Sister Beth Merrill, National Lady Assistant Steward, and our neighbor to the east, as our representative from National Grange. It is always a pleasure to have such an enthusiastic Grange advocate attending our session.



We were pleased to host the Northeast Leaders' Conference at Brattleboro in January and the Northeast Lecturers' Conference at Vermont Technical College at Randolph in August. Both of these events were well attended, and as usual the cooperation and fraternity that characterizes the Grangers from New England and New York made these conferences enjoyable and constructive.

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

The Vermont State Grange, in cooperation with other organizations, has begun work on an animal welfare brochure for distribution at fairs and similar events. This is a proactive effort to educate the public about reasonable care and treatment of livestock, and to counter efforts by some advocacy groups that would curtail prudent and accepted farm practices.

Vermont was pleased to send three officers to Alaska in August for the first conferral of the Sixth Degree in that State. I was honored to serve as Master, Lester Gibbs, Past State Master, served as Chaplain, and Barbara Chambers, our Junior Director, served on the Executive Committee.

I regret to report that the charter of Guiding Star Grange #163 in West Halifax was revoked in June. The problem of membership maintenance continues, with retention remaining a greater problem than recruitment. While we have many dynamic Granges, there are others that seem to languish, particularly where the multi-generational bond has broken. We hope the revival of our State Grange newsletter and other efforts in the new year will reverse this trend.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Errol Briggs, Master

## **Washington**

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates, Members and Friends, greetings to all of you from the Evergreen State of Washington.

The Washington State Grange is experiencing growth and statewide success thanks to the tireless efforts of our members and officers.

Our State Membership Team, with coordinators Ted and Zula Bryan and George and

Wilma Penner, continue to help Granges revitalize, providing local communities with the tools to bring these important community centers, in some cases, literally back from the brink of extinction. We have seen several Granges strengthen their numbers across the state by simply pointing out the many benefits there are to Grange membership to their neighbors within the community.

Those benefits are, again, thanks in large part to our membership. These hard working people give countless hours to their communities by serving in numerous community service projects. These projects include those targeted toward our military men and women overseas and at home, supplying the community's youth with much needed school supplies, making blankets and quilts for premature babies, running food drives all year long, making toys to bring joy to children in trouble, and too many others to list here.



Our 121st State Session was held late June/early July in Bellingham, and I was pleased to award Beacon Hill Grange for their 100 years of continuous participation in the state convention. Our guests included Don Johnson, then Overseer and now Master of the Idaho State Grange, and his wife Mary. You know them as co-chairs of the 2012 National Grange convention, which will be held in Boise. I and the rest of us in Washington are looking forward to working with the Johnsons and the other western states as we strive to make the 2012 convention a fun and productive event.

The Washington State Grange continues to take great pride in our commitment to free and open elections. The voters of our state continue to enjoy our top-two style primary, which was enacted via approval of the Grange's Initiative 872 in 2004 and given the U.S. Supreme Court's stamp of approval two years ago. And this very month we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of this state's women's right to vote. The Grange was pivotal in the passage of an amendment allowing Washington women to vote in 1910. And Washington State Grange Master C.B. Kegley, a staunch supporter of women and the vote, urged the National Grange to support such an amendment to the U.S. Constitution in a presentation to the 1915 National Grange convention.

The Washington State Grange has reached out to a growing and much under-represented group: small ag producers. As farmlands dwindle, and people are looking at becoming more self-sufficient, smaller operations are springing up across our state. These smaller operations are finding it especially hard to stay productive and profitable under the weight of state and local regulations that are often tailored toward larger operations. At our 2010 convention, delegates voted to formally recognize small ag producers in our ag committees. A small ag caucus has been formed and has reached out to small producers statewide, telling them not only of the Grange's commitment to ag large and small, but to the history and other benefits of becoming a member of our longstanding order.

Our young members continue to impress. Kennedy Gwin is here as one of two Junior Ambassadors, and our Junior Granges are flourishing in many areas of the state. The hard work of our Youth and Junior directors is attracting young people interested in having fun and gaining valuable leadership training and experience. Our Junior Grange Camp program continues to be popular, offering parents a wholesome alternative for children looking for a fun summer camp experience. We have six camps across the state and all are filled or close to it each year.

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, a separate 501(c)(3) organization that offers scholarships each year for students pursuing studies in both agriculture and other majors. The fund also offers 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, and we look forward to seeing you at the 2012 convention in Idaho.

Fraternally,  
June F. Hendrickson, Master

### **West Virginia**

Again I find myself at a loss for solutions to stop the decline of Granges in West Virginia. In the past year we have received inquiries about selling Grange Halls. One Grange expressed interest in staying active if they could find a suitable facility. The other Grange will close. Right now they have an attorney researching the property title to ascertain who actually owns the building as shares were sold to construct the building.

I've communicated with these Granges, offering advice while encouraging them to remain active. This has been to no avail. Granges in West Virginia have failed to obtain new members, resulting in an aged membership which is unable to keep the Granges open. It appears that some members think others should get new members, even though I have emphasized that each and everyone needs to be a membership ambassador.

I indicated at last year's annual session I would revitalize old Granges while struggling to create new ones. I am sorry to report that none of this was accomplished.

A new membership chairman was appointed at the annual meeting, and we intend to increase funding for membership growth. Hopefully this plan will increase interest in the Grange and obtain new members.

I apologize for the briefness of this report. I wish I could have prepared a more positive report and predicated a strong growth in membership. Sadly to say, the future of our State Grange is bleak and uncertain, but we will strive to keep our State active.

Fraternally,  
Jim Foster, Master



### **Wisconsin**

Worthy Master, National Officers, Delegates, and members attending the 144th Annual Convention of the National Grange, it is truly an honor to be able to represent Wisconsin again at this convention. The past year has been one of both highest highs and lowest lows, but we continue to strive to rejuvenate the Granges in Wisconsin.

I have come to the realization that we did not get to this point overnight, and it will take work and perseverance to turn our membership issue around.

We were fortunate to have Brother Rusty Hunt present a Grange Growth Summit in our state last spring. His enthusiasm about membership development helped to inspire a team to try and organize Granges in Wisconsin. The results were not what we had hoped, but we will be trying again soon to find out what the secret formula is for our state.

Wisconsin's members continue to be involved in their local communities, which gives me hope that we can succeed.

The late Helen Keller once said, "True happiness comes through fidelity to a worthy purpose." And the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Everything that is done in the world is done by hope." So by adhering to the principals of our order, Faith, Hope, Charity, Fidelity and Perseverance should provide us with the answers we need in the next year.

I will be working with our membership to establish workable goals for each of them to obtain, and hope that larger results will build on small gains.



Fraternally,  
Duane Scott, Master

**NATIONAL GRANGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT  
2009-2010**

**November 20, 2009  
Amway Grand Hotel  
Grand Rapids, MI**

The organization meeting of the new Board was called to order at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 20, 2009 by Betsy Huber.

Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Joe Fryman, Marty Billquist and Phil Prelli.

Betsy Huber was elected Chairman.

Phil Prelli was elected Secretary.

**Ed Luttrell made a motion to adjourn at 4:42 p.m. It was seconded by Joe Fryman and approved by the Board.**

**November 25, 2009  
Teamspeak**

A Teamspeak meeting of the Board was called to order at 9 p.m. EST on Nov. 25, 2009 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Joe Fryman, Marty Billquist and Phil Prelli.

Discussion was held on the use of the Grange name by LaGrange Wine.

**Ed Luttrell moved that we allow Attorney Bikoff to negotiate the purchase of the LaGrange Wine name and set a maximum purchase price of \$5,000. It was seconded by Phil Prelli. Phil Prelli then moved to amend the motion to either purchase for no more than \$5,000 or license to LaGranja Wine the name which was seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved by the Board. The amended motion was then adopted.**

**Ed Luttrell made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved by the Board.**

**February 11, 2010  
Hawthorne Suites  
Orlando, FL**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 7:40 pm Feb. 11, 2010 by Master Ed Luttrell.

Present were Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Joe Fryman and Phil Prelli. Absent were Betsy Huber and Marty Billquist.

Jimmy Gentry led us in prayer for a good meeting and safe arrival of all the members attending the Master's Meeting.

*Master's Report*

The Worthy Master reported on the Name Protection issue and six of the 12 outstanding problems have dropped the use of the name. We received some negative press and e-mails on the Grange Irish Pub in Atlanta having to change their name but no further follow up occurred.

The building is fully rented. We have one tenant who has passed away and the staff is

working on the details of ending the lease. One other tenant is looking at terminating their lease with a year remaining. We are looking at the same compromise that we have used with other tenants to allow a buyout.

Discussion was held on The Legacy Companies use of the Grange name and the status of the proposed legislation.

**On a motion by Phil Prelli, second by Joe Fryman and vote of the Board, the Board went into Executive Session to discuss Grange issues.**

**Ed Lutrell moved and Jimmy Gentry seconded a motion to come out of Executive Session and on a vote of the Board it was approved.**

The Board recessed at 8:40 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 9:10 a.m. on Feb. 12, 2010.

**Jimmy Gentry moved to adopt the minutes of the Nov. 15, 2009 Board Meeting, the Nov. 20, 2009 Organization Meeting and the Nov. 25, 2009 Teamspeak Meeting as presented. Joe Fryman seconded the motion and it was approved by the Board.**

#### *Department Reports*

**Communications:** It was reported that Jennifer (Dugent) Wolff was resigning and interviews have been done searching for a replacement. Jennifer has prepared a report which documents her responsibilities for her replacement. Dick Weiss is recommending repurchasing newspaper and media contact list, upgrading radio contact list and that we purchase new equipment that will improve our recording at convention for better product.

**Membership/Leadership:** It was reported that Rusty and Jennifer attended and had a display at the Florida Ag Connection. The Grange Growth Summits and other conferences were discussed.

#### **Youth**

**Convention/Executive Assistant:** The plans for Charlotte are progressing well. Tulsa location is set and Yvonne Merritt is the Host Committee contact person.

**Program/Sales/Benefits:** Sales at the National session were significantly lower than normal. It was reported that Choice Hotel program continues to grow. Discussion was held on the Accidental Death Policy program.

#### **Junior**

**Comptroller:** Finished the year \$144,299.73 in the red. The main reason was attorney fees for the Name Protection program and the drop in donations for the program (\$47,000 collected with Budget of \$250,000).

Discussion was held on the preparation for the 50th Anniversary of the Building. The refreshing of the building and especially the bathrooms is on schedule. The ceremony is being planned and will be held at the Chamber of Commerce Building. Discussion was on having a plaque commemorating the occasion to be hung in the building. Blocks of hotel rooms are being reserved at different locations.

The Board reviewed the current compensation agreement between the National Grange and each State Grange for the organization and reorganization of Subordinate (Community) and Junior Granges. The Board suggested some modifications to more align the agreement with current Grange procedures. The main area were stipulating the funds for the affected Grange and allowed direct payment to the Grange as well as treating organized and reorganized Granges the same. **Jimmy Gentry moved that we approve the Compensation Agreement as modified. It was seconded by Joe Fryman and approved by the Board.**

Recessed for Lunch at 12:15 p.m.

Reconvened at 2 p.m.

Discussion was held on which of the expenses commonly paid by the Host District would be paid from the National Grange Host fund established by the \$1 per member assessment. A draft outline was established for review by the National Grange Office. It was also suggested that the office discuss with the past host committees about expenses paid.

All Board members were sent an e-mail setting up new dummy web sites to be worked with to see how the new web site works. They were all urged to experiment with the web site.

Discussion was held on whether we should handle the 150th anniversary session in 2016 differently than normally. This could include having the session in the D.C. area or other alternatives. We will continue to discuss.

Discussion was held on the possibility of a new entity to handle Grange Protection issues with the Legacy Companies and other affiliated association. An overview from our attorney, Fran Vitt, was discussed by the Worthy Master. We will continue to investigate.

A Teamspeak meeting will be held in the next two weeks to talk about the web site and set up the next regular meeting of the board.

**Phil Prelli made a motion to adjourn at 4:05 pm. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved by the Board.**

## **February 28, 2010**

### **Teamspeak**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 9:30 pm Feb. 28, 2010 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Marty Billquist and Phil Prelli. Absent was Joe Fryman.

Discussion was held on the trial web sites. Different members had different issues but the main point was that better and simpler instructions on the use were needed. **Phil Prelli moved that we continue to move forward with the development and that the Communication Department develops simpler instruction to aid Granges in establishing their sites. It was seconded by Marty Billquist and approved by vote of the Board.**

Discussion was held on the high cost of current name protection procedure and what alternatives were available to lower our expenses and still protect the name. Ed Luttrell went over the alternatives presented by Leroy Watson and Amber Bell including the likelihood of having legislation passed this year.

**It was moved by Marty Billquist and seconded by Jimmy Gentry that we suspend the pursuit of federal legislation at this time. After further discussion it was approved by the Board.**

Last year's Budget deficit was discussed and Ed Luttrell stated that an adjustment was made due to some outstanding dues being collected from one state and the deficit number was lowered to about \$109,000. The January numbers looked good but we will be keeping a close eye on the budget. The Master stated that he will be informing the members of the issue as part of his upcoming tour of the states.

The next Board Meeting will be May 14 to 16 in Washington, D.C.

**Phil Prelli made a motion to adjourn at 10:12 p.m. It was seconded by Marty Billquist and approved by the Board.**

**April 5, 2010**

**Teamspeak**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 9:05 p.m. April 5, 2010 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry (who joined at 9:12 p.m.), Ed Luttrell, Joe Fryman and Phil Prelli. Absent was Marty Billquist.

**On a motion by Phil Prelli, second from Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board, the Board went into Executive Session to discuss legal matters and financial concerns.**

**Phil Prelli moved to adjourn the Executive Session, it was seconded by Joe Fryman and approved.**

**Ed Luttrell moved that we hold a series of Teamspeak calls with State Masters to discuss the Trademark issue as soon as possible. It was seconded by Joe Fryman and after discussion adopted by the Board.**

**On a motion by Ed Luttrell, second by Phil Prelli and approval of the Board it was decided to suspend sending National Reps to State Granges this year with the exception of Alaska and Wyoming.**

**Jimmy Gentry made a motion to adjourn at 10 p.m. It was seconded by Joe Fryman and approved by the Board.**

**May 15, 2010**

**National Grange Headquarters**

**Washington, D.C.**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 9:10 a.m. May 15, 2010 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Marty Billquist, Joe Fryman and Phil Prelli.

Betsy Huber led us in prayer for a good meeting.

**On a motion from Jimmy Gentry, second from Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board the minutes of the Feb. 11, 2010 meeting and the April 5, 2010 Teamspeak were approved.**

*Department Reports*

Communication: Report was reviewed with discussion on National Master Luttrell's Media Tour and the web site project.

Information/Technology: The Board discussed the need for updated phone list and ways to keep membership up to date on National issues and policies.

Programs/Sales/Benefits

Legislative: The point was raised that input and testimony was needed concerning the proposed reduction in service from the U.S. Postal Service by eliminating one day of service probably Saturday. Concern was also discussed on the effect that the Trademark protection effort is having on the Legislative Department.

Comptroller: Discussion was held on controlling spending over the remainder of year especially in the largest expense category, trademark protection. Alternative fund raising proposals were also talked about.

Junior:

Membership/Leadership: The Pomona Grange survey and the Agenda and schedule of the Pomona Grange Growth Summit were discussed. We were also updated on the Leadership Workshop in Albany.

Executive Assistant: The upcoming National Grange Sessions were discussed. Also discussed were tenants deciding to leave building, meaning that there should soon be open space on the Second and 10th floors.

Recessed for Lunch at noon.

Meeting reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

**On a motion by Ed Luttrell, second by Marty Billquist and vote of the Board the Board went into Executive Session for the Master Report and Attorney Actions.** The members were joined by Attorney Jim Bikhoff and Leroy Watson for part of the executive session.

**Phil Prelli made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 3:05 p.m. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved by the Board.**

The plans for the schedule of events for the 50th Anniversary of the Grange Building were discussed. These include a dinner for National Officers and special quests on Friday evening, tours of the building and the presentation ceremony to be held at the Chamber of Commerce Building on Saturday June 26, 2010.

A lengthy and detailed discussion was held on recommendations for controlling expenses or alternatives for raising funds. These included the proposals raised and discussed during the National Master's Teamspeak conferences with State Masters.

**Ed Luttrell made a motion that we authorize the Sales Department to follow up on a proposal for a digital Grange song book. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved by the Board.**

The meeting was recessed at 6 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

#### *New Business*

Discussion was held on a proposal from the National Lecturer for re-establishing a National photo contest. **Jimmy Gentry moved to approve the photo contest for 2011, seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved by the Board.**

#### *Unfinished Business*

The Board reviewed the RFP for the 2014 Annual Convention.

**It was moved by Marty Billquist to terminate the web page project through Concrete 5, seconded by Jimmy Gentry and adopted.**

Discussion was held on the formation of the "Grange Mark Protection Association" which will be made up of Grange Legacy Companies as well as new companies licensed by the National Grange. It was decided to send the proposal to three or four companies for their feedback.

Discussion was held on the proposal for the LTC (long term care) Outreach and Education Program. Some questions were raised about the program and the Board decided to hold a Teamspeak meeting or e-mail vote to approve if the questions were answered in a positive manner.

**Marty Billquist made a motion that we drop the Prepaid Legal and the Verizon Wireless as benefit programs. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved by the Board.**

**Jimmy Gentry moved that due to the tight budget we suspend printing and mailing of the New Grange and issue it only as an online publication. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and after discussion it was adopted by the Board.**

**Ed Luttrell made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. It was seconded by Joe Fryman and approved by the Board.**

**June 27, 2010  
National Grange Headquarters  
Washington, D.C.**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 9 a.m. June 27, 2010 by Chairperson Huber at National Grange Headquarters.

Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Marty Billquist, Joe Fryman and Phil Prelli.

Betsy Huber led us in prayer thanking him for a fine successful weekend and asking for guidance in our discussion on financial issues.

Discussion was held on financial issues including daycare and printing changes. Ed explained his analysis on the Protection costs and suggestions for lowering future costs. Ed and Leroy Watson are planning on meeting with our Trademark Protection Attorney, Jim Bikhoff, on Monday, June 28, 2010 to discuss alternatives.

**Ed Luttrell moved that we inform Atty. Bikhoff to stop work on any LaGrange issue unless it is truly misleading to the Grange name. It was seconded Marty Billquist and adopted by the Board.**

**Marty Billquist moved that the next copy of the New Grange be sent to the Subscribers as it is the Convention copy. It was seconded by Joe Fryman and after discussion it was adopted by the Board.**

Discussion was held on the very successful 50th Anniversary of the National Grange Building dedication ceremony. Due to the efforts of those in charge of organizing and running of the service all appeared to go smoothly.

**It was moved by Phil Prelli with a second from Jimmy Gentry that the Chairman of the Board send a letter to the Staff expressing the Boards' thanks and appreciation for their outstanding work and effort making the 50th Anniversary of the building such a success. Adopted by the Board.**

Discussion held on the songbook and cookbook digital projects.

Next meeting Aug. 24 and Aug. 25, 2010 in Washington, D.C.

**Ed Luttrell made a motion to adjourn at 10:59 a.m. It was seconded by Joe Fryman and approved by the Board.**

**August 24, 2010  
National Grange Headquarters  
Washington, DC**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 6:40 p.m. Aug. 24, 2010 by Chairperson Huber at National Grange Headquarters.

Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Marty Billquist, Joe Fryman and Phil Prelli.

Chairperson Huber led us in prayer thanking him for a successful arrival of all members, asking for a blessing on all members that are in need and asking for guidance during our meeting.

**On a motion by Marty Billquist, second by Joe Fryman and vote of the Board the minutes of the May 15, 2010 and June 27, 2010 minutes were adopted after a minor change was made to the May 15, 2010 minutes.**

#### *Master's Report*

Discussion was held on a proposal from Atty Bikoff to investigate improper name use identification on a flat fee basis rather than an hourly rate. It was decided to discuss further at our November Board meeting after further information and alternatives were gathered.

**On a motion by Jimmy Gentry, second from Marty Billquist and vote of the Board (Ed Luttrell abstained from the vote) it was decided to deny the request of Best Fraternal Supply to waive the Insurance requirement in their Licensing Agreement.**

**Ed Luttrell made a motion that we go into Executive Session to discuss State Grange Concerns. It was seconded by Phil Prelli and approved.**

**Phil Prelli moved that we adjourn the Executive Session. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved.**

**Phil Prelli moved to request the minutes of the Executive Committee of the California State Grange where the agreement with Vista Grange was voted on including the motion to approve the agreement as well as a full copy of the agreement. It was seconded by Betsy Huber.**

**After some discussion Ed Luttrell moved and Jimmy Gentry seconded that we postpone action on the above motion until the November meeting. Motion approved.**

**Jimmy Gentry moved that effective with the next quarterly payment of GIA that we hold in trust the payment to the Wyoming State Grange until there is a completed audit of their funds for the last 3 years and that the Grange operations meet the standards determined by the National Master according to the National Digest and the Wyoming State Grange By-Laws. The motion was seconded by Marty Billquist and adopted by the Board.**

The meeting recessed at 8:45 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:50 a.m. Aug. 25, 2010.

#### *Department Reports*

**Communications: After some discussion; Jimmy Gentry moved with a second from Phil Prelli to publish the next issue (September/October) of the New Grange only electronically. The Board approved the motion.**

**Financial: Discussion was held on the financial situation, a preliminary draft of next year's budget and end of year projections.**

**Programs/Sales/Benefits: The Long Term Care proposal was discussed especially the options for States to opt out or participate in the Education only option. A new prescription drug card program was introduced. On a motion from Marty Billquist, second from Ed Luttrell it was moved to proceed with the new benefit pharmacy card. Approved by the Board.**

**The Board discussed the new digital song book and digital cookbook and we are looking forward to their release.**

**Junior: Discussion was held on possible alternatives in filling the Junior Director position and preparation for National Session.**

Legislative: The Board was introduced to our new Legislative Director, Nicole Wood, who discussed her philosophy and what the direction is planned for her department.

Membership

Youth

Executive Assistant: Discussion held on vacancies in the building and plans for leasing them. We also discussed levels of rent in the building as well as surrounding buildings.

*Master's Report cont.*

Ed informed the Board that Leroy Watson was continuing to work as a consultant on the Name Protection project as well forming the Name Use Association.

Further discussion was held on the staff changes and future plans.

Recessed for lunch at 11:50 a.m.

Reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

*Unfinished Business*

Discussion was held on possible locations for the 2014 National Session.

Staff and others are looking at enhancing and upgrading the Community Service Project for 2012 including possible sponsor or higher prize limits.

*New Business*

The Annual Session plans and schedule were discussed.

A preliminary Draft Budget was reviewed and possible modifications were discussed. A proposed budget will be presented at our November Meeting for action.

Master Luttrell reported on the Pomona Survey. Some interesting results were seen.

**On a motion from Jimmy Gentry, second from Joe Fryman and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.**

**November 6, 2010**

**Hilton Hotel**

**Charlotte, NC**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 8:55 p.m. Nov. 6, 2010 by Chairperson Huber at the Hilton Hotel, Charlotte, N.C.

Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Marty Billquist, Joe Fryman and Phil Prelli.

Discussion was held concerning the Proclamation of Appreciation for Leroy Watson for his service to not only the National Grange Staff but to the organization in general. Work will be done on the wording to express our appreciation.

**Ed Luttrell moved that we go into executive session to discuss Grange internal issues. It was seconded by Joe Fryman and approved.**

**On a motion by Jimmy Gentry, second from Marty Billquist and vote of the Board we came out of Executive Session.**

Recessed at 10:05 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:25 a.m. Nov. 7, 2010.

Chairperson Huber led us in prayer asking for a safe arrival of all those attending the session as well as guidance and assistance in our meeting.

**Jimmy Gentry made a motion to accept the Aug. 24, 2010 minutes. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved by vote of the Board.**

#### *Department Reports*

Legislative: Nicole Palya Wood, Legislative Director, joined the meeting to discuss the legislative actions being taken. The National Grange filed comments on the change of mail delivery from six to five days. We then answered follow up questions (interrogatory statements) and National Master Ed Luttrell provided testimony to the Committee. Nicole also talked about the direction she saw the department heading for the year.

Communication: Barbara Covington Jones joined the Board to discuss communications/marketing on ways to better keep our membership informed as well as promoting our positions.

Finance: Our current financial situation as well as the proposed budget was discussed by Amber Bell.

#### *Master Report*

Master Luttrell informed us of the status of the Name Protection cases (currently 5 outstanding issues with the attorneys) including procedures to keep our cost down. He also discussed the plans for the fund raising auction during the “Celebration Banquet”. This included a silent auction as well as a process to accept online bids.

#### *Unfinished Business*

Discussion was held on the 2014 Annual Session. A proposal was received from the Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, Ohio. The closest airport would be Cleveland, Ohio. All functions would be held at the resort. **Phil Prelli moved that we approve the recommendation to hold the 2014 convention at the Kalahari Resort seconded by Marty Billquist and approved by the Board.**

The Board then discussed the proposed budget, making some minor revisions. It was decided that the meeting continue while a final version of the budget with the modifications was prepared.

**Ed Luttrell moved that we postpone indefinitely the motion that the Board ask for the minutes of the California State Grange Executive Committee meeting on Vista Grange. Seconded by Phil Prelli and approved.**

Meeting was recessed at 11:55 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

The revised budget was distributed. **On a motion by Phil Prelli, second from Jimmy Gentry and vote of the Board the proposed budget was approved and recommended to be presented to the delegate body.**

Oliver Orton, Master of the New York State Grange, joined the meeting.

**Marty Billquist moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss Grange issues. It was seconded by Joe Fryman and approved.**

**Phil Prelli moved to go out of Executive Session seconded by Ed Luttrell and voted by the Board.**

Further discussion was held on the best approach to discovering and motorizing new possible trademark cases including who should handle them and the best way to fund it including a fixed fee. It was decided to discuss further at the February meeting after more information was received.

*New Business*

Discussion was held on holding the 150th anniversary session in 2016 Annual Session in the Washington, D.C., area. It was thought that this might increase attendance as well as include the chance of National Dignitaries attending. Our Convention coordinator will check into proposals and prices.

Master Ed Luttrell informed the board of a new Growth Reward program for State Granges where they would recognize the largest growth in membership in a Community Grange as well as the Grange with the highest percentage of growth.

The idea of an online Grange Farmers Market was presented which would allow the sale of Grange products thru a Farmers Market web site to be run by National Grange. Items would use the Grange Name. **Marty Billquist moved to pursue the concept of a Grange Farmers Market. It was seconded by Joe Fryman and approved by the Board.**

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held in conjunction with the Master's meeting in February.

**On a motion from Ed Luttrell, second from Marty Billquist and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.**

**Organizational Meeting**

**November 12, 2010**

**Hilton Hotel**

**Charlotte, NC**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 5 p.m. Nov. 12, 2010 by Chairperson Huber at the Hilton Hotel, Charlotte, N.C.

Present were Betsy Huber Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, and Phil Prelli.

Duane Scott was welcomed as the new member on the Board.

Election of Officers was conducted. Betsy Huber was re-elected Chairperson and Phil Prelli was re-elected Secretary.

Discussion was held on possible locations for the Master's Meeting in February. Convention coordinator will check on best prices for flights and meeting dates.

**On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.**

**REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY  
(PREPARED BY THE NATIONAL MASTER'S OFFICE)  
RECEIPTS AND DISBURSMENTS  
1/1/09-12/31/10**

Sixth Degree Fees-\$1092.50

Golden Sheaf Certificate Fees-\$5,310.00

**Membership Recognition  
1/1/09-12/31/10**

Sixth Degree Certificates: 106

Golden Sheaf Certificates: 531

40 year seals:	331	55 year seals:	354	60 year seals:	472
65 year seals:	315	70 year seals:	202		

75 year certificates: 101

80 year letter:	24	85 year letter:	3
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**Organization and Reorganization  
7/1/09-6/30/10**

**Subordinate Granges**

<b>State</b>	<b>Organized</b>	<b>Reorganized</b>
Alaska	1	0
California	4	2
Maine	0	2
New Hampshire	1	0
North Carolina	1	0
Pennsylvania	2	0
Rhode Island	0	1
Washington	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 7

**Junior Granges**

<b>State</b>	<b>Organized</b>	<b>Reorganized</b>
Massachusetts	1	0
New York	1	3
Pennsylvania	2	0
Rhode Island	0	1
Vermont	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 5

**Pomona Granges**

State	Organized	Reorganized
Texas	1	0
Virginia	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>

State	Quarters	Subordinate Charter Fees	Junior Charter Fees	Sixth Degree Certificate	Golden Sheaf
CA	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$100.00		27	38
CO	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			8	11
CT	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			11	23
DE	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			5	2
FL	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			2	1
ID	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			10	5
IL	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			14	7
IN	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			3	4
IA	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	2
KS	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			7	2
ME	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			39	29
MD	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			7	0
MA	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>		\$10.00	11	17
MI	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			7	9
MN	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	0
MO	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	0
MT	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			4	2
NE	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			6	5
NH	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$25.00		16	15
NJ	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	8
NY	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>		\$30.00	19	61
NC	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$25.00		37	2
OH	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			9	43
OK	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			13	0
OR	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			43	11
PA	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$50.00	\$20.00	30	66
RI	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$25.00	\$10.00	10	3
SC	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	5
TN	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	0
TX	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			5	0
VT	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>		\$10.00	6	11
VA	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	2
WA	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$50.00		82	147
WV	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			6	0
WI	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	0
WY	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	0
AK	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$25.00		0	0
Potomac	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>				74
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>531</b>

**No Junior or Subordinate Dues were collected in any state.**

**NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY**

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**Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2009**

## ERIC BOLIN CPA P.C.

### 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, 2009, 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, 2009, 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.

*Eric Bolin CPA, P.C.*

April 06, 2010

**NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY****Statement of Financial Position***December 31, 2009*

	GRANGE OPERATING ACCOUNT	GRANGE BUILDING ACCOUNT	TOTAL NATIONAL GRANGE
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash on hand and on deposit (Sch. I)	\$ 330,830	\$ -	\$ 330,830
Investments (Note 4)	257,514	-	257,514
Accounts receivable (Sch. II)	61,391	-	61,391
Prepaid expenses and supplies	5,290	-	5,290
Inventory - sales (Note 2)	126,158	-	126,158
Building (at cost)	-	1,174,014	1,174,014
Accumulated depreciation - Building	-	(1,156,396)	(1,156,396)
Equipment and Improvement	56,112	812,516	868,628
Accum Dep- Equip & Improvement	(56,112)	(633,745)	(689,857)
Land	-	255,238	255,238
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 781,183</b>	<b>\$ 451,627</b>	<b>\$ 1,232,810</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable	\$ 296,861	\$ -	\$ 296,861
Grange bonding	84	-	84
Security deposits - tenants	-	27,611	27,611
Due to (from) building account	6,485,309	(6,485,309)	-
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>6,782,254</b>	<b>(6,457,698)</b>	<b>324,556</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Unrestricted - building	-	6,909,325	6,909,325
Unrestricted - operating	(6,001,071)	-	(6,001,071)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(6,001,071)</b>	<b>6,909,325</b>	<b>908,254</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 781,183</b>	<b>\$ 451,627</b>	<b>\$ 1,232,810</b>

*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, 2009***Schedule I - Cash on Hand and on Deposit**

Operating account	\$	262,423
Payroll account		11,024
Nation Convention Bank		14,825
Petty cash		350
Building Reserve - Money Market Fund		42,208
<b>Total Cash on Hand and on Deposit</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>330,830</b>

**Schedule II - Accounts Receivable**

Foundation, Deaf	\$	291
Youth Leadership		1,663
Other		37,210
National Convention		17,676
Potomac Grange		1,904
Sales		2,647
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>61,391</b>

*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, 2009

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Dues and Fees	
Subordinate Grange Dues	\$ 779,266
Subordinate Grange Charter Fees	255
Junior Grange Charter Fees	105
Sixth Degree Fees	1,150
Seventh Degree Fees	2,200
GIA	122,500
Sales Income	80,870
Interest, Dividend Income	1,174
Fund Raising Donations	67,418
Other Income	23,166
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,078,104</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
General and Administrative	742,850
National Master	81,935
National Secretary	500
Board of Directors	10,126
Communication Publication	152,570
Youth Activities	15,434
Junior Grange	27,704
High Priest	3,563
Membership, Leadership	66,328
Legislative	30,391
IT/ Systems	70,237
National Convention	110,816
Marketing/Sales	164,531
Representatives to State Conventions	17,455
Pres Mtg	16,516
Simple IRA	10,687
Depreciation	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,521,643</b>
<b>DECREASE IN NET ASSETS – OPERATING</b>	<b>(445,539)</b>
Unrealized Gain—Investment	0
<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS – January 31,</b>	<b>(5,557,532)</b>
<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS – December 31,</b>	<b>\$ (6,001,071)</b>

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, 2009***INCOME**

Rent	\$ 855,158
NG Building – Expense Allocation	46,192
Storage	7,755

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>909,105</b>
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**EXPENSES**

Salaries and Payroll Taxes	72,909
Real Estate Taxes	148,197
Electricity, Gas and Water	104,162
Building Supplies	4,490
Service Contracts, Inspection	151,841
Repairs and Maintenance	58,940
Employee Insurance	1,439
Insurance	12,266
Miscellaneous, Commissions	3,670

<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>557,914</b>
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<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>351,191</b>
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<b>Provision for Depreciation</b>	<b>(69,694)</b>
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<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS - Building</b>	<b>281,497</b>
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<b>NET ASSETS - Building Operations – January 1,</b>	<b>6,627,828</b>
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<b>NET ASSETS - Building Operations - December 31,</b>	<b>\$ 6,909,325</b>
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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, 2009***CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Decrease in Net Assets - Operating	\$ (446,992)
Increase in Net Assets - Building	282,936
<b>Total</b>	<b>(164,056)</b>
Adjustments to Reconcile Decrease in Net Assets to Cash (Used) by Operations	
Depreciation	69,694
Decrease (Increase) in Accounts Receivable	(50,599)
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expenses, Supplies	1,359
Decrease (Increase) in Inventory	2,097
Increase (Decrease) in Grange Bonding	(424)
(Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable	135,477
Increase in Security Deposits - tenant	5,741

<b>NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(711)</b>
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**CASH USED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES**

(Increase) in from Investment Maturity	(71,855)
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<b>NET CASH (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(71,855)</b>
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<b>CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>0</b>
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<b>NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH</b>	<b>(72,566)</b>
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<b>CASH - January 1,</b>	<b>403,396</b>
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<b>CASH - December 31,</b>	<b>\$ 330,830</b>
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*See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements*

**NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY****Notes to Financial Statements***December 31, 2009*

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**NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION**

The National Grange is a non-profit organization comprised of four distinct divisions. The mission of the National Grange is to improve the quality of life in America's families and communities. The National Grange provides representation for its members on agriculture and rural/urban issues, encourages and supports grassroots community and organizational leadership.

**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES**

Basis of Accounting - The financial statements of the Organization have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and accordingly reflect all significant receivables, payables and other liabilities.

The accounts of the Organization are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Under fund accounting, resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purpose. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund; however, in the accompanying financial statements, funds have been combined and presented for the Organization as a whole in accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 117, "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations".

Cash and Cash Equivalents - For purposes of the statements of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents are considered to be unrestricted highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less at the time of acquisition.

Inventories - Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market, with cost determined on a first-in, first-out basis and market based on the lower of replacement cost or realizable value.

Investments - Items that may be included in this category are equity securities, debt instruments, including certificates of deposit with maturities greater than three months, bonds, notes and mortgages, limited partnerships, land and buildings not used in the operations of the Organization, cash value of annuity and life insurance contracts and coins and bullion.

**NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY****Notes to Financial Statements***December 31, 2009*

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**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (Continued)**

It is the Organization's policy to hold bonds and notes to maturity. Accordingly, interim declines in market value which are not considered permanent are not recognized.

Property Assets and Depreciation - Property assets are those assets used in the operations of the Organization. They are recorded at cost or, if donated, at the estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

Depreciation is recorded using the straight-line method at various rates calculated to allocate the cost of the respective items over their estimated useful lives.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions. This will affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Income Tax Status - The Organization is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). However, income from certain activities not directly related to the Organization's tax-exempt purpose is subject to taxation as unrelated business income.

Net Assets - Net assets of the Organization consist of the following:

Unrestricted: Property—These net assets reflect the total carrying value after accumulated depreciation of all land, buildings and equipment used in the building.

Unrestricted: Undesignated—available for general activities—These net assets are available for general obligations of The National Grange.

Temporarily Restricted: Specific purposes—These net assets are restricted by donors to be used for some specific purpose.

## NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

### Notes to Financial Statements

*December 31, 2009*

#### NOTE 3 - INVESTMENTS

Investments include equity securities, mutual funds and certificates of deposit with maturities greater than three months. Investments are recorded at cost or, if donated, at the estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

Investments are shown at fair market value in these financial statements. This carrying amount is equivalent to their fair market value at December 31, 2009.

Investments include:

Money Funds	\$ 257,514
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#### NOTE 4 - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property, equipment and accumulated depreciation are as follows at December 31:

	<u>2009</u>
Depreciable Assets	
Equipment	\$ 56,112
Building	1,174,014
Building Improvements	<u>812,516</u>
	2,042,642
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,846,253)</u>
	<u>\$ 196,389</u>

#### NOTE 5 - UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS- BUILDING

Building unrestricted net assets is comprised of:

December 31	<u>2009</u>
From Operations	\$5,940,060
Contributions	260,745
Provided from Exchange of	
Former Building	396,936
Bicentennial Cookbook	<u>313,549</u>
	<u>\$6,911,290</u>

**NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY****Notes to Financial Statements***December 31, 2009***NOTE 6 - PENSION PLAN/SIMPLE IRA**

In March 2002, The National Grange established a SIMPLE IRA employee benefit plan covering substantially all employees who have completed one year of service and met minimum age requirements. Employees are allowed to defer up to 15% of annual salary with a 3% match by The National Grange. As of December 31, 2009, the matching portion was \$10,687.

