

NATIONAL GRANGE

OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY



JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

148TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
SANDUSKY, OHIO
2014

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

**148th National Grange Convention
Sandusky, Ohio
November 11-15, 2014**

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THE GRANGE MISSION



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

The Grange will accomplish this mission through:

FELLOWSHIP

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

SERVICE

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

LEGISLATION

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

NATIONAL OFFICERS - 2014

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	Jim Tetreault	19 Parker Street Winchester, NH 03470	603-239-8174
Steward	William "Chip" Narvel	911 S. Governors Ave. Dover, DE 19904	302-734-4653
Assistant Steward	John Plank	7843 South US Highway 231 Brookston, IN 47923	765-563-6735
Lady Assistant Steward	Christine Hamp	16418 N. Birdie Road Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026	509-953-3533
Chaplain	Barbara Borderieux	3915 38th Ave. East Palmetto, FL 34221	941-729-8036
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	Christopher Johnston	6241 Grand River Road Bancroft, MI 48414	989-666-6648
Ceres	Claire Logan	26 Taber Street West Kingston, RI 02892	401-783-3551
Pomona	Susan Noah	643 Union Street NE Salem, OR 7301	503-316-0106
Flora	Marie Nicholson	1445 Summerdale Road Corvallis, MT 59828	406-369-0749

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Betsy Huber (2014)	362 University Road Lincoln University, PA 19352	484-459-1957
Secretary	Phil Prelli (2015)	12 Alexandria Drive Barkhamsted, CT 06063	860-379-1017
	Duane Scott (2014)	N2552 Strunk Road Ft. Atkinson, WI 53538	920-723-6660
	Joe Fryman (2015)	14512 County Rd. P16 Blair, NE 68008	402-426-5773

ASSEMBLY OF DEMETER

High Priest of Demeter	Bruce Croucher	2514 County Road 25 Clifton Springs, NY 14432	315-462-3067
Priest Archon	Roger Bostwick	9578 110th Street Ozawkie, KS 66070	785-876-2751
Priest Annalist	James A. Owens	567 Main St. Madison, ME 04950	207-696-5338
High Priest Emeritus	Woodrow Tucker	1623 Ministerial Road Peace Dale, RI 02883	401-783-2070
High Priest Emeritus	John Valentine	7082 W. State Road 26 Portland, IN 47371	260-726-2337

DEPARTMENT HEADS

National Grange Headquarters		(888)-447-2643	
Controller		Andrew Sampson	
Communications		Amanda Leigh Brozana (through August) Bryan Marchefsky (August-present)	
Executive Assistant/Meeting Planner		Jessie Cope	
Information Technology		Stephanie Wilkins	
Legislative Affairs		Burton Eller	
Sales, Benefits, & Programs		Samantha Johnson	
Trademark Protection Manager		Leroy A. Watson (through November)	
Junior Grange	Lillian Booth	6917 Lunar Lane Paradise, CA 95969	530-872-8719
Membership	Michael Martin	102 Coventry Drive Carlisle, PA 17015	814-883-3465
Youth Development	Charlene Shupp Espenshade	213 Black Swamp Road Bainbridge, PA 17502	717-361-2844

ELECTIONS

The Delegates elected the following National Officers on November 13, 2014:

Executive Committee	Leroy Watson, Wisconsin
	Duane Scott, Wisconsin

DELEGATES

AK	John and Kate Poirrier, 1001 Black Bear Turnaround, North Pole, AK 99705
CA	Ed and Cynthia Komski, 1311 Willow Glen Road, Fallbrook CA 92028
CO	David McCord, 855 Newport St., Denver, CO 80220 Cindy Greer, 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO 81326
CT	Noel and Marcia Miller, 150 Ripley Hill Road, Coventry, CT 06238
DE	Michael and Helen Lynch, 1113 Maplefield Road, Newark, DE 19713
FL	Barbara Borderieux, 3915 38th Ave. E., Palmetto, FL 34221
ID	Donald Heikkila, 12248 E. O’Gara Road, Harrison, ID 83833
IL	Lynette and Don Schaeffer, 10041 Rieder Road, Lebanon, IL 62254
IN	John and Susan Plank, 7843 South US Highway 231, Brookston, IN 47923
IA	Dwight and Kathy Baldwin, 2606 Highway 224N, Kellogg, IA 50135
KS	Nathan Strawder, PO Box 441, Burlington, KS 66839
ME	Vicki Huff, 90 Linton St., South Portland, ME 04106 Nancy Randall Clark, 6 Randall Road, Freeport, ME 04032
MD	Maurice and Donna Wiles, 5543 Buffalo Road, Mt. Airy, MD 21771
MA	Matthew and Lisa Johnson, 22 Jordan St., Haverhill, MA 01830
MI	Christopher and Connie Johnston, 6241 Grand River Road, Bancroft, MI 48414
MN	Donna Champion, 4820 Pioneer Trail, Greenfield, MN 55357
MT	Scott and Marie Nicholson, 1445 Summerdale Road, Corvallis, MT 59828
NE	Kevin Cooksley, 44995 Lone Tree Cemetery Road, Berwyn, NE 68814
NH	Chris and Kerriann Heath, 28 Penny Lane, Barrington, NH 03825
NJ	Pete Pompper, 1608 Culbertson Ave., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
NY	Stephen Coye, 100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY 13045 Sharon Croucher, 2514 County Road 25, Clifton Springs, NY 14432
NC	Jimmy and Anita Gentry, 1734 Wilkesboro Highway, Statesville, NC 28625
OH	Bob and Joan White, 16085 Country Road 209, Kenton, OH 43326
OK	Donna and Brad Keeton, Route 1, Box 106, South Coffeyville, OK 74072
OR	Susan and Mark Noah, 1407 Modoc St., Springfield, OR 97477

PA	Beth Downey, 317 Mountain View Road, Muncy, PA 17756 Betsy Huber, 362 University Road, Lincoln University, PA 19352
RI	Larry and Celeste Spencer, 26 Black Walnut Dr., Coventry, RI 02816
TN	Judy Sherrod, 333 Crossfield Drive, Knoxville, TN 37920
TX	Jack and Margaret Smithers, 7361 Parkett Drive, San Antonio, TX 78223
VT	Brenda Rousselle, 11 Abnaki Ave, Essex Junction, VT 05452 Linda Sanderson, 229 Mears Road, Milton, VT 05468
VA	James Taylor, 12600 Bundle Road, Chesterfield, VA 23838
WA	Duane and Christine Hamp, P.O. Box 1186, Olympia, WA 98507
WV	Jim and Earlene Foster, 2798 Grove Summers Road, New Milton, WV 26411
WI	Duane and Kymm Scott, N2552 Strunk Road, Ft. Atkinson, WI 53536

2014 CONVENTION COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE

Michael Lynch, DE**
Mark Noah, OR*
John Plank, IN
Nancy Clark, ME
Maurice Wiles, MD
Lisa Johnson, MA
Kevin Cooksley, NE
Jimmy Gentry, NC
Brad Keeton, OK
Linda Sanderson, VT

CONSERVATION

James Taylor, VA**
Jim Tetreault, NH (H)*
Kate Poirrier, AK
Noel Miller, CT
Don Heikkila, ID
Bob White, OH
Beth Downey, PA
Jim Foster, WV
Joe Fryman, NE (H)

GRANGE LAW

Steve Coye, NY**
Betsy Huber, PA*
Ed Komski, CA
Cindy Greer, CO
Marie Nicholson, MT
Chris Heath, NH
Susan Noah, OR
Bruce Croucher, NY (H)
Roger Bostwick, KS (H)

AUDIT & BUDGET

Lynette Schaeffer, IL**
Judy Sherrod, TN*
Susan Plank, IN
Dwight Baldwin, IA
Pete Pompper, NJ
Margaret Smithers, TX
Duane Hamp, WA
Chip Narvel, DE (H)
Jim Owens, ME (H)

EDUCATION & HEALTH

Chris Johnston, MI**
Melanie Bostwick, KS (H)*
Cynthia Komski, CA
Dave McCord, CO
Don Schaefer, IL
Kerriann Heath, NH
Celeste Spencer, RI
Brenda Rousselle, VT
Claire Logan, RI (H)

TAXATION, LABOR & TRANSPORTATION

John Poirrier, AK**
Sharon Croucher, NY*
Marcia Miller, CT
Connie Johnston, MI
Scott Nicholson, MT
Larry Spencer, RI
Kymm Scott, WI
Maureen Prelli, CT (H)
Barbara Narvel, DE (H)

CITIZENSHIP & JUDICIARY

Vicki Huff, ME**
Donna Champion, MN*
Barbara Boderieux, FL
Donna Keeton, OK
Earlene Foster, WV
Anita Gentry, NC
Joan White, OH
Phil Prelli, CT (H)
Tammy Fryman, NE (H)
Grace Boatright, Potomac (H)

GRANGE GROWTH

Kathy Baldwin, IA**
Christine Hamp, WA*
Helen Lynch, DE
Nathan Strawder, KS
Donna Wiles, MD
Matt Johnson, MA
Jack Smithers, TX
Duane Scott, WI
Steve Logan, RI (H)
T. J. Malaskee, (Youth) (H)

**** Chairperson**

*** Secretary**

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

7 a.m. Freshman Delegates Breakfast
 9 a.m. Committee Meetings
 Noon Legislative Luncheon
 All day Committee Meetings
 7 p.m. Host Region Welcome Dinner
 9:30 p.m. National Officers Rehearsal

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

8 a.m. Salute to Agriculture Breakfast
 10:30 a.m. Opening of the 148th Convention
 10:45 a.m. Admission of Fourth Degree Members
 12:15 p.m. Session Recesses
 12:30 p.m. Grange History Lunch & Trivia
 2:30 p.m. Session Reconvenes
 6 p.m. Session Closes
 7 p.m. Committee Meetings

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

8:30 a.m. Pre-Convention Tour for Delegates
 12:30 p.m. 2015 Host Committee meeting
 12:30 p.m. 2016 Host Committee meeting
 2:00 p.m. Afternoon Session
 4:30 p.m. Idea Fair & Best of Show Preview
 5:30 p.m. Distinguished Grange Award Reception
 6:30 p.m. Youth Check in and Orientation
 7:30 p.m. Business Session Opens by Youth Officers
 9:30 p.m. Youth – Get Acquainted Party
 10 p.m. Committee Meetings
 11 p.m. Youth Officers Practice

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

8:30 a.m. Session Opens in the Fourth Degree
 8:30 a.m. Youth Tour & Community Service Project
 8:30 a.m. General Tour
 9 a.m. Idea Fair & Best of Show Open
 12:30 p.m. Past Delegate Luncheon
 2 p.m. Session Reconvenes in the Fourth Degree
 3:30 p.m. Past Delegate Recognition Memorial Service – National Chaplain
 5 p.m. Youth Workshop
 5 p.m. Committee Meetings
 8 p.m. Assembly of Demeter Business Meeting

8 p.m. Youth Directors Conference
 9 p.m. Committee Meetings
 9:30 p.m. Youth – Costume Party and Dance
 11:15 p.m. Youth Officers Practice

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

7 a.m. Chairs/Secretaries Breakfast
 7:30 a.m. Youth Officers Practice & Pictures
 8 a.m. Junior Grange Activities
 8:30 a.m. Business Session Opens by Youth Officers
 9 a.m. Idea Fair & Best of Show Open
 10 a.m. Membership Growth Workshop
 10 a.m. Junior Grange Activities
 11 a.m. Seventh Degree Rehearsal
 12:30 p.m. Junior Tour
 1 p.m. Evening of Excellence Rehearsal/Sound Check
 1:30 p.m. Youth Workshop – Panel Discussion
 2 p.m. Session Reconvenes Installation of Officers
 3:30 p.m. Junior Grange Activities
 3:30 p.m. Dogs for the Deaf Workshop
 5 p.m. GROW Club & Youth A.O.L.E. Dinner
 7:30 p.m. Evening of Excellence
 10:30 p.m. Youth Program

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

7 a.m. Seventh Degree Final Preparations
 8 a.m. Junior Grange Breakfast
 8 a.m. Idea Fair & Best of Show Open
 8:30 a.m. Lecturer's Workshop
 9 a.m. Youth Workshop
 9:30 a.m. Junior Grange Activities
 9:30 a.m. Junior Grange Leadership Workshop
 10 a.m. Sixth Degree Conferral
 11:30 a.m. Junior Grange Activities
 1 p.m. Seventh Degree Conferral
 1 p.m. Junior Grange Swim Party
 3 p.m. Grange Radio Interviews
 3:15 p.m. Convocation of the Assembly of Demeter
 4 p.m. New State Masters and Officers Photo
 7 p.m. Grange Celebration Banquet
 Following Banquet – Grange Dance

DAILY RESUME
148th ANNUAL NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

Arriving early were staff members Executive Assistant, Jessie Cope; Legislative Director, Burton Eller; Trademark Protection Manager Leroy Watson, and Communication Manager Bryan Marchefsky. Also arriving early were Sales, Benefits, and Programs Director Samantha Johnson; Controller, Andy Sampson, Leadership/Membership Director, Michael Martin, Amanda Leigh Brozana, assisting Communication and instructing Communication Fellows; Communication Fellows, and members of the host committee.

National Master Ed and First Lady Celia Luttrell (OR) and the members of the Board of Directors also arrived on Saturday, November 8, 2014. The Board of Directors, spouses, and staff met at 7:30 p.m. followed by the Executive Committee meeting.

PRE-CONVENTION
Sunday, November 9, 2014

New Delegates were welcomed to the 148th National Grange Convention on Sunday, November 9 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for a workshop. New (or first time) delegates are Ed Kowski and wife Cynthia (CA), Noel Miller and wife, Marcia (CT), Kevin Cooksley (NE), Christopher Heath and wife, Kerriann (NH), Bob White and wife, Joan (OH), Elizabeth Downey (PA), Larry Spencer and wife, Celeste (RI), and Brenda Rousselle and Linda Sanderson (VT). A noon luncheon was held for the Executive Committee and new delegates and spouses.

Beginning at 4 p.m., Burton Eller, Legislative Director, assisted by Leroy Watson, conducted a workshop for Committee Chairs and Secretaries.

A reception welcoming the National officers, delegates and staff was held beginning at 6 p.m. Master of ceremonies for the evening was Leadership/Membership Chairman, Michael Martin. At the reception Granges who had organized or re-organized new Granges since last year's national convention to date were recognized. Seven new Subordinate Granges were organized, six were re-organized and one re-discovered, three new Junior Granges organized, four Junior re-organized.

Beginning at 7 p.m., a convention overview for officers and delegates was held. A question and answer period was held. Brother Ed Luttrell along with the general counsel, Craig Engle, provided answers to questions regarding the lawsuits pending with the former State Grange of California.

Copies of the budget were passed out and both Master Ed Luttrell and Board Chair Betsy Huber, gave updates regarding income and expenses. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

The Hospitality Room was hosted today by Ohio.

PRE-CONVENTION
Monday, November 10, 2014

Beginning at 7 a.m. the freshman delegates and their mentors met for breakfast.

Committees met for work on resolutions beginning at 9 a.m. working until about noon. A Legislative Luncheon was held at noon with the speaker being Brian Cavey, Vice President of Legislative Affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The title of his presentation was “Power, Economy and the Environment.”

Following lunch, committees again met for work on resolutions until approximately 6 p.m. The Host States banquet began at 7 p.m. Past State Master of the Ohio State Grange, Gary Brumbaugh, gave greetings and a welcome for the 148th Annual Convention. The host region members were introduced and the invocation was given.

Following the meal, the entertainment for the evening was The Classics, a quartet who sang doo-wop oldies from the 50s and 60s, along with some humor, which included some audience participation. National Master Ed Luttrell, welcomed everyone and recognized the National officers, Assembly officers, and National Grange staff.

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

The Hospitality Room was hosted by Indiana.

FIRST DAY Tuesday, November 11, 2014

A Salute to Agriculture Breakfast was held at 8 a.m. The speaker was Bobby D. Moser, former Vice President and Dean of The Ohio State University’s College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

The 148th Annual Convention of the National Grange was called to order in the Seventh Degree at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 11, 2014, by High Priest Bruce Croucher. The session was held at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Sandusky, Ohio.

The National Officers marched in and formed an altar circle, before going to their stations. The opening was sung by a quartet composed of Linda Brumbaugh (OH), Stephen Coye (NY), Michael Martin (PA), and Joan White (OH). Mark Naylor (OH) served as pianist.

National Master, Ed Luttrell (OR) opened the Grange in the Seventh Degree. High Priest Bruce Croucher (NY) 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, High Priest Bruce Croucher (NY) and Priest Annalist James Owens (ME) 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 to the hall.

Grange flag presentation by Masters of the Midwest Region: Bob White (OH), Lynette Schaeffer (IL), John Plank (IN), Dwight Baldwin (IA), Chris Johnston (MI), Donna Champion (MN), and Duane Scott (WI).

The roll call of officers found all present, and the roll call of delegates showed all states represented. Also present was a representative from Potomac Grange No. 1, Grace Boatright, and John Trimble Legislative Youth Experience Representative T.J. Malaskee (MN).

Chairman of Audit and Budget, Lynette Schaeffer (IL), gave a partial Credentials report, which was adopted.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the order of business as printed. Motion carried. Worthy Overseer, Jimmy Gentry (NC) assumed the Master’s station, announcing

the Grange was at ease as Worthy National Master Ed Luttrell (OR) gave his annual Address. The Master's address will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings. Worthy Overseer Gentry (NC) assigned sections of National Master Luttrell's address to the various committees.

Master Luttrell gave his Internal Address. Overseer Gentry assigned sections of this report to committees for review. This report will also appear in the Journal of Proceedings.

Recess for lunch at 12:15 p.m., which was a Grange History Lunch with trivia questions and prizes. High Priest Bruce Croucher (NY) gave a brief photo presentation showing the Temple of Demeter in Greece.

Session reconvened at 2:30 p.m. with the recognition of veterans present in the meeting hall.

Transfers of resolutions from and to committees were made.

Labor & Judiciary Chairman John Poirrier (AK) gave a partial report

The Audit and Budget Committee chair Lynette Shaeffer (IL) gave a partial report.

Chairman of Citizenship committee Vicki Huff (ME) gave a partial report.

Jimmy Taylor (VA), Chairman of the Conservation Committee, gave a partial report.

Vicki Huff (ME), Chairman of Citizenship Committee, continued the partial report.

Kathy Baldwin (IA), Chairman of Grange Growth and Development, gave a partial report.

Lecturer Jim Tetreault (NH) led us in singing "It's a Good Thing to Be a Granger."

Interesting stories about traveling to Grange events were told by several members.

Recess until 4:30 p.m.

After being called back to order, a motion was made that the National Grange pursue the lawsuit against the original California State Grange with the intent to win, which was adopted by a roll call vote.

Stephen Coye (NY), Chairman of the Grange Law Committee, gave a partial report.

The first day of the 148th Annual Session of the National Grange closed in the Fourth Degree at 6 p.m. Closing Song was Battle Hymn of the Republic.

Hospitality room hosted by Iowa and Minnesota.

Pianist for the day was Mark Naylor (OH).

The resolutions projected on the large screen in the session room were taken care of today by Jim Price (OH).

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

SECOND DAY

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Beginning at 8:30 a.m., delegates and officers loaded onto two buses for a tour of NASA Glenn Research Center, Plum Brook Station.

Master Ed Luttrell (OR) opened the second day of the 148th Annual Convention of the National Grange in the fourth degree at 2 p.m. following an entrance march by the National officers.

Roll call of officers found all present and roll call of delegates found all states were represented. Grace Boatright represented Potomac Grange No. 1 and the John Trimble Youth Representative is T.J. Malaskee (MN). Opening song was "I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover."

Announcements were made by Overseer Jimmy Gentry (NC).

Introduction of the new Masters by Jimmy Gentry.

Minutes of the pre-convention activities and first day of the 148th National Grange Convention were approved as corrected.

Transfers of resolutions were made.

Steven Coye (NY), chairman of Grange Law committee, gave a partial report.

John Poirrier (AK), Labor Judiciary and Transportation committee chairman, gave a partial report.

Jimmy Taylor (VA), chairman of the Conservation committee, gave a partial report.

Announcements by Jimmy Gentry.

The Grange recessed at 4:30 p.m. The delegates, National officers and guests previewed the Idea Fair and Best of Show from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., Distinguished Grange Awards were given to 11 State Granges and 51 Subordinate Granges.

When the Grange was called to order at 7:30 p.m., John Plank (IN) was escorted to the Master's Station for a presentation to the National Grange, which was a check from members of his State Grange and a second check from his family for the Trademark Protection Fund. He challenged others to also contribute.

Stephen Coye (NY) reported he received a check tonight from Stoney Point Grange (PA) for the Trademark Protection Fund.

Ms. Caroline Hall, played by Dorothy Eckert (OH), made an appearance at the convention and told of her life as well as stories about her uncle, Oliver Hudson Kelley, and the formation of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry.

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

Brother Ed recognized G. Thomas McKern, GIA Insurance and High Priest Emeritus, John Valentine, who were in the hall this evening.

Michael Lynch (DE), Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, gave a partial report.

Chris Johnston (MI), Chairman of the Education and Health Committee, gave a partial report.

The second day of the 148th session was closed in due form at 9:10 p.m. Closing song was "Good Night Grangers."

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

The Youth Orientation was conducted at 6:30 p.m. The youth enjoyed a get acquainted party in the evening. Committee work continued in the evening.

Hosts in the hospitality room for Wednesday were Illinois.

The resolutions projected on the large screen in the session room were taken care of today by Lisa Tharp (OH).

THIRD DAY

Thursday, November 13, 2014

The third day of the 148th Annual Convention of the National Grange opened in the Fourth Degree at 8:30 a.m. following an entrance march by the National officers.

Roll call of officers found all present. Roll call of delegates found all states represented, as well as representatives from Potomac #1 and the John Trimble Youth Representative. Also answering roll call was High Priest Emeritus, John Valentine (IN). Opening Song was "Take Me Out to the Ballgame".

Announcements by Overseer Jimmy Gentry (NC).

Lynette Schaeffer (IL), chairman of the Audit & Budget Committee made a motion to set a time certain for voting on budget for 9:30 a.m. on Friday.

Election began for two Executive Committee members.

Worthy Master introduced the new Controller for the National Grange, Andy Sampson who gave a few remarks. Samantha Johnson, Director of Sales, Benefits and Programs presented her annual report. Jessie Cope, Executive Assistant, Convention Planner and Building Manager gave her report.

Leroy Watson was elected as an Executive Committee member.

Michael Martin, Membership and Leadership Director, presented his annual report.

Leroy Watson, Trademark Protection Manager, presented a report. The new Director of Legislative Affairs, Burton Eller, was introduced and gave a report regarding legislative action.

Duane Scott (WI) was re-elected as an Executive Committee member.

Recess for 20 minutes.

When the Grange was called back to order, Stephen Coye (NY), Chairman of the Grange Law, gave a partial report.

Minutes from yesterday's session were adopted as corrected.

Ed Kowski (CA) presented checks for back and current membership dues from the newly re-organized California State Grange.

Labor, Judiciary and Transportation committee chair, John Poirrier (AK) gave a partial report.

Vicki Huff (ME), chairman of the Citizenship committee, gave a partial report.

It was moved, seconded and adopted that the results of the election be released to the press and to the public.

Conservation Committee chair, James Taylor (VA), gave a partial report.

Jim Tetreault, Lecturer (NH) showed an example of the quilt block square pattern for next year. He reported that the rules and patterns will be e-mailed to state directors.

Recess for lunch at 11:55 a.m.

When the Grange was called back to order, James Taylor (VA), chairman of Conservation committee, continued that committee's report.

Chris Johnston (MI), chairman of the Education and Health committee, gave a partial report.

Kathy Baldwin (IA), chairman of the Grange Growth & Development committee, gave a partial report.

A recess was taken for lunch.

National Grange Flora, Marie Nicholson (MT) was emcee at the past delegates luncheon at 12:30 p.m., at which past delegates were honored. John Valentine was the guest speaker.

The session was called back to order at 2 p.m. to receive the past delegates of the National Grange. Past delegates marched around the hall escorted by the Assistant and Lady Assistant, to the Station of the Overseer where each of the past delegates announced their offices and years of service.

Recess to prepare for memorial service.

Following recess, a memorial service was held under the direction of National Chaplain Barbara Borderieux (FL). Several delegates along with State Masters representing the states of the deceased members assisted with the service. Call to remembrance by Ed Luttrell, National Master, readings by Ceres, Claire Logan (RI), Flora, Marie Nicholson (MT), and Pomona, Susan Noah (OR). The roll call was read by Secretary, Judy Sherrod (TN), and Roger Bostwick (KS) gave the benediction. Pianist Mark Naylor (OH) provided the music for the memorial service, and special music was a duet by Les and Brenda Widder (OH). Special recognition by Betsy Huber (PA) in

memory of Georgia Taylor, Past National Grange staff member and Wib Justi, the first National Grange Youth Director.

The 2014 memorial service was held in memory of: Peg Brown (MI), A. Wayne Readinger (PA), Ted Doane (NE), Virginia L. Hayes (NH), Glenda L. Clark (WA), Everett Anson Willard (VT), Madeline Jean Myers (MD), John D. (Jack) Silvers (WA), Edythe Mae Walter (OH), Wendell Eugene Chamberlain (NY), and Paul Martin, Jr. (KS).

Master Ed Luttrell thanked Chaplain Barbara for a beautiful memorial service.

Kathy Baldwin (IA), chairman of the Grange Growth and Development , continued with that report.

Stephen Coye (NY) gave a partial report of the Education and Health committee.

Brother Bob Clouse (CA) past delegate and past National officer spoke briefly regarding his thankfulness for the support of the National Grange Master, Executive Committee members and delegate body.

The third day session was closed in due form at 5:15 p.m. Closing Song was “God Be With You”.

Pianist for the day was Mark Naylor (OH).

Hosts in the hospitality room today were Michigan.

The resolutions projected on the large screen in the session room were taken care of today by Lisa Tharp (OH).

The Youth tour and general tour both took place today. The Youth costume party and dance began at 9:30 p.m., with vespers at 11 p.m. followed by the youth officers practice.

FOURTH DAY

Friday, November 14, 2014

A Committee Chair and Secretaries breakfast was held at 7 a.m.

The fourth day of the 148th Annual Convention of the National Grange opened in the Fourth Degree at 8:30 a.m. following an excellent entrance march by the Youth Officers of the National Grange.

The following Youth served as officers:

Master – Jennifer Lanstrum (OH)

Overseer – Justin Leonard (NC)

Lecturer – Robin Cozad (WA)

Steward - Thomas Parker (OR)

Asst Steward – Emma Edelen (IA)

Lady Asst Steward – Heather Drunkenmiller (PA)

Chaplain – Josh Bethany (FL)

Treasurer – Janzen Jones (NC)

Secretary – Lexie Smith (WA)

Gatekeeper – Trevor Gervais (CT)

Ceres – Emily Harrison (NC)

Pomona – Maddie Griffin (NC)

Flora – Essie Robinson (MN)

Exec. Comm – Jamee Varda (MN)

Exec. Comm – John Neff (IN)

Exec. Comm – Melanie Fitch (OH)

Exec. Comm – Lexie Gegare (WI)

Pianist - Mark Naylor (OH)

The Youth Secretary called the roll of Youth Officers. The opening song was “America.”

Escorted to the Master’s Station was National Youth Development Director, Charlene Espenshade, and the 2014 National Grange Youth Ambassadors, Montana Wrigley (NC) and Aaron Gwin (WA). Both Montana and Aaron gave remarks. Charlene Espenshade (PA), National Youth Development Director gave the annual report for the Youth Department, which will appear in the Journal of Proceedings. Sister Espenshade also recognized this year’s group of youth ambassadors. Also Distinguished Grange Awards for Youth Programs were presented to three State Granges and four Subordinates.

National Grange Junior Director, Lillian Booth (CA), and two members of the 2014 Junior royalty were escorted to the Master’s station. The 2014 Junior Ambassadors were Alexis Kudsk (WA), Jacob Tully (MA), and Patrick Lanstrum (OH). Jacob was unable to attend this year. After introductions by Junior Director Lillian Booth, Alexis and Patrick each gave remarks. Some Junior officers took their respective stations and gave the Junior oath to two new members, Cassidy Renken and Kathryn Renken (IL). The Junior officers who participated in the new member obligation were Master, Patrick Lanstrum (OH), Lady Assistant Steward, Alexis Kudsk (WA), and Assistant Steward, Mike Bethany (FL). National Grange Junior Director, Lillian Booth (CA), then gave her annual report.

Remarks were given from Worthy Master, Ed Luttrell (OR), thanking this group of youth members for opening our meeting today. He presented a hand-made gavel (made by High Priest of Demeter) to the Youth Master, Jennifer Lanstrum (OH). The Youth Officers then retired from the room with an excellent exit drill. Youth and Junior activities will be going on throughout the day.

Roll call of National officers found all present. The roll call of delegates found all State Granges were represented. Also answering roll call were representatives from Potomac No. 1, and the John Trimble Legislative representative, as well as High Priest Emeritus, John Valentine (IN), and Mark Naylor (OH), pianist.

Worthy Master reported that it is now 9:40 a.m. and the time certain for presentation of the budget. Lynette Schaeffer, Chairman of the Audit & Budget Committee, presented the budget, which was adopted.

Chris Johnston, reported that Michigan State Grange Foundation has matched the funds given by the Indiana State Grange. Recess until 11:15 a.m.

Following recess, Thomas McKern, Chairman of the Board of Grange Insurance Association, was presented to the Master’s Station for remarks.

The Committee report of the Agriculture committee as a whole was adopted.

The Labor, Judiciary & Transportation committee report as a whole was adopted.

The Citizenship committee report as a whole was adopted.

The report as a whole of the Conservation committee was adopted.

Stephen Coye (NY) of the Grange Law committee gave a partial report.

Recess for Lunch

Following recess, the newly elected executive members were installed. The installation team consisted of Installing Officer: Bruce Croucher (NY); Marshall: Roger Bostwick (KS), Regalia & Implement Bearer: Melanie Bostwick (KS), Installation Master: James Owens (ME); Installation Chaplain: Sharon Croucher (NY); Pianist: Mark Naylor (OH).

Betsy Huber was escorted to the Master’s Station to receive Past National Officer’s lapel pin. Leroy Watson also received a national officer ribbon for his name badge.

Grange Law chairman, Stephen Coye (NY), continued with a partial report.

It was reported that the Grange Law Committee reviewed the 2014 rulings of the National Master. Vote adopted to include in the Journal of Proceedings the appeal of the

Master's rulings as well as the response.

The Grange Law Committee as a whole was adopted.

Kathy Baldwin (IA) Grange Growth and Development Chairman gave a partial report.

Chris Johnston, Education and Health, gave a partial report, after which the committee report was adopted as a whole.

Kathy Baldwin (IA), Grange Growth and Development Chairman continued with that committee's report, which was adopted as a whole.

The report of the Audit and Budget Committee as a whole is adopted.

Motions made and carried as follows: The business of the session be released to the press. The staff be allowed to make grammar corrections to the work. Allow the Executive Committee to approve the minutes of the last day.

Announcements made by Jimmy Gentry.

On behalf of the DCI Communication Fellows, Chris Szkutak (MA) thanked all members of the delegates and officers for all their assistance this week. DCI donated \$10,000 for the fellows expenses.

Pete Pompper reported on the proposed scooter race between Barbara Narvel (DE) and Donna Wiles (MD). It will take place in the hallway after the GROW club dinner.

Roger Bostwick (KS) asked for a point of personal privilege. He announced that Grace Moody, the wife of Edward Moody, past Master of Kansas will be 100 years old on Jan, 29, 2015.

Jimmy Taylor (VA) thanked everyone who sent cards, letters, facebook greetings, etc. during the time of his injury and recovery.

Worthy Master Ed Luttrell (OR) gave the 2016 Annual Words. Secretary Judy Sherrod (TN) read the roll call of High Priest, High Priest Emeritus, State Masters and National officers to receive the annual words.

The 148th Session of the National Grange closed in the Fourth Degree at 4:55 p.m. Everyone present formed a circle, joined hands and sang "God Be With You".

Hosts in the hospitality room today were Ohio.

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

Projector screen by Lisa Tharp (OH).

Grow Club dinner began at 5 p.m.

A friendly motorized chair race between two Grangers was held in the hallway outside the convention meeting room as a fundraiser, raising \$506.

At 7:30 p.m. the Evening of Excellence was held at the Convention Center, under the direction of the National Lecturer Jim Tetreault (NH), co-hosted by two State Lecturers, Trisha Renken (IL), and Susan Popler (MI) who announced the participants in the talent portion of the Evening of Excellence. Recognition of other Lecturers from the host region were made as follows: Dorothy Eckert (OH) newly retired after serving 12 years, and Lecturers from Minnesota and Wisconsin, who were not present at convention. The National Youth Ambassadors, Montana Wrigley (NC) and Aaron Gwin (WA) introduced the participants in the Public Speaking, Sign-a-Song and also the State ambassadors. The winners of the National Youth Ambassadors for 2015 were announced: Derek Snyder (PA) and Cassidy Cheddar (PA). Runners-up were Lean Bardal (WA) and Corey Shiltz (OH).

The following workshops were held throughout the day: Membership Growth Workshop by Michael Martin, National Membership Director, Dogs for the Deaf Workshop, and Youth workshops.

The Junior tour to the Merry-Go-Round Museum and other Junior activities took place throughout the day, including a talent show and public speaking by regional

winners. A youth program was held at 10:30 p.m. hosted by the Midwest Region, with vespers at 11:30 p.m.

POST-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

Saturday, November 15, 2014

A Junior Grange breakfast buffet and program was held beginning at 8 a.m. A Lecturer's workshop began at 8:30 a.m. The National Youth Ambassadors and National Youth Director presented a workshop for contests in Grange Procedure followed by Grange Jeopardy contests. A Junior Grange Leadership Workshop for adults was held at 9:30 a.m. while at the same time there were Junior Grange activities for children, followed by awards ceremony for Juniors.

Members from the host region presented the Sixth Degree beginning at 10 a.m.

The Seventh Degree conferral began at 1 p.m. with 103 candidates, followed by the Convocation of the Assembly of Demeter.

The Grange Celebration Banquet began at 7 p.m. Welcome by National Master, Ed Luttrell (OR), followed by the pledge to the flag and the invocation by Chaplain Barbara Borderieux (FL).

Following dinner, Brother Ed introduced the National Grange staff members, national officers and Assembly officers. Samantha Johnson, Director of Sales & Programs, revealed the winners in the Dogs for the Deaf raffle, and recognized our Grange partners. She reported that the representative from the Dictionary Project gave all 50 boxes and took more orders for dictionaries. Samantha presented a check to the Kelley Farm from donations this year from Grange members across the country. A quilt was presented to the National Foster Parents Association.

The National Grange community service awards were presented by Samantha as follows: Fourth Maple Grove (ME), Third Clear Lake (MN), Second Stamford (NY), and First place Ekonk (CT). Burton Eller, National Legislative Director, presented a certificate to Melanie Fitch (OH) for her work this year as a National Grange intern.

This year's DCI Communication Fellows were recognized and thanked for their work throughout the convention. The 2014 DCI Communication Fellows were Debbie Gegare (WI), Karie Blasingame (IL), Christopher Szkutak (MA), Susy Ramm (OR), and Lindsay Shroeder (PA), led and instructed by Sister Amanda Leigh Brozana.

Michael Martin, Membership/Leadership Director announced 10 states with net gains in membership – Alaska, Colorado, Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin. 375 Subordinate Granges had net gains. A new Charter was presented to Sweetwater Grange in South Carolina.

The entertainment for the evening was Timothy Noble and friends, who presented a musical program of patriotic songs. The Grange Truck went to the California State Grange, where it will begin its travels this year. Announcement was made regarding the winners in the Grow Club silent auction, which netted \$966, and the Youth raffle netted \$1,792.

Brother Ed Cochran, convention coordinator from Ohio, recognized everyone present from the host region states, and thanked the host region members who helped make this year's convention a success. He thanked all states who donated stuffed toys for the service project. The 2015 Convention Coordinator, Lila Tooker (NE) was introduced, who invited everyone to the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 3-7, 2015. A video

of Nebraska highlights was shown.

An auction was held for a crystal vase engraved with the Grange emblem (for Junior fund), as well as anniversary State Grange dinner plates (for trademark protection fund). There was also an auction of funds taken up in a hat throughout the banquet hall, which money the winner returned to the Grange for the trademark protection fund.

Everyone sang “God Bless America”, the benediction was given by National Chaplain, Barbara Borderieux (FL) and the evening’s events were concluded, followed by a dance. Youth vespers were at 11:30 p.m.

**ASSEMBLY OF DEMETER
BUSINESS MEETING
Sandusky, Ohio
Thursday, November 13, 2014**

The Business Meeting of the Assembly of Demeter was held on the above date in the Ballroom of the Kalahari Convention Center at 8 p.m. with the High Priest of Demeter Bruce M. Croucher calling the meeting to order. The Priestess Hierophant Barbara Borderieux opened the Bible. All joined in singing “This is My Country” followed by the salute to the flag of the United States of America. The High Priest welcomed all.

Besides the High Priest, the following officers were present: Priest Archon – Roger Bostwick, Priest Annalist – James Owens, Priest Treasurer – Dwight Baldwin, Priestess Hierophant – Barbara Borderieux, Priestess Ceres – Claire Logan, Priestess Pomona – Susan Noah, Priestess Flora – Marie Nicholson and National Master – Edward Luttrell.

The minutes of the meeting held in Manchester, NH, in 2013 were read.

The Priest Annalist received a resolution over 48 hours ago written by the High Priest as follows:

WHEREAS there is an inconsistency in the definition of voting members of the Assembly of Demeter between Article II (Membership) and Article VII (Voting Members) in the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Demeter, and

WHEREAS the High Priest made a ruling at the last election to use the definition in Article VII (Voting Members), therefore be it

RESOLVED that Article II (Membership) be amended by having the section defining voting members be deleted so that it reads: “The Assembly of Demeter shall be composed of all members of the Order who have received the Seventh Degree and who are in good standing in a Subordinate Grange,” and be it further

RESOLVED that the definition under Article VII (Voting Members) be the only definition of voting members.

The High Priest discussed the possibilities for reducing the cost of the Seventh Degree. At last year’s National Grange session, it was voted to study reducing the cost of the Seventh Degree and the elected Assembly Officers have done so. Some options are as follows:

- 1) Increase Seventh Degree application fee from \$20 to \$30.
- 2) Reduce cost of lunch for cast and crew.
- 3) Have a theatre consultant recommend changes to reduce cost.
- 4) A fee for Seventh Degree members to view the degree.

5) Donation box.

6) No longer do a stage production.

The High Priest stated that the most expensive costs are stage rentals and audio and lighting. Priest Archon Roger Bostwick discussed options for next year in Lincoln, Neb., to assist in lowering the cost.

High Priest Croucher told of a trip he and Priestess Sharon Croucher took to Greece this past year. He mentioned places they visited which are told of in the Seventh Degree.

High Priest John Valentine addressed the Assembly. He encouraged all to read our beautiful ritual which was written by our Founders almost 150 years ago. He also told a humorous story.

National Master Priest Luttrell was called upon. He too challenged all to reacquaint themselves with the ritual of the Order and to share the lessons with our members.

The High Priest announced that the Sacred Record would be available after the close of the meeting if one wishes to look at it.

Priest Croucher introduced Jennifer and Scott Russell (OH), Seventh Degree Directors. Priest Russell brought us up to date on progress for the upcoming degree on Saturday. The Russells just had their third daughter three months ago and Scott is outnumbered.

Harold "Bud" and Carolyn Hill were unable to be with us to help with the degree this year due to health issues for Bud. They are missed. Earl and Dorothy Eckert will assume some backstage duties for the degree conferral this year.

The minutes were read.

Priestess Hierophant Barbara Borderieux gave the closing prayer. She then closed the Bible. The High Priest led all in the Salutation of the Seventh Degree. All joined in singing "Let there be Peace on Earth".

The Worthy High Priest declared the meeting closed at 8:50 p.m.

Fraternally,

James A. Owens

Priest Annalist

ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF DEMETER

Sandusky, Ohio

November 15, 2014

The Convocation of the Assembly of Demeter was held in the Ballroom of the Kalahari Convention Center on the above date at 3:15 p.m. following the conferral of the Seventh Degree.

Priest Herald Kevin Klenklen (KS) conducted to the stage the officers of the Assembly as follows: Priest Archon Roger Bostwick (KS), Priest Annalist James Owens (ME), Priest Treasurer Dwight Baldwin (IO), Priest Interpreter Duane Hamp (WA), Priest Archivist Maurice Wiles (MD), Priestess Hierophant Barbara Borderieux (FL), Priest Orator Christopher Johnston (MI), Priest First Mystagogue Scott Nicholson (MT), Priest Second Mystagogue Stephen Coye (NY), Priest Conductor Arthur Merrill (New Hampshire), Priest Messenger James Taylor (VA), Priest Guardian Chip Narvel (DE), Priest Announcer Gary Brumbaugh (OH), Priestess Ceres Claire Logan (RI), Priestess Pomona Susan Noah (OR) and Priestess Flora Marie Nicholson (MT). The Priest Herald

then conducted High Priest Bruce M. Croucher (NY) and National Grange Master Edward Luttrell (OR) to their stations.

The Worthy High Priest then opened the Convocation in full form. The Priestess Hierophant gave the ritualistic prayer. The High Priest exemplified the Salutation of each of the Seven Degrees followed by all joining in the Salutation of the Seventh Degree.

All were welcomed to the Convocation by the Worthy High Priest. Members of the cast and Seventh Degree Directors, Scott and Jennifer Russell (OH), were introduced. Harold and Dorothy Eckert (OH) were also recognized as having been called back into service for this degree conferral.

The High Priest reviewed the salutation along with key words for movement.

High Priest Croucher talked about the trip he and Priestess Sharon took to Greece this past year and of visiting the Temple of Demeter. He spoke of the relevance to the Seventh Degree and to the Grange.

National Master Priest Luttrell talked about symbolism.

The minutes of the 2013 meeting in Manchester, New Hampshire were read.

The Priest Annalist announced that 103 Patrons received the Seventh Degree this afternoon.

**CANDIDATES BY STATE
SANDUSKY, OHIO
2014**

CALIFORNIA	1
COLORADO	3
DC	1
ILLINOIS	3
IOWA	1
MICHIGAN	1
NEBRASKA	1
NEW YORK	1
OHIO	45
PENNSYLVANIA	34
WASHINGTON	2
WEST VIRGINIA	8
WISCONSIN	2
<hr/>	
TOTAL	103

The High Priest talked about what a wonderful experience it is to be a part of the Seventh Degree and how nice it is to have the young willing Trumpet Girls.

The Priestess Hierophant gave the benediction and the High Priest closed the Convocation of the Assembly of Demeter in form.

Fraternally Submitted,

James A. Owens

Priest Annalist

ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE NATIONAL MASTER
148th Annual Convention
Sandusky, Ohio
November 11, 2014



Introduction

In a few weeks it will be one hundred forty seven years since a small group of men formed the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, which is known as the Grange. We meet for the twelfth time in Ohio to engage in the business of the Order and to complete the annual grassroots process of developing the policies of the National Grange. As with each of the past 147 Sessions of the National Grange, topics will include agriculture, education, the future of America, and the Granges role in that future.

We call upon our membership, spread across the vastness of America, and to every concerned citizen to become involved in a positive way to strengthen our families and improve our communities. Through this effort we serve each state and the nation as a whole.

Agriculture

The population of the world is projected to be 9.6 billion people by 2050, an increase of 33 percent from today. There are only four alternatives to feed these soon to be born people, impose draconian government restrictions on the numbers of births such as has happened in communist China, allow untold millions to starve to death as history has demonstrated, bring massive new areas under cultivation and production, or continue to seek the benefits of science and technology in feeding the world.

Grange members recognize our obligation to feed these additional people. We cannot in good faith advocate that millions be allowed to starve in order to promote specific environmental goals any more than we can advocate for government intrusion into others' lives that we would not tolerate on our own families.

Feeding 9.6 billion people will only be the beginning of our challenge. History has taught us that when an industrialized nation becomes generally affluent, the population growth by birth declines. The projections of tremendous growth in India and the African continent show that by the end of this century the world's population may reach 12 billion souls. While projections are only educated guesses at best, we know that food, water, and shelter will be needed for many more people in the future than we provide for today.

The quickest way to improve any society is for those in agriculture to be educated, to be successful economically and to be socially connected beyond their immediate community. Farmers who are recognized as business people, teachers, and leaders in their communities are essential to improving life in today's undeveloped world. Improvements in agricultural science and technology are necessities to farmers who must assume these critical leadership roles throughout the world.

This goal does not stand in opposition to our organizations stand that we must be good stewards of the world we inhabit. Soil conservation, clean water and air, responsible use of chemicals, and natural habitat enhancement are long-standing positions of the Grange. We believe that farmers and ranchers add to the health of the environment and local ecosystems. The achievements of agriculture in protecting and enhancing nature while feeding the world should be a lesson to all. Agriculture is the foundation for a healthy world.

Science has aided America to clean up problems created in the past. We have learned from our mistakes and improved the lives of every American. However, every new step forward brings new questions and concerns. Genetic modification, new chemicals and pharmaceuticals, even new technologies challenge every American by interjecting the unknown into our lives. The Grange answers these concerns by demanding that transparent, peer reviewed, scientific research be the guideline for our positions. Our society cannot huddle in fear until all questions are answered. We must strive to be enlightened and always move forward with reasonable caution. Taking educated risks brought American from a group of colonies to a nation which today's world looks to for leadership and innovation. America has and will continue to reevaluate all advancements and if and when science demonstrates an unacceptable risk will act. Science, not fear, nostalgia, or politics, must be the cornerstone of the future.

The Grange calls upon every agriculturist in America to join in unity in the effort to feed clothe and house our neighbors and the world. Every niche of American agriculture, from small local organic producers to large intensive producers adds to the effort to erase hunger from humanity's experience.

Each farmer can and should make choices on techniques and methods they use on their operation. Each should be encouraged to market their products based upon those practices. All should remember that successful marketing does not require convincing your consumers that other products are bad, only that yours are better for some reason.

The Grange urges educators at the primary, secondary, and undergraduate levels to include basic knowledge of agriculture in their curriculum. Every American needs to understand that nature's laws are constant and immutable. Agriculture is more than just food, fiber, and fuel. It is also man's basic interaction with the environment. Agriculture teaches that we are at the mercy of forces we cannot control. Every farmer learns to adapt and work with nature in order to be successful. The most simple and basic lesson, such as water is needed to grow crops, is critical for every American to understand.

An ongoing challenge for American agriculture is the transfer of farming operations from one generation to the next. Even transferring small farms can pose difficult challenges. One of the most difficult challenges is the estate tax. The Grange renews its call to end estate taxes. Confiscatory taxes on assets that are built up over a lifetime of paying other taxes destroys many viable farms and businesses each year. When assets have to be sold to pay the tax levied upon death to the government, the dream of a life's work is often destroyed and hope for the next generation is dispelled.

The Grange is perceived in Washington to be a strong force in rural America. Towards that end, the Grange has consistently and actively worked to revitalize both agriculture and the rural residential lifestyle. Fast broadband connectivity has empowered precision agriculture to be more productive, use less fertilizer and pesticides, conserve water, manage soils in a prescriptive needs-based manner.

Support for Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) is a long-standing position of the National Grange. However, a second adverse ruling in October by the World Trade Organization (WTO) against our country's COOL program will force the U.S. to take additional actions to resolve this issue. WTO agreed country of origin labeling is the consumer's right to know; but the way it's been implemented by USDA unfairly discriminates against Canadian and Mexican meat and animals. The Grange calls upon the Administration, and if need be the Congress, to quickly fix this problem in 2015. America cannot afford to endanger agriculture and other segments of our economy because of retaliatory tariff actions by other countries because of improper COOL implementation.

Education

Education was a driving force behind the formation of the Grange. Our members have seen the value of both formal education at all levels of schooling and informal education within the communities where we live.

The purpose of public education is not to provide teachers and school administrators a guaranteed salary, it is not to give politicians greater power or votes, it is not to create a vast laboratory to conduct social science experiments. The purpose of education is to open the minds of young people to the world around them, to the lessons of the past, and the possibilities of the future.

It is critical that our youth be taught that the world is a place where hard work and knowledge provide you with an advantage, that being ready to adapt to changes will assist you, that even when you suffer setbacks, you can try again and achieve success. The lesson that there is no free lunch, but there are limitless opportunities, must be a part of education in today's world.

An understanding of the past is a part of education that is too often neglected. There are many important names: Washington, Franklin, Lincoln, and critical dates: 1776, December 4, December 7, September 11, and momentous events: Yorktown, Gettysburg, the Manhattan Project that should be memorized by every American. These important facts are even more powerful and useful when an understanding of their context and background are taught. If we wish our youth to respect and support our nation and culture, they must understand how it has developed.

The possibilities of the future will be unlocked by education coupled with hard work. The boundless potential of individuals to create new technology, to develop new practices, to expand the quality of life for others is dependent upon our ability to ensure that all are given a well-rounded education that prepares our youth for the future. The ability to analyze data and facts, to look at situations from different perspectives, to comprehend how the current problem came to be, and to understand the world and people around them will benefit our youth beyond measure.

Broadband access allows students to take world class coursework from home at the high school, college and post graduate levels. Small town businesses are able to improve and learn from world-wide expertise and technology through modern technology. The Grange continues to work to ensure that every opportunity to learn is available in rural America, not just in metropolitan centers. Accessible, fast, affordable broadband is essential for every American.

To round out the necessities of a quality education, we must ensure an understanding of American civics. Every immigrant who desires to become a naturalized American probably learn more about our nation than many of our own young people. The American Constitution was not written for lawyers and judges, it was not written for the elites of society, it was written to be understood by anyone with a basic education. If we intend to keep the liberties granted to us in this unique document, the American people must understand how and why our nation works. The duties and obligations of the citizens of a representative republic must be understood and accepted by all. The Grange will continue to encourage and promote the teaching of America civics in our education system and beyond.

Regulation

Over the last several presidential administrations we have seen a continued acceleration of an increase in the amount and weight of governmental regulation. Regulations are increasingly being viewed as over-reaches of authority by many citizens.

The responsibilities of each branch of government is clearly laid out in the Constitution. Congress is to pass the laws, the Executive is to enforce the laws, and the Judicial ensures that those laws are within the boundaries of the Constitution.

Many years ago, Congress passed laws that the Executive branch would enforce. Then slowly at a glacial pace originally, agencies of the Executive branch began creating

administrative law. Laws passed by Congress began to become more complex and more rules were needed to enforce the law. That process is now resulted in huge laws such as the Affordable Care Act which consisted of nearly 400,000 words. As of October of last year, over 11.5 million words had been written in new regulations to enforce the law and new rules are propagated every week.

Today we have the 15 agencies of the federal government which are headed by a cabinet secretary and 19 independent federal agencies which are often headed by a commission or board. All have the power to issue regulations which have the force of law and all use this force to its full extent.

This year we've seen the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issue regulations which will result in the closure of a number of coal-fired electric generation plants and mandate a reduction in the demand for coal. The EPA is seeking to expand their oversight of navigable waters to virtually all waters in the US. These regulations are far outside the original laws passed by congress and appear to be the result of an extreme political agenda.

In addition, state government agencies, and local government add to the depth and layers of regulations that Americans are forced to deal with. The required reports, the prohibited activities, the necessary processes to comply with these regulations can be dealt with by larger companies. However, small business and family farmers cannot afford to hire people whose only duty is to ensure compliance with oceans of regulations.