**NOTE 7 - CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK**

The National Grange maintains its operating cash in a financial institution insured up to \$250,000 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). At times the funds in this institution exceed the insured limit. At December 31, 2009, this excess was \$22,423.

**NOTE 8 - LEASE COMMITMENTS**

The National Grange has entered into an operating lease for a copier. The lease for the copier was signed on December 28, 2007 for 60 months starting in January 2008. The monthly payment for the copier is \$757.

Minimum lease payments for the years ending December 31 are:

2010	9084
2011	9084
2012	<u>9084</u>
Total	<u>\$27,252</u>

**THE GRANGE FOUNDATION**

**Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2009**

## ERIC BOLIN CPA P.C.

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, 2009, 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.

*Eric Bolin CPA, P.C.*

April 06, 2010

6110 Executive Boulevard • Suite 232 • Rockville, Maryland 20852  
Telephone: 301.816.9446 • Facsimile: 301.816.9447 • email: erbolin@hotmail.com

**THE GRANGE FOUNDATION****Statement of Financial Position****December 31, 2009****ASSETS****Current Assets**

Cash – Operating \$ 27,781

CD Investments 53,427

**Total Current Assets** 81,208**Other Assets**

Endowment Fund (Restricted) 199,754

**TOTAL ASSETS** \$ 280,962**LIABILITY**

Accounts Payable- Due to National Grange \$ 1,955

**NET ASSETS**

Unrestricted 29,929

Temporarily Restricted 52,324

Permanently Restricted – Endowment 199,754

**TOTAL NET ASSETS** 279,007**TOTAL LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS** \$ 280,962*See Accompanying Accountant's Report and Notes to Financial Statements*

**THE GRANGE FOUNDATION****Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets****For the Year Ended December 31, 2009**

	TOTAL
<b>CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:</b>	
Revenues:	
Contributions	2,515
Interest and Dividend Income	2
Total unrestricted revenues	2,517
Expenses:	
National Convention	-
Public Speaking Scholarship	-
Miscellaneous	147
Outside Services	
Total unrestricted expenses	147
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2,370</b>
<b>CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS :</b>	
Contributions, Interest	14,398
Expenses	11,909
<b>INCREASE IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2,489</b>
<b>CHANGES IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:</b>	
Contributions	50
Increase in FMV	5,909
Interest Earned	14
Expense	-
<b>INCREASE IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:</b>	<b>5,973</b>
<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>10,832</b>
<b>NET ASSETS – JANUARY 1,</b>	<b>268,175</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - DECEMBER 31,</b>	<b>\$ 279,007</b>

*See Accompanying Accountant's Report and Notes to Financial Statements*

**THE GRANGE FOUNDATION****Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets****For the Year Ended December 31, 2009****Schedule I – Temporarily Restricted Net Assets**

	OH Kelley Historical Program Fund	Junior Grange Kelley Farm Program	DC Experience	Youth Leadership Fund	Program For the Deaf
Balance- January 1	\$ 6,715	\$ 1,510	\$ -	\$ 20,566	\$ 21,044
Contributions	2,454	3,850	2,470	5,568	50
Interest Income	2	1	-	1	2
Expenses	(3,523)	(790)	(138)	(7,312)	(146)
Balance- December 31	\$ 5,648	\$ 4,571	\$ 2,332	\$ 18,823	\$ 20,950

*See Accompanying Accountant's Report and Notes to Financial Statements*

**THE GRANGE FOUNDATION****Statement of Cash Flows****For the Year Ended December 31, 2009****CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Increase in Net Assets	\$	10,832
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase in Net Assets to Cash flow from operating activities:		
(Decrease) Increase in Due to The National Grange		(3,508)

<b>NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>7,324</b>
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**CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES**

Allocation of CD funds to Endowment Fund	6,573
Increase in Endowment Fund	(5,973)

<b>NET CASH (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>600</b>
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<b>CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>0</b>
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<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH</b>	<b>7,924</b>
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<b>CASH – January 1,</b>	<b>19,857</b>
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<b>CASH - December 31,</b>	<b>\$ 27,781</b>
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*See Accompanying Accountant's Report and Notes to Financial Statements*

**THE GRANGE FOUNDATION****Notes to Financial Statements****December 31, 2009**

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**NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION**

The Grange Foundation is a non-profit organization affiliated with The National Grange through common officers and management. The National Grange acts as trustee for funds received on behalf of The Grange Foundation.

**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Basis of Accounting - The financial statements of the Organization have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and accordingly reflect all significant receivables, payables and other liabilities.

The accounts of the Organization are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Under fund accounting, resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purpose. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund; however, in the accompanying financial statements, funds have been combined and presented for the Organization as a whole in accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 117, "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations".

Cash and Cash Equivalents - For purposes of the statements of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents are considered to be unrestricted highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less at the time of acquisition.

Inventories - Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market, with cost determined on a first-in, first-out basis and market based on the lower of replacement cost or realizable value.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions. This will affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Net Assets - Net assets of the Organization consist of the following:

Unrestricted: Undesignated—available for general activities—These net assets are available for general obligations of the Foundation.

Temporarily Restricted: Specific purposes—These net assets are restricted by donors to be used for some specific purpose.

**THE GRANGE FOUNDATION****Notes to Financial Statements****December 31, 2009**

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**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**Permanently Restricted: Endowments**—These net assets are permanently restricted by donors and cannot be used by the Organization. Income and capital gains may or may not be used depending on the endowment agreement.

**Contributions** - Contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted or permanently restricted support, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor restrictions.

Gifts of cash and other assets are reported as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or a purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Donations of property and equipment are recorded as support at their estimated fair value at the date of donation. Such donations are reported as unrestricted support unless the donor has restricted the donated asset to a specific purpose. Assets donated with explicit restrictions regarding their use and contributions of cash that must be used to acquire property and equipment are reported as restricted support. Absent donor stipulations regarding how long those donated assets must be maintained, the Organization reports expirations of donor restrictions when the donated or acquired assets are placed in service as instructed by the donor. The Organization reclassifies temporarily restricted net assets to unrestricted net assets at that time.

Donated marketable securities and other non-cash donations are recorded as contributions at their estimated fair values at the date of donation.

No amounts have been reflected in the financial statements for donated services. The Foundation pays for most services requiring specific expertise.

Unconditional promises to give are recognized as revenues or gains in the period received as assets, decreases in liabilities or expenses depending on the form of the benefits received. Conditional promises to give are recognized when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met. The Foundation has not received any promises to give.

**Income Tax Status** - The Foundation is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). However, income from certain activities not directly related to the Organization's tax-exempt purpose is subject to taxation as unrelated business income.

## THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

### Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

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#### NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

The Foundation is also a public charity under the IRC Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi). This allows for donations to the Foundation to be deductible as charitable contributions on income tax returns.

**NATIONAL GRANGE DEPARTMENT REPORTS****2010 Report of the Communications Department****Charlotte, North Carolina****November 11, 2010**

This report is a compilation of the work of three Grange employees. In 2010, the Communications Department has operated under the direction of three staff employees: Jennifer Dugent, who worked at the National Grange for several years, resigned her full-time employment and now operates as a Grange contractor. Laura Auerbach, worked at the Grange for more than 6 months, resigned in August to be closer to her family in Massachusetts. Presently, I, (Barbara Covington Jones) a former Grange employee, joined the staff in September.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS***Reported by Jennifer Dugent*

- 13 press releases were sent out from National Grange Convention; five podcasts were released
- The January/February Convention Special of *The New Grange* was sent to homes the first week of February
- The March/April issue of the New Grange has an editorial deadline of February 8 and will hit households the first week of March
- Materials for Grange Month 2010's theme is "Now is the Time" were designed.
- Molly Thompson oversaw the printing of more than 45,000 pieces for our Grange Month Mailing. Packets should reach Community, Pomona and State Masters, plus National Officers, by the second week of February.
- Rusty Hunt and I (Jennifer) were at AG Connect Expo from January 11 to 15 with Florida State Grangers. It was a good awareness effort as well as an opportunity to train the Florida Grangers on recruitment techniques. We were able to get contact information from prospective members for 13 states around the country. Molly is typing their contact information and sending it to the corresponding states.
- The Grange Growth Summit Logo and materials were updated for 2010.
- The National Grange Digest has been reformatted and will be ready for distribution by the end of the month. Hopefully, by the time I leave, the Journal of Proceeding will be mostly complete.
- Graphics are being created for the Masters Conference.
- Grange Month Materials were posted online.
- Plans are underway to train successor for a smooth transition.

*Reported by Laura Auerbach*

Listed below are some of the activities of the Department:

- Building Dedication – Unfortunately, both President Obama and Vice-President Biden have scheduling conflicts for our Rededication Ceremony and are therefore not able to attend. We still have hopes that the Secretary of Agriculture will accept our invitation to speak. Either way, we expect to have a video from Mary Jean Eisenhower. Unfortunately Ms. Eisenhower had a previously scheduled engagement and was not able to accept our invitation to be the keynote speaker, however, she has agreed to provide us with a video which speaks to the history of the Grange and its importance to her Grandfather, President Eisenhower. We expect to receive this video in June.

- Media Tour – Master Luttrell has been on a whirlwind media tour to increase public awareness of the Grange as well as the important issues we face on a national level. In addition to speaking about these issues (National Broadband and Civic Participation), Mr. Luttrell has also been using this as an opportunity to educate State Master's on the benefits of developing good relationships with the media in an effort to increase public support for issues at the state level.
- Our process for this tour is to send out a letter to each State Master one month prior to Ed's arrival outlining expectations and requesting information needed to start our media campaign for that state. Once this information has been received, Molly Thompson develops a customized Media Alert (based on a template that was created) and mails it to the local media. The press conference is generally set for one hour prior to the general meeting. Upon completion of each state stop, a press release is mailed out to local newspapers.
- State Sessions – Thus far, only Alaska has held a state session. A copy of the final video developed for this state was mailed out earlier this year.
- 2011 Convention – The 2011 Convention logo has been developed and will soon be shared with the committee. It was designed branded by Laura Auerbach and designed by Jennifer Dugent, graphic artist and former Communications Director who we have retained to do work for us on a contractual basis.
- Grange Month-Grange month appears to have been a success. We are preparing to send out Grange Month Certificates for those who participated.

The following partnerships have been formed:

- DCI – Leroy Watson has put me in touch with DCI, a public relations group. The primary focus of the group we are associated with is National Broadband. We have partnered with them in an effort to increase public awareness of these issues. At no cost to us, they provide us with valuable opportunities to associate our name and position with various events and communications opportunities. Thus far, we have been approached about making a contribution to the Daily Yonder, an online news site that features news and issues from rural communities.
- Web Expansion Program – I am trying to pursue an alternative opportunity with a group called Doodlekit ([www.doodlekit.com](http://www.doodlekit.com)). Doodlekit is a user-friendly website building program that requires no HTML knowledge but will accept HTML code if people want something very customized. In addition, they already have a program in place to partner with groups like ours to provide these web site capabilities to specific target audiences. One example of this is Grassroots.org. Grassroots.org is a nonprofit that provides nonprofit web services to other nonprofits. Initially I thought it might be a good idea to use this service through Grassroots.org, however, they would not be able to include revenue-generating possibilities. However, I am hopeful that I can negotiate some revenue generation segment in a proposal to partner with them. More details will hopefully be coming soon as I do not yet have all of the details on what their capabilities are.
- People To People International – In addition to providing a video for our Rededication Ceremony, I have invited Ms. Eisenhower to meet with myself, Leroy Watson, and Ed Luttrell (if he is in town) when she visits DC next (tentatively scheduled for November). I believe that her organization shares some of the same ideals and values as the Grange and that we can partner on some small projects that would increase public awareness of both organizations.

More information will be provided on this in the months to come.

- Public Relations/Graphic Design Consultants – We have made some changes to our contract with our public relationships consultant, Richard Weiss. Mr. Weiss will be providing us with two hours of public relations work per month. With a communications background, Master Luttrell and I felt our finances should be put towards more time consuming and taxing jobs such as graphic design work. For that purpose we retained graphic design consultant, and former Communications Director, Jennifer Dugent. Since that time our work has run smoothly and all individuals seem happy with the varying levels of contribution they are making to the National Grange.
- FedEx Kinkos – I have negotiated a local contract with FedEx Kinkos to provide up to 30 percent off of any printing work that they might do for us. The level of discount per job varies. Our use of this service will vary depending on what we are able to produce in-house.
- Capitol Office Solutions – We are looking to terminate our relationship with Capitol Office Solutions, the provider of our copier. After a number of problems and poor customer service we have decided that terminating our contract is not only a necessity for us to perform at maximum capacity but cost effective as well. Past discussions have apparently not been successful and only a renegotiation of an already poor contract was achieved. However, I feel confident that after careful persuasion, I will be able to accomplish this goal. Stephanie Wilkins and Samantha Johnson have more information on the firm who will replace them.

The following communications/marketing activities have taken place in the fields of technology, publications, print and design work and “fun” work:

- Mail Chimp – we are currently pursuing the use of mailchimp.com to develop electronic newsletters. Mailchimp.com is free and easy to use.
- Surveymonkey.com – We will be utilizing surveymonkey.com to send out any surveys, particularly in regards to membership surveys. Surveymonkey.com is free and easy to use.
- Journal of Proceedings – We produced 500 Journal of Proceedings during the month of April. These are currently being mailed to all appropriate parties. It will include an addendum for information that was not included during the original print. The coloring for the Journal of Proceedings was designed to match the new coloring used on the building to create a sense of unity and enthusiasm for our 50th Rededication Ceremony.
- View From The Hill – January, February, and March VFTH have all been printed and mailed (see Leroy Watson for more details)
- 2010 Digest of Laws – we will be making some adjustments to this file. A number of people have asked why we don’t have a file with only updated pages this year. Every few years minor adjustments force the document to “unravel.” 2010 was the year in which we decided to reprint the entire version with correct page numbers and updated information. However we need to make a few minor adjustments which will be made soon.
- The New Grange – The May/June issue of the New Grange has been printed and is currently being mailed out. 8,600 copies were produced. We are preparing for the July/August edition which will include all information necessary to plan for the Annual Convention.
- Electronic Newsletter – The Communication Department proposes the inclusion of an

electronic bi-monthly newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to consolidate the number of emails that get distributed on a monthly basis into one concise format that is both easy to distribute and easy for the reader. Our goal is to mail out this e-newsletter in the off months for the New Grange but will not be considered a replacement for the New Grange.

- Quess has printed the following items: 75th Anniversary Certificates; View From The Hill Templates; Subordinate Alternative Manuals
- We have redesigned the following items since the beginning of March: 2010 Appeals Letter, this year combining the Youth and Junior appeals letter, that will go out later this month; a new 2010 Junior Brochure was designed a new Junior Grange brochure with the theme: “I can make a difference”; the 2011 Convention Logo was designed and will be sent off to the Host Committee next week; a Youth E-zine was developed for Charlene; we are currently laying out a new Youth Brochure; Charlene chose two designs for the Youth T-shirts and Samantha Johnson will be handling product development.
- Just For Fun – Contest: We did a special YouTube contest in April. Viewers were asked to identify the photo of a former state master who made a significant contribution to the Grange. We had two winners whose prize consisted of special items selected by the Membership, Sales, and Program Manager, Samantha Johnson.

The Grange message was spread in the following ways through social media:

- YouTube ([www.youtube.com/nationalgrange](http://www.youtube.com/nationalgrange)) - Since March 1, we have posted two President’s Messages. April was viewed 155 times. May’s Presidential Message has been viewed 17 times. We also posted an April Fool’ Day contest which was viewed 67 times.
- Podcasts - We have posted 3 new Podcasts since March. Subjects include Interviews, President’s Messages, TeamSpeak Recordings, Event/Program Promotion, and The Grange Point of View with Leroy Watson. iTunes does not supply us with statistics on listeners, but according to our web hosting, our audio files have been downloaded an average of 44 times from our website alone. The number of downloads has gradually increased with each new one.
- Facebook - We currently have 488 members on our Facebook Group. This is an approximately 50 percent increase since this time last year.
- Twitter ([www.twitter.com/nationalgrange](http://www.twitter.com/nationalgrange)) - At the beginning of May, I started the National Grange Twitter Page. Twitter is considered a “micro-blogging service,” meaning that you simply post quick updates that are under 140 characters long. Since March, we have had 14 tweets regarding Ed’s Media Tour and the contest we held in April. Currently, we have 91 followers.

#### **Communications Department:**

- Public Relations: Master Luttrell has completed his Media Tour for 2010. He stopped in 34 states to discuss the issues of national broadband access and civic participation. A Media Alert was sent out prior to every stop and a press release was sent out after every stop. These meetings were well received by members. Master Luttrell has the details on media attendance.
- Social Media: Podcasts: We are preparing to post 11 Point-of-View podcasts for the Legislative Department on our National Grange Podcast Channel. These podcasts will be digital versions of our Blueprint for Rural America. We have almost completed a

podcast of one of the stops on Master Luttrell's media tour. This will enable people to get a sense of what these meetings were about even if they were not able to attend.

- YouTube - In addition, we have posted five President's Messages on YouTube since May which have been viewed a combined total of 293 times.
- The New Grange - We have printed and mailed out two New Granges since May. The most recent issue, the convention issue, should reach homes prior to this meeting. We are waiting confirmation from the Board as to whether we should continue to print the New Grange or provide only an electronic copy until the budget improves.
- Distinguished Grange - Earlier this year my predecessor, Jennifer Dugent, developed a program called the Distinguished Grange Award. This award is designed to further engage State and Subordinate Granges in our work by having them supply the Legislative, Communications, and Sales Departments with information that they can use to advance awareness about our program or increase participation in their own communities. As of August we received applications, along with materials, from 12 Community Granges and three State Granges. This has been a tremendous success considering this is the first year the program has been in existence.
- Program Assistant - The Legislative, Communications and Sales department are in the process of hiring for the Program Assistant Position. We hope to have this role filled by the middle of September.
- New Communications Director – Though I am incredibly saddened that my time here has been so short-lived, I am delighted to be leaving the position to very capable hands. Barbara Jones seems to have a clear grasp on all of the projects that we do here and has gained some amazing experience since leaving here 12 years ago. I know these skills will be a very good asset to the organization. I am busy preparing schedules, documents, instructions and examples that will enable her to minimize her transition time and jump right in.

The Communications Department often provides support to other departments:

- Membership - Rusty Hunt has been spearheading a member survey designed to gather the goals of members at the Pomona level. Our department was delighted to help develop questions and contribute to this project; Allison Fowler requested that we design some banners for their local newsletter. Molly Thompson designed a beautiful banner that met our trademark specifications; Several members have requested the files for our pop-up banners. Those that Jen designed have been very popular and several states have requested them for personalization. They can be found on our FTP drive. In an effort to increase membership at the Pomona level, I worked with Rusty Hunt and Master Luttrell to develop a survey designed to provide information on topics that matter most to members. 1,148 people completed the survey, 1,432 people partially completed the survey, and 1,890 people viewed the survey. This information will be used to develop a membership event being hosted by Master Luttrell and Membership Director, Rusty Hunt.
- Legislative Departments - This department has provided editorial support to the legislative department. Some of the projects we have participated include: View From The Hill, National Broadband Talking Points, Letters To The Editors, Strategy Support to raise public awareness of particular issues; Media Tour Talking Points; The Legislative Policy Book was received from the printers. 1,000 copies were printed and have been sent to members of Congress and to State Masters.

- New Hampshire Policy Handbook – We helped our New Hampshire Grangers update their 2010 Policybook.
- Sales, Benefits and Programs Department: A new video has been completed for the Dogs for the Deaf program. I am working with Samantha Johnson to send out 100 copies to State Masters and Lecturers.
- Trademark - We are waiting on video footage from State Granges who use the Grange logo for various food activities. We will use this footage to develop a Trademark video which we can distribute to Granges and through various social media outlets in the hope of increasing public awareness and donations.
- Youth and Junior departments: We sent out the Annual Junior and Youth Appeal letter. We have also provided the Youth Department with some artwork to be used for T-shirts for various programs.
- Convention: A logo for the 2011 Convention has been created. The theme for next year will be “Party on the Prairie.” This will be released for distribution within the next week.
- We have also begun to prepare printed materials for the 2010 convention and hope to have these items completed prior to the arrival of Barbara Jones.

#### Other projects

- 50th Anniversary Rededication: We have developed a commemorative video of this historic event. The video includes some historical information, the ceremony in its entirety, and some photos of the memorabilia and people that were involved in this occasion. I am working with Master Luttrell to determine the best course of distribution for this special product.
- Administrative: We have been negotiating a new contract and upgraded equipment with our copier provider, Capitol Office Solutions. For \$57 more per month we will be upgrading to a significantly more advanced copier that is capable of providing quality color materials and more document finishing options. This is an enormous win for us as we will no longer have to outsource as many materials to Quess, our Production Assistant, or any to our outside print houses. Within six months we will begin to see an improvement in our budget. In addition, we negotiated to get this new copier for free for the first quarter and a refund for an increased expense previously incurred.

The following is the 4 Step Plan for Rural Broadband Access:

#### MEDIA TOUR 2010

Nationwide media tour to discuss rural broadband access and state issues

##### 1. DEVELOP A RELEVANT MEDIA ALERT

With the FCC National Broadband Plan about to pass, we can make this media alert more timely and relevant, thereby making it more enticing for local media.

##### 2. PURCHASE A NEW MEDIA LIST

Dick purchased a new media list today. It is comprised of local, weekly newspapers. This information will be up-to-date and will enable us to send information to relevant outlets.

##### 3. DETERMINE THE TIME, PLACE AND LOCATION MORE THAN 1 WEEK IN ADVANCE

Since most local news outlets work on a weekly basis, we will need to send the media alert out more than a week in advance. This will mean that we need to nail down the date,

time, and location approximately a week and a half in advance. We may also have to follow-up with a phone call to the state master and/or media outlet the day before the event.

#### 4. ENGAGE STATE MASTERS

The Communications Department will send out a document that explains the purpose of this event to each State Master. It will detail the goals of the event, relevant contact information, and requirements for a successful event.

#### LETTER TO STATE MASTERS

Dear State Master,

I wanted to take an opportunity to thank you for setting up this opportunity for me to visit your State to discuss some important national and local issues. The goals of this event are simple: to host a press conference to increase public awareness about the Grange and also to host a membership meeting to share information and goals with members about our wonderful organization.

You might be asking yourself, “Why is this tour so important?” I believe that by increasing public awareness of our mission and goals, we will increase membership in our Granges. When your community reads that the goal of your Grange is to provide opportunities for individuals and families to reach their highest potential and build stronger communities, they will no doubt jump at the chance to join. Your increased membership will, in turn, further our mission and strengthen this great nation of ours.

Here is how this works:

I have tasked our Communications Department with finding the appropriate media outlets in your area. They will be responsible for developing media materials and inviting local reporters to our press conference, which is to begin 1 hour prior to our membership meeting. The purpose of this is to provide each state master with an opportunity to develop a relationship with their local media so you can further your agendas through public means. At the press conference, we will discuss the importance of national broadband and civic participation and highlight a state issue that you feel is important to address.

Once this press conference is over, we will move on to our membership meeting. At this meeting, we will discuss the duties of the officers, the condition and goals of the National Grange, update everyone on the name protection issue, and answer questions. The goal of this is to keep our current members abreast of national and state issues but also to recruit new members to the Grange.

*Reported by Barbara Covington*

It is a pleasure being back as an employee for the National Grange. Laura did a very thorough job of bringing me up to speed on current activities.

Since starting in September 2010, with the help of our new Program Assistant Grace Boatright, we have continued to complete the ongoing and scheduled work of the department: designing, editing, preparing and printing publications; developing public relations activities for internal and external departments, and the Annual Session; continuing the social networking: YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, creating podcasts; duplicating CDs and DVDs; updating the advertising rate sheet for print and web ads; working with the IT department on website updates for publications, press releases, the GrangeStore, and

trademark protection graphics. Beginning in 2011, we are looking forward to the new public relations efforts.

Sincerely Yours,  
Barbara Covington Jones  
Communications Director

**2010 Report of the Executive Assistant/ Meeting Planner  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
November 11, 2010**

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates and Patrons:

I have served in the position of Executive Assistant and Meeting Planner at the National Grange Office for the past year and nine months. I have learned much and accomplished much, and I report to you my activities in the following areas:

*Bonding*

Currently, Granges from 21 states participate in the National Grange's bonding program. The bond is issued through the National Grange Mutual Insurance Company of Keene, New Hampshire. In the year 2010, 621 individual Granges were covered by the policy. With the exception of Granges in Alaska, California and Minnesota, all Community, Pomona and State Granges are eligible to participate. The bond coverage extends beyond the officers of any given Grange, and includes all members of the Grange and all volunteers at Grange functions. Coverage rates will remain the same for 2011. Information about the bonding program is available for download from the National Grange website and all State Masters are encouraged to share this information with their Granges. This program provides an inexpensive and convenient way for Granges to obtain the bonding coverage required by the Digest of Laws.

*Convention*

Preparations are underway for the 145th Annual National Grange Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma, November 8-12, 2011. The host committee has been working diligently. The Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills promises to be a fantastic venue to host the Annual Session. Another site visit by the National Grange will be made in early 2011 to finalize the details of the annual program.

The 146th Annual National Grange Convention will be held in Boise, Idaho, November 13 to 17, 2012. The downtown convention center, The Boise Centre, will host most of the meetings and the General Session, while lodging is reserved nearby at The Grove Hotel. In working with the host committee chair, the hotel management, and personnel from the Convention and Visitors Bureau, it is clear that Boise will be a great city to host another successful convention.

The 147th Annual National Grange Convention will be held November 12-16, 2013 in Manchester, N.H., at the Radisson Hotel Manchester. The year 2013 marks exactly 100 years from the last time the National Grange Annual Convention was held in New Hampshire. It will be exciting to celebrate that milestone.

A site has been identified for the 148<sup>th</sup> Annual National Grange Convention. The

rotation through the regions brings us to the Midwest Region in 2014. The Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, Ohio has been chosen as the Convention site and the event will take place November 11 to 15, 2014. Although located farther from a major airport than typical Convention sites, the amenities, room rates, and spacious meeting areas make this site well worth the travel. This resort has many exciting features that make it the perfect place to bring the entire family to participate in the Annual Convention.

### *Meetings and Events*

Meeting and event tasks include preparing meeting materials, planning hotel and meal logistics, and handling registration processes. Support was provided for the following meetings and events in the past year: three Executive Committee Meetings; the 2010 Master's Conference in Orlando, Florida; the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Grange Building; and six Grange Growth/Leadership/Pomona Summits.

The Master's Conference took place February 12-14, 2010 at the Hawthorne Suites Orlando Airport. Despite the unprecedented snowfall on the East Coast and around the country that weekend, 43 individuals attended the Conference.

In June 2010, the National Grange Building celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its dedication. All Grangers were invited to come to Washington, DC to tour the building and participate in the Rededication Ceremony on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. After months of planning for this day, by all accounts, the events were successful. Over 450 Grangers representing 29 states attended the festivities. Several states sent busloads of Grangers to Washington, DC including: Delaware, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and West Virginia.

### *Grange Building*

The National Grange Building at 1616 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., requires daily management to run smoothly. The Executive Assistant's responsibilities as part of the management team include responding to tenant issues and concerns, overseeing the contract cleaners, coordinating with the building engineer and security, managing the schedule for the Goss Conference Room, and coordinating some building maintenance projects.

In 2010, special building projects included updating the lobby directory; painting the 10th and 11th floor National Grange offices; painting the First floor Goss Conference Room; and cleaning and repairing the building's twelve restrooms. In the restrooms, paint, lighting and exhaust fans were replaced or repaired; and the floors and walls received a thorough cleaning, all in time for the building anniversary celebration. In addition to daily management of the building, I also work with the National Master and the Grange's Legal Counsel to successfully negotiate lease renewals or extensions. Currently in the Grange Building, there are 15 separate leases for office space housing over 24 companies and organizations. At the writing of this report, I am happy to announce that office space in the National Grange Building is 100 percent occupied.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Jessie Cope  
Executive Assistant/Meeting Planner

**2010 Report of the Information Technology Department  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
November 11, 2010**

**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 foul play. As of 11/01/10 the National Grange has a total of 191 pass cards assigned to a combination of National Grange employees, building tenants, subtenants, vendors, etc.

**Computer hardware/software**

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 purchased Microsoft IWork for both Mac computers in the Communications Department. This software has the ability to create, save and open Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint files in a Macintosh environment.

The operating system on the Program Assistant was upgraded from Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger to Mac OS X 10.5.6 Leopard. Upgrading the previous operating system was necessary in order to install iLife 09. After upgrading the operating system to Mac OS X 10.5.6 Leopard, installation of iLife 09 was successfully completed. It was necessary for both office Mac's to operate in the same version of iLife which contains a number of applications used by the Communications Department such as DVD creation.

The National Grange purchased an Aleratec DVD/CD automatic duplicator. The Aleratec DVD/CD duplicator is optimized with a fast robotic loading mechanism. The Aleratec autoloader system automatically duplicates DVDs and or CDs with no operator intervention required. Once a source disc has been created the Aleratec DVD/CD automatic duplicator will duplicate up to 200 discs per job completely unattended. Aleratec LightScribe labeling is also a feature of this unit which burns a silkscreen-like high contrast label on the topside of each CD or DVD.

The National Grange purchased Microsoft Office Professional 2007 upgrade. This purchase updated various computers in the National Grange office running with a much older version of Microsoft 2000.

One National Grange computer, still covered under the Dell lease repair contract, was serviced at no additional cost. The Membership & Marketing Coordinator's computer had its motherboard replaced.

The National Grange upgraded its Symantec Endpoint Protection (virus software) and renewed its license and support agreement. The new upgraded Symantec offers a number of valuable features to protect our current hardware from infection. These features include but are not limited to email notification of out of date virus definitions on any licensed computer with Symantec.

The National Grange has switched its current Internet connection from a Static T1 to a Smart T1. The new line was routed to the Grange Building by Verizon on August 6. The new router was mounted and tested by XO Communications on August 11. Various test of the new Smart T1 were performed to ensure a smooth transition. Upon completing these tests, the new Smart T1 internet connection was transferred on August 26. The new Smart T1 provides a

significantly larger bandwidth (3 megabytes in size) than our previous internet connection. This new internet connection also offers the same 8 voice lines for our phone system but provides a much faster internet speed. This switch will offer a monthly savings of \$200.59 and annual savings of \$2,407.08. This will ultimately provide more productivity with a significant savings.

The National Grange has switched its current copier lease with Capitol Office Solutions. The National Grange office was running copies on a Xerox WorkCentre 5675 which was suppose to accommodate all our needs. Unfortunately, this copier did not meet up to its expectations and some jobs needed to be outsourced. Switching to a Xerox 7775 copier has met our expectations as well as offer room for expansion. This copier has the ability to copy/print in black and white as well as color copy/print. Rates for black and white production are billed at the same rate of 7 cents per copy over the monthly allotment of 60,000 copies. Rates for color productions are billed at 8 cents per individual copy. To manage the amount of color copies produced on the new Xerox 7775 copier, a special pass code has been assign to authorized employees for color printing. Black and white productions can only be made without this special pass code. Color production is done at a level of 600 dpi which will alleviate the need to outsource some of our print jobs.

The National Grange purchased a new CIX40 phone system and 16 new desktop phones due to the hard drive crashing on our previous phone system. The cost for the new phone system and desktop phones was \$6,701.98. We will be leasing with a \$1 buyout bringing monthly payments to \$260.00 per month. This new phone system offers all the necessary features of our old system with quite a few additional features that will prove to be useful to our staff as well as members.

Additional Features such as:

- Music on hold with a personalized production message describing the National Grange, upcoming events, new sales items, etc. We can edit this message as we desire.
- Ability to transfer calls to external phone numbers outside of the National Grange office.
- Display phones with caller ID.
- Ability to answer and/or transfer a phone call from your computer desktop.
- Record phone calls directly to your voice mailbox with a single button on your phone.
- Toshiba National Accounts Program extends a benefit to other Grange offices.
- Grange offices who sign up will be linked to the National Grange account in which long distance charges will not apply.

No other computer hardware/software was needed.

#### **E- mail notices and announcements**

The following e-mail notices and announcements were formatted for distribution in 2010:

- “*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.

Research for alternative distribution of emails is forthcoming in hopes of allowing us to easily track sent emails as well as those that have been opened and any links that are being clicked on. Recently, we have encountered problems with being caught on blacklists when distributing email to our members. IContact is a company that has whitelist agreements with major ISPs to prevent this from happening.

The National Grange is expected to finalize its newest relationship to individuals across the nation called “E-Membership”. E-Membership is a connection to individuals who are interested in Grange membership via online newsletters, email announcements, as well as grange benefits. E-Members will be able to sign up online and pay for a one year subscription. Upon membership sign-up, each individual will receive a username and password to login to a designated website. On this web site, E-Members will be able to view upcoming events, blogs, polls, Grange news, and more. Information captured by these E-Members of all demographics will be used to better determine how the Grange can better serve them. At the completion of their one year subscription, an email notice will be sent to the E-Member giving them an option to renew their subscription.

### **Grange Web sites**

#### **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 teleconferences facilitated by the Membership/Leadership Director, Rusty Hunt
- Leadership teleconferences facilitated by the National Grange President, Ed Luttrell
- National Grange Presidents Message video
- Monthly Leadership & Membership Tips
- National Grange Blogs
- National President’s Blogs
- FaceBook and Twitter links
- Podcasts
- Membership Advertisements
- Announcements and others.

A new layout for the National Grange web site is underway.

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 – Nov. 11, 2011
- nationalgrange.info – Nov. 14, 2011
- nationalgrange.biz – Nov. 13, 2011
- nationalgrange.us – Nov. 13, 2011

#### **<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 detailed 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.

In order to comply with Trademark Protection guidelines, changes to the Grange Store needed to be made. Each individual Grange Store item for sell needed to reflect the name “Grange.” Therefore all 207 Grange Store items were to be edited.

The following Grange domains have been renewed with GoDaddy:

- grangestore.com – Feb. 8, 2011
- grangestore.net – Feb. 8, 2011
- grangestore.org – Feb. 8, 2011
- nationalgrangestore.com – Feb. 8, 2011
- nationalgrangestore.net – Feb. 8, 2011
- nationalgrangestore.org – Feb. 8, 2011

#### **<http://www.nationaljuniorgrange.org>**

Updates to the Junior Grange website are ongoing, which include the monthly newsletters, “*Keeping Up with Junior Grange*,” the “What’s Your Story Program Guide for 2010, as well as activities, reports and forms, Junior Grange brochures, merit badges, current programs, community service information, and more.

The contact information for the new Junior Grange Director, Charlene Espenshade was updated throughout the site.

The following Grange domains have been renewed with GoDaddy:

- juniorgrange.com – March 24, 2011
- juniorgrange.net – March 24, 2011
- juniorgrange.org – March 24, 2011
- nationaljuniorgrange.com – March 24, 2011
- nationaljuniorgrange.net – March 24, 2011
- nationaljuniorgrange.org – March 24, 2011

#### **<http://www.nationalgrangeyouth.org>**

The National Junior Grange website features various important information for Grange Youth. It offers a list of programs and contests (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.

The following Grange domains have been renewed with GoDaddy:

- grangeyouth.com – March 24, 2011
- grangeyouth.net – March 24, 2011
- grangeyouth.org – March 24, 2011
- nationalgrangeyouth.com – March 24, 2011
- nationalgrangeyouth.net – March 24, 2011
- nationalgrangeyouth.org – March 24, 2011

### **<http://www.grangefoundation.org>**

The National Grange has begun construction of the Grange Foundation web site. This website will feature history, projects, current support, as well as the ability to donate to a number of dedicated funds. The income and principal for these funds may be spent for the dedicated purpose only. The funds featured on this website are Deaf Awareness Fund, Kelley Farm Fund, Trademark Protection Fund, Youth Leadership Fund, and the Junior Grange Fund. The projected date of completion of this website is no later than January 2011.

The following Grange domains have been renewed with GoDaddy:

- grangefoundation.com – 04/20/11
- grangefoundation.net – 04/20/11
- grangefoundation.org – 04/20/11
- thegrangefoundation.com – 05/02/11
- thegrangefoundation.net – 05/02/11
- thegrangefoundation.org – 05/02/11

### **Domain Registrations**

The following domain names were assumed as a result of the National Grange Trademark Protection settlement.

- brooklyngrange.com – May 26, 2013
- brooklyngrange.net – May 26, 2011
- brooklyngrange.org – May 26, 2011
- grangefood.com – May 21, 2011
- grangefood.info – May 21, 2011
- grangefood.net – May 21, 2011
- grangefood.org – May 21, 2011
- grangefoodco.com – May 21, 2011
- grangefoodco.org – May 21, 2011
- nycgrange.com – May 21, 2011
- nysgrange.com – May 21, 2011
- thegrangefoodco.com – May 21, 2011
- thegrangefoodco.net – May 21, 2011
- thegrangefoodco.org – May 21, 2011
- thegrangefoodcompany.com – May 21, 2011
- thegrangefoodcompany.net – May 21, 2011
- thegrangefoodcompany.org – May 21, 2011

### **National Database**

Individual files were made for each State Grange containing their respective officers

(Masters, Lecturers and 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 members and officers list. More states are expected to provide this information in coming months.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Alaska - Nov. 6, 2009	Massachusetts - Oct. 12, 2009
Iowa Oct. 6, 2009	Ohio - Aug. 23, 2010
New Hampshire - April 27, 2010	Vermont - Oct. 6, 2009
Rhode Island - May 21, 2010	Florida - Oct. 15, 2009
California - Oct. 6, 2009	Michigan - Nov. 6, 2009
Kansas Oct. 6, 2009	Oklahoma - Oct. 6, 2009
New Jersey - Oct. 9, 2009	Virginia - Oct. 13, 2010
South Carolina - Oct. 6, 2009	Idaho - Nov. 7, 2009
Colorado - March 11, 2010	Minnesota - Nov. 20, 2009
Maine - Oct. 13, 2009	Oregon - Nov. 3, 2009
New York - March 8, 2010	Washington - June 10, 2010
Tennessee - Oct. 6, 2009	Illinois - Oct. 21, 2009
Connecticut - Oct. 30, 2009	Montana - Nov. 30, 2009
Maryland - Oct. 20, 2009	Pennsylvania - Oct. 6, 2009
North Carolina - Nov. 21, 2009	West Virginia - Nov. 21, 2009
Texas - Oct. 9, 2009	Indiana - Oct. 6, 2009
Delaware - Nov. 25, 2009	Nebraska - Aug. 5, 2010
	Potomac #1 - Aug. 10, 2010
	Wisconsin - Dec. 19, 2009
	Wyoming - Oct. 8, 2009

Note: State Granges that do not update their officer information are likely to not receive direct mailings of pertinent information throughout the year for their subordinate and local Granges.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie J. Wilkins  
IT Director

**2010 Report of the Junior Department Report  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
November 11, 2010**

Dear Worthy Master, Delegates, Grange Members

This has been a year of change for the Junior Department, as former Junior Director Anne Kurburski announced her resignation after a successful tenure of leading the National Junior Grange. On behalf of myself and all of the Junior Grange Leaders, Committees and members, I would like to thank Anne and her family for their dedicated work with the continued growth of the Junior Grange.

While I have only been in this position since August, the true success of the program rests on the efforts of State Directors and leaders. I would also like to thank all of those who have chauffeured Juniors to meetings, camps and encouraged their Juniors to be the best they can be. The power of the Junior Grange is it provides a foundation of success to every Junior member. And success in a Junior Grange leads to successful subordinate Granges and ultimately National Grange achievement.

**2010 – “What’s Your Story” theme for the National Junior Grange**

Program booklets were distributed throughout the nation to Leaders, Directors, and Parents.

The theme encouraged Juniors to learn about their families; asking questions about their family and history.

The Creative Writing Contest (Theme: write a story about your family) was a success. Creative Art (Theme: Draw a picture of your family).

New programs for this year were a scrapbook contest and handprinted craft project.

Participation in these programs was outstanding and many Junior Directors took advantage of the contests for a project to be completed at a state Junior camp or event. Thank you to all of the Juniors for submitting their work.

**Regional Youth Conferences**

The 2010 Regional Youth Conferences were slightly different this year because of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary building celebration. We had to adjust the dates and times of two of the conferences. While this had an impact on attendance, we still had a great show of support for the youth program. I would like to recognize the hard work of Illinois, Massachusetts, Colorado and Washington State for hosting. Also, with Eastern Regionals being hosted during the 50th building celebration, a special thank you to the National Grange staff for their help.

In early June, the Midwestern Regional Youth Conference was hosted by Illinois. There were about 30 youth, juniors and young adults in attendance. We hosted the regional conferences with entries in the Speech and Sign-A-Song contests.

For Eastern Regionals, we hosted the event at the 4-H Center just outside of Washington, D.C. I would like extend a special thank you to Anne Kurburski, former National Grange Junior Director, for her hard work on this event. Her planning and insight on activities helped to make this a memorable event for the youth that participated. We had almost 90 people in attendance for the weekend. In addition to participation in the Speech and Sign-A-Song contests, 25 Youth and a couple of Juniors assisted as building ambassadors, during the tours of the National Grange building in Washington, D.C. We also had several

other youth volunteers help to direct Grangers before the actual celebration.

The workshop presented at each conference was entitled “Making a Difference,” and challenged people to think on how community service in the Grange can have a positive impact for them and their community service.

This year, we held National Junior Grange Regional Public Speaking, Sign-a-Song, Manually Sign the Alphabet, and Talent contests. We had 61 entries which is outstanding. The contestants all did a first-rate job and should be commended. The winners are as follows.

### **2010 Regional Conference winners**

#### **Winners —Regional National Junior Department**

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

##### **Eastern Region**

*Public Speaking—8-10 year old*

1st place- Micheal Bethany, Fla.

*Public Speaking—11-12 year old*

1st place- Joshua Bethany, Fla.

2nd place- Grace Wadsworth, Pa.

*Public Speaking—13-14 year old*

1st place- Derek Snyder, Pa.

2nd place- Dagen Smith, Pa.

3rd place- Jennifer Reed, Pa.

*Share a Skill or Talent*

Amanda Mitchell, N.Y.

##### **Midwest Region**

*Public Speaking—8-10 year old*

1st place- Katie Kurburski, Mich.

*Public Speaking—11-12 year old*

1st place- Emily Kurburski, Mich.

2nd place- Maddie Johnson, Ill.

*Public Speaking—13-14 year old*

1st place- Elizabeth Kuburski, Mich.

2nd place- Rachel Edelen, Iowa

*Manually Sign the Alphabet—11-12 year old*

1st place- Emily Kurburski, Mich.

2nd place- Stevie McCombs, Ill.

*Manually Sign the Alphabet—13-14 year old*

1st place- Elizabeth Kurburski, Mich.

*Share a Skill or Talent*

Emily Kurburski, Mich.

Cf Liz Kurburski, Mich.

Katie Kurburski, Mich.

Rachel Edelen, Iowa

Maddie Johnson, Ill.

Stevie McCombs, Ill.

##### **Northeastern Region**

*Public Speaking—8-10 year old*

1st place- Sarah Jordon, Mass.

*Public Speaking—11-12 year old*

1st place- Sarah Hyatt, N.Y.

2nd place- Lauren Good, N.Y.

3rd place- Katerina LaCroix, Mass.

*Public Speaking—13-14 year old*

1st place- Grace Dunderdale, Maine

2nd place- Cristian Johnson, N.Y.

*Manually sign the Alphabet—11-12 year old*

1st place- Quinton Tarbell, N.Y.

*Manually Sign the Alphabet—13-14 year old*

1st place- Grace Dunderdale, Maine

*Sign-A-Song—8 and Under*

1st place- Jomni Tarbell, N.Y.

*Sign-A-Song—8-10 year old*

1st place- Sarah Hyatt, N.Y.

*Sign-A-Song—11-12 year old*

1st place- Quinton Tarbell, N.Y.

*Share a Skill or Talent*

Quinton Tarbell, N.Y.  
Savannah Hallowell, Mass.  
Jomni Tarbell, N.Y.  
Cristian Johnson, N.Y.  
Lauren Good, N.Y.  
Sarah Jordon, Mass.

**Great Plains Region**

*Public Speaking Participants*

Colton Conrady, Okla.  
JackLynn Keeton, Okla.  
Haley Thompson, Okla.  
Christopher Thompson, Okla.  
Melody Shufeldt, Okla.  
Olivia Shufeldt, Okla.  
Avery Couch, Okla.  
Charlie Hunt, Wash.  
Carly Conrady, Okla.  
Katelyn Thompson, Okla.

**Western Region**

*Public Speaking—8-10 year old*  
1st place- Paul Fricke, Wash.

*Public Speaking—11-12 year old*  
1st place- Rachel Fricke, Wash.  
2nd place- Lexie Smith, Wash.  
3rd place- Jake Gwin, Wash.

*Sign the Alphabet—8-10 year old*  
1st place- Morgan Browning, Wash.

*Sign the Alphabet —11-12 year old*  
1st place- Kennedy Gwinn, Wash.  
2nd place- Lexie Smith, Wash.  
3rd place- Rachel Fricke, Wash.

*Share a talent or skill*  
Kennedy Gwin, Wash.  
Paul Fricke, Wash.  
Rachel Fricke, Wash.

**2010 Junior Grange Ambassador Program**

- This is a 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. We should all be proud of the outstanding Juniors we have in our States.
- 2009 Ambassadors: Grace Dunderdale, Maine and Kennedy Gwin, Washington State.

**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. To date, a total of \$2,135 was donated to the fund.

Looking forward, the theme for 2011 will be “I Make a Difference” focusing on how Junior Grangers can make a difference.

As I close, it has been a privilege to work with the Grange leaders of tomorrow today. Thank you for the honor and chance to work with an outstanding program.

Fraternally Yours in Grange,  
Charlene M. Shupp Espenshade  
National Junior Grange Director

**2010 Report of the Legislative Department  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
November 11, 2010**

Overview of activities year to date: November 2009 to August 2010

**National Grange Legislative and Regulatory Activity**

- Researched and submitted comment to the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) on the proposed rule to reduce mail service from 6 to 5 days.
- Worked with the PRC Office of the Public Representative to research and draft 40 pages worth of Interrogatory Responses on our comment filing.
- Prepared National President Ed Luttrell to testify before the PRC in opposition to the proposed rule on September 16, 2010.

**National Grange Legislative and Regulatory Communications**

- 48 Op/Eds, press conferences, press releases and coalition letters since November 2009.
- January 29, 2010: This letter urges co-sponsorship for the “Travel Restriction Reform and the Export Enhancement Act,” this is to help farmers export their products to Cuba more easily and allow U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba.
- February 16, 2010: This letter urges additional GSM-102 export credit guarantee allocations to be made available by USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service.
- March 1, 2010: This is a letter of support for President Obama’s pledge to double U.S. exports within five years.
- April 12, 2010: This letter to Secretary Vilsack and Ambassador Kirk urges them to not relax the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) restrictions on Brazilian beef and other Brazilian livestock products.
- April 23, 2010: This letter urges the inclusion of the “Wall Street Transparency and Accountability Act,” in the “American Financial Stability Act” (S.3217) - otherwise known as the comprehensive “Wall Street Reform” bill.
- April 28, 2010: This letter is another urge to cosponsor and support the “Travel Restriction Reform and the Export Enhancement Act.”
- May 19, 2010: This letter encourages Senators to support two amendments designed to strengthen the derivatives reform language (Title VII) of S. 3217, the “Restoring American Financial Stability Act,” and urge the support for the overall bill.
- June 23, 2010: This letter is to Financial Reform Bill Conferees on “Restoring American Financial Stability Act.”
- July 8, 2010: This letter urges Congress and the administration to take away the barriers that are slowing the passage of the Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with Columbia, Korea, and Panama before the U.S. loses more profit and jobs on missed opportunities.
- 197: The number of other associations, corporations, labor unions or other groups that National Grange has signed or otherwise participated with joint statements, letters, press releases, press conferences or other public policy related communications since the 2009 Convention.

### **Articles for “View from the Hill”, “New Grange,” “Action Alerts,” and “Grange Point of View” Podcasts**

- 12 *Grange Point of View* podcasts produced so far this year.
- 13 *Action Alerts* produced so far this year.
- 13 editions of “*View from the Hill*,” including three special editions, published with 97 separate articles since the 2009 National Convention.
- Special *Blueprint for Rural America 2010* edition
- Special *Legislative Roundup* edition highlighting State Grange legislative success stories
- 5 *Ag Talk* articles for “*New Grange*” since the 2009 National Convention.

These publications are sent to the various members so they may contact their local representatives and get involved in the legislative processes in their local community.

### **Grassroots, Media and Grange Member Education Efforts**

- *National Grange Digest of Laws* ---work completed.
- *Grange Month* packet materials ---work completed.
- *Blueprint for Rural America 2010* ---work completed
- *Journal of Proceedings 2009* ---work completed
- *Legislative Policy Book 2010* ---work completed.
- *Legislative Issues Survey*---work in progress.

These publications serve as guidelines and learning tools to the Grange’s legislative processes.

### **State Grange Legislative Outreach**

- New England Leaders Conference, support materials provided for State Legislative Directors’ meeting.
- Sent Legislative Department representative and printed materials to Annual Ohio State Grange Legislative Conference.
- National Master Ed Luttrell and Legislative Director Leroy Watson were both featured speakers at the annual North Carolina Department of Agriculture’s Legislative Policy conference in February.
- Provided letter/statement drafting support for current legislative issues in the following states: IL, WA, MN, WI, OH
- Provided support to the following additional inquiries from State Grange legislative programs, NH, NC, MN, MD, OH, KS, CT, IL, WA, SC, TN, TX, ID, CA, PA, NY and MA.
- Provided talking points and other support for Ed Luttrell’s national media tour visits in the following states: TX, TN, WV, OH, NY, PA, SC, NC.
- Provided background for National Grange Treasurer Joe Fryman to use in Radio Show regarding postal service reduction.

### **2010 Washington DC Fly-In**

Due to 50th Anniversary National Grange Headquarters Rededication Program, there will be no D.C. Legislative Fly In for 2010.

### **Miscellaneous Activities**

- May 13, 2010 marks the 25th anniversary of Leroy Watson starting date in the position of Legislative Assistant with the National Grange in 1985.

- National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson submitted his resignation effective on or about Aug. 11. The Watson family is moving from the Washington, D.C., area to Appleton, Wisc., in late August.
- On August 5, the National Grange welcomed veteran government relations professional, Nicole Palya Wood as their new Legislative Affairs Director. Nicole brings to the organization over 13 years of government affairs experience in both the Congressional and State arenas, and a self-proclaimed passion for the legislative process.
- A native of Virginia, Nicole graduated from James Madison University and caught the bug for legislative affairs while working as a legislative aide for Senator Frank Ruff in the Virginia State Legislature. She would later represent the National Rifle Association as a State Legislative Liaison in the Mid-Atlantic and Southern Region as well as serving as Manager of Government Affairs for TAP Pharmaceuticals.
- In D.C., Nicole previously served as the Director of Legislative Affairs for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, lobbying the House Financial Services and Senate Banking Committees. She continued with her work on rural housing and community banking issues as the Senior Lobbyist for America's Community Bankers, a trade association of community banks, where she also served as a resource on farm credit issues.
- When not on the Hill, Nicole is working on her Certification as a Professional Dog Trainer and enjoys spending time with her New Zealand-born husband, Campbell, their Anatolian Shepherd and Rhodesian Ridgeback. She also enjoys serving as a volunteer for The Campagna Center mentoring programs, where she has been appointed as a board member since 2007. Nicole and her husband live in Alexandria, Va., just around the corner from George & Martha Washington's Mount Vernon Estate.
- The Legislative and Communications Departments secured two additional college interns for the summer term, David Boise (grandson of Potomac Grange Secretary Dick Weiss) and Mark Scheusser, who is a return intern from last year. Both interns worked on projects for the trademark protection program, the digital song book, the digital cook book, the 50th anniversary celebration and other assignments.
- Provided research support for several Grange history related inquiries.
- Provided research and management support for several additional trademark protection cases
- First semi-annual 2010 Lobbyist disclosure forms filed with the Secretary of the U.S. Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives. Second quarter 2010 lobbying report filed.
- Legislative Director Leroy Watson met with Agricultural Leadership Development Program participants from Arkansas in February.
- National Master Ed Luttrell and Legislative Director Leroy Watson attended the US Senate Democratic Caucus seminar on rural development strategies that featured 11 sitting US Senators as panelists. Former President Bill Clinton gave the keynote address.
- National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson was invited to the White House for a grassroots outreach briefing on the status of USDA biofuel and biomass programs on May 5.

- National Grange Legislative Director Nicole Palya Wood was invited and attended a Farm Credit Briefing in New York to enhance this coalition and monitor how farm credit loans are funded.
- Worked with the Communications and Marketing departments to hire Grace Boatright as the new Program Assistant to support the Legislative, Marketing and Communications Departments. Grace is a native of Austin, Texas, and comes to us from the Texas State Senate. She has a BBA in Finance from Concordia Lutheran University and enjoys Kempo Karate and target shooting in her spare time. She is an avid hunter and sportsman.

### **Legislative Sponsorships**

The 2010 proposed budget adopted by the delegates at the 143<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention contained an income line item for “Legislative Sponsorships (Grants).” The projected income from this line item for 2010 is \$75,000. Since the 2009 convention, the following monetary legislative sponsorships/grants have been pursued:

#### *Pledged and Received:*

Pfizer Inc. (2009 convention speaker)	\$ 5,000
Tracfone, Inc. (via Amplify Public Affairs)	\$ 7,000
Potomac Grange #1	\$ 3,000
(restricted for National Ag in the Classroom Consortium Award)	
AT&T	\$36,000
(\$1,000 sent to the Ohio State Grange for their Annual Legislative Day)	
Verizon, Inc.	\$25,000
Subtotal	<u>\$76,000</u>

#### *Not yet Pledged but in Negotiations*

Tracfone, Inc.	\$ 3,000
Pfizer, Inc.	\$ 5,000
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association	\$5,000
Subtotal	<u>\$13,000</u>

#### **Summary**

Subtotal Pledged and Received	\$76,000
Subtotal not yet Pledged but in Negotiations	\$13,000
Total 2010 Legislative Sponsorships (grants) activities to date	\$114,000
Less restricted funds, earmarked funds, matching funds	\$ 4,000
Total 2010 potential Legislative Sponsorship grants/unrestricted funds	<u>\$110,000</u>

**Appendix I:** Text of Legislative Director Leroy Watson's resignation letter:

June 30, 2010

Ed Luttrell, National Master  
National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry  
1616 H St, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Worthy Master,

It is with mixed emotions that I submit my resignation as Legislative Affairs Director for the National Grange. I also submit my resignation and the registered Federal lobbyist for the National Grange. I propose that my last day in the office should be on or about August 11th 2010, in order to transfer responsibilities and duties to my successor or other staff members.

My wife Cheryl and I have talked for quite some time about our future career and lifestyle goals. We have jointly decided that our continued residence in the Washington, DC area is not part of those plans. Therefore, we have made arrangements to move our family to our new residence near Appleton, WI in August. We have already purchased a single family home in that community, moved most of our furniture out to the new house, and rented our three bedroom condominium in Falls Church, Va. Our whole family is excited about this move. We are confident that the community we have chosen to relocate to will offer us a superior environment for raising our daughter Rachel, compared to the urbanized, Northern Virginia vicinity of Washington, D.C. Cheryl is originally from this part of Wisconsin, so we are equally blessed to be moving into a community where there are already many friends and family members ready to greet us and help us with the transition. All in all, we are highly confident that this is the right decision for our family.

May 13, 2010 marked the 25th anniversary of my moving to Washington DC to work for the Legislative Department of the National Grange. I have been honored by the confidence that you and your predecessors have placed in my abilities working for the legislative program. I have been blessed to work with five National Masters, more than 2 dozen Executive Committee members, approximately 65 fellow National Grange employees and directors, more than 100 individual state Grange legislative directors, more than 100 National Grange officers and more than 300 individual National Grange delegates during my two tenures with the Legislative Department of the National Grange. I could not have asked for a more supportive team than I was a member of for most of the past quarter century. I will cherish the personal and professional relationships I developed working for the National Grange for the rest of my life.

I am proud of several accomplishments during the last 11 years when I served as Legislative Director. When I assumed the position of Legislative Director, financial management of the department was lacking. According to the Journals of Proceedings, the legislative department annual expenditures exceeded the department budget set by the Delegates in each of the five years prior to my return. During my tenure, the actual annual expenditures of the legislative department have come in under budget for each of the full calendar years I have served in this position. We are on track to continue that tradition again this year. We have also learned how to do more with less in the legislative program. The budget established by the delegates for the legislative department in 2010 is more than \$80,000 less than the actual amount of expenditures of the legislative department in 1999.

I also am proud of the substantial contributions I have made in streamlining the time and

cost of the Annual Convention over the past decade. At the 2000 Annual Convention in Fresno, CA, the session and pre session activities ran for 11 days from Thursday, November 9 until the Session closed on Sunday, November 19. Most delegates either had to leave their duties early on Sunday, November 19 to catch a flight home or stay over an additional day to fly home on Monday November 20<sup>th</sup>. The budget line item reported in the 2001 Journal of Proceedings for final expenses associated with the 2000 Convention was \$226,000.

Even before the 2000 Convention, I began working on a series of reforms of the policy development and resolution management portions of the convention in order to save both time and dues dollars for future conventions. Implemented in stages over the past decade, this system has substantially reduced the costs of the national convention and, more importantly, the time commitment required of our volunteer officers, directors and delegates to participate in their Annual National Grange convention, while still providing for a full, open and vigorous discussion of the governance issues facing our Order and the legislative policy issues facing our nation. We accomplish in 6 days, what used to take us 11 just a decade ago. Also of critical importance, we are able to budget expenses for the 2010 Convention of \$142,000, or \$84,000 less than the Fresno meeting.

As the National Grange has continued to face financial challenges in recent years, I am proud of my accomplishments in raising money from outside sources to supplement our traditional sources of income. Some of these resources have been tied to specific programming and grassroots education efforts that have helped educate our members regarding critical public policy issues that our nation faces and ways that they can take an active part in shaping the legislative and regulatory outcomes that will directly affect their lives. Other financial resources have been secured to support specific events, such as Fly-Ins, where Grange members can develop their skills as grassroots advocates. Finally, I have also been successful in securing unrestricted grants from a variety of sources that have been available to offset the costs of National Grange general operations and programs. By my estimate, I have secured more than \$300,000 in unrestricted financial resources for the National Grange in the last four years.

Within the past two and one half years, I have also taken on a significant portion of the day to day responsibility for managing our trademark protection efforts. It is difficult to put a precise dollar value on the contributions I have made to this effort. However, National Grange Executive Committee Member Marty Bilquist commented at the May 2010 Executive Committee meeting that I attended: "If it wasn't for your efforts we would have had to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars more and been in far worse financial shape than we are today."

As far as non-financial accomplishments, I am particularly proud of the reforms I have instituted in National Grange Legislative Department programs and products, while maintaining a degree of consistency for our grassroots member activists. The current configuration of the National Grange Legislative Policy Book, which today incorporates our grassroots training manual and resolution writing educational materials all in one publication, is an innovation that I introduced early in my tenure to reduce printing and distribution costs as well as to create a one stop informational product for our activist members, our allies in Congress, news media, and other advocacy organizations. While I am not responsible for developing "Blueprint for Rural America," I have refined that product to be more consistent, concise and clear about the long term priorities of our grassroots members regarding their views on critical issues affecting their lives and communities, rather than pandering to media headlines or campaign hype.

During my tenure, our Washington, D.C., Fly-In program expanded from a networking opportunity for State Grange legislative directors to include participation by any interested Grange activist. I successfully recruited outside speakers from government agencies, White House officials, agricultural journalists, representatives of foreign embassies, congressional

staff, trade association leaders, business leaders (including Washington office directors of several Fortune 500 companies) unions and representatives of numerous non-profit associations with whom we work with in Washington DC. We scheduled more than 600 individual meetings for Grange Fly-In participants with their U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives or key staff. At our height, we had 160 participants at one of our Fly-Ins, even though the average numbers ran about 40. We generated this enthusiastic level of participation among our members even though (unlike many other Fly-Ins sponsored by other grassroots organizations) we did not generally pay either travel expenses or lodging expenses for our Fly-In participants. I estimate that the amount of money accounted for by either the personal expenses absorbed of our Fly-In participants or financial contributions from their state and local Granges to participate in our DC Fly-Ins, accounts for more than \$100,000 of in-kind resources contributed by our members to support this program over the past decade.

In addition to the Washington, D.C., Fly-In, another innovation I introduced to our program is the New Hampshire Presidential Primary Fly-In. Held just prior to the famous “first in the nation” New Hampshire Presidential Primary in 2004 and 2008, our Fly-In offered Grange members the unique opportunity to travel to New Hampshire in order to learn about how the primary works and its history. The Grange members participating in this program were each given the opportunity to volunteer to work for the presidential campaign of their choice for one day, to get a feel for direct, retail, get out the vote, politics of this uniquely American tradition in grassroots democracy. I am deeply grateful to the officers and members of the New Hampshire State Grange for their logistical support and hospitality in welcoming us to their state twice over the past decade. The National Grange New Hampshire Presidential Primary Fly-In is a unique program that offers politically active Grange members an opportunity to see retail campaign operations close up in a program that none of our traditional competitor membership organizations can offer to their members.

Just as the New Hampshire Presidential Primary Fly-In showed that the legislative department could expand its programming to include election related training and experiences without violating the Grange’s long standing tradition of non-partisan political involvement, so too did our innovative candidate education materials and get out the vote programs in the 2004 and 2006 election cycles. “Rural Voters Matter” our federal candidates’ guide to election issues of interest to their rural constituents addressed common election issues for candidates for federal office across the partisan and geographic spectrum. Likewise, our voter turnout programs “GOTV: Grangers Organized to Vote” provided valuable information for local Grange activists to assist them in getting voters in Grange communities to exercise their rights to vote in the elections of 2004 and 2006 regardless of each individuals partisan affiliations. I was especially honored that after each of these election cycles had concluded, the National Archives of the United States contacted our office to ask permission that our Grange candidate education material and voter turnout material be included in their permanent archive files for these elections so that future historians could have access to these resources when evaluating the historical significance of these elections.

One of the other proudest moments of my tenure occurred when the high school text book division at McGraw Hill publishers contacted us to ask permission to use excerpts from our “Blueprint for Rural America” in their high school level text book on American government titled “United States Government: Democracy In Action.” The textbook lead author, Dr. Richard Remy, Professor of Education at Ohio State University, wanted to use our “Blueprint” and our legislative program as the example to high school students of how grassroots, citizen-supported interest groups are supposed to participate in the political process of our nation. Out of all the public advocacy organizations in the United States, Dr. Remy believed that the National

Grange's legislative program is the most representative of the "ideal example" of how effective grassroots policy development and advocacy is supposed to function in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

This year marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the National Grange's monthly legislative newsletter "View from the Hill," a tradition in grassroots Grange legislative issue education that I have been honored to maintain. In addition to the tradition of reporting on federal legislative issues to our members in "View from the Hill," I have also incorporated additional grassroots educational and information products into our legislative communications including:

- "Action Alerts"-E-mail based messages to call for grassroots Grange member participation in the legislative decision making process at key times that will most influence the out come of a congressional vote or a regulatory decision.
- "Ag Talk" -In depth articles on legislative issues of particular interest to our farming and ranching members that are a regular feature of our general membership magazine "New Grange."
- "Legislative Round Up"- Success stories and inspiring examples of how State Granges and local Granges around the nation are participating in the legislative process and engaging their elected and appointed leaders at the state and local level.
- "Grange Point of View"- Audio recording podcasts of essays on current legislative issues that can be down loaded and played back by individual members or radio stations.

With more than 1000 individual policies represented in our Legislative Policy book, it would be difficult to single out specific legislative issues that I have worked on and that have been most significant during my tenure as Legislative Director. The past eleven years has seen a significant number of readjustments of the partisan configuration of the key legislative bodies and executive agencies of our nation's government that seem to reflect the voters' general desire to find the right combination of affirmative, active government while still respecting the Constitutional traditions of Separation of Powers among the branches of government. In the last eleven years we have seen: a Democratic President with a Republican Congress; a Republican President with a divided Congress; a Republican President with a Republican Congress; a Republican President with a Democratic Congress and a Democratic President with a Democratic Congress. Throughout this game of political "musical chairs" played out among the nation's voters and their elected and appointed federal officials, I have always strived to maintain the high integrity of the National Grange's traditional non partisan, issue-based grassroots approach to its legislative advocacy program.

For almost 30 years I have been deeply indebted to the Vermont State Grange and the National Grange for having the faith in my abilities to let me pursue a career in government relations as their advocate and lobbyist at the state and federal level. While I have pursued employment with other fine organizations over part of that time, it is with the Grange that my knowledge, skills and experiences applicable to being a professional lobbyist have been mentored, honed and guided. Government relations today is still very much a career where one expects to serve an "apprenticeship" in order to learn the details of the craft, even with the successful completion of one or more higher degrees. Grange has given me the freedom to pursue theories of political advocacy and grassroots participation that other organizations would not necessarily adopt because "We've never done it that way before."

The one sincere regret that I have concerning my service to the National Grange is that I was unable to successfully solve the puzzle of how to best utilize our legislative program to actively contribute to substantial, new member growth for the Grange. Obviously, the issue of general membership decline has plagued every Grange leader for more than a half century, and it is naïve to think that the National Grange Legislative Program, by itself, should generate all of the

new membership activity needed to stem our decline. However, I am also keenly aware that over the past decade, I have been entrusted with the deployment of more Granges dues dollars than any other non-elected Grange official. It is a reasonable expectation by our members that ALL of their dues dollars are faithfully deployed in ways that will directly contribute to general growth and development of the Order. Programs that can not meet this standard should be reduced or phased out so that dues dollars can be used for programs and services that can contribute to membership growth. I believe that I leave the position of Legislative Director with a solid program in place that will allow you and my successor to pick up where I leave off and pursue our common goal of Grange growth and development in new, innovative and productive ways.

Ultimately, the National Grange Legislative Program succeeds because of the extraordinary selfless efforts of the volunteer Grange leaders across the nation whose primary motivation is captured in the theme “Celebrating the Responsibilities of Citizenship.” We have used this theme for most of the past decade to describe the National Grange Legislative Program as the best opportunity for politically motivated individuals in our local Grange communities to engage in civic participation in our society. Credit for any successes of the National Grange Legislative Program during my tenure belongs to these individuals. However, any failures to meet the expectations of our members regarding their National Grange Legislative Program over the past 11 years is entirely because of the limits of my talents, skills and abilities.

It has been an honor and privilege to work with you and to direct the National Grange Legislative Program.

Fraternally,  
Leroy Watson

## **Appendix II:** Text of Legislative Director Nicole Palya Wood

October 27, 2010

As of November 11, 2010, I, Nicole Palya Wood, have been serving as the Legislative Director of the National Grange for three months. Within a month of my hire, I prepared Ed Luttrell to testify before the Postal Regulatory Commission to oppose the proposed rule of the U.S. Postal Service to reduce service from six to five days. It was a great stage for the National Grange to express a particular policy and gain recognition as a relevant advocate for rural Americans.

With the incredible generosity and patience of Leroy Watson, I can say with great certainty that the Legislative Department has continued operating in a timely manner. I cannot thank Leroy enough for his assistance with the transition, and I look forward to carrying on the torch of light for the legislative programs here at the National Grange in a manner in which he would approve.

Leroy has worked very hard to create relationships with other organizations of like legislative mind to the National Grange, and I will work to grow these relationships while opening new doors on Capitol Hill and with the Administration. I have a passion for the legislative process and plan on using it to ensure that Grangers all over the country have a strong, relevant voice to those in our nation’s leadership.

Sincerely Yours,  
Nicole Palya Wood

**2010 Report from the Membership Director  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
November 11, 2010**

Last year, we were fresh off a very successful year of the National Granges GGS's or Grange Growth Summits. I announced that National was planning to continue this program and that five states had already been contacted to host. I then extended the invitations to all remaining states to send folks to these sites. I believe this worked well.

We had four out of the five go well with those attending leaving with new knowledge and charged up. The one that didn't happen was never cancelled but just postponed until a later date. I hope to nail that date down while at National Convention.

We had good attendance at each of the conferences with plenty of new folks mixing with past attendees. We did have three states go together and do a conference on their own! This was a big win for us and them. I see it as another opportunity for Grangers to go and learn about growing. I also believe that those that organize and do the workshop gain valuable lessons and a better understanding of the program. These new teachers will become a more valuable asset for their respective state and also for the National Grange as we continue to expand the program.

The format seems to be working well and I think that with natural evolution of the program, as we gain more experience and involve more people, we will see them get better and better.

### **Youthful Lessons**

National Youth Director, Charlene Espenshade, and I brainstormed a plan to get some of the top Grange Youth more involved in Grange Growth. This started at last year's convention. We, with the help of two State Youth Directors, chose five very talented youth to attend these GGS's and help put on the program by getting involved in the program itself. Our hope was to give these youth an opportunity to travel outside their respective area and experience Grange from different states. We also knew that by giving these youth some responsibility, along with some positive reinforcement, we would be developing some future leaders of the Grange. There also had been a lack of a Youth present at some of the Past GGS's and I knew that this was something that was needed.

I believe we chose very well! The Youth were all flown to GGS's outside their area. This was done on purpose. It was to take them out of their comfort zone, give them opportunities to see new areas and people, and to share their perspectives of the Grange with Grangers they didn't know. The Youth were an asset in each case and were very well received by those attending the Summits! I believe that this is something that the National Grange needs to continue. We will be able to directly affect the message and training of these high quality Youth. We at National will also be showing a great example to our states that we are willing to invest in these Youth and that they need to do the same.

### **Immeasurable**

The response of the Youth to being included in the GGS's was great. I wish that I could have taken all of the ambassadors but we just couldn't afford it. The Youth that got chosen had a positive experience. They took on the responsibilities given to them and performed admirably. They conducted workshops and activities. They sat down with state leaders and teams and openly shared their personal thoughts and experiences. They took lessons home to their Grange state and their own personal Granges that I'm not sure just how to measure. But I truly believe that we will see, and in some cases have already seen, that their positive attitudes

are contagious!

National Grange's increased exposure and continued effort to provide tools, workshops, conferences (both on the ground and on the internet) and visits to the states, has spawned an opportunity for State Grange leadership to partner with us to work on growth. I feel that we are seeing an overall increase in positive attitudes from the individual Grangers. I hear hope in our Granger's comments. I hear people talking about the future and not just the past. I hear the thankfulness in their comments that National is taking an active role in helping the State Granges, Pomona Granges and even all the way to the individual Community Granges. I am noticing in my home state where I started doing some of these things many years ago that some of the fruits of that labor are just now showing up. It takes time and patience for some of this stuff to work its way through the system so that we can show it. For now, we have no way of measuring it but with our knowledge of how things in the past have worked out and with the hope and perseverance to keep up the hard work.

### **Uncharted Waters**

Advanced Team Trainings and a Pomona Grange Summit were new programs for National Grange in 2010. Since I had never done one of these before and I had never even been to someone else's program, with Ed's leadership and encouragement I set a course into uncharted waters.

I put the first ATT weekend to use in Wisconsin. It was a good test for the new program but really wasn't what everybody there wanted to talk about. They needed a GGS but had asked for team training so we worked both of them. The very next weekend I got a chance to do the ATT to its fullest extent and felt that it went over very well. Getting people to work together and deal with the situation that arises will always be a class for our Grange Leadership. We will need to continue offering this to our State Grange leadership.

The Pomona Summit was good. The adventure started with Ed and I putting together the first ever Pomona Grange Survey. This was the first survey that I have ever been a part of putting together so an "adventure" is really how it felt. The weekend Summit in Northwest PA came with me not knowing what was going to happen. It was very well attended. We had a good mix of states and lots of State Granges past, present, and future all in attendance. The digest was explained and discussed until everyone felt comfortable with the spirit of it all. The discussion groups were lively and lead to some very thought-provoking discussions in the whole group. The networking between states and state leadership will be the key to future changes to the Pomona structure. Not a lot of answers to the Pomona problems came from it all, but a good healthy dose of "we all need to work on this together" and "keep talking about it" did come from it all. I believe that we need to continue the Pomona Grange Summits so we can include more states in the discussion mix.

### **Is it all about the numbers?**

How did we do as a whole across the nation? We had eight states with net gains this year! California leads the pack with a net gain of 249 members and five new Granges! Alaska, Illinois, Iowa, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia rounded out the list of net gains of members. Alaska was the only other state with a net gain in Granges. We saw a larger number of Granges started last year than we have in the past and I am looking forward to that number growing throughout the next year.

### **What's New?**

For 2011 the National Grange would like to find host states for five Grange Growth

Summits, two Advanced Team Trainings, and two Pomona Grange Summits.

Five Grange Growth Summits is a good number to get us into some of the states that we haven't been in yet or could use some more encouragement by sharing from our ever expanding box of tools (experience and knowledge).

Two Advanced Team Trainings would be an increase over last year's one. These advance techniques can be put to good use in states that have already started teams and want to continue to grow stronger together.

Two Pomona Grange Summits because last year's survey and Summit resulted in us learning that there is a lot of work to be done to this level of the Grange Order and that we will only be successful in regenerating the Pomona level by working together and sharing our experience with one another about what works and what doesn't when it comes to Pomona Granges.

Ed and I picked the states and the areas we thought we could do the best job and affect the most people. This year, you all will pick the states and areas. The way I would like to make this happen is for each State Master to figure out a priority of these three conferences and then talk to their bordering/regional states. As you get to know each other's priorities, decide which one you can all work together on so we can involve the largest number of people for a conference. Once you have done this, contact me and we will plan one of the following conferences in your area! I will be talking to as many of you as I can and hope to have the schedule finalized by the end of convention or soon after. National Grange will be posting on our website and contacting each of you with the schedule as soon as we know it so you can spread the word in your state and start planning accordingly.

### **Thanks**

I would like to thank all of you that have called, e-mailed, wrote letters, logged on to TeamSpeak, came to my workshops, picked up and taken me to and from the airport, and let me stay in your house. It is because of you that I feel I have the best job in the Grange.

To all you State Masters that have invited me and worked with me to make things better in your state, I would like to thank you also. You are my eyes and ears to the Grange in your state and only with your help can we at National Grange help you take on the tough problems and overcome them.

I owe a huge thank you to the National Grange Staff; Jessie, Samantha, Beverly, Stephanie, Amber, Leroy, Jennifer, Molly, and now Grace, Nicole and Barbara. They remind me when I need to get something done; they make conference plans, room reservations, and even proof read all my stuff. They do a great job for the National Grange and they make me look good.

Thanks to Ed and Celia. Once again, you two have been wonderful supporters and an encouragement to Jacquie and me. Ed, you have let me play to my strengths and steered me in a direction that you knew I could handle even when I didn't want to go.

Thanks to my children Cady and Charlie. I might miss a game or two, and am not always there when you need to talk but we always seem to talk via cell phone and take time for each other when we can. You always seem to understand and deal with it.

To my wife Jacquie, you are the most important of all. Without your love and support I would not be able to do this job. You listen to me when I frustrated, you calm me down when I get upset, and most important of all you humble me when my head starts to swell.

Fraternally,  
Rusty Hunt  
Membership/Leadership Development Director

**2010 Report of the Sales, Benefits, and Programs Department**  
**Charlotte, North Carolina**  
**November 11, 2010**

**Programs**

The National Grange has continued to promote current programs, as well as develop new programs, for local Granges. Current Programs include: Dictionary Project, Meth Labs, the Kelley Farm, the Building DVD - "The National Building: 50 Years of Service," Deaf Materials, Life Line Screening, and Community Service. Around 495 Granges participated in the Dictionary Project and provided 83,509 dictionaries and 456 thesauruses for the 2009-10 school year. The National Grange received \$1,231 in donations for the Kelley Farm as of October 2010.