Regulations are strangling American business and reach into the daily lives of every American. Compliance with regulations is estimated to have cost more than 1.8 trillion dollars in 2013. This immense number is larger than the gross domestic product of many nations, including our northern neighbor Canada. How many people were not hired because a job did not exist due to regulations issued by one of the agencies of our government? Even more important, how many people lost their job because a business owner failed to survive the tsunami of regulations.

Regulations are supposed to protect people from unreasonable harm, ensure that the economic playing field is level and allow all to follow their dream. Regulations should not attempt to remove risk from life, as with no risk, there is no free will. No regulation can be written to guarantee equality of results as the recipe for individual success differs from person to person.

The Grange calls upon our elected officials at all levels to begin reducing the flood of government regulation before it drowns American entrepreneurship. Congress holds the purse strings for the Executive branch of our federal government and needs to do its duty of oversight in the implementation of the laws of the land. Making farmers and small businesses unprofitable through excessive regulatory action is not the role of the government of our republic.

Fiscal responsibility

More than 17.8 trillion dollars in national debt and counting. It appears that our national government will add an additional 500 billion dollars this year to our national debt. If you listen to our elected leaders, half claim that we have a spending problem and the other half claim we have an income problem. It is far past the time that we demand that politicians and bureaucrats in Washington DC, on both sides of the political aisle, acknowledge that our federal government has a DEBT problem.

It is time for Congress to begin addressing our nation's mountain of growing debt. We demand that any solution recognize the need to live within our income. In addition, we believe our taxation system must be designed to encourage economic activity to enable American entrepreneurs to create new wealth. This will help grow our economy

thereby reducing the debt gradually. We also believe that if any are to feel the pain of reductions of services or benefits, or increased tax burdens, all Americans must share in these responsibilities as all Americans share an equal interest in the success of our nation.

Calvin Coolidge said, "No matter what anyone may say about making the rich and the corporations pay the taxes, in the end they come out of the people who toil."

Grange members understand that those who put in a hard day's work, or those who risk their savings and energy in pursuit of owning their own farm or business, all pay the taxes that fund our government. In real terms, corporations don't pay the taxes, they pass those taxes along to the consumer. Punishing those who have achieved success with high tax rates doesn't translate into more income for those who are still working toward success. We also understand that even though approximately half of American workers do not directly pay federal income taxes, they pay through the cost of products and services. In addition they pay taxes to social security and a myriad of other taxes.

The World

America is a part of the world community and cannot withdraw from our interactions with the many nations of the globe. Yet, the world is a very dangerous place today and likely will be for the foreseeable future.

Disease from exotic and rare viruses such as Ebola to the re-emergence of whooping cough and many other "conquered diseases" are now seen traveling across borders and threatening millions of lives. Distance no longer serves as a major hindrance to the transmission of disease. We can travel from continent to continent in less time that even the most virulent disease can incubate. People cross our borders daily with no documents or contact with American authorities. A free society must engage in debate about how to protect ourselves without isolation. Immigration and travel are necessary and good for our nation, but we must develop effective methods of protecting the citizens of our nation.

Enemies of America are no longer just limited to nation states, they do not bear names such as communist, fascist, or dictator. A myriad of extremist groups calling themselves jihadists, who claim to represent the religion of Islam have joined the foes of our nation. The Grange and America believes in religious freedom, but the stated goals of these extremist groups is contrary of the beliefs of all who believe in liberty. Regardless of why a person, a group, or a nation chooses to oppose freedom as America and western culture has defined it, we as a people must oppose their actions. When Christians, Jews, Muslims, or others are persecuted or murdered, America should take notice.

The challenges of the modern world are many. America is made up of truly one of the most giving people on the globe. We give food, medicine, technology, money and even our time to help others in times of disaster, disease, war, and famine. In addition our government gives billions of dollars of our money, and even more in crops and technology to feed millions.

We call upon our government to re-evaluate all programs to aid foreign nations. We must ensure that we help the people, not empower and enrich the dictators and warlords. We must demonstrate and teach the power of liberty to enable their people, not tell them what to do.

Constitution and Rule of Law

Our American republic came into true being with the ratification of the United States Constitution in 1788. This document has been the glue that has allowed our nation to survive growing pains, national tragedies and disasters, and disagreements that have torn other nations asunder.

The Constitution has kept the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government separate and over time each has gained strength and then weakened as they struggled to maintain balance as the Constitution was designed to ensure.

The first ten amendments, the Bill of Rights, were ratified in 1791 as the founders of our nation saw them as critical to complete the preservation of the rights of the American people. Over the last 223 years, 17 more amendments have been ratified by the states.

This document has the purpose to preserve the liberty of the American people and create a government that is limited and does not infringe upon the rights of the people. Thirteen states with a population of about 2.7 million created a nation with this document. That nation now includes 50 states and over 315 million individuals.

The Grange believes that the Constitution is as relevant today as the day it was ratified. This unique and powerful document accomplishes many things to preserve liberty. But one of the powerful effects is the fact that Americans are ruled by the law, not by men. Our representatives make the laws within the boundaries of the Constitution and every person is bound by those laws. We must never allow anyone to be above the law.

There have been efforts to amend or just circumvent the Constitution many times over the past two centuries. Presidents, Congress, judges, and groups of our citizens have occasionally strayed from this centerpiece of American democracy. We must not stray, as this grand document gives every American the right to follow their own dreams, seek their fortune, and live their life by the dictates of their individual faith.

The Grange opposes any effort to restrict the freedoms so clearly expressed in the Bill of Rights. Every person and every group of people deserve freedom of speech, especially in the arena of political expression. Religious expression is a right of each American, not just religious practice. The right to bear arms is not being infringed upon.

Most of the attacks in recent years upon the Bill of Rights are in the areas of gun control and the attempts to remove religion from the public domain. Mental illness, evil intent, or even stupidity are not reasons to infringe upon the rights of law-abiding citizens to own firearms or ammunition. As a caring society we need to deal with the issues of mental illness. We must prevent or punish the acts of evil doers. Taking fundamental rights away from good people solves nothing.

The Grange calls upon all Americans to be tolerant of others faith and beliefs. The expression of one's religious view, or even one's lack of a religious belief is a right. Just as no American has the right to ban the expression of different religious viewpoints, no American has the right to a society free of religion.

The Grange calls upon each American citizen to read and reflect upon the Constitution of the United States and then to renew their whole-hearted commitment to the principles of liberty engraved upon that document. Let us hold every elected official to the standard of that manuscript, rather than the standard of partisanship we've seen over the past years.

Conclusion

During the activities of this National Grange session, Americans will see a diverse membership debate the merits of many proposals from throughout the country. Passions will be high, yet the membership will remember that they are brothers and sisters within the Grange. The lesson for American is that we can debate the issues of the day without stooping to name calling or character assassination.

The challenges of America require that we have hope for the future, for hope gives us reason for action. The lessons of the Grange teach that Faith in God, Hope, Charity to the needy, and Fidelity to ourselves, and to America are essential traits.

The Grange pledges its best efforts to strengthening the family, to building our local community, and striving to influence our state and national governments for the good of all. Fraternally Submitted,

Edward L. Luttrell (OR), National Master

NATIONAL MASTER'S INTERNAL ADDRESS
148th Annual Convention
Sandusky, Ohio
November 11, 2014

Introduction

The Order of Patrons of Husbandry is many different things to our diverse membership and to the public at large. Since 1867 our organization has changed and evolved to serve our members and the world around us. Yet at no time have we lost sight of the principles that guide us.

Members point out achievements to potential members, members speak of the actions of our leaders, and what we have done is written down in history books. Yet who we are as Grange members may be the greatest thing to be proud of. The grassroots structure, the degrees and their lessons, and the opportunity for every member to reach their full potential are what makes up the Grange. The Grange is truly something to be proud of.

California and Our Rules

The situation in California is not nearly as complex as our opponents would have members and the public believe. In real terms, any member who was placed in the position of National Master would have been required to fulfill the duties of their office with few differences in this matter.

The former Master of the revoked California State Grange could have abided by the rules of the Order in August of 2012, but he chose not to. The majority of the Executive Committee of the revoked California State Grange could have enforced the rules of the Digest and the State Grange. Instead they chose to disregard their solemn pledge to follow the rules of the Grange and elected to support their leader over the rules of our organization. Last November, eight members claiming to represent the former California State Grange declared that they were no longer part of any national organization and were disaffiliated from us.

National Grange leadership has had few options since the first of those decisions and today we find ourselves locked by others' actions into a costly fight. If we do not prevail in this legal fight, the very structure of the organization will be damaged. All legal precedent and case law is on our side. Our counsel has repeatedly reaffirmed that they believe we'll prevail.

All the misinformation and posturing, all of the name calling and character assassination, all the efforts to create strife and controversy are just efforts to divide us. The heart of this situation is that we are in a dispute over the right of our nationwide organization to have meaningful and binding rules.

I would remind our members that Grange rules and law follows fundamental American philosophy:

1. Grange rules begin with the Constitution, Declaration of Purposes, Incorporation, Bylaws, and Code of the National Grange. All rules of the Grange stem from and cannot be in conflict with these fundamental documents.
2. The rules apply to all, from the youngest to the oldest member, from the newest Community Grange member to every Gold Sheaf member. Each Master, at every level, is charged with enforcing the rules, no matter their personal opinion or how it may viewed by others.
3. The rules are mutually agreed upon. Every member has the right to propose changes to our rules and each proposal is adopted or rejected by the grassroots process of the Grange carried out by our members and delegates at each level of the Order.
4. We abide by our rules until they are changed; no one is entitled to change the rules

arbitrarily. Only the appropriate body can change the rules through our due process.

5. Compliance to the rules is based upon personal honor. Upon joining the Grange each member promises to abide by the rules of the Grange. While every member has the right to charge another for violations, the standard is for each to live up to their sacred pledge. The greatest penalty is expulsion from the Order.

6. No one is forced to be a Grange member. Membership is voluntary and any member may withdraw from the organization at any time. However, no individual or group may take the assets of the Grange (personal or real property, money, or the name) with them.

This past July, the California State Grange was successfully reorganized. They have shown initiative and determination to assist in our efforts to end this situation and bring the Granges in California back into compliance with the rules and harmony with the rest of the Order.

The National Grange has a strategy to win the legal battles, we have our fellow Californians working with us, and we have appealed to our membership for financial help; all that is needed now is the desire and commitment to ensure that the Grange survives this threat and emerges revitalized.

This situation will be resolved by the end of next year. The state case is scheduled for trial in June and the federal case in October. While it is possible that these issues may be resolved prior to those trial dates, that will be determined by judges or the former members.

Just as the National Grange prevailed in 1921 in a similar situation, I have confidence that the Grange today will survive and prosper as long as we remain true to our principles.

I recommend that the Grange Law Committee consider an amendment to the Digest to clarify that any Grange, upon surrendering its Charter or having its Charter revoked, must invoke dissolution on themselves and their incorporation upon exhausting any appeal.

Trademark/Name Protection

The value of the Grange name to our Community and Pomona Granges as well as to the State Granges, make protection of our trademarks a high priority. Protection of our trademarks has been an effort of many decades. The recognition of the great value of the Grange name by others have resulted in the current level of legal actions.

We have seen confusion created in the public, we have seen others attempt to give us a black eye in the media, and many have tried to use our name to make a profit, yet the value of our reputation remains stellar. My thanks go to all our members who maintain the value of the Grange name and their efforts to protect it. Our name and reputation are truly something to be proud of.

I recommend that we re-evaluate the legislative option after the results of the election have been digested and we see who the leadership in Congress is. In addition, I believe that an investment in seeking a corporate partner to create a permanent revenue stream that will enhance our trademark protection efforts would be prudent even with the financial challenges we face today.

Financial

The Grange has never been a wealthy organization, and few organizations give such value for the small contribution from its membership. The finances of the National Grange are not much different than those of many State Granges and Community Granges. We live within our means, and when tough times came upon us, we tighten our belts.

The combination of the California situation and the name protection efforts have driven the budget into a deficit. The fact is that the modern world requires us to engage lawyers to defend us. If we did not have to defend the good Grange name and our organization, in the California case, you would find the National Grange operating in the black.

I challenge the delegates to address the underlying issues, not just discuss the budget.

Either the efforts are valued and we must find a way to deal with the expense, or the efforts lack value and we should end them.

In our personal lives during and after a storm, you deal with a damaged roof or you suffer the risk of the loss of your home. The storm today is California. It is this body's decision of how we deal with this. Do we allow the storm to sweep our home away as the cost of saving it is too high or do we preserve our home because the value is so great?

This body should understand where I stand. I see great value in the Grange, value that is worth saving. It will mean making hard decisions and once again creating debt that will be need to be paid back in the coming years.

I ask each member to look at how the Grange has benefited them and give what they can afford. The Granges throughout our nation need to understand they are part of this great organization and are a critical part of this battle. Your support and assistance is critical.

Who We Are

Who we are as Grange members is far more important than what activities we engage in. I urge every member to read the declaration of purposes and then reflect upon those ideas. Every member should refresh their memory, or create a deeper understanding of the lessons of the degree work contained in the manuals of the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh degrees.

One of the greatest aspects of the Grange is that we can have unity of purpose and great personal freedom at the same time. We are encouraged to disagree, to debate and discuss almost every topic. Yet we are cautioned to avoid bitterness and to remain polite and civil at all times, as with a true brother or sister.

We are prohibited in the Grange from even the discussion of partisan or sectarian issues, yet every member is encouraged to place faith in God and to participate in the party of their choice. Our only test for membership is the character of the person, never their opinions on the issues.

Grange members include liberals and conservatives as well as devout believers and agnostics. Each brings valuable opinions and experiences to the whole of the Grange. We incorporate into the Grange family great diversity of opinion, but always with the belief that we will find unity through the lasting principles of the Grange: Faith, Hope, Charity, and Fidelity.

The importance of who we are as Grangers is often overlooked. Yet we should view our identity as an essential and valuable characteristic. We should take the lessons of who we are as something to be proud of.

Sesquicentennial

Every member should be proud of the rich history of the Grange. With our 150th anniversary only three years away we should take a moment to look back at our impressive history. I believe that the 150th Session of the National Grange to be held in the DC area in 2016 should have a number of significant activities. The Session to be held weeks before the 2017 Anniversary should be celebrated with even more vigor.

The Grange Growth and Development committee has been given a report by a volunteer committee on celebrating our history. I want to thank these members for their work and encourage the delegates to evaluate their proposals and implement those you find valuable.

As the history of the Order is really the history of the efforts of our membership, I recommend that on the National Grange website we create a virtual hall of fame. It would not be just the past Masters, but those members whose efforts led to such great successes for our Order. I would suggest that each State submit biographical information and pictures of honorees for each decade, after including them in their own hall of fame. A jury of Grange historians

would then select up to 150 honorees for the initial group. We should include the Founders of the Order in addition to the 150. This project has the potential of involving hundreds of our members in the process of nominating and evaluating the merits of each Patron to be included. The educational and recruitment potential of this project could be very beneficial.

The history of the Grange is filled with great achievements and occasional errors. A truthful study of our history shows people, not angels, doing the best that they could. When mistakes were made, afterward in the light of reason and justice, the right thing was then done. The lesson of education and improvement is evident throughout the story of the Grange. The actions of our organization, the actions of our members are truly something that we can be proud of.

I challenge every member to not only celebrate our history, but face the challenges of today with an understanding of the legacy passed to us. We must always look forward into the future while remembering the lessons of the past.

In Memoriam

Since our last Session, this delegate body has once again lost a serving Master. Brother Ted Doane departed this earth last spring and left a hole in the lives of so many. Our lives are better for knowing him and our sympathy to his family overflows.

Each year we hold a memorial ceremony to recognize past delegates and officers that we have lost since last November. While our hearts mourn their loss, our minds should be filled with the memories of the good deeds and kind words that they dispensed so freely.

The loss of every family member, or every Grange member, is a personal loss to those who knew them. It is also a loss to everyone in our fraternal family. Each departed member was once a candidate starting their Grange journey. The length of that journey is not what was important, it was that we shared the journey for a while. Some we walked with for a short time and others shared the journey for decades. We must have faith that we will rejoin them in that great Grange above where rules the Great Master of us all.

Growth

Grange growth is measured in two primary ways. First in an increase in membership and second in an increase in the number of Community Granges. The very first step in creating growth in either category is to believe in the value the Grange offers our members. Without this core belief, there is no opportunity for growth.

Over the last few years, we've given each State Master the opportunity to make a pledge for growth. Some have made specific pledges that they knew they could achieve while others made huge pledges that they didn't reach. A few made pledges that couldn't be measured. The reality is that only by building teams and having that proverbial "fire in the belly" have we seen growth.

I want to compliment every member in Oklahoma for their efforts in recruiting new members. They have seen their Grange grow by one third this year. Sister Keeton has built a team who recruits members when they could have used the associate program. They have spent their time recruiting Grange members rather than policyholders for the insurance company, because they see the value of Grange membership first.

Every Grange already has something that will make recruiting new members possible. Do not make the mistake of looking at what others have, look at why you belong, why your fellow members participate and then share that as an opportunity to others. We do have something to be proud of.

In the realm of membership, I challenge every Community Grange to have a net gain in membership as of June 30, 2015. I challenge every Pomona Grange to find ways to

help their Community Granges. With these two challenges, every State Grange must find exciting ways to carry this message to their Granges and find ways of encouraging success.

In the field of growth in numbers of Granges, I ask that each State Master set the goal to have at the 2015 Session a net increase in the number of Granges. This will not be an easy task for large or small State Granges. National Grange has provided the tools and training necessary to enable each of you to build the teams needed to achieve this goal. In addition, adding new or reorganized Granges to your state will aid you in the goal of net gains in membership.

Growth has always been an achieved through hard work. Through out our history, a small number of members have been responsible for the creation of a large number of our Community Granges. They did not wait until the task would be easier, they didn't wait until someone asked them, though on occasion they were asked to come and organize. They felt great pride in this organization and went out of their way to share it. They may have failed as often as they succeeded, but they tried again and again, and they never apologized for their passion.

The Digest requires States to work to restore Inactive Granges, just as it directs the National Grange to attempt to organize six or more Community Granges in order to add new State Granges to our body. It is our duty as Grange leaders to ensure the growth of the Grange, both in new members and in new Granges.

We are only limited by ourselves. Let each cast off the shackles of our preconceptions, our fears, and our doubts and work together in 2015 to show America the energy and strength of a growing Grange. We can achieve this in 2015, 16, and 17; thereby demonstrating to all of America that the Grange is as relevant and vital as we were in 1867. That we truly have something to be proud of!

Thanks

There is an important reason that I include a section of thanks each year in my report. It is the result of the simple belief that no man or woman can perform their duties without help.

I thank God for giving me strength to remain true to my principles, for good health to enable me to perform my duties, and for what little wisdom I have gained in my journey down life's pathway. I thank my family, and especially my wife Celia for allowing me to carry out the obligations that the delegates of the National Grange have placed upon me. They have sacrificed much to this organization and they deserve recognition for their critical role. I also want to thank the many members for their kind and supportive words. They likely had no idea of how often their words were spoken when needed most.

Conclusion

This report has outlined serious challenges to our Order. It has also illustrates much that we have to be proud of. As leaders, we must realize that the challenges are not overwhelming and we must look for the positive even in the midst of negativity. Each leader must act in ways that ensures their fidelity to the Grange and its purpose.

On Friday the gavel will fall for the last time in this Session. The results of this Sessions' labors will become part of the grand history of the Grange. How we act towards each other and how we've incorporated the principles of the Grange into our lives will have a lasting impact on each member.

Brothers and Sisters, the 148 annual Session of the National Grange is in your hands. Let us strive to continue the heritage of the Grange. Working together this Session, we add something to the Grange that we can be proud of.

Fraternally Submitted,

Edward L. Luttrell (OR), National Master

STATE MASTERS' REPORTS

Alaska

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates, and members of the 148th Annual Session of the National Grange: Kate and I bring greetings from the State of Alaska.

The Alaska State Grange was delighted to have the National Chaplain, Sister Barbara Borderieux attend our annual state meeting at the Fair Grounds in Ninilchik, Alaska on Sept. 27, 2014. Although Sister Barbara is from Florida, the state that is the farthest south and east from Alaska, there are many similarities between the Granges in Alaska, and the Granges in Florida. We are both geographically large states with few Granges and our membership tends to be aging. Driving distances between farthest Granges exceeds ten hours. As state Granges, we are struggling to keep up membership and retain sufficient Granges to maintain a state charter. While these may seem like dismal statements to the states with large flourishing Granges, to the Alaska State Grange this was perceived as encouragement in that we are not alone in our struggle to keep the Grange alive in Alaska.

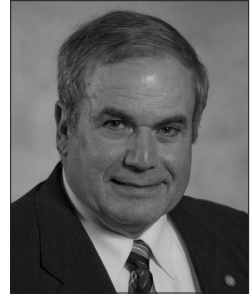
Even with the challenges stated above, we had representation from five of the seven Granges in Alaska present at the meeting. Our current focus is to re-energize the Granges on the Kenai Peninsula and we are out of the box in some of the options that we are exploring. For the short term we are considering unifying the individual grange members from the two weaker Granges into a single organization under the leadership of a state deputy. This will facilitate record keeping and accountability of the remaining assets of these two Granges. This single organization will operate as though it is a Pomona, but it does not have standing to apply for a charter from the National Grange, and will exist under the authority and supervision of the Alaska State Grange until the situation improves.

We recognize the difficulty that the travel distances between population centers imposes on us so we will place increased reliance on a regional structure to continue development of Alaska Granges. We have established three regions: the Interior, South Central, and the Peninsula. Each region has its unique demographics and climate. We have appointed two deputies, one for the South Central region and one for the Peninsula. The Interior will operate without a Deputy since the current master resides in that region. This structure is not defined in our by-laws and has been put in place by the authority of the State Master with concurrence of the Executive Committee (EC). We will modify our by-laws if we see success in this approach.

We are nearing completion of our transition of websites to the National Grange website. We will begin the transition to the use of the National Grange membership database in 2015. The Alaska State Grange relies heavily on the use of team speak for EC meetings. We meet monthly on the first Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m. We only meet in a formal face to face setting at our annual state meetings. At our past session in Ninilchik, we revised our annual meeting dates from the last weekend in September to the first weekend in October.

We have come a long way bringing the Alaska State Grange to its current status, but we have a few serious challenges in front of us.

Fraternally Submitted,
John E Poirrier, Master



Colorado

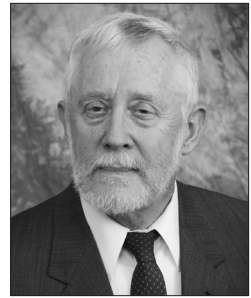
Dear Patrons,

Sadly we lost some wonderful Grangers and friends this past year. Ray Heap of Victory Grange has left us, Don Halbeisen of Maple Grove is gone, Betty Burns from Florissant,

and Roberta Barr from Animas Valley and others.

Kay and I together with Gary and Kathy Wardle, and Roberta Rehfeld attended the Great Plains Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas in June. Next year Colorado will be host to this conference. The location will be the Hesperus Camp west of Durango and all Colorado Grangers are encouraged to attend. This is a beautiful location at a beautiful event center.

Cindy and Harry Greer attended the GIA member meeting in Seattle representing Colorado.



Colorado State and Local Granges

There was a copyright issue for Colorado State Grange in that one of the images formerly on our Grange website was found to be represented by Getty Images of Seattle. Getty demanded \$800 but allowed us to demonstrate we are a non-profit (we are), and the demand was dropped. We received advice on this problem from National Master Ed Luttrell, trademark attorney Leroy Watson, and Communications Director Amanda Leigh Brozana. We deleted the image with thanks to Larry Corman.

The National Grange can no longer afford sponsoring a Masters Conferences though they are very beneficial meetings. Now each attendee must cover costs via their personal funds or State Grange budget. I did not attend the conference in Michigan due to travel challenges (expensive and time consuming). Only about half the State Grange Masters were able to attend.

We added our support to two letters to Senators Udall and Bennett for opposing cuts to Medicare Part B. We allowed use of the State Grange logo to be placed on letters sent to roughly 50,000 registered voters in Colorado who are over 55 years old and it was also used as an ad in newspapers. We joined with the Alliance for Patient Access, the Kidney Cancer Association and others in this effort. I was invited to meet with Senator Bennett and was able to explain our Grange heritage. He is from Connecticut and was aware of the many Grange halls in that state.

I am lending my time and signature as Master to efforts to oppose Measure 105 to require genetically labeling of genetically modified food. Voters will see this item on the November ballots. The Delegates here now will address a resolution on this matter. The National Grange opposes GMO labeling.

Some of our Granges have experienced wonderful growth, in particular, Mt. Lookout in Mancos has continued to add members for the second year and we will hear more about their successes at this meeting. They also received a \$5,000 grant for capital improvements. Cache La Poudre has 26 new members. Florida Grange has greatly improved the condition of their hall resulting from consolidation with Eureka Grange members and sale of Eureka's hall.

Liberty Hall Grange is progressing with its renewal. Altona Grange just held their annual fund-raiser. Redlands Mesa is planning to submit a proposal for a grant to upgrade their hall. Lewis Grange members continue to upgrade their hall and gain new members.

Under guidance and approval of the State Grange Executive Committee and cooperation with the members of Riverside Grange and Colona Grange members in Montrose, the two consolidated and the Riverside Grange hall was sold several weeks ago for \$140,000. The proceeds from the sale less fees will follow the members and be used by Colona's now combined membership. The sale was completed this month. Because the buyer used the name "Montrose Grange, LLC" we encountered an issue as the Grange name does not run with the property and the new owner has no right to use the name Grange for a profit or non-profit enterprise. We believe we adequately made that limit clear.

Per direction of the Executive Committee we are offering the Hillside Grange building near Cotapaxi as the several remaining members have not been able to maintain that

membership and maintain the building. We own the building but property the building sits on is not owned by the Grange and will return to the donor's heirs, and that is complicated by the fact the donor had no children.

We are attempting to gain control of Little Thompson Grange bank accounts and contents of their safe deposit bank. The last Treasurer of Little Thompson passed years ago and no one sought to manage the bank account and in the years following of no activity, the bank deducted fees totaling about \$900 and ultimately escheated the account to the Office of Unclaimed property where I submitted a claim in April. We are waiting for a response. Likewise, we are attempting to gain access to the contents of the deposit box that is still held by the bank. We are attempting to have the one or more remaining Little Thompson members agree to consolidate with Homestead Grange and the approximate \$2,000 remaining from the bank account would transfer to Homestead.

National Grange

Two National Grange staff people we grew to respect and know have departed. Grace Boatright, Legislative Director, was terminated due to details not shared and Amanda Leigh Brozana, who graced us last year with her intelligent presence, has moved on. Burton Eller has been hired as the new Legislative Director and he has Denver in his history as he lived near the Cherry Creek Dam years back.

Several state Granges have withheld their second quarter dues asserting that National is on a financial decline and has no plan to make corrections and is not taking steps to create a plan. These State Masters are ignoring the Grange By-Laws and their commitment they agreed to in holding their offices. The following is from the budget plan released in mid-August from Betsy Huber for the Executive Committee: "The National Grange budget of last November is very tight. One employee retired and two have gone and one of those has been replaced. The National Grange has been reducing expenses over the past six years to remove any excess activities that are not essential plus the Executive Committee is committed to a balanced budget and retaining member and Grange services. The Executive Committee is working to avoid any new trademark cases and to limit litigation expenses." (Note that there is a potential conflict with the Grange name use by a developer who elected to use our name for their land development near Longmont.) "The National Executive Committee is holding monthly budget Teamspeak meetings on the financial situation and quarterly meetings open to State Masters and National Officers and the National Grange is working with affiliated (c)3 and (c)4 organizations to have them pay their own operational expenses." (This might impact our Colorado (c)3 Grange entities such as our scholarship program and P.I.C.K.)

National Master Ed Luttrell recently sent letters to Grangers, largely to Masters, outlining the budget shortages, forecasts, and the fiscal and legal problems with the California breakaway group and from protection of our Grange name from non-Grange entities. Both of these have eaten up huge amounts of National's available funds. National will be borrowing from one state Grange and, in his letter, seeks donations of \$10 or more from each of us. Copies of his letter and budget outline plus the larger budget plan are available here. Please see me.

The National Grange annual meeting is in Sandusky, Ohio in November this year and I will be one of your delegates and Cindy Greer will be the other. Also attending will be my wife Kay, Harry Greer, and Alan and Renee Caldwell and possibly more. The 2015 session will be in Nebraska and Colorado is one of the co-hosts. Please be thinking about attending as it is within moderate driving distance.

The California State Grange has a new Master, Ed Komski, and I would hope that this might help put to an end the turmoil the break-away group has caused the National Grange (with related legal expenses) but I doubt it. Ed, his wife Cynthia and daughter Aspen, are longtime residents of San Diego County, California and he is a member of Rainbow Valley

Grange and holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA. He has a Colorado connection owning property not far from Gunnison.

Grange Radio is online and is accessible from the National Grange web site with talk, music, commentary, local, State, and National Grange events are covered. Access is available from the National Grange website - listen in while you do other computer activities. You can submit Grange news for broadcast consideration. The station's equipment was damaged by storms and I trust it is back in operation and they are seeking donations.

According to National Master Ed Luttrell the House of Representatives passed a Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Act of 2014 to halt the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' proposed "Waters of the United States" regulation. This proposal (regulatory creep according to one critic) would reach to nearly all streams and water bodies across our country and every farmer and rancher and landowner could be adversely impacted via this interpretation of the Clean Water Act. It potentially would pose significant and impractical practices on land management such as fencing out livestock and limiting crop production methods where runoff from farmed fields would need to be contained. The National Grange Master Luttrell encourages all of us to contact our senators during the upcoming October election recess and ask them to vote for legislation to curtail the EPA and Army Corps regulatory overreach on water in the lame duck (Nov.-Dec.) session of Congress.

Legislature and Legislation, State of Colorado

The several proposed ballot initiatives that would curtail "fracking" through local controls were withdrawn under a cooperative effort from the proponents and Governor Hickenlooper.

A rural Caucus has emerged from the last legislative session led by Representative Tim Dore and Senator Mary Hodge concerning economic development in rural Colorado, to unite rural legislators, and to get away from the Denver and Front Range urban bias given that so many legislators are from our State's urban areas.

Colorado legislation and related items for this year:

- Black footed ferrets have been introduced on the huge open space owned by the City of Ft. Collins (present introduction practice is limited to consenting ranch owners)
- There were several ground-water bills to clarify water management
- A bill proposed a limit on the use of former agriculture water for lawn watering which has an impact on land use where lawns are proposed
- The State's Water Plan is receiving public hearings in all major water basins
- There is a tax credit for food pantry donations
- The State Department of Agriculture authorized planting commercial hemp in March. Hemp is still included as a Class 1 drug under the federal control act and precludes importation of proven hemp seed – they cannot legally cross state or national boundaries. Growers need protection from cross-pollination from high THC marijuana nearby that would result in loss of their crop due to accelerated potency.
- There is an issue of unknown health impact of ingesting pesticide residue on marijuana
- Broadband access via "High Cost Funds" (provides support for rural phone, internet and wireless service) is supported
- There was interest for an initiative to prevent tail docking of milk cows that would have placed agricultural practice in statutes vs. good management practices. There is only one dairy where docking is practiced in Colorado
- Public Trust Document over water rights would have severely undermined the foundations of appropriative water rights in Colorado's current water law that goes back well over a century. This would allow a litigation tool or regulators to deny new water rights or abrogate existing water rights in the name of environmental values, while hoping to avoid the constitutional mandate to pay just

compensation for those water rights. Fortunately this cancerous proposal did not make its way on to our ballot this fall but the proponents may return next year.

Governor Hickenlooper's Water Plan is under review and we will have a presentation on the plan from John Stulp, Special Advisor to the Governor on water. The Basin Implementation Plans will be incorporated into the first draft of the plan by December 2014. Topics include irrigation efficiency, future water demands, agricultural needs, measurable goals and outcomes, future supply gap, supply declines with climate change, agriculture conservation, alternative to go-to-urban transfer, and education and outreach opportunities. The Colorado Agriculture Water Alliance (CAWA) will compile comments on agriculture's input to the water plan. Colorado State Grange is a member of the CAWA.

Agriculture

The Farm Bill was finally approved and per the summary there are provisions that reshape the structure of farm commodity support, expand crop insurance coverage, consolidate conservation programs, reauthorize and revise nutrition assistance, and extend appropriation of funds for many U.S. Department of Agriculture programs through the year 2018.

Per USDA forecasts, the level of farm incomes is expected to drop this year as record crops levels depress prices. However, producers of cattle and pork will benefit due to record meat prices coupled with lower cost corn and other grains used in animal feeds. Corn stockpiles at 1,808 billion bushels is more than twice what it was two years ago.

Potato consumption by US consumers has been dropping since the 1970s due to a preference for convenience according to the Wall Street Journal. Average consumption has dropped from 47 pounds in 1970 to about 27 pounds currently. However, Colorado's potato producers have been successful in marketing millions of pounds of potatoes from the San Luis Valley to Mexico under a new agreement. Previously, and under FAFTA, potatoes could not be exported beyond 16 miles into Mexico, now, they can be marketed in any city with more than 200,000 population.

Colorado's agricultural production is valued at \$20 billion and helped pull our state out of the 2008 recession that harmed our country's economy. Our top agricultural products are cattle and calves, dairy, corn for grain, greenhouse and nursery products, and hogs.

Colorado's drought condition is greatly reduced over last year but parts of our state in the southeast that is into its third drought year, and southwest remain below or well below average conditions. Reservoirs on average are near 95 percent of capacity with the north half of the state more abundant than the south half. This year's snowmelt from the Colorado basin resulted in Lake Powell raising roughly one foot a day from the spring and summer melt and runoff.

Colorado's Agriculture Day was Wednesday, March 26 at the State Capitol. We made a donation to the Food Bank of the Rockies noting that Colorado State Grange is a long-term donor. Grangers are welcome to join me next year at the Capitol.

"The National Western Center" is the new name and a new planning program for what we know as the National Western site. This will be a center for western heritage combining education, agriculture, and entertainment on the present 130 acres (with the 35-acre Coliseum) plus plans to expand to 285 acres. Partners in this endeavor in addition to the National Western Association include Colorado State University, City and County of Denver, Museum of Nature and Science, and History Museum. The planning is a collaborative effort, synergy, CSU and National Western, planning process for site and programs and changes from the proposed I-70 project.

The annual Governor's Forum on Colorado Agriculture was February 27 with the theme of "Farm to Table: What do consumers really want?" and intended to provide the agricultural community greater insights into the thoughts and values used by consumers when making food selection decisions. The Colorado Agriculture Leadership Program (CALP) was instrumental this year with a careful eye on ensuring continued success of our

State's agricultural industry. Your State Grange is a contributor to the Forum.

Colorado State University offered a free, online course, Water, Civilization, and Nature: Addressing 21st Century Water Challenges as a "MOOC" (massive open online courses). Topics included Leaky Rivers, Groundwater and Water Quality.

Highways and Transportation

The federal Highway Trust Fund is supported by the now historic 18.4 cents per gallon gas tax and was running out of funds in August this year. This tax has not been raised in years and the rate of revenue has fallen way behind as vehicles have become more efficient and drivers purchase less fuel. Electric, hybrid, and high miles-per-gallon vehicles still create wear and tear on our highways and are allowed a pass on gas tax or pay less than anticipated and the result is the \$16 billion shortfall.

Our agriculture depends on a good highway and road system to get farm products to market and food distribution to consumers. With Senate agreements from the Finance Committee, \$10 billion has been provided to keep the trust fund going into 2015.

In Conclusion

I wish to thank the following for their continued dedication to our Grange organization. Joan Hill and Karen Baron, Co-director of Women's Activities; Lisa Cole, Women's Resources; Renee and Alan Caldwell, Community Service Directors; Cindy Greer, Mandy Project, PICK, Junior Grange Director and State Overseer; Helen Condrón, Deaf Activities; Dorinda Dembroski, PR/IC; our State Grange officers for their work and learning their parts and Alan Caldwell, Gary Wardle, Larry Corman, Executive Committee; Marlys Halbeisen, Treasurer and Membership Director; and most of all, Marge Sassman, our Secretary and source of all knowledge that is our State Grange. Fraternally Submitted,
David McCord, Master

Connecticut

Worthy Master and Delegates,

It is with pleasure I submit this annual report on the state of the Grange and its impact in Connecticut. In 2014 we saw the lost of three community Granges but open on new Grange and the reorganization of one Grange. Our number of Community Grange is now 51, with membership of 2,401, as of June 30, 2014.

This last year our Community Granges have expanded membership programs with three Granges expanding membership by double digits. Many others are stagnant in numbers but continue to meet regularly.

This year resolutions were submitted to this year Session, to either element Pomona Granges or realign four Pomona Grange. These Resolutions were defeated so that the Pomona Grange can be reviewed for the next State Sessions, with a common sense solution.

Our Community Granges have surpassed our expectations for Community Service Project, logging over 60,000 man hours for local community projects. Our State Agricultural Committee promoted and vegetable project to donate locally grown products to Food Share, Soup Kitchens and local Food Banks. A goal of 10,000 pounds of food was challenged to our Grangers, who in turned donated over 12,000 pounds of vegetables, well done.

Our Legislative Committee again has placed the Connecticut State Grange in the front by providing our local and federal legislators the information and tools for good legislation, for Connecticut and the Nation.



At the 130th session of the Connecticut State Grange a new Master was elected for the next two years. I, Noel Miller, a 40 year member, Pomona Master, except the challenge and hope to fill the footprints of past master Jodi Cameron. His vision of “Community Grown”, will now be “Community Strong” with the continuation of membership growth and new programs at the state level. With the help of all Grange members we can achieve anything we place in front of us but we have to all work together.

My hope is to have a great year and for Connecticut Granges to shine in our communities.
Fraternally Submitted,
Noel T Miller, Master



Delaware

It is an honor and a privilege for Helen and myself to bring you the greetings from Delaware “The First State” at this 148th Annual National Grange Convention. This being my first time chairing a committee (Agriculture) I know it is going to be a learning, challenging and a most rewarding experience.

The Grange Herd animal I was presented at the last National Convention was “Eve the Fox.” She has been with me wherever I have been in the last year. Unfortunately, I am not very good at social media so most of her exploits have not appeared on Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Again, the weather cooperated for the most part this past year so I understand the farmers in our state had a decent year. They had been blessed with good weather to plant and harvest their crops. There is a difference of opinion about The Farmland Preservation Act in our state and how it is to be applied and hopefully that will be resolved soon.

The economy is still struggling in Delaware. Over the past year there have not been many positive changes in employment. So many people are really struggling, even if they have jobs, to make ends meet and provide for their families. Hopefully, in the coming year this will change and things will turn around for the better.

We have added another Granger to help the chairman of the Youth and Juniors. This particular person has a lot of experience with 4-H and FFA and we are looking for good things in the near future to include these kids and their parents in our Granges.

At this point our bi-monthly news letter “The Diamond State Granger” has been reformat- ted by our new editor. We have distributed two issues so far and the comments have been very favorable. It is a work in progress and it looks like it will and can be very useful and success- ful for us. The amount of letter communication has been increased to remind everyone about functions and what is expected of those that participate. We are trying not to assume anything.

In April we had our Annual Scholarship Dinner where we presented two scholarships each to The University of Delaware and Delaware State University. We also presented one schol- arship to a Grange member. All of the recipients are involved with agriculture in one form or another. We have inadvertently found out that there is a scholarship fund being held at The University of Delaware with a fair amount of money in it, in The Delaware State Grange’s name. This will enable us to possibly give additional scholarships out in the future.

In July, The Delaware State Grange holds their annual fundraiser at The Delaware State Fair. We sell chicken and ham platters as well as grill food, homemade cakes, pies and homemade ice cream. The daily preparation of the locally grown corn, tomatoes, and pota- toes can be challenging. This is where the FFA, 4-H and Grange members are invaluable. Our sales were up about ten percent this past summer.

We are in the process of revitalizing a Grange and as soon as that is completed we will start the process with one other. There is one Grange that needs to be reorganized as well.

There are quite a few challenges ahead in the coming year not the least of which is membership and keeping our members interested and active in The Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,

Michael K. Lynch, Master



Florida

I bring you greetings from Florida, the Sunshine State. In January, we held our 52nd State Session. National Membership Director, Michael Martin, was our National Representative. He shared some ideas on ways to recruit new members, assistance and materials that are available from National, and National concerns. Michael Martin shared the National Master's message with all attending by accessing the National Grange website and projecting it for us to view. He also showed us how to access Grange radio and other information offered on the Grange website. An election was held

on Thursday, and Brother Michael installed our new officers for their two year term. One of the highlights during our session was a visit and tour of the Florida School for the deaf and blind. We enjoyed lunch at the school, part of which was grown and prepared by the students.

Florida State Grange is hanging on by a shoestring with six Granges. One of our dilemmas is how far apart our Granges are geographically located. One of our other concerns is the aging membership. It is a challenge to recruit younger members. We have noticed that in order to encourage younger members, our younger members need to do the asking. It still remains to be seen if that will help increase statewide membership. We love to have visitors, so please look us up and visit our Granges while visiting our state.

Visiting with three state congressmen and presenting the Champion of Seniors Awards gave us the opportunity to share information about Grange and our goals and purpose with members of our state legislature. We are always looking for chances to spread information and news about the Grange.

We had six adults, three Juniors, and one Youth in attendance at the Southeastern Leadership/Youth and Junior Conference in North Carolina. Two of our juniors and one youth took part in the impromptu-speech contest, and one junior participated in the sign-a-song contest. They all did well. Joshua Hirsch won first place in the junior level impromptu-speech contest, and Michael Bethany placed second. Michael Bethany took first place in the junior sign-a-song contest and will represent the Southeastern Region at National Session, in Ohio. Joshua Bethany will be representing Florida as a member of the youth officer team this year at National Session. We are proud of them all!

We head towards 2015 with much work to do. We will be working to encourage growth within our existing Granges and hope that we will be establishing new Granges in our state.

Fraternally Submitted,

Barbara Borderieux, Master

Idaho

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates and Members:

The Idaho State Grange just finished its 106th Annual session in Pocatello (Fort Hall), Idaho in October. Our meeting was held at the Shoshone Bannock Hotel and a highlight of the event was a performance of the Shoshone Tribal Dancers in their beautiful ceremonial dress. The Shoshone Reservation includes over 521,519 acres. Next to the hotel is the Shoshone Bannock Casino. Comprising a membership of over 5,600 native people who live on or near Fort



Hall, the Shoshone and Bannock Tribes manage their schools, post office, grocery store, waste disposal, agriculture and rural businesses, rural transits, casino and more. It was an opportunity to educate the Tribal Members about the Grange. This is the first Idaho State Grange hosted at a Tribal facility in Idaho. We were honored to have National Pomona and Oregon State Master Susan Noah and her friend Marilyn attend our state session.

I certainly appreciate being able to represent the State of Idaho here at this 148th session of the National Grange in Sandusky, Ohio. My Finnish great-grandparents were married in Ashtabula, Ohio in 1882, and I will enjoy learning about the history of the area while I'm here. We are also looking forward to following meetings, especially 2017 when National Grange will be in Spokane. My Grandfather, Marcellus Byrne, Master of Yellowstone Highway Grange at Dudley, Idaho attended the 1912 session in Spokane.

Delegates at our state session addressed such issues as the Clean Water Act rule making; seatbelts on school buses; weather-caused loss to agricultural crops; State and National Grange costs and dues, State session scheduling; cursive writing; bullying of children and adults; possible State Grange Cruise to Alaska; implementation of establishing agricultural classes in every high school in Idaho; reinvesting State Grange funds to get a better return; as well as many ideas to improve membership and interest in the Grange.

One my most enjoyable activities last year was to visit as many Granges as possible. One Circle Idaho Trip involved traveling over 1,200 miles in eight days with Grange visits each day when possible. I will continue to emphasize the importance of visiting Granges this year because it is such a good way to exchange ideas and maintain interest in the Grange. We hope to expand our "Hands Across the Border" visits this year. I also had the pleasure of presenting many 50 to 80 year Membership Certificates to many devoted Grangers this year. We must remain steadfast in our endeavor to find new ways to involve and interest new Grange members. Joint ventures with closely aligned groups such as FFA, Historical, Farm Market, Forestry and other groups have worked well with several Granges in the past. That seems to be a good way to let them know about our "American Values, Hometown Roots." Next year we will have a net gain in membership in Idaho. We are honored to receive a Distinguished Grange Certificate this year!

I enjoyed attending the 125th State Session of the Washington State Grange in Vancouver, WA and the Montana State session in Thompson Falls, Mont. The GIA Annual Meeting in Seattle last March emphasized the importance to strengthen and preserve the association with all of our long-time supporters. Ag Expo in Spokane in February was also a very important venue to promote our Grange message. I want to thank the Washington State Grange for inviting us to be a part of their display! Another highlight of the summer was the Regional Membership-Leadership Conference in Missoula. Idaho will be honored to host that conference in the Coeur d'Alene area next summer. The North Idaho Fair in Coeur d'Alene and Spokane Interstate Fair in Spokane gave us exposure to thousands of people. We must also not forget the precepts of our Order and be diligent to preserve the precious association of all members of our order. I am also encouraging every Grange to update their Grange history. The most fun was to take Ernie the Mountain Goat, Idaho's First Pet, on all these trips. Thanks to Amanda for giving us these pets!

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the Grangers and residents of this great nation who have endured the devastating weather events, droughts, fires etc. we have suffered throughout the nation. We pray that our Granges and Nation continues to rebound from the series of problems we face today.

Fraternally submitted,

Donald N. Heikkila, Master



Illinois

Worthy National Master Ed, First Lady Celia, National Officers and Delegates of the 148th National Session;

It is with never-ending honor and pleasure that Don and I bring greetings from Illinois. The 143rd State Session was hosted by the Granges of DeKalb, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Tazewell, White-side Counties in Bloomington. The delegates were really delighted with the information that John Plank, National Grange Assistant Steward, Indiana State Grange Master and Susan Plank, First Lady Indiana State Grange shared with them. Ace the Deer was greatly impressed with all the Gold Sashes on the first day of session. Past Master Al (AR) Henninger, past First Lady Darlene, past Master Henrietta Keller, past First Man Norman, past Master Lyle Lee and past First Lady Patti Lee were joined by John and Susan Plank to make a great assembly. Three of the five past Masters of the Illinois State Grange were in attendance, which was outstanding having all that knowledge in attendance. I want to thank the State Officers and Committee Chairs and Directors for their tireless work to make the session a rewarding event. I am also proud that we had three Granges receive the "Distinguished Grange Award" as well as Illinois State Grange receiving that award. The meeting room was graced with eight pre-Junior and Juniors most of the time. It is great to see the Grange growing, as State Officers are having children.

The contest display room was full of Junior crafts (like super hero capes, and rain catchers), Family Activity; cookies, breads, needlework and crafts, Community Service books, Lecturer's photography and writings, Agriculture: vegetables, flowers, antique items. It was great to see how talented Illinois Grangers are. The drill work of the Youth and several older Juniors was once again exceptional. The auction of items was economically beneficial. Our Chaplain had an inspiring thoughtful service.

Our Juniors and Youth have been busy with state camps and events, and regional event. Although attendance is getting smaller- the enthusiasm is not waning. Ace's birthday party was held in conjunction with Spring Fling in March. He 're-gifted' all the gifts - about \$300 plus books and other items - to the Scott Air Force Base 1st Sergeant Operation Warm Heart. The First Sergeants and the families in their units were very appreciative.

Statewide Grange training sessions were held in IL GRIT (Grange Resources Information Training) for all Grangers and 'Together we can do Better' for officers, deputies and committee chairs. This was the first 'Together' meeting we have had and it was well attended; another is planned.

We lost two Granges this past year and a Junior Grange is being revived. Grangers and friends in Illinois are busy raising funds for many various community projects and concerns. We had more than 230,000 volunteer hours of community service.

In January, Lyle Lee, immediate past Master/President of IL State Grange, and Legislative Director Marion Thornberry attended the Ag round table discussion at the Farm Bureau building in Bloomington. They and several other members, including myself attended the Legislative Day in Springfield. We were able to talk with Illinois Senators and Representatives discussing various issues.

Don, Ace the Deer and I attended many meetings and functions representing the Illinois State Grange. Several of the highlights were the 140th anniversary of Turkey Hill Grange and St. Clair County Pomona Grange and to present an 85 years Letter of Congratulations to Ruth Schaller, a member of Progressive Grange.

It has been interesting for Don and me to assist with hosting the 148th National Grange convention in Sandusky, Ohio. We are proud that Karie Blasingame, Illinois Youth Director, will be a DCI Communication Fellow this year. We are looking forward to once

again being delegates for Illinois, making new friends, and catching up with Grangers from across the country.

Fraternally Submitted,
Lynette Schaeffer, Master



Iowa

Worthy National Master, officers, delegates, brothers and sisters of the National Grange,

It is with great pleasure that Kathy and I bring greetings from the members of the Iowa State Grange at this 148th annual session in Sandusky, Ohio. I want to also thank the other Midwest state that also helped host the National Session.

The 145th session of the Iowa State Grange was held in Muscatine, Iowa, with Muscatine hosting the session. All the officers and delegates were thanked for their participation and dedication to the Grange this past year. Our state Lecturer was busy with setting up her new programs as she was newly elected last year. She also attended the Midwest Leadership Conference in Wisconsin.

Our Junior Department also had a very successful camp this summer with 30 campers between the ages of 5 and 14. The Juniors also served two pancake breakfasts this year to help pay for activities for the Youth and Junior departments. The Junior Camp Director is also our Youth Director.

Our Youth Director took three Youth to the Midwest Youth Conference in Indiana this year. We had one Youth represent Iowa in the National Evening of Excellence and also was a National Youth Officer. She also wrote the opening drill for the youth at the National Session. We also had a Youth help host the hospitality room for Iowa.

Our goals for the upcoming year are to work on leadership and our legislative participation. We will also be trying to get more of our Granges to be represented at our State Session.

As National Treasurer, I know we are in a real financial crisis and we all need to work hard to build the National Grange. I think we will come back from this crisis. We can not forget we are a great organization. We must stand together and not be divided. It will take all of us to return this organization to its previous status.

Once again I extend our thanks to the region for hosting this annual session and hope that this coming year finds us all united for one cause THE GRANGE.

Fraternally submitted
Dwight Baldwin, Master

Indiana

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates and Members of the 148th National Grange Convention,

It is with honor and great privilege for Susan and me to bring you greetings from the State of Indiana. As I look back on the last three years as State Master, it has been an interesting and exciting journey so far. Last year at National Grange Convention in Manchester, NH, Susan and I had the honor of being mentors for Lynette Schaeffer (and her husband Don "the First Dude").

We recently held our 144th Annual Session of the Indiana State Grange in October. We had a few rough bumps at the start with a couple officers not being there due to a family emergency. But we were able to move forward as our members filled



in where they were needed and did an outstanding job. We moved our start time to Friday afternoon which seemed to work nicely as everything went as planned.

Indiana is having our own financial problems as we look at different ideas to cut back on expenses. But we are trying to do what we can to help National Grange with theirs. We passed the coffee can around and took up a collection to help with the National Grange Trade-mark expenses. We only had 34 members there but we collected \$1,011. There will be more coming from Indiana as our local Granges start putting fund raising campaigns together.