*Dogs for the Deaf*

The Programs Department, in conjunction with the Communications Department, filmed Robin Dickson from Dogs for the Deaf at the 2009 Grange Convention. This was turned into a 15-minute DVD that was sent out to all State Masters and State Lecturers in September. Copies of the "Dogs for the Deaf DVD" are available to all Grange members by contacting the Programs Department and a copy can be picked up at the Idea Fair. Robin Dickson will also have an article in the November/December *New Grange* Issue. Grangers in IL, ME, OH, OK, OR, RI, WA, and Potomac Grange #1 continue to support Dogs for the Deaf through monetary and in-kind contributions. The past two years, Dogs for the Deaf has received \$5,797 from these Granges.

*Community Service*

The Community Service program continues to be supported by the National Grange. The National Grange awards certificates to all first, second, third and fourth 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 percent of the Subordinate Granges in the State; whichever number is greater. This year, the National Grange has recognized over 558 Granges in 32 States. This year, the Community Service Program continued with the National Community Service Program based on all first-place winners from each state. The Community Service Books were judged at the National Grange headquarters. Twenty-seven books total were judged for the competition. The winners will be announced at the Celebration Banquet and the prize money for first, second, third and fourth place winners will be awarded. The Grange Foundation is sponsoring and awarding the prize money which totals \$1,000.

*Distinguished Grange*

This was the first year for the Distinguished Grange Program and there were three State Granges; Idaho, Maryland, and New York State Grange that qualified for the program. Fourteen Subordinate Granges applied but only 13 qualified. The Subordinate Granges that qualified: Dunstable Grange #31 (MA), Elizabethtown Area Grange #2076 (PA), Five Mile Prairie Grange #905 (WA), Grantham Grange #968 (NC), Humptulips Grange #730 (WA), Kuna Grange #59 (ID), Medford Grange #188 (MD), Redland Grange #796 (OR), Russellville Grange #91 (PA), Stanford Grange #808 (NY), Stelvideo Grange #295 (OH), Uxbridge Grange #200 (MA), and Washington Grange #82 (WA). Ribbons and certificates will be given to the recipients during the Distinguished Grange Luncheon. The Distinguished Grange Program will continue and the new applications are available at the Idea Fair and can be downloaded from the National Grange website.

*Deaf Foundation*

Eight applications were received for the Deaf Awareness Grant. The Grange Foundation chose three applicants to receive grants in July. In 2010 three grants were awarded in the

amount of \$500 to Idaho and New Jersey State Grange and \$150 to Michigan State Grange.

The following are the three projects that won for 2010:

*Idaho Grange Project Vote*

Project Vote intends to increase accessibility to the electoral process by increasing awareness of city clerks and poll workers to problems encountered by individuals who are deaf or have a hearing impairment. Prior to the November 2010, General Election Project Vote intends to:

Collaborate with the Idaho Secretary of State's office to make available to select precincts in southwest Idaho onsite training of city clerks and poll workers regarding issues specific to individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing;

Collaborate with the Idaho Secretary of State's office to make available to select precincts throughout the State of Idaho materials relevant to the increased accessibility of the electoral process for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Grange members throughout the state will be utilized to assist in the project.

*New Jersey - SmartBoard for Petway Elementary School*

Petway Elementary School is located in Vineland, New Jersey and has more than a dozen hearing impaired children enrolled in their deaf education program. Over 42 Community Granges and 11 County Granges are involved in raising the funds needed to buy the SmartBoard for Petway. SmartBoards are essentially a large whiteboard (instead of a chalkboard) with a projector that is hooked to the computer. Being hooked directly to the computer allows the teacher to do everything on the computer which is then projected onto the screen. Additionally, the SmartBoard itself is a huge touch-screen. The teacher can pick colors, use her finger to actually draw on the large board, type, print, surf the web, and do literally everything by touching the screen. The SmartBoard will provide interactive and visual experiences many deaf and hard-of-hearing children need to assist them in their learning.

*Michigan – Ear Plugs for Ashley Trading Days*

Ashley Trading Days is a three day celebration in the little village of Ashley. Gratiot Grange #1898 participates in this event annually and contributes a booth. Gratiot's booth varies and sometimes they sell tickets for the raffle the State Grange has, a bake sale, an entry in the Saturday parade, or hosting an ice cream social in the afternoon. The parade is a display of emergency vehicles with all the lights and sirens going, which makes the noise level quite high. The parade gave Gratiot Grange the idea to pass out ear plugs prior to the parade, as well as labeling the packages to identify Gratiot Grange as the giver.

***The application process for 2011 will be announced soon.***

*Gallaudet University*

The Deaf Foundation endows an internship fund with Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., Gallaudet University was founded in 1864 and is one of the only universities specifically designed for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. This fund is intended to assist interns with living expenses, including transportation, housing and meals. The internship is strictly used for career-related work activities. Examples of the internships that students have participated in with our help include: the Library of Congress, the White House, and Booz Allen Hamilton. I was lucky enough to be invited to the Gallaudet campus where I met with Erin Moriarty Harrelson and discussed the Grange Internship Program and what else the Grange can do for Gallaudet. Erin arranged a tour of the campus for me, which was led by Patrick, a student at Gallaudet, and an interpreter. I encourage all Grange members who come to Washington, D.C. to visit Gallaudet University and I am always willing to arrange a tour for you. To learn more about Gallaudet University go to [www.gallaudet.edu](http://www.gallaudet.edu).

*Digital National Grange Cookbook*

The National Grange Executive Committee approved combining the three National Grange Cookbooks that are out of print and digitizing them, which would allow the cookbooks to be available once again. *The Bicentennial Cookbook*, *The Family Cookbook*, and *The Glory of Cooking* were all scanned and sent to I-Tul, a web development company, which is putting together the digital cookbook. The digital cookbook will allow users to look through all three cookbooks and use the search function to find recipes. This project should be completed by the end of 2010 and will be made available to Granges as a fundraiser in 2011.

*The National Grange Building Celebration*

The National Grange celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the National Grange Building on June 26, 2010 with Grangers from all across the country. With great support from Jessie Cope, the National Grange Convention Planner, and Pete Pompper, the National Grange Lecturer, I was able to pull all the historical material needed for the Goss Conference, the Saunders Library, and the staff offices. Potomac Grange #1 was very generous and paid for all the framing that was done for the Anniversary and the tour busses and t-shirts for the Junior Grange & Youth DC Experience. To commemorate the anniversary, the Grange Store began selling “suncatchers” that were designed especially for this occasion and included the National Grange Building along with the dates for the anniversary. They sold very well and we have just 11 left in the Grange Store. The Grange Store was set up for the day to allow Grange members to buy the commemorative item and all items available in the Grange Store. The Grange Store made \$2,021.60.

*Lifeline Screening*

The Lifeline 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 \$1,661.74 for September 2008 through August 2010 in commission.

*Christmas Trees*

The National Grange in coordination with the Eastern Region Hosting Committee is decorating 12 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 and Best of Show*

The National Grange is pleased to continue the Idea Fair and the Best of Show. This year the exhibits will showcase local Grange program ideas, National Grange department information, Junior Grange projects, community service State winners, and various craft products from around the Grange. This year’s Idea Fair will feature over 15 different displays and program ideas.

**Sales**

We have added a new Youth T-Shirt, Youth Magnet, the gold Grange necktie, and the Digital Grange Songbook CD-ROM. The Digital Grange Songbook has over 100 songs from the 1983 Grange Songbook. The initial order was for 200 and they were available in September to buy. There was an e-mail announcement, it was put up on the National Grange website, and it was tweeted about. The Sales Department continues to reorder necessary items for the Grange Store. The Sales Department produced a Fall 2010 Catalog to be handed out at the National Grange Convention. The sales catalog will be redesigned completely in 2011 to continue with our efforts to comply with our trademark standards.

Total Sales	2010*	2009*	2008*	2007***	2006
January	\$3,362.98	\$4,430.98	\$5,108.23	\$4,135.50	\$3,569.33
February	\$2,425.75	\$4,663.87	\$3,037.20	\$3693.37	\$3,121.65
March	\$6,017.71	\$4,602.03	\$6,238.83	\$4,554.66	\$7,991.67
April	\$6,655.16	\$5,666.86	\$5,561.57	\$5,713.81	\$7,194.34
May	\$4,883.93	\$4,456.75	\$4,751.80	\$3,339.42	\$3,130.62
June	\$8,029.12	\$4,499.63	\$3,648.68	\$4,253.02	\$5,614.82
July	\$3,080.44	\$4,027.20	\$3,249.69	\$2,782.35	\$4,289.30
August	\$2,678.67	\$3,802.33	\$5,120.55	\$4,402.74	\$3,979.92
September	\$4,879.21	\$3,4030.34	\$4,543.30	\$7,104.85	\$5,721.32
October (as of Oct. 27, 2010)	\$4,263.87	\$3,046.46	\$4,925.52	\$59,87.22	\$7,199.66
November		\$4,657.36	\$25,526.48**	\$3,822.60	\$3,935.11
December		\$11,380.32**	\$3,694.85	\$18,170.64**	\$13,284.10**
Total	\$46,330.84*	\$47,283.81*	\$73,406.70*	\$67,963.18	\$69,031.84

\* Includes freight charges

\*\* Includes National Convention sales

\*\*\* 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 the National Grange and State Granges. The way the program works is State Granges send a list of items they would like to sell and the National Grange sends the items. When unsold items are returned, an invoice is made giving the State Grange 20 percent off of what they did sell. The National Grange implemented a new policy for 2010 requiring State Granges to prepay for the items they want for their State Conventions. Anything they didn't sell was returned to the National Grange and the invoice was updated to include their 20 percent discount and a check for the difference was sent to them.

## **Membership**

### *Membership Recognition*

Membership Recognition including seals and certificates are handled by Beverly Mitchell, our Marketing Coordinator. The following certificates and seals have been prepared and sent this year:

- Silver Star Certificates – 768
- 40-Year Seals – 301
- Golden Sheaf Certificates – 505
- 55-Year Seals – 349
- 60-Year Seals – 532
- 65-Year Seals – 350
- 70-Year Seals – 202
- 75-Year Letters – 88
- 80-Year Letters – 24
- 85-Year Letters – 2

### *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 - 9
- 125-Year Plaques - 2

### *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 - 11
- Subordinate Granges - 16
- Pomona Granges - 2

### *Sixth and Seventh Degree Certificates*

The National Grange Communications and Sales, Benefits, and Programs Departments work together to print and distribute Sixth Degree Certificates to state secretaries. Seventh Degree Certificates are also printed and mailed from the National Office to the member.

## **Benefits**

### *New Benefits*

We have added four new member benefit programs this year; Allied Moving Benefits, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, LTC Financial Partners, and U.S. Pharmacy Card. We also dropped Pre-Paid Legal and Verizon as benefits. A new member benefit brochure was created to reflect these updates, along with a member benefits powerpoint. A member benefits DVD is being worked on and will be out in 2011.

### *U.S. Pharmacy Card*

This is one of our brand new benefits and allows Grange members a chance to have two choices for their prescription drug cards. This prescription card allows members to save an average of 40 percent on prescriptions and 50 to 80 percent on lab and imaging tests. All Grange members are included. It also covers many pet prescriptions.

### *Medical Air Service Association (MASA)*

Medical Air Service Association (MASA) is included in the member benefits brochure. MASA is a prepaid emergency transportation assistance program. To date, the National Grange has received \$414.40 in royalties from Med Air Services.

### *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 to 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 continues working with American Income Life in obtaining mailing lists from State Granges to allow members to automatically enroll in the program. Both New York and Nebraska have opted out of the program, but I am still waiting on mailing lists from seven states that include: Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Vermont, and Wisconsin. Until I have mailing lists from these states, their Grange members are not able to participate in this benefit.

### *Allied Services*

The joint web site with Allied Service is up and running. The National Grange has collected \$60 in royalties since January.

### *LTC Outreach and Education Program*

Our new member benefit with Long Term Care (LTC) Financial was introduced in September. I sent out an e-mail to the State Masters introducing the program and giving their states a chance to opt out of the benefit. Washington State, Nebraska State, and North Carolina State Granges did opt out, and Pennsylvania State Grange made the decision to only offer the educational portion of the program. An article for the *New Grange* was in the September/October issue. Also, a direct mailing was sent out to local masters to see how many would be interested in the educational seminars. If you have any questions about LTC Financial please stop by the Idea Fair and talk with one of their representatives.

*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	2010	2009	2008	2007
1	\$2,574.62	\$2,381.43	\$3,159.36	\$3,343.20
2	\$2,817.58	\$2,615.97	\$3,492.66	\$3,556.91
3		\$2,700.66	\$3,140.61	\$3,621.74
4		\$3,306.54	\$3,526.67	\$3,968.79
Total	\$5,392.20	\$11,004.60	\$13,319.30	\$14,490.64

*Prescription Card (Scrip Pharmacy)*

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.

	Rx	Royalty		Rx	Royalty
Jan. 10	47	\$11.75	Jan. 09	45	\$11.25
Feb. 10	53	\$13.25	Feb. 09	59	\$14.75
March 10	42	\$10.50	March 09	53	\$13.25
April 10	57	\$14.25	April 09	51	\$12.75
May 10	41	\$10.25	May 09	58	\$14.50
June 10	45	\$11.25	June 09	59	\$14.75
July 10	47	\$11.75	July 09	55	\$13.75
Aug. 10	48	\$12	Aug. 09	44	\$11
Sept. 10	0	\$0	Sept. 09	40	\$10
Oct. 10	0	\$0	Oct. 09	39	\$9.75
Nov. 10	0	\$0	Nov. 09	42	\$10.50
Dec. 10	0	\$0	Dec. 09	0	\$0
	Total	\$95		Total	\$136.25

*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 for 2010 looks to surpass our numbers in 2009 and will be the fourth year in a row our numbers increased.

	<b>Rooms consumed</b>	<b>Commission</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>\$610.93</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>\$752</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>\$1,886.29</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>\$2,748.60</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>\$1,559.63</b>

<b>2010</b>	<b>Nights consumed</b>	<b>Commission</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>\$141.80</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>\$231.21</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>\$196.86</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>\$149.79</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>\$209.81</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>\$220.32</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>\$192.89</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>\$195.39</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$21.56</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>\$1,559.63</b>

<b>2009</b>	<b>Nights consumed</b>	<b>Commission</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>\$139.54</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>\$151.47</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>\$374.30</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>\$272.37</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>\$188.28</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>\$221.44</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>\$356.53</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$145.11</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>\$186.02</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>\$329.59</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>\$189.04</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>\$194.91</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>\$2,748.60</b>

Other benefits offered to Grange members include: Hertz, Beltone, Club Quarters, and T-Mobile.

#### *Other Projects*

Other projects this department is currently working on include:

- Updating Grange Store Website
- Redesigning Sales Catalog
- Trademark DVD
- Member Benefits DVD
- Community Service
- New Benefit Programs
- New and Reordered Sales Items
- State Convention Sales
- Membership Recognition
- Kits for Subordinate and Junior Granges
- Ideas for New Programs: Women in the Grange

Fraternally Submitted,  
Samantha Johnson  
Sales, Benefits, and Programs Director

### **2010 Report of the Youth Department Charlotte, North Carolina November 11, 2010**

Worthy Master, National Officers, Delegates and fellow Grangers:

As I write this year's department report, I would be 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 with the membership this year is that activity in the National Grange Youth Department is up this year. We had strong participation at the five regional youth conferences, 687 Youth Achievement Awards and seals were issued and one Achievement Award pin and 28 Leadership Award pins were issued for the completion of a Grange Achievement Program.

#### *Regional Conferences*

The 2010 regional youth conferences were slightly different this year because of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary building celebration. We had to adjust the dates and times of two of the conferences. While this had an impact on attendance, we still had a great show of support for the Youth Program. I would like to recognize the hard work of Illinois, Massachusetts, Colorado and Washington State for hosting. Also, with Eastern Regionals being hosted during the 50th building celebration, a special thank you to the National Grange staff for their help.

In early June, the Midwestern Regional Youth Conference was hosted by Illinois. There were about 30 Youth, Juniors and Young Adults in attendance. We hosted the regional conferences with entries in the Speech and Sign-A-Song contests.

For Eastern Regionals, we hosted the event at the 4-H Center just outside of Washington, D.C. I would like to extend a special thank you to Anne Kurburski, former National Grange Junior Director, for her hard work on this event. Her planning and insight on activities helped to make this a memorable event for the youth that participated. We had almost 90 people in attendance for the weekend. In addition to participation in the Speech and Sign-A-Song contests, 25 Youth and a couple of Juniors assisted as building ambassadors, during the tours of the National Grange building in Washington, D.C. We also had several other Youth volunteers help to direct Grangers before the actual celebration.

As tradition, July was a busy month with the rest of the regional Youth Conferences. At the Northeastern Regional Youth Conference, Massachusetts hosted nearly 100 Grangers, with Youth and Juniors competing in the speech contests. For “dinner entertainment” we hosted the impromptu speech competition, which garnered strong participation. More than 20 youth participated in that contest.

At the Great Plains regional conference in Colorado, 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 and impromptu speech categories.

The final conference was Western Regionals hosted by Washington State. Participation was good with about 40 Grangers in attendance. Youth competed in the speech contests.

At each of the conferences, I met this year’s National Youth Horizon Leadership Program ambassadors and young couples. 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 2011 regional youth conferences. The host states will be Delaware – Eastern, Maine – Northeastern, Iowa – Midwestern, Oklahoma – Great Plains, and Idaho – Western. The host states are hard at work, I would encourage you to bring your Youth members out to one of the conferences in the next year.

### *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.

I would like to thank all of the states who submitted for certificates to recognize their Youth and Young Adults. For 2011, there are no major changes to the Achievement Program. However, I will be reviewing the program to see if any new Achievement Awards should be developed.

### *Youth Contests and Recognition Programs*

For this year’s National Session, the youth recognition program participants are as follows:

National Grange Mentors: Caroline Tart, N.C.; Christopher Szkutak, Mass.

Horizon Leadership Program ambassadors are: Joseph Stefenoni, Calif.; Robert Masti and Jackie Turner, N.Y.; Camille Harrison and Dewayne Craft, N.C.; Hope Murphy and Stephen Murphy, Ohio; Lorisa Schnetzky, Ore.; Jennifer Nauss, Pa.

Young Couples are: Dustin and Julie Kunkle, Pa.; and Haven and Roxanne Nelson, R.I.  
Legislative Experience: Victor Salazar, Conn.

*National Grange Youth Officer Team*

Master: Valentine DeLeon, N.C.

Overseer: Andrew Kieffer, Pa.

Lecturer: Elizabeth Faulkner, N.C.

Chaplain: Corey Spence, Mass.

Steward: Orrin Schnetzky, Ore.

Assistant Steward: Lynn Clark, N.H.

Lady Assistant Steward: Janice Knott, Wash.

Gatekeeper: Jeff Johnson, Ore.

Treasurer: Cody Stevens, N.C.

Secretary: Courtney Gray, N.C.

Ceres: Jenna DeLeon, N.C.

Flora: Ashley Mohn, Pa.

Pomona: Kiri Ann Schnetzky, Ore.

Executive Committee: Heidi Henderson, N.Y.; Alissa Estes, N.H.; Matthew Clark, N.H.; and Braden Gourley, Pa.

*Idea Fair*

I would like to thank the states of New Jersey, North Carolina and Pennsylvania for their willingness to share some ideas from their Youth Programs. This year, I decided to expand the display area for the Youth Department to showcase some ideas from different states that could be replicated in other Youth Programs. The topics include New Jersey's Extreme Makeover "Grange Edition," North Carolina's Youth Caravan, and Pennsylvania's Youth Royalty Program.

*Youth Leadership Fund*

Each year, the Grange Youth Leadership Fund is used to support Grange Youth and Young Adults to attend National Session. This comes at a cost of about \$300 per youth for a Horizon Leadership or National Youth Officer Team member. It is slightly higher for the National Mentors and Legislative Experience. The Youth Department was able to secure a grant for \$7,000 from the Farm Credit Foundation. In addition, the Grange Youth Foundation has received \$3,420 for 2010 in response to our annual appeal letter. Thank you to the Subordinate and Pomona Granges for your continued support of the program.

While the youth department continues to look for additional revenue streams, it is important to note, without increased support, the National Grange department may have to cut some of its support for youth to attend national session.

In addition, I am rolling out the "Bowl Across America" program this year for youth to organize a fundraising event to support the Grange Youth Foundation.

*Grow Club*

The GROW Club board includes Doug Baldwin, Midwest; Jennie Gentry, Eastern; Marta Kroger, 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: Keys to Success*

At this session, the theme for the Youth Department is Grange Youth: Keys to Success. This past year, with the assistance of the Membership Department, we sent six youth from the Horizon Leadership Program to Grange Growth Summits/Grange Leadership Training events across the U.S. For both Rusty Hunt and I, this program has been a blessing as we

have watched a fire light in these young people to strengthen and grow the organization. We are hopeful to select another group of Youth to receive the same chance to grow and help all of you build your Granges and Youth Department.

At this session, the quality of the Youth in attendance is impressive. They come from all walks of life with one common denominator, they are committed to this organization. They have all noted how they, like many of us in this room, have benefited from this organization. However, they also realize now is a time to give back and stand at the ready to assist.

Moving forward, I will continue to look for opportunities to develop the National Mentor program to continue to advocate for Grange Youth as well as utilize state Grange Youth royalty.

As stated in the past, I believe a successful Grange has a strong youth Grange component. For this year, my overall focus is to assist Granges to revitalize Grange youth programs. In this organization we can provide youth with the life skills they seek and the framework to make a difference on the farms and in the towns.

I would like to issue a challenge to all of the State Granges. If your state has not yet appointed a State Youth Director, please appoint one. 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.

This year, several State Youth Directors have concluded their service as the leaders of the State Youth Program. For those who have moved on, thank you for your countless hours of service to the program. To the new directors, I look forward to working with you during your term of service.

To close, I would like to say it has been my honor and privilege to work with the Grange Youth and Young Adults across this country. And I look forward to another year of successful service.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Charlene M. Shupp Espenshade  
National Grange Youth Director

**2010 Report on Trademark Management Activities**  
**Charlotte, North Carolina**  
**November 11, 2010**

**Executive Summary**

Number of trademark management cases resolved prior to Dec. 31, 2009 - 26

Number of open trademark management cases as of Jan. 1, 2010 - 32

Number of new cases opened during 2010 - 11

Number of successful/pending cases resolved or abandoned by other party during 2010 - 13

- Aldi, Inc., Berlin, Germany (will cease using the name “Granger” for their meat products by Dec. 31, 2010)
- Grange Café, Duval, Wash. (license)
- Grange Bar and Grill in Ann Arbor, Mich. (license)
- Maine Grange Store (license)
- The Meat Block, Greenville, Wisc. (Joint marketing agreement for “Grange Hall

Brats” with South Greenville Grange #273)

- Lidl Stiftung, Berlin, Germany. Food company looking to sell packaged meats in the U.S. (Voluntary surrender of their GRANGEDALE Trademark registration application)
- Alaska Broadcasting Company in Anchorage, Alaska related to their use of the Grange trademark VIEW FROM THE HILL ( Name change/abandoned)
- Grange Food Company of New York City (Restaurant changed name)High Country News (changed the name of their blog)
- Somerston Wine Company, Youtsville, Calif. (Dropped the proposed use of the name Grange Sonoma Grocery Store)
- ESTY e-retail web site in Brooklyn, N.Y. (Removed Grange labeled items from their site.)
- Grange Disk Golf Club in Spotsylvania, Va. (Agreed to cease using the name Grange)
- Grange1.com (website owner agreed not to use any Grange related domain names)
- Village Soup.com (Agreed to remove references to Grange on their web site)

Number of successful/pending new license or joint marketing agreements - 4

Number of cases closed as incontestable - 4

Number of cases in current litigation or negotiation - 13

Number of cases under investigation - 6

Number of new Grange trademark registrations initiated in 2010 - 7

### **Summary and comments**

This is my second report on trademark protection activities to protect our Grange trademarks. This year has seen a significant change in the infringement activities we have encountered and had to respond to. Instead of defending against attempts by major corporations to gain control of our general trademarks, we have primarily had to respond to attempts by many smaller and medium sized companies to register or infringe on our general trademarks for limited or specific commercial purposes. As in the 18th century classic tale *Gulliver’s Travels* by Jonathan Swift, our adventures in defending our trademarks have us at one time fending off the giants of the modern corporate kingdom of Broddingnag while at another time we become tied down as the menacing giant to the numerous small and moderate sized infringers of Lilliput.

Financially, this was another challenging year for our trademark program as Grange resources that could be used for other pressing priorities were utilized to defend our trademarks. Early in the year, National Master Ed Luttrell and the board of directors, after meeting with our trademark attorney, Jim Bikoff, directed the National Grange staff to implement an extensive cost control strategy by shifting a greater portion of the responsibilities for trademark protection and brand management “in house”, under the guidance and supervision of our trademark attorney. That strategy has shown great promise in controlling costs. Since January, we have reduced our monthly trademark legal fees by 67 percent, while actually dealing with a greater number of individual trademark infringement and licensing situations than we did in 2009.

One of our long term cost control strategies is to give greater notice to the general public of our intention to vigorously defend our trademarks by increasing our trademark registrations to include sub-registrations for various areas of commerce where we have clear and convincing evidence of both historical and contemporary use of the name

GRANGE and our GRANGE LOGO in promoting goods and services sold to the public. This year, our first application for trademark sub-registration of GRANGE under the category of “Restaurant and Restaurant Services” was approved by the U.S. Trademark Office. We have six other sub-registrations pending, one each for the name GRANGE and the GRANGE LOGO for cookbooks, farmers markets and food-related services; for clothing; and for jewelry. We will continue to aggressively explore filing additional sub-registrations to put potential infringers on notice that the general trademark GRANGE and our GRANGE LOGO are widely used in numerous areas of commerce in the United States.

Our strategy to apply for additional sub-registrations would not have been feasible if we did not have an up-to-date database of how local, county, state and National Granges have used the term Grange or the Grange logo to offer commercial products and services. In March, National Grange First Lady Celia Luttrell completed the project she agreed to undertake last year at this time and submitted her work consolidating the information provided by seven State Granges in 2009 that was related to historical references on the use of the trademarks GRANGE, NATIONAL GRANGE and the GRANGE LOGO in commerce over the past 140 years. These reports were compiled by volunteer Grange members from local and state Grange records. These records will be used by the National Grange to provide evidence of “prior use” in our efforts to register GRANGE Trademarks under additional, specific commercial categories with the U.S. Trademark Office. Thank you, Sister Celia, for your tremendous donation of time and effort on this project and thank you to the volunteer Grange members who helped compile evidence for our state Granges of the usage of our name and logo in commerce over the years. This database will continue to be a valuable source of historical reference and evidence in our trademark protection efforts for years to come.

As our response to our infringement cases changed this year, so did our priorities. One previous priority that we decided to set aside for the time being is the pursuit of federal legislation to give us enhanced enforcement authority to protect our core trademarks against corporate encroachment. We reached this difficult decision for several reasons. First, as our infringement challenges changed from large corporations to small and medium sized businesses, it became apparent that the legislative solution would be less effective against the numerous, small infringement situations we were starting to face in 2010. Legislation to provide us with enhanced enforcement rights would still require a significant commitment of time and financial resources for each individual instance of infringement, time and resources that might better be spent deploying other solutions to an environment of multiple, concurrent infringement situation arising from the actions of small businesses.

Second, the political situation in Congress this year and the highly partisan atmosphere of gridlock on many otherwise bipartisan policy proposals, did not lend itself to a high degree of confidence that we could achieve our goal in a timely manner. The commitment of lobbying time would have been significant. As Legislative Director for the National Grange for the past eleven years, I was confident that our grassroots was up to the task of educating their Members of Congress on a bi-partisan basis as to the wisdom and need for this legislation. However, in this year’s political environment in Congress, many good, sensible, bi-partisan supported ideas, fell victim to political calculations related to gaining partisan advantage. We could not justify committing the resources to a legislative venture that carried such a high risk of failure.

Third, our immediate goal at the beginning of 2010 of quickly and decisively getting control over our trademark protection expenses required tough choices. Suspending our trademark legislation goals was one way to immediately reduce our monthly legal expenses.

Taken together, these three factors were determinative in guiding us to a decision not to pursue enhanced trademark protection legislation this year. Fortunately, this decision has not precluded us from pursuing this legislation in the future if the situation changes, as our costs stabilize and the prospects of success are better.

As we move forward, the most exciting and encouraging area opening up to us is what I like to call “brand management.” By brand management, I am referring to additional ways to generate new products, services and partnerships to market goods and services to the general public under the brand name Grange that will contribute to growth and development of the Order. This year we have had more discussions about licenses and joint marketing agreements for Grange branded products than at any time since our trademark protection efforts started. We are seeing good, viable commercial ideas to market new goods and services to the public under the brand name GRANGE by entrepreneurs across the nation. Some of these entrepreneurs are affiliated with the Grange, others are not. Some have broad ambitions to reach regional, statewide and even national markets while others are focused on providing their goods or services to a specific community. Our responsibility in this environment should be to facilitate these entrepreneurial activities as much as possible while maintaining ownership and control of our intellectual property. Prudent promotion and management of the brand name GRANGE will not only eventually provide additional sources of revenue to the Grange at all levels but will increase the recognition of our volunteer community service and non-partisan legislative activities as well.

Two recent examples that started this year that I would like to highlight are the Maine Grange Store and “Grange Hall Brats.” Based on the successful model of the Grange Store located in the New England Grange Building during the annual Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, MA every year which sees more than 100,000 visitors every year, the Maine Grange Store is a newly licensed corporation that is selling Grange labeled food products to the general public at fairs in Maine. “Grange Hall Brats” is a specific recipe for a variety of bratwurst sausages that was devised by the members of South Greenville Grange in Wisconsin and then produced by a local butcher shop in their community for the Grange as a fundraising measure. The sausages sold by this Grange were so popular that members of the public began asking where they could purchase these items in their community. Through a joint marketing agreement with the local Grange, the butcher shop is now able to meet the demand for this variety of sausage and the local Grange receives a portion of every sale. These two examples demonstrate how creating a network of community based, entrepreneurially driven Grange commercial affiliates could lead to the type of explosive growth and development that the wide spread organization of Grange affiliated cooperatives, credit unions and mutual insurance companies produced in the first half of the 20th Century.

When my wife Cheryl and I made the decision that our lifestyle and career goals were no longer going to be met living and working in the Washington, D.C., area, I knew that it was inevitable that I would have to step down as Legislative Director of the National Grange. I also assumed that I would have to walk away from the challenging responsibilities of managing our trademark protection program. So I was both pleased and honored when Worthy Master Ed Luttrell came into my office at one point during the transition and asked me if I would consider continuing to direct the trademark management efforts for the National Grange on a telecommuting basis from our new home in Appleton, Wisc. I quickly accepted Brother Ed’s gracious offer. My colleagues in the National Grange office, and our field directors, have been equally supportive and encouraging of my new assignment and have all given me the benefit of their counsel and talent, as we

all strive to create an effective program to manage what may be the most valuable asset of the Order, our good name. And like Gulliver, who eventually returns home from his fantastic sea voyages both wiser and better prepared to face the ordinary challenges of his every day life, Grange members can look forward to using the lessons we have learned from our experiences in trademark management to promote the growth and development of our Order in a multitude of ways that we previously may not have explored. Thank you Brother Ed, for inviting me to continue to be a part of this exciting adventure.

**Highlights and overview of activities year to date:**

- Oct. 20 - The National Grange filed six applications with the U.S. Trademark Office for sub-registrations for the GRANGE Trademark and the GRANGE LOGO Trademark for cookbooks, farmers markets and food-related services, for clothing and for jewelry. These three categories have been among the most prevalent for infringement and enforcement over the past few years. By extending our trademark registrations in these areas, we strengthen our management of our trademarks, increase the potential value of future licenses and provide clear notice to the public that we are prepared to defend our name and logo in varied applications of commerce. The Trademark Office will review the applications within the next one to three months.
- In conjunction with the new trademark registration applications for cookbooks, farmers markets and food-related services, for clothing and for jewelry, modified banner ads have appeared on the National Grange website and in National Grange publications emphasizing proper use of our trademarks in commercial situations.
- Oct. 12 - Silverberg, Goldman & Bikoff, LLP (hereafter referred to as Bikoff ) reported that Queensway Limited has been non-responsive for many months on repeated requests to negotiate a settlement to drop or assign their application to use the name La Granga on their wine sold in the United States. The next step is to proceed with administrative litigation to initiate discovery action between the parties.
- Oct. 12 to Oct. 24 - Bikoff reported that the National Grange has filed a petition to cancel the proposed registration of GRANGEDALE for pre-packaged meats to be sold in the U.S. by Lidl Stiftung & Co. of Germany. Lidl Stiftung has abandoned their registration.
- Oct. 12 - Bikoff reported that negotiations with Nikland Entertainment Limited to limit the proposed use of the proposed registered trademark LA GRANGE GOOD FOR ALL NIGHT for bar services is progressing. The National Grange has demanded that Nikland abandon the trademark application or face cancellation proceedings or agree to specific limitations to the use of the trademark.
- Oct. 12 - Bikoff reported that the National Grange has demanded that the Spanish company Casa Ithalat Ithracat Co. abandon its application for the trademark GRANJA for its wine sold in the United States or face cancellation proceedings. Outcome of these negotiations are pending the results of the Queensway negotiations and their proposed trademark of the name LAGANGA on their wine.
- Oct. 12 - Bikoff reported that the National Grange has demanded that the UK based company Granger's International Ltd. abandon its application for

the trademark GRANGER'S and a logo for its cleaning and waterproofing chemicals for clothing, tents and outdoor materials sold in the United States or face cancellation proceedings. Because Granger's International is headquartered in a local community named Grange in the UK and because the products to be sold by Granger's International will be speciality chemicals that are unlikely to create market confusion, the National Grange has proposed a voluntary agreement for Granger's Limited to limit its use of the trademark and logo to these products in the US and National Grange approval of the logo design to assure there is no possible confusion.

- Oct. 12 - The National Grange will close proceedings against Bill Granger, a TV personality and chef who has filed to register BILL GRANGER as the trademark for his line of cooking supplies. National Grange trademark management policy is not to enforce against individuals who use their given name as part of their business.
- June 15 to Oct. 12 - LaGranja Restaurant Franchising corporation of Florida has periodically rejected requests to limit the use of the name "LaGranja" to restaurants located in their home state of Florida. Due to prior inactivity by the National Grange in this case, our chances of maintaining exclusive use of "LaGranja" as a trademark for restaurant and food services sales is questionable. La Granja Restaurant Franchising is also seeking to sell sauces and bottled food products at the retail level. Because this is an expanded active use of the "LaGranja" brand, we have a better chance of blocking this application or reaching an agreement on all of the contested issues in this case
- May 12 - Molly sent a "Cease and Desist" (C&D) letter to Alaska Broadcasting Company in Anchorage, Alaska related to their use of the Grange trademark VIEW FROM THE HILL as the name for their regular news broadcast segment on politics/public affairs issues. Alaska Broadcasting Company agreed to change the name of their politics/public affairs broadcast.
- May 11 to Oct. 12 - Bikoff sent a letter to the US Trademark Office on behalf of the National Grange objecting to the registration of "LAGRANGA 360" as a trademark by Axial Globalization S.A of Spain for their wine products sold in the US. Bikoff cited twenty-three instances of use or association of the name GRANGE in the marketing sale or promotion of wine, wine products, wineries or viniculture activities as evidence of prior use in response to a trademark application for LaGRANJA 360 wine. The Axial registration also conflicts with the registration by Queensway Ltd for registration of the trademark LAGRANJA for their wine product. Bikoff also reported that Queensway, who was contacted by Bikoff in 2009 regarding our opposition to their registration and who was presented with the same twenty three examples as evidence of prior use, is actively discussing a license with the National Grange for the name LA GRANJA for their wine which would allow us to use their application to sub-register our trademark for wine products.
- May 6 - License agreement was forwarded to Steve Verrill for a "Maine Grange Store" a newly incorporated, Grange affiliate, retail sales company that will sell Grange labeled food products and crafts at fairs in Maine.
- May 5 - Molly sent a C&D letter to Grange Disk Golf Club in Spotsylvania, VA. Grange Dick Golf agreed to cease using the name Grange, but the term Grange still appears on their website.

- May 5 to Oct. 12 - Molly sent a C&D letter to the owners of Urban Flowers/Grange Hall direct sales website in Dallas, Texas. UF/GH is challenging our protest contending that there is no conflict between their sales and our activities.
- April 30 to Oct. 12 - Bikoff filed notice with the US Trademark Office of National Grange's objection to the application by Wing Hing Lung, a Canadian manufacturer of oriental food products to their application of a trademark on the name GRANGE AND MCCAUL. On Oct. 12, Bikoff reported that Wing Hing Lung food products of Canada has announced its intention to file for trademark protection for GRANGE AND MCCAUL, its name for its line of oriental dipping sauces. The National Grange intends to file petition to cancel the proposed registration. Additional examples of sauces, jams, jelly, salsas and similar items already marketed by local Granges will be helpful in opposing this registration.
- April 22 - Bikoff reported that they initiated and completed investigations of two trademark applications, WINERY AT LA GRANGE and CHATEAU LAGRANGE, and concluded that both were incontestable because they related to references to the use of the name GRANGE prior to the founding of the National Grange.
- April 7 - Molly sent a C&D letter to the owners of ESTY e-retail website in Brooklyn, NY regarding one of their clients, BreadandRoses.com who was selling Grange label items on their site. Esty removed the Grange labeled items from their site.
- April 6 - Molly sent a C&D letter to the owners of Grange Sonoma Wine Tasting Shop in Sonoma, Calif. Grange Sonoma has agreed to cease using the name Grange
- April 5 - Draft license agreement was forwarded to Best Fraternal for their Grange memorabilia, regalia and clothing business. No response.
- March 30 - National Grange First Lady Celia Luttrell completed and submitted her work consolidating the information provided by seven State Granges related to historical references on the use of the trademarks GRANGE, NATIONAL GRANGE and the Seven Sided GRANGE LOGO in commerce over the past 140 years that was compiled by volunteer Grange members from local and state Grange records. These records will be used by the National Grange to provide evidence of "prior use" in our efforts to register Grange Trademarks under additional, specific commercial categories with the U.S. Trademark Office. After review at our office, Sister Luttrell's spreadsheet was forwarded to the Bikoff firm for further review and analysis. After their review of the information contained on the spreadsheet compiled by Sister Luttrell, the Bikoff staff recommended sub-registrations for our trademarks should be pursued. Additional efforts to get these registrations are moving forward.
- March 19 - Molly sent a letter to the Yountville, Calif., town council as well as the owners of the Somerston Wine Company objecting to Somerston's application for a local business license to operate a grocery store under the name Grange. Application was withdrawn.
- March 14 - Application for trademark sub-registration of GRANGE under the category of "Restaurant and Restaurant Services" was approved by the US Trademark Office. The registration took effect 30 days after approval.
- March 1 - License agreement reached with Grange Bar and Grill in Ann Arbor,

MI for \$1,000 annual license fee with first payment deferred until Oct. 1.