Indiana was honored in having National Treasurer Dwight and Kathy Baldwin as our National Grange Representatives this year for our convention. They shared some of their experiences with us and gave us suggestions as our delegates worked with our resolutions. Dwight reminded us that it is all of our responsibilities to help with membership. If each one of us bring in one new member this year we can double our membership in no time. That will also resolve our financial problems.

In July we have one of our money making projects for our State Grange Committees, making Elephant Ears at the Cass County Fair. This year I was able to be there about every night to help make the elephant ears. We are expanding our locations for next year to another county fair and a festival later in the summer. These are all great opportunities to get the Grange name out for the public to see and get to know us.

I would like to thank all my co-host from the Midwest Region for all their hard work and dedication towards the 148th National Grange Convention in Sandusky, Ohio. May all Granges have a successful year and Happy Holidays to all! We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Lincoln, Neb., next year for the 149th National Session.

Fraternally submitted,
John Plank, Master



Maine

Greetings from the Pine Tree State!

We have just completed our 141st Annual Session and were very pleased to have Christine and Duane Hamp as our National Representatives. Eleven candidates received the Degree of Flora during our session and delegates debated and acted on twenty-six resolutions.

We have had many successes over the past year. Our Community Service Director Sister Christine Corliss set a goal of having 25 percent of the Granges in Maine turning in Community Service reports and met her goal. This year, for the first time in a few years, we have money from National Grange to present to the Granges that were announced as placing in the contest. We also have two Granges that will receive Distinguished Grange Awards this year; Enterprise No. 48 and Riverside No. 475.

While we still had a net membership loss for the year, we are positioning ourselves to meet this goal of a net gain in the near future. The media has been reaching out to us and there have been several extremely positive articles written about Grangers and Grange activities and a few more are in the works for publication later this year. Our tag line for this year is "Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, in the media, in our communities, in our lives."

Our members keep very busy. We had a booth at the Agriculture Trade Show in Augusta. We hosted the legislative luncheon on Ag Day for the 35th year. Our legislators enjoy this event and look forward to it each year. We again hosted the annual meeting for Agriculture in the Classroom. We participated at the Northeast Youth Conference in New Hampshire. Several members traveled to the Finger Lakes area in NY to participate in

the Northeast Lecturers' Conference. Our newest statewide community service project is "Coups for Troops" our Grange members have partnered with schools and other organizations to achieve amazing success. The number of exhibits at the Agricultural Fairs showed a slight increase this year.

We continually strive to improve communication to the Granges and Grangers across the state. Our monthly bulletin has been revamped by our Communications Director and a challenge has been given to the Committee Heads and State Officers to have an article in the bulletin each month.

Many of our Granges continue to struggle financially in part because the majority share of the dues collected are covering dues to National Grange and the operation of the State Grange. We cannot expect our members to keep supporting us, crippling them in the process. Both the State and National branches of our organization need to find revenue streams that will relieve this burden we are placing on the membership. This will enable our Granges, which the public sees the most, to "shine, shine, shine!"

Fraternally submitted,
Victoria S. Huff, Master



Maryland

Worthy Master, National Officers and Delegates,

We bring you greetings from Maryland, "The Land of Pleasant Living." The calendar hanging on the wall at my house says August and then I was reminded I missed a few turns. It so reminds me of my life, I'm having trouble keeping up.

The Maryland State Grange continues to support the Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation 'MAEF'. Believe it or not, the general population as a whole is drifting farther and farther away from understanding how the food they buy and eat keeps showing up at the grocery store and of all places, on their table.

The past winter put a damper on our anticipated December 2013 Leader's Conference, however, we were finally able to hold it in March 2014. We were fortunate to have with us National Membership Director Michael Martin. He continues to amaze me as he presents us with facts about our worth that we hadn't even thought about.

This past year we did achieve a net gain, not nearly as big as we wanted, but better than a loss.

We were finally able to get a Subordinate Grange to apply for the honor of being recognized as a Distinguished Grange. I'm sure there are more Granges who qualify if only they would take the time to fill out the paperwork.

For a small Grange state, I am thrilled by the number of Scholarships that are presented by the State Grange, Pomonas and Subordinates Granges.

We learned all too well the value of these scholarships as we received another 'Thank You' from someone who had received a scholarship twenty six years ago. It was a very uplifting gesture and its timing was perfect, shortly before our 140th Annual Session.

Our state Youth Team is making inroads to getting more youth involved in activities. During our Annual Meeting they had a "Pie in the Face" contest to raise money for The Wounded Warriors Project. Eligible candidates were Masters at all levels. Throughout the Session, Grange members were encouraged to drop money in any or all containers representing each Master. The two highest money makers got to pie each other at the end of our Agriculture and Awards Banquet. Needless to say, every Master campaigned for the others. It was hilarious and very successful. Lucky for me, I campaigned well for the winners.

We had a surprise visitor for our Youth and Junior Breakfast on Saturday morning.

Sister Charlene Espenshade, National Youth Director. She stayed with us long enough to witness the Youth Opening, offered some kind words and had to leave for another engagement – her State Session.

We have several Granges who whole heartedly endorse the ‘Words for Thirds’ project which has been going on for several years. Many Granges are involved with Community Shows in support of and with the FFA.

We just completed our 140th Annual Meeting. Attendance was down as were our number of resolutions. We had some lively discussion on several resolutions which is always a good sign that Delegates are paying attention and do care.

Thanks to Brother Allen Stiles, Legislative Chairman, for keeping us up to speed with what is going on in our State and Nation.

Donna and I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a successful Grange year.

Fraternally,

Maurice L Wiles, Master



Massachusetts

It's hard to believe that another year has passed. It is also hard to believe that Massachusetts just closed the 142nd annual session just a few weeks ago. We were honored to have the National Lady Assistant Steward, Christine Hamp and her husband, Duane with us for the week. I was able to sit down with them both during the session and discuss Grange. It was a lot of fun.

Our Grange Roots program continues to grow by leaps and bounds. We kicked it off last year in hopes that it would help Granges, and the State Grange, find ways to partner with other community organizations to help promote agricultural education. This program has grown so much faster that I anticipated. This past spring, we appointed an Agricultural Education Coordinator. This person's responsibilities included working with the 4-H, FFA, Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom, and the Educational Learning Center at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Our program has been so well received and we have had such positive feedback with these organizations that, at our past session, we had to create an Agricultural Education Committee to be able to handle everything. In my opinion, that was a great problem to have and I look forward to everything this committee will be able to accomplish. One of the most exciting things to happen with the Agricultural Learning Center is that we are supporting a pollinator garden. The Master of our newest Grange is a graduate student there, and with the help of some other students, they designed a garden in the shape of the Grange emblem. We are so excited for this coming spring so that we can see the emblem in full bloom.

Speaking of new Granges, I am thrilled that we were able to re-organize one Grange. Rutland Grange No. 242 joined us early this year and is working hard to establish itself in the community. We were also able to re-organize two new Junior Granges and continue to grow our youth program. One of my biggest goals is to have a net gain in membership for the year. We are so close! I am hoping that this will be the year. We are seeing some Granges growing and some staying pretty level. Grangers are excited in Massachusetts and we see it through program participation and attendance at session. It was great to see a Grange send delegates this year that hadn't sent delegates in many years. I am very proud of the members in Massachusetts for their continued dedication.

One of the biggest obstacles we are having is trying to publicize everything we do. We have been struggling to find that special person that has the contacts and the abilities to

work with the media to get our good works and great programs known. We are pursuing many different avenues and hope to have someone in place very soon.

As we look forward to the year ahead, we continue to set our goals high. We recently established a 150th anniversary committee. We are working towards a virtual library/museum so that people can access our State Grange history from their computer along with viewing some of our memorabilia. Our Grange Roots program continues to expand. There are so many exciting things happening and I am ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work with the members of the Massachusetts State Grange and finally reach our ultimate goal of a net gain in membership.

Fraternally,

Matthew Johnson, Master

Michigan

Worthy First Lady, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters.

Welcome the 141st Annual session of the Michigan State Grange. We are delighted to have the use of such a historic and beautiful facility that originated in the agricultural industry of our great state.

In the beginning of the National Grange Convention this last November, the then Communications Director Amanda Leigh Brozana introduced all the State Masters to their new State Grange Mascot and official Grange Herd member. Chuck is the official Mascot of the Michigan State Grange. Chuck has traveled many miles this past year to different events and Grange meetings around the state and region. The responsibility of Chuck as was announced to us is to bring attention to the Granges and to assist in community service events. Chuck is also there to remind us that though things we do may seem like small blurbs in time, but on the grand scheme of things we are all connected to one another through this great fraternity, such as Chuck is in our hands, he is connected to all the rest of the Grange Herd members.

This past year has brought some changes to the war on terrorism. We have started to deal with a fairly new radical group known as ISIS. We as Grange members really have no control over those things; however we do have the responsibility to assist the family members of those that are being sent into the conflict areas and potentially into harm's way. I strongly believe if we do our parts and invite the families to come to our Grange halls for a special thank you dinner or for those of us that don't have Grange halls maybe provide a special dinner for the families, we are doing our part to help ease the pain and suffering of those serving in the military. The Grange slogan, "American Values, Hometown Roots," really comes into play when we start showing our support of the men and women who are fighting for our freedom.

The National Grange, in all aspects of the organization we need to remind ourselves that they are the parent corporation in our organization. Over the last few years there has been some dispute as to whether or not the State Granges have to follow the Digest of Laws of the National Grange since all State Granges are incorporated in their respective states. This has caused a severe hardship on the National Grange. There is a resolution that will be coming before the delegates of the National Grange next month for a second vote to raise the National Grange dues by two dollars per member per year, your State Grange Executive Committee and I have been working with a budget and the assumption that since this is a second reading and a second vote there is a strong chance this resolution could pass.

The Executive Committee and I have looked at the realistic truth that with the exception of one raffle in particular, the funds raised through our raffle fundraising efforts have not



proven to be very profitable. So this summer we decided that we would ask the Granges that do different fundraising events. If the members of the State Grange would consider working an event for them with the hosting Grange's assistance, would they donate the profits to the Michigan State Grange. If interested, we will work towards getting an event scheduled and getting the proper amount of people needed to work the event.

We have lost two Granges this last year in the state. I have been made aware of two more that are seeking to close in the next few months. I am deeply saddened that Granges are closing, however when a community no longer supports the Grange and all there good works, sometimes taking your membership to another Grange and continuing to support the organization is the best alternative. Brothers and Sisters, we need to pull together and work towards the growth and expansion of the Michigan State Grange. Not only for the future of the organization as we know it but also so that generations to come will be able to have the same experiences we have all shared through our membership and so that the all the teachings of the ritual will not become just another page in a high school history book. Fraternally Submitted,
Christopher D. Johnston, Master



Minnesota

National Grange Convention was in Manchester, N.H. It was a good convention but there are many hurtles that are in front of the National Grange. Budget is the biggest and hardest one to overcome. The legal fees for the Trademark issue are still haunting us. If any of your Granges can financially, please think about sending a donation to the National Grange and earmark it for the Trademark fund. Any donations are welcome. The delegates did pass a resolution to raise the dues to the National Grange. It has to be passed again this year before it will take effect but I am certain that it will pass. If passed, it will take effect on January 1, 2015. On a good note, Minnesota was recognized for having an increase in membership. Congratulations to the Granges that had an increase last year.

In February I went to Michigan for the Masters Conference. Michigan did a great job hosting us at the Michigan State Grange Masters home Grange. There were about 15 of us there despite the snow storm that caused many travel problems. Bruce Crocher, High Priest of Demeter, gave a great presentation on the importance of Grange philosophy and ritual.

Michael Martin was here again in April. He lead a discussion on "What Grange means to you" at Sunbeam Grange with approx 12 people including two from Oak Leaf Grange at the Kelley Farm on Wednesday night. Then on Thursday we drove to Lake Hubert Grange and talked to about 12 more people. He was delighted at the turnout for these meetings.

Great Lakers Leaders Conference was that weekend and Michael drove with us to southeastern Wisconsin for the conference. Others that went were Ann Bercher, TJ Malaskee and Essie Robinson. The theme of the conference was the "Lessons of the Grange." Each State talked about a degree and TJ gave the presentation for the First Degree for Minnesota. He did a great job. It was really interesting to see the different styles of presentations from each state. Duane Scott gave a very interesting talk about the Seventh Degree.

In June we had the State Grange Picnic and Fifth Degree at Oak Leaf Grange in Stark, Minn. There was a good turnout with approx 30 people attending. A good meal was had by all at the Fish Lake Town Hall. After we ate we proceeded to the Oak Leaf Grange Hall and put on the Fifth Degree. We had five people take the degree that day. Everyone that filled the offices did a great job in spite of not having any practice.

We do a great job at Community Service here in Minnesota. All six Granges do projects and submit reports for the Community Service contest. Each Grange has a wide variety of projects with one Grange doing 20 projects this year. It is remarkable to have 100 percent participation in this contest. Thank you all for participating in this and in making a difference in your communities.

Our region is hosting the National Grange Convention in Sandusky, Ohio in November. Thank you to all that are going to help out. A special thanks to Evie Bishman for taking on the chair of the Best of Show room. I really appreciate all the help you give to me.

Thank you to every one for the support you have given me again this year. I cannot do the Masters job without you.

Fraternally,

Donna Champion, Master

Montana

Unfortunately this has been a year of status quo for the Montana State Grange. It seems like for every opportunity we were met with numerous difficulties; bad weather and illness were major factors that handicapped many activities. We are continuing work with several granges in efforts to revitalize and we have a re-organized grange that is continuing to move forward slowly. We are also working on two new startups that are moving ahead slowly by fits and starts.

This year we hosted the Western Leaders/Youth Conference in August with nearly 60 people in attendance; all states in the region were represented for the first time in several years. We felt that this was a highly successful event requiring the input and cooperation of a large number of our members from several different Granges.

Fraternally Submitted,

Scott Nicholson, Master



Nebraska

I wish to welcome the Officers, Directors, members and guests of the Nebraska State Grange to the Midtown Holiday Inn in Grand Island, site of this, our 126th annual convention of the Nebraska State Grange.

As is always the case, one cannot do this job alone. Far from it. I must thank all of you who make it possible for me to carry out my duties as President, and for the Nebraska State Grange to be visible and have a voice in the discussions concerning public policy and governance in this state and our nation. As we go forward,

I will depend heavily on all of you for guidance, wisdom, advice, and even forgiveness (for my innate ability to say something a little too "plain-spoken," or overlook the opportunity to say a comforting word).

Most everyone here today has been working "in the trenches" of the Grange longer than Shannon and I have been, and when I get discouraged, I think about that. Every one of you here today have been making time and sacrificing for the Grange for many years. "Thank you" for that. We come together, not just to do more work, but to share laughs, reflect on the past year and talk about what is yet to come. I like to think of it as our annual "Grange family reunion."

Before I get too far into my message today, I want to pay tribute to Ted Doane, my friend, my professor, and my mentor. I must tell you-all, I did not seek this job, nor did I

covet it. I thought Ted was doing just fine, as others had before him. As it turns out, God had other plans for him, as well as me. I know Ted didn't have any doubts as to my ability, but he didn't even ask me what I thought, before he decided to vacate this office! I'm going to have a discussion with Ted about that, someday. There isn't a day in this job that I don't think about Ted, and miss his counsel. I will do my best, but I have to confess, I have serious doubts about my ability to lead this organization as well as Ted, or for that matter, as Joe did. Anyway, I want to dedicate my message today in Ted's name. I know he is looking over my shoulder and chuckling and giving me that twinkle in his eye, as he always did. I am sure he is getting a big kick out of watching.

The farm economy remains strong, though corn prices have been cut in half of what their highs were just a couple of years ago. Cattle prices, however, have reached all-time record highs, and show no signs of retreating anytime soon. Costs for everything have kept increasing at a record pace. The record prices for land sales have slowed just a little, though pasture land seems to still be a "hot commodity". Thanks to those record land prices, and steadily-increasing input costs, we have seen farm ground and pasture rental rates set new record highs, as well. Property taxes are the "hot topic" everywhere, as is the percentage of local government spending they pay for. We are at a critical juncture in Nebraska, when it comes to the subject of how much of government should be funded by property taxes. The subject of how to deal with this problem is too complex to discuss in this short message, but be assured, the Grange will be involved in cooperative efforts to finding long-term solutions to this problem.

Lila Tooker continues to get herself educated, as to managing preparations for the 2015 National Session in Lincoln. Richard Janing continues to serve ably as Executive Committee Chair and Legislative Representative for the Nebraska Grange. Our Friday NRRA Radio reports allow the Grange to have state-wide exposure, and my thanks to Edgar Hicks and Joe Fryman for helping me perform those duties. When we lost President Doane, and I was installed as the new Grange President, I asked Russ Tooker to assume the role as State Overseer. He graciously agreed to a one-year stint. Thank you, Russ.

On the legislative front, LB 942 was the major state-level piece of legislation we got involved in stopping. It would have allowed packer-owned swine and their associated feeding operations to be legal in Nebraska. This would have required an exemption to current statutory regulations. The Grange found itself aligned with Farmers Union and about 30 other people who testified in opposition to the bill, while Farm Bureau reversed their long-standing policy of opposing packer-ownership of livestock, to support the bill. With lots of effort from a variety of folks, we managed to get it held in committee, which killed it for the year. I can guarantee you it will be back soon, perhaps as soon as again this year. That prospect worries me, and a lot of other folks as well. If this becomes law, it will likely open the door to litigation for packer ownership of cattle & associated feeding operations as well, since one could argue they are being discriminated against. They would probably win that argument, and you will see family ranch & farm operations get yet another nail driven into their collective coffins. We also continue to monitor efforts by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to make inroads in regulating how Nebraskans raise and feed their livestock. In Missouri, for instance, just this past month, Missourians barely passed a constitutional amendment protecting their right to farm and ranch. HSUS fought it, as did several other "environmental" and animal right's groups. Nebraska Grange is a member of We Support Agriculture, a state-wide organization dedicated to protecting agriculture and educating the public with the facts on how food & fiber is provided in a safe and humane fashion. This group was formed a couple of years ago in order to raise public awareness on the ag sector and hopefully stay in front of groups like HSUS, that distort public perception of agriculture in order to further their goals of elimination of such things as raising

livestock and GMO crops for human consumption.

On a positive note, several Subordinate Granges continue to provide dictionaries to 3rd graders in many schools across Nebraska. The State Grange also continues to provide support to the State 4-H Public Speaking Contest, which is held in conjunction with the State Fair. Both of these efforts are well-received and are very worth-while projects. Grangers do far more than this, and most of them go un-heralded. If it weren't for the Community Service Awards Program, most of you wouldn't even know what-all the Grange does in communities across this state. I take my hat off to all of you for the selfless and thoughtful acts you all do willingly!

Finally, on a very serious note, I must ask you-all: how much longer can we carry on with the continually dwindling number, and ever-increasing average age of active Grange members left? The number of members who attend and the Granges that make the effort to send delegates that aren't state officers to State Session, continues to decline. A short 20 years ago, over 100 people would be here for opening session. Now look around the room and count them. Most of the faces you see have been here every year for the last 20 (or more) years, and most of the faces you see, are here because they are state officers. This weekend, we need to have a serious discussion about our future as an organization, and how we conduct an annual meeting with less-than-acceptable attendance by officers and members alike. Do we need to adopt a shorter version of our annual session, do we go to an "every-other-year" schedule? Other ideas? This is a worthwhile organization with important public roles to play, however, due in part to our low membership and visibility, we are rapidly approaching the "irrelevant" status in terms of having influence on major issues.

Respectfully and fraternally,

Kevin Cooksley, Master



New Hampshire

We were pleased to have hosted the National Grange Session in 2013 in beautiful Manchester, N.H., along with the six other States that make up the North East Region.

The New Hampshire State Grange was pleased to have had a net gain in membership for the first time in 70 years, thank you to the Patrons who worked hard for this net gain. We were also pleased to have been recognized as a "Distinguished State Grange" at the 2013 session.

The New Hampshire State Grange continued to strive for growth during the 2014 calendar year, our Grange Growth Team has been working fairs, old Home Days and agricultural events with our Grange Growth booth.

The Departments of the New Hampshire State Grange continue to work hard. Our Youth Department under the direction of State Youth Director Sherrill Bokousky, hosted a fine Northeast Youth Conference in Nashua, N.H., at Riviere University. Thank you to Sherrill Bokousky for doing a wonderful job organizing this conference. The Membership Department under the Direction of Anne Boisvert continues to serve as a clearing house for Grange literature as well as winning first place in the educational exhibits at the NH Farm and Forest Exposition. Past State Master Dick Patten and his wife Past State Ceres Deb Patten head up our Family and Community Committee encouraging Grange Community Service work as well as keeping the members busy creating things for not only Eastern States but the community at Large. General Deputy Arthur Merrill and his Deputies continued work with our Grange to improve the ritual experience of all of the Grange members. Junior Director JoAnne Brandt worked hard this year to continue to take in new Junior Grange members in the State of New Hampshire and had an excellent Junior Camp Weekend. State Legislative

Director Bob Haefner continues to represent the Grange on the New Hampshire Farm Bureau policy Committee as well as at the State FFA convention. We held our Annual Grange Day at the State House during the month of April with the presentation of the Grange Month Proclamation from the Governor's office. The State Grange continued to Lobby the Legislature this year on important issues that reflect our member values.

As we move into a new Administration and a new Leadership Team I wish to express our thanks to Past State Master Jim Tetreault and his team for their hard work over the last four years.

Fraternally,

Chris Heath, Master

New Jersey

Greetings from the Garden State!

2014 was another good year for the New Jersey State Grange. Our Subordinate and Pomona Granges continue to be active with many community service activities to support the communities we serve.

Attendance at our recently held 142nd State Grange session was higher than the past several years and we again saw some new faces representing our Subordinate Granges.

While we did not necessarily achieve the goals I set for this year, I continue to be amazed by the dedication I see from our members and the great things I see happening in our Granges.

Fraternally,

John M. Benedik III, Master



New York

It would be a fabulous thing to report that in 2014 new Granges were organized and re-organized during the year, however we cannot do that, as it would be inaccurate. Unfortunately, we have had to close a few and consolidate a few. However, on the bright side, we are seeing activity in Granges where there has been little for a number of years. We trust that through continued encouragement and support we can see greater results in the near future.

To combat the decline we continue to work with the National Grange Leadership/Membership Department conducting

G.O.A.L. Seminars and doing aggressive follow-up. We trust that through these efforts we can raise the awareness of a greater percentage of our membership to the necessity of securing members for the Order, and assisting them to feel comfortable doing it. We have been dividing the State into small areas for this project, and hope to cover the entire state by the end of 2016.

During the past year we have continued our efforts to increase the visibility of the State Grange, and our Subordinate units. We displayed at the NYS Agricultural Society, the Western and Central NY Farm Shows, Empire Farm Days, the NYS FFA Convention, and the NY State Fair. In addition to this our display materials were used at several county fairs across the State. Nearly 5,000 copies of our Special Edition Empire State Granger were handed out at these venues. Hopefully we planted a lot of seeds for a future harvest.

Our Departments and Committees have been very active this past year. Our State Lecturer, especially, with the added responsibility of organizing the executing the NE Lecturer's Conference, held this year in New York, this being the first time for the conference

in the State since being connected with the New England States. It was a great conference, and we were pleased with the number of folks traveling the distances they did to participate. Two of our program areas were re-organized this year, the youth department and camping program. We have been very pleased with the results as there has been a substantial increase in both the activity and number of participants in our youth activities; and we look for this to be just the beginning. Our Grange Camp program, now in its 50th year was overhauled with a new location, curriculum, and staff changes. Many of the plans are already in place for next year's program, and promotion for it has begun internally and on social media. On the legislative front we submitted statements several times during the year to both the State Legislature and Congress. We have actively lobbied in Albany in conjunction with the Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations, of which we are a member. Our trip to Washington for the annual Fly-In afforded the opportunity to call on the New York Congressional Delegation.

By this time next year we hope to have a 501(c)3 up and running in our State Grange. We are losing halls in part because of lack of funds to rehab them, and without a foundation accessing community development funds designated for that kind of project are unavailable to us.

Looking to the future, the challenges are many and the resources are few. We are honored to be entrusted with the leadership of this State Grange, and sincerely hope that the decisions made and directions taken will reflect a prudent use of the available resources with the greatest benefit. Our goal is that next year's report will include at least one new Grange established here in the Empire State.

Fraternally submitted,
Stephen C. Coye, Master



North Carolina

The North Carolina State Grange continues to be heavily involved with legislation, youth, family activities, and community efforts. We believe that it is essential to be a voice for our members and serve as a strong advocate for agriculture and rural needs.

We were pleased that the NC State Grange achieved Distinguished Grange status, and was recognized at the 2013 National Convention. Three Subordinate Granges were also recognized which were Troutman, Cape Fear, and Grantham.

The youth program continues to be strong, and we are blessed to have a good group of leaders for tomorrow. The Winter Youth Conference, Youth Caravan, and the Youth Camp offer great leadership training opportunities for our youth and juniors. We were once again especially proud to have Montana Wrigley named as the National Female Ambassador at the 2013 National Convention.

From a legislative standpoint, we became involved in a number of state and federal issues during the year under the leadership of Laurie Payne, Legislative Director. Some of those are briefly listed as follows:

1. Joined the 340B Coalition in an advocacy role to work against possible abuses to the system that was designed to support health care for the needy.
2. Provided comments to the EPA regarding concerns surrounding a proposed Interpretive Rule associated with waters of the United States.
3. Provided comments to the US Senate Committee on Tax Reform, expressing concern that farms exceeding gross receipts of \$10 million would be required to adopt the accrual method of accounting. We believe that all farmers should maintain the option of using the system of their choice, either cash or accrual.

4. Advocated that the final payment to farmers involved in the Tobacco Transition Payment Program not be subject to reductions through sequestration.
5. Advocated for the passage of the Farm Bill.
6. Advocated for NC legislation allowing local Soil & Water Districts to be eligible for sales tax refunds on certain purchases.
7. Advocated for a revision in NC sales tax exemptions to make it easier for small farmers to qualify.
8. Advocated for NC legislation that requires Moped operators to register with the NC DMV and obtain insurance.

The State Grange joined the NC Animal Agriculture Coalition. This Coalition advocates for animal agriculture through a broad agenda including food safety, animal care, environmental protection, and responsible management. The Coalition is also affiliated with the National Farmers and Ranchers Coalition.

We were invited by the NC Department of Agriculture to participate in a trade mission on tobacco in Algeria and Switzerland. Phil Hudson, member of Westbrook Grange and a producer of large acreages of tobacco represented the State Grange and participated in the trade mission.

The State Grange hosted a Legislative Breakfast for members of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. One of our Board members, David Allen, spoke to the group about small farm challenges. Laurie Payne, Legislative Director gave an overview of the legislative priorities of interest to the State Grange. The breakfast provides a good setting in which to interact with those members of the General Assembly that we work with the most.

Following a few years in planning and work, a new historical exhibit about the NC State Grange was opened at the Tobacco Farm Life Museum in Kenly, N.C. This was a great partnership involving State Grange staff, museum staff, graduate students from East Carolina University, and Design Dimensions, a firm in Raleigh, N.C. The exhibit includes significant leaders in our Grange history as well as rural issues with which the organization was involved. Our focus on youth and women is also highlighted.

Our annual Family Conference was held at the Ridgecrest Conference Center in the mountains of North Carolina. The workshops at this conference focused on local Grange strength, with sessions on Grange programs and contests, writing resolutions, and grant writing. A talent show was held to determine who would represent the state at the National Convention in Ohio. The judges selected Maddie Griffin, a phenomenal guitarist who is a student at UNC-Charlotte. The Family Conference is always an informal time of education, fun, and fellowship.

One of the great programs offered annually by the State Grange is the opportunity for college scholarships. A total of 14 scholarships were approved this year for \$1,000 each. These scholarships are renewable as long as the student remains a full-time student and maintains a required GPA level.

Another scholarship that is offered is called the Primary-Secondary Education Scholarship which is available to students in elementary, middle, and high school. Grants in an amount up to \$250 are offered to assist with certain school expenses such as field trips, equipment, or other expenses related to their academics.

We want to keep our organization in a position to effectively serve our membership by providing a legislative voice, by offering high quality programs, and to bring value to membership. Extremely important is that we build and maintain a reputation as a significant organization in our state, and as a place where families can experience a wholesome environment.

Fraternally submitted,
Jimmy Gentry, Master



Ohio

Ohio enjoyed working with the other states in our region in hosting the National Grange Convention in Sandusky, Ohio. We were pleased that things seemed to go well at the Kalahari Convention Center. Many good comments were heard about the tour to the NASA Glenn Research Center.

We had a nice state convention with many resolutions discussed. The National Master was our convention guest. He gave an enlightening speech at the annual banquet.

This coming year we are going to put a great effort into a membership gain. It seems that we have tried many things since we started our quest for membership gain in 1984. None have reached the goal. I will be emphasizing that our minds must realize the importance of this issue and that it is up to each one of us to make membership gain happen.

Ohio State Grange had an area at the Ohio State Fair. It was a hands-on type of display that drew a lot of interest.

We also had a booth at the annual Farm Science Review which draws several thousand people from Ohio and other states.

Youth and Junior Grange camps were very well attended.

Legislative director Lisa Tharp held the annual legislative day with current topics of interest. Work is being done on having representation on some state appointed farm related boards. Ohio State Grange has a seat on the CAUV board but is seeking representation on some of the livestock advisory boards.

Our for-profit Ohio State Grange Members Service Corp. continues to profit. It was a wise thing to do to help bring in income to the Ohio State Grange.

We hope the coming year will be one of growth in our membership and enjoyment in the fellowship that the grange brings to many of our communities.

I wish many successes to all the Granges in our great nation.

Fraternally Submitted,

Robert White, Master

Oklahoma

Greetings from the State of Oklahoma. Oklahoma has had a fantastic year. Starting with the State Wide Degree Day where we had ten candidates take the four degrees. In June 35 members attended the Great Plains Conference in San Antonio, Texas. We had a Grange Gathering in July where we had 71 members attend, the gathering was held at the Tulsa Zoo.

Penny the Prairie Dog, Brad and I attended 10 Subordinate Grange meetings throughout Oklahoma and Penny, Brad and I attended a reception for Roger Bostwick celebrating him being elected as Priest Archon.

During our 99th Annual Oklahoma State Grange Session, we had eight resolutions with one of them going on to National Grange Convention. There were 16 Juniors that participated at the State Session and 31 youth that attended and participated at the Session. The youth fund raiser this year was to serve at the Banquet on Friday evening and at the luncheon on Saturday, they worked for tips, they raised over \$3,000 for their Youth department. On Saturday the Youth opened the State Session in the Fourth Degree, then on Saturday evening they exemplified the Fifth Degree. There were 11 candidates that took the Fifth and the Sixth Degrees.



Our Membership Directors Jerry Taylor and Carl Shufeldt has worked hard on getting an increase of membership, we have once again had an increase of membership.

We gave ten scholarships to our members they were Stephanie Nutter- Cherryvale Grange No. 221, Bailey Shufeldt, Kennedy Bailey, Ashley Burrows- South Coffeyville Grange No. 351, Ann Keeton- Thompson Grange No. 352, Matthew Keeton-Pleasant View Grange No. 354, Sheyian Borgstrom- Cabin Creek Grange No. 359, Ronnie Bowers, Audrey Bowers, Michael Case- Vinita Grange No. 360.

Our Directors had a fund raiser for the Kelley Farm each department had a jar to collect money in and whoever raised the most money would get to put a pie in the face who collected the least amount. They raised \$716.06 and the State Grange matched the money that they raised and also gave a little bit more where the Kelley Farm would receive \$2,000. The Junior Department won the contest and collect \$333 and the Grange Activities Department lost, but they did not get the (Pie in the Face), Dee Procter- Overseer and myself received the pie in the face.

Our state collected toys for the National Grange and also for our State Grange. We will be giving toys to our children's hospitals in Oklahoma too.

Oklahoma wishes the National Grange 148th Annual Convention a successful meeting.
Fraternally
Donna Keeton, Master



Oregon

Worthy Master, National Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters,
Mark and I bring you greetings from the great state of Oregon!

This past year has been one of opportunities in our State Grange. We started the year with a day of leadership training for all of our committees and our state officers. It was well attended and I believe all came away with a renewed spirit and some good ideas for Grange growth. Along with this I hosted district leadership conferences to spread the word of all the opportunities the Grange has to offer, our opportunities for Grange growth, our opportunities for service to our communities and to each other and of course the opportunities in Grange for personal growth. A section was also included on developing and keeping our Grange culture and philosophies. Finally the day was rounded out with some excellent workshops by our State Lecturer and by our Grange Workers Activities (GWA) Director.

Along with our programs designed to engage more of our membership in discussions about Grange and what the Grange can be, I worked with our Executive Committee to put together a matching grant program for our Subordinate Granges. For many years now we have held onto Dormant Grange funds that have passed the seven year restriction. Those funds are now being put to work through the matching grant program. Our idea was to engage the Granges in their own future, and to help with their standing in the neighborhood. No one wants to join an organization whose building is in serious need of work. We are matching up to \$5,000 for 10 Granges for this first year and if the program proves itself we may try to increase the number of Granges we help each year.

Our Agriculture Department continues to be the group that touches more non-Grangers than any other. Every year we host a booth at Ag-Fest, a two day event held at our State Fair Grounds and the Ag Committee helps over 5,000 children and adults plant a tomato or marigold to take home. They also host a booth at the State FFA convention and on the odd years take on serving a luncheon to our State legislators. They are a great example of the promotion we can all do to benefit our Community Granges.

We were also fortunate this year to have our National Membership/Leadership Director,

Brother Michael Martin come into the State for a short series of conferences. With only five days in his schedule he was able to host productive meetings from the very Northeastern part of the State, to the middle, to the Western Willamette Valley. Lots of driving time with our Membership Co-Director Sandi Ludi and some with me left us with some good ideas for continuing on the work Michael helped to start.

Our State Convention was held in Redmond this year and throughout the week we had workshops presented by the State Program Directors, we discussed and voted on over 60 resolutions and found time for some fun and fellowship in between. Brother Phil Prelli and Sister Maureen were our distinguished guests representing the National Grange. Getting to know our friends from the other coast always brings the great history we share into focus. We find that although we may do things a little differently in each State, we all face the same challenges and have the same benefits, no matter what side of the county we are on. This year we added the exemplification of the first four degrees to our week. I think it is extremely important that we keep alive the traditions and the lessons we all learn in the degrees and could think of no better way to do this than to make sure it becomes a part of our annual convention.

I am proud to say that we reorganized two Granges in the month of July, one on our Southern coast and one in the heartland of our State. Bandon Grange was reorganized with 15 new members and is currently working to find a steady meeting place as they grow into their community. Lexington Grange reorganized with 22 new members, most of them in their 20's and 30's, and is already working on serving the Lexington community. Both Granges are growing and both have mentors who will be working with them for the next year to get them started on the right foot.

While our theme for this year was "Opportunities", next year we are taking that a step further with "Get Involved" All of the State Grange Leadership has been working on explaining the opportunities; now it's time for real involvement! My Department heads have already started planning for district meetings, and I have committed to hosting a day of leadership training in each of our Pomona areas. In addition to this we have identified the need for more training of new Masters and Secretaries so the schedule is really filling up! We may try a new idea this year and host a retreat for all members to learn more about the various departments, resolution writing, and interaction with legislators, membership growth, fundraising and community service. Hopefully we take a weekend retreat full of fellowship, add a little learning and exchange of ideas and come away with something that benefits our Community Granges and Grange members. We are constantly looking for ways to promote the organization and to give our members a good experience doing so.

Our thanks to our wonderful hosts here in the Midwest for their hospitality and goodwill. It has been a pleasure to be here with old and new friends. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a great new year. As we all start our new Grange year, I hope all of you will "Get Involved!"

Fraternally Submitted,
Susan Noah, Master

Pennsylvania

Brothers and Sisters,

It is my great privilege to present my fourth annual report as State Master. My first order of business is always Thank You's and this is even more important this year. My wife, Judy, is, as many of you know, is a registered nurse. I ended up on her floor when I was admitted to the hospital in February. Naturally, she was not my primary care nurse as far as the hospital was concerned, but she certainly was my primary care nurse as far as I am concerned. Working night shift, she



was able to be in my room every morning when the many doctors came in to evaluate me. She was able to translate what they said and asked the relevant questions to eventually get the proper diagnosis that led to my surgery and eventual recovery. This care continued through my visit to the rehab center and eventually home, where she literally waited on me hand and foot, making continuous arrangements for doctors and physical therapists. Without her care, some very dedicated doctors, and The Good Lord watching over me, I know I would not be here today.

I also want to publically thank all of my Grange friends and family who constantly kept me in their thoughts and prayers. Obviously, The Good Lord was listening to your prayers and He decided to keep me around a little longer. As my Pastor said, “The Devil didn’t want me and the Good Lord wasn’t ready for me.”

It didn’t take me very long after I went into the hospital, to realize that I had to make a major decision regarding my personal health and the Grange...with no official provisions in the National Grange Digest of Laws for anyone to step up to handle the duties of an ill State Master, and after some discussion with the National Master, I appointed State Overseer Richard Mangel as Interim Master until I regained my good health and could return to the position. I know, from what I found upon my return to the office, that Sandy Herman and Bryan Marchefsky, went far above and beyond their expected duties to keep the State Grange office functioning in an efficient manner.

2013 National Grange Convention – Just weeks after our State Session in State College, I headed to Manchester, New Hampshire for the 147th annual National Grange Convention. I again served on the Grange Growth Committee while your second Delegate, Betsy Huber, served on the Grange Law Committee.

A few highlights of the events at National...I was honored to once again, accept the certificate and ribbon as a State Distinguished Grange on Wednesday evening. And to make it even better, we had seven Pennsylvania Subordinate Granges awarded Distinguished Grange:

- Elizabethtown Area Grange #2076
- Goshen Grange #121
- Hamburg Grange #2103
- Harveys-Aleppo Grange #1444
- Russellville Grange #91 (fourth year in a row)
- Stoney Point Grange #1694, and
- Valley Grange #1360

I have already been notified by National Grange that the Pennsylvania State Grange has again (for the third year in a row) qualified for Distinguished State Grange status. Pennsylvania also had 50 Honor Granges last year.

Unfortunately, we lost another past Pennsylvania State Grange Master this year... Brother Wayne Readinger. Brother Wayne, a lifelong member of Fleetwood Grange No. 1839 in Berks County, served as State Master from 1968-74.

This year started off with a bang for the PA State Grange. Farm Show ran from Jan. 4-11, so Bryan and I actually set up the booth on Jan. 2. We then attended the PA Preferred VIP Reception at the Farm Show Complex with our Royalty on Friday, and opened the booth bright and early on Saturday, closing up shop the following Saturday, Jan. 11. For the second year in a row, both our Junior and Youth Royalty were able to participate in the Official Opening ceremonies in the main arena the first Saturday morning! What an honor!

The next big event on the State Grange agenda was the annual Planning Meeting in State College, February 7 and 8. If you attended any of our summer events, you saw the outstanding results of the work the committees put in at the Planning Meeting.

I was able to return to the office after my illness just before our summer events began. Bryan and I escorted our Royalty (and the Junior and Youth Directors) to the Capitol for the annual

Royalty Trip before they headed to Hershey Park in the afternoon. I attended the Coronation of our new 2014-15 Youth Ambassadors, Lindsay Schroeder and Noah Gesford, at Youth Retreat. The following weekend I went to the Coronation of the new Junior Princess and Prince, Anna Benzio and Isaac Mengel, at Junior Camp. A week and a half later, I attended our 11th Annual PA State Grange Family Festival where about 200 of us enjoyed a four-day weekend of Grange food, family and fun and we saw a new Young Couple named, Jennifer and Robert Beamon. Congratulations to all of our 2014-15 PA State Grange Royalty! It was amazing to have 23 entries in this year's Adult and Junior Talent Contests held at Family Festival!

August kept us very busy as well. We had two very well attended Family Picnics, one at Del-Grosso's Amusement Park and one at Knoebel's Amusement Park. Next year we will have to reserve larger pavilion areas for the picnics due to the fantastic turn-out this year. We held a Grange Outreach for Active Leadership (GOAL) seminar presented by National Grange Leadership/Membership Development Director Michael Martin, hosted by Elizabethtown Area Grange in Lancaster County. The evening before the seminar, Grange member Mike Brubaker hosted a social get-together at his Lancaster County family farm which included a tour of their 850 cow sustainable dairy farm. Our biggest event in August is always Penn State's Ag Progress Days. Bryan and I spent four days in the State College area, setting up and manning a Grange informational booth at Ag Progress Days. Both candidates for Governor, Tom Corbett and Tom Wolf stopped by our booth. Bryan came back with at least 30 "Rip Cards" of potential members whom he personally contacted and forwarded their information to the appropriate Community Granges for follow-up.

Thank you to Matt Espenshade, Master of the Elizabethtown Area Grange in Lancaster County, for testifying on behalf of the Grange before the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board, requesting a continuation of the Over Order Premium. He did an outstanding job representing the Grange and Pennsylvania dairy farmers.

On the legislative front, I am sorry to have to report that our efforts, along with those of Versant Strategies, to have legislation passed to exempt Granges throughout the Commonwealth from property taxes, appear to have failed. . . Old sections of the Tax Code were discovered which prohibit agricultural and/or fraternal organizations from being exempted from paying property taxes. To achieve our goal of statewide property tax exemption for all Granges would take a re-vamping of the State Tax Codes which I am told, "Will not happen in the near future." At this point, our best bet is to support various legislation that has been introduced, and will probably be introduced again in the next legislative session, which does away with school property taxes in favor of some other tax (such as an increase in income or sales taxes).

Unfortunately, we did have to close 10 Granges this year. Six of those were Granges surrendering their Charters due to insufficient active membership. Some of their members have demitted to other Granges. Five Granges were suspended for non-payment of dues. One of those has been reinstated after catching up on all back dues. Two Granges are in the process of re-organization efforts and I attended meetings at six Granges in efforts to jump-start and rejuvenate them.

I continue to serve on various boards and committees, as do many of our members. Presently I am still on the Penn Vet Board of Overseers and I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations earlier this year.

Even with my illness and surgery, I was able to visit more than 20 Grange meetings and events throughout the rest of the year. I have completely remodeled the State Deputy Program this year but was unable to get it instituted due to my medical problems. This will be a priority of mine for 2015!

State Masters always have to talk about membership. And, yes, I have to admit, that we continue to lose more members than we recruit. But...in fiscal year 2002-03 our membership dropped by 8.9 percent (1,587 members lost)! We were able to reduce our losses to

6.7 percent (707 lost) by FY 2009-10. In my first year as Master, FY 2010-11, our losses were down to 5.7 percent (560 lost). And in FY 2012-13 we reduced those losses to 4.1 percent (367 lost)! So we are obviously doing something right. As of the second quarter of this year, 2014, we are reporting 8,050 members in Pennsylvania. We must all take the responsibility to go back to our home Granges and instill the “Good Grange Spirit” in our members and help and encourage them to recruit more new members!

Fraternally Submitted,
Carl H. Meiss, Master

Rhode Island

This last year, just like the previous three, we have worked on a program of Grange Growth. In 2013 the first quarter we gained one member. In 2014 the third quarter we gained 12 members. However the year ended with a loss of members. One event that is nice to attend is Awards Night at any Grange. That night the Grange honors local Citizens and the public is invited.

All of our Directors do their best to have great events and contests. The Granges celebrate their anniversaries and again the public is invited. Getting the Grange name out in public is a way to get members.

One Grange we are proud of is Richmond. They are always at the top of the Community Service Department both in Rhode Island and National.

In January we hosted the New England Leaders Conference. The Rhode Island State Grange pulled together and put on what we heard was a very good conference.

Agriculture Day at the Rhode Island State House is another event the grange takes part in; with local milk and home made cookies distributed. In Rhode Island the farms are up 2 percent and the land acreage is up 3 percent, which I believe is a good sign. Our state Chaplain gives us two services in June; the Rhode Island State Grange Church Service and the New England Church Service at the Cathedral in the Pines in Rindge, N.H.

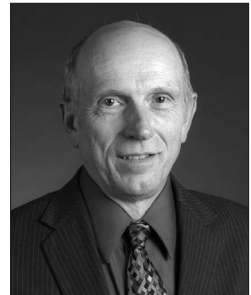
This year one of our Junior Granges, Moosup Valley Junior Grange, celebrated 70 years of continued service. This is a great accomplishment.

The Deaf and Health Department got the State Grange involved with the Rhode Island School for the Deaf again after a few years of being absent.

We also have the Washington County Pomona Grange Fair. The State Grange runs a Corn Dog Booth which is a great source of income for our state treasury.

The booth and the fair are all run by volunteers. I believe the Rhode Island State Grange is in good shape, and I plan on keeping it that way and moving forward.

Fraternally,
Larry M. Spencer, Master



South Carolina

In 2014 the South Carolina State Grange nearly collapsed; however, new leaders stepped up. Having new officers in a short period of time, we held a 2014 session under the National Digest's emergency procedures. Due to some confusion, certain portions of the Digest were interpreted in the spring meeting this year, particularly regarding large properties such as fair grounds.

We are preparing to issue a charter to the first South Carolina Grange of the new millennium. This Grange was self-organized by its members. With the addition of the leadership talent, this State Grange is regaining its competency in the patronage of husbandry.



This new Grange is already working to host a poultry show. A poultry show is wonderful homage to the generation who grew the early Granges. Poultry is seeing a rise as eggs (especially whites), are almost universally agreed on as a high-protein, low carbohydrate superfood. Poultry farming is also coming back into vogue as a form of farming which it is easy to get established. These shows help safeguard much of the breeding work done by early patrons.

Heedfully Submitted

Jerry Martin, Master

Tennessee

Greetings from the Volunteer State of Tennessee.

We just completed our 106th annual session hosted by the oldest remaining Grange in the State, Wesley's Chapel, with all meetings and contests held at the hall. It was an outstanding session with several milestones reached during the year. We were proud to announce at our session that we had a net gain in membership in one Grange (Volunteer), which helped with a statewide net gain as well. And although we saw some membership numbers change in both deletions and additions in several Granges, we still finished with a gain. We have had a net gain in membership in past years and are working toward that being the "norm." Volunteer Grange, because of the net gain, will again be recognized as an Honor Grange at the upcoming National convention. They will also be recognized as a Distinguished Grange for the second year in a row. This was an election year for all officers in the State, with five new officers.



Our members continue to work in their communities on lots of service projects, which was evidenced by the reports turned in from local Granges. Our statewide community service project this year was the collection of baby items which were delivered to a local agency in the hosting Grange's area. We also collected Box Tops for Education in many of our local Granges, as well as aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

During the year I traveled with our State Chaplain to the Mid Atlantic Lecturer's Conference in West Virginia in May. Our State Lecturer was unable to attend this year due to family commitments. It was a wonderful conference, which will be hosted next year by Virginia. Our State Junior Director, myself and two Junior Grangers traveled to North Carolina in July for the Southeastern States Regional Youth/Junior Conference. Both of the Tennessee Junior girls participated in the contests, one in the sign-a-song and the other in the prepared speech contests, both placing first in their age divisions. This Youth/Junior Conference will be hosted by Tennessee next year. We helped support National Grange Public Radio, and I also recorded a "spot" to be played on that station.

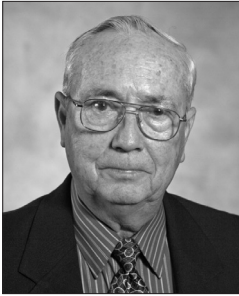
Jolene the Opossum, our state Herd member, traveled with me across the state to lots of events during the year. She has made many friends in Tennessee and in surrounding states as well. She looks forward to National Convention where she will again see the other state Herd members.

Our State Grange had set goals to be reached during the year. The goals I set for the Tennessee State Grange were to revitalize at least one Junior Grange, have a net gain in membership, have two Distinguished Granges as well as the State Grange, train new Grange members, and send leaders to at least two regional conference. We completed some of those this year, with the expectation that we won't forget about these goals, and they will be reached in the future.

Although our State is small in both the number of Granges and members, we have strong leaders in all of them 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 Past Officers and Delegates of the National Grange Worthy Past Steward, Brother Jay Pfeiffer; Worthy Past Pomonas, Sisters Bernice Knight, Ruth Lampman, and Barbara Knight; Past State Masters Archie Knight and Jay Pfeiffer; delegates, Patrons and Guests of the 80th Annual Session of the Texas State Grange, It is my privilege and honor to bring you greetings as we open the 80th Annual Session of the Texas State Grange here in Poteet, Texas - Strawberry capital of the world. Thanks, Sister Connie Waxler, Master of the Poteet Grange and all members of the Poteet Grange for allowing us to return to your Grange Hall for our Annual State Session.

It was an honor for Margaret and I to represent you, our Texas members, at the 147th National Grange Convention in Manchester, New Hampshire this past November. The seven resolutions forwarded to the National Grange resulted in the following actions being taken. The resolution on DWI - already policy; Junior Grange membership - rewrote-time spent in Junior Grange not to count for adult membership, however, you do receive a certificate upon graduation out of the Junior Grange; Memorial Day sales - adverse; National Dues - adverse; National Session - adverse; Privacy of U.S. citizens - already policy; Misuse of post office for solicitations - adverse.

A first vote was taken on raising the dues to National Grange. Fifty-cents per member per quarter, for a total of \$2 per member per year. If adopted this year, the total dues to National will be \$14 per member per year. It is currently \$12. The increase would be effective Jan. 1, 2015.

I served as Chairman of the Labor & Judiciary committee, which also included taxation, transportation and postal reform. I was fortunate to have some very knowledgeable committee members. We considered a total of 40 resolutions. Margaret served on the Conservation committee. We worked very hard and took every resolution serious and voted with our Texas members at the forethought of our final decision. It's always enjoyable serving as a delegate at the national Grange Session and more enjoyable to be Chairman of a Committee presenting those resolutions to the delegates of the National Grange.

Junior Grange

My goal is to have a strong State Junior Grange Program with a State Director appointed before Nov. 1 of this year. Working with the State Director, ask each Subordinate Grange Master to appoint a Junior Director to start organizing Junior Granges in all of our active Granges. Within one year from now have at least five Junior Granges. So, Worthy Masters, start looking today for your Junior Grange Director. My State Director will be visiting soon to assist and work with your Junior Director. We can start with one Junior member at a time and start working from there. Not only will this give us a Junior Grange, but also help us to gain new members.

Youth

Since the loss of your State Youth Director in 2006, our Youth Program has been in a slump. No one has stepped up to get the program re-energized. Last year I appointed Sister Lori Wuest as the new State Youth Director. Sister Lori started from the ground up, rebuilding the youth to make our youth program great again. It's already started. A large group of Texas Youth was in attendance at the Great Plains Youth Conference last month in San Antonio. That is just the beginning. Our Youth will exemplify the 5th Degree for us tonight. (Great!) I will be working with my Youth Director this next year developing interesting Youth Programs, such as Youth Camp, bowling tournaments, and other fun things to interest our youth. Of course, you adults may join in also to make it more interesting and enjoyable. Anything to get our members doing Grange things again.

Community Service

We appreciate Sister Margie Blair serving as the Community Service Director. Even with all of the hardships she has gone through, she was still able to acquire judges and get our Community Service Books judged with the following results: first place: David Crockett; second place: Poteet; third place: Leon Valley; fourth place: Mesquite. Reviewing those community Service books revealed that thousands of hours were voluntarily worked by our Grange Members with five Granges holding low-cost Rabies Clinics, a lot of clothing being donated to needy families, nursing homes and anyone needing clothing, monetary donations being made to worth while causes, scholarships being given, caring for senior citizens, visiting nursing homes and much much more.

Seretary/Treasurer

Our State Secretary- Sister Ann Roeder and Treasurer-Sister Bonnie Bilquist continue to do a fine job. Without a doubt they are two very important officers in our organization. One keeps a record of all of our State activities; the other keeps up with our funds. As the saying goes, where your money is, your heart is there also. Keep up the good work ladies.

Degree Day

We had a decent Degree-Day this past February with about 24 Grangers attending. We exemplified all Four Degrees with some of us filling numerous offices for all 4 Degrees. This is something I will present to the Executive Committee to decide how we will do our Degrees this next year. One big consideration is what Grange has the most new members – Alamo, Cibolo, or David Crockett- and hold a Degree Day at one of those Granges.

Membership

Overall gains in new membership looks good for this year. Through the first quarter, March 31 of this year we had picked up 37 new members as follows: Leon Valley – 1; Poteet – 2; Alamo – 9; Cibolo – 10, and David Crockett – 11. We still have one quarter to go through the end of June. I know we will have some new members on those quarterly reports. From July 1 of 2013 through June 30, 2014, we dropped several members through non-payment of dues or other means. It sure looks good for Texas to have another membership increase for the 5th year in a row. Yay! I thank every Master and your Members for working so diligently to gain new members. We owe you a great bit of gratitude for your hard work.

Fundraising

Last year, you delegates voted to make our fundraiser for 2014 and 2015 that each Grange would pay \$10 per member for two years with their second quarter report. Our State Secretary has informed me that some reports are already coming in with the fundraiser included. These funds will be used to get our members to the 2015 National Session in Lincoln, Nebraska. I will recommend to the Executive Committee that any funds left over, we set it aside to support the 2021 National Session. 2021 should be the next year that Texas must help host the National Grange Session again. In the meantime, starting soon after 2015, we start raising funds to support our next National Grange Session, maybe right here in Texas. It will be held in one of the states in our region. Why not Texas again?

Legislative

I would like to thank Sister Kimberly Ehlers for her work on Legislative issues. She monitors the ongoing Legislation in Washington and Austin. I think we are ready now to take the next step and appoint a Legislative Director in all of our Granges and get our Grange members communicating with our State and National Representatives on issues

that are of concern to us. Doing so, will enhance our Grange meetings, keep our members informed on important issues and improve member attendance at meetings.

Scandals in our Nations Capital - We have had so many scandals within the past three years. Not even Congress can keep up with them. Just to name a few:

1. Guns being sold to Mexican Drug Cartel members and just walking across the border. No doubt hundreds if not thousands of Mexican Citizens and 1 American Border guard have been killed with these guns. No one has ever taken responsibility for this action. No conclusion in the matter.

2. The Benghazi Terrorist Act where four Americans died that included an Ambassador. Until this day, no one in the State Department or White House has taken full responsibility for this terrorist act. No one has lost their job over this lack of leadership (still being investigated)

3. IRS Scandal – Just hearing those words, doesn't that just put fear in you? The IRS targeting Non-Profit Organizations. Organizations like the Grange. Even the President weighed in during an interview. Not a Spergen of evidence, of any wrong doing – but now we know better. There was some intentional targeting of certain non-profits. How about the loss of those e-mails? Can you believe that? The government, especially the IRS does not lose anything! The investigation is on going. The truth will come out.

4. The VA Scandal – It started with 40 veterans dying while waiting up to 6 months to see a doctor. The list of people dying while waiting up to 12-18 months is now 100 and may be 500 or more. This is shameful. You would think that after this scandal was uncovered, those responsible would be fired. NO! They were slated to get bonuses; however the bonuses have been dropped.

Texas State Grange Newsletter

I consider our Grange Newsletter to be a vital party of keeping members informed on activities in our Grange to include the Dates to Remember. Every member should be receiving the State Grange Newsletter. If not, let me know. It is forwarded by E-mail or a hard copy is mailed. Unless someone objects, we will continue the newsletter as a quarterly basis for another year. Please let me know if you have any suggestions on how we can improve it and keep the cost of production down.

In Memoriam

Tomorrow, we will pause to pay a last tribute to those members who have passed from this life this past year. Let us remember them for all the good deeds they did in this life. A complete list of names of our deceased members will appear in the Journal of Proceedings.

In Conclusion

This is an election year. All officers except two Executive Committee members will be elected or re-elected for the next two ensuing years. If you are currently filling an office and desire to be re-elected, I wish you well. However, if you are not re-elected, I ask you to congratulate your successor and assist in the transition as best you can. I must advise every State Officer that no one from Master to the Gatekeeper own any Grange office. We serve at the discretion of the delegates.

I want to thank every one of you who helped me in any way this past year. It's through your dedication and hard work that keeps us moving forward. Behind every successful man is a more successful woman. For me that woman is my wife, and I would like to thank her for her time, patience and support she has given while I have served as Master of the Texas State Grange.

Fraternally submitted
Jack Smithers, Master



Vermont

Worthy Master, National Officers, Brothers and Sisters, on behalf of Vermont Grangers, I extend greetings from the Green Mountain State as we begin our 144th year with new leadership and hope for the future.

This past year was dominated by many “housekeeping” issues – the charters of two Granges that had ceased to function and showed no signs of revival were revoked, and actions were taken to clear up several real estate issues. One of these involved a successful lawsuit against a Grange that claimed its hall was owned by its corporation rather than the Grange itself – the Court concurring with provisions of Grange Law. Another case involved century-old deed restrictions that were addressed by transferring ownership of the hall to a state college, under whose management it will be used to promote agriculture and rural life.

I regret to report that our membership continues to decline, but part of this loss was a consequence of cleaning our rosters and the elimination of “phantom” members, who constituted a portion of the 110-member loss for the year. I am therefore confident that the baseline with which we begin the new year will improve chances for membership gains in Vermont.

Once again Grangers assembled at the State Capitol for Legislative Day last spring. This event is well-attended, and as in years past, the Governor signed and presented proclamation of appreciation to the Grange. Legislative Director James Ballard planned an interesting program that included a briefing by Brother Christopher Szkutak from Massachusetts. This event is a great opportunity for Grangers to see their government in action, to meet with legislators, and make our voices heard.

The Vermont State Grange continues to be well represented at events such as the Vermont Farm Show and the various field days and fairs, and our own Fall Festival last September was the best in years.

During the past year, we lost Past Master, Brother Everett Willard, who held the office from 1962-66. He had been a member for nearly 80 years, and he and wife Dorothy, were co-directors of the Seventh Degree at National Grange for nine years. He was inducted into the Vermont Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2003.

Another Past Master of the Vermont State Grange, Brother Harold Bergeron, was honored last November for his actions in France during World War II by being made a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor. This is France’s highest distinction, and was awarded to Brother Harold by the French Consul General at the Vermont Capitol in Montpelier. Brother Harold and his wife Mary are both over 100 years old, and are approaching their 73rd anniversary.

I wish to thank all the officers and members for their hard work and dedication during the past five years. I hope that the trends we have established during these years will lead to a promising future for our Order in Vermont.

Fraternally submitted,

Errol Briggs, Past Master

Virginia

To the Officers and Delegates to the 148th National Grange Convention, Greetings from the Granges in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Virginia Grange is still serving the communities in which there are local Granges. We may be small in number, but are making a difference in the communities where we are located.

This year we did not meet the Goals that were set at last year's National Convention, but we have one local Grange that has had an organizational meeting for a Junior Grange. Also, we are working to form another Subordinate Grange.

As a State Grange we had a net loss in membership, only two of our Granges had a net gain in membership. In all there were three Granges that had new members this year.

This past year we participated (four of our Granges were represented) in the Mid-Atlantic Lecturer's Conference in Parkersburg W.V. We also had members attend the Southeastern Leadership Conference in Statesville, N.C.



One of our Granges works with the County Broadband Communications network. The Federal Government grant was exhausted in 2013. The county funded the computer center through June 2014. The Grange took over the computer center as of the first of June, they are running it with volunteers.

All of our Granges participated in the Community Service Contest this year.

Some of the activities of our Granges this year were: Basket Bingo's to raise funds for charities and building improvements, Annual BBQ's, most of our Granges either adopted families or individuals for Christmas or collected items for Christmas Stores for the needy. One Grange had a local Church use their facilities for three nights for a live Nativity.

This year the majority of our Granges "Supported our Children" by collecting book bags, school supplies, coats, shoes and other needed items for school children. These items were given to the schools for distribution. A couple of our Granges participated in "Relay for Life."

One of our Granges had their 82st Community Fair. Other Granges participated in County Fairs with food booths and booths with information on the Grange. Two Granges participated in County Parades.

A couple of our Granges served Thanksgiving dinners for those in need or made goody bags for the elderly and shut-ins.

Our Granges had Halloween/Fall festivals, pancake breakfasts with the Easter Bunny, Easter egg hunts, spaghetti dinners all for the benefits of our Youth and members.

Granges gave college scholarships, supported Habitat for Humanity, Local Rescue Squads and Fire Departments, sponsored Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts.

We hope to continue meeting the needs of our communities in the coming year and spread the work to other communities.

Fraternally Submitted,
James Taylor, Master

Washington

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates and members of the National Grange, it is my honor to bring greetings from the Washington State Grange.

This has been an exciting year for the Washington State Grange. In June we celebrated our 125th Anniversary. Our actual birthday was Sept. 10 – two months and a day before Washington became a state. The convention was a huge success with hundreds of members participating in our week-long celebration. In addition to our usual schedule of events and work, the Anniversary Committee added a reenactment of our first convention, a style show and the full exemplification of the first four degrees with the First Degree being done in its original form. Also, the Historical



Committee did a fabulous job of displaying a large collection of Rose Drill dresses from throughout our history. It was a great time to celebrate yesterday, today and tomorrow!

We very much enjoyed having Sister Marie Nicholson, National Grange Flora and Brother Scott Nicholson, Master of the Montana State Grange as our National Representatives. Also, we were honored to have Brother Ed Luttrell, Master of the National Grange and Brother Don Heikkila, Master of the Idaho State Grange join us as our guests.

I am proud that once again the Washington State Grange has been recognized by the National Grange as a Distinguished State Grange for 2013-14 – special thanks to our department heads and directors and to every one of our Granges, members and non-members who support our programs and who day-in and day-out make the Washington State Grange great! Congratulations also to Five Mile Prairie No. 905 and Humptulips No. 730 who have received the distinction of Distinguished Grange for the fifth consecutive year. Additional repeat Distinguished Granges include Deer Lagoon No. 846, Issaquah Valley No. 581, McIntosh No. 1001, Mossyrock No. 355 and Pleasant Hill No. 101; this year's newcomers to this award are Horseshoe No. 965 and Oakview No. 311. Congratulations to all!

Our Youth Department continues to thrive. Here is a snapshot of the breadth of involvement of our young members at the 2013 National Grange convention: Brother Nick Oliver served as a Pfizer Communication Fellow for the National Grange; Brother Jimmy Smith attended as the 2012-2013 National Youth Ambassador and assisted the National Youth Director in creating and planning the youth activities for the week; Brother Aaron Gwin competed in the National Youth Ambassador program and was named the 2013-2014 National Youth Ambassador (yep, two in a row); Sister Erica Cozad competed in the National Youth Ambassador program as well as performed her prepared speech as part of the Night of Excellence program and did an amazing job; Sisters Lacey Adams, Leah Bardal, Rachel Fricke, Lexie Smith and Brittney Oliver served as officers in the National Youth Officer Corp; Sister Brittney Oliver also placed third in the Grange Jeopardy trivia challenge; and Sister Alexis Kudsk was named National Junior Ambassador for 2013-14 (this is the fourth consecutive year Washington has had a National Junior Ambassador). I will continue to find ways for these young members to stretch and to grow and to assist the Washington State Grange in building for tomorrow.

It was an honor to have Brother Dave Howard, past editor of the Washington State Grange News, receive a Hero of the Grange award from the National Grange at the 2013 National Grange convention. Brother Dave's contributions to both the National Grange and the Washington State Grange are numerous and timeless.

I am thrilled to report that so far in 2014 we have three reorganized Junior Granges; Fargher Lake, Green Bluff and North River. A huge thank you goes to all those involved in getting these Junior Granges back on the active roll and for providing these new young members with the opportunity to be Junior Grangers. I am also pleased with our on-going efforts to provide assistance to revitalize and strengthen several Granges across the state before they fell into the reorganization category.

At last year's National Grange convention I was paired with Pierce the Elk and was told that Pierce would assist with not only connecting members through social media, but also with helping get the word out about the great things our Granges and Grangers are doing. I was a little skeptical at the start, but am now a true believer. The positive response to him and to his Facebook page has been amazing. He has attended Grange and non-Grange events of all types all across our state and across the country. In this past year Pierce has travelled to 10 states, from New Hampshire to Washington, to Hawaii, to Idaho and Montana, to Alaska, back to Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island and to Ohio. He also travelled internationally to British Columbia, Canada, while on the Washington State Grange cruise. Please "like" Pierce the Elk to follow the activities of the Granges and Grangers who make the Washington State Grange.

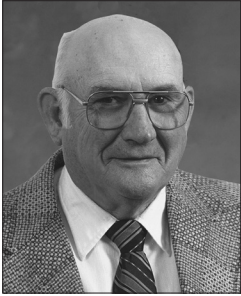
As I travel the great State of Washington and talk with our members, new and experienced, it brings me great pleasure to see, to hear and to feel their pride and satisfaction in belonging to the Grange and in working for the betterment of their neighbors and communities. This is what it is all about – it is rather simple really – and I am fully committed to ensuring the continued success of the Washington State Grange.

Sister Chris and I wish you all the best in the coming year.

Together, we can and will make a difference!

Fraternally yours,

Duane J. Hamp, Master



West Virginia

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates and Members of the National Grange:

The West Virginia State Grange and all of the Subordinates continue to struggle for our survival. I sadly report the loss of one Subordinate Grange, which leaves us with barely enough to survive. However, there may be some light at the end of the tunnel. I just recently had a conversation with a person that will be moving to our state in the very near future. They hope to establish a new Grange in a county where there are no Granges. They will be attending our state session. I hope this all works out and we will establish a new Grange.

Our Junior Grange is off and running, holding meetings and the members are participating in projects. They will display their projects at State Session. It is only through Junior and Youth that we can survive.

I am very optimistic that new leadership as we are electing new officers at this session will interject new life into the Grange. I shall leave you with this thought by George Bernard Shaw, "Progress is impossible without change and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."

Fraternally yours,

James H. Foster, Master

**NATIONAL GRANGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT
2013-14**

**November 13, 2013
Radisson Hotel, Manchester, NH**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 9:35 a.m. Nov. 13, 2013 by Chairwoman Huber at the Radisson Hotel Manchester, N.H.

Present were Betsy Huber, Ed Luttrell, Jimmy Gentry, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman and Phil Prelli.

On a motion from Ed Luttrell, second from Duane Scott and vote of the board the board went into executive session.

Phil Prelli moved that we come out of Executive Session. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved.

Duane Scott moved that on advice of our Legal Counsel and Trademark Attorney we authorize our attorneys to draft a Trademark Protection suit against the California State Grange, inc in the appropriate Federal Court District. Approval of the National Grange Executive Committee will be needed before the suit is filed. The motion was seconded by Betsy Huber and approved by vote of the Board.

A motion was made by Betsy Huber that due to the letter received from the California State Grange, inc no longer affiliating itself with the National Grange, the National Master release the charges against Bob McFarland to the State Masters and the Executive Committee of the National Grange at a confidential meeting. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved by vote of the Board.

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Jimmy Gentry and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Fraternally Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

**November 16 2013
Radisson Hotel, Manchester, NH**

The organizational meeting of the Board was called to order at 6:35 p.m. on Nov. 16, 2013, by Chairwoman Huber at the Radisson Hotel Manchester, N.H.

Present were Betsy Huber, Ed Luttrell, Jimmy Gentry, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, and Phil Prelli.

Duane Scott moved that Betsy Huber be re-elected Chairman of the National Grange Executive Committee. Jimmy Gentry seconded the motion and it was approved by vote of the Board.

Joe Fryman moved that Phil Prelli be re-elected Secretary of the Executive Committee. Jimmy Gentry seconded it and it was approved.

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Jimmy Gentry and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Fraternally Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

**January 9, 2014
TeamSpeak Meeting**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 8:30 p.m. Jan. 9, 2014, by Chairperson Huber via TeamSpeak connection. Present were Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell and Phil Prelli.

Discussion was held on the financial condition and cash flow of the National Grange. Master Luttrell informed the Board that with outstanding bills it is estimated that our current cash flow will be \$150,000 short this month. Alternatives for funding were discussed as well as possible transfers of funds.

Phil Prelli moved that the portion of the dues collected from Community Granges in California that is due to the National Grange currently being held in trust by the National Grange be transferred to the General Fund. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved.

Ed Luttrell moved that we look at the Granges investments and request the Grange Foundation loan us up to \$200,000 at comparable interest rates to those they are receiving. It was seconded by Duane Scott. Phil Prelli then moved an amendment to add for a 3 month period. Duane Scott seconded the amendment and it was adopted. The amended motion was then approved by vote of the Board.

Phil Prelli moved that the Board go into executive session, seconded by Duane Scott and approved.

On a motion by Ed Luttrell with a second from Joe Fryman and vote of the Board the Board came out of executive session.

Phil Prelli moved that any expenses incurred by the National Grange for the reorganization of the California State Grange be paid for from the money currently being held in trust for California. The motion was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved.

A motion was made by Phil Prelli that we direct our attorneys to file the Trademark Protection Lawsuit against the California State Grange, Inc. for the unauthorized use of the Grange Name. Seconded by Betsy Huber and adopted.

Next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Feb. 21, 2014 in Michigan in conjunction with the proposed Masters Meeting,

On a motion from Jimmy Gentry, second from Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Fraternally Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

**January 20, 2014
TeamSpeak Meeting**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 8:01 p.m. Jan. 20, 2014 by Chairwoman Betsy Huber via teamspeak connection. Present were Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell and Phil Prelli.

Discussion was held on the proposed Loan Management Agreement (LMA) and whether to establish it. The LMA will be guaranteed using the General Fund and Convention fund investments as a collateral base. Questions raised on cost of attorney fees to prepare letter needed for the transaction.

Phil Prelli moved to proceed with setting up the LMA for this year, Joe Fryman seconded the motion and it was approved by vote of the Board.

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Duane Scott and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Fraternally Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

**February 21, 2014
Burns Grange Hall, Bancroft, MI**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 09:35 am Feb. 21, 2014 by Chairwoman Huber at the Burns Grange Hall, Bancroft, Mich.

Present were Betsy Huber, Ed Luttrell, Duane Scott and Phil Prelli. Absent were Jimmy Gentry and Joe Fryman (delayed in travel).

We were led in opening prayer by Chairperson Huber who gave thanks for our safe arrival and asked for safe travel for Brother Fryman and all others arriving today. She also asked for guidance and wisdom in our deliberations during the meeting.

Duane Scott moved that the Board go into executive session. It was seconded by Betsy Huber and approved.

Phil Prelli moved that we come out of Executive Session, seconded by Ed Luttrell and adopted.

Ed Luttrell moved that the minutes of the Nov. 13, 2013, and Nov. 16, 2013, meetings and the Jan. 9, 2014, and Jan. 20, 2014, TeamSpeak meetings be adopted as presented. It was seconded by Duane Scott and approved.

Master's Report

Discussion was held on the synopsis sent from Chairperson Huber to the Board Members on the reorganization of the California State Grange and how to best inform the other State Masters. The Board will be kept informed on the progress of the reorganization.

Department Reports

- Building - The Board was informed on the non leased areas including the possibility of using an outside rental firm to try and lease some of the space. Discussion also held on leases coming up in the coming year.
- Executive Assistant - The highlights of the report were talked about including status of upcoming conventions as well as shortening the convention by a day.
- Membership/ Leadership - The Board was updated on the status of deputies organizing or reorganizing Granges in states without State Granges as well as the directors planned visits.

Recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m.

Reconvened at 1:55 p.m.

- Communications - An update was provided on the Membership database as well as the plans for the roll out to the State Granges. Discussion was also held on a proposed plan to use a major media outlet to define both the National Granges financial plight and our need to protect our name.
- Sales, Benefits and Programs - Discussion was held on the Community Service Project and the amount of good work done by our Community Granges. We also highlighted the current benefit packages provided to our Grange members. The possibility of producing a new cookbook including using known chef recipes as alternatives as a fund raiser was discussed.
- Youth - The Regional Youth Conference schedule was provided and the Director is

researching grants to offset National Session costs.

- *Junior* - Discussion was held on alternative ways for the Junior Department to use the Junior Training funds including video participation in regional conferences. She also reported on the changes to the merit badge program.
- *Legislative* - The board was updated on the schedule for this year's Legislative Fly-in.
- *Finance* - The board discussed the year end financials as well as the status of this year's spending and cash flow. Discussion was also held on the prospect of reaching out to State Granges and affiliates for possible cash flow loans.

New Business

Phil Prelli moved that we inform our Trademark attorney that we want him to take no additional action on new issues or respond to any letters other than the California case or Fare Grange and to put a hold on any current negotiations he is currently working on until further notice. It was seconded by Betsy Huber and adopted by vote of the Board.

Joe Fryman joined the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Discussion was held on moving forward with the recommendation of our General Counsel to use licensing of our Trademark with large companies as a fundraiser using our current trademark sub-categories.

Ed Luttrell moved that the Executive Committee authorize the exploration of loans from State Grange and affiliate companies, seconded by Joe Fryman and approved.

A motion was made by Ed Luttrell that we draft an appeal letter to the Past Voting Delegates on the California State Grange and Trademark issues asking for their support and donations with the letter to be approved by the board prior to being sent out. Phil Prelli seconded it and it was adopted.

Duane Scott moved that the National Master direct the staff to investigate revenue from Trademark sources, sale of the Saunder's collection and a new Grange Cookbook, seconded by Betsy Huber and approved.

Chairwoman Huber reminded the Board of resolution 606 of Colorado that the board develops articles that educate members of the Trademark issues and the steps to be taken when an infraction is discovered. National Master will work with our Trademark Manager to address this issue.

Phil Prelli moved that the Board officially send our condolences to Alice Doane and family on the passing of Brother Ted Doane, Master of the Nebraska State Grange; it was seconded by Joe Fryman and approved.

The Board held a moment of silence in Brother Doane's memory.

Next meeting will be held April 7 and 8 in concurrence with the Legislative Fly-in finishing late Tuesday, April 8.

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Fraternaly Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

March 9, 2014

TeamSpeak Meeting

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 9:08 p.m. March 9, 2014, by Chairwoman Huber via TeamSpeak connection. Present were Duane Scott, Betsy Huber, Jimmy

Gentry, Ed Luttrell and Phil Prelli. Joe Fryman was absent.

Ed Luttrell moved that we approve the compensation agreement with State Granges concerning the organization and reorganization of Granges. Jimmy Gentry seconded it and it was approved

Jimmy Gentry made a motion that we send the income and expense pages of the Financial Reports to the State Masters after the Board has reviewed them at our at our quarterly meetings. Seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved.

Discussion was held on the year-end financial report.

The Board discussed the need for monthly financial reports to be prepared and presented to the Board.

The Board was updated on the progress of the reorganization of the California State Grange.

It was suggested that the Board hold a TeamSpeak meeting with the State Masters to discuss the financials. The date of March 19, 2014, at 8 p.m. EST was chosen.

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm.

Fraternally Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

April 7, 2014

National Grange Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 3:30 p.m. on April 7, 2014 by Chairwoman Huber at the National Grange Headquarters Washington, D.C.

Present were Betsy Huber, Ed Luttrell, Jimmy Gentry, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, and Phil Prelli.

We were led in opening prayer by Jimmy Gentry, thanking Him for this day and His blessings as well as asking for His guidance in helping with our decisions.

A motion was made by Ed Luttrell to approve the minutes of the Nov. 10, 2013, and Feb. 21, 2014, meetings as well as the March 9, 2014, TeamSpeak as corrected. The motion was seconded by Duane Scott and approved. (The correction was to insert that it was the D&O Insurance Co. and that they recommended that we go for with a summary judgment.)

Master's Report

Ed Luttrell moved that we go into executive session. It was seconded by Duane Scott and approved by vote of the Board.

Phil Prelli moved that we come out of Executive Session, seconded by Ed Luttrell and adopted.

The Board recessed at 4:42 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 6:40 p.m. after a delicious supper with the Fly-In participants provided by Potomac Grange.

Unfinished Business

Master Luttrell reported that he has requested Job Descriptions from all the employees. Once he receives them all he will share with the Board.

The National Grange 150th Essay contest was discussed including the need to find a sponsor to fund the contest including having the winner attend the Annual Session to be held in Washington, D.C., in 2016. A motion was made by Ed Luttrell that we request that the Grange Foundation to either sponsor or find sponsors to fund the essay contest. Phil Prelli seconded it and it was approved.

Master Luttrell informed the Board of the status of the membership database project including the holding of a TeamSpeak meeting for learning how to update the database.

Phil Prelli moved that we direct the National Master to talk to our Trademark Manager and Trademark attorney to see if there is any way to settle the suit with Fare Grange prior to going to mediation. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and adopted.

New Business

Motion made by Jimmy Gentry with a second from Joe Fryman to adopt the last day minutes of the 2013 Annual Session with minor corrections. Motion was adopted.

Jimmy Gentry moved that we allocate up to \$34,486 from the National Grange Hosting Fund for the upcoming convention in Sandusky, Ohio. Seconded by Ed Luttrell and adopted.

Motion from Phil Prelli with a second from Joe Fryman to contract with Burton Eller Associates on a short term basis to provide Legislative Updates. Motion was adopted.

Meeting recessed at 8:05 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at National Grange Headquarters at 9:15 a.m. on April 8, 2014. Ed Luttrell was absent due to a family emergency.

Discussion was held on the loan offer from the Oregon State Grange. This should be brought up at our next meeting as well as receiving better financial figures.

Department Reports

- Communication & Information - Report was reviewed with the need for a new color printer discussed. It was suggested that a lease arrangement also be looked into.
- Youth - Discussion held on the grants received for National Session as well as upcoming conferences.

The Board was joined for a discussion by the in-house directors. After discussion, in-house directors left the meeting.

Jimmy Gentry left the meeting.

- Membership & Leadership - Discussion was held on conferences attended and upcoming travel. It was felt by the Board that we needed a finer breakout of the money being spent on all travel.
- Sales, Benefits and Programs - Discussion held on report including the new Food for Thought program and the Patriots Program. It was also discussed that priorities need to be established to restock Grange Store. We need to find ways to have Grangers participate more in the benefits provided.

It was discussed that we need to hold a meeting prior to the end of the month or early next month to go over financials as well as address other current issues. The date of April 25, 2014, was discussed. Chairwoman Huber will follow up on this.

On a motion from Joe Fryman, second from Duane Scott and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Fraternaly Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

April 25, 2014

National Grange Headquarters, Washington, DC

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 08:47 am on April 25, 2014 by Chairperson Huber at the National Grange Headquarters Washington, DC. Present were Betsy Huber, Ed Luttrell, Jimmy Gentry, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, and Phil Prelli.

We were led in opening prayer by Betsy Huber thanking for safe travel here and asking

for his guidance in our deliberations as well as safe travel home.

A motion was made by Ed Luttrell to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2014, meeting as corrected. The motion was seconded by Joe Fryman and approved.

Discussion was held on the financial report including the building expense figure being off thus effecting totals. Phil Prelli moved that we accept the financial report as corrected and have the corrected income and expense pages sent to State Masters. The motion was seconded by Duane Scott and adopted.

A TeamSpeak meeting was set up for 9 p.m. EST on May 5, 2014, to discuss the financial report as well as financial concerns.

Phil moved that the board go into executive session; it was seconded by Joe Fryman and approved.

Jimmy Gentry moved that we come out of executive session. It was seconded Duane Scott and approved.

Discussion was held on projected cost for the financial year as related to the budget as well as expected income for the year.

Jimmy Gentry moved that the board have a TeamSpeak meeting on May 21, 2014, at 8 p.m. to review the finances. It was seconded by Phil Prelli and approved.

Next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Aug. 7-8, 2014, in Charlotte, N.C.

Ed Luttrell moved that the board go into executive session, seconded by Joe Fryman and approved.

Joe Fryman moved that the board come out of executive session, seconded by Phil Prelli and approved.

Discussion was held on the need of setting priorities and direction for the Grange including the need to have efforts put into continuing to improve the outlook of the Grange.

Phil Prelli read a communication from Bob and Delores Barrows thanking the board for their "Hero of the Grange" award.

It was also voted that the National Grange Executive Committee send our condolences to Celia and Ed Luttrell on the loss of her mother.

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Jimmy Gentry and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Fraternally Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

May 21, 2014 TeamSpeak Meeting

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 8:02 p.m. May 21, 2014, by Chairwoman Huber via TeamSpeak connection. Present were Duane Scott, Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Joe Fryman, Ed Luttrell and Phil Prelli.

Discussion was held on the April financial report including both income and expense issues. The major points discussed included attorney expense line item and projected cost for the remainder of the year, legislative sponsorship now that the Fly-in is over, dues income, and travel expenses.

Phil Prelli moved that the Board go into Executive Session. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved.

Motion made by Joe Fryman to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Duane Scott and approved.

Next TeamSpeak scheduled for June 11, 2014, at 8 p.m.

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Fraternally Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

June 11, 2014
TeamSpeak Meeting

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 8:02 p.m. on June 11, 2014, by Chairwoman Huber via teamspeak connection. Present were Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell and Phil Prelli.

Discussion was held on the draft proposed plan on repaying of any loan taken by the National Grange. The draft plan was proposed by Master Luttrell.

On a motion from Ed Luttrell, second from Jimmy Gentry and vote of the Board; the Board went into Executive Session.

Ed Luttrell moved that we come out of Executive Session. It was seconded by Joe Fryman and adopted.

Discussion continued on the draft plan. Ed Luttrell moved that we move forward on option four of the plan and that the Board have a number of TeamSpeak meetings with our State Masters to explain the approach prior to the full release of the plan. The motion was seconded by Phil Prelli.

After further discussion Phil Prelli moved to table the motion until more information on the lease schedule and repayment plan are developed. The motion was seconded by Duane Scott and adopted.

Discussion was held on the monthly financial report. Some of the items discussed were: ongoing attorney fees as well as projections for court cases, building maintenance and rentals, dues income, the Grange Store, wages and benefits.

On a motion from Jimmy Gentry, second from Duane Scott and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Fraternally Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

July 16, 2014
Teleconference Meeting

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 8 p.m. on July, 14, 2014, by Chairwoman Huber via a teleconference connection. Present were Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell and Phil Prelli.

Master Luttrell brought the Board up to date on the motions to dismiss the counter claims in the California Trademark case. Motions should be heard in 60 days.

Discussion was held on the draft proposed plan on repaying of any loan taken by the National Grange including discussion on our current LMA loan. Part of the discussion on the plan was our outstanding bills.

Phil Prelli moved that we use whatever funds are available in the Building Maintenance Fund to offset the cost of repairing the air conditioning fans. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and adopted.

Discussion on the proposed plan continued.

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Joe Fryman and vote of the Board, the Board went into Executive Session.

Jimmy Gentry moved that we come out of Executive Session. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and adopted.

Jimmy Gentry made a motion that we use \$164,000 from the LMA to pay towards our attorney fees and to notify the attorneys that we need a grace period to pay the remainder. The motion was seconded by Phil Prelli and approved.

Ed Luttrell moved that we authorize an appeal letter asking members for \$10 each, seconded by Joe Fryman and approved.

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Joe Fryman and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Fraternally Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

**August 7, 2014
Hyatt House Hotel, Charlotte, NC**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 7:55 p.m. on April 25, 2014, by Chairwoman Huber at the Hyatt House Hotel Charlotte, N.C.

Present were Betsy Huber, Ed Luttrell, Jimmy Gentry, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, and Phil Prelli. The Board was also joined by Ed Kowski, Master of the California State Grange Chartered.

We were led in opening prayer by Betsy Huber thanking for bringing us safely here and asking for safe travel home as well as asking for His guidance and help in our deliberations.

Ed Luttrell moved that the Board go into executive session, seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved. Ed Kowski was invited to attend a portion of the executive session.

Ed Luttrell moved that the Board come out of Executive Session, seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved.

Master Luttrell made a statement that he believes that Phil Prelli has a possible conflict of interest concerning the letter sent from State Masters stating that they plan to withhold their dues payments to National as he serves on both the National Executive Committee and the Connecticut State Grange Executive Committee. Phil Prelli responded that until the By-Laws are broken, he did not feel that a conflict existed. The issue was further discussed by the Board.

A motion was made by Jimmy Gentry to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2014 meeting, the May 21, 2014 and June 11, 2014 TeamSpeak and the July 16 Teleconference call. The motion was seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved.

Discussion was held on the need for and draft of the Grange Website and Electronic Social Media code of conduct.

Meeting recessed at 10 p.m.

Meeting was reconvened at 8:28 a.m. on Aug. 8, 2014.

Phil Prelli led in an opening prayer asking for guidance as well as safe transportation home for the members.

Department Reports

- Communication and Information Technology - Discussion was held on grants received for the National Convention as well as Grange Advocacy work. The Board was also informed of the situation with the National Grange Radio. Discussion

was also held on the action and plan for the roll out of the National Membership database. The plan is to do the roll out state by state with four states currently targeted and then additional states month by month.

- Leadership/ Membership - Discussion held on the Director's report including new Granges formed as well as what Deputies had been appointed.
- Executive Assistant - We will be going out to bid soon on the 2018 National session including the plan to shorten the session by one day. It was also discussed about shortening the session sooner. The Board also discussed the bonding report including the need to encourage states not currently participating on the need to ensure that their Granges are bonded.
- Financial - Several questions were raised about the financial report as well as the need to receive them in a timely manner. Some of the questions raised were on the attorneys fees including Trademark, Board of Directors showing no expenses, the Commercial Insurance line, and Legislative and Communications Professional services. The Master will follow up with the Comptroller on the questions.
- Sales, Benefits and Programs - The Director's report was discussed including the decrease in the usage of the Choice Hotel program, the Patriots Program and the new Food for Thought program. The Board was also informed on complications leading to no applications being received for the Deaf Awareness grants.
- Youth - Discussion held on the Regional Conferences and plans for National Session.
- Building - The Board was informed on the repairs completed to the air conditioning system and the leaks in the roof. The building is currently fully rented and upcoming leases were discussed.
- Trademark - The board went over the outstanding and completed cases listed in the report.

Master's Report

Ed Luttrell moved that the Board go into Executive Session. It was seconded by Duane Scott and approved.

Ed Luttrell moved that we come out of Executive Session. It was seconded by Duane Scott and approved.

Unfinished Business

The appeal letters to both Past Voting Delegates as well as all Grange Members are in final draft form and should be mailed out by the end of the month.

Further discussion was held on the revised loan plan.

Phil Prelli moved that the Board go into executive session, seconded by Joe Fryman and approved.

Phil Prelli moved that we come out of executive session, seconded by Duane Scott and approved.

Chairwoman Huber informed the board of her trip to the Ag in the Classroom Convention including the presentation of the award. She stated that next year's convention would be held in Louisville, Ky., June 16-19. A two-day stay will be needed for the presenter.

Ed Luttrell made a motion that we make a request to the National Grange Foundation that they provide the sponsorship funds for the 2015 Ag in the Classroom award. It was seconded by Duane Scott and approved

A motion was made by Phil Prelli that an edited updated copy of the plan be sent to each board member for approval by an email vote, seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved.

New Business

Phil Prelli moved that due to our financial situation we do not give Christmas bonuses

to our staff this year and that the staff be notified of this action immediately. Betsy Huber seconded the motion and it was approved.

The board officially showed its appreciation to the North Carolina State Grange for not only hosting this meeting but also picking up the room expenses.

The next State Masters' TeamSpeak is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 20 at 8 p.m. EST.

The next regular meeting of the Board to be held on Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014 prior to the National Grange Session.

On a motion from Ed Luttrell, second from Duane Scott and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Fraternally Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

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ERIC BOLIN CPA P.C.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors
National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry
Washington, D.C.

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2013, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

As audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry as of December 31, 2013, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Eric Bolin CPA, P.C.

October 24, 2014

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2013

	GRANGE OPERATING ACCOUNT	GRANGE BUILDING ACCOUNT	TOTAL NATIONAL GRANGE
ASSETS			
Cash on hand and on deposit (Sch. I)	\$ 335,631	\$ -	\$ 335,631
Investments (Note 4)	512,912	-	512,912
Accounts receivable (Sch. II)	(21,102)	-	(21,102)
Prepaid expenses and Deposits	5,772	-	5,772
Inventory - sales (Note 2)	129,677	-	129,677
Building (at cost)	-	1,174,014	1,174,014
Accumulated depreciation - Building	-	(1,174,014)	(1,174,014)
Equipment and Improvement	56,112	898,551	954,663
Accum. Depr.- Equip & Improvements	(56,112)	(738,926)	(795,038)
Land	-	255,238	255,238
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 962,890	\$ 414,863	\$ 1,377,753
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	\$ 256,390	\$ -	\$ 256,390
Convention Assessment	307,765	-	307,765
Accrued Expenses	7,946	-	7,946
Grange bonding	6,151	-	6,151
Tom Severance Fund	1,220	-	1,220
Building Fund	1,833	-	1,833
Security deposits - tenants	-	30,405	30,405
Trial Funding	10,208	-	10,208
Escrow	4,000	-	4,000
Due to State Granges	194,317	-	194,317
Due to (from) building account	8,551,852	(8,551,852)	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	9,341,682	(8,521,447)	820,235
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted - building	-	8,936,310	8,936,310
Unrestricted - operating	(8,378,792)	-	(8,378,792)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	(8,378,792)	8,936,310	557,518
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 962,890	\$ 414,863	\$ 1,377,753

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, 2013

Schedule I - Cash on Hand and on Deposit

Operating account	\$ 122,367
Payroll account	10,508
National Convention Bank	4,000
Petty cash	350
Reserve	20,348
Money Market	175,058
Imprest	3,000

Total Cash on Hand and on Deposit	\$ 335,631
--	-------------------

Schedule II - Accounts Receivable

Kelly Farm	\$ 5
California	1,749
National Convention	148
Potomac Grange	1,179
Sales	2,830
Grange Foundation	(27,649)
Other	636

Total Accounts Receivable	\$ (21,102)
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See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statements of Activities - Operating Account

For the Year Ended December 31, 2013

REVENUE	
Dues and Fees	
Subordinate Grange Dues	\$ 664,264
Subordinate Grange Charter Fees	345
Junior Grange Charter Fees	50
E-Membership	292
Sixth Degree Fees	1,047
Seventh Degree Fees	8,080
GIA	75,000
Sponsors, Grants	79,600
Sales Income	89,688
Interest, Dividend Income	34,062
Fund Raising Donations	4,757
Bonding Commission	9,565
Licensing, Communication	23,833
Other	3,146
TOTAL REVENUE	993,729
EXPENSES	
General and Administrative	923,832
Gen & Admin - Professional Services	662,513
National Master	84,996
National Secretary and Lecturer	1,000
Board of Directors	11,783
Communication Publication	46,644
Youth Activities	14,708
Junior Grange	8,126
High Priest	2,571
Membership, Leadership	34,982
Legislative	29,472
IT/ Systems	28,058
National Convention	127,432
Marketing/Sales	42,334
President Meeting	7,520
Simple IRA	0
Depreciation	0
Miscellaneous	3,113
Unlocated Variance	22,221
Special Events	12,626
TOTAL	2,063,931
DECREASE IN NET ASSETS – OPERATING	(1,070,202)
Unrealized Gain—Investment	0
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS – January 31,	(7,308,590)
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS – December 31,	\$ (8,378,792)

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, 2013

INCOME

Rent	\$ 925,506
NG Building – Expense Allocation	34,051
Storage, Other	2,556

TOTAL INCOME	962,113
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EXPENSES

Salaries and Payroll Taxes	1,988
Real Estate Taxes	139,674
Electricity, Gas and Water	85,629
Building Supplies	2,984
Service Contracts, Inspection	154,080
Repairs and Maintenance	6,985
Insurance	9,222
Miscellaneous, Commissions	1,405

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	401,967
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CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS	560,146
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Provision for Depreciation	(19,150)
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INCREASE IN NET ASSETS - Building	540,996
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NET ASSETS - Building Operations – January 1,	8,395,314
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NET ASSETS - Building Operations - December 31,	\$ 8,936,310
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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, 2013

CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Decrease in Net Assets - Operating	\$ (1,070,202)
Increase in Net Assets - Building	540,996
Total	(529,206)
Adjustments to Reconcile Decrease in Net Assets to Cash (Used) by	
Operations	
Depreciation	19,150
Decrease (Increase) in Accounts Receivable	26,942
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expenses, Deposits	(2,875)
Decrease (Increase) in Inventory	(14,378)
Increase (Decrease) in Grange Bonding	4,827
Increase in Due to State Granges	144,772
(Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable	151,890
Increase in Accrued Expenses	6,380
(Decrease) Increase in Tenant Security Deposits	283
Increase in Escrow Payable	4,000
Increase in Trial Funding	10,208
Increase in Convention Assessment	0

NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(178,007)
---	------------------

CASH USED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Building Improvements	(86,035)
Decrease (Increase) in Tom Severance Fund	(2,056)
Decrease (Increase) in Investment Account	65,196

NET CASH (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(22,895)
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CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES	0
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NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH	(200,902)
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CASH - January 1,	536,533
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CASH - December 31,	\$ 335,631
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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, 2013*

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 Accounting Standards Codification Section 958, *Not for Profit Entities* (Formerly 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.

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.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (Continued)

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.

NOTE 3 - INVESTMENTS

Investments include money 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, 2013.

Investments include:	
Money Funds	<u>\$ 512,912</u>
Funds are allocated to:	
Convention Bank	\$ 307,765
Due to State Granges	194,317
Savings	<u>10,830</u>
Total	<u>\$ 512,912</u>

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

NOTE 4 - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property, equipment and accumulated depreciation are as follows at December 31:

	<u>2013</u>
Depreciable Assets	
Equipment	\$ 56,112
Building	1,174,014
Building Improvements	<u>898,551</u>
	2,128,677
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,969,052)</u>
	<u>\$ 159,625</u>

NOTE 5 - UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS- BUILDING

Building unrestricted net assets is comprised of:

December 31	<u>2013</u>
From Operations	\$7,922,077
Contributions	260,745
Provided from Exchange of	
Former Building	396,936
Bicentennial Cookbook	<u>313,549</u>
	<u>\$8,893,307</u>

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, 2013, the matching portion was \$8,918.

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. The Organization maintains its capital reserve and investment accounts in non-FDIC insured accounts with reputable firms. The balance in these accounts at December 31, 2013 totaled \$512,912.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY**Notes to Financial Statements***December 31, 2013*

NOTE 8 - LEASE COMMITMENT

The National Grange has entered into an operating lease for a copier. The lease for the copier was signed on August 19, 2010 for 60 months starting in September 2010. The monthly payment for the copier is \$1,125.

Minimum lease payments for the years ending December 31, 2014, 2015 are \$13,500, and \$9,000 respectively.

NOTE 9 - LEASES

As part of its ongoing operations the National Grange leases to tenants those parts of the building it does not use. The leases are one year, renewable, leases at current market rents. Some leases have expense pass-through clauses based on the previous year's operating costs. Expected rental income for the year ended December 31, 2014 is estimated at \$975,000, depending on renewals and if additional space becomes available.

NOTE 10 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In preparing these financial statements, the Organization has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through May 12, 2015, the date the financial statements were available for use.

NOTE 11 – DUE TO STATE GRANGES

During the current year the National Grange had to suspend the charters of two State Granges. These suspensions required the National Grange to take over the administrative task usually performed by the State Grange and has collected certain funds that would normally belong to the State Granges. These amounts are reflected in the category "Due to State Granges".

Certain legal actions have been undertaken by a State Grange which the National Grange has countered. The National Grange feels that the outcome of any such action will be in the favor of the National Grange.

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

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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 (a nonprofit corporation) as of December 31, 2013 and the related Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets and Cash Flows for the year then ended. A review includes principally of inquiries of Company personnel and applying analytical procedures to management's financial data. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, I do not express such an opinion.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements.

My responsibility is to conduct the review in accordance with statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require me to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements. I believe that the results of my procedures provide a reasonable basis for my report.

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 principles.

Eric Bolin CPA, P.C.

January 22, 2015

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, 2013****ASSETS****Current Assets**

Cash – Operating	\$	10,138
CD Investments		37,411
Account Receivable – National Grange		27,589

Total Current Assets		75,138
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Other Assets

Endowment Fund (Restricted)		206,068
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$	281,206
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LIABILITY**NET ASSETS**

Unrestricted		28,677
Temporarily Restricted		46,461
Permanently Restricted – Endowment		206,068

TOTAL NET ASSETS		281,206
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TOTAL LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS	\$	281,206
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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, 2013

	TOTAL
CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:	
Revenues:	
Contributions	\$ 1,532
Candle Sales	0
Interest and Dividend Income	2374
Total unrestricted revenues	3,906
Expenses:	
Candle Expense	382
Legal Fee	10,000
Accounting	1,350
Eve of Excellence	800
Donations, Other	4,170
Total unrestricted expenses	16,202
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	(12,296)
CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS :	
Contributions, Interest, Grants	12,842
Expenses	7,441
(DECREASE) IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	5,401
CHANGES IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:	
Increase	37
INCREASE IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:	37
(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(6,858)
NET ASSETS – JANUARY 1,	288,064
NET ASSETS - DECEMBER 31,	\$ 281,206

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, 2013

Schedule I – Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

	OH Kelley Historical Prog. Fund	Junior Leadership Program	Youth Leadership Fund	Program For the Deaf	G.R.O.W. Club	American Arts	Youth Exchange Program
Balance- January 1	\$ 3,206	\$ 12,022	\$ 1,228	\$ 18,352	\$ 3,680	\$ 696	\$ 1,876
Contributions	4,620	270	4,877	60	966	1,550	150
Interest Income, Other	1	1	1	1	-	1	1
Expenses	(3,504)	(0)	(2,200)	(0)	1,000	-	-
Balance- December 31	\$ 4,323	\$ 12,293	\$ 4,249	\$ 18,413	\$ 3,646	\$ 2,247	\$ 2,027

See Accompanying Accountant's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION**Statement of Cash Flows****For the Year Ended December 31, 2013**

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

(Decrease) in Net Assets	\$	(6,858)
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase in Net Assets to Cash flow from operating activities:		
(Decrease) Increase in Due to The National Grange		(27,589)

NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES (34,447)

CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Change in FMV of Investment	(37)
Decrease in CD Investment	27,589

NET CASH PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES 27,552

CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES 0

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH (6,895)

CASH – January 1, 17,033

CASH - December 31, \$ 10,138

See Accompanying Accountant's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

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 - Under the provisions of ASC 958, net assets and revenues, expenses, gains and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, the net assets of the Foundation and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

Unrestricted: Net assets available for general activities—These net assets are available for general obligations of the Foundation.

Temporarily Restricted: Net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that may or will be met either by actions of the Foundation and/or the passage of time.

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION**Notes to Financial Statements****December 31, 2013**

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, 2013

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.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE
Presented at the 148th Annual National Grange Session
Sandusky, Ohio
November 13, 2014

Executive Assistant/ Meeting Planner/ Building Manager

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates and Patrons:

I have served in the position of Executive Assistant, Meeting Planner and Building Manager at the National Grange Office for almost six years. I report to you my activities in the following areas:

Bonding

Currently, Granges from 25 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 2014, 732 individual Granges were covered by the policy. This is a 5.8 percent decrease from 2013. With the exception of Granges in Alaska and California, all Subordinate, 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. 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

The 149th Annual National Grange Convention will be held at The Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Neb. The convention will take place Nov. 3-7, 2015. The room rate is \$99. Parking will be an additional daily rate at an adjacent garage owned by the City of Lincoln. Currently the rate is \$9 per night to self-park or \$16 to valet park. The hotel offers a free shuttle to and from the Lincoln airport.

The 150th Annual National Grange Convention will be held at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport hotel in Herndon, Virginia. The event will be held November 15-19, 2016. The room rate is \$105 and includes free parking and free airport shuttle transportation to and from Dulles International Airport. An off-site location for the 7th Degree Conferral will be selected.

The 151st Annual National Grange Convention will be held in Spokane, Washington Nov. 7-11, 2017. The event will take place at the Red Lion Hotel at the Park. The room rate is \$129 and the hotel offers a free shuttle to and from the Spokane International Airport.

Meetings and Events

Meeting and event tasks include may have included preparing meeting materials, planning hotel and meal logistics, and handling registration processes. I provided support in some capacity for the following meetings and events in the past year: the 2013 and 2014 National Grange Conventions; four Executive Committee Meetings; and the 2014 Master's Conference in Michigan.

Grange Building

The National Grange Building at 1616 H St., NW in Washington, D.C., requires daily management to run smoothly. My 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. I also provide Notary Public services for the tenants of the building. In addition to daily management of the building, I also work with the National Master and the Grange's Legal Counsel to negotiate lease renewals or extensions. Currently in the Grange Building, there are 21 separate leases for office space housing over 29 companies and organizations. As of the writing of this report, the building is 99.1 percent occupied. The newest tenant moves in on December 1st at which time the building will be 100 percent occupied.

Fraternally submitted,

Jessie Cope

Executive Assistant/ Meeting Planner

Information Technology Department

Dear Patrons,

It is important to review some of the projects, initiatives and activities of the Information Technology department from November 2013 through November 2014 in order to provide reasonable expectations for the coming year.

Membership Database

The National Grange Online Membership Database has been developed as approved by the delegates at the 145th Annual National Grange Convention in Tulsa. We anticipate that this tool will help all local, state and national users by providing a consolidated, comprehensive online database site which includes all relevant member and grange information.

With beta testing of the database complete, two separate online training sessions were held earlier this year with State Grange users for a complete assessment of the system. Questions and concerns about the system were addressed and state users were encouraged to utilize the system.

Following the training session with state users, local access levels and login credentials for each local grange were created and distributed to the state grange for distribution to the designated member who would be responsible for updating/editing their respective local grange member information. Updated step-by-step instructions as well as four video tutorials were created and provided for additional assistance.

As mentioned last year, this project can only succeed with the support of State Presidents who take the time to explain the need to be part of this change to our Grange reporting and data collection system. Until Granges have in place a person who accepts the responsibility for reporting and is technically savvy enough to complete the task, State Granges will have to work with National Grange to assist in training. States will also have to ensure that all Granges are reporting, either on their own or with State assistance.

It is imperative that this system gains full use in order for members to receive the full benefits of the organization and for the organization to prove its legitimacy in the national scope. An online survey has been created and will be distributed to gather feedback on the effectiveness and frequency of use from local and state users.

Websites Updates/Changes

There are currently 572 users registered for the Grange member's site and 2,431 Subordinate/Pomona Grange websites created. As a safeguard against web hackers, the National Grange has installed a security feature that is implemented after three failed login attempts have been reached. This feature blocks access to the site for 15 minutes to discourage brute force attacks. If you are attempting to login into your user profile and need assistance with your password, the National Grange Office can easily help you with your password. Please do not attempt more than two unsuccessful login attempts as it will implement the security feature.

Information on the National Grange website is updated regularly to include National Grange News, call to action items, press releases, news of interests, updated member benefits and program information, Grange in the News items, and a number of Grange events including the Grange Month, Legislative Fly-In, 148th National Grange convention and more.