- Feb. 23 - Bikoff sent a C&D letter to magazine publishers High Country News for their use of the name Grange to identify their on-line blog. High Country News changed the name of their blog.
- Feb. 23 - Final signed settlement agreement between National Grange and Aldi Corp. was forwarded to Aldi. Aldi agreed to phase out all use of “Granger Beef” by Dec. 31, 2010 and not apply for future trademark protection under any derivative of the name “Grange.”
- Feb. 22 - Jim Bikoff agreed to implement a series of cost control measures with assistance from National Grange staff to help reduce our on going trademark protection expenses.

National Grange staff will generate cease and desist letters in non-trademark registration matters, with copies to Bikoff, unless there are obvious factual or legal issues that require discussion or analysis.

License proposals in common product and service sectors where the annual license fee will be less than \$500, that use Bikoff’s recommended language will be generated by National Grange office with a copy to Bikoff

Bikoff will assist in helping National Grange staff to produce an online FAQ resource on our website with detailed information about the GRANGE trademarks and answers to commonly asked questions about trademark law, in order to reduce number of incidental or unintentional infringements and/or facilitate basic license agreements.

Bikoff has agreed to not take any further action on federal legislation until we notify him otherwise. The matters left unresolved involve addressing objections to our proposed legislative language that were raised by Grange Mutual of Ohio regarding their unrestricted future use and registration of their GRANGE marks in the financial and insurance sectors or other businesses they may elect to enter. Additional resources will be used for filing additional sub-applications for the GRANGE trademarks. Adding these registrations to our existing portfolio will serve as public notice to would-be infringers that Grange activities encompass more than the narrow services contained in the existing registrations. These registrations will cover; clothing; food services; jewelry; newsletters; Obtaining these additional registrations will incur some upfront costs, but in the long run, legal costs will be reduced. Registration serves as public notice to third parties that the mark is protected by U.S. law.

- Feb. 20 - Bikoff sent a C&D letter to Grange Realty in Central Point, Ore. Grange Realty responded that other local companies in California and Oregon used the name Grange without apparent trademark infringement issues. National Grange Intern Teresa Burk conducted research on Grange Supply Cooperative to confirm that GSC is a Grange legacy company, formed by the Oregon State Grange in the 1930’s as a Grange cooperative and as such has legacy rights to the use of the name Grange. This information was forwarded to Grange Realty, who has not yet responded.
- Feb. 11 - In conjunction with our settlement agreement with the Grange Food Company of New York City on Oct. 15, 2009 for Grange Food to drop all use of the name Grange in their company title and advertising, the National Grange agreed to pay Grange Food for their out of pocket costs for this company to register a list of “Grange” Internet domain names that would no longer have

any use to the company. The National Grange paid \$278 to purchase the rights to these domain names. Grange Food first contacted National Grange IT Manage Stephanie Wilkins to arrange for transfer of the domain names to the National Grange on Feb. 11, 2010, one day after nine of the 15 registrations for the domain names in question had expired and were placed back in the public domain. We followed up with Bikoff's office. We determined that we would spend more money on attorney time to draft and send a letter of complaint than we could expect to recover. However, additional standing instructions have been given to the Bikoff attorneys that in the case of a counter party request for reimbursement for domain name compensation, state incorporation fees or similar time sensitive property, we must see records indicating expiration dates for these registrations before any final agreement on compensation will be approved.

Fraternally,

Leroy Watson

Special Director for Trademark Protection and Brand Management

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION INDEX**

<b><u>STATE &amp; RES#</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
AB-101	NATIONAL OFFICERS COMPENSATION	Audit & Budget	Adopted
AB-102	AUTHORIZED TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT	Audit & Budget	Adopted
AG-101	LEGISLATIVE DEPT. HEMP REPORT	Agriculture	Adopted as Amended
AG-102	HEMP POLICY CLARIFICATION	Agriculture	Adopted
AG-103	FEDERAL MILK ORDER REFORM	Agriculture	Adopted, Covers CT-103, MD-109, MD- 110, MD-111, RI-104
CA-101	CONTROL OF GENETIC USE RESTRICTION TECHNOLOGY	Agriculture	Adverse
CA-102	IDENTIFYING GENETICALLY MODIFIED SALMON	Agriculture	Adverse
CA-103	MEDICARE FOR CONGRESS	Education & Health	Adopted as amended
CA-104	TO BAN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FROM BECOMING LOBBYISTS	Citizenship	Adverse
CA-105	ONLY HUMAN BEINGS, NOT CORPORATIONS, ENJOY THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF NATURAL BORN CITIZENS	Citizenship	Adverse
CA-106	EXPAND PRIMARY ELECTION CHOICES	Citizenship	Adverse
CA-107	CONVENTION ASSESSMENT	Grange Law	Adverse
CA-108	SUPPORT OF ADAPTING MEASURES TO REDUCE CHILDHOOD TYPE 2 DIABETES	Education & Health	Present policy
CA-109 (2009)	E-MEMBERSHIP	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading

<b><u>STATE &amp; RES#</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
Citizenship Resolution 101	NET NEUTRALITY	Citizenship	Adopted
Citizenship Resolution 102	LAWS PASSED BY CONGRESS	Citizenship	Adverse
Citizenship Resolution 103	TERM LIMITS FOR MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS	Citizenship	Adopted
CO-101	COMMUNITY GARDENS	Citizenship	Policy Statement
CO-102	UNAUTHORIZED THIRD PARTY BILLING	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 1	ASIAN CARP	Conservation	Adopted, Covers IL-105, NY-101, WI-105 & WI-106
CT-101	LABELING FOR GLUTEN SENSITIVITY IN FOODS & OTHER PRODUCTS SUCH AS MEDICATIONS	Education & Health	Adopted
CT-102	GRANGE MUSIC COPYRIGHTS & TRADEMARK	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
CT-103	DAIRY PRICES	Agriculture	Covered by Committee Resolution 103.
CT-104	GRANGE INVOLVEMENT WITH THE FFA	Growth & Development	Adopted
CT-105	TELEVISION & RADIO COMMERCIAL VOULME	Citizenship	Present Policy
CT-106	TERM LIMITS FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS	Citizenship	Adverse
CT-107	POSTAGE TO APOs & FPOs	Taxation & Transportation	Policy Statement
CT-108	HATE CRIMES AGAINST THE HOMELESS	Citizenship	Transferred to Labor & Judiciary
CT-108	HATE CRIMES	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
CT-109	NET NEUTRALITY	Citizenship	Covered under Committee Resolution 101

<u>STATE &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
CT-110	RETENTION OF GRANGERS WHO ARE STUDENTS	Grange Law	Withdrawn
GL-101	USE OF MEMBERSHIP CARD	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action.  Committee Resolution (Covers NY- 105)
GL-102	ELIMINATION OF TERM LIMITS	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action, 1 <sup>st</sup> reading  Committee Resolution (Covers RI- 103)
GL-103	AUDIT	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action  Committee Resolution (Covers VT- 101)
GL-104	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS	Grange Law	Adverse by Delegate Action  Committee Resolution (Covers a Ruling by the National Master) (2 year)
IA-101	ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS	Citizenship	Transferred to Labor & Judiciary

<u>STATE &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
IA-101	ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS	Labor & Judiciary	Present policy
IA-102	SPEED LIMIT POSTING	Taxation & Transportation	Adverse
IA-103	SCHOOL BUS CAMERAS	Education & Health	Transferred to Taxation & Transportation
IA-103	SCHOOL BUS BLIND SPOT SENSORS	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted
IA-104	WATERWAY BUFFER ZONES	Conservation	Present Policy
IA-105	EGG INSPECTORS	Agriculture	Adopted
IA-106	ETHANOL	Conservation	Present Policy
IA-107	SCHOOL PHYSICALS	Education & Health	Referred back to State
IA-108	TEACHER-TO-PUPIL RATIO	Education & Health	Policy Statement
ID-101	CLIMATE CHANGE	Conservation	Present Policy
ID-102	BIOTECH SUGAR BEET SEED	Agriculture	Adopted
ID-103	ENTITLEMENT BENEFITS	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
ID-104	RESPECT FOR MILITARY HEROES	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
ID-105	TORT REFORM FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION	Education & Health	Present policy
ID-106	ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended
ID-107	TRAVELING/MEMBERSHIP CARD	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action
ID-108	AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP	Grange Law	Adverse
ID-109	HONOR & REMEMBER FLAG	Citizenship	Policy Statement
IL-101	RFD-TV	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
IL-102	SOIL TESTING	Conservation	Adverse

<u>STATE &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
IL-103	LAWS PASSED BY CONGRESS	Citizenship	Covered under Committee Resolution 102
IL-104	MAGAZINE RENEWAL NOTICES	Citizenship	Adverse
IL-105	ASIAN CARP	Conservation	Covered in Committee Resolution
IN-101	TEACHER TENURE K-12	Education & Health	Referred back to State
IN-102	ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION & BIRTHRIGHT	Labor & Judiciary	Present policy
IN-103	NO UNFUNDED MANDATES	Citizenship	Present Policy
KS-101	COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS AS FUEL	Conservation	Adopted as Amended
KS-102	OPPOSING THE MEXICAN TRADE & TRANSPORTATION PLAN BEING DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE U.S. PRESIDENT & THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT	Taxation & Transportation	Withdrawn
KS-103	COMBINED REGIONAL CONFERENCES	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
KS-104	KEEP IRS OUT OF HEALTH CARE	Labor & Judiciary	Policy statement
KS-105	SUPPORT FOR H.R. 5126 REPEAL OF TAX INCREASES ON HSA'S, FSA'S & HRA'S	Education & Health	Adopted
KS-106	ESTATE TAXATION	Taxation & Transportation	Present Policy
KS-107	FEDERAL BALANCED BUDGET	Citizenship	Present Policy
MA-101	REPEAL OF 1981 FEDERAL TAX BREAK	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted
MA-102	PROTECTING PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION	Education & Health	Present policy
MA-103	ALTERNATIVE ELECTION FORMAT	Grange Law	Withdrawn
MD-101	WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT	Conservation	Present Policy

<b><u>STATE &amp; RES#</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
MD-102	MANURE REGULATIONS	Conservation	Present Policy
MD-103	COVER CROP PROGRAM	Agriculture	Adopted
MD-104	NUTRIENT TRADING	Conservation	Policy Statement
MD-105	PARTNERING FARMERS & WWTP	Conservation	Adverse
MD-106	1099 REPORTING	Labor & Judiciary	Policy statement
MD-107	FOOD SAFETY	Agriculture	Adopted
MD-108	NMPF RECOMMENDATIONS	Agriculture	Adopted
MD-109	MARGIN PROTECTION PLAN	Agriculture	Covered by Committee Resolution 103.
MD-110	FEDERAL ORDER REFORM	Agriculture	Covered by Committee Resolution 103.
MD-111	DAIRY MARKET STABILIZATION PROGRAM	Agriculture	Covered by Committee Resolution 103.
MD-112	MARKET ACCESS FEES	Agriculture	Adverse
MD-113	SALES ASSISTANCE	Agriculture	Adopted
MD-114	IMPORTS	Agriculture	Withdrawn
MD-115	PAYMENT CAPS	Agriculture	Withdrawn
MD-116	ID FOR PREPAID CELL PHONES	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
MD-117	NO CALL LIST	Citizenship	Adopted
MD-118	REDISTRICTING	Labor & Judiciary	State issue
MD-119	COMMUTER BILL OF RIGHTS	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted
MD-120	MTA & AMTRAK ON MARC COMMUTER LINES	Taxation & Transportation	Withdrawn
MD-121	MASS TRANSIT LINES	Taxation & Transportation	Withdrawn
MD-122	HIGHWAY FUEL TAX FUNDS	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted

<u>STATE &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
ME-101	SUBORDINATE GRANGES	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action, 1 <sup>st</sup> reading
ME-102	BIODEGRADABLE TRASH BAGS	Conservation	Adverse
ME-103	BIODEGRADABLE DIAPERS	Conservation	Adopted
ME-104	ROTARIES AND ROUNDABOUTS	Taxation & Transportation	Withdrawn
MI-101	SUFFICIENT NURSING CARE FOR NURSING HOME FACILITIES	Education & Health	Present Policy
MI-102	AMERICAN MADE	Citizenship	Transferred to Labor & Judiciary
MI-102	AMERICAN MADE	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted as amended
MI-103	OIL SPILLS	Conservation	Adverse
MI-104	150th ANNIVERSARY OF GRANGE	Citizenship	Covered under resolution PA-105
MN-101	THANK A FARMER DAY	Agriculture	Policy Statement
MN-102	VOTING IDENTIFICATION	Citizenship	Withdrawn
MN-103	COMMUNITY SERVICE RULES FOR NATIONAL CONTEST	Growth & Development	Adopted
MN-104	GRANGE DUES & REPORTS	Grange Law	Withdrawn
MT-101	PERTAINING TO MAIL DELIVERY	Taxation & Transportation	Withdrawn
NC-101	WOOD FOR BIOMASS	Conservation	Present Policy
NC-102	PESTICIDES/NPDES PERMITS	Conservation	Policy Statement
NC-103	EPA REGULATION OF MILK	Agriculture	Adopted
NC-104	NEW SYSTEM NEEDED FOR ABANDONED OIL WELLS	Conservation	Adverse
NC-105	US SENATE RULES	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended
NC-106	1099, PAPERWORK REDUCTION	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted

<b><u>STATE &amp; RES#</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
NC-107	PL 566 PROJECTS	Conservation	Present Policy
NE-102	PRICE TRANSPARENCY IN U.S. LIVESTOCK MARKETING	Agriculture	Adopted
NE-103	USDA SUPPORT FOR FARMER COOPERATIVES	Agriculture	Adopted
NE-104	U.S. CONSTITUTION 28th AMENDMENT	Citizenship	Covered under Committee Resolution 102
NE-105	CLEAN WATER RESTORATION ACT	Conservation	Present Policy
NH-101	...SASHES	Citizenship	Transferred to Grange Law
NH-101	NATIONAL GRANGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SASHES	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action
NH-104	MASTER, TREASURER, SECRETARY	Grange Law	Withdrawn
NH-107	LABELING OF HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS	Conservation	Withdrawn
NH-107	LABELING OF HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS	Education & Health	Transferred to Conservation
NJ-101	SOCIAL SECURITY & FEDERAL BENEFITS E-PAYMENTS	Citizenship	Adverse
NJ-102	BY-LAWS CHANGE FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	Grange Law	Withdrawn
NJ-103	NATIONAL GRANGE VOTING RIGHTS FOR POTOMAC GRANGE #1	Grange Law	Adverse
NY-101	ASIAN CARP INFESTATION	Conservation	Covered in Committee Resolution
NY-103	OPENING OF STATE/ NATIONAL GRANGE	Grange Law	Adverse
NY-104	CLOSING THE BIBLE	Grange Law	Adverse
NY-106	EXPIRATION OF DATES ON FOOD	Agriculture	Current Policy
NY-107	PROSTHETIC PARITY	Education & Health	Adverse

<u>STATE &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
NY-108	HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND HOTELS	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended
NY-109	MULTILINGUAL SIGNS	Citizenship	Present Policy
NY-110	VETERANS EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE ACT	Citizenship	Policy Statement
NY-111	RESTORING THE MOJAVE DESERT VETERANS MEMORIAL CROSS	Citizenship	Policy Statement
NY-112	SATURDAY MAIL SERVICES	Taxation & Transportation	Present Policy
NY-113	MANDATED ELECTRONIC BILLING & PAYMENTS	Labor & Judiciary	Present policy
NY-114	HUMAN TRAFFICKING	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted
NY-115	CAPPER-VOLSTEAD ACT	Agriculture	Adopted
NY-116	FARMERS' MARKETS & COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE	Agriculture	Adopted
NY-117	HYDROFRACKING	Conservation	Adverse
NY-118	MOBILE SLAUGHTER HOUSES	Agriculture	Adopted
NY-119	MEDICARE FRAUD	Education & Health	Policy Statement
NY-120	CIVILIAN HEALTH & MEDICAL PROGRAM OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (CHAMPVA) HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN	Education & Health	Adopted
NY-121	HEAD START PROGRAM	Education & Health	Present policy
NY-122	LEGAL ACTION FOR BULLYING IN SCHOOLS	Education & Health	Adverse
OH-101	COST OF LIVING RAISES FOR SOCIAL SECURITY	Education & Health	Policy Statement
OH-102	ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAWS	Labor & Judiciary	Present policy
OH-103	SOCIAL SECURITY	Citizenship	Present Policy

<u>STATE &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
OH-104	SUPER DELEGATES	Citizenship	Out of Order
OH-105	BAN OF WATER FLUORIDATION	Education & Health	Adopted
OH-106	THE USE OF CREDIT BACKGROUND CHECKS BY POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
OH-107	PHASING OUT OF PLASTIC BAGS	Conservation	Adopted
OH-108	OFFSHORE DRILLING	Conservation	Present Policy
OH-109	ERADICATION OF BED BUGS	Education & Health	Adverse
OH-110	INDEPENDENT PAYMENT ADVISORY BOARD	Education & Health	Adopted
OH-111	YOUNG MARRIED COUPLE OF THE YEAR	Growth & Development	Withdrawn
OH-112	FUNDING OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
OH-113	THEFT OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS	Labor & Judiciary	Present policy
OH-114	UNDOCUMENTED AGRICULTURAL WORKERS	Citizenship	Transferred to Labor & Judiciary
OH-114	UNDOCUMENTED AGRICULTURAL WORKERS	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
OH-115	TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICE & TELETYPEWRITER (TDD & TTY) ABUSE	Labor & Judiciary	Policy statement
OH-116	OPPOSE THE FDA FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT	Agriculture	Current Policy
OH-117	FEDERAL ESTATE TAX	Taxation & Transportation	Present policy
OH-118	OPPOSE THE DEVELOPMENT RELIEF & EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS ACT (DREAM ACT)	Citizenship	Present Policy
OH-119	PRIVATIZING OF INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS	Taxation & Transportation	Present policy

<u>STATE &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
OK-101	ONE REGIONAL CONFERENCE	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
OR-101	PERMACULTURE	Agriculture	Withdrawn
OR-102	REQUEST THE U.S. CONGRESS OPPOSE THE FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2009 (S.B 510), AND THE FOOD SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009 (H.R. 2749)	Agriculture	Current Policy
OR-103	STANDARDS FOR ELECTRICALLY ENERGIZED ITEMS	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
OR-104	AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION	Citizenship	Covered under Committee Resolution 102
PA-101	TRACTOR ENGINE EMISSIONS	Conservation	Present Policy
PA-102	MEDICARE ADVANTAGE CUTS	Education & Health	Adopted
PA-103	ACCESS TO CONTROLS ON APPLIANCES	Education & Health	Policy Statement
PA-104	FEDERAL HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL BILL	Education & Health	Adopted
PA-105	NATIONAL GRANGE STAMP	Citizenship	Adopted
PA-106	TELEMARKETING	Citizenship	Covered in MD-117
PA-107	ELIMINATION OF ANNUAL PASSWORD	Grange Law	Adverse
RI-101	WRITING A RESOLUTION	Grange Law	Adverse
RI-102	FLAG PRESENTATION CEREMONY	Citizenship	Transferred to Grange Law
RI-102	FLAG PRESENTATION CEREMONY	Grange Law	Tabled for 2011
RI-104	DAIRY PRICE STABILIZATION	Agriculture	Covered by Committee Resolution 103
RI-105	GOVERNMENT INVASION OF PROPERTY	Citizenship	Adverse

<u>STATE &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
RI-106	GOLDEN SHEAF MEMBERS	Grange Law	Adverse
SC-101	YOUNG FARMERS	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
SC-102	ENERGY INDEPENDENCE	Conservation	Present Policy
SC-103	ESTATE TAX	Taxation & Transportation	Present policy
SC-104	WORLD COMPETITIVENESS	Agriculture	Current Policy
SC-105	CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURE	Citizenship	Withdrawn
SC-106	NUCLEAR WASTE	Conservation	Present Policy
SC-107	ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION	Citizenship	Transferred to Labor & Judiciary
SC-107	ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION	Labor & Judiciary	Present policy
TX-101	GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE DRUG SCREENING	Citizenship	Adopted
TX-102	HEALTH CARE INSURANCE	Education & Health	Adopted as amended
TX-103	TWENTY-FIVE AND FIFTY YEAR PINS	Grange Law	Adverse
TX-104	GOLDEN SHEAF DUES	Grange Law	Adverse
TX-105	REDUCTION OF SECRET WORK	Grange Law	Adverse
TX-106	ONE REGIONAL CONFERENCE	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
TX-107	WRITTEN GUIDELINES FOR REGIONAL CONFERENCES	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
VT-102	TRAVEL & EXPORTATION TO CUBA	Agriculture	Current Policy
VT-103	ETHANOL IN GASOLINE	Conservation	Policy Statement
WA-101	SUPPORTING THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF BIOCHAR	Agriculture	Policy Statement
WA-102	TRESPASS	Conservation	Withdrawn
WA-103	FREE ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS	Conservation	Present Policy

<u>STATE &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
WA-104	ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS	Conservation	Present Policy
WA-105	AGRICULTURAL COALITIONS	Agriculture	Policy Statement
WA-106	NATURAL GAS	Taxation & Transportation	Policy Statement
WA-107	NATIONAL GRANGE ASSESSMENT	Grange Law	Adverse
WA-108	NATIONAL GRANGE ASSESSMENTS	Grange Law	Adverse
WA-109	NATIONAL HEALTHCARE	Education & Health	Present policy
WA-110	FOOD SAFETY LEGISLATION	Agriculture	Current Policy
WA-111	ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT AMNESTY	Labor & Judiciary	Present policy
WA-112	CONGRESSIONAL BENEFITS	Citizenship	Covered under Committee Resolution 102
WA-113	GLASS STEAGALL ACT	Citizenship	Adverse
WA-114	RESTRICTIONS ON VEHICLE HEADLIGHTS	Taxation & Transportation	Present Policy
WI-101	BANNING GIFT CARD INACTIVITY FEES	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted
WI-102	INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR LOCAL GRANGE CHAPTERS	Growth & Development	Adopted
WI-103	TB TESTING	Agriculture	State Issue
WI-104	MILK DRINK MACHINES	Education & Health	Policy Statement
WI-105	INVASIVE SPECIES IN GREAT LAKES	Conservation	Covered in Committee Resolution
WI-106	DETRIMENTAL INVASIVE FISH	Conservation	Covered in Committee Resolution
WV-101	NATIONAL GRANGE BYLAWS	Grange Law	Adverse
WV-102	DISASTER GUIDELINES	Citizenship	Policy Statement
WV-103	PAPER PRODUCTION	Growth & Development	Withdrawn

**AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>State &amp; RES#</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
AG-101	LEGISLATIVE DEPT. HEMP REPORT	Agriculture	Adopted as Amended
AG-102	HEMP POLICY CLARIFICATION	Agriculture	Adopted
AG-103	FEDERAL MILK ORDER REFORM	Agriculture	Adopted, Covers CT-103, MD-109, MD-110, MD-111, RI-104
CA-101	CONTROL OF GENETIC USE RESTRICTION TECHNOLOGY	Agriculture	Adverse
CA-102	IDENTIFYING GENETICALLY MODIFIED SALMON	Agriculture	Adverse
CT-103	DAIRY PRICES	Agriculture	Covered by Committee Resolution 103
IA-105	EGG INSPECTORS	Agriculture	Adopted
ID-102	BIOTECH SUGAR BEET SEED	Agriculture	Adopted
MD-103	COVER CROP PROGRAM	Agriculture	Adopted
MD-107	FOOD SAFETY	Agriculture	Adopted
MD-108	NMPF	Agriculture	Adopted
MD-109	MARGIN PROTECTION PLAN	Agriculture	Covered by Committee Resolution 103
MD-110	FEDERAL ORDER REFORM	Agriculture	Covered by Committee Resolution 103
MD-111	DAIRY MARKET STABILIZATION PROGRAM	Agriculture	Covered by Committee Resolution 103
MD-112	MARKET ACCESS FEES	Agriculture	Adverse

<u>State &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
MD-113	SALES ASSISTANCE	Agriculture	Adopted
MD-114	IMPORTS	Agriculture	Withdrawn
MD-115	PAYMENT CAPS	Agriculture	Withdrawn
MN-101	THANK A FARMER DAY	Agriculture	Policy Statement
NC-103	EPA REGULATION OF MILK	Agriculture	Adopted
NE-102	PRICE TRANSPARENCY IN U.S. LIVESTOCK MARKETING	Agriculture	Adopted
NE-103	USDA SUPPORT FOR FARMER COOPERATIVES	Agriculture	Adopted
NY-106	EXPIRATION OF DATES ON FOOD	Agriculture	Current Policy
NY-115	CAPPER-VOLSTEAD ACT	Agriculture	Adopted
NY-116	FARMERS' MARKETS & COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE	Agriculture	Adopted
NY-118	MOBILE SLAUGHTER HOUSES	Agriculture	Adopted
OH-116	OPPOSE THE FDA FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT	Agriculture	Current Policy
OR-101	PERMACULTURE	Agriculture	Withdrawn
OR-102	REQUEST THE U.S. CONGRESS OPPOSE THE FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2009 (S.B 510), AND THE FOOD SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009 (H.R. 2749)	Agriculture	Current Policy

<u>State &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
RI-104	DAIRY PRICE STABILIZATION	Agriculture	Covered by Committee Resolution 103
SC-104	WORLD COMPETITIVENESS	Agriculture	Current Policy
VT-102	TRAVEL & EXPORTATION TO CUBA	Agriculture	Current Policy
WA-101	SUPPORTING THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF BIOCHAR	Agriculture	Policy Statement
WA-105	AGRICULTURAL COALITIONS	Agriculture	Policy Statement
WA-110	FOOD SAFETY LEGISLATION	Agriculture	Current Policy
WI-103	TB TESTING	Agriculture	State Issue

## 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.

All in agriculture must find common ground and recognize that there are different business plans and practices that both protect the environment while providing people with the food fiber and fuel they need. If we fail to unify on the big issues and fail to educate our fellow citizens about the reality of agriculture the anti-agriculture groups will win. If we continue to allow these groups to spread fear and fact less propaganda, American farmers will be robbed of the ability to feed ourselves and the world. We must engage those who speak against us and work together to educate our national, state and local leaders on the vitality of our daily work.

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.

Due to the difficult economic situation of our federal and state governments, the Grange, like other agricultural groups, should be vigilant in focusing attention on the 2012 Farm Bill. Some of the areas of concern will be in the following:

1. We must insure that credit is available to farmers regardless of size.
2. Rural development issues must continue to be a priority in order to provide necessary infrastructure to get our product from field to table.
3. Research and funding of the Extension Program must be continued if we wish to ensure that innovative practices and new tools beneficial to agriculture and society are available.
4. The creation, improvement, and implementation of both primary and secondary sources of energy through agriculture must remain a priority to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.
5. Crop insurance and disaster relief must be adequately funded in order to serve as a primary way of helping farmers deal with unforeseen weather and market fluctuations.

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 adequate land and 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 byproduct 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.

The issue of food safety is becoming an increasing concern to the public. We understand the need to provide safe and healthy food for ourselves and the rest of the world; however, we must ensure that there is not an overreaction by the government in developing rules and regulations that make it more difficult or impossible for farmers to operate efficiently.

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. The National Grange should work together with other like groups, similar to the Ohio initiative, to ensure that sound science is used in determining humane treatment of animals.

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, bio-char and switch grass. The Grange supports the education and research of these and other new agricultural products.

Many proposals are being put forward to control the volatility of milk prices to farmers. The current structure has been in place for many years and does not appear to be an adequate method to ensure farmers a fair price for milk. The National Grange should be actively involved to ensure that the best possible method of milk pricing is adopted.

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 4-H 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. We should encourage that the agencies within USDA work more closely to reduce duplication of record keeping and reporting by farmers. These offices should be diligent in making sure the information they collect is made available to decision makers.

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.

Since agriculture is an economic generator and farmers are an important part of our country, as what they raise feeds, clothes and houses us, plus many of the products we use every day begin on a farm, the National Grange should encourage Congress to establish a “Thank A Farmer Day.”

This policy statement covers: MN-101, WA-101, WA-105 and portions of the Master’s Address.

The Hemp Report, as commissioned by the 2009 National Convention and ordered to be printed under the passage of resolution AG-101.

### Industrial Hemp Report

Prepared by: David Boies and Nicole Palya Wood

June 15, 2010

Over the last decade, the growing of hemp for industrial purposes has been a hot topic for farmers, hemp and marijuana advocates and interest groups, industrial interests, and governments, just to name a few. Most of the discussion has been centered around hemp’s industrial usefulness, its economic viability, its relationship to marijuana and the legal issues that come with this. This report intends to investigate many of these issues, including: industrial hemp’s economic viability, what standards for labeling and production of hemp and hemp byproducts currently exist, what unforeseen legal consequences hemp production may bring, as well as a closer look at the groups that are advocating industrial hemp production in the United States.

The report will draw on publicly available information, including scholarly reports

and journals, statistical information published by the United States Federal Government as well as other governments, case studies from countries that have already legalized industrial hemp production, and relevant laws and regulations from both America and other industrialized nations.

### History of Hemp

Archeologists have found evidence of hemp use dating back 10,000 years ago. In early Chinese civilizations, Hemp was used for its fiber in making rope and pulp for paper. There was also evidence found in 1972, which revealed the use of hemp in clothing during the Chou dynasty (1122-249 B.C.). Records date the smoking of marijuana back to about 600 B.C. when the Taoism movement was active in China and there was a particular social disdain attached to it.

In 1611, The King of England required Jamestown Settlers to grow hemp; however, the price they could get for tobacco beat out that royal request. Both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson grew hemp and lost money doing so. Early uses of marijuana as a drug in the United States date back to the late 1700's, although use by Native Americans was probably earlier.

### Economic Viability

Arguably, the most important thing to look into when considering policy regarding the cultivation of hemp for industrial purposes is whether or not it can be grown profitably. Because this report focuses on the viability of hemp production only in the United States, it is important to look first at where it is already being grown to determine whether or not it could be economically feasible to grow hemp in the U.S. Because other countries already allow hemp production, any farm in the U.S. that produces hemp will have to compete with hemp being grown internationally. This is a problem for two reasons. First, other countries, primarily China and parts of the former Soviet Union already completely dominate the world hemp markets, mostly because of cheaper labor costs. More expensive labor in the United States is a major hurdle that would need to be overcome in order for profitable hemp production to exist here. The European Union is also a producer of hemp, although much of this can be attributed to the EU offering subsidies of up to half of the price of the hemp itself<sup>1</sup>. Given the intense competition from other countries and the subsidies offered abroad that are highly unlikely to ever become part of American policy because of the political sensitivity of the issue, it is unlikely that American hemp production will be able to compete on the international market in the foreseeable future.

Beyond competition in the international markets for raw hemp, there are also many other factors that make hemp production in the United States unprofitable. Hemp by itself, unlike many other crops, is almost worthless, rather, it is the fibers and oils from the plant that are most sought after. Separating these fibers and oils from the plant is expensive and requires a substantial amount of processing in order to make them useful. The United States currently lacks any such processing facilities. Because of the restrictions that the United States has on hemp production, it is unlikely that

<sup>1</sup> *Industrial Hemp: Legislative Briefing*, Valerie Vantreese, January 2001.

this will change. Furthermore, as Daryl Ehrensing of Oregon State University argues, until the laws change, further development of processing techniques to make it more efficient and cheaper are also unlikely. Again, these factors put the United States at a disadvantage to other countries that already have processing facilities built, most notably France<sup>2</sup>.

We can also look at the economics of hemp production in simple numbers. Simply put, the market for hemp and hemp products is still very small, amounting to less than \$11 million in 1996. By contrast, the United States imported less than \$2 million worth of hemp during this same time period. Given these small numbers, it is unlikely that there will be a market large enough for hemp in the United States to support domestic production. Because hemp production is illegal here, there is a lack of data as to what production costs would be domestically; however, because Canada is our closest and most similar neighbor, much can be learned from their statistics and experience growing hemp. Despite Canada having legalized industrial hemp production, production has still not taken off, and in fact has been quite volatile since its legalization. Hemp production peaked in Canada in 2005 at 48,060 acres but has fallen from then back to year 2000 levels of approximately 13,000 acres in 2009<sup>3</sup>. Experts attribute this massive decline to a lack of demand for the hemp, and more specifically, to a large hemp processing plant declaring bankruptcy and closing its doors because it was not economically viable. It is difficult to consider hemp production a true viable business when the market is so volatile that the closing of a single plant can make such a large impact on the whole North American hemp industry. Further more, this shows a fundamental problem with the industrial hemp business model because the plant that declared bankruptcy was one of few in North America.

Hemp must also be compared to other crops that a farmer could grow, and the potential yields for hemp also make it unattractive. It is estimated that an acre of hemp will yield 2.5 to 8.7 tons of plant matter. Of this, only between twelve and forty percent of it is bast fiber, and a much smaller percentage of it is seeds. These are the two most useful parts of the plant and the only ones with a legal market. Given these menial numbers, a farmer is likely better off growing corn, or another crop that will fetch a higher price suited to the growing region. Also, hemp requires vast amounts of irrigation to produce a high tonnage per acre, which is another cost-prohibitive block to profitable hemp production.

### Hemp Labeling and Consumer Protections

Currently, the United States has an all out ban on the farming of any type of the *Cannabis Sativa* species of plant without a license from the DEA. While this includes marijuana, it also includes what is considered “industrial hemp.” The DEA is the agency responsible for regulating hemp production, and currently makes no distinction between what is considered “marijuana” and what is considered “hemp” because they

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<sup>2</sup> *Feasibility of Hemp Production in the United States Pacific Northwest*, Daryl Ehrensing, May 1998.

<sup>3</sup> *Industrial Hemp Production in Canada*, Government of Alberta, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2009.

are the same species and can cross breed. Furthermore, there is no industrial hemp that exists which does not contain THC. Canada, on the other hand, allows industrial hemp production and has very strict guidelines for what constitutes marijuana versus hemp. In Canada, for something to be considered hemp, and therefore be legal to grow, it must contain 0.03 percent or less of the chemical THC which is the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. By contrast, today's typical street marijuana contains between five and twenty-five percent THC. While these guidelines make a clear distinction, the farmer must go far beyond simply buying seeds (which must also be certified by the Canadian government) that yield low THC hemp plants. In fact, there is a surprising number of bureaucratic barriers to bringing hemp to market.

In Canada, like in the United States, a grower needs to be licensed by the Federal Government in order to produce hemp. Unlike the United States, Canada makes it relatively easy to obtain such a license. However, there are many restrictions that come with the license. For example, growers are only allowed to produce the number of acres that they are licensed for, and they must provide the GPS coordinates of the fields where hemp will be grown so that inspectors can easily find the plots. Also, all licensed hemp growers are subject to a police background check. Beyond obtaining a license to grow the hemp, each shipment of hemp also requires a permit. Each shipment must also be tested by a reputable laboratory to ensure that THC levels are below the 0.03 percent threshold. Once tested, the farmer must also maintain comprehensive records of all testing done in case of a government audit. There are also a variety of other restrictions on the transport and sale of hemp. For example, hemp products can not be marked in a way that "implies a derivative or product is psychoactive"<sup>4</sup> which is overly vague. These restrictions do not even include those in place once the hemp is put into products.

Both in the United States and in Canada, if a product contains hemp, especially hemp oil which has many uses in the consumer staple market, there are several labeling requirements. After being tested to ensure that the THC in the industrial hemp is at acceptable levels, the labeling on the product must include what the exact THC levels are, as well as a note stating what the lowest level of THC that the laboratory that tested the product can detect. Once this is done, the label must still refrain from "using depictions, graphics, designs, devices, puffery, statement, slang, representations, etc. implying or referencing the presence of hemp, marijuana, any other controlled substance, or any psychoactive effects,"<sup>5</sup> and the restrictions are even more harsh if the product containing hemp is one that falls under the control of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (which is likely because one of the uses for industrial hemp is in the brewing of beer and distillation of spirits).

Aside from the labeling requirements that apply specifically to hemp, the labeling of all products that fall under the control of FDA must also follow applicable FDA labeling standards for cosmetics, food, and drugs. These standards include the need to list any hemp or hemp byproduct in the ingredient list, which will likely deter some

<sup>4</sup> *Commercial Production of Industrial Hemp*, Health Canada, March 1998.

<sup>5</sup> *Hemp Policy April 3, 2000*, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, April 2000.

buyers. There are also additional restrictions and labeling requirements in place if the hemp is going to be used in livestock feed, another one of the common uses for hemp and hemp byproducts. If the hemp fibers are going to be used to make fabric, the fabric must list the percentage of the fabric that is hemp derived, as well as all other fibers in the material, just like any other piece of fabric.

Even if the United States were to legalize the production of industrial hemp, the restrictions and bureaucratic red tape that must be dealt with in order to produce, process, and ultimately sell hemp byproducts is onerous. Hemp production, completely unhindered, is barely profitable, so adding the cost of compliance with these regulations would likely push small farmers over the edge into unprofitability. Given that the United States already has an oversupply of the useful and legal byproducts of hemp being imported, it is difficult to justify domestic production.

### Current World Hemp Production

Despite world hemp production falling to levels of only one quarter of what they were in the 1960's, many countries still produce it. India, China, and Russia, including former Soviet states, are currently the largest producers of industrial hemp, accounting for nearly seventy percent of total world production<sup>6</sup>. The production of hemp seeds is even less competitive, with China commanding a seventy percent market share by itself. In these countries, the manufacturing of hemp was never outlawed, as it was in the United States and Europe. However, the European Union, and especially France, also produces hemp, although it would likely be unprofitable there if it were not for government subsidies. More recently, Canada and Australia have also eased their restrictions on hemp production.