The National Grange has worked with NRECA to create a Grange coalition page where its members can sign an online petition and submit it and advocate against or for a specific issue.

SiteGround, which is the hosting server for the domain grange.org and all email accounts created for local granges and Grange Herd members, was renewed September 28, 2014 for \$190.80.

All domains associated with the National Grange are current and scheduled to renew automatically.

Softaculous, an application installed used to create WordPress websites was purchased for \$35 to assist in the redesign of the following websites. Website redesign is underway.

- Youth
- Grange Foundation
- Grange Store

TeamSpeak Announcements & Recordings

The IT Department has scheduled various meetings throughout the year as well as announced various TeamSpeak meetings held by the National Grange President, Leadership/Membership Director, Communications Manager, as well as the Youth and Young Adults Director. These TeamSpeak sessions are recorded by the facilitator and later edited and added to the member's side of the National Grange website for members to listen to online. Recently the option to download these recording was made available and serves as useful tools for members who were unable to connect during the time of live sessions.

E-Newsletter

Throughout the year the IT Department has formatted and distributed the "Grange Monthly" e-newsletter to our entire email mailing list, containing about 9,000 members. The layout for this newsletter was updated to reflect a more streamline look while including more articles for members to enjoy. We hope to increase the number of members currently receiving this publication by asking Granges to collect information for their members, including mailing addresses and email addresses, and provide them to National Grange.

Internet/Phone Connection

The National Grange switched its Internet Service Providers to Comcast. The switch took place primarily to increase productivity and reduce cost and features VOIP for 13 phone lines, one toll-free line, unlimited local and long distance calling, increased broadband speed of 150 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload, free installation, National Grange Directory listing and one wireless router. The charge for this service is \$515 per month, a \$349 savings.

Unfortunately, the Grange office experienced some fraudulent activity associated with our Toll Free line with calls being made during non-working hours. This activity was caught during the first month of activity and several security features were put in place to eliminate future problems. Comcast refunded all charges associated with this fraud.

Computer/Hardware

Last year, The National Grange replaced six workstations with new Dell OptiPlex computers leaving six gently used computers, monitors and three desktop printers remaining in the office. These computers were cleaned of all sensitive information and an invitation to obtain one of these computers for free was distributed to all state secretaries. Shipping and handling charges would apply. Five of the six computers were distributed. We

anticipate that these computers will assist the State Granges in numerous ways including the use of the new Online Membership Database.

The current operating system running on The National Grange server is Windows Small Business Server 2003. This version of Small Business server is no longer supported, and is vulnerable to security hacks. This older version is also growing more and more incompatible to newer software and updated web browsers. It is suggested that the National Grange server migrate its existing Windows Small Business Server 2003 to Windows Server 2012 Essential. In an effort to streamline the cost associated with this migration, the operating system (not hardware) would only need to be updated.

Software, Safety Upgrades/Licenses

The National Grange renewed its license agreement with Symantec Endpoint Protection Suite Enterprise, which is currently running on the National Grange server to provide protection for all workstations. Symantec provides live updates with the most current virus definitions for Threat Protection, Proactive Threat Protection, as well as Antivirus and Anti-spyware Protection for all network computers. Live Updates are automatically run daily.

The National Grange has renewed its SSL Certificate with GoDaddy allowing sensitive information from the National Grange websites to remain secured.

Windows software updates, full scan for threats and up-to-date virus definitions have been applied to all five laptops to be used for the annual convention.

The IT Department and Accounting Department will be working together to migrate its current accounting software, Peachtree Premium Accounting 2011 (now currently unsupported) to QuickBooks Pro 2015. This migration will simplify reporting and increase productivity for our Controller. It is our hope to initiate the migration when it is most convenient for the accountant and end of the year inventory for the Grange Store which will most likely take place year-end 2014.

Conference Calling Options

The National Grange has made updates on its server to reflect the latest upgrade issued by TeamSpeak, which is now operating with version 3.0.16. Due to lack of use and financial constraints, the annual GoToMeeting plan with Citrix was not renewed.

Mailing and Shipping

The necessary updates have been made to SendSuite Processing and adjacent software currently running on the Pitney Bowes mailing machine. These updates reflect changes made by UPS, USPS, FedEx and any rate changes. With the closing of the Printing Department, the National Grange has been able to utilize certain functions of the mail machine such as affixing the Grange return address onto envelopes to be mailed.

Building Security

A complete inventory of all front door pass cards to the National Grange headquarters has been done. As of Nov. 1, 2014, there are a total of 197 pass cards assigned and issued to a combination of National Grange employees, building tenants, subtenants, vendors, etc.

A replacement remote controller for the front door which is used by the security guard was ordered as well as additional front door pass cards to replenish our dwindling supply. Due to the rising cost of the pass cards, it may be necessary to assign a limit amount of cards to each tenant and/or assess a fee for any unreturned cards.

Fraternally Submitted,

Stephanie J. Wilkins

National Grange IT Manager

National Junior Grange Department

Worthy National Master Luttrell, National Delegates, Honored Guests, Brothers and Sisters,

I am honored to report to you as the National Junior Grange Development Director. The Junior Grange Program has just completed the celebration of 125 year of service. This is a testimony to the principals, ideals, and relevance of the Junior Grange organization in our communities.

During the celebration year, children were asked to honor their heritage. Heritage – that was a big word for some children. Understanding that was even bigger. Many children got to hear stories from their families which had never been told before. Others realized what a melting-pot of cultures we live in now. Still others found they had a long heritage in the Grange. Quoting one young member “If Grammy and Poppy hadn’t joined the Grange, I wouldn’t be in the Junior Grange”.

The Junior Grange has grown and evolved over the last 125 years. Today it provides opportunities for children to be leaders, critical thinkers, to step out of their comfort zones and try something new. All of this cannot be accomplished without the Leaders who provide support and guidance through the program.

1+ Program

The National Grange has also evolved in its understanding and implementation of the Junior Grange Program. By changing the requirements for children, and establishing an individual Junior membership class within the Community Grange structure, the National Grange Delegates expanded the available opportunities to serve children in the communities.

Like everything in life, we like to give nicknames to programs, and instead of saying “the individual Junior Grange membership program”, we have shortened it to “1+ Program”. This program allows an individual child of Junior Grange age to become a member through the Subordinate/Community Grange. The child applies for membership, is obligated by the Subordinate/Community Master with the Junior Grange Obligation, and is then entitled to participate in all areas of the Junior Grange Program, including National Contests and the Youth Fair Program. The Junior Grange membership can expand 1 + 1 + 1. Before you know it, you will have built enough members to charter a Junior Grange. By inviting individual children to join – the Community Granges can truly tell a family “Yes, we have a program for everyone!”

Children are the smartest people I know. And they always surprise you. In Connecticut, three Junior Members joined a Grange through the 1+ Program. When asked what they wanted to do, they chose to participate in a Breast Cancer awareness walk – not the typical Saturday morning activity for most children. All Junior Grangers throughout the Nation are participating in various programs in the Granges working alongside the adults to help their communities, learning from each other. This is Family. This is the Grange.

How many 1+ Junior members do we have? That is unknown as of right now. The program is so new, our Community Granges are still learning about it. The States need to determine how to capture that data within their structure. Providing education and understanding of the program is necessary. This is something we need to work on.

When we collect the Junior Grange information, the numbers are important as a whole, but it is the individual that we care about. Using demographic data is a means to focus efforts to develop programs which interest and benefit the Junior Grange members.

National Junior Grange Ambassadors

The National Junior Grange Ambassador Program is also changing and evolving. This last year there were three well-qualified candidates and all three were selected to serve as

Junior Ambassadors. I want to recognize and thank Alexis Kudsk, from Washington; Jacob Tully, from Massachusetts; and Patrick Lanstrum, from Ohio for serving the National Grange and their States as the National Junior Grange Ambassadors in 2014.

These three young people have been provided opportunities to speak at fairs, community events, and their schools. They have led fun activities, seminars, and craft activities. They are able to tell the Grange story and help others understand why they participate in the program.

This year, the Ambassadors will be very involved in the National Grange session. They will be the leaders for the activities, act as the masters of ceremonies for the Junior Breakfast, and present the 2015 Junior Ambassador, Morgan Browning from Washington, at the Evening of Excellence. Morgan will also be very involved. We are fortunate to have Junior Grangers of this caliber in our organization.

Merit Badges

Last year, we announced a second level of Merit Badges. This project has taken more time than anticipated because of the complexity to design age-appropriate, challenging, and attainable goals for the badges. These have to be vetted carefully to make sure we are promoting leadership development, along with attention to detail. Both skills are necessary for our Junior Grangers to carry with them into anything they do in the future.

There are currently two new badges in the Level II Program which are complete. And two more ready to roll out by January 1. It is planned that four more will be completed in 2015.

New methods of presenting merit badges are also under consideration. Requests have been made by State and Community Junior Grange Leaders to review the actual badges and their suggestions have merit. There are many facets to this program and everything needs to be considered before making any major changes. Keep the ideas coming in. Just because it was always done that way does not mean we have to keep doing it that way.

Contests

For 2015, the National Junior Grange Contest prizes have increased commensurate with a National program. This increase will be covered by actively seeking sponsors for specific contests and grants. Partnering with sponsors will help promote the Junior Grange organization with the public, as well as rewarding our Junior Grange members for the work they do all year.

There will also be a new contest. Last year we introduced a mini-scrapbook contest. This year we are adding a digital scrapbook contest for those who are interested in learning more technology and for those who already know more than the adults. This will let them share their talents with all ages.

Public Speaking and Sign-A-Song contests for the Junior Grangers are important and participation needs to be encouraged. Help them at the Community level. Have them tell a story. Role play. These are steps to build confidence. The benefits the children receive from researching, writing, and then performing their speech are so valuable to them. There are adults who have never spoken in front of a group – because they lack confidence. Building that confidence starts in Junior Grange. And just remind them – everyone gets butterflies before they speak – just teach the butterflies to fly in formation and they will feel better!

Junior Grange Theme for 2015

The Theme for the 2015 program is “Join Us Now In Our Red Shoes!!” Last year we studied heritage and the children learned to ask about who they were and where they came from. This year, we are asking children and adults to join us.

The key word is “ASK”. Take time to teach the children how to ask new members to join us. Who has a good friend they would like to bring? Is there a new family in the area? Knowing how is another step to building confidence in our Junior Grangers.

Please start asking others to “Join Us Now In Our Red Shoes!!”

Junior Grange Leaders

We need Junior Grange Leaders on the local, State and Regional levels. Without Leaders the Junior Grange program suffers. In reviewing the program from a National perspective, there needs to be more support for the leaders at all levels. I am currently designing a Junior Grange Leader Enrichment Workshop. It is designed to build, strengthen and enhance the skills necessary to be a Junior Grange Leader. This workshop will be provided in a pilot program in Oregon and then a second presentation will be made on the East Coast. Any Grange member will be welcome, whether a Junior Leader or not. This exciting new workshop will be interactive, hands-on, and promote an exchange of ideas and information.

Conclusion

It is my pleasure and honor to serve as the National Junior Grange Development Director. I am looking forward to 2015 and the new roads available to the Junior Grange. I want to thank Worthy Master, Ed Luttrell, for having confidence in my abilities. Thank you to the State Junior Grange Leaders who are so dedicated and supportive. Thank you also to the Delegates for seeing the future and planning for it. Thank you to the National Grange Office Staff, Jessie, Samantha, Stephanie, and Andrew – you are terrific to work with. Thank you to the Junior Grangers – you are so much fun, you make me laugh and keep me young!! Most importantly, thank you to my family; my husband Bill, who is the technical IT specialist, designer and supports me in everything; our first daughter Amanda who is the proofreader and question-asker; our middle daughter, LoRee, who is my artist, designer; and organizer; and our third daughter, KayLynn, who is our angel child – she keeps all of us on our toes.

Brothers and Sisters, the greatest gift we can give each other is the ability to LISTEN. Listening, not just with your ears, but with your heart, will open up so many pathways – in life, and in building the Junior Grange program. Listen to the children. They are smart. They will tell you what they need and want. They are God's greatest gift.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

Lillian J. D. Booth

National Junior Grange Development Director.

Legislative Department

First of all, let me say how pleased I am to be working with the National Grange on policy issues. The Grange is a time-honored and well respected institution in our nation's capital. It has been a pleasure to cooperate and coordinate with your Grange staff on many issues over the years. They have been sincere, committed, knowledgeable and professional in their representation of you in Washington. I look forward to leveraging the Grange reputation and legacy into a higher profile platform for your policies and beliefs.

You will come away from this convention with new policies approved and most existing policies reaffirmed. The long and intense policy development process you go through doesn't have much value unless actions are initiated on the most pressing and highest priority issues. The time frame to initiate that action is immediately. Please know, however, the National Grange cannot make success happen in a vacuum at 1616 H St. NW in Washington even if it is next door to the White House. The national staff can take a lead role on issues, give you communications about those issues, participate in coalitions, mediate compromises, counsel with government agencies and make the rounds on Capitol Hill. That's what we're expected to do. That's not enough. A truly effective government

affairs program for an organization like the Grange must also depend upon its state and local Granges and its grassroots Grange members to deliver the message to policy makers, the media and the folks at home. It seems to me the Grange must use its greatest asset... the grassroots Granger... to leverage your position on the policies you want to affect. We will need your personal commitment and your active involvement.

A large number of coalitions and alliances in Washington continue to seek Grange's active participation. This fact is impressive. They all want to reach out to Grange's nationwide organizational network and to gain direct access to grassroots Grangers. The reasons vary. Some just want to disseminate subject information, others want to educate about a problem and still others seek action on an issue. These groups cover agriculture, food, conservation, highway transportation, family business, rural broadband access, rural education, affordable energy, affordable health coverage, hospital exploitation of drugs intended for the underprivileged, Medicare access, patient assistance programs, small business health insurance tax and several others. As you see, the subjects are many and broad, yet worthy of consideration by the Grange.

One challenge for 2015 will be to consider prioritizing participation with such a large number of alliances and coalitions particularly those that have a financial cost. For some groups, Grange's participation requires a great amount of time and effort while others may yield returns to Grange members with less involvement. Another question to consider is the benefits derived from these efforts by the Grange organization and the grassroots Grange members.

A small number of companies participating with these partnerships have provided limited funds to help offset expenses for Grange work on specific initiatives. Others have provided grants to sponsor specific Grange activities such as the legislative fly-in to Washington, interns and other special projects. These offsets and sponsorships have been very beneficial to the Grange and hopefully this support will continue. Other national organizations with a well-defined grassroots base have been successful building larger and longer term funding support as well. The Grange organizational structure and grassroots base have value to those entities that have neither. Our challenge will be to capture that value in a Grange long range funding plan. If successful, the National Grange can take some pressure off its budget, become increasingly active in public policy issues and raise its profile in Washington as well. With increased and longer range funding, The National Grange has the opportunity to better support its national, state and local Grange structure and enhance services to grassroots Grangers. I look forward to exploring these possibilities with Grange Advocacy and the Grange Foundation in the months ahead.

In my first two months at Grange, we were successful in facilitating president Ed Luttrell's appointment to the Agricultural Advisory Committee of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. The CFTC is the federal agency charged with oversight of all agriculture commodities trading on futures markets. We wrote several letters on rural broadband access, health insurance and prescription drug compliance. We engaged Grange members on the EPA's Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) proposal, EPA's proposal to eliminate coal-fired generation of electricity, stop-gap funding to continue the Highway Trust Fund, and appropriations for USDA's Market Access and Foreign Market Development programs to support U.S. agricultural trade abroad. Just prior to convention, Ed Luttrell and Burton Eller met with American Farm Bureau president Bob Stallman, National Farmers Union president Roger Johnson, and USDA Under Secretary of Agriculture Edward Avalos to discuss several national policy issues of mutual interest.

Burton Eller

Report of Membership/Leadership Department

To the Delegates, Officers, Directors and Staff of the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry:

I have sincerely enjoyed traveling the nation and working alongside many of you as your Leadership Development and Membership Director. Let's review the past year and look forward to 2015. During this past year I have been active in sixteen states. I have covered our Grange bases as broadly as possible, working in Alaska and Florida, New England, the west and the heartland. One common denominator of my interactions this year has been the genuine enthusiasm for our Order. Even when I am with a small group of a dozen Patrons, their pride in the Grange is palpable; you can feel it. As we prepare for the year ahead, I look forward to assisting state Granges where I have not yet been present. Please invite me to work with you and your members.

Action Steps

Since the National Grange convention in Manchester, New Hampshire, I have continued to be active in supporting and organizing new Granges. We have realized additional Grange growth with County Line Grange No. 737 in Harlem, Georgia. We have discovered a second Grange, Mulberry Grange in Ozone, Arkansas. Earlier this month, we received a charter application for Sweetwater Grange No. 727 in South Carolina. We have also reorganized a Grange in Massachusetts and two in Oregon. New Junior Granges were organized in New York and Washington and two Junior Granges were reorganized in Massachusetts and two more in Washington.

To expand the impact and efficiently manage financial resources, official letters were sent to several National Grange Deputies authorizing their support and organizational efforts with our "orphan" Granges where no State Grange currently exists. Others assisting include Scott Nicholson, contact for South Dakota. To assist with these, and additional ongoing efforts, the following have been appointed National Grange Deputies within specific jurisdictions:

Name	Jurisdiction
John Banks	To organize Community Granges in Louisiana
Bob Clouse	To provide training, support and aid to Granges in California
Cara Doran	To organize Harlem Grange in Georgia
Joe Fryman	To organize Community Granges in Wyoming
Jessica Horton	To provide training, support and to aid the deputies and Granges in Georgia
Jan Judy	To organize Community Granges in Arkansas
Norm & Henrietta Keller	To organize Community Granges in Missouri
Jacob Luttrell	To provide training, support and aid to Granges in Nevada
David Young	To organize Community Granges and aid other deputies in Georgia

In January, I once again assisted the Pennsylvania State Grange at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, where we gathered contact information on prospective members. A best practice that is worth sharing is that immediately after the show, the Pennsylvania State Grange sends letters to everyone who completed a "rip-card" notifying them of the nearest Subordinate Grange. They also send a letter to the Grange providing contact information on the person who completed the "rip-card" and encouraging the local Grange to be proactive and invite those interested persons to the local Grange.

I participated fully and lead sessions in the Northeast Leader's Conference in Rhode

Island. Over 100 Grange leaders were present and I commend State Master, Steve Logan, for assembling a very coordinated set of workshops around the theme of leadership and “Is there room on the team for me?” That is a very real question and was thoroughly explored. Our job as Grange leaders is to be certain we are capitalizing on the best skills of those on our various teams. As the Overseer states, “For in our fraternity there is work for all,” but let us guide those on our teams to their best possible role.

In mid-January, I facilitated the third successful G.O.A.L. seminar in New Hampshire, with another scheduled for the spring. The major “goal” of these seminars is to help people find their own voice in terms of describing their Grange experience in positive and succinct terms, and to help people discover their confidence to actually ask someone to join their Grange. It’s not rocket science, but too many of us have gotten out of the habit of talking passionately about our Grange experience and have not asked anyone specifically to join us in years.

While in Florida assisting Sister Borderieux with membership growth we held a preliminary meeting scouting locations for a new Community Grange. The challenge in Florida is that their Subordinate Granges are widely dispersed geographically. The opportunity in Florida is that untold numbers of Patrons spend a portion of their year in the Sunshine State, and our goal is to help them link up with an existing Grange. Or, identifying a group of Patrons willing to organize a new Grange where they locate in Florida. Please share the names of folks you know who would benefit from an active Grange life throughout their entire year.

I also served as national representative at their 62nd state session in St. Augustine where they acted on twelve resolutions; toured and shared a meal at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, with whom the Florida State Grange has a longtime partnership; and hosted an active group of Junior Grangers. They elected a full slate of officers, including the re-election of Sister Borderieux as State Master. Additional plans are to return to Florida to further assist in efforts to grow the Grange in Florida.

Additionally, regularly scheduled Leadership/Membership TeamSpeak sessions have been conducted on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:00 p.m. ET. The average participation is twelve to eighteen people spread across the nation. National Lecturer, Jim Tetreault has been a co-host and several sessions (i.e. Conducting a Grange Meeting, Officers Duties, etc.) are available for your use on the National Grange website.

Further support has occurred via telephone, Facebook, Skype and TeamSpeak with several states organizing/reorganizing Granges including: Arkansas, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington and Wisconsin.

During the State Master’s Conference in Michigan, I presented workshops and consulted with several Grange leaders. Although half of the states were not able to be present due to economic and other reasons, those present were a part of lively discussions and enthusiasm for the Grange.

I continue to work with Sister Vinni Kirmss (NY) to analyze membership data and create graphs, tables and trend lines for the various states. These statistics are incorporated into presentations and shared with state masters and membership directors. This year’s graphs also showed the number of Granges gained/lost as a way to celebrate the few and bolster the many. Sincere thanks to Vinni and Al Kirmss for their support with membership data and also with our G.O.A.L. seminars across New York in the past two years.

In March, I traveled to Maryland to conduct a session during their leadership conference. Twenty-four state officers, department heads and local Grange leaders participated in their planning day and I commend their result of a net gain in state membership. Brother Cliff Newsome, Co-Membership Director, shared a success tactic that resulted in six new

members of his local Grange. They identified, by name, numerous individuals to invite to the Grange hall for a meal and a discussion about the Grange. Nine people attended their session. Before the evening ended, four applications for membership were completed and presented. Before the next regular meeting of the Grange, two additional applications were received. The result – six new members!

Even while we were on a family vacation to San Antonio, we included a delightful dinner and visit with Brother and Sister Smithers. They introduced us to some local southwestern culture and we talked about Grange business and the upcoming Great Plains Regional Leadership Conference.

While in Nevada, Jacob Luttrell and I: attended the meeting of Sandy Valley Grange; met with members of Pahrump Grange; spoke with members of Amargosa Valley Grange and investigated the potential for a Grange in Henderson. Sandy Valley continues to function as a good Grange; they had four guests in addition to Jacob and me at their meeting, including two new residents who declared they will join the Grange. They left with applications and “Welcome to the Grange” booklets to review.

In April, I joined Donna Champion for a Minnesota Grange Growth tour. We traveled the byways of Minnesota and attended regular meetings at Sunbeam Grange and Lake Hubert Grange. We were heartened by our visit with the strengthened Lake Hubert Grange. Two years ago, I responded to an urgent call from Donna stating concerns that Lake Hubert Grange was going to close. I am proud to report that Lake Hubert Grange is functioning well and with renewed vigor.

Additionally, I traveled with Donna to the Great Lakes Leaders’ Conference where I shared life lessons from the various Degrees. Each State Lecturer featured lessons from one of the seven Degrees and I provided a recap with lessons gleaned from several of our Degrees.

Next, I accompanied Brother John Poirrier for a five-day Grange Growth tour from North Pole to Homer. Our goals were: to boost and inspire current Grangers; hold an informational/organizational meeting in a new community; and help the Alaska State Grange move toward their goals for Grange growth. A Grange highlight was welcoming Santa Claus (Yes, that’s his legal name.) into the membership of North Pole Grange. John and I were guests on a talk show on KJNP TV. We drove out to see the Two Rivers Grange hall, but snow precluded access to the interior of this sturdy log structure. We met with members of Homer Grange and Slicock Creek Grange and arranged for a future meeting in Ninilchik about organizing a Grange. We had my first outdoor picnic of the year with members of Northland Pioneer Grange No. 1 and Greater Anchorage Grange. We met with members from most every Grange along a 600-mile stretch from North Pole to Homer, Alaska.

I introduced a one-day session, “Grow your Grange: Impact your Community” to 57 participants while in Connecticut and Rhode Island. The night prior, I attended a meeting of Washington County Pomona Grange in Slocum, Rhode Island, and arriving after the opening, had to work my way into the hall giving the proper signal, password and saluting the Overseer. I’ll bet not many of you have done that in a while!

In April, I assisted with the Eastern Regional Youth Conference, wonderfully hosted by Potomac Grange No. 1, where I helped with the Grange Jeopardy and drill team competitions. I was able to reclaim my youth as a member of the Pennsylvania drill team. If any of you want to meet our good neighbors at National Grange headquarters, all you have to do is hold a drill team practice in the parking lot behind the building. It won’t be long before officers of the United States Secret Service inquire as to your presence and purpose. All ended well and the Secret Service reported that we were “just dancing.”

May took me back to New Hampshire for our fourth G.O.A.L. seminar in different geographic regions of the state. Although participant numbers ranged from fifteen to over fifty at individual sessions, the overall impact has been noticeable, especially in New

Hampshire. They have organized new Granges, reinvigorated a Pomona Grange and last year, they realized a net gain of two Subordinate Granges!

In May I spent a delightful week traversing Oregon with Sandi Ludi and members of the Oregon State Grange Membership team. We conducted four evening sessions, each preceded by a pot luck supper. 121 Patrons from 38 Granges participated in meals and abbreviated G.O.A.L. sessions at Rock Wall Grange, where I also conducted the official Welcoming Ceremony inducting four new members, Pine Forest Grange, Irving Grange and Tigard Grange. The week must have been like Grange work in years past; every day or so I was passed onto a new crew until I linked up with Master Noah and spent my final evening with Brother and Sister Luttrell.

Numerous leadership and membership tips were recorded to air on National Grange Public Radio and I participated in a Grange Radio TeamSpeak conference with Brother Mal Banks. I applaud the professional presence of this new public outreach of the National Grange and hope it will continue.

In June, I returned to New Hampshire for our fourth G.O.A.L. seminar, this time in the Claremont area. Fifteen people representing six Granges participated.

In July, Wendy and I welcomed Michaela Pearl Martin into our family. We thank Patrons across the Nation for 131 cards, gifts and congratulatory messages from 19 states. Little Michaela has already attended her first state Grange session and I'd like, at this time, to ask Wendy and Michaela to rise so I can thank you for your love and support as I travel the nation supporting our Grange fraternity.

I also joined Steve Coye and Al & Vinni Kirmss to conduct our fourth G.O.A.L. seminar, this time in Hopewell, New York with 26 participants. Sometimes the results of these sessions take a while to become visible. The newly appointed Membership Director of Hopewell Grange contacted me as I was preparing for this annual session, and we will confer as soon as I return home from this session.

August found me at the Northeast Lecturer's Conference in Keuka, New York. There may not be any other place on earth where Grange passion and tradition collide is such a fervor as when approximately 100 Patrons gather for this annual excitement.

A few days later I returned to Pennsylvania where I facilitated a G.O.A.L. seminar in cooperation with the Pennsylvania State Grange in Lancaster County. One question I always ask during these sessions is, "Why did you join the Grange and why are you still an active member?" The responses range from, "My grandmother filled out my application and told me to sign it," to poignant vignettes that bring tears to your eyes when you hear how profoundly our fraternity affects our members. Additions to the seminar included an interpreted visit to the gravesite of Aaron B. Grosh.

I returned to New York twice in September; early in the month at the request of Dutchess County Pomona and later for our fifth G.O.A.L. seminar in Marcellus. Along with State Master, Brother Coye and Leadership/Membership Directors, Brother and Sister Kirmss, we conducted a training session for over thirty members immediately prior to their Pomona meeting. We also had a dinner meeting the night before with informal sharing. The seminar at Marcellus had 26 participants from 10 Granges. One member asked if a Grange could be organized in a city. As a result, an information meeting is scheduled for a potential new Grange in Albany, New York. In the past year, we have conducted three G.O.A.L. seminars reaching 76 Patrons from 32 Granges.

This fall, I attended State Grange sessions in Colorado and Pennsylvania. This was my first official Grange visit to Colorado since I was selected National Grange Prince at the 112th annual session of The National Grange in Denver in 1978. The fifty delegates and guests at the state session were very upbeat and positive in their Grange work. The result is growing Granges and impact in their communities. I congratulate Master McCord for a net gain in membership

at the state level. The Colorado State Grange held a “Superheroes Grange Gala” and one of the superheroes in attendance was Colonel Kernel of the Yellow, Yellow Corn. He is, indeed, a superhero of the Grange, “keeping his ear alert for Patrons in need; stalking those who oppose the Grange’s wholesome principles; and popping into action wearing his silk cap and golden tresses.” Perhaps you’ll meet him at some point during this National Grange session?

At the Pennsylvania State Grange, I presented a workshop with over 60 participants, “Succeed or Fail: Does it really matter? (What are you willing to fail at so you can succeed at something more important?).” I also served as session parliamentarian and assisted the state Grange staff in several capacities. I will present this workshop tomorrow morning during this session.

Due to delegate action at last years’ session, The National Grange is an organizational member of the National Association of Agricultural Educators. As a result, I sent every State Grange a list of teachers who are NAAE members in their state, asking the State Granges to contact these teachers, who already have a kindred interest in agricultural education, and invite them to visit and join a local Grange. I am pleased to hear that several states have contacted their agricultural educators.

I continue to lend a hand with the digitalization of National Grange journals of proceedings, having proofed the scans for twelve annual session journals of proceedings of the National Grange. This work will continue after this 148th annual session concludes.

As usual, I continue to respond to numerous telephone and email inquiries from members, students doing research projects, state Granges, and prospective Grange organizers as soon as I receive them.

I will continue to host regularly scheduled Leadership/Membership TeamSpeak sessions conducted the second Tuesday of each month at 9 p.m. EST, as well as co-host quarterly regional TeamSpeak sessions with State Masters and Membership Directors.

Membership Data

Congratulations to ten states that realized net gains in membership this year! Once again, Oklahoma tops the list with a net gain of 915 new members and a percentage growth of 34 percent. These are real fraternal Grangers, not just policy holders. I congratulate Sister Donna Keaton and her team for another amazingly successful year of member recruitment. Alaska, Colorado, Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia and Wisconsin also had net gains in membership. Florida held steady with zero losses. Eight states lost 25 or fewer members: Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Virginia.

At the local level, kudos to Cabin Creek No. 359 in Oklahoma with a net gain of 332 new members! An amazing second was Elm Bend No. 358 in Oklahoma with a net gain of 132 new members. Rounding out the top ten Subordinate Granges, the following gained members as follows:

Gain	Name	Number	State
34	Golden Gate	#451	Colorado
44	Mount Lookout	#339	Colorado
60	Vinita	#360	Oklahoma
68	South Coffeyville	#351	Oklahoma
93	Blue Jacket	#353	Oklahoma
86	Union	#349	Oklahoma
71	Adair	#356	Oklahoma

Fairview No. 297 in Colorado had the highest percentage gain. Their 14 new members resulted in growth of 467 percent. Fairplain No. 1719 in Kansas grew by nine members and 225 percent. Six additional Granges grew by 124 percent to 200 percent:

Percent	Name	Number	State
124%	Montague	#140	New Jersey
144%	Clay County	#1263	North Carolina
168%	Cabin Creek	#359	Oklahoma
191%	Mount Lookout	#339	Colorado
200%	Goodwill	#499	West Virginia
200%	Palouse	#21	Washington

Charter applications received in the past membership year (July 1, 2013-present) resulted in the organization of seven new Subordinate Granges in the states of Georgia, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wisconsin; reorganization of six Subordinate Granges in Arkansas, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Oregon (and the rediscovery of a Subordinate Grange in Arkansas); organization of three new Junior Granges in California, New York and Washington; and reorganization of four Junior Granges in Massachusetts and Washington. You will see this information listed in a table at the conclusion of my report.

Based on all Granges reporting, representing 40 states and the District of Columbia, We have 62,910 Fraternal Members (including 1,649 Associate Members), 84,433 Supportive Members and 64 E-members for a total membership of 147,407 as of the 2nd quarter of 2014. This reflects a total loss of 3,008 members (-535 Supportive members, -2,477 Fraternal members [including -266 Associate members] and a gain of +4 E-members) from the previous year.

We can, once again, include the California State Grange in our official membership. I look forward to Brother Komski's success at bringing more of California's local Granges back into our core so we can include those members into our official membership reporting. We wish him, and his team, every success.

Nationally, 375 Granges had net gains in membership totaling 2,471 net new members across our 1,778 Community Granges. 461 Granges held steady with no loss and no net gain. 1,005 Granges lost one or more members. The encouraging perspective on the losses is that:

- 260 Granges lost just one member;
- 183 Granges lost only two members;
- 125 Granges lost but three members;
- 116 Granges lost four members;
- 321 Granges lost five or more members during the past year, (including 63 Granges that closed during the reporting period).

So, as I hope these figures demonstrate, we have a hopeful future. Minimal gains in numerous locations will lead to overall growth. It all starts with you and me personally inviting someone to join us.

Congratulations to this year's Distinguished Granges. These Granges documented their activities and accomplishments of the past year and their applications demonstrate a level of vitality to which I encourage and challenge your Grange to achieve. Again, congratulations to our eleven Distinguished State Granges and our 51 Distinguished Subordinate Granges.

Future Plans

I shall continue to promote Grange Outreach for Active Leadership (G.O.A.L.) seminars to

State Masters and State Membership Directors. These sessions are tailored to meet your needs. I look forward to featuring the session I introduced during this past year, "Grow your Grange: Impact your Community". This facilitated, participatory session is designed to encourage Patrons to examine their personal Grange experience and their Subordinate Grange relationship to their community. It explores actions that can be undertaken by individuals and by Granges to be both welcoming and welcomed in the community. The goal is for participants to leave the session feeling enthused, motivated and convinced that they CAN attract new members into their Grange.

Throughout this Annual Session, I will confer with State Masters to schedule training opportunities in their state. I encourage delegates to ask the representatives from the states I have worked in this past year their opinions as to the benefit of inviting the Leadership/Membership Development Department into your state during the ensuing year.

E-Membership has been a membership category in our organization for several years, yet we have not capitalized on it. Perhaps, if we focused on a single purpose to solicit E-Memberships, whether it is Agricultural Education and Advocacy, Rural Healthcare or Broadband Internet Access, we might have greater success. We plan on working with our bright college students to conduct a market study of E-Membership. Perhaps the message can be, "For your \$12.00 annual E-Membership fee, the Grange will advocate for Agricultural Education, Rural Healthcare and Broadband Internet Access on your behalf? I'd be interested to have your input."

For the purposes of attracting kindred parties who live in our Grange communities but do not want to regularly attend meetings, I also endorse the Associate Membership category to bolster your local membership and gain additional financial resources. Whereas, E-Membership is designed for use where no local Granges currently exist, Associate Membership is designed for use by local Granges in their communities.

During the past year, I have witnessed great energy and enthusiasm in our Subordinate Granges. A great part of my role has been to let Granges know they are not alone. I do my best to ensure them that they are not too small, nor too old, nor too isolated to make a positive impact on their community. I point toward examples where small Granges have experienced a renaissance of a large number of new members and where Granges whose membership is decidedly senior have successfully recruited younger members to their mutual benefit.

New organizations continue to sprout up fostering the teachings that have been the bedrock of our Order for 148 years, faith, hope, charity, fidelity and equal opportunity across the generations and genders. We need to open our doors and welcome all who are interested in agriculture and family unity. Familiar words from Grange ritual support this action.

"And now, Patrons, cherishing in our hearts every kind feeling toward all other orders and associations which seek to promote human welfare, let us strive with them, working hand in hand, for the good of our fellow beings."

I look forward to continuing to facilitate G.O.A.L. Seminars in any state that would like me to assist them. I especially look forward to working with new state Masters and in states where I have not been present in recent years. I will continue to attend as many regional leadership conferences as possible to interact with state and local leaders across our great fraternity.

I agree with the founders of the Grange that ours is truly a noble Order. In his own words, Grange Founder, Rev. Aaron B. Grosh, says, "I am led to regard it as the greatest blessing ever offered to the American farmer and his family; and it needs only to be known, to be duly appreciated." We truly have something to be proud of. Let's share it boldly; invite others to join us confidently; and support our communities valiantly.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

Michael J. Martin

Leadership/Membership Development Director

Granges Organized since July 1, 2013

Subordinate Granges Organized	State	Date
Savannah River Grange No. 736	Georgia	8/21/13
Hawk Mountain Grange No. 2109	Pennsylvania	8/26/13
Fox Valley Good Earth Grange No. 776	Wisconsin	9/1/13
Cypress Bayou Grange No. 336	Louisiana	10/22/13
Brush Creek Grange	Tennessee	11/1/13*
<i>(We have received paperwork for Brush Creek, but no member list; no charter has been issued.)</i>		
County Line Grange No. 737	Georgia	2/11/14
Sweetwater Grange No. 727	South Carolina	11/14

Subordinate Granges Re-organized		
Multnomah Grange No. 71	Oregon	7/18/13
Zion Oak Grange No. 826	Arkansas	8/19/13
Green Grove Grange No. 1955	Pennsylvania	9/17/13
Rutland Grange No. 242	Massachusetts	2/14
Mulberry Valley Grange	Arkansas	2/14*
<i>(Mulberry Valley has been "rediscovered" but no paperwork to org nor has reorg been filed.)</i>		
Bandon Grange No. 702	Oregon	7/10/14
Lexington Grange No. 726	Oregon	7/15/14

Junior Granges Organized		
Riverside Junior Grange No. 247	California	8/3/13
Corinth Junior Grange No. 777	New York	2/23/14
North River Junior Grange No. 408	Washington	7/24/14

Junior Granges Re-organized		
Green Bluff Junior Grange No. 373	Washington	2/14
Farqherlake Junior Grange No. 49	Washington	4/14
Dartmouth Junior Grange No. 104	Massachusetts	7/1/14
Easton Junior Grange No. 107	Massachusetts	8/15/14

Revised 11/5/14

Report of the Sales, Benefits, and Programs Department

Convention 2014

I collected state resolutions for National Session to help our new Legislative Director. While covering for the Communications Department, I have been collecting State Masters' Reports and preparing with Jessie anything else that needed to be completed for National Session, such as the Convention Brochure.

Invitations to the Idea Fair and letters were sent to the State Master, Lecturer, and Women's/Families Activities Director about the Best of Show. Best of Show reports were sent to Evie Bishman of MN, who is the Midwest Region Point Person for the 2014 National Convention. I also sent letters to State Masters and State Lecturers about the stuffed toy drive that Midwest Region is doing instead of the Christmas Trees. I sent information from the National Lecturer about the Evening of Excellence to State Lecturers. The Quilt Block and National Photo Contest were completely handled by Jim Tetreault, National Lecturer.

Programs

The National Grange has continued to promote current programs, as well as develop new programs, for local Granges. Current Programs include: The Patriot's Program, Dictionary Project, Meth Labs, the Kelley Farm, the Building DVD - "The National Building: 50 Years of Service," Dogs for the Deaf, Deaf Materials and The National Grange Building Rededication Ceremony: The Essentials DVD. Granges in 31 Grange States participated in the Dictionary Project and provided 72,090 dictionaries for the 2013-14 school year. The National Grange received \$4,687.66 in donations for the Kelley Farm as of November 1, 2014.

Patriots Program

In 2013, we honored our WWII veterans and sent almost 300 certificates and over 400 CDs of each the 3 CDs. In 2014, we began honoring Korean War Veterans. Beginning in January, certificates were made available for local Granges to honor Korean Veterans. In July, Austin and I completed the Korean War CD, which contains a PowerPoint covers a brief history and geography on Korea; reasons for the war; the war itself; and the aftermath. It also contains a video of the Korean War memorial in Washington, D.C., notes, and PDFs of first person stories of veterans and children. I have sent out 150 CDs and 100 certificates. In 2015, we will be honoring Vietnam Veterans This entire program continues to be possible due to the generosity of Potomac Grange No. 1.

Food for Thought

Grange "Food for Thought: Eating Well on a Budget" created by Sesame Workshop and material produced with United Healthcare and Merck Company Foundation. A packet that includes a CD/DVD, recipe cards, and a mini comic book are available to our Granges. All of this material is available in English and Spanish. The booklet and other material is a way to show kids how to eat on a budget but eat nutritiously and getting them to try new foods. The DVD has a presentation on a local farmers market, so kids can understand where food comes from. I received the initial material in November and many Grangers picked them up in the Idea Fair and in January I sent an e-mail about the program and within the month I had gone through the 3,000 packets I received. Since there was an overwhelming response to this program I spent several months getting more and finally at the end of May was successful. I received 3,000 more kits and they have continued to be a very popular program.

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 as well as participants in all states. New rules were put in place this year for the prize money. States were required to have 25% of the Subordinate Granges in the State submit reports to qualify. This year, the National Grange recognized 580 Granges in 28 States. The Community Service Program continued with the National Community Service Program which is based on all first-place winners from each state. The Community Service Books were judged at the National Grange office. The winners will be announced at the Celebration Banquet and the prize money for first, second, third and fourth place winners will be awarded as well.

Distinguished Grange

This is the fifth year for the Distinguished Grange Program and we saw another increase in participation with States and Subordinate Granges. There were 12 states that applied and 11 qualified. Of the 61 Subordinate Granges that applied 51 qualified. I was happy to see that we had a wide selection of Subordinate Granges from various states. Ribbons, certificates, and plaques will be given to the recipients during the Distinguished Grange Ice Cream Reception. The Distinguished Grange Program will continue and the 2014-2015 applications were put in Delegate packets and are available at the Idea Fair. They can also be downloaded from the National Grange website.

Sales

The Sales Department has reordered very little due to the financial situation. The Grange Store did reorder the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Degree Bar Button and Tie Bar; the Khaki and Navy Grange Hat; Navy Polo; Denim Shirt; Navy Long Sleeve Shirt; the Grange Car Decal; Grange Pencil; and the Silver Star Button will be back in stock after the National Grange Convention. Unfortunately, I have been unable to restock many other items: 3 Junior Grange Merit Badges; the JG Member Button; 60 Year Button; 75 Year Button; the 4th Degree Past Master Jewel; Secretary Minutes Record Book with Heading; Round Patch; Thank You cards; Grange Tag Line Button; GROW Club Buttons: Digital Songbook; Fringed Grange Flag; Floor Stand; various sizes in our Shirts and Sweatshirts; Padfolios; Coin Purse; Badge Holders; the Junior Grange Water Bottles; and the 1st 4th Degree Button. I am also out of Junior Grange, Declaration of Purposes Brochures, general Rip Cards, the Recruiting Members Brochures, and very low on Youth Brochures. I am very low on the 45 Year Button, 4th, 5th, and 6th Degree Bar Button, Car Magnets, and the JG Drawstring Backpack. The Silver Star Pin was phased out and we will now have only the Silver Star Button. I will be working in 2015 to reorder the essentials for Grangers.

Due to the financial situation I ordered only 2014 Convention Buttons.

The Grange Store website continues to be updated throughout the year as items become available and go out of stock. I did not print a 2014/2015 Sales Catalog since we were out of so many items and unable to restock to make the print catalog worth the money to print. I will hope to have anew catalog Spring 2015.

Sales income looks to have the lowest numbers in almost 10 years. I believe this to be a result in not restocking the Grange Store.

Total Sales	2014*	2013*	2012*	2011*	2010*
January	\$4,335.76	\$3,438.82	\$4,140.26	\$2,389.65	\$3,362.98
February	\$2,334.72	\$4,216.26	\$5,860.17	\$5,077.83	\$2,425.75
March	\$2,757.25	\$6,183.11	\$3,560.90	\$6,662.53	\$6,071.71
April	\$3,354.51	\$5,869.44	\$3,614.06	\$4,771.86	\$6,655.16
May	\$2,308.78	\$3,062.26	\$3,980.20	\$4,648.80	\$4,883.93
June	\$2,214.15	\$4,500.63	\$4,595.25	\$3,788.97	\$8,029.12
July	\$3,248.66	\$6,186.40	\$2,577.41	\$3,619.91	\$3,080.44
August	\$2,538.64	\$4,077.55	\$2,473.06	\$2,889.42	\$2,678.67
September	\$3,912.85	\$5,321.05	\$4,201.26	\$4,926.20	\$4,879.21
October	\$4,893.31	\$4,389.30	\$4,931.69	\$4,632.44	\$4,327.57
November		\$14,645.25**	\$14,945.65**	\$10,704.48**	\$12,251.15**
December		\$1,820.55	\$3,189.24	\$3,225.22	\$2,613.27
Total:	\$31,918.63*	\$63,710.33*	\$58,069.15*	\$57,337.31*	\$61,258.94*

**Includes National Convention Sales

*Includes freight charges

Sales figures do not include membership seals and certificate fees.

Future Conventions

The 2015 Convention logo is final and has been distributed to the Great Plains region. Their theme is "The Good Life on the Great Plains." Early next year I will work on the 2016 Convention Logo with the Host Region.

Membership Recognition

The following certificates and seals have been prepared and sent this year:

- Silver Star Certificates – 315
- 40-Year Seals – 150
- Golden Sheaf Certificates – 337
- 55-Year Seals – 123
- 60-Year Seals – 103
- 65-Year Seals – 94
- 70-Year Seals – 115
- 75-Year Certificates – 64
- 75- Year Letter - 2
- 80-Year Letters – 19
- 85-Year Letters – 4
- 90-Year Letter - 1
- Non-Consecutive Certificates - 0

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: 6
- 125-Year Plaques: 4

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: 6
- Subordinate Granges: 5
- Pomona Granges: 0
- State Grange: 1

I have also sent out several duplicate Charters since January

6th and 7th Degree Certificates

- 260- 6th Degree Certificates were sent to State Secretaries.
- 388- 7th Degree Certificates were printed and mailed from the National Office to the 2013 7th Degree Candidates.

Benefits

National Affinity Services (NAS)

NAS added a Global Travel website to their expanding options for our benefits. We added this to our member benefit program in June. An e-mail blast was sent to announce the new program. Between both are travel websites our members are getting the best deal for travel and vacation. We also continue this fall to send out e-mails reminding members about open enrollment on our cobranded Health Care website.

Royalties from NAS for the first and second quarter of 2014: \$254.25.

Affinity Marketing Group (AMG)

I continue to work with AMG in bringing new products to the Grange. This year we are on the verge of launching a new benefit with them called Cross County Home Services. I am working on getting the cobranded website ready and hope to launch by the end of 2014. Also, are Online Shopping Mall was changed over to a new company called Azigo, this change didn't not affect any of our members, all we did was get a new web address. Our hearing benefit changed from Beltone to American Hearing. American Hearing is a

convenient hearing benefits program which provides access to free hearing consultations and significant discounts on hearing aids through our nationwide network of hearing professionals. An e-mail was sent letting members know about this change, also the website reflects this change, and I hope to have this updated on the member benefit insert page when a new Communications Director has been appointed. Also, AMG has given new life to our Life Line Screening program. A direct mail piece was done in late summer.

Royalties from AMG for the first and second quarter of 2014: \$304.65.

Choice Hotels

The non-dues revenue we receive from Choice Hotels and consumption of rooms saw a record number increase in 2012. Since then we have continued to see a decline in are numbers. A possible reason for this could be that Choice Hotels no longer prints the cards and our members like to have items in hands. I will work to get cards reprinted to send out to members in 2015.

	Rooms consumed	Commission
2006	177	\$610.93
2007	198	\$752.00
2008	431	\$1,886.29
2009	749	\$2,748.60
2010	759	\$2,747.14
2011	878	\$3,303.81
2012	1104	\$4,759.11
2013	665	\$2,754.11
2014	261	\$1,187.85

2013	Nights Consumed	Commission
January	70	\$327.22
February	51	\$151.53
March	77	\$295.23
April	83	\$296.17
May	67	\$292.87
June	45	\$181.11
July	48	\$215.46
August	39	\$169.91
September	43	\$192.41
October	83	\$370.87
November	34	\$127.98
December	25	\$133.35
Total	665	\$2,754.11

2014	Nights Consumed	Commission
January	39	\$145.48
February	17	\$65.35
March	27	\$113.06
April	39	\$209.73
May	30	\$134.11
June	32	\$164.95
July	27	\$120.57
August	46	\$216.03
September	4	\$18.57
October	0	\$0
November	0	\$0
December	0	\$0
Total	261	\$1,187.85

Other benefits offered to Grange members include: Comfort Keepers, U.S. Pharmacy Card, LTC Financial, Local Hospitality (Worldwide Hotel Discounts), Safeguard Complete, MASA, and Hertz.

Other Projects

Other projects this department is currently working on include:

- Trademark
- Collecting names of 6th Degree Candidates and Fees
- Membership Recognition
- Charters for new and reorganized Subordinate and Junior Granges
- Convention 2015 & 2016
- Grange Foundation
- Quarterly Lobbying Report for the Legislative Department
- Helping with the Junior Grange Department
- Fresh Start/Ag in the Classroom
- 150th Anniversary Project
- Updating Grange Store Website
- Community Service
- Distinguished Grange Program 2014-2015
- New Benefit Programs
- New and Reordered Sales Items
- Kits for Subordinate and Junior Granges

Fraternally Submitted,

Samantha Johnson

Sales, Benefits, and Programs Director

Report on Trademark Protection and Brand Management

Executive Summary

Number of trademark management cases resolved since 12/31/07- 123 (106 last year)

Number of CHE agreements signed or pending since 12/31/07 – 8 (2 last year)

Number of open trademark management cases as of 10/31/14- 43 (57 last year)

- 1 cases in litigation (1 last year)
- 3 cases before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (3 last year)
- 19 cases in general commerce (29 last year)
- 19 active CHE cases (24 last year)

Number of licenses concluded since 12/31/07-25 (19 last year)

- 24 active licenses (18 last year)
- 1 inactive license (1 last year)
- 8 active licensees with a current trademark quality control report (not reported last year)
- 1 active licensee in default for non-payment of license fees as of 10/31/ 14- 1 (0 last year)

Number of Grange trademark registrations or re-registrations finalized in 2014-4

Commentary

Worthy Master, National Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters:

This is the sixth annual report on activities to protect our Grange trademarks. This year we continued to see additional trademark protection cases requiring our attention. As we saw last year, instead of defending against major corporations attempting to gain control of our trademarks, today we respond to attempts by many smaller and medium sized companies to register or infringe on our general trademarks for commercial gain.

Financially, we were again required to use resources for our trademark protection program that could have been used for other pressing priorities. We continued to control costs by keeping a large portion of the responsibilities for trademark protection “in house”, in consultation with our trademark attorney. However, the sheer number of cases we encounter, the complexity of many of these cases, and continued litigation costs, overwhelmed our attempts at cost control.

This past year we successfully resolved 17 trademark infringement cases and brought our total number of closed cases since we began this program to 123. Of those resolved cases, we also executed 6 new trademark licenses this year and 6 new or pending CHE trademark use agreements. We saw a significant year to year decrease in outstanding trademark infringement cases from 57 last year to 43 this year. These are impressive results considering the basic number of legal notices we have had to prepare and distribute, legal responses we have had to review and negotiations that had to take place, not to mention the legal complexity of several of our major cases. Small and medium sized business infringements, usually inadvertent, make up the majority of our cases. A significant subset of those cases remain formerly owned Grange buildings that are being converted by their new owners into commercial property.

Several on-going infringement cases continue to show no progress toward resolution and we have had no effective lines of communication for more than one year. Unless we can find ways to establish dialogue with these parties our next course of action in each case is to send notice of intent to file a federal trademark infringement complaint. Litigation is always our least preferred course of action but the complete lack of dialogue we have encountered in these cases is not encouraging. We are also exploring alternative remedies we may be able to pursue even without open lines of communication.

Fundraising Activities

This year we sent an appeal letter for the Grange Foundation Trademark Protection Educational Program with the 2014 Grange Month packet as well as a separate appeal letter for direct donations to the National Grange to cover trademark litigation costs. In these letters we reported back to Grange members across the nation the successes of our trademark management program and the challenges that we continue to face. The response to our appeals was nothing short of remarkable. We have received tax deductible donations totaling \$ 355 and we received direct donations of \$15,285, making the total amount received for trademark protection activities from our local Granges and Grange members \$15,640! I want to thank each Grange and Grange member that contributed to the Grange Foundation Trademark Protection Educational Program or the National Grange trademark appeal for their vote of confidence in our activities. I urge all Granges and Grange members to respond generously when the 2015 appeals are sent out.

New And Renewed Trademark Registrations

In 2014 we re-registered four of our trademarks: NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY; NATIONAL GRANGE; P OF H GRANGE & DESIGN LOGO and THE GRANGE FOUNDATION.

One of our long term cost control strategies is to increase 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. As funds are available, we will continue to explore filing additional sub-registrations.

Trademark Quality Control

Continuing our efforts to monitor and assess our growing number of active licensees, Worthy Master Ed Luttrell has asked this program to set a goal of instituting a current quality control monitoring report process before the end of the 2014. Each quality control report will consist of three parts. The first part of the report will be a survey of the licensee's on-line presence, where applicable. The second part of the report will be an individual physical site visit for the licensee, where applicable. The third part of each report will be an assessment as to whether or not each licensee is current in its annual licensee payments or requires a renewal of their license, where applicable. Progress in assessing the quality control of our active licensees will be reported as part of the Executive Summary sections of future quarterly and annual Trademark Protection and Brand Management reports.

Fare Grange Law, LLC

We successfully resolved our trademark dispute with Fare Grange Law, LLC a two person, start up law firm in Minneapolis, MN. Fare Grange filed a preemptive lawsuit against the National Grange in the Minneapolis Federal District Court to try to get a declaratory judgment seeking an injunction against our ability to enforce our trademark rights against their firm. Fortunately, both parties agreed to meet with the presiding magistrate for settlement negotiations. As such, we were able to resolve the case to the mutual benefit of both parties. The former Fare Grange Law is now known as Jambor Heyman. The firm specializes in agricultural law, focusing on legal needs of limited resource and beginning farmers.

Former California State Grange

Earlier this year the National Grange initiated trademark infringement litigation in Federal district court in California against the former California State Grange (fCSG) for continued use of our trademarks after the voluntary disassociation of the fCSG from the National Grange that was reportedly undertaken by a majority vote that chapter's delegate body last year. The Federal case law on this situation is pretty well settled: affiliated entities who had permission to use a registered trademark via license agreement, contract or charter who subsequently voluntarily disassociate themselves from association with the trademark owner, give up all rights to continue to use those trademarks in their future business operations.

Because of the importance of this case, this litigation has been managed by the National Master, the Executive Committee and the general and trademark counsels of the National Grange. As such, please direct any questions related to the progress of this litigation to those sources. However, I have actively supported this litigation with a significant investment of time by providing research assistance on several factual points and allegations raised by the fCSG during the discovery process of this litigation.

Legacy Grange Insurance Companies

Last year when two of our largest surviving Grange legacy insurance companies faced possible litigation against each other over which company would have senior rights to use the trademark GRANGE in the insurance business, we intervened and potentially prevented these Grange legacy companies from entering in litigation against each other. We invited the companies to the negotiating table to resolve the issues without litigation. We are also taking this opportunity to begin reaching out to the other surviving independent

legacy Grange insurance companies to join the discussions regarding management of the GRANGE trademark in the insurance industry.

Grange affiliated mutual insurance companies had a long tradition of self-policing and cooperation through the National Federation of Grange Mutual Insurance companies, formed in the 1930's. In the 1960's, the National Grange entered into an agreement with the Federation, allowing the companies to self-police the use of Grange trademarks in the US insurance market. Unfortunately, the Federation disbanded nearly 10 years ago. Since that time there has been no venue for the surviving Grange mutual insurance companies to regularly communicate and resolve potential conflicts. Our goal in the upcoming year will be to rebuild records of the Federation so that we can better understand how these conflicts were addressed in the past to guide our discussions with the remaining legacy companies about how to best manage the trademark GRANGE so as to improve the chances of survival for our remaining Grange legacy insurance companies in these tough economic times.

Closely Held Entities

We have also known for some time that additional policy is needed to address trademark usage by closely associated or closely held Grange affiliated entities (CHEs). CHEs are not legacy companies. CHEs are separately incorporated foundations, associations, co-operatives, service companies, fair associations or businesses, formed by a Grange at any level, where the Grange chapter still has direct, active participation in the management and governance of the entity and the use of the trademarks GRANGE, the GRANGE LOGO or PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY are used, or prominently displayed by the entity as part of its name, products or services. Entities, whose only direct association with the Grange is that they have Grange members as members of their board of directors, are not CHEs. To qualify as a CHE, a chartered Grange chapter must exercise some degree of legal oversight and/or governance functions over the entity, such as electing or appointing a majority of the board of directors of the CHE.

This year we began providing trademark use agreements for our CHE. Unlike non-CHE, trademark licensees, CHEs will be offered preferential trademark use agreements tailored to fit their needs. Annual fees will be waived. Oversight will be primarily delegated to the Grange chapter that supervises the activities of the CHE. Certain rights, including rights of appeal of unfavorable decisions, under the National Grange Digest of Laws that affect their operations will be extended to these CHEs. Existing programs, activities, services, or events conducted by, or in associated with, these CHEs will be unaffected. CHEs will be asked to also abide by a limited and select portion of the provisions of the National Grange Digest of Laws in order to prevent the formation of CHEs to intentionally circumvent the duly adopted protections and the 360 degree accountability and transparency built into the Digest. On a case by case basis, CHEs will be required to demonstrate that they carry appropriate insurance coverage for themselves and their boards of directors.

CHE trademark use agreements provide our CHEs with legal certainty regarding their continued use of our Grange trademarks. It will provide them with direct, legal association with the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. Obtaining these trademark use agreements will also strengthen our trademark protection efforts against illegal infringement activities by corporate and for profit businesses that are attempting to hijack our trademarks.

I strongly urge the dedicated Grange members who give of their time and experiences to serve on the boards of directors of Closely Held Enterprises that augment the work of the chartered chapters of our Order to embrace and adopt our special trademark use agreements in an expedited manner, so that we can refocus our trademark protection efforts to the more difficult and challenging tasks facing this program.

Acknowledgments, Conclusions And Looking Ahead

This year we had many positive discussions about licenses and joint marketing agreements with potential licensees. We continue to see viable, commercial ideas to market goods and services to the public under the brand name GRANGE. We should facilitate these entrepreneurial activities, in a cost effective manner, while maintaining ownership and control of our intellectual property. Prudent management of our trademarks will eventually provide us additional sources of revenue as well as increase the recognition of our volunteer community service and non-partisan legislative activities.

My most grave concern is that we still have two years' worth of cases to resolve at current staffing levels and current levels of discovery of new infringements. We have discovered more than 40 percent of all of our trademark cases in the past two years alone.

I want to thank Worthy Master Ed Luttrell and the members of the Executive Committee for their advice, counsel and support this year. National Master Ed Luttrell demonstrated strong resolve in leading the Grange delegation to negotiate a successful settlement to the Fare Grange litigation. My colleagues in the National Grange office, as well as our field directors, have also been extremely supportive. I also want to thank our State Masters, State Grange officers and diligent members who have provided leads and information regarding possible infringement cases. They have all given me the invaluable benefit of their advice, counsel and talent.

In conclusion, it is no surprise to any of us that most things in life can be bought or sold.... except a reputation! As this statement is true in our personal lives, so it is for an organization such as the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. Our efforts to protect our good name, i.e. our reputation, carry important dividends and failure to do so would entail drastic consequences. One of the most important motivations for our members to donate their time and talent toward volunteer efforts organized and supported by the Patrons of Husbandry in their local communities, is the nearly 150 year old perception of our stellar reputation as an organization that is respect in our communities. Likewise, the success of our volunteer oriented programs to increase civic participation in our society hinge on the incorruptible reputation we project to our public officials. It is difficult to imagine generating and sustaining the same passion and commitment among our members to build our reputation through their volunteer efforts, only to see that goodwill appropriated by commercial ventures with no appreciation of, or compensation for, the efforts that have gone into building America's tremendous respect for OUR name. As we strive to create an effective program to manage the most valuable asset of the Order, our good name, the lessons we learn from our experiences in trademark management will undoubtedly promote growth and development for the Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,

Leroy Watson

Trademark Protection Manager

Youth Director's Report

Worthy Master, National Officers, Delegates and fellow Grangers:

Be Proud, Be Leaders, Be Grange Youth. For the past year, Grange youth and young adults were committed to this creed as they participated in Grange activities throughout the year.

New this year is a re-vamped young adult recognition program. Starting in 2015, the Outstanding Young Adult program will replace the state young couple program. Statistics

show that the average young adult is not getting married until age 35. By adjusting to the selection of young adult representatives to include all qualified representatives, it is expected to open leadership opportunities to our young adults aged 21 to 35. This will also include the selection of a National Outstanding Young Adult at the 2015 national session.

Membership and leadership are two key focuses for 2015. Starting at this National Session, the National Grange Youth Department is rolling out a new program called PI2. It stands for Participate Invest and Invite. PI2 is a complementary program that works in coordination with an expanded program developed by the National Membership Department. The youth version is designed to challenge youth and young adults to engage in their local Grange, assist in addressing local needs and then recruiting others to join Grange activities and join.

The program is available on the National Grange Youth department website, www.nationalgrangeyouth.org.

A new partnership will begin this year. The National Junior Horticultural Association, NJHA, is formalizing a partnership with the National Grange Youth Department. Grange youth will be able to participate in all of their contests, as well as earn achievement seals for the William Saunders Agricultural Achievement Award. A Grange-specific category has also been added for teams of Grange youth to participate in the NJHA's Horticultural Identification and Judging Contest.

This year, Grange youth and young adults continued to submit for achievement seals. At the time of this report, 920 seals have been applied for.

A new program this year was the Distinguished Grange Youth Program. Seven Granges applied and received the award this year. They will be honored at the GROW Club banquet on Friday.

Two teams will compete on Saturday in the first-ever Parliamentary Procedure Contest. Thank-you to the North Carolina State Grange for sponsoring the contest this year. A total of 18 Leadership Awards were issued this year.

I want to thank all of our host states this year for the Regional Youth Conferences/Leadership Conferences. I want to thank all of the states for their willingness to adapt. The host states were Washington, D.C./ Potomac Grange No. 1, Texas, Indiana, New Hampshire North Carolina and Montana. I would like to encourage you all to have your youth join us at one of the conferences in 2015 in Ohio, Illinois, Colorado, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Idaho.

At each conference, on how to overcome adversity, using the workshop called "Yes lives in the Land of No" We also hosted the sign-a-song and speech conferences. Returning this year was Grange Jeopardy. The final contest will be hosted here on Saturday. The format follows the popular game show format for youth to test their Grange knowledge against others.

Attendance estimates for each of the conferences included as follows:

- Eastern Regionals: 60
- Northeastern: 92
- Midwestern: 25
- Great Plains: 80
- Western: 60
- Southeastern: 45

At the Eastern Regional conference, we hosted a Drill exhibition where youth from Ohio, Pennsylvania displayed a drill entry. A blended drill of all of youth attending the Western Regional Leaders Conference was presented. A drill competition was hosted at Northeastern Regionals with teams from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York participating.

At each of the conferences, we hosted a public speaking and sign- a-song contest.

We had 78 contestants in the regional public speaking contest. A total of 20 entries participated in the sign-a-song contest.

Youth Contests and Recognition Programs

For this year's National Session, the youth recognition program participants are as follows: Serving as the youth ambassadors for 2014 are Montana Wrigley of North Carolina and Aaron Gwin of Washington State.

This year I am pleased to announce that we have two state young couples and six youth ambassadors. They are:

State Young Couple

Ohio – Roger and Theresa Hogue

State Youth Ambassadors

Idaho – Clyde Mooney

Massachusetts – Brett Johnson

North Carolina – Missy Mueller

North Carolina – Rory Neer

Ohio – Angela Stevenson

Ohio – Corey Shiltz

Oregon – Lacy Johnston

Pennsylvania – Cassidy Cheddar

Pennsylvania – Derek Snyder

Washington State – Leah Bardal

Washington State – Nicholas Oliver

National Youth Officer Team

Master — Jennifer Lanstrum — Master

Overseer — Justin Leonard — North Carolina

Lecturer — Robin Cozad — Washington State

Steward — Thomas Parker — Oregon

Assistant Steward — Emma Edelen — Iowa

Lady Assistant Steward — Heather Druckenmiller — Pennsylvania

Chaplain — Josh Bethany — Florida

Treasurer — Jenzen Jones — North Carolina

Secretary — Lexie Smith — Washington State

Gatekeeper — Trevor Gervais — Connecticut

Pomona — Maddie Griffin — North Carolina

Ceres — Emily Harrison — North Carolina

Flora — Essie Robinson — Minnesota

Executive Committee

Jamee Varda — Minnesota

John Neff — Indiana

Melanie Fitch — Ohio

Lexi Gegare, Wisconsin

John Trimble Legislative Experience —

T.J. Malaskee, Minnesota

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 Ambassadors and Legislative Experience. The youth department received a Farm Credit grant for \$7,000. In addition, the Grange Youth Foundation has received \$10,925. 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.

Grow Club

The GROW Club board includes Justin Schaeffer, Midwest; Jennie Gentry, Eastern; Rick Fergeson, Western; Lois Barber, Great Plains and Christopher Szkutak, Northeast. The club continues to sponsor a \$500 scholarship and this year's winner was Emma Edelen of Iowa.

Be Proud. Be Leaders. Be Grange Youth.

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 service.

This program has been built on the success of the countless youth directors, committees, state leadership and supporters who believe in our youth program. I would like to take a moment to thank all of those who helped me in the past year. To the National staff and officers, thank you for your continued support. On a personal note, thank you to everyone for your support and understanding this year as I managed through some unexpected events this year. To my National Youth Ambassadors, thanks to Montana Wrigley and Aaron Gwin for your support in developing many of the activities this year.

To worthy Master Ed, thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue to work with such an outstanding group of youth and young adults. To my husband Matt and my parents, Dale and Judy Shupp, thanks for holding down the home farm, watching the kids and supporting me on this Grange journey. My boys Evan and Alan, thank you for learning to love this organization as much as I do and as you take your early steps in Grange membership as Junior Grangers. To the countless Grangers who have given of your time to help on a project, your support has led to the continued success of our Grange youth and young adults.

Fraternally Submitted,

Charlene M. Shupp Espenshade
National Grange Youth Director

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION INDEX

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
006	Support for Federal Crop Insurance	NE	Adopted
008	I Am Farmland	OH	Adopted
104	Location Sites for National Grange Sessions	TX	Adopted
105	Covered Expenses for Officers and Delegates		Adopted
106	Authorized Travel Reimbursement		Adopted
208	Broadcast carriage by cable/satellite systems	NY	Adopted
209	Maintaining Landline Telephone Service	NY	Adopted
227	GAO Study and Report	CT	Adopted
308	Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burros Act	OH	Adopted
515	Memorial to Brother Ted H. Doane	GGD	Adopted
516	National Grange Sesquicentennial Committee	GGD	Adopted
601	Committee Dues Second Reading	GL	Adopted
621	Amend Associate Membership	GL	Adopted
622	Change National Grange Non-Discrimination By-Law	GL	Adopted
623	Appeals of National Master's Rulings	GL	Adopted
624	Distribution of Manuals	GL	Adopted
625	Delegates	GL	Adopted
626	Associate Dues	GL	Adopted
627	Seventh Degree Application Fees	GL	Adopted
706	Jamming of Radio Transmissions of Emergency Responders	NY	Adopted
707	Social Security for Illegal Immigrants	NY	Adopted
711	Easily Fastened Seatbelts For All	OR	Adopted
712	Increase Railroad Safety Standards for Oil Shipments	OR	Adopted
613	End Convention Assessment	GL	Adopted
705	Federal Transportation Bill	NY	Adopted
013	Sustainable use of Spent Grains	OR	Adopted (covers Ag 017)
002	Chiroptera Defenders of Ecology	CT	Adopted as Amended
005	Farm Service Agency	MD	Adopted as Amended

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
101	Reducing Costs of National Session	CT	Adopted as Amended
304	Say No to New WOTUS Rule – (Waters of the United States)	NC	Adopted as amended
410	Safety of Gypsum bedding	MD	Adopted as Amended
411	Update the Grange Declaration of Purposes	PA	Adopted as amended
502	Digital Manuals	MA	Adopted as Amended
505	Grange Radio Board of Directors	MN	Adopted as Amended
506	Marketing Opportunities	NJ	Adopted as Amended
507	Explore Issuance of Commemorative Coin Honoring Grange's Sesquicentennial	OR	Adopted as Amended
508	Increase Identification of Grange Licensees	OR	Adopted as Amended
510	Closed Captioning of National Grange Videos	VT	Adopted as Amended
511	Distribution Date for National Activities and Contests	WA	Adopted as Amended
513	Family Status for Youth Members	IL	Adopted as Amended
608	Executive Committee Decisions in the Absence of the Master/President	PA	Adopted as amended
609	Incapacitation of the Master/President	PA	Adopted as amended
612	Decrease National Grange Coverage of Delegate Travel & Lodging Expense	GL	Adopted as amended
614	Allow Subordinate Granges to Set the Dues for Associate Memberships	WA	Adopted as amended
702	Vehicle Lights	MI	Adopted as Amended
202	Reinstatement of Small Business Tax Deductions	KS	Adopted as Ammended
214	Agriculture Accounting Rules Changes	NY	Adopted as Ammended
003	Ethanol and Corn Cap	FL	Adverse
015	Definition of Milk	PA	Adverse
102	Christmas Bonuses for Staff	ME	Adverse
103	Recording Degree Work	PA	Adverse

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
201	Paid Political Advertising	IA	Adverse
205	U.S. House and Senate Recesses	MI	Adverse
213	Voting Rights Act	NY	Adverse
218	Oppose Full File Credit Reporting	OR	Adverse
219	Satellite TV Freedom of Choice for Local Marketing	OR	Adverse
223	Tax Credit on Renewable Power	TX	Adverse
301	Repurposed Materials	CO	Adverse
307	Lake Erie Algae Bloom	OH	Adverse
412	Standardized Milk Bottle Caps	RI	Adverse
501	Grange Secret Work	ID	Adverse
503	Use of National Grange Membership List	MA	Adverse
504	Requirements for Grange Family Membership	MI	Adverse
602	Minimum Gender Requirement Change for Granges	FL	Adverse
604	National Grange Voting Rights for Potomac Grange No. 1	NJ	Adverse
605	Quorum at Grange Meetings	OH	Adverse
610	Grange Secrets	TX	Adverse
611	Disapprove Dues Increase	WA	Adverse
616	Pomona Installation	WV	Adverse
620	Membership for Junior Grange	NJ	Adverse
709	Outlawing Misuse of Federal Agencies Power Against Political Opponents	OH	Adverse
302	The Clean Water Act	ID	Combined with 304 Adopted
303	Clean Water Act	MD	Combined with 304 Adopted
309	Clean Water Act Expansion	TX	Combined with 304 Adopted
310	“Waters of the United States”	VT	Combined with 304 Adopted
305	EPA regulations on Coal-fired Power Plants	NE	Combined with 306 Adopted
306	Greenhouse Gas Rule	OH	Combined with 306 Adopted
311	Limitations on Coal	WV	Combined with 306 Adopted

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
708	Transportation of Crude Oil	NY	Combined with 712
017	Opposed FDA Regulation on Spent Grains	WA	Covered by Ag 013
221	Oppose USDA Purchasing Submachine Guns and Grenades	PA	Covered by CT-227
603	Board Members for Grange Foundation	NJ	Out of Order
010	Project Levi Farm to Food	OH	Policy Statement
011	Label Recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH) Milk	OR	Policy Statement
012	Labeling of Foods that Do Not Contain GMOs	OR	Policy Statement
014	Revoke Patents on Terminator and Traitor Seeds	OR	Policy Statement
016	Wood Shelving in Artisanal Cheese Production	VT	Policy Statement
180	Small Farmers Rights Related to Seeds and Cross-Pollination Claims	WA	Policy Statement
019	Fast Track Trade Policy	WV	Policy Statement
207	Bonuses for Employees of the Veterans Administration	NY	Policy Statement
210	Public Employee Performance Bonuses	NY	Policy Statement
217	Stopping Bonuses to Government Workers	OH	Policy Statement
224	Awarding Bonuses to Civil Services Employed by Federal Government	VT	Policy Statement
514	Horizon Leadership Ambassador Age Limit	IL	Policy Statement
615	Criticisms of the Order	WV	Policy Statement
617	Susquicentennial Celebration	WV	Policy Statement
713	Driver's License Tests Should Be Tested and Issued in English	PA	Policy Statement
717	Trademark Legislation	WV	Policy Statement
718	Constitutional Amendment	WV	Policy Statement
001	Opposing Labeling of GMO	CO	Present Policy
004	Additional Disaster Payments for Farmers	ID	Present Policy
203	Media Censorship	ME	Present Policy
212	Strip Pension Funds from Convicted Officials	NY	Present Policy
215	Applying for Disability Benefits	OH	Present Policy
220	Support Legislation to Prevent Confiscation and Registration	OR	Present Policy

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
606	Respect for the Flag in Grange Promotion Materials	OR	Present Policy
714	Illegal Immigrants	TX	Present Policy
715	Terms of Elected Officials	VT	Present Policy
716	Immigration Policy	WV	Present Policy
007	Farm Raised Salmon	NY	State Issue
009	Maple Tree Research	OH	State Issue
204	Insurance Policies	MI	State Issue
206	Zip Code for Sandy Valley	NV	State Issue
216	Outlawing Animal Gas Chambers	OH	State Issue
222	Child Abuse/Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse Cross Reporting	RI	State Issue
512	Junior Grange Membership	CO	State Issue
607	Clarification of Ex Officio Voting	PA	State Issue
701	Highway Speed Signs	IA	State Issue
704	Drug Tests for Welfare Recipients	NE	State Issue
719	Roadside Memorials	IL	State Issue
208	Broadcast Carriage by Cable/Satellite Systems	NY	Tranfered to Labor & Judiciary
209	Maintaining Landline Telephone Service	NY	Tranfered to Labor & Judiciary
612	Decrease National Grange Coverage of Delegate Travel & Lodging Expenses	WA	Transfer to Audit & Budget
613	End Convention Assessment	WA	Transfer to Audit & Budget
606	Respect for the Flag in Grange Promotional Materials	OR	Transfer to Citizenship
211	Secret Patient Lists at Veterans Hospitals	NY	Transfer to Education and Health
617	Sesquicentennial Celebration	WV	Transfer to Grange Growth
103	Recording Degree Work	PA	Transfer to Grange Growth
104	Location Sites for National Grange Sessions	TX	Transfer to Grange Growth

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
019	Fast Track Trade Policy	WV	Transfer to Labor & Judiciary
503	Use of National Grange Membership List	MA	Transferred
512	Junior Grange Membership	WA	Transferred
715	Terms of Elected Officials	VT	Transferred to Citizenship
718	Constitutional Amendment	WV	Transferred to Citizenship
703	Health Care Expenses for Migrant Labor	NC	Transferred to Educ. & Health
226	Secret Patient Lists at Veterans Hospitals	CT	Transferred to Education and Health
225	Opposition to the National Security Administration	WV	Withdrawn
509	Honorary Membership Card	PA	Withdrawn
710	Equipment Regulated by the Federal Department of Transportation	OK	Withdrawn

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Action</u>
006	Support for Federal Crop Insurance	NE	Adopted
008	I Am Farmland	OH	Adopted
013	Sustainable use of Spent Grains	OR	Adopted (covers WA-017)
002	Chiroptera Defenders of Ecology	CT	Adopted as Amended
005	Farm Service Agency	MD	Adopted as Amended
410	Safety of Gypsum bedding	MD	Adopted as Amended
003	Ethanol and Corn Cap	FL	Adverse
015	Definition of Milk	PA	Adverse
412	Standardized Milk Bottle Caps	RI	Adverse
010	Project Levi Farm to Food	OH	Policy Statement
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001	Opposing Labeling of GMO	CO	Present Policy
004	Additional Disaster Payments for Farmers	ID	Present Policy
007	Farm Raised Salmon	NY	State Issue
009	Maple Tree Research	OH	State Issue
019	Fast Track Trade Policy	WV	Transfer to Labor & Judiciary

POLICY STATEMENT

For 148 years, the National Grange has been working to improve agriculture in America as agriculture continues to be the backbone of America. The Grange supports the American farmer and rancher with policies that will help to protect and encourage the agriculture industry. We are working with legislators in choosing the best course of action for agriculture growth in America. We do this so our farmers and ranchers can continue supplying an abundant, safe and efficient food supply for America and the world.

All in agriculture must find common ground and recognize that there are different business plans and practices that protect the environment while providing people with the food, fiber and fuel they need. We must continue to educate our fellow citizens about agriculture.

Concerns continue to exist regarding GMO seed technology, the development of Traitor Seeds, and issues surrounding cross-pollination and the ability to save seeds for replanting. We encourage the USDA to continue reviews of this technology to verify safety while considering the economic impact to farmers. Until credible scientific studies indicate a real health risk exists, the National Grange should oppose mandatory labeling of Genetically Modified products. We further request that the National Grange Legislative Director share the latest reliable research on this subject with State Granges.

Free trade agreements are not always fair when some segments of the economy are sacrificed. Free trade agreements have been negotiated on a bilateral 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.

Support for Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) is a long-standing position of the National Grange. However, a second adverse ruling in October by the World Trade Organization (WTO) against our country's COOL program will force the U.S. to take additional actions to resolve this issue. WTO agreed country of origin labeling is the consumer's right to know, but the way it is being implemented by USDA unfairly discriminates against Canadian and Mexican meat and animals. The Grange calls upon the Administration, and if need be the Congress, to fix this problem in 2015 with a solution that enables the consumer to make commodity purchases which are clearly labeled as to their sources of origin and processing.

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. The USDA should review current research on the use and effects of hormones in the production of milk. We support all cheesemakers who presently follow the FDA rules which continue to permit properly maintained, cleaned and sanitized wood used for an aging surface in cheese making, creating delicious, nutritious and unique cheeses.

The National Grange continues to support extensive research by our Land Grant Colleges and Universities into both short-term and long-term effects on the environment and on human nutrition, of all new crops, whether Genetically Modified or traditionally bred. 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, to ensure that sound science is used in determining humane treatment of animals.

The National Grange strongly supports agriculture education at all levels including agriculture science as well as Cooperative Extension Service and encourages the partnership between 4-H, FFA and Cooperative Extension Service to draw on and develop leadership abilities. Funding of Extension must be continued and increased if we wish to ensure the availability of innovative practices and new tools beneficial to agriculture and society. We support educational programs, such as Farm to Table or Farm to School, that teach the importance of proper diet and nutrition. The Grange is in an ideal position to inform and teach future consumers, and current consumers as well, that their food comes from the practice of agriculture and not just grocery stores.

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.

Only with mutual respect can the different sectors of agriculture meet the growing demand for food, fiber and fuel in the future. Setting aside our differences and working together is essential for a successful understanding of what is needed to carry agriculture forward to a promising future. The Grange calls upon every agriculturist in America to join in unity in the effort to feed and house our neighbors and the world. Every niche of American agriculture, from small local organic producers to large intensive producers, adds to the effort to erase hunger from humanity's experience.

*This policy statement covers portions of the Master's Annual Address
and resolutions OH 010, OR 011, OR 012, OR 014, VT 016, WA 018*

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Chiroptera, Defenders of Ecology

WHEREAS, bats are present throughout most of the world, performing vital ecological roles of pollinating flowers and dispersing fruit seeds, and

WHEREAS, bats are important, as they consume insect pests, reducing the need for pesticides, and

WHEREAS, bats' dung, or guano, is so rich in nutrients that it is mined from caves, bagged and sold to be used by farmers to fertilize their crops, and

WHEREAS, some varieties of bats are now on the endangered species list, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange supports the promotion and placement of bat houses where geographically appropriate, as a worthy cause to promote the welfare of bats.

Farm Service Agency

WHEREAS, the newly passed Farm Bill calls for the consolidation on Farm Service Agency offices in some areas and reduction in staff, and

WHEREAS, this comes at a time when drastic changes are occurring in federal farm programs and farmers will need additional staff, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange urges the USDA to continue to provide adequate assistance to farmers enrolling in Farm Bill programs and that congress continues to adequately fund such programs and their related staffing needs.

Support for Federal Crop Insurance

WHEREAS, recent efforts have been made to reduce or eliminate government subsidies for federal crop insurance and

WHEREAS, federal crop insurance is such an important safety net for agricultural producers and the economy of the United States as a whole, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Grange be diligent in its support of a viable and affordable federal crop insurance program, and be it further

RESOLVED, the Grange as an organization and all Grange members take the time and make the effort to inform consumers and taxpayers about the benefits and need for a stable and viable agricultural sector of our economy and the role federal crop insurance plays in this stability.

"I Am Farmland"

WHEREAS, the U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) is launching a new campaign titled "I AM FARMLAND" to help support the expanded distribution of FARMLAND, a documentary about the lives of young farmers and ranchers.

WHEREAS, funds raised by USFRA will make it possible to offer screenings of FARMLAND on college campuses, provide a curriculum-based program for high schools, and provide screening kits for farmers and ranchers who would like to conduct outreach in their local communities.

WHEREAS, the USFRA needs organizations, especially agricultural organizations, to support and help spread the message of the campaign to accurately depict life as an American farmer and rancher; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support and help spread the message of the "I AM FARMLAND" campaign.

Sustainable Use of Spent Grains

WHEREAS spent grain is the byproduct of the use of grains in the brewing process; and

WHEREAS traditionally, spent grains have been sold to farmers as a nutritious feed supplement for livestock; and

WHEREAS recent rule changes proposed by the Food and Drug Administration would require that spent grains be treated as manufactured animal feed and subject to new stringent sanitation standards that could force brewers to dry and package this material before distribution; and

WHEREAS these new rules would make it impossible to ship spent grains in bulk, would drastically increase the cost of sustainably re-using spent grains and would result in this sustainable practice becoming economically not viable, leaving brewers no choice but to dump spent grains into landfills, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange support the use of spent grains as animal feed.

Safety of Gypsum Bedding

WHEREAS, gypsum (calcium sulfate) is being added to the bedding in some dairy operations to limit nitrogen volatilization, reduce moisture, mastitis, foot problems, flies and odor, and

WHEREAS, this has led to the release of deadly hydrogen sulfide gas when the manure is utilized, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange urges the Extension Service to educate farmers about the potential of hydrogen sulfide gas poisoning when gypsum is added to bedding in livestock operations.

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. Additionally Grange policy supports the creation of pilot programs that endorse the buying of local fruits, vegetables and produce.

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 that 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 which have a previous history in the federal farm program, to continue to receive federal farm program payments.

14. The National Grange strongly supports the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act of 2013 or similar legislation.

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 controlling the number of bushels (amount of product) allowed to qualify for price supports and by the 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 FSA or NRCS certifies that the noxious weed control program is being carried out by the landowner. To assist landowners in their responsibility to control noxious weeds, we further urge the USDA to change the date, when mowing to control noxious weeds is allowed on CRP lands from July 15 to at least as early as June.

3. The National Grange supports federal funding for soil conservation, including 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.

4. The National Grange urges each State Grange work with their respective Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agencies in the development of proposed changes to Nutrient Management plans proposed in NRCS Code 590.

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 that 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 also 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 encourages the continued performance of dairy genetic evaluations for the dairy industry.

20. The National Grange supports passage of the National Dairy Equity Act.

21. 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.

22. 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

23. 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 or dairy recommendations for dairy and meat products.

24. 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.

25. The National Grange should actively participate in education activities that are focused on informing the public of the value and protection provided by the pasteurization process.

26. The National Grange urges a change be made whereby Commodity Credit Corporation purchases of surplus dairy products are of dairy products that are in demand by domestic and international markets.

27. The National Grange supports legislation that would expand the definition of qualifying livestock eligible for the 50 percent bonus depreciation to include all dairy cows purchased by a dairy farm operator for business use.

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.

8. The National Grange opposes any proposals to ban the use of menthol in cigarettes.

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 U.S.

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.

6. The National Grange supports research efforts aimed toward solving the problem occurring with honey bee colony collapse. A particular cause for this syndrome has not been identified, but research suggests that colony collapse may be caused by a combination of many factors, one of which is the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in agriculture production. If a definite link is established between the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and the death of honeybees, immediate action should be taken to curtail or eliminate the use of these pesticides where bees are used for pollination.

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 "Beef Check-off" on any animal that, when sold, the farmer would receive \$20 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 believes that the regulation of livestock and poultry care should be a state issue and does not support the establishment of federal standards.
9. The National Grange supports the use of lean fine textured beef in any beef products.
10. 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.

11. 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.

12. The National Grange supports rodeos, the use of animals in rodeos, and the great heritage rodeos represent.

13. 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.

14. 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 that may ultimately affect greenhouse gases.

15. The National Grange encourages Congress to restore the original cost-share funding of three million dollars for manure pits.

16. 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.

17. The National Grange encourages all livestock operations to follow the goals of the

Beef Quality Assurance Program and the Pork Quality Assurance Program. These actions will help manage their herds with respect to the following:

- a. proper use of pharmaceuticals;
- b. management of their feed sources;
- c. low stress animal handling techniques;
- d. proper housing and living standards;
- e. proper transportation techniques and transport space requirements;
- f. culling strategies to maintain optimum herd health; and
- g. numerous other management tools that help to make the animals healthier, more comfortable and as a result, more productive.

Livestock and Poultry Disease Control

1. The National Grange supports continued efforts to eradicate Brucellosis, Johnes 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.

9. The National Grange supports legislation that would eliminate the second inspection of bulk bin apples by the Department of Agriculture before being exported to Canada.

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 dairy industry being adequately represented in World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. The National Grange insists that representatives of USDA and the Department 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 American 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 markets.

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.

14. The Grange vigorously opposes any effort that would abolish the current practice of carcass quality pricing of beef and swine in favor of one value fits all price concepts.

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 that would allow producers and handlers to seek criminal and punitive damages from people or organizations that disseminate false or unsubstantiated information that 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 ensure 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 U.S. 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.

8. The National Grange urges continued research on the benefits and risks of using biosolids as agricultural fertilizer.

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 that 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 GMOs to help reduce the resistance to the use of this technology providing correct and scientifically verified information on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) to news media and other outlets to enhance the availability of truthful information and ultimately provide more information to the world community.

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 and paperwork 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.

4. The National Grange urges the USDA to increase oversight of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to decrease fraud and ensure that SNAP is only used for its defined purposes.

5. The National Grange supports legislation to simplify the business application of the current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) so that businesses may more easily become participants.

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.

9. The National Grange supports a compromise that will lower the federal crop insurance subsidy for farm operations with an adjusted gross income over \$750,000 or \$1.5 million for a married couple from 62 percent to 42 percent and opposes lowering the subsidy for farmers with an adjusted gross income of less than \$750,000. The National Grange further supports crop insurance subsidies for all agricultural producers.

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.

3. The National Grange strongly opposes any attempt by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to require that farmers, farm workers or ranchers have commercial drivers licenses (CDLs) to transport their crops and/or their landlord's crops on the 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 that offers a form of reimbursement of student loans for large animal veterinarians committing to work in private practice.

10. The National Grange supports the market availability of GPS tracking devices to monitor the locations of agricultural/farm equipment.

11. The National Grange supports legislation such as the Cider Investment and Development through Excise Tax Reduction (CIDER) Act that would amend the federal tax to allow an increase in the alcohol content by volume of hard cider from 7 to 8.5 percent and allow the labeling as hard cider rather than as wine.

I want to say thank you to my agriculture committee for all of their help.

John Plank, IN
Jimmy Gentry, NC
Lisa Johnson, MA
Brad Keeton, OK
Mark Noah, OR, Secretary

Nancy Clark, ME
Maurice Wiles, MD
Kevin Cooksley, NE
Linda Sanderson, VT

Fraternally,
Michael Lynch, DE
Chairman

AUDIT & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
102	Christmas Bonuses for Staff	ME	Adverse
103	Recording Degree Work	PA	Transfer to Grange Growth
104	Location Sites for National Grange Sessions	TX	Transfer to Grange Growth
613	End Convention Assessment	GL	Failed on the floor
101	Reducing Costs of National Session	CT	Failed on the floor
612	Decrease National Grange Coverage of Delegate Travel & Lodging Expense	GL	Failed on the floor
105	Covered Expenses for Officers and Delegates		Adopted
106	Authorized Travel Reimbursement		Adopted

POLICY STATEMENT

The members of the Audit and Budget Committee commend the National Master, Executive Committee and National Grange staff for presenting us with a budget.

Dues on all levels of the Grange are the lifeblood of our Order and it is imperative that Granges on all levels and in all states make a sincere serious effort to attract new members while working to retain our existing members.

Our National headquarters is a real asset to the Order. The income generated by the rentals provides us with much needed funds to support our programs. The building should be maintained so that future generations of Grangers will be able to utilize and enjoy it as we have.

Please remember that all donations to the Grange Foundation are tax deductible as the Foundation has 501(c)(3) tax status. We encourage members and non-members to continue their financial support of the Grange Foundation.

We commend the National Grange Sales, Benefits and Programs Department for their work in securing member benefits to help increase our membership and generate income for the National Grange. We encourage all members to continually monitor the many member benefits that are listed on the National Grange website. At the present time, the programs through Choice Hotels, Healthcare Exchange Program, Omaha Mutual Life, CVS Care Card, MasterCard Credit Card, MetLife, Office Depot, Avis, Hertz, Enterprise Car Rentals, and the National Grange Travel Center provide revenue to National Grange. The Amazon.com program provides income to the National Grange Foundation Youth Fund. We recommend that the members take advantage of these programs. We recommend that the membership of the Order assume responsibility for shipping and handling expenses of all Grange store and seal and certificate products purchased from National Grange.

The Grange has never been a wealthy organization, and few organizations give such

value for the small contribution from its membership. The finances of the National Grange are not much different than those of many State Granges and Community Granges. We live within our means, and when tough times come upon us, we tighten our belt.

Every Grange received an appeal letter asking for contributions to assist in a financial crisis in which we currently find ourselves. Since we decided to save our beloved Order, we urge our members to continue contributing to insure that we continue to strive in our endeavors.

Covers part of the Master's Internal Address.

CREDENTIALS 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 148th Annual Convention of the National Grange.

California	Ed Komski	Cynthia Komski
Colorado	David McCord	Cindy Greer
Connecticut	Noel Miller	Marcia Miller
Delaware	Michael Lynch	Helen Lynch
Idaho	Don Heikkila	
Illinois	Lynette Schaeffer	Don Schaeffer
Maine	Vicki Huff	Nancy Clark
Maryland	Maurice Wiles	Donna Wiles
Massachusetts	Matthew Johnson	Lisa Johnson
Michigan	Christopher Johnston	Connie Johnston
New Hampshire	Chris Heath	Kerriann Heath
New Jersey	Pete Pompper	
New York	Stephen Coye	Sharon Croucher
North Carolina	Jimmy Gentry	Anita Gentry
Ohio	Bob White	Joan White
Oklahoma	Donna Keeton	Brad Keeton
Oregon	Susan Noah	Mark Noah
Pennsylvania	Beth Downey	Betsy Huber
Rhode Island	Larry Spencer	Celeste Spencer
Vermont	Brenda Rousselle	Linda Sanderson
Washington	Duane Hamp	Christine Hamp

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 at the 148th Annual National Grange Convention.

Alaska	John Poirrier
Florida	Barbara Borderieux
Indiana	John Plank
Iowa	Dwight Baldwin
Kansas	Nathan Strawder

Minnesota	Donna Champion
Montana	Scott Nicholson
Nebraska	Kevin Cooksley
Tennessee	Judy Sherrod
Texas	Jack Smithers
Virginia	James Taylor
West Virginia	James Foster
Wisconsin	Duane Scott

Potomac Grange No. 1, Washington, D.C., is represented by Grace Boatright.

TJ Malaskee (MN) has been selected as the John Trimble Youth Legislative Experience participant for the 148th Annual National Grange 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 2015 National Grange Convention.

Authorized Travel Reimbursement

RESOLVED that the National Grange reimburse 25 cents per mile per vehicle to those authorized to travel by vehicle from their home to the 2015 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 2015 National Grange Convention by air or other public transportation be reimbursed after the close of convention for the actual fare, provided that it is not first class or business class.

The committee of Audit and Budget would like to thank Worthy Master Ed Luttrell, Lecturer Jim Tetreault, Directors and Staff who spoke to our group.

We found controller Andy Sampson's input and information very valuable to our discussion. Thank you Andy.

As chair, I would like to thank my committee:

Susan Plank, IN	Dwight Baldwin, IO
Pete Pompper, NJ (H)	Margaret Smithers, TX
Duane Hamp, WA	Chip Narvel, DE (H)
Jim Owens, ME (H)	Judy Sherrod, TN, Secretary

Respectfully,
Lynette Schaeffer, IL
Chairwoman

Income	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Budget
<u>Dues and Fees Income</u>					
Subordinate dues	\$817,580	\$821,055	\$666,469	\$849,296	\$753,714
E-membership	\$180	\$255	\$292	\$425	\$288
Subordinate & Pomona charter fees	\$320	\$935	\$344	\$240	\$425
Junior Grange charter fees	\$40	\$90	\$50	\$160	\$50
6th degree fees	\$933	\$967	\$1,046	\$1,000	\$1,000
7th degree fees	\$3,115	\$3,080	\$7,920	\$2,184	\$2,500
<u>Dues and Fees Subtotal:</u>	\$822,167	\$826,382	\$676,121	\$853,304	\$757,977
<u>Sales Income</u>					
Products	\$51,556	\$52,949	\$38,652	\$43,785	\$50,000
Member benefits	\$12,701	\$5,870	\$4,124	\$3,010	\$5,000
Certificate sales	\$8,114	\$8,706	\$19,695	\$6,774	\$7,000
Shipping and handling fees	\$5,498	\$5,120	\$4,356	\$3,933	\$5,000
<u>Sales Subtotal:</u>	\$77,869	\$72,645	\$66,827	\$57,503	\$67,000
<u>Other Income</u>					
Building Income	\$1,067,189	\$1,033,789	\$932,246	\$1,015,067	\$1,026,871
Supportive Memberships	\$93,750	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Legislative Sponsorships (Grants)	\$53,000	\$73,000	\$79,600	\$24,745	\$65,000
Fundraising and donations	\$8,571	\$5,410	\$4,272	\$24,835	\$15,000
License Agreement	\$2,300	\$7,080	\$5,160	\$7,760	\$5,000
Communications Income (Comic Books, Brochures)	\$153	\$12,888	\$18,468	\$10,579	\$8,000
Electronic Media Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300
Advertising	\$0	\$0	\$360	\$0	\$300
Foundation Management Fee	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$100
Bonding Commission	\$5,727	\$8,847	\$9,485	\$9,068	\$10,000
Interest, dividends	-\$6,524	\$7,106	\$30,166	\$13,005	\$2,500
Reimbursement from Subsidiaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Miscellaneous	\$2,188	\$100,989	\$2,760	\$8,483	\$2,000
<u>Other Subtotal:</u>	\$1,226,356	\$1,324,209	\$1,157,517	\$1,188,541	\$1,235,071
Total Income:	\$2,126,392	\$2,223,236	\$1,900,465	\$2,099,347	\$2,060,048
Cash Forward:	\$237,996	\$374,111	\$408,652	\$0	\$0
<u>Total Income and Cash Forward:</u>	\$2,364,388	\$2,597,347	\$2,309,117	\$2,099,347	\$2,060,048

Expense	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Budget
Personnel					
Board of Directors	\$6,409	\$7,018	\$11,997	\$6,117	\$7,500
National Master Expense	\$35,163	\$26,721	\$27,496	\$23,125	\$25,700
National Master Salary	\$54,000	\$57,500	\$57,500	\$57,662	\$55,000
National Lecturer	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
National Secretary	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$558	\$500
Staff Salaries, taxes, benefits	\$732,407	\$731,685	\$776,567	\$695,161	\$711,462
High Priest	\$1,682	\$2,370	\$2,571	\$646	\$1,850
Subtotal:	\$830,661	\$826,294	\$877,131	\$783,769	\$802,512
Departments					
Building expense	\$400,956	\$425,295	\$447,875	\$447,633	\$483,500
General Administration	\$358,071	\$499,083	\$796,747	\$860,204	\$767,500
Communications/Publications	\$64,296	\$76,011	\$45,627	\$17,141	\$23,500
IT Systems	\$34,067	\$35,199	\$27,248	\$25,181	\$21,300
Junior Grange	\$20,017	\$15,417	\$7,763	\$6,794	\$18,400
Legislative	\$11,203	\$55,782	\$29,472	\$38,497	\$90,500
Marketing & Sales	\$53,715	\$52,720	\$56,539	\$33,696	\$52,000
Membership/Leadership	\$31,803	\$29,997	\$32,067	\$13,708	\$32,000
Youth Development	\$16,180	\$15,591	\$14,307	\$15,860	\$18,880
Subtotal:	\$994,082	\$1,205,095	\$1,457,645	\$1,458,715	\$1,507,580
Events, Services, Training					
National Convention	\$145,286	\$109,040	\$155,401	\$121,444	\$219,450
Presidents Meeting	\$7,181	\$6,919	\$7,520	\$0	\$0
Reps. to State Conventions	\$11,508	\$14,848	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal:	\$163,974	\$130,807	\$162,920	\$121,444	\$219,450
Other Expenses					
Building Reserve Fund	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contributions	\$3,023	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Furniture and equipment	\$0	\$0	\$888	\$0	\$0
Special Fundraising/Special Event	\$0	\$0	\$12,626	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$2,311	\$6,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal:	\$5,334	\$26,500	\$13,514	\$0	\$0
Total Expenses:	\$1,994,051	\$2,188,696	\$2,511,211	\$2,363,928	\$2,529,542
Budget Contingency:	\$134,652	\$34,541	-\$610,745	-\$264,581	-\$469,494
Gross Contingency:	\$372,648	\$408,652	-\$202,094	-\$264,581	-\$469,494

CITIZENSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
227	GAO Study and Report		Adopted
202	Reinstatement of Small Business Tax Deductions	KS	Adopted as Ammended
214	Agriculture Accounting Rules Changes	NY	Adopted as Ammended
201	Paid Political Advertising	IA	Adverse
205	U.S. House and Senate Recesses	MI	Adverse
213	Voting Rights Act	NY	Adverse
218	Oppose Full File Credit Reporting	OR	Adverse
219	Satellite TV Freedom of Choice for Local Marketing	OR	Adverse
223	Tax Credit on Renewable Power	TX	Adverse
221	Oppose USDA Purchasing Submachine Guns and Grenades	PA	Covered by CT-227
207	Bonuses for Employees of the Veterans Administration	NY	Policy Statement
210	Public Employee Performance Bonuses	NY	Policy Statement
217	Stopping Bonuses to Government Workers	OH	Policy Statement
224	Awarding Bonuses to Civil Services Employed by Federal Government	VT	Policy Statement
718	Constitutional Amendment	WV	Policy Statement
220	Support Legislation to Prevent Confiscation and Registration	OR	Present Policy
203	Media Censorship	ME	Present Policy
212	Strip Pension Funds from Convicted Officials	NY	Present Policy
215	Applying for Disability Benefits	OH	Present Policy
606	Respect for the Flag in Grange Promotion Materials	OR	Present Policy
715	Terms of Elected Officals	VT	Present Policy
204	Insurance Policies	MI	State Issue
206	Zip Code for Sandy Valley	NV	State Issue
216	Outlawing Animal Gas Chambers	OH	State Issue

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
222	Child Abuse/Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse Cross Reporting	RI	State Issue
208	Broadcast Carriage by Cable/Satellite Systems	NY	Transferred to Labor and Judiciary
209	Maintaining Landline Telephone Service	NY	Transferred to Labor and Judiciary
211	Secret Patient Lists at Veterans Hospitals	NY	Transferred to Education and Health
226	Secret Patient Lists at Veterans Hospitals		Transferred to Education and Health
225	Opposition to the National Security Administration	WV	Withdrawn

POLICY STATEMENT

Grange members live across the entire United States from remote rural areas to urban centers. Collectively, we believe that the United States is the world's most unique country. The United States is a democracy that is the model of freedom for the world. The Bill of Rights is an essential part of our freedoms. The National Grange opposes any legislation that restricts or eliminates these liberties. The bill of rights has defended our freedoms for more than 200 years and defines the uniqueness of our country. We must remember that our constitution remains as relevant today as it has in our history and we must be careful in looking at any changes to these vital amendments.

We as citizens of the United States are stewards of our resources, rights, and way of life. It is our responsibility to insure these are intact for future generations. It is important for us to be vigilant and aware of our environment, our finances, and the activities of our elected leaders. We must hold leaders to a higher standard of ethics and behavior as we have placed our trust in their leadership. As part of the accountability of government agencies, greater discretion should be applied in the awarding of employee bonuses. Rewards should be based upon objective and measurable performance standards. In cases of credible allegations of employee corruption, the bonus must be repaid and returned until said employee is exonerated. We are currently in an economy where the potential of this nation is being mortgaged for short-term economic solutions. Our nations debit has reached 17.8 trillion dollars and continues to grow daily. It is time for Congress to address our nation's mountain of growing debt. In addition, we believe our taxation system must be designed to encourage economic activity and growth. Burdensome government regulations handed down by administrative agencies prohibit growth and discourage entrepreneurship. We must base regulations on legislative action, not on bureaucratic ideology and oversight.

Enemies of America are no longer limited to nation states and they do not bear names such as communist, fascist, or dictator. We must remain vigilant in our battle against terrorism and extremist groups. Regardless of why a person, a group, or a nation chooses to oppose freedom as America and western culture has defined it, we as a people must oppose their actions.

Our brave servicemen and servicewomen have answered the call for the defense of our country and we should make every opportunity to provide good jobs, homes and honored recognition for those who have answered these challenges. Thanks to the effort of these brave Americans, we have the privilege to fly the America flag, the symbol of our nation, with honor, dignity and proper respect. We believe the Pledge of Allegiance and/or The National Anthem should continue to be taught in our schools and should be the opening for all official meetings.

Technology is a vital tool for business and communication. The National Grange believes in the importance of integrated telecommunications networks. We believe that access to affordable and reliable broadband internet service is vital to preserving the quality of rural life in America.

As responsible citizens, we realize that America is a nation of communities. When people focus on working together, our quality of life is elevated. It is to us that falls the task of building these communities and as Grangers, we must respond with faith, hope, and charity to bring people together.

This includes resolution CT 207-NY, CT-210-NY, CT-217-OH, CT-224-VT, LJT-718-WV and portions of the external Masters Address.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Reinstatement of Small Business Tax Deductions

WHEREAS, small business constitutes a large percentage of all business; and

WHEREAS, the small business tax deduction, Section 179, of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, has been reduced from \$500,000 to \$25,000 for the 2014 tax year beginning January 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, a deduction of only \$25,000 can be detrimental to small business, especially agriculture, by inhibiting growth and/or causing small business or farms to close; and

WHEREAS, current legislation has been approved in the U.S. House of Representatives to reinstate Section 179 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code the U.S. Internal Revenue Code deduction to levels prior to those of January 1, 2014; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, the Grange supports the reinstatement of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, Section 179, deductions to \$500,000.