Estimates for the value of all hemp exported worldwide can be as low as \$14 million, with American imports accounting for only a small portion of that. This being the case, it is difficult to imagine a case where U.S. farmers could compete with some of the other countries already producing hemp because the cost of doing business in the U.S. is much higher. Interestingly, Valerie Vantreese also points out that multinational paper companies (another major use of hemp) have been free to experiment with and use hemp to make paper for decades in countries where production has been legal, and yet there has been no substantial investment in it. She concludes that these decisions are based on "prudent business sense," which is further evidence that producing hemp in the United States does not make economic sense.

### Legal Implications

The first and most obvious legal implication that would come as a result of the United States allowing hemp production would be legal confusion. Because hemp and marijuana are the same species, they are virtually identical. This could easily cause confusion among law enforcement, and currently no field testing exists to determine if a sample is within the legal THC limits. If an officer were to suspect marijuana trafficking, a sample would have to be sent to a lab in order to exonerate an innocent farmer. This is not only an issue for the farmer, who could be left without his crop for

<sup>6</sup> *Industrial Hemp: Global Markets and Prices*, Valerie Vantreese, January 1997.

days or even weeks awaiting a test result, but also for police departments and federal officials charged with preventing drug smuggling. There is also the issue of strict control over seed stock. Should a seed that produces a plant with a higher THC content than intended make its way onto a farmer's land, the farmer would then be guilty of marijuana production. It would be completely the responsibility of the farmer to ensure that this doesn't happen, making things confusing and expensive. Furthermore, if hemp production were allowed in the U.S., the crops would likely also be subject to random testing by law enforcement officers to ensure compliance with the THC quota, as is the case in Canada. This can be very costly, so the government would likely pass those costs onto the producer either directly, or through a tax of some kind.

Industrial hemp also has the potential to be used for illegal purposes. The National Drug Intelligence Center states that as far back as 1999 people have been cutting (or blending) high potency marijuana with industrial hemp<sup>7</sup>. If the trend continues and street marijuana continues to get exponentially stronger like it has in the past 20 years, this trend will only continue. This puts an added burden both on law enforcement, as well as farmers to make sure that their crops are not used illicitly.

One other point that must be considered that sets the United States apart from other hemp producing nations is the massive scale on which marijuana is abused here. Behind Mexico, the United States leads the world in marijuana seizures, and North America has the highest rate of marijuana abuse in the world<sup>8</sup>. The problem our region and country has with marijuana abuse will only be exacerbated by increases in hemp production, both because of the confusion that it will cause law enforcement and the public, and because of the ability of drug traffickers to use legal industrial hemp to increase their supplies of marijuana by "cutting" it. The issue of industrial hemp being used to increase the supply of illicit marijuana presents a moral issue as well.

The vast majority of all illegal marijuana being imported into the United States, especially in regions where hemp can be cultivated such as the Dakotas, and other states in the Corn Belt, is imported from Mexico. Already drug cartels are profiting indirectly from the dilution of their high potency marijuana with naturally occurring hemp because this increases the supply of available marijuana for distribution. The legalization of industrial hemp that has not been modified to distinguish it from illegal marijuana will only increase this practice, and thereby the profits of Mexican drug cartels, further fueling the brutal violence in Mexico that claimed more than 5,000 lives in 2009.

### Pro Hemp Advocacy Groups

There are a large number of advocacy groups with the single goal of proliferating and legalizing industrial hemp production. The most notable are Vote Hemp, the North American Industrial Hemp Council, and the International Hemp Association. While these organizations claim to be a resource for non-biased information about hemp and

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<sup>7</sup> *North Dakota Drug Threat Assessment*: National Drug Intelligence Center, May 2002.

<sup>8</sup> *2009 World Drug Report*, The United Nations.

its uses, their slant towards hemp legalization is clear. Beyond simply being biased, much of the information that they provide is either factually false, poorly cited, or completely unproven. Some of the information presented even includes outrageous conspiracy theories and claims that hemp is the cure to all of our environmental problems. This information must be taken at face value: distorted facts meant to convince people that hemp is the wonder crop, when there is a great deal of evidence to suggest that it is not. This is not surprising given that the Hemp Industries Association, a trade group representing the hemp industry, is a major contributor to multiple hemp advocacy groups. Also not surprising, most of the hemp advocacy groups emerge from states such as California and Hawaii, both with relatively lax marijuana laws.

Real research into the pros and cons of industrial hemp need to be sought out in scholarly and scientific journals, and from government statistics from countries where hemp production is legal. Overwhelmingly, the available evidence is inconclusive at best, and the opposite of what is being said by these groups at worst. For example, many hemp advocates point out that hemp can be used to make rope, paper, bio-fuels, and a wide array of other products, yet with few exceptions, none of these products are commercially viable when produced with hemp because other crops can be used with a lower cost to produce and process. Because of this, and also contrary to what many advocacy groups say, hemp production and use has been on the decline since the 1800's (with the exception of temporary increased production during World Wars I and II) and there is no data to indicate a resurgence<sup>9</sup>. Even the USDA, a far more credible agency than any of the hemp advocacy groups, admits that hemp will "likely remain a small, thin market," and that "uncertainty about long-run demand for hemp products and the potential for oversupply discounts the prospects for hemp as an economically viable alternative crop for American farmers."<sup>10</sup>

## Conclusion

One of the first arguments that the pro-hemp lobby tries to make is that the United States used to be a major producer of hemp. While this is true, there are also many parts of our history that most would be more than happy not to repeat, not to mention the fact that times have changed drastically in the last 75 years; economically, socially, and technologically. Much of the information we have on this subject is outdated, and there is no question that more research needs to be done on the subject, but based on the available information, it is hard to justify why a farmer would want to grow hemp in the first place, not withstanding any laws that prohibit it. When we factor in the legal ramifications it becomes even more clear that growing hemp does not make sense. Undoubtedly, new information will continue to come to light and circumstances in the United States and abroad will change, warranting a revisiting of this subject, but given the current circumstance, hemp production in the United States does not make sense legally, and more importantly, economically.

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<sup>9</sup> *Feasibility of Industrial Hemp Production in the Pacific Northwest*, Daryl Ehrensing, May 1998.

<sup>10</sup> *Industrial Hemp in the United States: Status and Market Potential*, USDA, January 2000.

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

### *Legislative Department Hemp Report*

WHEREAS, the National Grange Legislative Staff has conducted thorough research on the production, viability and economics of hemp as a crop and industrial product, and

WHEREAS, this research was requested by the Agriculture Committee at the 2009 National Grange Convention; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange include this study in the committee report and print it in the Journal of Proceedings.

This covers resolution AG-101.

### *Hemp Policy Clarification*

WHEREAS, the National Grange Legislative Staff has conducted thorough research on the production, viability and economics of hemp as a crop and industrial product, and

WHEREAS, the National Grange did find evidence of a lengthy history of hemp in the early agricultural history of the United States and her early colonies, and

WHEREAS, this research did not find any sufficient evidence that this crop currently contributes to the robust agricultural environment of the United States, or provides a valid market need, and

WHEREAS, the National Grange may expose itself to the unwanted bias of supporting an illegal substance in its current policy; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange oppose production, processing, and marketing of Cannabis sativa L. subsp. Sativa var. sativa, industrial hemp products until technology exists which can extract all amounts of the psychoactive chemical tetrahydrocannabinol, thus reducing the potential misuse of industrial hemp for illegal activities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we strike section 4, page 30 of the 2010 Policy Book under Miscellaneous.

This covers resolution AG-102.

### *Federal Milk Order Reform*

WHEREAS, the current milk marketing order which establishes the price Dairy Farmers receive for their milk was established over 50 years ago and was based on class I milk and

WHEREAS, the current federal order system has four classes of milk products that can be confusing and can discourage innovation in creating new uses for dairy products since they will not easily fall under one of these current classes and

WHEREAS, farmers are currently being paid a price for milk which is less than the cost of production and

WHEREAS, there is a need to control the volatility of monthly milk prices received by the farmers and

WHEREAS, there have been many proposals to try to control the volatility of milk prices to the farmers including the National Milk Producers Federation (NPMF)

proposal the Sanders Bill (S 3531) and the Costa Bill (HR 5288) and

WHEREAS, other commodities have daily or weekly reporting of prices received; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation which is geared to controlling volatility of month to month milk prices, and be it further

RESOLVED, that part of the reevaluation of the federal order system for milk pricing could include such concepts as (1) supply side controls, (2) using the Chicago Mercantile Exchange cheese price as a replacement for class III milk price rather than the Minnesota/Wisconsin cheese price, (3) charging class I processors an assessment to fund the cost of cooperatives that balance the pool of milk in their areas, (4) keeping multiple component pricing, (5) declassifying class I prices from other classes, (6) as well as other proposals.

This covers resolutions CT-103, MD-110, MD-109, MD-111, and RI-104.

#### *Egg Inspectors*

WHEREAS, salmonella contamination of eggs is blamed for over 1500 reported illnesses and the recall of 228 million eggs, and

WHEREAS, USDA egg graders, part of an industry paid program, were at Wright County Egg and Hilddale Farms at least 40 hours a week (including before the outbreak), inspecting the size and quality of eggs inside the processing buildings, and

WHEREAS, Carol Tucker Forman, an assistant secretary of Agriculture under President Carter, said, "In this case it appears they did not do a good job of their clients because this (the outbreak and recall) presumably would not have happened had the grading people followed their own regulations, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the USDA work with State Departments of Agriculture on a cooperative effort to enforce and inspect egg production including egg grading and egg safety.

This covers resolution IA-105.

#### *Biotech Sugar Beet Seed*

WHEREAS, Roundup Ready Sugar Beet Seed is a great product; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports the planting of Roundup Ready Sugar Beet Seed contingent on approval by USDA.

This covers resolution ID-102.

#### *Cover Crop Program*

WHEREAS, the Maryland State Grange has long supported the Maryland Cover Crop Program as an excellent tool to prevent nutrient run-off, but weather conditions often delay the harvest of crops until it is too late to plant a cover crop; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports the concept of a Cover Crop Program that is voluntary and incentive-based for all farm programs that involve government funding.

This covers resolution MD-103.

#### *Food Safety*

WHEREAS, the recent salmonella contamination in eggs has raised concerns

once again about the safety of our nation's food supply, and

WHEREAS, the company responsible has a poor record of food safety yet the USDA and FDA do not have the authority to close down firms with serial violations of contamination regulations and the FDA cannot order a food recall - instead it must be done voluntarily, and

WHEREAS, the new protocol where USDA and FDA work more closely together on a food safety issue seems to have lessened the severity of the problem; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports the effort where USDA and FDA work more closely together on food safety issues and that the two agencies should be given more power to order food recalls and close down firms with records of serial contamination violations.

This covers resolution MD-107.

#### *NMPF Recommendations*

WHEREAS, the current federal Dairy Price Support Program and Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) fail to provide an adequate safety net for dairy producers in this country, and

WHEREAS, the support program encourages milk processors to make products that the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will purchase under the support program but discourages these processors from being innovative and producing newer products such as milk protein concentrates (MPC) that are in demand by food companies, and

WHEREAS, since very little MPC is produced domestically it must be imported, which displaces domestically produced milk; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports having milk used to produce Milk Protein Concentrate included in the total milk produced in the area Federal Milk Marketing order.

This covers resolution MD-108.

#### *Sales Assistance*

WHEREAS, the Cooperatives Working Together Program (CWT) is a voluntary attempt to manage the supply of milk by reducing the number of dairy animals in the nation through a herd reduction program funded by some but not all dairy producers without any government involvement, and

WHEREAS, the CWT also funds export assistance, and

WHEREAS, the NMPF is proposing a Voluntary Sales Assistance Program that will expand the CWT export assistance and end the herd retirement program and will be governed by the contributing cooperatives and dairy farmers with no government involvement; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports a Voluntary Sales Assistance Program, which will be governed by the dairy farmers that fund it that will expand the sales assistance in the Cooperatives Working Together and eliminate the herd reduction program.

This covers resolution MD-113.

*EPA Regulation of Milk*

WHEREAS, an EPA program called the Oil Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Program is designed to prevent oil from entering navigable waters through the implementation of spill intervention plans; and

WHEREAS, because the EPA has ruled that because milk contains a percentage of animal fat it is considered to be oil for the purposes of the SPCC program; and

WHEREAS, this ruling requires dairy farmers that store, transfer or use milk to develop and implement an oil spill prevention plan; and

WHEREAS, this rule is unreasonable and places additional unnecessary regulatory burden upon dairy producers; and

WHEREAS, milk is a natural product that is not an environmental hazard; and

WHEREAS, the animal fat in milk is not a petroleum product; and

WHEREAS, under the previous administration the EPA published amendments to the SPCC rules which exempted the dairy industry from this oil spill requirement; and

WHEREAS, the current administration placed a freeze on the previous rules and the EPA has been unwilling to finalize a proposed exemption for the dairy industry; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports efforts to convince the EPA to finalize the rule that would exempt dairy farmers from the oil spill intervention requirement.

This covers resolution NC-103.

*Price Transparency in U.S. Livestock Marketing*

WHEREAS, much of the livestock marketed in the United States is done through contract agreements, and

WHEREAS, under these contracts price discovery and price transparency in livestock marketing can be difficult to achieve, and

WHEREAS, producers selling in the open market can become residual sellers and receive significantly less for their animals of equal quality due to lower volume and absence of contracted agreements, and

WHEREAS, the Packers and Stockyard Act of 1921 was created to prevent this type of treatment; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Grange support strict enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Grange support legislation and rulings that will strengthen the Packers and Stockyards Act to ensure producers have available adequate price discovery, price transparency, and fairness in the marketing of U.S. livestock.

This covers resolution NE-102.

*USDA Support for Farmer Cooperatives*

WHEREAS, thousands of farmer cooperatives provide market access for their members, economic development and jobs throughout rural America, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has a long history of supporting farmer cooperatives through research, technical advisory assistance, help for newly organizing cooperatives, writing and dissemination of reports and educational

materials, and maintaining statistics on cooperatives, and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to restore much needed resources to the Ag Cooperative Service program; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange urge the Department of Agriculture to maintain the Ag Cooperative Service as an agency in order to enhance its critical roles in supporting farmer - owned cooperatives and the rural communities they serve.

This covers resolution NE-103.

#### *Capper-Volstead Act*

WHEREAS, the Capper-Volstead Act was passed and put into law on February 18, 1922 and has served the agricultural industry well since that date, and

WHEREAS, the Capper-Volstead Act permits farmers to work together collectively marketing their products if they choose; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange opposes the repeal of the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922.

This covers resolution NY-115.

#### *Farmers' Markets & Community Supported Agriculture*

WHEREAS, the flattened economy and the desire to turn away from imported food has grown, especially with increased problems with tainted food supplies, and

WHEREAS, many Americans are turning toward their homespun roots with backyard gardening or purchasing fresh and wholesome produce from Farmers' Markets and/or local farms that are involved in Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange supports Farmers' Markets, family farms and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's) producing and selling homegrown agricultural products.

This covers resolution NY-116.

#### *Mobile Slaughter Houses*

WHEREAS, many farmers today raise beef cattle, pigs, sheep and goats for meat, and

WHEREAS, the nearest slaughter house may be located hundreds of miles from the farmer increasing the cost of getting the animals to the slaughter house, and

WHEREAS a mobile slaughter house can overcome the infrastructure hurdle by providing an educational opportunity for increased public awareness; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange urges and supports the establishment of additional mobile slaughterhouses meeting USDA standards.

This covers resolution NY-118.

### **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. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture to maintain the Agriculture Cooperative Service (ACS) as an agency in order to enhance its critical roles in supporting farmer - owned cooperatives and the rural communities they serve.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. The State Granges and the National Grange urge state and 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 leaser of farmland.
9. The National Grange supports Farmers' Markets, family farms and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's) producing and selling homegrown agricultural products.
10. 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.
11. The National Grange urges 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.
12. The National Grange encourages federal, state and local governments to protect agriculture against bio-terrorism.
13. 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, & 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 programs 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 under-planting.
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. The National Grange supports the concept of a Cover Crop Program that is voluntary and incentive-based for all farm programs that involve government funding.
5. 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.
6. The National Grange supports the planting of Roundup Ready Sugar Beet Seed contingent on approval by the USDA.

*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 1.

3. The National Grange supports federal funding for soil conservation, including sufficient 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 guidelines 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 I 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 supports legislation which is geared toward controlling volatility of month to month milk prices.
8. The National Grange also supports efforts that assist struggling dairy farmers by

revising the national milk pricing system. We believe that a federal order system for milk pricing should include such concepts as: (1) supply side controls, (2) using the Chicago Mercantile Exchange cheese price as a replacement for Class III milk price rather than the Minnesota/Wisconsin cheese price, (3) charging Class I processors an assessment to fund the cost of cooperatives that balance the pool of milk in their areas, (4) keeping multiple component pricing, (5) declassifying Class I prices from other classes, (6) revamps the Dairy Product Price Support and Milk Income Loss Contract programs (7) creates a new dairy producer income insurance program (8) 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; (9) 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.

9. The National Grange supports the implementation of a forward contracting pilot program 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.
10. 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.
11. The National Grange opposes the importation of caseinates and urges the adoption of tariff rate quotes on Milk Protein Concentrates entering the country. The National Grange supports having milk used to produce Milk Protein Concentrate (MPC) included in the total milk produced in the area Federal Milk Marketing order and urges the adoption of standards on how MPC is used and inspected to ensure compliance.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. The National Grange continues to support government purchases of dairy for domestic programs.
15. 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.

16. The National Grange opposes legislation that requires the labeling of milk/milk products as it relates to rBST.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. The National Grange supports passage of the National Dairy Equity Act.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. The National Grange supports efforts to convince the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to finalize the rule that would exempt dairy farmers from the oil spill intervention requirement.

#### *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 annually 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 percent or greater loss of their quota being produced. Such emergency transfer should provide that growers could lease no more than 110 percent of quota.
  3. The National Grange recommends that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture use simple regulations in requiring cigarette manufacturers 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 exported as U.S. tobacco must be certified as 100 percent 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 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 industries 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 legislation and rulings that will strengthen the Packers and Stockyards Act to ensure producers have adequate price discovery, price transparency, and fairness in the marketing of U.S. livestock.
5. The National Grange supports exotic animal farming provided it does not create a health hazard for the domestic livestock industry.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. 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.
9. 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.
10. The National Grange supports rodeos, the use of animals in rodeos, and the great heritage rodeos represent.
11. 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.

12. 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.
13. The National Grange encourages Congress to restore the original cost-share funding of three million dollars for manure pits.
14. 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 re-infestation of these and other infectious livestock diseases.
2. The National Grange supports funding of increased research to control and eradicate poultry diseases and parasites, the National Grange also urges the USDA to work with State Departments of Agriculture on a cooperative effort to enforce and inspect egg production, including egg grading and egg safety.
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 strongly urges that the USDA work with State Departments of Agriculture on a cooperative effort to enforce and inspect egg production including egg grading and egg safety. Furthermore, the National Grange supports the effort where USDA and FDA work more closely together on food safety issues and that the two agencies should be given more power to order food recalls and close down firms with records of serial contamination violations.
6. The National Grange supports legislation requiring more open notice to the consumer on products containing M.R.M (machine removed meat).
7. 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.
8. The National Grange supports the establishment of additional mobile slaughterhouses meeting USDA standards.

*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, and 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 by 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 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 ensure 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 ensures 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 supports 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 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 & 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 support 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 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.
6. 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.
7. The National Grange supports swift implementation of the Taft-Hartley Act's provisions against workers who refuse to load agricultural commodities for export.
8. 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 opposes any repeal of the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922, and strongly supports agricultural cooperatives and the special legal status granted to agricultural cooperatives under this Act.
2. 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.
3. The National Grange supports purchasing, processing, and marketing rural electric and telephone cooperatives that are providing high quality products and services to their members.
4. 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.

5. The National Grange continues to support the efforts of commodity organizations to improve the promotional activities for their products.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. The National Grange urges the USDA to cooperate fully with the states in developing direct farmer to consumer marketing programs.
9. 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 percent 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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 encourage 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.

13. 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 relate 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 damages 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 Congress 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 the 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 & 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) account 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 percent 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 disruptions 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 production, processing, and marketing of Cannabis sativa L. subsp. Sativa var. sativa, industrial hemp products until technology exists which can extract all amounts of the psychoactive chemical tetrahydrocannabinol, thus reducing the potential misuse of industrial hemp for illegal activities.
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.
9. 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 Nicole Palya Wood, National Grange Legislative Director.

Fraternally,

Linda Chase (MA), Chair

Jimmy Gentry (NC)

Maurice Wiles (MD)

Phil Prelli (CT) (H)

Victor Salazr (CT) (H-Youth Trimble Award)

Bruce Croucher (NY) (H), Secr.

Gordon Groves (IN)

Joe Fryman (NB)

Jack Smithers (TX)

**AUDIT & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT****INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>State &amp; RES#</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
AB-101	NATIONAL OFFICERS COMPENSATION	Audit & Budget	Adopted
AB-102	AUTHORIZED TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT	Audit & Budget	Adopted

**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 percent occupancy, which provides income for our organization.

We recommend that the National Grange Controller investigate the feasibility of obtaining a National Grange corporate account for telephone and internet service/air card for the headquarters personnel and department heads, as appropriate. If the corporate account proves to be a savings to the Grange, we recommend that it be implemented immediately.

We recommend that the Executive Committee continue to regularly re-evaluate the insurance coverage for the National Grange building to ensure adequate protection and continue to monitor the cost of publication of the *New Grange* and when necessary send only electronically.

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, Name Protection Fund and the National Grange Endowment Fund. Members and non-members alike may wish to consider the Foundation for memorials or estate planning.

With the adoption of the E-membership program by the delegates, we recommend that each State Grange strongly market this new class of membership as a way to generate additional income for the National and State Granges.

We also recommend that the National Grange continue to explore additional revenue streams in an effort to allow the National Grange to continue the various programs in this difficult economy.

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 144th annual convention of the National Grange:

California	Bob McFarland	Leo Bergeron
Colorado	John Hagan	Trudie Hagan
Connecticut	Jody Cameron	Jodi Ann Cameron
Delaware	William Narvel	Barbara Narvel
Idaho	Don Johnson	Mary Johnson
Illinois	Lyle Lee	Patti Lee
Kansas	Roger Bostwick	Melanie Bostwick
Maine	James Owens	Rick Grotton
Maryland	Maurice Wiles	Donna Wiles
Massachusetts	Calvin Chase	Linda Chase
Michigan	Christopher Johnston	Connie Johnston
N. Hampshire	Jim Tetreault	Arthur Merrill
New Jersey	John Benedik	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	Larry Rea	Phyllis Wilson
Pennsylvania	Carl Meiss	Betsy Huber
Rhode Island	Steve Logan	Claire Logan
Vermont	Errol Briggs	Kendal Holden
Washington	June Hendrickson	Jack Hendrickson

The Secretary's records show the following states have the required six 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 144th annual convention of the National Grange:

Alaska	John Poirrier	
Florida	Barbara Borderieux	
Indiana	Gordon Groves	Lucille Groves
Iowa	Dwight Baldwin	Kathy Baldwin
Minnesota	Donna Champion	Karen Jensen
Montana	Marty Billquist	Joyce Billquist
Nebraska	Joe Fryman	Tammy Fryman
South Carolina	John Hammett	Hazel Hammett
Tennessee	Judy Sherrod	
Texas	Jack Smithers	
Virginia	Jimmy Taylor	
West Virginia	Jim Foster	Earlene Foster
Wisconsin	Duane Scott	
Wyoming		

Potomac Grange #1, Washington, D.C., is represented by Joan Smith.

Victor Salazar (CT) has been selected as the John Trimble Youth Legislative Experience participant for the 144th annual convention, and is entitled to be seated as the Youth Representative.

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

### *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 2011 National Grange Convention.

This is a committee resolution.

### *Authorized Travel Reimbursement*

RESOLVED, that the National Grange reimburse 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 2011 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 oversize or overweight charges.

This is a committee resolution.

PLEASE SEE INCOME AND EXPENSES STATEMENTS ON PAGE 211 AND 212.

My sincere thanks go out to the members of my committee and to Amber Bell for her help, advice and insight into the budget. I would like to extend a special thanks to the committee secretary for her work in recording the actions of our committee.

Fraternally,

Donna Keeton, OK, Chairman  
Judy Sherrod, TN, Secretary  
Dwight Baldwin, IA  
Chip Narvel, DE

Jim Owens, ME  
John Benedik, NJ  
Joan Smith, Potomac  
June Hendrickson, WA

Income	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Budget
<b>Dues and Fees Income</b>					
Subordinate dues	716,007	773,643	779,266	814,007	806,691
E-membership					33,000
Subordinate & Pomona charter fees	25	322	255	380	250
Junior Grange charter fees	80	60	105	95	75
6th degree fees	1,258	1,145	1,150	988	1,000
7th degree fees	2,854	4,250	2,200	1,040	1,500
<b>Dues and Fees Subtotal:</b>	<b>720,224</b>	<b>779,419</b>	<b>782,976</b>	<b>816,510</b>	<b>842,516</b>
<b>Sales Income</b>					
Products	67,963	67,423	51,110	56,097	55,000
Member benefits	15,671	16,790	14,710	14,479	15,000
Certificate sales	9,913	9,630	9,983	9,239	9,000
Shipping and handling fees	5,778	6,247	5,067	5,699	5,000
Program development grants	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sales Subtotal:</b>	<b>99,326</b>	<b>100,089</b>	<b>80,871</b>	<b>85,515</b>	<b>84,000</b>
<b>Other Income</b>					
Building Income	828,802	898,119	909,105	1,013,005	999,175
Supportive Memberships	125,000	122,500	122,500	112,500	93,750
Fundraising and donations	25,060	20,170	67,418	30,376	0
License Agreement	0	100	5,260	1,450	1,500
Legislative Sponsorships (Grants)	0	82,000	87,400	74,000	75,000
Electronic media income	0	0	0	1,150	0
Seminar fees	0	0	0	0	0
Advertising	0	0	0	0	1,000
New Grange subscriptions	0	0	0	0	0
Interest, dividends	9,673	3,770	1,174	9,828	3,500
Miscellaneous	19,198	11,282	4,863	5,353	4,000
<b>Other Subtotal:</b>	<b>1,007,732</b>	<b>1,137,941</b>	<b>1,197,720</b>	<b>1,247,663</b>	<b>1,177,925</b>
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>1,827,283</b>	<b>2,017,449</b>	<b>2,061,567</b>	<b>2,149,688</b>	<b>2,104,441</b>

Expense	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Budget
<b>Personnel</b>					
Board of Directors	10,717	9,812	10,126	6,407	13,000
National Master Expense	22,466	25,737	25,901	32,888	30,800
National Master Salary	51,600	51,500	51,500	54,000	54,000
National Lecturer	0	0	0	500	500
National Secretary	500	500	500	500	500
Staff Salaries, taxes, benefits	762,679	668,573	684,260	718,725	734,796
High Priest	2,598	5,214	3,563	2,099	3,370
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>850,559</b>	<b>761,335</b>	<b>775,849</b>	<b>815,119</b>	<b>836,966</b>
<b>Departments</b>					
Building expense	400,703	399,076	483,566	477,244	468,127
General Administration	128,630	311,779	536,027	436,745	256,000
Communications/Publications	93,502	70,987	73,606	36,445	79,600
IT Systems	24,653	14,891	17,539	16,129	37,000
Junior Grange	20,589	19,415	27,704	22,341	22,120
Legislative	8,212	22,950	25,704	13,919	40,000
Marketing & Sales	56,344	60,233	46,644	46,741	65,000
Membership/Leadership	14,882	23,266	17,885	19,939	31,300
Youth Development	16,042	14,159	15,434	15,449	20,630
<b>Events, Services, Training</b>					
National Convention	127,741	157,287	110,816	124,379	156,500
Presidents Meeting	11,579	10,997	17,111	14,481	15,000
Reps. to State Conventions	9,432	12,235	17,456	3,313	18,000
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>912,309</b>	<b>1,117,275</b>	<b>1,389,490</b>	<b>1,227,126</b>	<b>1,209,277</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>					
Action Grange	0	0	0	0	0
Contributions	0	122	0	0	0
Furniture and equipment	1,482	0	0	0	0
Special Fundraising	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	653	2,884	1,620	2,148	1,000
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>3,006</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>1,765,003</b>	<b>1,881,616</b>	<b>2,166,959</b>	<b>2,044,393</b>	<b>2,047,243</b>
<b>Gross Contingency:</b>	<b>62,280</b>	<b>135,834</b>	<b>(105,392)</b>	<b>105,295</b>	<b>57,198</b>

**CITIZENSHIP & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>STATE &amp; RES#</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
CA-104	TO BAN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FROM BECOMING LOBBYISTS	Citizenship	Adverse
CA-105	ONLY HUMAN BEINGS, NOT CORPORATIONS, ENJOY THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF NATURAL BORN CITIZENS	Citizenship	Adverse
CA-106	EXPAND PRIMARY ELECTION CHOICES	Citizenship	Adverse
Citizenship Resolution 101	NET NEUTRALITY	Citizenship	Adopted
Citizenship Resolution 102	LAWS PASSED BY CONGRESS	Citizenship	Adverse
Citizenship Resolution 103	TERM LIMITS FOR MEMBERS OF THE US CONGRESS	Citizenship	Adopted
CO-101	COMMUNITY GARDENS	Citizenship	Policy Statement
CT-105	TELEVISION & RADIO COMMERCIAL VOULME	Citizenship	Present Policy
CT-106	TERM LIMITS FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS	Citizenship	Adverse
CT-108	HATE CRIMES AGAINST THE HOMELESS	Citizenship	Transferred to Labor & Judiciary
CT-109	NET NEUTRALITY	Citizenship	Covered under Committee Resolution 101
IA-101	ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS	Citizenship	Transferred to Labor & Judiciary

<u>STATE &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
ID-106	ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended
ID-109	HONOR & REMEMBER FLAG	Citizenship	Policy Statement
IL-103	LAWS PASSED BY CONGRESS	Citizenship	Covered under Committee Resolution 102
IL-104	MAGAZINE RENEWAL NOTICES	Citizenship	Adverse
IN-103	NO UNFUNDED MANDATES	Citizenship	Present Policy
KS-107	FEDERAL BALANCED BUDGET	Citizenship	Present Policy
MD-117	NO CALL LIST	Citizenship	Adopted
MI-102	AMERICAN MADE	Citizenship	Transferred to Labor & Judiciary
MI-104	150th ANNIVERSARY OF GRANGE	Citizenship	Covered under resolution PA-105
MN-102	VOTING IDENTIFICATION	Citizenship	Withdrawn
NC-105	US SENATE RULES	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended
NE-104	U.S. CONSTITUTION 28th AMENDMENT	Citizenship	Covered under Committee Resolution 102
NH-101	...SASHES	Citizenship	Transferred to Grange Law
NJ-101	SOCIAL SECURITY & FEDERAL BENEFITS E-PAYMENTS	Citizenship	Adverse
NY-108	HANDICAP ACCES- SIBILITY IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND HOTELS	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended
NY-109	MULTILINGUAL SIGNS	Citizenship	Present Policy
NY-110	VETERANS EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE ACT	Citizenship	Policy Statement

<u>STATE &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
NY-111	RESTORING THE MOJAVE DESERT VETERANS MEMORIAL CROSS	Citizenship	Policy Statement
OH-103	SOCIAL SECURITY	Citizenship	Present Policy
OH-104	SUPER DELEGATES	Citizenship	Out of Order
OH-114	UNDOCUMENTED AGRICULTURAL WORKERS	Citizenship	Transferred to Labor & Judiciary
OH-118	OPPOSE THE DEVELOPMENT RELIEF & EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS ACT (DREAM ACT)	Citizenship	Present Policy
OR-104	AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION	Citizenship	Covered under Committee Resolution 102
PA-105	NATIONAL GRANGE STAMP	Citizenship	Adopted
PA-106	TELEMARKETING	Citizenship	Covered in MD- 117
RI-102	FLAG PRESENTATION CEREMONY	Citizenship	Transferred to Grange Law
RI-105	GOVERNMENT INVASION OF PROPERTY	Citizenship	Adverse
SC-105	CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURE	Citizenship	Withdrawn
SC-107	ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION	Citizenship	Transferred to Labor & Judiciary
TX-101	GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE DRUG SCREENING	Citizenship	Adopted
WA-112	CONGRESSIONAL BENEFITS	Citizenship	Covered under Committee Resolution 102
WA-113	GLASS STEAGALL ACT	Citizenship	Adverse
WV-102	DISASTER GUIDELINES	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. These rights came at a price and we should honor those that paid the ultimate price and continue to do so, on the battlefields of foreign lands. We must ensure our veterans are cared for; this includes access and support of continued education, job training and needed health care.

We must be ever mindful of the blessings and responsibilities of freedom given to us by others. We have the privilege to fly the American flag. The Stars and Stripes are the ultimate American symbol standing for freedom and our history. Our flag should be flown with honor, dignity, and proper respect. We believe the Pledge of Allegiance should be taught and recited in our schools, public functions, and whenever meetings are held. There are other flags we can fly in addition to the American flag to honor our service people such as the MIA flag and Honor & Remember flag. These are a nice tribute to fly in a subservient position to our American flag.

Our legislatures should continue to open their session with prayer and add a moment of silence to remember our Veterans because it is their sacrifices that guarantee our right to freedom and religion. We can honor them by strongly resisting those who would remove the religious symbols, slogans and beliefs of all religion from our public property, including the Mojave Desert Veterans Memorial Cross.

As citizens of America, we have the privilege and responsibility to elect the best person for the job, whether it is a local official or the President of the United States. We believe our elected officials need to be held to a higher standard in the political as well as their personal life. Integrity and morality were important to our founding fathers and ensure the survival of the USA. While national and state governments are necessary, we must remind our elected officials and government employees that many issues are ours to solve. The United States must not spend more than we receive over the long-term. We need to communicate to every elected official at the federal, state, and local level that our nation has called for change because of the individual freedoms each American treasures, not because of the hope for government handouts. Fiscal responsibility must be a top priority.

We rely on the different branches of the government to act in an ethical manner for the best interest of its citizenry. In the course of their legislative duties we urge them to read and understand the bills before them, refrain from attaching frivolous and unnecessary costs to the bill and remember the taxpayers that they serve.

There are many important issues facing our country today, among them are jobs, healthcare, taxes, land preservation, 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.

In support of free enterprise we cannot continue to raise taxes without harming the initiative and strong work ethic of the average American. To insure continued success of Americans competing in the world, public and private partnership should be created to ensure that affordable high-speed broadband access is available to all.

America is a nation of communities. The things that directly benefit most citizens are based in our local community. Schools, healthcare, jobs, charity and daily recreation are provided not by the federal or state government, but by local people working together. When people focus on working together within our local communities our quality of life increases.

The Grange believes that community is the essential building block of our great nation. It is to us that falls the task of building our community, whether supporting our neighbor in time of disaster or working with them in a community garden. Today's challenges are different. Grange members must respond with faith, hope, and charity to bring people together.

This covers resolution CO-101, ID-109, IN-103, KS-107, NY-110, NY-111, WV-102, and portions of the Master's External Address.

## **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION**

### *Net Neutrality*

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports a national broadband policy that will:

- A. Create nationwide access using the best technology available.
- B. Assure an environment that encourages broadband investment in rural America
- C. Provide the incentive for private business, cooperatives, 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), public utilities, and cooperatives to get involved in establishing the wireless communication systems.

Committee resolution 101.

### *Term Limits for Members of the U.S. Congress*

WHEREAS, the National Grange Policy on Elected Officials #1 reads: 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; therefore be it

RESOLVED, National Grange Policy on Elected Officials be amended by striking #1.

Committee resolution 103.

### *Arlington National Cemetery*

WHEREAS, Arlington National Cemetery is currently run by the U.S. Army and mismanagement seems to have been a routine thing where up to 6,600 remains may be in graves that are marked incorrectly; and

WHEREAS, running of cemeteries is not the mission of the U.S. Army, but they do have a role at the cemetery with its 3rd Infantry Regiment keeping watch over the Tomb of the Unknown and conducting burial honors; and

WHEREAS, the management and caring for the Cemetery and its more than 300,000 graves fits much better into the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) which falls under the Veterans Affairs Department, which runs 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico encompassing 3 million grave sites; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the management and care of Arlington National Cemetery be placed under the administration of the National Cemetery Administration, who already manages 131 national cemeteries in 39 states; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the U.S. Army continues to watch over the Tomb of the Unknown and conducting burial honors.

This covers resolution ID-106.

*No Call List*

WHEREAS, legislation was passed to create a No Call List where telephone customers would be protected from calls from telemarketers but charities and political groups were exempted, and

WHEREAS, some consumers are having problems with an increase in the number of calls from telemarketers despite being on the No Call List; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange urges the federal government to enforce the No Call List including telemarketers from charities and political groups, and be it further

RESOLVED, that no one calling a household for commercial or charitable request reasons may use a restricted number or call a phone with a restricted number.

This covers resolutions MD-117 and PA-106.

*U.S. Senate Rules*

WHEREAS, the United States is composed of 100 Senators representing their 50 respective states; and

WHEREAS, current Senate rules allow any one Senator to, anonymously, prevent a proposed bill's presentation to the full Senate floor for discussion, thus giving any one of 100 an inequitably greater power without disclosure; and

WHEREAS, this interferes with the full Senate's ability to act efficiently upon legislation for the entire United States, consequently costing taxpayers additional expenditures; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange urges the United States Senate to either amend its rules to require any dissenter to disclose his/her identity and reason for dissent or totally eliminate the rule.

This covers resolution NC-105.

*Handicap Accessibility in Public Buildings and Hotels*

WHEREAS, during emergencies, it is imperative that all people get out of a building safely, and

WHEREAS, some public buildings do not have handicap accessibility at all first floor or lobby level exits, and

WHEREAS, this causes significant difficulties for those who have physical disabilities, especially if the existing handicap exits are blocked by fire or debris; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that National Grange supports legislation that requires all newly constructed and remodeled public hotels to have all handicapped-accessible rooms on the ground floor.