Agriculture Accounting Rules Changes

WHEREAS, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) recognize two methods of accounting, cash-basis and accrual method, and

WHEREAS, cash-basis accounting is the easiest form of accounting for small businesses, including agricultural operations, and

WHEREAS, cash-basis accounting is generally used by farmers and ranchers for tax purposes; this method recognizes when cash is expended for purchases, accrual accounting recognizes expenses when purchased but not paid for or on a payment basis, and

WHEREAS, the rule changes, although the change would be limited to businesses with income of \$10 million or more, would cause an undue hardship to farmers and ranchers by increasing the cost of and the need for bookkeeping services and increasing their income tax liability; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange opposes changes to the federal tax code that would require agricultural business, with aggregate gross receipts of \$10 million or more, to use the accrual method of accounting rather than the more common cash-basis method.

GAO Study and Report

WHEREAS, numerous government agencies not traditionally involved in law enforcement have issued requests for the purchase of certain weaponry and large quantities of ammunition, such as the Social Security Administration requesting 174,000 rounds, the USDA requesting 320,000 rounds, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration requesting 46,000 rounds, and

WHEREAS, these same agencies have their own in-house SWAT teams and police departments, raising concerns about their ability and authority to administer such force, and

WHEREAS, it is likely a waste of taxpayer dollars to provide each individual regulatory agency with their own police and SWAT teams, and

WHEREAS, their actions are inadvertently raising the price of ammunition for the general citizenry, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange urge the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study and issue a report detailing why such agencies are in need of their own law enforcement units and such high quantities of ammunition, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this study be posted on the GAO website for public review and comment.

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 legislation that would require drug testing to be included in the eligibility requirements for welfare recipients.

5. The National Grange supports having well-advertised places in our communities/counties where residents can safely dispose of outdated or unused medicines more than the twice-a-year National Prescription Drug Take Back Days sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Agency and local law enforcement.

Native Americans

1. The National Grange supports Native Americans in their reservation treaty rights to retain their mineral deposits.

2. The National Grange believes that Native Americans should be subject to the same laws as other citizens.

3. 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.

4. 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.
3. The National Grange supports the current Electoral College system for presidential and vice-presidential elections.
4. 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.
5. The National Grange supports federal campaign law that requires public disclosure of the names of persons who contribute \$1,000 or more and anyone who contributes \$100,000 or more to be posted on the Super PAC website within 24 hours and must stay on the website until the completion of the campaign.
6. The National Grange opposes United Nation representatives at any U.S. polling location.

Elected Officials

1. The Grange favors changing the term of office of Congressional Representatives from two to four years. We also favor a maximum of 12 years consecutive service 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 urges members of Congress to 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 supports legislation requiring any elected or appointed government official who is convicted of a felony to forfeit their taxpayer-funded pension.
5. 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.
6. The National Grange supports an amendment to the United States Constitution that should read: "Congress shall make no law that applies to the citizens of the United States that does not apply equally to Senators and/or Representatives, just as Congress shall make no law that applies to the Senators and/or Representatives that does not apply equally to the citizens of the United States."

Government 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 strongly opposes the use of any commission, council, or other consortium of non-elected appointees to create legislative mandates that Congress must adhere to, that are not subject to judicial review or the American system of checks and balances.

3. 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.

4. 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.

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 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 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 supports the continuation of public tours of the White House.

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 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.

3. 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.

4. The National Grange urges Congress to pass legislation that would require any special presidential advisors appointed by the President to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Government Spending

1. The National Grange strongly advocates for Congress to pass a balanced budget in a timely manner as to prevent federal government shutdowns. Should a federal government shutdown occur, we believe that the issuance of Social Security and other critical social service monetary supplements should not be affected, delayed or reduced, nor the salary, benefits or expenses of our military.

2. During any federal government shutdown, Members and their staff should not receive salary, expenses or benefits until a budget agreement has been reached and passed. Furthermore, these government employees shall not receive any of this compensation retroactively.

3. The National Grange supports a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget as a permanent solution to our deficit problems.

4. The National Grange calls upon our Senators and Representatives to put aside partisan politics and find ways to reduce federal spending to equal revenue from taxation.

5. 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.

6. The National Grange supports the enforcement of regulations to assure that government programs abide by the bidding process, when appropriate.

7. The National Grange supports measures like the Earmark Transparency Act and its mandate for a public, searchable database of all earmark requests. We additionally oppose sitting members of Congress from directing monies toward projects with their names attached.

8. The National Grange supports the elimination of the automatic federal baseline budgeting annual increases.

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. 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.

4. The National Grange supports legislation that would remove all Social Security "Earning Limits" for individuals.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. The National Grange supports legislation creating a separate Consumer Price Index (CPI) that reflects senior's real cost of living and thus results in a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for America's senior citizens. Further, the National Grange opposes passage and implementation of legislation creating "Chained-CPI."

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 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The National Grange urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to efficiently use their resources to resolve the serious backlog of veteran's benefit claims.
7. The National Grange supports the extension of the Veterans Administration Mortgage Protection Life Insurance to all service-connected veterans who are rated as permanently and totally disabled.
8. The National Grange supports legislation to increase to \$50,000 the maximum coverage a service-connected disabled veteran can purchase under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance Program.

Telecommunications

1. 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 the modernization of the Universal Service Fund (USF) to secure last mile (wireline or wireless) connectivity for rural Americans to broadband, thereby creating jobs, enhancing the economy, and boosting local businesses.
 - a. The National Grange supports a national broadband policy that will:
 - b. Create a nationwide fiber optic network.
 - c. Remove the regulatory uncertainty that has deterred broadband investment in rural America.
 - d. Provide the incentive for private businesses, government agencies, and private citizens to invest in rural broadband deployment and stimulate broadband competition.
 - e. 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.
 - f. Allow Public Utility Districts (PUDs), or other public utilities to get involved in

establishing the wireless communication systems.

2. 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. Telemarketers, as well as these computer or robo-calls should be prohibited from calling cell phones as well.

3. The National Grange recognizes the importance of the Universal Service Fund (USF) to the American public, especially in rural communities. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. The National Grange urges Congress to appropriate the necessary funding to combat the continuing cyberspace warfare threats to the United States in the 21st century.

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 sessions 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 opposes the creation of a National Identification Card.

4. 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.

5. The National Grange favors the establishment of a new branch of the Smithsonian dedicated to the nation's food and farm heritage.

6. The National Grange opposes government regulations that infringe upon personal nutritional choices within our homes and diets.

TAXATION

Personal Income Tax

1. The National Grange supports developing a simpler and fairer federal income tax code, 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 continuing 5 and 10-year averaging of lump sum distributions of pension funds for income tax purposes.

3. The National Grange favors indexing all federal income tax brackets for inflation.

4. The National Grange supports preferential income tax deductions for two-wage earner families. The National Grange supports deducting state sales tax from federal income tax returns.

5. The National Grange supports a 100 percent tax deduction for all qualified charitable contributions for all federal taxpayers.

6. The National Grange supports equalizing the mileage rates for volunteer services and medical transportation with mileage rates permitted for businesses for tax purposes.

7. 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 federal tax deduction for all Long Term Care Insurance premiums. We further support exempting all benefits paid under Long Term Care insurance from all income taxes.

8. The National Grange favors making Social Security benefits completely exempt from personal income taxes. The National Grange supports the elimination of the cap on Social Security taxable wages. The National Grange 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.

9. The National Grange supports the continuation of all current tax deductions allowed on real-estate mortgages.

10. The National Grange supports legislation to allow voluntary contributions of \$1.00 to be solicited on all federal income tax forms to fund our national parks. The Grange supports permitting an individual to designate \$1 on his/her federal income tax return for the USA Olympic Program.

11. The National Grange supports a 100 percent federal income tax credit to law enforcement officers for purchasing their own bulletproof vests.

12. The National Grange supports allowing a total of \$500 in income tax credits for political contributions.

13. 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.

14. The National Grange supports a 100 percent federal income tax deduction for all medical insurance.

15. The National Grange supports limiting the federal income tax deduction for

state legislators' daily expense allowance, so that the deduction only applies to days they actually attend Legislative Sessions.

16. The National Grange supports the passage of U.S.H.R.1479, the Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act of 2011 or a similar bill.

Business, Investment, Capital Gains, and Inheritance Taxation

1. The National Grange supports legislation to permit farmers to use 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. The National Grange supports legislation to eliminate the reporting of government funded environmental and conservation cost-share monies as income to the recipients. 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.

2. The National Grange supports an 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 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 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 believes that employees should not be liable for un-remitted 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. The National Grange opposes the enactment of any federal tax on securities transactions.

6. 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.

7. 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. 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 ten million dollars.

8. The National Grange supports federal tax credits or tax deductions to growers or grower co-operatives that build or own ethanol production facilities.

9. The National Grange supports 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 ahead of payments to other creditors during bankruptcy.

10. The National Grange supports prosecution of cooperative executives and others suspected of illegal actions resulting in a cooperative declaring bankruptcy.

11. The National Grange urges Congress to oppose any future legislation allowing the IRS to implement percentage fees on banking transactions.

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 federal law prohibiting any charges or taxes on e-mail or the use of the Internet. The National Grange opposes any new or increased excise tax on telecommunication. The National Grange supports legislation that would prohibit mail order houses or Internet retailers from collecting state or federal sales or use taxes on mail order or Internet purchases.
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 as non-profit entities.
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 supports 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 supports tax exemption for income that is raised by non-profit organizations such as the Grange. We oppose IRS guidelines that classify corporate sponsorships as 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 representatives and to set a reasonable time and place for meetings. 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 explicitly limit the authority of all courts in the United States to 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.

I would like to sincerely thank the members of the Citizenship Committee for their deliberations and dedication to developing the best possible policy. A special thanks goes to Donna Champion for her work as secretary and Leroy Watson for his insight and input.

Sincerely,

Vicki Huff, ME, Chairwoman
Barbara Borderieux, FL
Earlene Foster, WV
Joan White, OH
Tammy Fryman, NE (H)

Donna Champion, MN - Secretary
Donna Keeton, OK
Anita Gentry, NC
Phil Prelli, CT (H)
Grace Boatright, Potomac, DC (H)

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
308	Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burros Act	OH	Adopted
306	Greenhouse Gas Rule	OH	Adopted
304	Say No to New WOTUS Rule (Waters of the United States)	NC	Adopted as amended
301	Repurposed Materials	CO	Adverse
307	Lake Erie Algae Bloom	OH	Adverse
302	The Clean Water Act	ID	Combined with 304 Adopted
303	Clean Water Act	MD	Combined with 304 Adopted
309	Clean Water Act Expansion	TX	Combined with 304 Adopted
310	“Waters of the United States”	VT	Combined with 304 Adopted
305	EPA regulations on Coal-fired Power Plants	NE	Combined with 306 Adopted
311	Limitations on Coal	WV	Combined with 306 Adopted

POLICY STATEMENT

Since the birth of the Grange in 1867, our organization has advocated and taught that we are the stewards of the land and should leave the Earth in a better condition than we found it. The National Grange recognizes that the protection of the environment and the conservation of our national resources are vital national priorities. To protect our most vital resources – water and farmland- we encourage increased efforts to educate the public.

We believe that Americans must not sacrifice their property or surrender their constitutional rights in order to preserve our environment. Adequate and full compensation should be paid in all cases of eminent domain, including, but not limited to, government grazing permits, water easements and areas designated as critical habitat for endangered species. The National Grange must continue to work closely with the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition to continue to work toward reform of this act.

The Grange recognizes the importance of protection of all watersheds and understands that major watersheds do not adhere to boundaries of private and public lands. The National Grange opposes any mandate that suggests all watersheds are to meet the same water quality standards and the “locking up” of watersheds or portions thereof for a single use by any person or agency.

The National Grange advocates a national energy policy that will encourage the development of all forms of domestic energy. Traditional fossil fuels as well as alternative forms of energy such as wind, solar and hydroelectric should be used in an environmentally sound manner. We recognize U.S. agriculture must be part of the solution to the energy crisis.

We encourage the responsible stewardship of our natural resources from all who own or use them. We recognize that responsible stewardship is a balance between use and preservation. The National Grange supports coordination among federal, state and local governments when developing land use management plans. We urge Congress to include voluntary incentive-based assistance for conservation practices by farmers, ranchers, foresters and landowners in future Farm Bills, which will maintain a commitment to conservation.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Say No to New WOTUS Rule – (Waters of the United States)

WHEREAS, the EPA and the Corps of Engineers (Corps) have drafted their “Final Guidance” on Identifying Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act and want to issue it into law; (see attached “Definition of Waters of the US”) and

WHEREAS, the Final Guidance in effect eliminates the term “navigable” from the Clean Water Act (CWA) and improperly increases the scope of federal jurisdiction under the Act, and

WHEREAS, the Final Guidance also ignores the fundamental premise in the CWA that there are waters subject to the exclusive regulatory jurisdiction of the states. The Final Guidance is overly broad and expands federal jurisdiction well beyond the intent of Congress and the limitations recognized in recent Supreme Court decisions; and

WHEREAS, it would be a burden both financially and related to time resources to farmers, to be required to submit a permit during the planting/growing season in order to use irrigation ponds, ditches, etc.; and

WHEREAS, costs to regulated entities and governments (federal, state, and local) are likely to increase. Direct and indirect costs would result from additional permit application expenses (for CWA Section 404 permitting, storm water permitting for construction and development activities, and permitting of pesticide discharges and confined animal feeding operations [CAFOs] for discharges to waters that would now be determined jurisdictional) and additional requirements for oil storage and production facilities needing to develop and implement spill prevention, control and countermeasure (SPCC) plans. Federal and state governments would likely experience costs to administer and process additional permits. Other costs would likely include compensatory mitigation requirements for permit impacts (if applicable), affecting land developers and state and local governments. In all, the estimated incremental costs associated with the rule range from \$162 million to \$279 million per year; therefore be it

RESOLVED, The National Grange opposes the expansion of the regulatory authority of the EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers concerning the Clean Water Act including the definition of “navigable waters” without congressional approval.

Greenhouse Gas Rule

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed greenhouse gas rule for existing power plants will dictate how electric cooperatives and other utilities generate power and how co-op member – owners and other consumers use electricity for decades to come;

WHEREAS, these proposed changes to existing power plants will result in higher electricity costs, power plant closures and job losses;

WHEREAS, the EPA proposal is fundamentally flawed because it goes beyond the legal authorities under the Clean Air Act; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange opposes efforts by the EPA to impose stricter and more expensive regulations on existing coal burning power plants.

Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burros Act

WHEREAS, the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burros Act mandates the protection and management of these animals in a manner that insures healthy herds at levels consistent with the lands capacity to support them, and

WHEREAS, The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is not following the above rule. They are rounding up thousands of wild horses and burros that are protected using helicopters and other vehicles, and placing them in crowded holding pens and many are dying. There are 50,000 horses stuffed in holding facilities, and

WHEREAS, the BLM needs to manage the size of horse and burro herds to maintain healthy grazing lands and do this in a humane manner; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange support the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burros Act and urge the Bureau of Land Management to capture and handle their wild horses and burros in a humane manner and if culling through euthanasia is necessary, to do so in a manner consistent with guidelines as already outlined by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

PRESENT POLICY

Water Projects, Irrigation and Reclamation Reform Act, State Authority for Water Rights

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. 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 fish populations including salmon.

7. The National Grange requests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and all environmental agencies to facilitate restorative dredging of rivers prone to flooding.

8. The National Grange supports maintaining minimum water levels along the Great Lakes in order to support commerce, hydroelectric production and tourism in the region. We support accurate monitoring of water drawn from the Great Lakes Water Basin for agricultural,

industrial and residential uses. We support only allowing those states and provinces that belong to the International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes to be authorized to allow permitting to remove and use waters of the Great Lakes. However, we also believe that agriculture entities should be exempt from any permits or fees for removing water from the Great Lakes.

9. 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.

10. The National Grange will actively work to preserve the way of life of the Klamath Basin farming community of Oregon and California. We support reversing the decisions of the Ninth Federal circuit and permanently restoring the flow of irrigation water from Klamath Lake to the farmers and farm communities served by the irrigation system. We further oppose any efforts to remove water storage and electrical generation capacity from the Klamath River Basin system. We call on Congress to convene a local working group to draft a viable Klamath Basin Restoration Plan and then fund that plan for the benefit of the entire Klamath Basin community.

11. 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.

Clean Water Act and Wetland Management

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 (BMPs) 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 (TMDL) will be reasonable and attainable without extreme hardships placed on agriculture and other industries. Furthermore, the National Grange urges state and federal governments to fund conservation programs that will help farmers and municipalities to meet the goals of TMDL, and Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) with regard to the Chesapeake Bay cleanup.

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 opposes efforts to require states to designate any watersheds with populations of threatened or endangered species as an Outstanding Resource Water that would further impede use of that water by traditional agricultural users.

5. The National Grange supports the US Supreme Court's holdings regarding the Congressional intent of the phrase "navigable waters" as used in the Clean Water Act that limit the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the US Environmental Protection Agency to regulate inland waters and wetlands. We oppose legislative efforts to remove or amend this wording in the Clean Water Act.

6. The National Grange supports legislation to improve the wetland 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.

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 believe that irrigation and agricultural drainage practices should be recognized as soil and water conservation practices. 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 support programs offering at least 50% cost share assistance for establishing grass strip boundaries and other soil conservation best practices, as well as technical assistance, as the primary means of correcting agricultural non-point source pollution problems. 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 opposes the sole use of uniform federal government farm pollution policies and supports that each state, or region, continue to maintain their own farm pollution policies that are unique to their industry and geography.

3. The National Grange supports the privately financed National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation, the 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.

4. The National Grange supports locally developed storm water management programs administered through local conservation districts.

Toxic and Hazardous Wastes

1. The National Grange supports efforts to overhaul and reform the Superfund Program to prioritize sites for clean up and to expedite clean up of the highest priority sites. We urge the USEPA to work with local government entities to identify, prioritize and clean up toxic waste sites covered by the Superfund program. Funding for superfund clean up should come from assessments on companies that produce hazardous wastes as well as fines and assessments related to non-compliance with existing regulations on the disposal of hazardous wastes.

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 potential sources 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 supports continued research on non-toxic materials in preparing pressure-treated 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 the current exemptions for family farmers from the EPA's Toxic Spill Prevention Containment and Control regulations.

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.

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 requiring the use of biodegradable

feedstocks in all appropriate consumer based products such as retail plastic bags, product packaging, diapers and packing materials. We urge all manufactures to reduce their use of packing materials in their consumer products.

4. The National Grange supports efforts to restrict the disposal of tires in landfills. We support additional efforts to recycle used tires to recover valuable petrochemical feedstocks and to utilize recycled tires in road and other construction projects.

Energy Conservation

1. The National Grange supports voluntary and economically viable energy conservation for agriculture, industry, commerce, and the home.

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. We oppose any increase in taxes and/or any decrease in tax credits (i.e. depletion allowance) on natural gas and oil production. 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. 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 Reserve in the event of war or interruption of delivery of foreign supplies of petroleum into the U.S.

4. The National Grange supports 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.

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, livestock methane, surf/tidal, shale, tar sands, hydroelectric, agricultural products, urban solid 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 all domestically produced hydroelectric power should be classified as renewable energy under all applicable federal and state statutes.

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 building of the Keystone Pipeline system as long as it is built to acceptable appropriate engineering and environmental standards.

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.

5. The National Grange supports the use of hydraulic fracturing for natural gas

production in all hydrocarbon-producing strata.

6. 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.

7. The National Grange supports an examination and reform of environmental laws so that new oil refineries can be built to supply our fuel needs. 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.

8. The National Grange endorses the goal of generating at least 25% of domestic energy needs from domestic renewable resources while continuing to produce safe, abundant and affordable food, feed, and fiber by January 1, 2025.

9. 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 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. 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 at competitive market rates. 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.

5. 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.

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.

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.

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 supports prescribed burning on public forestlands as a forest management technique to reduce uncontrolled fires on public lands. We oppose public forest management plans that include the use of natural, uncontrolled forest fires as a forest management technique. After a major natural forest fire, we support a maximum two-year administrative deadline for applicable federal state and local forest management agencies to formulate a forest recovery plan and complete all appeals. We support expedited restorative actions, such as reforestation and harvest of dead or dying timber resources as part of every forest recovery plan.

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 timber. 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 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, the Grange supports 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 before any regulation or Executive Order designating any additional public land as a National Antiquity becomes effective.

10. The National Grange supports a policy 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.

11. The National Grange supports the use of state and/or federal funds to reimburse small landowners for the mitigation of loss of land values due to any state or federal logging restrictions on private lands.

Federal Grazing

1. The National Grange supports basing all decisions on federal grazing regulations, including grazing fee pricing formulas, upon solid economic principals, current livestock market prices, good conservation practices and extensive public input from existing grazing permittees. 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.

2. The National Grange strongly supports considering the economic impact that restrictions on grazing in riparian areas may have on farmers before legislation is passed.

3. The National Grange encourages the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. 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. We oppose any further designations of National Forest lands as wilderness, especially in Alaska. We believe that all public lands suitable for producing commercial timber, farm or grazing resources, commercially valuable minerals, or public recreational facilities (including motorized sports activities) should be precluded from future consideration for wilderness designation and, instead, actively managed to achieve sustainable multiple use goals.

2. The National Grange believes that regulations governing the management of Federal Wilderness areas should allow for controlled access by motorized vehicles in cases of emergency, especially when lives or private property are at stake. We further support the harvest of timber resources from Federal wilderness areas following natural disasters. 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 strongly opposes the use of eminent domain or any regulatory property taking via administration designation by any Federal agency to include any private property in any Federal Wilderness area, any part of the Federal Wild and Scenic River System, any part of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative, any land conservation program authorized by an international agreement or treaty or any habitat management area under the Endangered Species Act.

4. 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.

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 subspecies, 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. The National Grange supports legislation to expand the hunting season of Canada and Snow geese from November 1st - April 1st. We also support increasing the daily bag limit for Canada and Snow geese.

9. 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.

10. The National Grange opposes the listing of the eastern oyster on the endangered species list.

Preservation of Fisheries 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 in 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. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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. 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.

6. The National Grange favors the regulated harvesting of fresh water clams and mussels.

7. 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 use of best management practices (BMPs) and sustained yield management practices on private forestlands. 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.

2. The National Grange supports efforts to establish forests or pastures on appropriate marginal farmland.

3. 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. We further support legislation to require each appeal of a timber sale to post a security bond equal to the value of the timber sale before the appeal may be adjudicated that will, in turn, be forfeited if the appeal subsequently fails.

Environmental Regulations and Controls

1. The National Grange supports requiring all appeals or court actions against properly approved and financed federal state or municipal construction projects to post a security bond equal to the projected cost of the project before the appeal or lawsuit may be adjudicated that will, in turn be forfeited if the appeal or lawsuit subsequently fails.

2. The National Grange supports legislation to require that all environmental impact statements under the National Environmental Policy Act must equitably balance and weigh economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts of proposed Federal actions to reduce unnecessary delays on worthwhile and vital projects.

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.

Private Land Use, Planning, Zoning, , 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.

2. The National Grange urges that the transfer of development rights be used to protect family farms. Whenever land is designated for permanent agricultural use, farmers should receive adequate compensation for the loss in land value.

3. The National Grange urges the Farm Service Agency or any other agency not to relinquish the use of any farmlands, wetlands, or other lands to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or any other government agency.

4. The National Grange supports efforts to improve locally controlled site-specific resource and environmental management in the Columbia Basin.

5. The National Grange supports legislation reaffirming congressional power over international agreements concerning disposal, management and use of lands owned by the United States and also protects state powers, from federal actions designating lands to international agreements.

6. The National Grange supports legislation to mandate that when private property is acquired for a specific purpose by any federal agency through eminent domain, condemnation, foreclosure or negotiated price, and the property is subsequently not needed or used for the specific purpose it was acquired for, the original owner shall have first right of repurchase at either the original price or the current market price, whichever is less.

7. We support legislation that eminent domain be used only for public purposes, such as rights of way for transportation and utilities.

8. 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.

9. The National Grange supports changing laws so that, in points of controversy, private property rights take precedence over environmental regulations.

10. 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.

Clean Air Act

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 opposes adoption of the United Nations Climate Change Treaty or the Kyoto Protocol agreement on greenhouse gas emissions by the United States until uniform standards for greenhouse gas emissions are applied to all major countries, regardless of their economic development. 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.

I would like to thank the members of the committee for their thoughtful and considerate debate of the resolutions. This was an enjoyable and interesting committee to work on this year.

Beth Downey –PA

Noel Miller – CT

Joe Fryman –NE

Bob White -OH

Kate Poirier –AK

Don Heikkila – ID

Jim Foster – WV

Jim Tetreault – NH – Secretary

Sincerely,

Jim Taylor – VA – Chairman

EDUCATION & HEALTH COMMITTEE

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419	Medicare Drug Savings Act	NY	Adopted as amended
418	Fort McClellan Health Registry Act	NY	Adopted as amended
420	Observation Stays	NY	Adopted as amended
423	Refinancing of Student Loans	NY	Adopted as amended
424	Safe Chemicals Act	NY	Adopted as amended
425	Service Dogs for Veterans	NY	Adopted as amended
431	Herbal Supplements	IL	Adopted as amended
402	Support for Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients	OR	Adopted as amended
409	Raw Milk Sales	MD	Adverse
415	Ebola Epidemic	WV	Adverse
406	Proof of Income/Resources for Veterans Benefits	KS	covers 426, 427, 226 and 211 (transferred from Citizenship) adopted as amended
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414	Handwriting in America	TX	Present Policy
422	Powdered Alcohol Ban	NY	State Issue

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412	Standardized Milk Bottle Caps	RI	Transfer to Ag
411	Update the Grange Declaration of Purposes	PA	Transfer to Grange Law
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407	Common Core	MD	Withdrawn
408	Lyme Disease	MD	Withdrawn
429	Social Security Benefits for Terminally Ill	OH	Withdrawn
430	Preventing Micro-Beads from Entering the Environment	CO	Withdrawn
417	Discontinue Use of Micro Beads	NY	Withdrawn

POLICY STATEMENT

Education

A quality education opens minds to new possibilities and encourages students to think for themselves. While the Grange commends those who have followed the traditional path for higher education, we need to encourage those who fall outside the term “traditional student” to look at the educational opportunities available offered by Vocational or Trade Schools or other nontraditional degree programs to expand their personal and professional lives. The purpose of education is to open the minds of young people to the world around them, to the lesson of the past, and the possibilities of the future. An understanding of the past is a part of education that is too often neglected. These important facts are even more powerful and useful when an understanding of their context and background are taught. The Grange will continue to promote the teaching of American Civics in our Educational system

In support of students stepping out on their own, we believe we must return the power of education to parents, teachers and local school boards. Parents must be an essential part of the decision-making process. The National Grange encourages the teaching of Patriotism and financial literacy as a major point of education if we are to see productive, prepared, responsible citizens and future elected officials, while contributing to our local and national economy.

The National Grange offers its continued support of OCARE (Organizations Concerned about Rural Education), the National School Board Associations and other educational associations that seek improvements to the No Child Left Behind Act, as well as supporting the efforts to reduce the pupil to teacher ratio at all levels of education through 12th grade.

The Grange urges educators at the primary, secondary and undergraduate levels to include basic knowledge of agriculture in their curriculum. Agriculture is man’s basic interaction with the environment. Every farmer learns to adapt and work with nature in

order to be successful. The most simple and basic lesson, such as water is needed to grow crops, it is critical for every American to understand.

The National Grange supports legislation requiring education on prevention and handling of bullying of adults and children to be administered by employers and schools. 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. Some examples of this are the donation of school supplies (such as the Words for Thirds 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

It is important that each of us take responsibility for our own health. The National Grange continues to support the repeal of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, returning the responsibility to the local communities to develop their own guidelines to reduce childhood obesity. We would recommend and encourage that the guideline would include, healthy lunches, choice of low fat milk and low fat flavored milks, increased physical activity, limited access to soda machines and snack machines.

The National Grange supports the continuation of research and development of an action level of inorganic arsenic in fruit juices to be at a level no higher than 4.4 ppb.

The National Grange supports the efforts of legislation to include cost effective, early intervention medical care to be covered by private and public insurance programs.

The National Grange supports that a cap to be placed on malpractice cases to assist in the reduction of health care costs.

The National Grange encourages all Americans to be mindful of prescription drug safety. Educational information should be provided by the prescribing physician, as well as by their pharmacists. We believe the information available through the FDA and the DEA should be provided to patients to give an unbiased opinion of the medication. Patients should be allowed to purchase their prescription from whatever reliable source they choose. The National Grange insists that all prescriptions drugs that are purchased from within the boundaries of the United States should meet or exceed the standards of the FDA and the DEA. Increased efforts must be made for the continuing education of Medicare recipients on the benefits available to them through Medicare.

The National Grange continues to support the prescription disposal program, while encouraging local Granges to get training and to take part in this program in their own local communities.

While not all products that enter the United States can realistically be tested to determine if they are defective or contaminated, we encourage government agencies and consumer safety advocates to be diligent in safety inspection on imported products. The National Grange requests that all products sold in the United States be labeled with the country of origin.

National Grange urges its members to be diligent in their communications with their legislators to continue the cost of living increases to Social Security recipients.

National Grange goes on record encouraging the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) and the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to complete its review of Triclosan and if it is deemed to be harmful, ban it.

We believe the National Grange should continue to lobby Congress to ensure that any National Health Care legislation pertains only to health care.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Support for Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients

WHEREAS the Medicare End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) program pays for dialysis or kidney transplantation for over 600,000 kidney disease patients every year, regardless of age, and has saved millions of lives in the four decades since its enactment; and

WHEREAS kidney transplant recipients must take immunosuppressive drugs for the life of their transplant or they risk organ rejection; and

WHEREAS Medicare pays for the transplant and for immunosuppressive drugs for 36 months post-transplant, but coverage of these critical medications stops unless the beneficiary is Medicare-aged or Medicare-disabled; and

WHEREAS the cost of dialysis (an average of \$86,316 per year) far exceeds the cost of transplantation and post-transplant drugs (\$123,643 for the first year of a kidney transplant and \$24,612 a year thereafter); and

WHEREAS extending immunosuppressive coverage beyond the 36-month post-transplant limit would enable more kidney patients to consider transplantation, have a higher quality of life, and be more likely to return to work than if they remain on dialysis; and

WHEREAS “The Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act” now before Congress would extend Medicare Part B coverage for kidney transplant recipients for the purpose of immunosuppressive drugs only. Beneficiaries would be responsible for the appropriate portion of the Part B premium as well as applicable deductible and coinsurance requirements. If a patient has another form of health insurance, Medicare would be the secondary payer. Therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange support passage of “The Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act.”

Proof of Income/Resources for Veterans Benefits

WHEREAS, veterans have served our country, and

WHEREAS, veterans are entitled to apply for VA pension, disability, and medical coverage benefits because of their service, and

WHEREAS, veterans are often times asked to endure a tedious process to receive such benefits by providing any and all financial records of income and resources to prove themselves worthy of receiving such benefits, and

WHEREAS, income and resources should not be a determining factor for receiving benefits by those who served our country, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that regardless of income, job, or securities the National Grange urges Congress to include all veterans in VA pension, disability and all medical coverage. Including but not limited to hospital, dental, optical and prescription benefits by streamlining the process and making the process more open to review and Congressional evaluation; and be it further

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports the continued efforts to overhaul the Veteran Affairs Health Care System; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the criteria be reviewed on a systematic schedule of no less than 3 years.

Health Care Expenses for Migrant Labor

WHEREAS, under the Affordable Care Act, employers who have more than 50 “full time equivalent workers” are required to provide health care; and

WHEREAS, seasonal/transitory agricultural workers are counted, when determining

if a farm or business is required to provide health insurance or pay a penalty; and

WHEREAS, United States farmers already pay recruitment costs, visa fees, transportation and housing, while paying the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR); and

WHEREAS, requiring the farmer to pay for health care for their entire workforce because of the inclusion of seasonal/transitory agricultural workers causing them to exceed the labor threshold of 50 is unreasonable and expensive; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange believes that seasonal/migrant workers should not be counted as full time equivalent workers for purposes of health care provision; and be it further

RESOLVED that the National Grange communicate this policy with the United States Congressional delegation.

Fort McClellan Health Registry Act

WHEREAS, toxic substances have been discovered both on and around Fort McClellan, Ala., and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of soldiers served and trained at Fort McClellan between 1935 and 1999, and

WHEREAS, Fort McClellan has been determined to be a hazardous waste site by the Environmental Protection Agency, and

WHEREAS, the city in which it is located is one of the most polluted areas in the country, and

WHEREAS, the Fort McClellan Health Registry Act would further require the Veterans Administration (VA) to administer health exams to every Fort McClellan veteran and ascertain if there is a connection between the soldiers' health issues and the toxic chemicals; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that New York State Grange supports legislation that would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish and maintain a special registry of each individual who served at Fort McClellan between 1935 and 1999 and require the VA to look into the health of any soldier who had trained and/or worked at the former Army base.

Medicare Drug Savings Act

WHEREAS, several aspects of the economy as well as the cost of prescription drugs are continuing to rise, and

WHEREAS, those on fixed incomes are already facing more and more difficult financial hardships daily; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that New York State Grange strongly supports any legislation, (i.e. Medicare Drug Savings Act), to allow Medicare to negotiate with United States pharmaceutical companies to get the lowest rates on prescription drugs as long as the quality remains the same.

Observation Stays

WHEREAS, many times mature patients are kept in a hospital for several days believing they are "admitted patients." They are placed in rooms, treated by nurses, seen by doctors and given medicine on schedule, and

WHEREAS, the hospital stay and the medicines given are covered under their Medicare coverage. In addition, Medicare requires a three day inpatient hospital stay before receiving covered care in a skilled nursing facility, and

WHEREAS, upon being released from the hospitals, many patients are finding they were not officially admitted to the hospital but rather only listed as "observation stays."

There is a loophole in the Medicare system that does not provide coverage for oral medication. Nor did this stay meet the requirements for the skilled nursing facility, and

WHEREAS, a physician should be required to disclose to the patient and their families what the status of their stay is to prevent financial hardships upon the release of the patient; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange supports legislation that would require Medicare to accept the observation period to count toward the three-day inpatient stay requirement for a patient to receive care in a skilled nursing facility. Any patient, provided a room, attended by doctors and nurses, and given medical procedures including medications, be deemed an “admitted patient” to close the loophole in Medicare and prevent unneeded financial hardships.

Older Americans Act Reauthorization

WHEREAS, the Older Americans Act (OAA), originally enacted in 1965, provided essential services for our most vulnerable seniors, such as home-delivered and congregate meals, family caregiving support, in-home assistance, preventive health, services, transportation, job training, protection from abuse, and other supportive services, that help about 11 million older adults stay as independent as possible, and

WHEREAS, the current version of the Older Americans Act expired in 2011 and it has not been reauthorized, and

WHEREAS, OAA services play a key role in delaying or preventing more costly institutional services and helping people remain in their own homes, the setting of choice for most; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange supports passage of HR 3850 (113th Congress), the Older American Act reauthorization Act of 2013 or similar legislation.

Refinancing of Student Loans

WHEREAS, students who started college in the fall of 2013 will only pay 3.89 percent interest on their student loans. Legislation set the rate last summer that tied student loan interest to the yield rate on 10-year treasury bonds. This ensures new borrowers will get accommodating interest rates, and

WHEREAS, more than \$1 trillion in prior student loan debt is currently on the books for about 40 million Americans. These loans were not offered the same low interest and most are paying double the new allowable interest, and

WHEREAS, when interest rates drop, people can refinance their homes and they can refinance their business debt. It's regarded as a smart move for any consumer or business. But student borrowers are prohibited from doing that under most programs and are falling behind in their loans, and

WHEREAS, Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) introduced new legislation (“Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act”) to allow individuals with outstanding student loan debt to refinance at lower interest rates currently offered to new borrowers; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports the Bank of Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, or similar legislation, which would allow any student loan to be refinanced at lower interest rates.

Safe Chemicals Act

WHEREAS, there are several hundred chemicals that have been identified as potential breast carcinogens, and

WHEREAS, many of them are found in the cosmetics, cleaning products, plastics and

pesticides that we are exposed to every day, and

WHEREAS, most of the chemicals found in common household and personal care products haven't been tested for their breast carcinogenicity, and

WHEREAS, the Toxic Substances Control Act that is supposed to provide this protection for the American consumer, is outdated and so badly broken that it fails to restrict even known carcinogens from the market, and

WHEREAS, the "Safe Chemicals Act" has been introduced in Congress to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act and provide the Environmental Protection Agency with the authority to protect Americans from harmful chemicals; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports the "Safe Chemicals Act" or similar legislation that would reform the Toxic Substances Control Act.

Service Dogs for Veterans

WHEREAS, evidence is accumulating that dogs work wonders when paired with members of the military with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and mental health issues arising from their military experience, and

WHEREAS, the dogs offer a return to independence that comes with improved social interactions, less panic, and reduced stress and anxiety, and

WHEREAS, organizations such as "Clear Path for Veterans," "K9s for Warriors," and "Freedom Service Dogs," are examples of organizations that will provide trained dogs to soldiers and veterans; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports legislation that would direct the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs to establish a program to award competitive grants to organizations that train and place service dogs with members of the military and veterans who have been diagnosed with military service related Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, or other physical or mental health issues related to their military experience.

Herbal Supplements

WHEREAS, herbal supplements are not regulated by the FDA (Federal Drug Administration) and other agencies that regulate prescription medications, and

WHEREAS, fillers are often used and containments; such as, having lead from contaminated soil in the supplements (especially those supplements coming from other countries) and

WHEREAS, the herbal supplements have some potential side effects and drug interactions with traditional (prescribed) medications; therefore be it

RESOLVED, National Grange supports the FDA and other agencies that regulate herbal supplements.

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 and encourages its transfer to the US Department of Education. The National Grange also suggests that the Head Start program be completely integrated into federal and state education programs and that federal level funding be supported as needed to efficiently support the 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. National Grange is opposed to any changes in the language of classic literature, with the exception of those necessary for translation from another language.

15. The National Grange opposes any legislation that may be proposed permitting or requiring non-security school staff to carry firearms while at school.

16. The National Grange urges the Federal Department of Education to encourage all local school systems to retain recess for elementary school children.

17. 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.

18. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Education to mandate that penmanship be a required course of study in early primary education.

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 legislation to repeal the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act and allow local communities to make their own guidelines on school lunches to reduce child obesity. The National Grange also encourages local communities making their own guidelines to look at alternative ways to reduce child obesity, such as how school lunches are prepared (baked vs. fried), requiring physical education classes, and eliminating unhealthy snacks and soda pop from vending machines.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

4. The National Grange supports legislation that requires coverage of infertility treatments, such as the “Family Act of 2011.”

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 “Healthcare Bill of Rights” for Americans to Congress. We support proposals for health care reform that include the following safeguards:

- a) allow patients to sue HMOs for medical malpractice;
- b) place a cap on how much an individual may sue for per medical malpractice suit, including a \$250,000 cap on malpractice awards arising from non-economic claims (i.e. pain and suffering);

- c) place a cap on malpractice awards regarding product liability;
- d) require insurance companies to provide hospital coverage for birth as deemed necessary by the doctor;
- e) establish an efficient grievance and appeal process for patients when medical procedures or payments are denied by insurance companies/HMO's;
- f) require that insurance companies cover all legally mandated medical services deemed necessary by a doctor at federal, state, or hospital levels, including preventative procedures such as Well-baby check-ups and childhood immunizations;
- g) 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 healthcare 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 believes that teeth should be declared a legitimate part of the body requiring the same comprehensive level of care and coverage as any other part of the body by health insurers and that all prosthetics, including dentures, implants, crowns, and bridge work be covered at the same rate as all other medical procedures. The National Grange also believes that dentists should be treated as any other medical specialists by both

the government and insurance carriers and reimbursed at comparable rates.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. The National Grange strongly urges hospitals to charge uninsured patients the same rates that are negotiated by insurance companies and Medicare for their clients.

11. 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).

12. The National Grange supports legislation requiring all restaurants and all public buildings to be smoke free and 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 that review health care decisions.

14. The National Grange opposes the imposition of a tax on medicine or medical supplies.

15. The National Grange supports legislation to override the 1950 Supreme Court ruling that prevents medical malpractice suits against military doctors with the exception of threat of war.

16. The National Grange opposes any legislation that would disenroll any veteran who is currently receiving health care coverage through the Veterans Administration (VA) Health Care System.

17. The National Grange supports that complete medical records be made available to

the service member at the time of separation for future Service-Connected Issues that may manifest after separation from service.

Rural and Home 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. The National Grange also supports the elimination of regulatory and statutory impediments to broaden the use of telemedicine and telehealth and institute a more uniform approach for reimbursement.
5. We encourage local Granges to present programs that educate the community about pharmaceutical assistance programs.
6. The National Grange supports preserving quality, rural home health care services provided under traditional fee-for-service Medicare by opposing the imposition of new, patient co-payment fees and the imposition of further cuts to reimbursement rates for home health care service providers.
7. The National Grange supports reinstating Medicare Advantage, alternative Medicare insurance coverage offered by private companies, which would specifically allow rural Medicare patients to voluntarily elect to use a greater proportion of their Medicare benefits for home health care expenses.
8. The National Grange supports efforts by Congress, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the home health care industry to reduce unnecessary Medicare spending on home health care services by aggressively weeding out instances of fraud, abuse and poor management practices in the home health care sector.

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 the responsible use of animals in research.
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.

11. The National Grange supports governmental efforts on the state and national level to fund research on the prevention and treatment of Lyme disease and educate the public about its prevention, detection, and treatment.

Medicare/Medicaid

1. The National Grange supports the adoption of a comprehensive health education curriculum.

2. 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 three month timeframe and (h) adequately compensate primary care physicians for non-procedural services.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. The National Grange supports the right to have a second doctor in the operating room, where medically required, for patients on Medicare.

7. The National Grange supports legislation that would give eye and dental insurance to seniors age 65 plus for those procedures that Medicare does not cover, with a co-pay/deductible for amounts over 100 dollars.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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. However, the National Grange opposes any Medicare rebate system such as the Waxman-Rockefeller tax.

11. The National Grange supports the continued process to eliminate the "donut hole" for Medicare prescription coverage.

12. The National Grange supports allowing Medicare to help cover the cost of purchasing hearing aids and eye ware. The National Grange also supports legislation to change the regulatory language that categorizes hearing aids as cosmetic devices to the category of prosthesis devices in all instances for Medicare as well as Medicare supplemental insurance.

13. The National Grange supports passage of legislation mandating the Medicare system to use an identification number other than the individual's Social Security Number.

14. 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.

15. 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 the installation and use of "induction hearing loop systems" compatible with telecoil ("T" switch) hearing aids.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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, Controlled and Toxic 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.

9. The National Grange supports aggressive enforcement of the laws to stop the import of all jewelry and any other products from foreign countries that contain highly dangerous levels of cadmium, other metals or chemicals.

10. The National Grange support legislation to prohibit the use of BPA and other similar industrial chemicals in all children's products, human food and food packaging.

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.

A sincere thanks to all the committee members input and thoughts while discussing the resolutions and policy of the education and Health Committee. It was a pleasure to work with three brand new delegates as well those returning to the committee. A special thank you to our secretary, Melanie Bostwick for her tireless efforts in keeping us on task.

Chris Johnston, Chairman, MI
Claire Logan, RI (H)
David McCord, CO
Celeste Spencer, RI

Melanie Bostwick, Secretary, KS
Cynthia Komski, CA
Kerriann Heath, NH
Brenda Rousselle, VT

GRANGE LAW COMMITTEE**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

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613	End Convention Assessment	WA	Transfer to Audit & Budget
606	Respect for the Flag in Grange Promotional Materials	OR	Transfer to Cizenship
617	Sesquicentennial Celebration	WV	Transfer to Grange Growth

POLICY STATEMENT

Just as our Ritual provides the vehicle to present and understand our teachings and principles, our codified law provides the unified structure for us to function with unity of action. Understanding why we have our code is as important as understanding the code itself. Over the past 148 years many hours have been spent by many minds crafting a document that will serve and protect the interests of all Grange levels, as well as its individual members. It is with a great deal of respect and caution that we approach the task of amending these laws, and sincerely hope that the changes made are in the best interests of the Grange as a whole.

The advent of social media has afforded the opportunity for instant communication of Grange activities and successes, as well as the opportunity to publicly criticize and condemn. While we understand that not all will ever agree with all policies and undertakings of our Order, and that constructive criticism of such is a normal part of life, we strongly oppose the posting of personal grievances, the purpose of which is to divide and destroy. As such speech, despicable as it is, is protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, we are thus powerless to stop it, but would challenge all to apply the high standards demanded by our Fraternal bonds to conduct our personal participation on social media sites accordingly.

As many Grange units have chosen to incorporate under their respective State Laws mainly for the purpose of liability protection, and that following the dissolution of these Granges by whatever means the legal corporations remain, we would recommend that State Granges investigate the Corporation Law within their respective States and seek legal counsel in relation to amending their respective by-laws to reflect the authority of the State Grange to properly address the matter.

We applaud the continuing efforts to protect our trademark, as our reputation and name is a very important aspect of our legacy and future. We would encourage contributions to the National Grange earmarked for trademark protection so that this important work can move forward.

As members we all enjoy the protection of our Digest of Laws and it is up to all of us to abide by them. Failure to do so results in strife and discontent. Let us practice our motto – In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity.

This covers: Masters Internal Address, WV-615.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Update the Grange Declaration of Purposes

WHEREAS, The Grange Declaration of Purposes was last revised at the 109th Annual Convention of the National Grange – November, 1975 at Columbus, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, laptop computers, smart phones and related means of disseminating information did not exist in 1975; and

WHEREAS, the use of communications technology has progressed far beyond television, radio and the printed word; therefore Be It

RESOLVED, that the wording of the “Education” section 2.4.5 of The Declaration of Purposes be revised to read “...such other methods as may be available, including radio, television and the internet”; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, that the delegate body of The National Grange take action to reflect this transformation of communications technology in The Grange Declaration of Purposes at the 148th Annual Convention of the National Grange – November 2014 at Sandusky, Ohio.

524 – 2013 Committee Resolution First reading

RESOLVED, that Article 4.8.2 of the National Grange Digest of Laws be changed to read:

4.8.2 (G1) For each individual Subordinate Grange member \$3.50 quarterly (\$7 for each family membership) beginning on January 1, 2015; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, that Article 8.6.1(B) be changed to read:

8.6.1.(B) Subordinate annual dues of fourteen dollars (\$14) per member of which three dollars fifty cents (\$3.50) is to be paid quarterly or twenty-eight dollars (\$28) annually for a family of which seven dollars (\$7) is to be paid quarterly beginning January 1, 2015.

This is a committee resolution.

First reading 2013

Second reading 2014 – adopted

Executive Committee Decisions in the Absence of the Master/President

WHEREAS, the National Master has ruled that an Executive Committee cannot conduct business if the President/Master is not in attendance; and

WHEREAS, sometimes emergencies may arise causing the absence of the President, but the Executive Committee as representatives of the body of the entire State or National Grange must perform the business of the Grange; Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, that the Digest of laws, chapter 4, section 4.10.6 (A) be amended as follows:

4.10.6 (A) All Granges – The duties of the members of the Executive Committee of the National Grange shall be as provided in these By-Laws and Laws of the National Grange. The duties of the members of the Executive Committees of the other Granges of the divisions of the Order shall be as provided for in these By-Laws and Laws of the National Grange, and the By-Laws and Laws of the various Granges of the divisions of the Order in which they are members.

It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committees to act for each Grange between meetings of said Granges. Actions by an Executive Committee must have the approval of the Master of each Grange, provided, however, disapproval by a Master may be overridden by a vote of two-thirds of the members of an Executive Committee.

State and National Grange Executive Committees shall be permitted to meet when the Master is unable to attend a pre-scheduled meeting, with the express consent of the Master. The Overseer will represent the Master.

This is the first reading 2014.

Incapacitation of the Master/President

WHEREAS, currently the bylaws of the National Grange do not cover procedure for operation in the absence due to health incapacitation of the President/Master; and

WHEREAS, the work of the Grange must continue in the absence of the President, it

is important to have in place a policy to provide such; Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, that the Digest of Laws of the National Grange Chapter 4, Section 4.10.8 (F) be added to read:

4.10.8 (F) In the National or State Grange, the Overseer shall assume the duties of the Master upon an absence of the Master due to incapacitation (the inability to perform the duties of office due to ill health) that would impede the business of the Grange. It will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee as their representatives to notify the Masters of all Granges as soon as possible. When the Master is able to return to duty he/she will reassume the office.

This is first reading 2014.

Allow Subordinate Granges to Set the Dues for Associate Memberships

WHEREAS a person or business with an interest in the advancement of agriculture and improvement of rural life may become an Associate Member of a Subordinate Grange; and

WHEREAS a non-profit organization may have a similar interest in said advancement of agriculture and improvement of rural life; and

WHEREAS the annual dues for Associate Members are capped by Washington State Grange and National Grange at \$50, while other membership categories have no cap; and

WHEREAS Subordinate Granges may offer benefits of Associate Membership to businesses and non-profits of a value greater than \$50, and

WHEREAS Subordinate Granges should be allowed to price an Associate Membership to reflect its value, therefore be

RESOLVED, the Digest of Laws of the National Grange, Chapter 4, article VIII, Section 4.8.2 E shall be amended to read;

4.8.2 E. Associate members – the State Grange having jurisdiction may establish the amount of Associate Member annual dues and the allocation of such dues to the affected Subordinate, Pomona, or State Grange; provided, however, that such annual dues shall be no less than the minimum dues for a regular member, of which the amount of dues paid to the National Grange shall be the same as for a regular member. The State Grange having jurisdiction over Associate Members shall report the number of such members and forward their annual dues to the Secretary of the National Grange. A dues notice shall be forwarded to all Associate Members each year by the Secretary of the Grange, Subordinate, Pomona, or State, as provided for in the By-Laws of the State Grange having jurisdiction.

This is first reading 2014 – passed by 2/3 vote.

Amend Associate Membership

WHEREAS, visitors are encouraged to attend Subordinate Grange meetings conducted in the Fourth Degree, and

WHEREAS, associate members should especially be encouraged to become active in a local Grange and to become regular members, there be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange By-Laws, Chapter 4, Section 4.6.12, be amended to remove the portion of the sentence, “attend regular Grange meetings,” leaving the remainder of the section intact, so that it will read:

“4.6.12. (paragraph 2) Such Associate Members shall pay dues as prescribed in 4.8.2 (E) and be entitled to receive State Grange information publications and participate in State Grange services as provided for by the State Grange having jurisdiction;

provided, however, that Associate Members shall not be entitled to vote on matters of Grange policy or participate in National Grange sponsored contests that are designed for Grange Members only.”

This is the second reading 2014.

Change National Grange Non-Discrimination By-Law

WHEREAS, the National Grange Non-Discrimination By-Law (Chapter 4, Article VI, Section 4.6.16) clearly states “The various Granges of the divisions of for the Order shall not discriminate with regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation or national origin.”, and

WHEREAS, federal laws have changed over the years and the National Grange is not up-to-date with its non-discrimination statement in our Constitution and By-Laws, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange amends the Non-Discrimination By-Law (Chapter 4, Article VI, Section 4.6.16) by inserting the words “physical or mental disability” so that it will read:

“4.6.16. Non-Discrimination – The various Granges of the divisions of the Order shall not discriminate with regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or national origin.”

Committee Resolution - Appeals of National Master's Rulings

Be It Resolved, that the National Grange Digest of Laws, Chapter 12, Section 12.1.4 be revised to read as follows:

12.1.4. Questions of Grange Law or Usage arising in the National Grange, or referred to the Master thereof by any officer or Delegate of the National Grange shall be decided by the Master of the National Grange subject, however, to appeal there from to the elected Officers of the Assembly of Demeter (the Assembly) whose decision thereto shall be final.