This covers resolution NY-108.

*National Grange Stamp*

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service is proud of its role in portraying the American experience to a world audience through the issuance of postage stamps and postal stationery; and

WHEREAS, the National Grange is the oldest national agricultural organization, whose grassroots efforts have strengthened agriculture and our rural communities through community service, education, non-partisan political participation and fraternal bonds; and

WHEREAS, subjects should be submitted to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee at least three years in advance of the proposed date of issue to allow sufficient time for consideration and for design and production, if the subject is approved; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange seek the issuance of a United States postage stamp celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the National Grange, Order of Patrons of Husbandry, to be made available in the year 2017, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange sponsor an art contest for this stamp.

This covers resolution PA-105.

*Government Assistance Drug Screening*

WHEREAS, many employers, in addition to the state and federal government, require drug testing for employment; and

WHEREAS, many employers require drug testing for initial and/or continued employment; and

WHEREAS, non-working recipients of public assistance, such as welfare, are not subject to drug screening; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation that would require drug testing be included in the eligibility requirements for welfare recipients.

This covers resolution TX-101.

**PRESENT POLICY***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.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that would require drug testing to be included in the eligibility requirements for welfare recipients.

*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.

### *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 similar 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 an 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.
6. The National Grange opposes rules that permit members of the United States Senate to block other members bills from being placed on the floor. However, should this practice be permitted, the dissenter should be required to disclose his/her identity and reason for dissent.

#### *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 will work toward the issuance of a United States postage stamp celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the National Grange, Order of Patrons of Husbandry, to be made available in the year 2017, and be it further that the National Grange sponsor an art contest for this stamp.
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 that management and care of Arlington National Cemetery be placed under the administration of the National Cemetery Administration, who already manages 131 national cemeteries in 39 states; and that the U.S. Army continues to watch over the Tomb of the Unknown and conduct burial honors.
  3. 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.
  4. 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.
  5. 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.
  6. 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.
  7. 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.
  8. 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 percent disability rating by the Veterans Administration 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. 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 becoming 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.

3. 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, including but not limited to charities and political groups, and be it further no one calling a household for commercial or charitable request reasons may use a restricted number or call a phone with a restricted number.
4. The National Grange supports legislation to prevent installation of the microcircuit (dubbed "clipper chip") surveillance devices.
5. The National Grange urges the Federal Communications Commission to establish pilot programs such as an easy-to-dial phone numbers for non-emergency situations.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.

#### *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 vehicle 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 throughout 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.
10. The National Grange supports legislation that requires all newly constructed and remodeled public hotels to have all handicapped-accessible rooms on the ground floor.

My sincere thanks go out to the members of the Citizenship committee for their help, advice and insight in completing the task assigned to us and a special thanks to Anita Gentry for her work in recording the actions of our committee. The committee wishes to also thank the following people for the information and guidance they gave us: Alison Fowler, North Carolina Legislative Director; Nicole Palya Wood, National Grange Legislative Director; Leroy Watson, Legal Director Emeritus; David Linn, Executive Director of External Affairs AT&T; and Jennie Gentry, President NC Coop Council.

Fraternally Submitted,

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**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

**CONSERVATION**

<b><u>State &amp; RES#</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 1	ASIAN CARP	Conservation	Adopted, Covers IL-105, NY-101, WI-105 & WI- 106
IA-104	WATERWAY BUFFER ZONES	Conservation	Present Policy
IA-106	ETHANOL	Conservation	Present Policy
ID-101	CLIMATE CHANGE	Conservation	Present Policy
IL-102	SOIL TESTING	Conservation	Adverse
IL-105	ASIAN CARP	Conservation	Covered in Committee Resolution
KS-101	COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS AS FUEL	Conservation	Adopted as Amended
MD-101	WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT	Conservation	Present Policy
MD-102	MANURE REGULATIONS	Conservation	Present Policy
MD-104	NUTRIENT TRADING	Conservation	Policy Statement
MD-105	PARTNERING FARMERS & WWTP	Conservation	Adverse
ME-102	BIODEGRADABLE TRASH BAGS	Conservation	Adverse
ME-103	BIODEGRADABLE DIAPERS	Conservation	Adopted
MI-103	OIL SPILLS	Conservation	Adverse
NC-101	WOOD FOR BIOMASS	Conservation	Present Policy
NC-102	PESTICIDES/NPDES PERMITS	Conservation	Policy Statement
NC-104	NEW SYSTEM NEEDED FOR ABANDONED OIL WELLS	Conservation	Adverse
NC-107	PL 566 PROJECTS	Conservation	Present Policy
NE-105	CLEAN WATER RESTORATION ACT	Conservation	Present Policy

<u>State &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
NH-107	LABELING OF HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS	Conservation	Withdrawn
NY-101	ASIAN CARP INFESTATION	Conservation	Covered in Committee Resolution
NY-117	HYDROFRACKING	Conservation	Adverse
OH-107	PHASING OUT OF PLASTIC BAGS	Conservation	Adopted
OH-108	OFFSHORE DRILLING	Conservation	Present Policy
PA-101	TRACTOR ENGINE EMISSIONS	Conservation	Present Policy
SC-102	ENERGY INDEPENDENCE	Conservation	Present Policy
SC-106	NUCLEAR WASTE	Conservation	Present Policy
VT-103	ETHANOL IN GASOLINE	Conservation	Policy Statement
WA-102	TRESPASS	Conservation	Withdrawn
WA-103	FREE ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS	Conservation	Present Policy
WA-104	ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS	Conservation	Present Policy
WI-105	INVASIVE SPECIES IN GREAT LAKES	Conservation	Covered in Committee Resolution
WI-106	DETRIMENTAL INVASIVE FISH	Conservation	Covered in Committee Resolution

## 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, healthy, and rewarding 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, but 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 habitats 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 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. 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 for manufacturers of blended fuels to expand and develop more refineries.

2. Accelerate any necessary funding for research and development of ample and affordable alternative fuels, ensuring 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 additional study to determine how to further its use. However, non-ethanol fuel should still be made available until these maintenance issues have been resolved.

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 National Grange supports respective regional representation in the appointment of qualified individuals to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

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 respected and preserved.

The National Grange supports overturning the decision of the 6<sup>th</sup> Federal Circuit Court in the case of *The National Cotton Council, et al. v. United States Environmental Protection Agency* regarding the application of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits (NPDES) to pesticides.

The Grange recognizes the importance and protection of all watersheds. We also recognize that major watersheds do not adhere to boundaries of private and public lands. There are significant differences 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 urges any farmer interested in entering into a contract for nutrient trading to investigate carefully all of the potential benefits and risks involved before entering into such a contract.

The 1973 Endangered Species Act may have major impediments to sound environmental practices 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 believe all Americans should share 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 the cost of preserving species not be allowed to fall unfairly on individuals and communities.

This Policy Statement covers VT-103, MD-104 and NC-102.

## **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION**

### *Asian Carp*

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports long term solutions to prevent introduction and or spread of invasive aquatic species and the control or destruction of established populations of species such as Asian Carp.

This covers resolutions IL-105, NY-101, WI-105, and WI-106.

### *Compressed Natural Gas as Fuel*

WHEREAS, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is a substitute for gasoline and diesel as a transportation fuel; and

WHEREAS, CNG offers many advantages as a more environmentally superior and cleaner burning fuel; and

WHEREAS, CNG is a resource in the United States that creates jobs; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of CNG as a fuel will reduce our dependency on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, newly discovered natural gas deposits in Louisiana, the Gulf of Mexico, the Appalachian Basin, Texas and Western U.S. make natural gas very abundant with large reserves; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange strives to educate ourselves and legislators to support efforts of the scientific community towards a more environmentally safe atmosphere and the appreciating of economic and national security benefits that would come with the adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as a dependable and affordable fuel.

This covers resolution KS-101.

### *Biodegradable Diapers*

WHEREAS, disposable diapers, both baby and adult, are in general usage and cause non-

biodegradable waste in landfills, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that all disposable diapers be manufactured with biodegradable materials.

This covers resolution ME-103.

*Phasing Out of Plastic Bags*

WHEREAS, plastic bags consume scarce resources and create pollution by littering streets, farm land, trees and waterways, and

WHEREAS, plastic bags are perceived as disposable but live forever in our landfills and on the earth, and

WHEREAS, plastic bag usage began in 1977, and currently it is estimated that worldwide use is upwards of 1 trillion bags annually, making the manufacturing and retail purchase of the plastic bag costs an estimated \$30 billion annually that is passed on to the consumer in the form of higher prices, making the so-called free plastic bags very expensive to the consumer, and

WHEREAS, in the United States, the use of the plastic bag requires the consumption of over 12 million barrels of oil and millions of dollars are spent by our governments in cleaning up the items from the environment; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange promote the elimination of non-compostable plastic bags by retailers, and that only compostable plastic, recyclable paper and/or reusable bags are offered to the consumer.

This covers resolution OH-107.

**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 percent 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 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 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 underground 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 to 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 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 and disposable diapers. We support the use of biodegradable plastic containers, diapers, and packing materials that are made of cornstarch and petroleum and urge all manufacturers to reduce their use of packaging material, 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.
5. The National Grange supports the elimination of non-compostable plastic bags by retailers, and promotes the use of compostable plastic, recyclable paper and/or reusable bags.

#### *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 nationwide 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, compressed 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 the adoption of alternative fuels such as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).
4. 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 percent blend of ethanol to be used in at least 50 percent of all gasoline sold for motor fuel to be made available in all states.
5. The National Grange supports regulated oil and gas production in the United States that protects landowners and allows adequate compensation while allowing production to continue.
6. 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.
7. The National Grange endorses the goal of generating at least 25 percent of domestic energy needs from domestic renewable resources while continuing to produce safe, abundant and affordable food, feed, and fiber by January 1, 2025.
8. 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 livestock 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 Forest 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 actually 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 1<sup>st</sup> - April 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 research and long term solutions to prevent the introduction and the spread of invasive and/or destructive aquatic organisms as well as the necessary destruction of established populations of these species such as, but not limited to, Asian Carp and *Pfisteria*.
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 farmland 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. 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.
2. 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.
3. The National Grange will continue to work to improve locally controlled site-specific resource and environmental management in the Columbia Basin.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The National Grange supports changing laws so that, in points of controversy, private property rights take precedence over environmental regulations.
8. 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.
9. 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. Additionally we would like to thank Brother Leroy Watson for his valuable insights and assistance.

Fraternally,

Chair: Errol Briggs, VT  
Secretary: Randy Lewis, CA (H)  
Jodi Ann Cameron, CT  
Don Johnson, ID

Larry Rea, OR  
Jim Foster, WV  
Beth Merrill, NH (H)  
Roger Bostwick, KS

**EDUCATION & HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT**

**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>State &amp; RES#</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
CA-103	MEDICARE FOR CONGRESS	Education & Health	Adopted as amended
CA-108	SUPPORT OF ADAPTING MEASURES TO REDUCE CHILDHOOD TYPE 2 DIABETES	Education & Health	Present policy
CT-101	LABELING FOR GLUTEN SENSITIVITY IN FOODS & OTHER PRODUCTS SUCH AS MEDICATIONS	Education & Health	Adopted
IA-103	SCHOOL BUS CAMERAS	Education & Health	Transferred to Taxation & Transportation
IA-107	SCHOOL PHYSICALS	Education & Health	Referred back to State
IA-108	TEACHER-TO-PUPIL RATIO	Education & Health	Policy Statement
ID-105	TORT REFORM FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION	Education & Health	Present policy
IN-101	TEACHER TENURE K-12	Education & Health	Referred back to State
KS-105	SUPPORT FOR H.R. 5126 REPEAL OF TAX INCREASES ON HSA'S, FSA'S & HRA'S	Education & Health	Adopted
MA-102	PROTECTING PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION	Education & Health	Present policy
MI-101	SUFFICIENT NURSING CARE FOR NURSING HOME FACILITIES	Education & Health	Present Policy
NH-107	LABELING OF HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS	Education & Health	Transferred to Conservation
NY-107	PROSTHETIC PARITY	Education & Health	Adverse
NY-119	MEDICARE FRAUD	Education & Health	Policy Statement

<u>State &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
NY-120	CIVILIAN HEALTH & MEDICAL PROGRAM OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (CHAMPVA) HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN	Education & Health	Adopted
NY-121	HEAD START PROGRAM	Education & Health	Present policy
NY-122	LEGAL ACTION FOR BULLYING IN SCHOOLS	Education & Health	Adverse
OH-101	COST OF LIVING RAISES FOR SOCIAL SECURITY	Education & Health	Policy Statement
OH-105	BAN OF WATER FLUORIDATION	Education & Health	Adopted
OH-109	ERADICATION OF BED BUGS	Education & Health	Adverse
OH-110	INDEPENDENT PAYMENT ADVISORY BOARD	Education & Health	Adopted
PA-102	MEDICARE ADVANTAGE CUTS	Education & Health	Adopted
PA-103	ACCESS TO CONTROLS ON APPLIANCES	Education & Health	Policy Statement
PA-104	FEDERAL HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL BILL	Education & Health	Adopted
TX-102	HEALTH CARE INSURANCE	Education & Health	Adopted as amended
WA-109	NATIONAL HEALTHCARE	Education & Health	Present policy
WI-104		Education & Health	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 the technologically advanced society of today, 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, the National School Boards Association and other educational associations to seek improvements to the No Child Left Behind Act and investigate alternative funding streams. 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 and urges school districts to reduce the teacher to pupil ratio in the classroom in all levels of education.

The National Grange supports a viable alternative to a traditional education. Further, we support the use of a federally regulated curriculum in order to ensure that non-traditional 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.

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.

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.

The National Grange recommends increased efforts to combat Medicare fraud, mismanagement and high administrative costs.

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.

The National Grange urges its' members to write their federal legislators to take a firm stand against the elimination of cost of living increases to social security benefits and reduce the cuts to Medicare.

The National Grange encourage its' members to work with organizations that work with persons of special needs to provide assistance of preparing ordinary household appliances in their efforts to live an ordinary life.

In addition, we encourage that the National Grange lobby the legislature to ensure that any National Health Care legislation pertains only to health care.

## **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION**

### *Medicare for Congress*

WHEREAS, most Senators and Representatives have little knowledge of how inadequate the system is; and

WHEREAS, this experience should greatly enhance their knowledge of the system; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange actively lobby for the requirement that all members of Congress, upper and lower Houses, shall be provided only the standard Medicare offered to our citizens at age 65 and that any additional medical insurance shall be purchased at the going rate as necessary for the Congressman and his/her family at his/her own expense.

This covers resolution CA-103.

*Labeling for Gluten Sensitivity in Foods and Other Products Such as Medications*

WHEREAS, Celiac disease or gluten sensitivity can begin at any age, and

WHEREAS, gluten is a protein found in many foods, including wheat, barley, and rye, and is also found in herbal supplements, some candies, cold cuts, white vinegar, malt flavoring, lip balms, and used as a “filler” in many other products such as vitamins, medications and stamp and envelope adhesive, and

WHEREAS, the signs and symptoms of Celiac disease or gluten sensitivity can vary from few or mild symptoms to many and severe symptoms in as many as 1 in 133 people in this country.

WHEREAS, the only regulation in place regarding labeling products as gluten-free is only a voluntary regulation in the food industry and not currently applicable to other products such as medications, and

WHEREAS, even the pharmacists often do not know the complete ingredients in the medication, and generic medications can differ from one manufacturer to another, and even from batch to batch, and

WHEREAS, even when ingredients are listed for a product, gluten may be disguised, thus requiring the inquiring mind to investigate all possibilities and read the fine print closely, and

WHEREAS, the cost to the health industry and the consumer is increased when the gluten-sensitive person is unable to properly absorb his/her medications resulting in the need for continually higher doses and more expensive brands, and

WHEREAS, regulations have been put in place for those sensitive to soy, nuts, and milk products used within foods REQUIRING appropriate labeling; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange promote national legislation to REQUIRE clear labeling of food AND medicines as well as other products that may be ingested when they contain gluten in any form, or as gluten-free when they do not.

This covers resolution CT-101.

*Support for H.R. 5126 Repeal of Tax Increases on HSA's, FSA's, & HRA's*

WHEREAS, the new health care reform law prevents over-the-counter drugs from being reimbursed tax free from Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRAs) or Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) starting in 2010. The new law also limits annual FSA contributions to \$2500 starting in 2013, and increases taxes for non-qualifying withdrawals from HSAs in 2011; and

WHEREAS, tax policy should encourage responsible health care choices, not penalize citizens that use these medical savings plans; and

WHEREAS, high-deductible health plans tied to health savings accounts are often one of the lowest priced health care insurance options; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation that reinstates the list of Over The Counter items eligible for reimbursement under the Health Saving Accounts, Flexible Spending Accounts, and Health Reimbursement Accounts, removes limits on contributions and allows year-end balances to roll over to the new year or return to the employee.

This covers resolution KS-105.

*Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Veterans Administration (CHAMPVA) Health Care Benefits for Children*

WHEREAS, the Health Care Reform Act will extend health care coverage for adult children up to age 26, and

WHEREAS, current age limits for children eligible for CHAMPVA health care coverage are set by statute; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange supports legislation that would extend Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Veterans Administration (CHAMPVA) health care coverage for eligible dependent children to the maximum age of 26.

This covers resolution NY-120.

*Ban of Water Fluoridation*

WHEREAS, fluoride is used in water systems and,

WHEREAS, it has been shown to cause numerous health risks, autism for one; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation to explore the risks involved in the use of water fluoridation in the United States.

This covers resolution OH-105.

*Independent Payment Advisory Board*

WHEREAS, federal health reform created the Medicare Independent Payment Advisory Board or IPAB, charged with reducing Medicare spending; and

WHEREAS, IPAB will have the power to make cost-cutting decisions about Medicare with little oversight and no means for seniors or their doctors to challenge its decisions; and

WHEREAS, IPAB's policy recommendations are all but certain to go into effect, as the health care law makes it nearly impossible for Congress to override IPAB decisions; and

WHEREAS, IPAB will likely cut payments to doctors, driving away even more doctors from Medicare; and

WHEREAS, IPAB decisions may result in the loss of coverage of certain treatments or drugs, limiting seniors' access to health care; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that due to the extensive authority given to IPAB as part of the Health Care reform Act of 2010, the National Grange urges Congress to repeal the IPAB (Independent Payment Advisory Board).

This covers resolution OH-110.

*Medicare Advantage Cuts*

WHEREAS, the federal government wants to cut 100 billion dollars from the Medicare Advantage Fund; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange urge all U.S. Senators and Representatives to continue to support funding to all aspects of the current Medicare programs.

This covers resolution PA-102.

*Federal Health Care Overhaul Bill*

WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate's passage of health care overhaul legislation has a provision which is unrealistic; and

WHEREAS, this provision of legislation lightens Nebraska's funding burden in the bill; and

WHEREAS, the provision in question would require the federal government to pick up Nebraska's full tab for an expansion of Medicaid (a health care program for the poor and disabled); and

WHEREAS, all other states, including Pennsylvania, are required to pay those expenses, and it would be unfair to foot the cost of Nebraska's Medicaid recipients; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange urges the United States Congress to amend the Federal Health Care Overhaul Bill to read that all states be fiscally responsible for their portion of Medicaid expenses.

This covers resolution PA-104.

### *Health Care Insurance*

WHEREAS, in early 2010 Congress passed the Health Care Reform Act into law, part of which requires every citizen to buy health insurance; and

WHEREAS, if the person declines to purchase health insurance or is unable to do so, they may be levied a fine by the federal government; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation that would eliminate the mandatory purchase of health care insurance as mandated by the Health Care Reform Act of 2010.

This covers resolution TX-102.

## **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 urges 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 school 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 percent 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.
7. The National Grange supports national legislation to require clear labeling of food AND medicines as well as other products that may be ingested when they contain gluten in any form, or as gluten-free when they do not contain gluten.

## **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 supports 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 "Health-care 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.
- Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Veterans Administration (CHAMPVA) health care coverage for eligible dependent children to the maximum age of 26 to mirror language in the recent Healthcare Reform bill of 2009.

- 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. The National Grange supports legislation that reinstates the list of Over The Counter items eligible for reimbursement under Health Saving Accounts (HSAs), Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), and Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRAs), removes limits on contributions and allows year-end balances to roll over to the new year or return to the employee.
- 5. 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 percent tax deductibility of health insurance premiums for the self-employed and individuals acquiring private health insurance.
- 6. 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.
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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.
- 9. The National Grange strongly urges hospitals to charge uninsured patients the same rates that are negotiated by insurance companies and Medicare for their clients.
- 10. The National Grange supports legislation that would eliminate the mandatory purchase of health care insurance as mandated by the Health Care Reform Act of 2009, repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) also part of the Health Care reform Act of 2009 due to the extensive authority given to the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB.)
- 11. The National Grange supports legislation requiring all restaurants and all public buildings to be smoke free.
- 12. 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.
- 13. 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.
- 14. The National Grange supports legislation to override the 1950 Supreme Court ruling that pre-

vents 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/Awareness*

1. The National Grange supports and recognizes the value of medical 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 database” 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 support legislation to explore the risks involved in the use of water fluoridation in the United States.
6. 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.
7. The National Grange urges adequate funding for agencies at all levels dealing with the HIV and AIDS problem and supports increased emphasis on testing.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. We urge a Silver Alert System for people dealing with dementia.

#### *Medicare/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 procedures

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) health care professionals; and (g) all reimbursements under the Medicare program to all Medicare patients, medical personnel, suppliers, be made within 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. The National Grange urges all U.S. Senators and Representatives to continue to support funding to all aspects of the current Medicare programs.
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.
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 regula-

tory 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.
12. The National Grange shall actively lobby for the requirement that all members of Congress, upper and lower Houses, shall be provided only the standard Medicare offered to our citizens at age 65 and that any additional medical insurance shall be purchased at the going rate as necessary for the Congressman and his/her family at his/her own expense.
13. The National Grange urges the United States Congress to amend the Federal Health Care Overhaul Bill to read that all states be fiscally responsible for their portion of Medicaid expenses.

#### *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, testing, 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 percent 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 counterfeit 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 to the members of the Education and Health Committee for their help, insight and diligent work on this committee. I would like to extend a special thanks to the committee Secretary Melanie Bostwick for all her work and help. I would also like to thank Allison Fowler of North Carolina for all her input and assistance with our committee. As always, thank you to Nicole Wood, Legislative Director and Leroy Watson for their assistance.

Fraternally,

Linda Brumbaugh, Chair  
Chris Johnston  
Claire Logan  
Pattie Lee

John Hammett  
Barb Narvel  
Leo Bergeron  
Melanie Bostwick, Secretary

Karen Orton

**GRANGE LAW & GOOD OF THE ORDER COMMITTEE REPORT****INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>State &amp; RES#</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
CA-107	CONVENTION ASSESSMENT	Grange Law	Adverse
CA-109 (2009)	E-MEMBERSHIP	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading
CT-110	RETENTION OF GRANGERS WHO ARE STUDENTS	Grange Law	Withdrawn
GL-101	USE OF MEMBERSHIP CARD	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action.  Committee Resolution (Covers NY-105)
GL-102	ELIMINATION OF TERM LIMITS	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action, 1 <sup>st</sup> reading  Committee Resolu- tion (Covers RI-103)
GL-103	AUDIT	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action.  Committee Resolution (Covers VT-101)
GL-104	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS	Grange Law	Adverse by Delegate Action  Committee Resolu- tion (Covers a Rul- ing by the National Master) (2 year)
ID-107	TRAVELING/ MEMBERSHIP CARD	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action
ID-108	AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP	Grange Law	Adverse
MA-103	ALTERNATIVE ELECTION FORMAT	Grange Law	Withdrawn

ME-101	SUBORDINATE GRANGES	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action, 1 <sup>st</sup> reading
MN-104	GRANGE DUES & REPORTS	Grange Law	Withdrawn
NH-101	NATIONAL GRANGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SASHES	Grange Law	Adopted by Delegate Action
NH-104	MASTER, TREASURER, SECRETARY	Grange Law	Withdrawn
NJ-102	BY-LAWS CHANGE FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	Grange Law	Withdrawn
NJ-103	NATIONAL GRANGE VOTING RIGHTS FOR POTOMAC GRANGE #1	Grange Law	Adverse
NY-103	OPENING OF STATE/ NATIONAL GRANGE	Grange Law	Adverse
NY-104	CLOSING THE BIBLE	Grange Law	Adverse
PA-107	ELIMINATION OF ANNUAL PASSWORD	Grange Law	Adverse
RI-101	WRITING A RESOLUTION	Grange Law	Adverse
RI-102	FLAG PRESENTATION CEREMONY	Grange Law	Tabled to 2011.
RI-106	GOLDEN SHEAF MEMBERS	Grange Law	Adverse
TX-103	TWENTY-FIVE AND FIFTY YEAR PINS	Grange Law	Adverse
TX-104	GOLDEN SHEAF DUES	Grange Law	Adverse
TX-105	REDUCTION OF SECRET WORK	Grange Law	Adverse
WA-107	NATIONAL GRANGE ASSESSMENT	Grange Law	Adverse
WA-108	NATIONAL GRANGE ASSESSMENTS	Grange Law	Adverse
WV-101	NATIONAL GRANGE BYLAWS	Grange Law	Adverse

## POLICY STATEMENT

We are facing many outside challenges, which will make it necessary for us to work together. Tough decisions are being made by our members in order to adapt to today's fast changing world. Some of these decisions involve changing long-standing traditions to a modern format. Alternatives to the traditional degree work and installation ceremonies are becoming in-

creasingly popular. Membership cards may be used to gain admission to Grange meetings in lieu of the traditional password. When making changes, however, we must be careful not to eliminate ritual on which the Grange was founded.

Modern technology has been an asset to the Grange. The lines of communication are always open so that ideas can flow easily across the country. E-membership will provide new opportunities for growth. The general public can easily access any information about the Grange through the Internet and Facebook. Teamspeak allows conferences to be held online.

Financial stress has created an awareness to study budgets and implement cost-saving measures on all levels of the Grange. Resolutions concerning financial issues such as the National Grange \$1.00 assessment per person have been prevalent. Members are working together to find new ways to raise funds. We applaud Granges who are finding creative ways to cover their assessments.

When writing resolutions, we must be clear and precise with our intentions. Consideration needs to be given to how the resolution will affect the Grange. The requested action should be for the “Good of the Order” and not in reaction to an isolated incident. Resolutions addressing additions, deletions, or changes to any portion of the “Digest Of Laws of The Order of Patrons Of Husbandry” should be comprehensive and include references to the specific sections being addressed, along with the proposed wording.

We encourage members at all levels to become familiar with the “Digest Of Laws of The Order of Patrons Of Husbandry” since it contains the bylaws and rules under which our Granges operate.

This covers a portion of the Master’s Internal Report.

## **NATIONAL MASTER’S RULINGS ON GRANGE LAW AND USAGE**

### **Alcohol Questions**

*Can alcohol be served at a MSG Dinner Dance this year w/o a by-law change? As I understand your question, this is an annual activity that is on the State Grange calendar and is purely social in purpose and as such would be covered by 10.11.2.*

This is an annual event that your State has been doing under the previous wording in 10.11.1. Reality is that your State can not change your By-Laws until the next Session of your State Grange. This is an issue where common sense should prevail. Now that the rules have been clarified I would suggest that, either you rule or that the State Executive Committee pass a motion, that due to the change in the Digest this year’s planned event will be held, but next year’s event will need the appropriate changes to your State Grange By-laws in order to be held.

*If we do allow alcohol, do we need to get insurance to cover it? It is clear that the intent of 10.11.2 is that if alcohol is served at a Grange sponsored activity, there must be insurance to protect our organization.*

The issue of liquor liability is a combination of State Insurance and State Liquor licensing regulations as such will differ from State to State. If your activity is held at a facility that provides said coverage it would be redundant for you to purchase such coverage and I would rule that you have met the requirements of the Digest as long as State Law is in agreement. If the facility does not provide said coverage, then the State Grange must. However, the issue of members traveling to and from the event may be under Grange liability and as such you need to check with your insurance agent or company to ensure that the State Grange is covered for any liability just as you should have before this Digest amendment was adopted.

*The dance is either at a restaurant or VFW hall that has a license. Are we covered by the facility license and insurance?*

This question is covered by the answer to question 2.

*Are we to be held responsible for carry in alcohol in drinks legally purchased outside the function room?*

Responsibility to the laws of the order has not changed. As outlined in the answer to question 1, there is now a change in the rules. 10.11.2 does not show a difference between alcohol carried in or served at a Grange sponsored activity only if the use of alcohol is permitted. The Officers and members of our organization take a pledge to follow the rules. Reality is that we must enforce rules to the best of our abilities, but the legal issue is not if we have someone break a rule but if the responsible parties did their reasonable best to enforce the rules. I would expect that the actions of your officers and members at this annual event would not change because of this Digest change.

*The NE Grange Building: Can the fair corporation hold alcohol related functions in our building? Do we need our own insurance coverage for a Big-E event?*

As the NE Grange Building is jointly owned by six State Granges and is governed by a Board of Trustees and such an arrangement is not presently directly covered by the Digest, I will rule as follows: 10.11.1 though 5 apply to the NE Grange Building and their governing body, the Board of Trustees. Said Trustees must pass a resolution or board policy that states the rules they wish to set as outlined in 10.11.2 and 10.11.4, if not done already. If the Board of Trustees is sponsoring the activity, they must provide the appropriate insurance. If others, including the Big E, rent or lease the building, including renting or leasing without any charge, the renter or leaser must provide said coverage.

*If a church rents or uses the Grange hall for services and they use wine in their service, does Paragraph 2 apply?*

No, the applicable section to govern a church using or renting the hall is 10.11.4.

### **Rhode Island State Grange**

7.2.3 states that in order to be entitled to the Degree of Pomona or membership in the Pomona Grange a member must be “in good standing.” The meaning of “in good standing” is defined in 6.4.10.

It is consistent throughout the Bylaws (chapter 4) and the Subordinate Code (chapter 6) that a member must be “in good standing.” 7.2.3 affirms that principle at the Pomona level and a reading of that entire chapter shows the intent that in order to maintain Pomona Grange membership, the Pomona member must be a member in good standing in a Subordinate/Community Grange.

I regards to your question of if a person can be a member of a Pomona Grange without being a member of a Subordinate/Community Grange. I therefore rule that the Digest, as outline above, requires that a person be a member in good standing of a Subordinate/Community Grange in order to be a member of a Pomona Grange.

If a person is not a member in good standing of a Subordinate/Community Grange their Pomona membership is ended. It is restored immediately upon their becoming a member in good standing of a Subordinate/Community Grange and meeting the requirements of that Pomona Grange as provided in their By-Laws.

*Are members of a suspended Grange entitled to receive membership awards?*

Section 4.5.1 deals with the suspension of the Charter of a Subordinate/Community Grange and sets forth the criteria of such suspension. The criteria is specific to Grange actions or lack thereof.

That section, as well as other sections in the Digest, clearly prevent a suspended Grange from acting as they cannot have a legal meeting. In my view, this would be interpreted as that Grange could not award any membership award as they cannot act as a Grange.

Section 4.6.14 deals with the suspension of membership. This section sets forth the criteria of suspending a member from the Grange and these are a 1 – a demit, 2 – non-payment of dues, 3 – a request, and 4 – a guilty finding from the judicial process.

This creates a situation where the member is in a form of limbo. They are a member in good standing, but cannot request a demit as their Grange Charter is suspended and the Grange cannot act. Their Grange cannot award any membership recognition awards that the member is entitled to.

I therefore rule that the State Grange having suspended the Charter of a Grange must accept the responsibilities until the Charter is either reinstated or revoked. No member should be involuntarily lost because of a suspension of a charter, nor should a member lose a reasonable opportunity of being recognized for their service to our organization.

I would suggest that the State Master use common sense in determining to award membership recognition to the members who are eligible. When there is a situation where a member's health is in question and a delay might mean the member would never be recognized, the State Grange should do their best to ensure such member receives the recognition they deserve. In most cases a suspension is for a relatively short period and that delay would not adversely affect the membership of that Grange.

#### **Clarification of by-laws on page 34 from 5.1.6 through 5.1.9.**

5.1.1 gives the authority of organizing Junior Granges to the State Master or a member delegated to do so, i.e., a deputy. 5.1.6 then gives the same authority for reorganizing Junior Granges to the State Master or a member delegated to do so.

The digest is clear on this in that the State Master or his/her representative must be involved in the organizational effort. I would hope that your deputy, while young, would be considered the team leader in this effort. Age aside, if you have confidence to appoint her as your deputies, then our members have the obligation to work with her to accomplish their goals. Authority and responsibility are not the same. Authority in this case means the Deputy must be involved. Responsibility means that all have a vested interest to accomplish the task. I would hope that all members who want this Junior Grange up and running would work together and not worry about who gets the credit.

5.1.9 gives you the authority to allow the organization of a Junior Grange with 7 to 12 members rather than the required 13 members. The word “unusual” is used in this case. Common sense should operate here. In cases where there are few children in an area, this allows us to start a Junior Grange. However, the other side of the issue is that the smaller the initial group, generally the less chance of success they have. I would suggest that you define “unusual” with care for your State.

I hope that this answers your questions.

*Can a legal executive committee meeting be held without the Master being present?*

In reviewing the Digest, there is no direct mention that the Master/President must be present for a legal Executive Committee meeting to be held. However there are two other factors.

First, the manual contains a great deal of information that is not printed within the Digest. In the 1999 edition of the Subordinate Grange Manual on page 110, it specifically states in the installation of officers, Executive Committee, “As an Executive Committee, but always and only in conjunction with the Worthy Master, you are authorized between regular meetings of your Grange.”

Second, it is clear from reading the Digest that a basic assumption contain within the Digest is that the Master shall be present at meetings of the Executive Committee as well as being a part of the Executive Committee.

Based upon the information listed above, I would rule that the Master must be present for the Executive Committee to take legal or formal action on behalf of the Grange in time of emergency or need.

### **Grange Meetings**

Worthy Master,

Your request for a ruling contains three related issues: Holding a special meeting or moving a meeting to a different date and/or time; Suspending meetings; Officers present.

On the number one question the Digest is silent as far as Community Granges are concerned. The Digest is clear that there is a procedure for the National Grange to hold a special meeting (4.9.5) which includes requirements for notification of the voting delegates. From reading the Digest the intent of the Digest is that all voting members, which for a Community Grange would be all regular members, need to be aware of a Grange meeting in order not to disenfranchise the members.

I would therefore rule that Granges cannot hold special meetings or move meetings without a vote of the Grange and that a special meeting would require that all members be notified within a reasonable period of time prior to the special meeting.

Question number two is clearly outlined in 4.9.2 which requires a Community Grange to meet once a month. Missing a meeting is not in conflict with the Digest, but voting to skip meetings would be in conflict.

Question number 3 is answered by 4.9.2 which states that 7 members constitute a quorum. There is no requirement that any officers be present, but the seven officers who are named are the positions which must be filled.

### **Ruling on Oklahoma State Grange By-Laws Article 7 – Offenses and Charges.**

Article 7, Section 1 of the Oklahoma State Grange By-Laws sets forth a description of a misdemeanor and then creates a process of how to deal with that offense at the Subordinate, Pomona or State level. The process as described in Section 1 is in conflict with the National Grange Digest. 4.6.12 (D) and (E) of the National Grange Digest covers this topic directly.

(D) Authorizes the process in Chapter 12 to end with the suspension or termination of Grange membership.

(E) Authorizes suspension or termination of Grange membership upon conviction of a felony which is not reversed upon appeal. Section 1 and 2 clearly outline the process a Subordinate Grange must follow when a member has been convicted of a felony and appeals do not reverse said conviction.

Article 7, Section 1 of the Oklahoma State Grange By-Laws is also in conflict with the procedures as outlined in Chapter 12 of the National Grange Digest as the due process allowed to both complainant and respondent does not include any provision for a 2/3 vote by the Grange to carry out the suspension or termination of the membership of the respondent who is found guilty of any or all charges.

I would therefore rule that Article 7, Section 1, first paragraph of the Oklahoma State Grange By-Laws is in conflict with the National Grange Digest and is null and void. The second paragraph “Said charges and specifications to be preferred by a brother or sister in good standing and the accused being notified and allowed full opportunity for defense” does not stand in direct conflict with the Digest and remains.

I would suggest that the Oklahoma State Grange consider a rephrasing of that sentence to ensure there is no confusion that the National Grange Digest provides the process all members must follow.

Article 7, Section 2 of the Oklahoma State Grange By-Laws deals with the issue of members of a single Grange, or from different Granges, entering into litigation. Based upon your interpretation that litigation relates directly to Chapter 12 of the National Grange Digest I would therefore rule that this section is in direct conflict with the Digest and would be null and void.

### **Question on legality of term limits in State By-Laws.**

First, that the National Grange and at least several State Granges have placed in their By-Laws provisions for term limits in several forms.

Second is that there are the reoccurring themes throughout the digest that any member may be elected to any office in the Grange (outside the four positions that must be held by women) and that the office should seek the member.

These two positions are incompatible in their purest sense, but in a practical way can co-exist while infringing upon the rights of only a few members.

As I understand the time may already have passed for this, I would rule, subject to time to review in depth, that a resolution to implement term limits of State Grange officers is not in conflict with the Digest.

### **State Grange Delegate Bodies and Voting Members of the State Grange**

The Digest is clear in that the State Grange Delegate body is made up of the voting members of the State Grange. 4.6.9 and 8.2.1 both clearly state that the State Grange is a delegate body and that the State Grange may determine how those delegates are numbered and selected with the provision that the Master, their spouse, or alternates are delegates unless the State provides otherwise.

From the Digest it is clear that the intent is that the Master and their spouse are the preferred delegates of the Subordinate/Community and Pomona Granges to the State Grange. It is also clear that the Digest allows some flexibility in the selection of the delegates to accommodate circumstances and State traditions.

On the other hand, the Digest, 8.2.6, also states that officers who are not voting members are specifically not granted that right due to their position. This is a clear point that further defines that voting members are only delegates.

It is evident from reading the Digest that the difference in governance between Community/Subordinate and Pomona Granges and the State and National Granges is the voting members of each. At the Community/Subordinate and Pomona levels of our Order, all members of that Grange who are physically present for the meeting are entitled to a voice and vote upon any and every topic that comes before the Grange. The State and National levels of our Order have delegates representing the Granges. I believe that this is designed to diffuse the voting power of any single or block of Granges and allow the majority within the State or the National Grange to be representative of the entire group and not dominated by a few Granges which may have substantial larger numbers of members.

I therefore rule that due to the reasons outlined above, that State Grange By-Laws may

not grant all members voting status at the State Grange Session. State Grange By-Laws may set forth formulas to select Delegates to the State Session, but those formulas must be specific and measurable to allow equality among the Community/Subordinate and Pomona Granges to be represented within that State Grange Delegate Body.

#### **Meaning and intent of 4.11.1 (H) (4)**

Worthy Master,

Ruling on the meaning and intent of 4.11.1 (H) (4) For use in accordance with the general purposes of the order.

This section allows use of monies derived from the sale of Grange property for purposes other than that of purchase of property or construction of a Grange building.

In reading the Declaration of Purposes (Chapter 2 of the Digest of Laws) the general and specific purposes of our Order are clearly outlined. It is clear that the activities of a Community Grange should be focused on helping each member reach their full potential through joint effort and education. It is also apparent that the community and society in general should reap the benefits of our Grange activities. It is also clearly stated that one of our purposes is to make our Order perpetual.

I cannot think of a legislative, educational, or service activity or project that would not meet with the general purposes of the Order, unless there were reasons to believe that implementation of such project would also diminish the viability of the Grange in the community.

The sentence that follows subsection (4) sets into our rules the requirement that the Executive Committee of the State Grange approve the proposals of the Community Grange that desires to use the monies held in trust for them. This is to prevent a small group of members using the monies being held in trust for purposes contrary to the general purposes of the Order. In real terms, this is to prevent members from directly benefiting from the funds of the Grange or to dispose of the finances to prevent the future re-vitalization or reorganization of that Grange in that community.

#### **“Trademark Protection” Campaign Recognition of Support**

Thank you for your generous contributions toward our Trademark Protection legal battle. We greatly appreciate your support. Contributions are listed according to value in decreasing order. Values not listed.

#### **Silent and live auction at convention**

Illinois State Grange	IL	J. Ellsworth Weaver	CA
New England Grange Building	ME	Massachusetts State Grange	MA
Mary Sproat	PA	Ice cream contest at convention	
Greece Grange #311	NY	Robertsville Grange #1784	OH
North Carolina State Grange	NC	June Hendrickson	WA
Berks County Pomona Grange #43	PA	Anonymous	AK
Rhode Island State Grange	RI	Oceana Center Grange #1047	MI
Michigan State Grange	MI	Ohio State Grange	OH
Prairie Grange #1832	IL	Alaska State Grange	AK
Fayette Co. Pomona Grange #49	PA	Massachusetts State Grange	MA
Wisconsin State Grange	WI	Lynn Clark	NH

Virginville Grange	PA	Uxbridge Grange #200	MA
Turkey Hill Grange #1370	IL	El Paso Grange #480	CO
Terrance Heights Grange	WA	Gilman Grange 1 P. OF H.	NH
Amesville Grange #798	OH	Odin Grange #1254	PA
Fredonia Grange #1713	MI	Cuba Grange #799	NY
Massachusetts State Grange	MA	Monroe County Pomona Grange	NY
Ross Grange #305	NY	Beaver Falls Grange #554	NY
Nebraska State Grange	NE	Highland Grange Inc. #48	MA
McMillin Grange #848	WA	Oregon State Grange	OR
Idaho State Grange	ID	Lane Pomona Grange #14	OR
Pine Lake Grange #1044	IN	Riverview Grange #392	NE
Maryland State Grange	MD	London Grove Grange #63	PA
Oregon State Grange	OR	Lycoming Co. Pomona Grange #28	PA
Phillip Prelli	CT	Rubidoux Grange #611	CA
Jefferson Pomona Grange #35	WA	Standford Grange #808	NY
Russellville Grange #353	OR	Winona Grange #271	OR
Central Grange #61	DE	5 Mile Prairie Grange #905	WA
Walker Grange #786	PA	John Waterhouse	CT
Big Thunder Grange	IL	Menallen Grange#1091	PA
County Line Grange #1751	IL	Eureka Grange #816	PA
Brittons Neck Subordinate	SC	Sunnyside Grange #842	OR
Michigan State Grange	MI	Edinboro Grange #947	PA
Michigan State Grange	MI	Donald and Alice McKee	AK
Oregon State Grange	OR	Leon Valley Grange	TX
Pineland Grange #549	SC	George Penner	WA
Colchester Grange #78	CT	Molson Grange #1069	WA
Pembrok Grange III	NH	Potter County Pomona #54	PA
Paula and Robert Toomey	CT	Aromas Grange #361	CA
Oakfield Grange #813	NY	Nob Hill Grange #671	WA
Whately Grange #414	TN	Kimberton Grange #1304	PA
Deer Trail Grange #412	CO	Perry County Pomona Grange	PA
Miles and Jeanne Davies	CO	Pioneer Grange #1777	PA
Wingold Grange #308	NH	Hiawatha Grange #1480	NY
Fairport Grange #467	NY	Hamburg Grange #2103	PA
Butternut Valley Grange #1533	NY	Zumbro Valley Grange #765	MN
Hemlock Grange #1497	NY	Guilford Grange	NC
Mayfield Grange	NY	Portland Grange #2	NY
Florida State Grange	FL	Kutztown Grange #1836	PA
Dorothy Haden	NY	Florida State Grange	FL
Left Hand Grange #9	CO	Jack and June Hendrickson	WA

Spencer Grange #1110	NY	Columbia County Pomona Grange	NY
Karen Richard	WA	Clifton Springs Grange #1042	NY
Earnestine Heaton	OR	Floyd Grange #665	NY
Jefferson County Pomona Grange	PA	Kelley Grange #1301	NY
New Hampshire State Grange	NH	Robert and Helen Mullem	NY
Oneida Co. Pomona Grange #23	NY	Westville Grange #540	NY
Oliver Grange #1069	PA	Fallkill Grange #882	NY
Paul Davis	NH	Lincoln Grange #122	NY
Dutchess County Pomona Grange	NY	Progress Grange #96	PA
Hillsboro County Pomona Grange	NH	Carmichaels Grange #1389	PA
Hudson Grange #11	NH	Alleghany Grange #1843	PA
Enfield Valley Grange #295	NY	Bottle Run Grange #1301	PA
Otselic Valley Grange #1398	NY	Victoria Grange	PA
Kirkland Grange #684	NY	Mayflower North Pomona #40	MA
Denmark Grange #535	NY	Bob Thorson	MT
Jefferson County Pomona Grange	NY	Eagle Grange #1	PA
Hamptonburgh Grange #950	NY	Elaine Christopher	NY
Norfolk Pomona Grange #27	MA	East Frankling Grange #1709	PA
Beacon Hill Grange #389	WA	James Owens	ME
Jack and June Hendrickson	WA	Randy Belseth	MA
Sandra Linse	WA	Worcester Norfolk Pomona Grange	MA
Blois Barrbur	NY	Gene Manchester	OH
Chester County Pomona #3	PA	Norwell Grange #410	MA
Sunbeam Grange #2	MN	Jon Michael Wilson	WA
Bloomingtondale Grange #536	PA	Lou Gloyd	MD
North Strabane Grange	PA	Colorado State Grange	CO
Lycova Grange #2006	PA	Daniel and Theresa Kavanagh	NY
Piscataquis Pomona Grange #11	ME	Scituate Grange #389	MA
Blendon Grange #708	OH	Donald Stone	WA
Troy Grove Grange #1852	IL	Neversink Valley Grange #1530	NY
North Barton Grange#45	NY	Harlan and La Verne Appleby	IL
Pomona Grange #35	PA	Henry Perrin II	VT
Barnard Grange #689	MI		

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

### *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: 1<sup>st</sup> to increase awareness of the Grange to the general public, 2<sup>nd</sup> to provide a gateway into regular membership and potential new Granges, and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 CA-109. Adopted by 2/3 on second reading.

### *Use of Membership Card*

RESOLVED, that Chapter 10 Section 10.7.4 of the National Grange Digest be changed to read: The use of a valid membership card in lieu of the annual word shall be accepted for admission to any Grange meeting working in the 4th degree.

Committee resolution that covers NY-105.

*Elimination of Term Limits*

RESOLVED, that Chapter 4 Article X Section 4.10.2(E) of the National Grange Digest be changed by deleting the following sentences: “No member shall serve more than three consecutive terms in the same office.(Commencing with the 2002 election of officers.)” so that Chapter 4 Article X Section 4.10.2(E) of the National Grange Digest will read: National Grange - In the National Grange, officers shall be elected and installed biennially at the annual meeting. No officer shall hold two elected offices concurrently.

Committee resolution that covers RI-103.

*Audit*

RESOLVED, that Chapter 10 Section 10.13.1 be added to the National Grange Digest to read as follows: All Grange financial accounts of the Junior, Subordinate, Pomona, and State Granges will be audited annually by the respective Grange Executive Committee or by a committee appointed by the Master. The audit report shall be made part of the records of the Grange.

Committee resolution that covers VT-101.

*Traveling/Membership Card*

WHEREAS, in the Digest of Laws of the National Grange paragraph 6.8.1 Traveling/Membership card it reads Traveling/Membership cards signed by the Master and Secretary of Subordinate Granges may be issued on forms prepared by the National Grange to any member whose dues are paid to the end of the current year. The member shall sign the card in the space provided. If the holder of a traveling/membership card shall present it to the Master of any Subordinate Grange along with proper identification, said member may receive the current annual word. However, there is not a space for the Master to sign; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that paragraph 6.8.1, be changed to read Traveling/Membership cards signed by the Secretary of Subordinate Granges and stamped with the Grange seal may be issued on forms prepared by the National Grange to any member whose dues are paid to the end of the current year. The member shall sign the card in the space provided. The holder of a traveling/membership card may present it to the Gatekeeper or to the Master of any Grange along with proper identification to enter said Grange and/or to receive the annual word.

This covers resolution ID-107.

*Subordinate Granges*

WHEREAS, the power of the National Master is very narrowly defined in jurisdictions where there is a State Grange to suspending or revoking the Charter of the State Grange when the number of Subordinate Granges falls below six; and

WHEREAS, there are other times when Granges could be helped before it is too late, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that section 4.5.7 of the Digest be changed to read “Criteria – Whenever the number of active Subordinate Granges in a State Grange is reduced below six, the State Grange is working in violation of the law and usages of the Order, the State Grange refuses or is unable to hold meetings, or the State Secretary’s report or dues are not received by the National Grange for two consecutive quarters, it shall be the duty of the Master of the National Grange to suspend or revoke the Charter of the State Grange having jurisdiction over said Subordinate Granges, if it is the determination of the Master of the National Grange

that the good of the order requires such action.

This covers resolution ME-101.

*National Grange Executive Committee Sashes*

WHEREAS, National Grange Executive Committee members are no longer elected to a four year term; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article 11.6.2 of the National Grange Digest be amended by eliminating the sentence “Executive Committee sashes to be embroidered as above, but with the addition of one star for the one-year member, two stars for the two year member, three stars for the three-year member and four stars for the four-year member.”

This covers resolution NH-101.

Sincere thanks go out to the members of the committee for their help, advice and insight. Special thanks are extended to the committee secretary, Joyce Billquist, for her work in recording the actions of our committee and to National Master Ed Luttrell for his input and guidance.

Fraternally,

Rick Grotten  
Joyce Billquist  
John Hagen  
Arthur Merrill

Betsy Huber  
Linda Lewis  
Gary Brumbaugh  
Dan Bascom

**GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT****INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>State &amp; RES#</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
CT-102	GRANGE MUSIC COPYRIGHTS & TRADEMARK	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
CT-104	GRANGE IN- VOLVEMENT WITH THE FFA	Growth & Development	Adopted
IL-101	RFD-TV	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
KS-103	COMBINED RE- GIONAL CONFER- ENCES	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
MN-103	COMMUNITY SERVICE RULES FOR NATIONAL CONTEST	Growth & Development	Adopted
OH-111	YOUNG MARRIED COUPLE OF THE YEAR	Growth & Development	Withdrawn
OK-101	ONE REGIONAL CONFERENCE	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
SC-101	YOUNG FARMERS	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
TX-106	ONE REGIONAL CONFERENCE	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
TX-107	WRITTEN GUIDE- LINES FOR RE- GIONAL CONFER- ENCES	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
WI-102	INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR LOCAL GRANGE CHAPTERS	Growth & Development	Adopted
WV-103	PAPER PRODUC- TION	Growth & Development	Withdrawn

**POLICY STATEMENT**

The Grange Growth and Development Committee is tasked with providing guidance to the Grange on all levels to encourage participation in our Order, develop our membership to become effective leaders and to grow our organization's membership by asking others to join us.

The National Grange officers, directors and staff have worked diligently to provide many tools for each Grange member to be successful in developing their potential as leaders; as well as programs and presentations to make member recruitment relatively easy. It is incumbent on each State Master to ensure that our members know how to access those tools. Community Grange members are best suited to know the concerns of their community and adapt the tools provided to encourage development of successful programs that benefit their communities, and attract new members to their Grange. Real Grange growth begins in the Community Grange and helps to support a strong Pomona, State and National presence.

The National Grange continues to provide a website with valuable information and downloadable forms or presentations, which are available for all members to use. State Masters should be utilizing these resources and encouraging their Grange members to explore the National Grange website so that they know what tools they have available to them.

The development of leaders in the Grange is vital to our continued growth and success. Regional conferences are one of the best ways for Grange members to get together and share ideas, learn about our Organization's ritual, participate in contests and programs, renew friendships and re-forge the bonds of fraternity. As each Community Grange is unique and needs to adapt the programs available to fit its needs, so each region needs to decide how to best provide the training to their members. The planners of regional conferences should have the support of the State Masters of the region to decide how best to accomplish regional training that involves as many members as possible in the most cost-effective manner. Recognizing this uniqueness, regional planners must be free to try new ideas. What may work in the Northeast Region may not fit into the Western Region. Combining a Lecturer's and Membership conference, or a Youth and Junior weekend, or all four at one time into a single multi-faceted conference may increase attendance, provide valuable training and allow our members to interact with a wide variety of members with an equally wide range of talents and interests.

As part of planning for these educational opportunities, Grange leaders should be looking to incorporate other organizations that are active in their community. The community is truly the base upon which our great nation was founded and is fundamental in why we have achieved so much. The Founders of our Order knew that to improve the lot of the American farmer and their family, the community must remain the keystone of our Order. National and State efforts would only be successful when the local communities saw the strength in unity.

Local Granges need to step out of their comfort zones and introduce our organization to others in their communities. Working with local FFA and 4-H chapters, partnering with other civic organizations and being involved in the community all help keep the Grange viable and attract interest to our organization. With the aging of America's farmers, the need for the Grange to work with other organizations and use the USDA's programs to encourage new, young producers to become involved in production agriculture is essential. The Grange's historic goals of providing a social outlet, educational training and a legislative voice is more important than ever as these young men and women are starting out their agricultural careers. All of our Grange efforts should be formulated with the goal of attracting new members and educating our existing membership.

It is important that Grangers take pride in what they have accomplished, but also in what they are doing for their communities today. It is crucial that our membership not only feel pride, but exhibit it to others such as through the use of YouTube, Facebook

and other social media; the activities that Grangers are involved in are more readily accessible than ever. When our members show their pride, they become the best possible ambassadors for our Order. National Grange has been a leader in providing information to our members, as well as the general public, by blogging, YouTubing and maintaining a Facebook site. Our younger members are also actively involved in sharing what they are doing through social media sites. The ability to share news-worthy stories with our local and national media outlets is made easier when the stories are emailed in a format that the media can use, and we need to encourage our public relations directors to make use of available electronic formats. With the advent of satellite television providing programming across the nation, we need to make certain that we are sharing our accomplishments and activities with the National Grange Communications Director so that she has items that will interest national coverage on such stations as RFD-TV.

The past several years have shown how costly an issue can be to the Grange with our fight to protect our good name and trademarks. The legal battle is not over, but our ability to defend our trademarks has been enhanced by the work of many at local levels to provide documentation of our long-standing use of these trademarks. The National Master, Board of Directors and our legal counsel, ably assisted by Brother Leroy Watson, have looked at creative ways to pay for this fight, while still providing the programs needed to promote our organization.

The past year the National Grange Sales Department offered a CD composed of Grange songs for purchase. This is a great example of how a local idea works its way to the National office. The efforts of Brother Charbonneau and Sister Fassio of Connecticut, accomplished a masterful CD of 103 pieces of music for use at Grange meetings and Degree work. Although, due to legal reasons, not all songs in the songbook titled, "The Grange Songbook" were able to be recorded for sale, individual Granges may record them for their own use.

The Committee supports the National Master's Internal Report stating the Digest is clear on what a Pomona should be doing:

Pomona Granges should benefit, aid and assist the Community Granges in the social, educational, legislative and business interests of the Order.

Pomona Granges should provide benefits to members of their Community Granges such as monetary or material benefits, as well as social or intangible benefits.

Pomona Grange is to provide a variety of information to the State Grange as requested.

Pomona members are expected to be alert to aiding the Community Granges and to communicate the interests of the Order.

We call on Grange leaders to utilize all available programs to revitalize our existing Community Granges. Teams must be formed to expand the ability of State Granges to aid every Community Grange. Our Youth and Juniors must be given the training and opportunity to become leaders in this effort. Each and every Grange leader must either acknowledge that our organization can and will grow or step aside for those who do believe. We cannot achieve success unless we, as an organization, believe that we are going to attain greatness. In the direction of growth we must be united, while in methods to achieve that growth each Grange can and should be unique.

We challenge all Grangers to THINK BIG! Each of us must do our part to achieve success.

This Policy Statement covers resolutions CT-102, IL-101, KS-103, OK-101, TX-106, TX-107, SC-101 and a large portion of the Master's Internal Address.

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

### *Grange Involvement with the FFA*

WHEREAS, the FFA is the biggest student led organization in the country with over 525,000 members nationwide, that teaches “Premier Leadership, Personal Growth, and Career Success,” and

WHEREAS, the FFA is an integral part of Agricultural Education throughout the Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Grange and the FFA are very similar in the fact that they both have roots in Agriculture, and

WHEREAS, a closer relationship between the Grange and the FFA would be beneficial to both organizations in terms of members and supporters; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange develop a closer relationship with the National FFA Organization, which may include having a booth at the National FFA Career show during the National FFA Convention and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange Membership/Leadership/Lecturers Department develop a presentation (DVD and PowerPoint) outlining the historical and present connection between the Grange and the FFA and 4-H which can be utilized by each State Grange to develop a program to present at the State FFA /4H Conventions or local chapters/clubs, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange Membership/Leadership/Lecturers Department develop a second presentation that can be utilized for other youth organizations.

This covers resolution CT-104.

### *Community Service Rules for National Contest*

WHEREAS, National Grange has re-instituted a national contest in Community Service, and

WHEREAS, there has been no National Grange rule sheet or list of requirements of what should be included in the report since 2005 or before and states have made their own modifications, therefore be it

RESOLVED, National Grange should update the Community Service rules and requirements if it has a National contest.

This covers resolution MN-103.

### *Insurance Coverage for Local Grange Chapters*

WHEREAS, in early 2010, the National Grange’s nationwide, preferred provider of comprehensive liability, property and casualty insurance coverage for Community and Pomona Granges, Grange Halls, and other Grange-owned facilities, Hayes Associates, announced that it was no longer going to write coverage for Grange Chapters and Grange Halls, and

WHEREAS, National Grange Mutual Insurance Company has announced that it soon may no longer write officer bonding coverage for Community Grange chapters, and

WHEREAS, local Granges in small Grange states, like Wisconsin, with only a handful of active Grange chapters and Grange-owned properties, find it difficult to find local companies or insurance brokers who will write comparable, competitively priced, comprehensive liability, property, casualty and officer bonding insurance coverage, and

WHEREAS, having adequate insurance coverage for Grange chapters, Grange facilities and Grange officers is a prerequisite for nearly all Community Grange outreach

activities that benefit our local communities, and

WHEREAS, without active programs to benefit our local communities, many Community Granges, especially in smaller Grange states, will have little incentive to recruit new members and many of these Granges will eventually conclude that they are better off to consolidate with other Community Granges or simply turn in their charter, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange immediately draft a request for proposals to be submitted to insurance companies, carriers and brokers who write insurance in all Grange states to become nationwide, preferred providers of comprehensive liability, property, casualty and bonding insurance coverage to Community and Pomona Granges across the nation.

This covers resolution WI-102.

My sincere thanks go out to the members of my committee for their help, advice and insight as we diligently worked on these resolutions. We appreciate the help with resolutions by Samantha Johnson and a special thank you to Rusty Hunt for keeping Pete Pompper entertained while we worked on the Policy Statement. I would like to extend a special thanks to the committee secretary for her work in recording the actions of our committee.

Fraternally,

Duane Scott, WI, Chairman  
Donna Wiles, MD, Secretary  
Jody Cameron, CT  
Kathy Baldwin, IA

Pete Pompper, (NJ) SC  
Jack Hendrickson, WA  
Oliver Orton, NY  
Carl Meiss, PA

Steve Logan, RI

**LABOR & JUDICIARY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>STATE &amp; RES#</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
CO-102	UNAUTHORIZED THIRD PARTY BILLING	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
CT-108	HATE CRIMES	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
IA-101	ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS	Labor & Judiciary	Present policy
ID-103	ENTITLEMENT BENEFITS	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
ID-104	RESPECT FOR MILITARY HEROES	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
IN-102	ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION & BIRTHRIGHT	Labor & Judiciary	Present policy
KS-104	KEEP IRS OUT OF HEALTH CARE	Labor & Judiciary	Policy statement
MD-106	1099 REPORTING	Labor & Judiciary	Policy statement
MD-116	ID FOR PREPAID CELL PHONES	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
MD-118	REDISTRICTING	Labor & Judiciary	State issue
MI-102	AMERICAN MADE	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted as amended
NY-113	MANDATED ELECTRONIC BILLING & PAYMENTS	Labor & Judiciary	Present policy
NY-114	HUMAN TRAFFICKING	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted
OH-102	ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAWS	Labor & Judiciary	Present policy
OH-106	THE USE OF CREDIT BACKGROUND CHECKS BY POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
OH-112	FUNDING OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
OH-113	THEFT OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS	Labor & Judiciary	Present policy

<u>STATE &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
OH-114	UNDOCUMENTED AGRICULTURAL WORKERS	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
OH-115	TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICE & TELETYPEWRITER (TDD & TTY) ABUSE	Labor & Judiciary	Policy statement
OR-103	STANDARDS FOR ELECTRICALLY ENERGIZED ITEMS	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
SC-107	ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION	Labor & Judiciary	Present policy
WA-111	ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT AMNESTY	Labor & Judiciary	Present policy
WI-101	BANNING GIFT CARD INACTIVITY FEES	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted

## 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 guarantee each of us the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These rights came at a price and we should honor those who paid the ultimate price and continue to do so on the battlefields of foreign lands. We must ensure our veterans are cared for; this includes access and support of continued education, job training and needed health care.

We must be ever mindful of the blessings and responsibilities of freedom given to us by others. We have the privilege to fly the American flag. The stars and stripes are the ultimate American symbol standing for freedom and our history. Our flag should be flown with honor, dignity, and proper respect. We believe the Pledge of Allegiance should be taught and recited in our schools, public functions, and whenever meetings are held. There are other flags we can fly in addition to the American flag to honor our service people, such as the MIA flag and Honor & Remember flag. These are a nice tribute to fly in a subservient position to our American flag.

Our legislatures should continue to open their session with prayer and add a moment of silence to remember our Veterans, because it is their sacrifices that guarantee our rights to freedom and religion. We can honor them by strongly resisting those who would remove the religious symbols, slogans and beliefs of all religion from our public property, including the Mojave Desert Veterans Memorial Cross.

As citizens of America, we have the privilege and responsibility to elect the best person for the job, whether it is a local official or the President of the United States. We believe our elected officials need to be held to a higher standard in their political, as well as their personal, lives. Integrity and morality were important to our founding fathers and now ensure the survival of the USA. While national and state governments are necessary, we must remind our elected officials and government employees that many issues are ours to

solve. The United States must not spend more than we receive over the long-term. We need to communicate to every elected official at the federal, state, and local levels that our nation has called for change because of the individual freedoms each American treasures, not because of the hope for government handouts. Fiscal responsibility must be a top priority.

We rely on the different branches of the government to act in an ethical manner for the best interest 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 a bill, remembering the taxpayers that they serve.

There are many important issues facing our country today, among them are jobs, healthcare, taxes, land preservation, 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.

In support of free enterprise, we cannot continue to raise taxes without harming the initiative and strong work ethic of the average American. To insure continued success of Americans competing in the world, public and private partnership should be created to insure that affordable high-speed broadband access is available to all.

America is a nation of communities. The things that directly benefit most citizens are based in our local community. Schools, healthcare, jobs, charity and daily recreation are provided not by the federal or state government, but by local people working together. When people focus on working together within our local communities our quality of life increases. The Grange believes that community is the essential building block of our great nation. It is to us that falls the task of building our community, whether supporting our neighbor in time of disaster or working with them in a community garden. Today's challenges are different. Grange members must respond with faith, hope, and charity to bring people together.

This Policy Statement covers CO-101, ID-109, IN-103, KS-107, NY-110, NY-111, WV-102, and portions of the Master's Annual Address.

## **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION**

### *American Made*

WHEREAS, many manufacturers advertise their products as being "American Made" and

WHEREAS, the Buy American Act (1933) requires that products containing an "American Made" claim, or equivalent language, must contain at least 50 percent US parts, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Trade Commission proposed requirements in 1996 that would require products with "American Made" claim: 1) to have US manufacturing costs constituting 75 percent of the total manufacturing costs for the product, and 2) to be last substantially transformed in the United States, and

WHEREAS, these requirements were not ultimately made into law; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports legislation that would require products bearing an "American Made" claim, or equivalent language, to have U.S. manufacturing costs constituting at least 75 percent of the total manufacturing costs for the product, and to be last substantially transformed in the United States.

This covers resolution MI-102.

### *Human Trafficking*

WHEREAS, Grange members proclaim that human life is sacred, and

WHEREAS, the dignity of all persons is the foundation of a moral vision for society, and  
WHEREAS, our members acknowledge that human trafficking permanently scars the immediate victims involved, it also deeply affects the entire family, community and world in a severely negative manner, and

WHEREAS, the act of human trafficking is spurred by the desire for money and profit, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange recommends that Grange members should use resources to educate themselves and others about the dangers of human trafficking, possibly through Grange departments and publications, and be it further

RESOLVED, that National Grange encourages law enforcement agencies to increase their efforts in combating Human Trafficking.

This covers resolution NY-114.

#### *Banning Gift Card Inactivity Fees*

WHEREAS, new financial regulations issued by the Federal Reserve Board this year establish new consumer protections for credit cards, store gift cards that can only be redeemed at one retailer and prepaid gift cards issued by credit card companies that can be used at any retailer that accepts credit cards; and

WHEREAS, it is not equitable to consumers to allow credit card companies or retailers to charge dormancy fees on the gift cards they issue and not on their credit cards because unlike credit cards, these companies have already received the money for the consumer's purchase upfront; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation or regulations requiring that all dormancy and/or inactivity fees for store gift cards and prepaid gift cards be permanently eliminated, just as these fees have been eliminated for credit cards.

This covers resolution WI-101.

### **PRESENT POLICY**

#### *Wages, Employment, and Unions*

1. The National Grange supports the repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931. 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 would require products bearing an “American Made” claim, or equivalent language, to have U.S. manufacturing costs constituting at least 75 percent of the total manufacturing costs for the product, and to be last substantially assembled in the United States.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. The National Grange supports any legislation that allows employers to hire replacement workers during a strike.
12. The National Grange supports 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)

### *Crime and Punishment*

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.

3. The National Grange recommends that Grange members use resources to educate themselves and others about the dangers of human trafficking, through Grange departments and publications, and encourage law enforcement agencies to increase their efforts in combating Human Trafficking.

#### *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 deposition.
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 noneconomic 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 sensitivity 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, revised, 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 families 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 consider the best interests of the child in all proceedings, investigations, or rulings by the courts.
4. The National Grange supports requiring that the biological father's name, if known and proven, be included on the child's birth certificate for purposes of determining the father's identification, the child's right to Social Security, and other support that 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 responsible 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.
6. The National Grange supports legislation or regulations requiring that all dormancy and/or inactivity fees for store gift cards and prepaid gift cards be permanently eliminated, just as these fees have been eliminated for credit cards.
7. 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 (MSAWPA) 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 ensure that the Panama Canal remains 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 pos-

sessions 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 to 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, guaranteeing 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 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.

It was a privilege to work on the Labor and Judiciary Committee. The members of the committee deliberated thoughtfully and responsibly in reaching their conclusions. I'd like to thank each and every one for their good service, particularly James Taylor, our Secretary, whose experience and diligence made our work easy. We're also grateful for the assistance of David Linn of AT&T, Nicole Palya Wood, Grace Boatright and Leroy Watson.

Faithfully,

Bob McFarland, CA, Chair  
James Taylor, VA, Secretary  
Barbara Borderieux, FL  
Connie Johnston, MI

Phyllis Wilson, OR  
Kim Bascom, NH  
Sharon Croucher, NY  
Brad Keeton, OK

**TAXATION & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT****INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>State &amp; RES#</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
CT-107	POSTAGE TO APOs & FPOs	Taxation & Transportation	Policy Statement
IA-102	SPEED LIMIT POSTING	Taxation & Transportation	Adverse
IA-103	SCHOOL BUS BLIND SPOT SENSORS	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted
KS-102	OPPOSING THE MEXICAN TRADE & TRANSPORTATION PLAN BEING DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE U.S. PRESIDENT & THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT	Taxation & Transportation	Withdrawn
KS-106	ESTATE TAXATION	Taxation & Transportation	Present Policy
MA-101	REPEAL OF 1981 FEDERAL TAX BREAK	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted
MD-119	COMMUTER BILL OF RIGHTS	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted
MD-120	MTA & AMTRAK ON MARC COMMUTER LINES	Taxation & Transportation	Withdrawn
MD-121	MASS TRANSIT LINES	Taxation & Transportation	Withdrawn
MD-122	HIGHWAY FUEL TAX FUNDS	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted
ME-104	ROTARIES AND ROUNABOUTS	Taxation & Transportation	Withdrawn
MT-101	PERTAINING TO MAIL DELIVERY	Taxation & Transportation	Withdrawn
NC-106	1099, PAPERWORK REDUCTION	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted
NY-112	SATURDAY MAIL SERVICES	Taxation & Transportation	Present Policy
OH-117	FEDERAL ESTATE TAX	Taxation & Transportation	Present policy

<u>State &amp; RES#</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
OH-119	PRIVATIZING OF INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS	Taxation & Transportation	Present policy
SC-103	ESTATE TAX	Taxation & Transportation	Present policy
WA-106	NATURAL GAS	Taxation & Transportation	Policy Statement
WA-114	RESTRICTIONS ON VEHICLE HEADLIGHTS	Taxation & Transportation	Present Policy

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

### ***Taxation***

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.

The Grange supports taxing policies that levy both personal and business taxes based on ability to pay. 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 to our tax collection system.

For most farmers, and small business owners, their farms and businesses are their largest retirement assets. We need new tax policies that assure 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 which was introduced in 2009, titled the Family Farm Preservation and Conservation Estate Tax Act, or other similar legislation which would exempt farms and ranches from federal estate taxes after the death of its owner, as long as the ownership stays in the family.

We support user taxes with revenue applied to the intended programs. 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 and under-funded mandates.

In all our dealings with government, and in our own fiscal policy actions, Grangers should 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 the existing infrastructure. This has to occur if we are to economically improve our current standard of living.

The National Grange continues to support federal surface transportation legislation that would benefit rural America.

The National Grange supports training at all levels of pertinent governmental agencies to detect and deal with potential acts and devices of terrorism in all methods of transportation.

We continue to support 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 all drivers need to be fully responsible for their driving and guard against distractions from devices such as cell phones, texting or Internet communication devices or other such peripheral equipment. We support legislation be enacted with the aim of eliminating distractions for all drivers.

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.

We encourage the public to become familiar with the services available through the Post Office regarding the availability of military flat rate boxes for APOs and FPOs.

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. We support the production of Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) natural gas vehicles.

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 includes resolutions CT-107 and WA-106.

## **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION**

### *School Bus Blind Spot Sensors*

WHEREAS, school buses have 10 ft. blind spots where riders cannot be seen exiting the bus; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that in the interest of safety for children, all school buses manufactured after July 1, 2013 be equipped with blind spot sensors that activate a warning sound and immobilize the bus once a sensor is activated.

This covers resolution IA-103.

### *Repeal of the 1981 Federal Tax Break*

WHEREAS, a 1981 federal law allows state legislators who live more than 50 miles from the state house to write off a daily expense allowance when filing their federal tax returns; and

WHEREAS, this daily expense can be deducted for every legislative day, which can be taken for all 365 days, regardless of whether or not the legislature is actually meeting; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation in the United States Congress that would amend the 1981 federal law to state that legislators be eligible for this daily expense allowance deduction on their federal income tax filing only on the days they actually travel to legislative sessions.

This covers resolution MA-101.

*Commuter Bill of Rights*

WHEREAS, a recent breakdown of a Maryland Transportation Authority (MTA) train on a MARC line in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC caused rail passengers to sit for hours in 90 degree heat with no air conditioning or water available, and

WHEREAS, similar situations involving airliners caused the creation of the Air Passenger Bill of Rights; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports efforts to create a Commuter Bill of Rights that would guarantee that rail passengers that are stranded on railway trains would have access to food, water, and other beverages and would have access to an emergency hotline. Limits should be placed on the amount of time spent on disabled trains, and an emergency plan be developed.

This covers resolution MD-119.

*Highway Fuel Tax Funds*

RESOLVED, the National Grange reaffirms its policy that all funds received from highway fuel taxes be used only for construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and mass transit systems. The federal and state governments should not use these funds to balance their budgets or fund other programs.

This covers resolution MD-122.

*1099 Paperwork Reduction*

WHEREAS, Section 9006 of the new health care legislation includes a new requirement which would require all businesses, corporations and organizations, such as the Grange and farming operations that we represent, to file a 1099 for every vendor in which more than \$600 in goods and services were purchased during a tax year, which will go into effect in 2012; and

WHEREAS, currently the law only requires 1099's to be issued for contract workers or non-salaried employees who are paid \$600 or more; and

WHEREAS, this new requirement will place burdensome record keeping and paperwork requirements on farmers, small business owners, non-profit corporations, and others; and

WHEREAS, this requirement will increase costs for the additional time and labor that will be required to comply with the law; and

WHEREAS, efforts are underway in Congress to repeal this requirement; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports efforts to repeal the requirement in Section 9006 of the 2010 Health Care Legislation that requires all businesses to file the 1099's for every vendor through which purchases may exceed \$600.

This covers resolution NC-106.

**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 5 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 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 efforts to repeal the requirement in Section 9006 of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) Legislation that requires all businesses to file the 1099's for every vendor through which purchases may exceed \$600.
  8. The National Grange supports equalizing the mileage rates for volunteer services and medical transportation with mileage rates permitted for businesses for tax purposes.
  9. 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.
  10. 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.
  11. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation of all current tax deductions allowed on real-estate mortgages.
  12. The National Grange supports legislation to allow voluntary contributions of \$1 to be solicited on all federal income tax forms to fund our national parks. The Grange supports permitting an individual to designate \$1 on his/her federal income tax return for the USA Olympic Program.
  13. The National Grange supports a 100 percent federal income tax credit to law enforcement officers for purchasing their own bulletproof vests.
  14. The National Grange supports allowing a total of \$500 in income tax credits for political contributions.
  15. 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.
  16. The National Grange supports a 100 percent federal income tax deduction for all medical insurance.
  17. The National Grange supports the elimination of the cap on Social Security taxable wages.
  18. The National Grange supports a Congressional action that amends the 1981 federal law which makes state legislators eligible for a daily expense allowance deduction on their federal income tax filing, so that the allowance only honors days they actually travel to and from Legislative Sessions.

#### *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 Attorney General to actively prosecute and imprison cooperative executives and others suspected of illegal actions resulting in a cooperative declaring bankruptcy. Any illegal 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 and reaffirms its position that all funds received from highway fuel taxes be used only for construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and mass transit systems. The federal and state govern-

ments should not use these funds to balance their budgets or fund other programs.

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 2009. We particularly support including the following provisions:
  - a. Additional funding for core safety programs that 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.

#### *Roadway 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 modifications 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, \*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 in the interest of safety for children, all school buses be required to have a sign on the back stating “Stay Back 50 Feet”, and that all school buses manufactured after July 1, 2013 be equipped with blind spot sensors that activate a warning sound and immobilize the bus once a sensor is activated. 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 counterproductive.

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 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.
8. The National Grange supports efforts to create a Commuter Bill of Rights that would guarantee that rail passengers, stranded on railway trains, would have access to food, water, and other beverages and would have access to an emergency hotline. Limits should be placed on the amount of time commuters are forced to stay aboard disabled trains, and an emergency plan should be developed.

#### *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 landowners’ property rights and preferences.
3. The National Grange supports inter-modal ownership of transportation carriers only if the acquiring carrier establishes that intermodal 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 employees.
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, as well as the production room staff. Special thanks to Leroy Watson for his assistance and guidance. Also thanks to Maureen Prelli for her hard work as our secretary.

Faternally,

Chair: Lyle Lee, IL  
Secretary: Maureen Prelli, CT (H)  
John Poirrier, AK

Marty Billquist, MT  
Jim Tetreault, NH  
Scott Sherman, RI (H)

**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.	Syracuse, NY	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
143	2009, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Edward L. Luttrell
144	2010, Nov.	Charlotte, NC	Edward L. Luttrell

*Upcoming*

145	2011, Nov.	Tulsa, OK
146	2012, Nov.	Boise, ID
147	2013, Nov.	Manchester, NH
148	2014, Nov.	Sandusky, OH

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