Distribution of Manuals

Be It Resolved, that the National Grange Digest of Laws, Chapter 11, Section 11.1.2 be amended to read:

11.1.2. The Degree Manuals containing the ritual for the Junior, Subordinate, Pomona and State Granges and the Assembly of Demeter shall be published only by the National Grange. The Manuals of the State Grange, National Grange, and Assembly of Demeter shall be distributed only to Masters of State Granges, National Grange, and the High Priest of the Assembly of Demeter who shall be accountable for all Manuals received by them. (Continue to end of Section.)

Committee Resolution - Delegates

BE IT RESOLVED that the following sentence be added to the end of Chapter 8, Section 8.9.1 in the National Grange Digest of Laws:

“State Granges failing to hold two (2) successive legal annual meetings may not have voting delegates to the next National Grange Session.”

Committee Resolution - Associate Member Dues

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Grange Digest of Laws, Chapter 8, Section 8.6.1 (C) be amended to read:

(C) Associate Members annual dues no less than the minimum dues for a regular member of which twenty-five percent (25 percent) shall be paid quarterly.

Committee Resolution - Seventh Degree Application Fee

BE IT RESOLVED that Chapter 4, Article VIII, Section 4.8.1 E shall be amended to read:

4.8.1 E National Grange – The application fee for membership in the National Grange shall be thirty dollars (\$30) which shall be paid to the National Grange.

This is the first reading 2014.

Rulings of the National Master

CA By-laws

Question

5.3.5 is in conflict with Nat'l By-Laws

Point 1: If you review the original By-Laws proposed by the National Grange, you will see that 5.3.5 (may be incorrectly numbered as 6.3.5) was in the copy we received from National Grange, as proposed by their attorney.

Point 2: What section of the National Grange By-Laws is this in conflict with?

Point 3: If our By-Law is permitted under California Corporation Code, and conflicts with National Grange By-Laws, does not State Law override the conflict?

Under Section 7513 of the California Corporation Code, it says:

7513. (a) Subject to subdivision (e), and unless prohibited in the articles or bylaws, any action which may be taken at any regular or special meeting of members may be taken without a meeting if the corporation distributes a written ballot to every member entitled to vote on the matter. Unless otherwise provided by the articles or bylaws and if approved by the board of directors, that ballot and any related material may be sent by electronic transmission by the corporation (Section 20) and responses may be returned to the corporation by electronic transmission to the corporation (Section 21). That ballot shall set forth the proposed action, provide an opportunity to specify approval or disapproval of any proposal, and provide a reasonable time within which to return the ballot to the corporation.

(b) Approval by written ballot pursuant to this section shall be valid only when the number of votes cast by ballot within the time period specified equals or exceeds the quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the action, and the number of approvals equals or exceeds the number of votes that would be required to approve at a meeting at which the total number of votes cast was the same as the number of votes cast by ballot.

(c) Ballots shall be solicited in a manner consistent with the requirements of subdivision (b) of Section 7511 and Section 7514. All such solicitations shall indicate the number of responses needed to meet the quorum requirement and, with respect to ballots other than for the election of directors, shall state the percentage of approvals necessary to pass the measure submitted. The solicitation must specify the time by which the ballot must be received in order to be counted.

(d) Unless otherwise provided in the articles or bylaws, a written ballot may not be revoked.

Ruling Answer

Point 1. I do apologize for missing that section. Multiple versions were being circulated between myself and our general counsel and I must have missed it.

However that section should not have been in it. It is appropriate as a procedure for an Executive Committee/Board in the conducting of business, but not as part of the Grange

formal meeting and the conducting of business there.

Point 2. 1.1.1(D) of the Constitution defines State Granges as delegate bodies.

Section 4.6.9 of the By-Laws defines State Granges as delegate bodies and they are composed of two classes of members.

Section 4.6.9 (A) of the By-Laws defines the voting members who "...shall be delegates to the Annual Meeting of a State Grange..."

Section 4.7.1 of the By-Laws clearly defines the voting rights of members or delegates. "...by a majority vote of members or Delegates present and voting at such meeting..." is the specific language contained within that section.

Section 4.9.4 of the By-Laws defines meetings of the State Grange which consist of Annual and special meetings.

Section 8.2.1 of the State Grange Code clearly states that State Granges are delegate bodies.

Past rulings by the currently National Master and his predecessors all concur that State Granges are, as delegate bodies, deliberative in nature. The opportunity for discussion and debate prior to a vote is an essential part of the function of a delegate body.

Worthy Master Richardson ruled on a similar provision that was contained in the Oregon State Grange By-Laws in the late 1990's and ruled it out of order as it was in direct conflict with the Digest. This ruling was allowed to stand by the Delegates at the following National Session.

Point 3. As the California Non-Profit Code has been explained to me by counsel, there is a great deal of direction, administrative function, and regulation as well as clauses which allow organizations to have their own rules as long as they are properly adopted. The California Non-Profit Code does allow organizations like the Grange to have mutually agreed upon rules that allow a parent to impose certain rules not contained in the Non-Profit Code upon a subordinate.

Section 4.7.1 of the By-Laws does allow other procedures, such as in the section of the proposed By-Laws in question when "required by state or federal law".

Based upon the information above, I therefore rule that Point 1 is not a question but an acknowledgement that errors do occur. That Point 2, the proposed 5.3.5 is in direct conflict with the language, intent, and practices of the National Grange Digest of laws and cannot be placed in the By-Laws of the State Grange.

California Code quotes in Point 3 e), and unless prohibited in the articles or bylaws which demonstrate that it is not a requirement of state law under all circumstances. Since that process is prohibited in our By-Laws it would not be a requirement for the State Grange.

However, if requested, I will seek a formal legal opinion from the National Grange General Counsel on that portion of California law and abide by that decision.

Interest Use of Funds from Closed Granges

Question

A long-time Grange in Idaho, Locust Grove, closed this spring. Don Johnson acted as a Special Deputy to facilitate this closing. They had sold their Hall sometime ago to a church and they have been making payments ever since, which amount to approximately \$1,600 a month. About \$1,300 of this is still interest. This 30 year contract is being carried by the Idaho State Grange and there is still a balance more than \$270,000 that the church owes.

Don Johnson told me he contacted you with regard to what the State Grange may do with the interest income and his understanding is that the State Grange may use the interest, but must deposit the principal to a trust account. Currently we are depositing the net proceeds (principal) to the trust account, which we know must be maintained for 7 (seven) years.

Ruling

The correct procedure is located in 4.12.1. While the Community Grange was active, the provisions of 4.11.1 were the applicable procedure. Upon either the surrendering of the Charter or the revocation of the Charter section 12 becomes the only applicable procedure.

4.12.1 (A) clearly states that principle portion of the payments from the previous sale are placed in the trust for the seven year period. The income, which is the interest portion, belongs to the State Grange.

If after the seven year trust period has expired and the State Grange has failed to reorganize the Community Grange, all money, both principle and interest portions of the payments will belong to the State Grange.

Retro-active Collection of Dues of the State Portion

We need a ruling on the retro-active collection of Dues of the state portion –

Are we entitled to collect STATE dues from 11/13 – 7/12 from subordinate Granges (which includes 2nd Q '14)

A. Dues, GIA monies, and other funds collected by the National Grange following the suspension of the Charter on September 17, 2012 through the notification of the disaffiliation of the former CSG on November 8, 2013.

Upon advice of counsel, these funds must be held in trust by the National Grange until the current case in State Court is resolved.

B. Dues, GIA monies, and other funds collected by the National Grange from November 9, 2013 to July 12, 2014

Dues, GIA monies and other funds for the fourth quarter of 2013 are to be prorated (92 days from Oct 1 through December 31 with 39 days [42.39% or \$12,240] from October 1 to November 8 and 53 days from [57.61% or \$16,635]) November 9 to December 31.) The 57.61% will be forwarded to the reorganized CSG and the 42.39% will be retained in the trust fund until the current case in State Court is resolved.

Dues, GIA monies and other funds for the first and second quarters of 2014 will be forwarded to the reorganized CSG.

GIA	2013 4th quarter	\$16,635.00
	2013 4th quarter	\$28,875.00
	2013 4th quarter	\$28,875.00
	Total	\$74,385.00

C. Dues, GIA monies and other funds after July 12, 2014

All dues monies for the CSG received after the reorganization is complete shall be forwarded to the reorganized CSG. GIA monies shall be forwarded to the reorganized CSG at the same time as the monies are forwarded to the other western states.

D. Dues from Granges that have not paid dues to the National Grange.

The reality of this situation is that the rules do not consider the current situation. Granges are normally in good standing until their Charter is suspended or revoked. However, the claims, statements, and actions of the former CSG have confused the issue for some, if not most, Community Granges. Until the current case in State Court is resolved, the issue of delinquent dues should not be the sole cause of suspension or revocation of a Community Grange Charter once the CSG is reorganized.

1. Our Grange rules and common sense show that the Granges that have paid dues to the National Grange for the fourth quarter of 2013 (due in February) and the first quarter of 2014 (due in April) are current and are in good standing or active. To remain current, the quarterly report, a complete membership and officer list, and dues must be submitted each

quarter as provided in the By-Laws.

2. Any Community Grange that has paid dues to the National Grange, but is currently delinquent must submit the required quarterly reports, a complete membership and officers list, and the dues as applicable from the point where their delinquency begins: third and fourth quarter dues from 2012 and first quarter dues from 2013 (Total State Dues); second, third, and fourth quarter 2013 and first and second quarter 2014 (National Grange dues) to the State Grange in order to recover their good standing status. To remain current, the quarterly report and dues must be submitted each quarter as provided in the By-Laws.

3. Any Community Grange that has paid dues to the National Grange, but is currently reporting and paying dues to the former CSG must cease paying dues to the former CSG. The Grange must verify the amount and dates of payments to the former CSG since the third quarter of 2012 to the date they request to rejoin the reorganized CSG. Upon submission of the required quarterly report, a complete membership and officers list, and the dues for that quarter, they shall be considered in good standing in the reorganized CSG. To remain current, the quarterly report and dues must be submitted each quarter as provided in the By-Laws.

4. Any Community Grange that has not been paying dues to the National Grange or to the former CSG must pay their back dues as applicable above in order to return to good standing as an active Grange. Upon submission of the required quarterly reports, a complete membership and officers list, and the dues they shall be considered in good standing. To remain current, the quarterly report and dues must be submitted each quarter as provided in the By-Laws.

5. Any Community Grange that has been paying dues to the former CSG must cease paying dues to the former CSG. They must verify that the amount and dates of payments since the third quarter of 2012 to the date they request to rejoin the reorganized CSG. Upon submission of the required quarterly report, a complete membership and officers list, and the dues for that quarter, they shall be considered in good standing in the reorganized CSG. To remain current, the quarterly report and dues must be submitted each quarter as provided in the By-Laws.

6. Administration

The State Grange will forward the National portion of any collected back dues with their regular quarterly report.

Any Community Grange in good standing in the reorganized CSG that reports to or makes payment of dues to the former CSG shall be considered in violation of the laws and usages of the Order, which places the Charter of such Grange in jeopardy.

Community Granges that have reported and paid dues to the former CSG shall not be liable for those back dues to the reorganized CSG upon rejoining the reorganized CSG. The Community Grange must provide amounts, dates and prove payment of said dues paid to the former CSG to the reorganized CSG.

The National Grange shall assist by making rulings to clarify Grange law and provide assistance where possible to the reorganized CSG. The reorganized CSG shall develop and implement within Grange law and Federal and State law, procedures and practices to carry out the requirements of the Constitution, By-Laws, Code, and rulings of the National Grange and the By-Laws of the reorganized CSG.

Seating of Delegates at the National Grange Session

Question

Given the South Carolina State Grange is undergoing an unusual transition not well

covered by the national digest, what is the status of South Carolina's seat in the delegate body of the National Grange?

Ruling

Worthy Master,

4.8.2 (G), 8. 9.1, and 9.4.1 are the governing sections of the Digest dealing with the seating of delegates at the National Grange. The first two deal strictly with the payment of dues and the latter deals with the number of Granges and the number of delegates allowed by the State Grange.

At no point does the Digest cover the issue of what the consequences are when a State Grange has paid their dues and has 6 or more Community Granges with active Charters but has had no annual Session due to a lack of quorum.

The current situation is that the South Carolina Grange has failed to have a quorum for two annual Sessions (2013 & 2014), yet is working to resolve the problem. In this case, suspension or revocation of the State Grange Charter would not aid in revitalizing the State Grange or to aid in revitalization efforts at the Community and Pomona Grange levels in South Carolina.

It is clear from reading the Digest that intent is the only guide available to us. It is also clear from the Digest that State Granges are delegate bodies. These delegates meet in annual Session for policy development, review of rules, and election of officers.

The National Grange delegate body is clearly to be made up of the representatives of the State Granges and those State Granges that are not in compliance with the requirements and intent of the Digest, specifically in holding State Grange Delegate Sessions, should not be a voting part of the National Grange delegate body.

As the South Carolina has failed to meet for two years, I therefore rule that the South Carolina State Grange is not entitled to have representatives seated as voting Delegates at the 2014 Annual National Grange Session. Due to their efforts to revitalize their Community Granges and their State Grange in order to meet all of the requirements of the Digest, if the State Master wishes to attend the Session in November, without National Grange expense, he may be seated as an honorary (non-voting) Delegate.

I do commend the officers and members of the South Carolina State Grange for recognizing the problem facing them and for their efforts to work together, with the National Grange, and their neighboring Grange States to resolve the current situation.

What to do with those Granges that do not choose to return to the Grange organization voluntarily or willfully oppose the provisions of the National Grange Digest and the By-Laws of the California State Grange.

My previous ruling on how to reintegrate Community and Pomona California Granges into the Grange structure covered those Granges that voluntarily chose to come back.

Your question of what to do with those Granges that do not choose to return to the Grange organization voluntarily or willfully oppose the provisions of the National Grange Digest and the By-Laws of the California State Grange.

The reality of the current situation is that Bob McFarland and his leadership team have spread misinformation through a variety of means throughout the State of California. The National Grange has filed two lawsuits against them, one in state court to require them to follow the rules that they had agreed to when they became members and officers of the Grange, and one in federal court for trademark infringement and counterfeiting. McFarland and his supporters have filed countersuits against the National Grange as well as against individuals in which he is seeking money.

As of July 12, the State Grange was reorganized and is now the only State Grange in

California recognized by the National Grange. As such, it is invested with the responsibilities, obligations, and authority delegated to State Granges by the National Grange Digest of Laws. Its duly elected Master and Executive Committee, recognized by the National Grange, are Ed Kowski, Lillian Booth, Bob Clouse, Johnny Squires, and Inger Bevins.

It is reasonable that the Community and Pomona Granges of California be given time to understand what the reorganization of the State Grange means. All Granges desiring to remain a part of the Grange organization should make their quarterly reports and payment of dues to the State Grange, as per the State Grange By-Laws, at the conclusion of the third quarter (September 30 close). The State Grange has the obligation to inform the Community Granges during the third quarter of the processes with which they are required to comply.

The Digest is very clear that any Grange that is in violation of the law and usages of the Order places their Charter in jeopardy of Suspension or Revocation. However, common sense would expect that if a Grange is in violation of the Digest because of inaccurate information given to them, they should be given opportunity to learn the facts before action is taken. The discretion and responsibility for providing that opportunity rests with the State Grange Master.

I would recommend that the State Grange Master ensure that each Community Grange is informed, in writing, of any violation of Grange law or usages and the consequences of continued violation. The State Master should exercise his best efforts to ensure that members of all such Community Granges are aware of the complete situation.

I would suggest that when the State Grange Master is satisfied that all reasonable effort has been made to inform the Community Grange of the rules of the Grange in this situation and potential consequences, he should seek to get any refusal to abide by the Digest of Laws and the By-Laws of the State Grange in writing from the Community Grange.

If such a refusal to abide by the rules is received, a proposal for sale, at fair market value, of real property owned by the Community Grange, and the return of all funds and Grange paraphernalia to the State Grange, to be held in trust, may be made to those individuals desiring to leave the Grange organization in accordance with the prohibition under Grange, state, and federal law of the conversion of property and assets.

If such a proposal is accepted by the Community Grange, the Charter would be revoked and the proposal acted upon pursuant to the Digest of Laws.

If the Community Grange fails to communicate with the State Grange Master or refuses to acknowledge the authority of the National Grange Digest and the State Grange By-Laws as required by their Charter, the State Grange Master must use his discretion regarding the Suspension or Revocation of the Charters of such Grange.

Suspension of the Charter would be the appropriate action if the State Grange Master believes that there is hope that the Community Grange will abide by the rules of the Order upon completion of the court cases. I would suggest that the Executive Committee set the period of Suspension to no later than November 1, 2015, as the Court Cases should be completed by then.

Revocation of the Charter would be the appropriate action when the State Grange Master believes that there is no reasonable hope exists for the Community Grange to comply with and abide by the National Grange Digest of Laws and the Charted California State Grange Bylaws now or in the future.

The same process should be used when dealing with Pomona Granges.

The National Grange believes that Grange law is in compliance with state and federal law and no communication or court filing has stated what section of Grange law is in

conflict with any specific state or federal law to support the disregard of the Digest by any Grange in California.

Cooperation ruling request

Worthy Master,

In answer to your request for rulings dated September 12, 2014, the following are the rulings I have made or confirmation that such actions took place in a proper manner.

#1. The Charter of the California State Grange was duly and properly suspended on September 17, 2012 for cause as specified in the suspension letter. The Executive Committee of the National Grange approved and set the period of suspension for a period of six months or until the Grange was restored to working order. 4.5.10 defines the term suspension.

#2. The Charter of the California State Grange was duly and properly revoked on April 5, 2013 for cause as specified in the revocation letter. On May 6, 2013 a letter was sent to the California State Grange leadership reminding them of the provision to appeal the revocation and the time limit set by the Digest for such appeals. There was no appeal by June 10, 2013 so therefore the revocation stood. 4.5.11 defines the term revocation. Although this was not necessary for purpose of following our rules, the former California State Grange sent a letter to the National Grange dated November 8, 2013, that “the California State Grange amended our By-Laws to acknowledge that we are no longer affiliated with the National Grange.”

#3. The California State Grange was duly and properly reorganized on July 12, 2014 by the National Grange as per 4.3.3 of the Digest. The officers-elect were then duly installed and the Charter presented to the new Master on behalf of the State Grange. The said reorganization was completed within the seven year trust period.

#4. The National Grange recognizes the duly and properly elected and installed officers of the Executive Committee of the California State Grange as Master, Ed Kowski; Secretary, Lillian Booth; Executive Committee Members, Bob Clouse, Johnny Squire, Inger Bevans.

#5. The reorganized California State Grange was properly incorporated as “The Grange of the State of California’s Order of Patrons of Husbandry, Chartered” as the former California State Grange has not relinquished the name “The California State Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry” as required when the Charter was revoked on April 5, 2013.

The reorganized State Grange, as of July 12, 2014, is the only State Grange recognized by the National Grange which is the sole and only entity authorized to charter Junior, Subordinate/Community, Pomona, or State Granges as per 1.4.1 of the Digest of Laws. As the only recognized State Grange in California, the California State Grange is the only entity that is entitled to be incorporated as a State Grange in California. The Digest repeatedly refers to organization or reorganization of the State Grange and 4.3.8 clarifies by using the phrase “a State Grange” reinforcing the understanding that there may be only one State Grange within the borders of a state.

#6. The By-Laws of the reorganized State Grange were approved by the National Grange Master as being in compliance with, and having no section in conflict with, the Digest of Laws of the National Grange on July 12, 2014.

#7. The draft plan or strategy as presented by the California State Grange’s counsel generally matches the plan or strategy as developed by the National Grange’s counsel and both will be in agreement as to the necessary course of action.

#8. The National Grange General Counsel, in conjunction with our Trademark Counsel, and California Counsel and the reorganized California State Grange Counsel have devel-

oped and recommends a legal plan of action which includes the State Grange intervening in the California State lawsuit that the National Grange has filed. While this strategy has been presented to the National Grange Executive Committee, they have not chosen to act on this plan at this time. This plan is a refinement of a currently approved plan, but does contain new actions.

Per the Digest of Laws, the National Grange has an obligation to enforce the provisions of the Digest, including the sections dealing with the assets, both intellectual and financial, and the property, both real and personal in cases where the Charter of a State Grange is revoked or surrendered. Article 5 of the By-Laws clearly provides the criteria for suspension or revocation of a Charter, an appeal process for such actions, and the disposition of assets. 4.12.2 (A) and (B) clearly state that when a State Grange is reorganized the assets and property are to be turned over to the reorganized State Grange. If there is an ongoing legal conflict over recovery of assets and/or property, the reorganization of a State Grange does not relieve the National Grange of its obligations to protect and or recover the assets of the Order.

The State Grange has the same obligation to enforce the provisions of the National Grange Digest as well as the provisions of the State Grange By-Laws. However, the State Grange is not obligated to intervene by the Digest of Laws, and is only obligated by the State Grange By-Laws to intervene when requested.

I am advised by counsel that the intervention should take place in the very near future, and that all counsel will come to an agreement as to when the Intervention and Complaint should be filed in the current California state case. The reorganized State Grange may chose to intervene in the state case without a request or pre-approval from the National Grange in their interest of protecting any assets and property that may be due to them as a reorganized State Grange.

#9. The reorganized California State Grange By-Laws clearly state in 2.1.3 and 2.1.4 that the State Grange has a duty to cooperate with the National Grange in situations such as what current exist in the State of California. While a legal situation such as currently exists in California is not covered specifically by the Digest of Laws, the Digest clearly and in multiple places speaks of cooperation and harmony among the divisions of the Order. It is my opinion that the National Grange has an ethical and fraternal obligation to indemnify the reorganized State Grange of California in any agreed-upon intervention seeking to protect the rules and structure of the Order.

All documents referenced or quoted in this ruling are available for review.

Trust Fund Ruling Request

Worthy Master,

In answer to your request for rulings dated September 12, 2014, the following are the rulings I have made or confirmation that such actions took place in a proper manner.

#1. Yes, the Charter of the California State Grange was duly and properly suspended, as per previous ruling.

#2. Yes, the Charter of the California State Grange was duly and properly revoked, as per previous ruling.

#3. The Digest of laws 4.12.2 (A) and 4.5.9 clearly states that the net assets and property owned by a State Grange which surrenders its Charter or otherwise becomes inactive shall become the property of the National Grange and be held in trust for the benefit of the Inactive State Grange until said State Grange is reorganized. "Otherwise Inactive" includes the revocation process as defined in 4.5.7.

#4. Yes, the California State Grange was duly and properly reorganized, as per previous ruling.

#5. Yes, the duly and properly elected and installed officers of the Executive Committee are identified as per previous ruling.

#6. Yes, the reorganized California State Grange is the only State Grange in California authorized by the National Grange as per previous ruling.

#7. The Digest of Laws, 4.12.2 (B) clearly states that “If the Inactive State Grange is reorganized within a period of seven years ... then all trust property shall revert to the re-organized Grange, and the trust shall terminate.”

#8. Upon review by our general counsel and having been given a legal opinion on your request, it is my finding that the requirements of the Digest and the issues currently being litigated in California court are do not prevent the disbursement of funds that you have requested.

In an abundance of prudence, however, the National Grange will keep in trust the amount of funds we hold that constitute California State dues money that was collected prior to November 8, 2013 until the resolution of the legal cases, both by and against the National Grange.

All other monies, including the funds from the G.I.A. Marketing Services Agreement, will be returned to the reorganized California State Grange as per the requirements of the National Grange Digest of Laws.

Authority over handling very large sums of matured invested funds

Question

I would like your ruling on whether or not a State Grange’s Delegate Body has authority over that State Grange’s Executive Committee in handling very large sums of its matured invested funds (Inactive Grange Trust funds which have passed the seven year period) which some are attempting to resolve that the Delegate Body give those large sums to an entity with a record of operating well under a profit margin.

Ruling

Worthy Master,

1.10.1 “...the real and personal property of said Grange shall be retained by the Order for use in accordance with the general purposes of the Order...”

1.11.4 “...When a Grange (other than the National Grange) of any of the divisions of the Order is dissolved or ceases to function for any reason, the net assets of that Grange shall be retained by the Order for use in accordance with the general purposes of the Order...”

Declaration of Purposes 2.2.3 “...and to make our Order perpetual.”

4.12.1 “...The net assets of Inactive Granges shall be retained by the Order for use in accordance with the general purposes of the Order...”

4.12.1 (B) “However, if the Inactive Grange is not reorganized within such period of time the trust shall terminate and all former trust property held for the account of said Inactive Grange shall become the property of the State Grange with both legal title and all beneficial interest therein accruing to the State Grange. The former trust property so accruing to the State Grange shall be used in accordance with the general purposes of the Order.”

If I understand your question, the answer is that Inactive Grange Trusts which pass the 7-year period, (4.12.1 (B) “... or such additional period of time as the State Grange may determine...” shall terminate and the funds become the property of the State Grange. From that point on, the funds are part of the State Grange funds, owned by the State Grange and not held for others, and subject to the repeated instructions to be retained by the Order for

use in accordance with the general purposes of the Order.

The Executive Committee is charged with the authority to manage the State Granges' invested funds, but they cannot overrule the delegates of the State Grange. However, neither the Executive Committee nor the Delegates may ignore the repeated instruction that such funds and property of the Grange be used in accordance with the general purposes of the Order. While this phrase is quite broad, in the Declaration of Purposes the statement is made that we strive to make our Order perpetual. Giving substantial percentages of Grange money to any entity, which includes closely held entities such as Foundations, normally do not further the goal of making our Order perpetual. This gives a great deal more direction to the repeated phrase of the general purposes. Of course the common practice of supporting scholarship programs and a myriad of other beneficial causes do meet the broad guidelines of the general purposes. The real question is, at what point does supporting a good cause become an action that violates the stated purpose of making our Order perpetual?

The giving of any money to an entity that is operating with regular losses is permissible, but those authorizing such distribution should use sound business acumen to prevent money and resources from being needlessly wasted.

Masters, Executive Committees, and Delegates each have to use their judgment of what is best for the Order. History shows that Delegates can and have made mistakes in the use of Grange money, as the Delegates often fail to consider the fiduciary responsibilities that they have to the Order in the heat of passionate debate. History also shows that even Executive Committees have made errors in the management of Grange funds and property.

It would fall to the State Grange Master to rule whether any such motion or resolution is improper and violates the repeated statement "shall be used in accordance with the general purposes of the Order" and the Digest offers no guidance of what is appropriate in either amount or percentage of funds. Any such ruling would necessarily be subjective of the opinion of the Master making such a ruling. This may be a matter needing clarification within the Digest.

Family Membership Definition

Question

Would you please provide a ruling on the OSG By-Laws Section 4.4.3 where Family membership is defined as a "husband and wife" etc. The National Grange uses the words "a couple." Our Executive Committee sees this as a conflict that may need to be changed.

Ruling

OSG By-Laws

4.4.3 A family shall consist of a husband and wife and their dependents or a single person and their dependents. Dependents are defined as children, grandchildren or great grandchildren under the age of 23 and children who live as a member of the same household or in absence due to illness, education or military service. Foster, adopted or stepchildren and other legal dependents under the age of 23 shall be considered as part of their legal guardians' family.

The Digest states in 4.6.5 (B) that "A family shall consist of a couple and their dependents, or a single person and their dependents. Dependents are defined as children, grandchildren, foster, adopted or step-children under the age of 23, who live as a member of the same household or in absence due to illness, education or military service. Legal dependents of any age shall be considered part of their legal guardians' family.

There are but two differences between the Oregon State Grange By-Laws and the By-Laws of the National Grange in the Digest of Laws.

The first is “husband and wife” and “couple” and the second is the last sentence of the section in the Digest. The second difference is not an issue as the Digest is the supreme law and the Oregon By-Laws do not conflict with it.

The first difference is a conflict with the Digest. A husband and wife are a couple, but a couple may include many other options including members living together outside matrimonial bonds. I would therefore rule that the Oregon State Grange Master shall bring the Oregon State Grange By-Laws into compliance with the National Grange Digest of Laws by substituting the language of the Digest “couple” for the current language of the OSG By-Laws “husband and wife” and reporting said action to the delegates at the next Oregon State Grange Session. Any other action would require that the section be declared in conflict with the Digest and removed from the By-Laws.

Disposition of Assets/Property Funds

Question

There are presently a few Granges in New York State that have sold their property and thus have funds held by us in trust that are in arrears for dues.

Would it be proper for us to withhold their quarterly interest payments until such time as they meet their obligations. We have an idea that some of these Granges have not met, thus the fate of the payments is unknown, not that any of them represent large sums of money.

My question arises from the aspect that the funds are not ours. We are not proposing to pay the dues owed from these funds.

Ruling

Worthy Master,

The three sections dealing with your question are:

4.5.4 Disposition of Assets

4.12.1 Property

4.11.1 (H) Property Funds

If a Grange with property funds held by the State Grange on their behalf requested payment of their back dues and could show that dues had been collected but expended for an emergency or unusual reason, they would be entitled to request those funds from the State Grange Executive Committee. However, the State Grange Executive Committee would need to make the determinate if that request met the intent of 4.11.1 (H).

The State Grange is not entitled to collect debt from these funds without the request of the Grange which owns these funds. The income is also clearly the property of the Grange which owns these funds. While the State Grange may retain, up to 10% of the income as per the Digest, the remainder is due the Grange which owns the funds.

However, when the Grange in question is also in arrears for dues or other causes, they place their Charter in jeopardy per 4.5.1

During a suspension of the Charter, payment of the income from an account as covered by 4.11.1 (H) would also be suspended.

Following a revocation of the Charter, 4.5.4 requires the financial obligations of the Grange to be met. As the funds are transferred from a property trust fund to an inactive Grange trust fund, the Executive Committee would need to vote to follow the Digest rules requiring the obligations of that former Grange to be met. Such financial obligations would include back dues owned to the State Grange, especially as the State Grange has already expended the money for dues to National Grange on behalf of the members of that Grange.

I hope that this ruling clarifies the procedures of the Digest for you.

My sincere thanks go to the entire Grange Law Committee for their attention to the business of our assigned responsibility. I would especially like to thank my secretary, Betsy Huber for her hard work in recording our actions, which usually ended up being changed several times. A thank you is also in order to the members of the National Staff for their valuable input into our discussions and decision making.

Ed Komski, (CA)

Marie Nicholson, (MT)

Susan Noah, (OR)

Roger Bostwick, (KS) (H)

Cindy Greer, (CO)

Chris Heath, (NH)

Bruce Croucher, (NY) (H)

Betsy Huber, Secretary, (PA)

Fraternally,
Stephen C. Coye (NY)
Chairman

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

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104	Location Sites for National Grange Sessions	TX	Adopted
515	Memorial to Brother Ted H. Doane	GGD	Adopted
516	National Grange Sesquicentennial Committee	GGD	Adopted
502	Digital Manuals	MA	Adopted as Amended
505	Grange Radio Board of Directors	MN	Adopted as Amended
506	Marketing Opportunities	NJ	Adopted as Amended
507	Explore Issuance of Commemorative Coin Honoring Grange's Sesquicentennial	OR	Adopted as Amended
508	Increase Identification of Grange Licensees	OR	Adopted as Amended
510	Closed Captioning of National Grange Videos	VT	Adopted as Amended
511	Distribution Date for National Activities and Contests	WA	Adopted as Amended
513	Family Status for Youth Members	IL	Adopted as Amended
103	Recording Degree Work	PA	Adverse
501	Grange Secret Work	ID	Adverse
504	Requirements for Grange Family Membership	MI	Adverse
514	Horizon Leadership Ambassador Age Limit	IL	Policy Statement
617	Susquicentennial Celebration	WV	Policy Statement
503	Use of National Grange Membership List	MA	Transferred
512	Junior Grange Membership	WA	Transferred
509	Honorary Membership Card	PA	Withdrawn

POLICY STATEMENT

Just as our Ritual provides the vehicle to present and understand our teachings and principles, our codified law provides the unified structure for us to function with unity of action. Understanding why we have our code is as important as understanding the code itself. Over the past 148 years many hours have been spent by many minds crafting a document that will serve and protect the interests of all Grange levels, as well as its individual members. It is with a great deal of respect and caution that we approach the task of amending these laws,

and sincerely hope that the changes made are in the best interests of the Grange as a whole.

The advent of social media has afforded the opportunity for instant communication of Grange activities and successes, as well as the opportunity to publicly criticize and condemn. While we understand that not all will ever agree with all policies and undertakings of our Order, and that constructive criticism of such is a normal part of life, we strongly oppose the posting of personal grievances, the purpose of which is to divide and destroy. As such speech, despicable as it is, is protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, we are thus powerless to stop it, but would challenge all to apply the high standards demanded by our Fraternal bonds to conduct our personal participation on social media sites accordingly.

As many Grange units have chosen to incorporate under their respective State Laws mainly for the purpose of liability protection, and that following the dissolution of these Granges by whatever means the legal corporations remain, we would recommend that State Granges investigate the Corporation Law within their respective States and seek legal counsel in relation to amending their respective by-laws to reflect the authority of the State Grange to properly address the matter.

We applaud the continuing efforts to protect our trademark, as our reputation and name is a very important aspect of our legacy and future. We would encourage contributions to the National Grange earmarked for trademark protection so that this important work can move forward.

As members we all enjoy the protection of our Digest of Laws and it is up to all of us to abide by them. Failure to do so results in strife and discontent. Let us practice our motto – In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity.

This covers: Masters Internal Address, WV-615.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Location Sites for National Grange Sessions

WHEREAS, every 5 years each region must host the National Grange Session, and

WHEREAS, currently the National Grange Master, Executive Committee, and National Staff select the site of the session without any input from the State Grange Masters in the region; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the State Grange Masters in the region be consulted and given an opportunity to provide input about the location for the National Grange Session before the location site is selected.

Digital Manuals

RESOLVED, that the National Grange create a digital edition of the Manual of Grange ritual for the Junior, Subordinate and Pomona Granges.

Grange Radio Board of Directors

WHEREAS the National Grange has recently launched the online Grange Radio station; and

WHEREAS Grange Radio has the potential to reach a wider audience than the National Grange is currently able to do, which could result in membership growth throughout the country; and

WHEREAS Grange Radio needs to have quality programming, a defined mission and measurable goals so that Grange members can be assured that Grange Radio represents the Grange in the best possible way; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Master appoint a Grange Radio Board of Directors consist-

ing of a representative of Grange Radio staff, a National Grange staff member and a representative from each of the regions defined by National Grange to oversee Grange Radio.

Marketing Opportunities

WHEREAS, the National Grange has spent a amount of money protecting the various trademarks of the National Grange, which includes our logos, terms and other intellectual property of the Grange, and

WHEREAS, the National Grange has entered into licensing agreements with various companies and businesses who desire to use the valuable name of the Grange in promotion of their business, and

WHEREAS, the licensing agreements provide an additional revenue stream to the National Grange, and

WHEREAS, there are undoubtedly many companies and corporations that would potentially license the Grange name for promotion of products, and

WHEREAS, companies and businesses may not be aware that the Grange is open to licensing the name for the promotion of products and businesses, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange Executive Committee investigate partnerships to create licensing agreement opportunities for the National Grange, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that a report be made to the delegates at the 149th annual session of the National Grange.

Explore Issuance of Commemorative Coin Honoring Grange's Sesquicentennial

WHEREAS Congress authorizes the issuance of commemorative coins, for a limited time, that celebrate and honor American people, places, events and institutions; and

WHEREAS the United States Mint modern commemorative program began in 1982, the surcharges of which promote various programs; and

WHEREAS the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, commonly known as the Grange, will be celebrating it sesquicentennial in 2017; and

WHEREAS this important historical, and cultural heritage event should be recognized by the government and honored with a United States commemorative coin; and

WHEREAS it appears that our subject matter falls within the guidelines for issuing a commemorative coin; and

WHEREAS it is imperative that the lengthy process for approving, producing and distributing a commemorative coin begin now. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange support an act of Congress requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a commemorative coin in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry; and be it further

RESOLVED that any profits or surcharge collected from the sale of the coins to go toward an appropriate program or purpose specified in the enabling legislation.

Increase Identification of Grange Licensees

WHEREAS the National Grange licenses other businesses to use the Grange name; and

WHEREAS some of these licenses are into perpetuity and some are for a specific length of time; and

WHEREAS there is no easily accessible list of who the National Grange has licensed; and

WHEREAS the National and State Granges are missing an opportunity to market themselves to the communities where these business are located; and

WHEREAS Grange members would likely patronize businesses that are licensed to

use the Grange name if they were aware of them, therefore be it

RESOLVED that current Grange licensed businesses, listed by state, be easily accessible on the National Grange website.

Closed Captioning of National Grange Videos

WHEREAS, present videos produced by the National Grange do not have closed captioning, and

WHEREAS, such closed captioning would benefit members with hearing disorders, and

WHEREAS, many of these presentations promote the Grange and may be used in Fair Booths and in Grange meetings, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange research the possibility of including Closed Captioning in National Grange produced videos.

Distribution Date for National Activities and Contests

RESOLVED, that all activities and contests from National Grange departments be released by November 1st for the upcoming year, to allow for adequate promotion of these programs at state and local levels.

Family Status for Youth Members

WHEREAS, the current rule for the National Grange Youth Officer Team states single youth applicants must not have become pregnant nor have children during their term of service, and

WHEREAS, the Grange as a family organization should be supporting single parents regardless of circumstances, therefore be it

RESOLVED any qualified youth regardless of family status be eligible for any and all National Grange Youth Programs.

Memorial to Brother Ted H. Doane

WHEREAS Brother Ted H. Doane was the Master of the Nebraska State Grange at the time of his death on February 18, 2014; and

WHEREAS Brother Ted H. Doane served as a delegate to the National Grange from the state of Nebraska for two (2) years, 2012-2013; and

WHEREAS Brother Ted H. Doane was the consummate educator who had a great passion for assisting young people, both inside and outside the Grange, to reach their potential; therefore be it

RESOLVED that we, the Delegates at the 148th Annual Convention of the National Grange, pause for a moment of silence in memory of our Worthy Brother Ted H. Doane to say “well done good and faithful servant;” and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution become part of the permanent record of the 148th Annual Convention.

National Grange Sesquicentennial Committee

RESOLVED that this delegate body charge Worthy Master Luttrell to appoint a committee to fundraise, plan and implement sesquicentennial celebratory and educational programming for the 150th and 151st annual sessions of the National Grange; and be it further

RESOLVED that this committee be appointed by the close of 2014.

My sincere thanks goes out to the members of the committee, especially our Secretary Christine Hamp. I would also like to thank Samantha Johnson and Leroy Watson for offering their input on the items brought to our committee, to Michael Martin for being our committee liaison, and to all of the National Grange staff that go above and beyond to ensure the success of the National Session.

Fraternally Submitted,

Kathy Baldwin, Chairwoman (IA)
Helen Lynch (DE)
Donna Wiles (MD)
Jack Smithers (TX)
Stephen Logan (RI)(H)

Christine Hamp, Secretary (WA)
Nathan Strawder (KS)
Matt Johnson (MA)
Duane Scott (WI)
T.J. Malaskee (John Trimble Youth)

LABOR, JUDICIARY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
706	Jamming of Radio Transmissions of Emergency Responders	NY	Adopted
707	Social Security for Illegal Immigrants	NY	Adopted
711	Easily Fastened Seatbelts For All	OR	Adopted
712	Increase Railroad Safety Standards for Oil Shipments	OR	Adopted
208	Broadcast carriage by cable/satellite systems	NY	Adopted
209	Maintaining Landline Telephone Service	NY	Adopted
705	Federal Transportation Bill	NY	Adopted
702	Vehicle Lights	MI	Adopted as Amended
709	Outlawing Misuse of Federal Agencies Power Against Political Opponents	OH	Adverse
708	Transportation of Crude Oil	NY	Combined with 712
713	Driver's License Tests Should Be Tested and Issued in English	PA	Policy Statement
717	Trademark Legislation	WV	Policy Statement
19	Fast Track Trade Policy	WV	Policy Statement
714	Illegal Immigrants	TX	Present Policy
716	Immigration Policy	WV	Present Policy
701	Highway Speed Signs	IA	State Issue
704	Drug Tests for Welfare Recipients	NE	State Issue
719	Roadside Memorials	IL	State Issue
715	Terms of Elected Officials	VT	Transferred to Citizenship
718	Constitutional Amendment	WV	Transferred to Citizenship
703	Health Care Expenses for Migrant Labor	NC	Transferred to Educ. & Health
710	Equipment Regulated by the Federal Department of Transportation	OK	Withdrawn

POLICY STATEMENT

The Grange has long supported an individual's ability to work for a reasonable wage in a safe environment. The Grange will continue to support workplace safety regulations that protect workers while not placing excessive financial burden on employers.

We believe employee pensions are an obligation. The Grange implores businesses to make provisions to secure employees' pension benefits and all monies paid into retirement plans to prevent their loss from beneficiaries in the event of a future merger or liquidation of the company.

While we have concerns about new government mandates that increase the cost of business, we also see a need for marketplace regulations that protect consumers and small investors.

While free trade agreements have opened markets to United States products, some U.S. companies have found the cost of labor and operations to be more favorable in other countries. The Grange advocates for the creation of trade agreement that will be beneficial and flexible while protecting not only jobs, but also the American dream. The National Grange encourages Congress to seek a fair and level playing field in global trading when entering into international trade agreements. The National Grange encourages continued negotiations regarding Japan's inclusion in the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement. Global treaties need to be carefully overseen by Congress, and not "fast tracked" to ensure that the sovereignty of the United States is not diminished or surrendered.

The Grange urges Congress to reform immigration laws to provide for an orderly, well-regulated immigration process with special focus on H2A program so that an agricultural employer who may have a fully integrated business be allowed to use immigrant workers for all aspects of their business.

The Grange urges our elected officials at all levels to reduce government regulations that are overwhelming individuals as well as businesses. Legislative bodies and regulatory agencies at all levels of government should periodically review and purge outdated laws and regulations. Congress needs to do its duty of oversight in the implementation of the laws of the land. We demand efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

We recognize that the nation's law enforcement agencies face the challenge of dealing with crimes as diverse and far-reaching as domestic abuse, terrorism, corporate and consumer fraud and electronic and Internet crimes. The Grange supports stiff appropriate penalties for all crimes and we encourage the review of mandatory sentencing laws.

We acknowledge that social media has made it easier for child predators to interact with children. The Grange supports maximum penalties for those convicted in child predator cases. We support programs in our schools designed to educate, inform and thereby protect children from sexual abuse. We also recognize the increased issue of child abuse and support laws and punishments to protect children from such abuse. The Grange supports programs that will help rural communities address complex issues such as domestic violence and the rights of victims of violent crimes.

The National Grange and many other non-profit organizations in the US are being financially burdened protecting their legitimate federal trademarks from infringements by for-profit businesses, and other entities. We believe that a broad coalition of non-profit organizations that have similar federal trademark protection issues should work together to seek federal legislation to strengthen the trademark rights of nonprofit organizations and to create binding procedures to expedite the resolution of trademark infringements against nonprofit's trademarks without resorting to costly litigation.

Transportation

Throughout our history, the Grange has had a vested interest in transportation issues. There are many different modes of transportation in existence today. The Grange supports the continued improvement of the existing infrastructure of all modes of transportation. The National Grange continues to support federal surface transportation legislation that would benefit rural America.

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 also support increased visibility devices for school buses.

We believe all drivers need to be fully responsible for their driving and guard against distractions from cell phones and other such devices.

Because roadside signs are displayed in English in this country, the National Grange believes that it is important for all drivers to be proficient in English. We encourage states to administer drivers' license tests in English.

This covers PA 713 and AG 019-WV and portions of the Master's Address

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Broadcast Carriage by Cable/Satellite Systems

WHEREAS, the Public has long enjoyed reception of free over-the-air local television reception and this service is a basic precept of the country's television service, and

WHEREAS, today many people actually receive these local television signals via cable or satellite providers instead of directly off-air with an antenna, and

WHEREAS, there are currently federal laws and Federal Communications Commission (F.C.C.) Rules requiring cable and satellite providers to carry local television stations and setting forth procedures for how these companies are to pay for this carriage (retransmission consent and must carry), and

WHEREAS, recently there have been a number of incidents where, during negotiations to renew these retransmission or must carry agreements, carriage of some local television signals were "blackened out" depriving cable customers of local programming they are entitled to, and

WHEREAS, it can involve substantial time, effort and costs to install an antenna to directly receive local television signals (and in some cases, such as for those living in apartments or communities with restrictions on outside antennas, infeasible); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange supports adoption of legislation to authorize the Federal Communications Commission to adopt Rules that allow for interim carriage of local stations when there is an impasse in negotiations for renewal of retransmission or must carry agreements.

Maintaining Landline Telephone Service

WHEREAS, the public has long been able to rely on copper wire based landline telephone service as a lifeline in emergencies, and

WHEREAS, telephone companies are in the process of replacing their copper wire infrastructure with internet-based phones, and

WHEREAS, the traditional telephone service can draw electricity from the copper wire, keeping residents connected to emergency services even when power failures render lights and cellphones useless for days,

WHEREAS, an internet-based phone system has technical flaws such as they can't

hold up during long power failures or connect all emergency phone calls or provide accurate 911 location information, and

WHEREAS many alarm services and medical alert services still rely on the traditional landline system, and

WHEREAS the Federal Communications Commission (F.C.C.) has classified broadband internet as an “information service” instead of a “telecommunications service,” possibly freeing an internet-based phone service from the obligation to guarantee universal access and fair prices to consumers, and

WHEREAS a recent ruling cast doubt on whether the F.C.C has authority under the Communications Act to impose on internet-based phone service: universal service obligations requirements for compatibility with fax machines and medical alert systems, plus requirements that all 911 calls be routed to emergency service providers with accurate location information; therefore be it

RESOLVED that National Grange supports adoption of legislation that would authorize and require the Federal Communications Commission to impose on internet-based telephone service the same basic service requirements that are required to be provided by the traditional copper-wire based telephone system.

Vehicle Lights

WHEREAS vehicles have several different colors of lights, such as red for braking, yellow for turning, and white for backing up, and

WHEREAS the white lights at the rear of the vehicle were intended to indicate that a vehicle is in reverse, and

WHEREAS many new model vehicles have keyless entry or start via a remote, and when using the remote the vehicle lights are turned on to indicate the remote worked, and

WHEREAS many newer model vehicles are also leaving the lights on when exiting the vehicle for a short period of time as well, and

WHEREAS this causes pedestrians and other drivers in parking areas to no longer heed the original concept of the white back up lights, causing accidents when vehicles are actually in reverse, therefore be it

RESOLVED that National Grange support legislation that would require all models of motor vehicles manufactured after model year 2015 – be factory built so as to not to allow the activation of the rear white lights except when placed in reverse gear.

Federal Transportation Bill

WHEREAS since 2009, New York State has received the same annual federal funding allocation of \$71 million to maintain and repair local bridges, and

WHEREAS 67 bridges in Dutchess County alone are considered either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete with three permanently closed due to unsafe conditions, and

WHEREAS, towns and other municipalities have to make upgrades and repairs with this limited amount of federal funding, and are at risk of being shortchanged for at least another six years; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange urges the U.S. Congress to pass bill S2322, The MAP-21 Reauthorization Act (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century) or very similar legislation that increases the federal funding allocation to maintain and repair local bridges throughout the nation.

Jamming of Radio Transmissions of Emergency Responders

WHEREAS there have been reported incidents of people interfering with emergency radio transmissions, and

WHEREAS current federal law classifies intentional radio jamming as a civil offense, making those who get caught subject to up to \$112,500 in fines, but no jail time, and

WHEREAS, emergency responders need to be able to communicate without interruption over their radios; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange supports HR4203, or similar legislation, that would make the act of intentional radio jamming a criminal offense.

Social Security for Illegal Immigrants

WHEREAS U.S. Social Security is a Trust Fund representing a covenant between the government and its citizens, put aside by years of hard work, based on a promise that if you contribute then you earn the right to guaranteed benefits; and

WHEREAS there is fervent lobbying in Washington, D.C. to allow illegal immigrants, citizens of other countries, to receive U.S. Social Security dollars and benefits; and

WHEREAS the “No Social Security for Illegal Immigrants Act” introduced during the 113th Congress as H.R. 2745 with more than thirty co-sponsors, sent to the Ways and Means Committee, is striving to protect the Social Security program; and

WHEREAS the Grange is committed to the protection of Social Security for current and future retirees; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange urges Congress to pass bill H.R. 2745 (113th Congress) the “No Social Security for Illegal Immigrants Act” or similar legislation to permanently terminate plans to use U.S. Social Security funds to support illegal immigrants.

Easily Fastened Seatbelts For All

WHEREAS seatbelts are required by law; and

WHEREAS seatbelts provided in some vehicles are so easy to fasten while in other vehicles, are very difficult as you have to swivel around to try to line up the two parts; and

WHEREAS for heavier people or people with disabilities, they are almost impossible to fasten by themselves. Therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange lobby to require all auto makers to improve seatbelts on future models that can be easily fastened by most people, no matter their size or physical ability.

Increase Railroad Safety Standards for Oil Shipments

WHEREAS the amount of oil shipped by trains nationwide has increased substantially due to increased production and limited pipeline infrastructure; and

WHEREAS eight significant accidents involving oil trains have occurred in the past year in the U.S. and Canada (Register-Guard, 5/4/2014); and

WHEREAS currently safety standards for transportation of hazardous materials are determined by the federal government. Therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange shall support efforts on a federal level to increase railroad safety standards which include finalization of new tank car regulations to remove from service older puncture-prone tank cars, support the voluntary safety measures adopted by railroad companies and require testing of crude oil to provide critical information to state and local emergency responders.

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 legislative enactment of a Farm Worker Bill of Rights. We oppose 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.

3. The National Grange opposes any changes to child labor laws by the U.S. Department of Labor restricting children under the age of 18 from working with animals, handling pesticides, working in timber operations, manure pits, grain elevators, feed lots, livestock auctions, and cultivating, harvesting, and curing tobacco, as well as restricting children under the age of 16 from operating power-driven farm equipment; examples: tractors, combines, farm trucks, ATV's, and shredders.

4. The National Grange supports realistic OSHA work place safety regulations. 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 to correct that violation before being penalized. The National Grange believes that OSHA reform legislation as well as any other new workplace health and safety standards should exempt farms having fewer than 10 full-time employees. 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. The National Grange supports legislation that would require products bearing an "American Made", or equivalent claim, to have U.S. manufacturing costs constituting at least 75 percent of the total manufacturing costs for the product, and to be substantially assembled in the United States.

6. The National Grange supports legislation that requires all employers to pay at least the minimum wage, regardless of whether the employees are tipped. We also support legislation to allow younger teens (ages 13-15) to be given the privilege of working a maximum of ten hours a week for less than the minimum wage. After a probationary period, established by the employer, the younger teen should be paid the minimum wage.

7. National Grange 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.

8. We support the right of individuals to join a union and collectively bargain in good faith, as long as employees are not required to join or contribute money to any 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.

9. The National Grange supports legislation that allows employers to hire replacement workers during a strike.

10. The National Grange supports the "Flextime Options Project," 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 workplace flexibility practices, 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 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 felony drug conviction, the penalty shall be a 30-year sentence without the possibility of parole.
3. The National Grange recommends that the U.S. Congress reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to help prevent enslavement of persons and protect those who have been victims of enslavement. The National Grange also encourages its members to educate themselves and others about the dangers of human trafficking.

Protection for Victims and Jurors

1. We support increased protection for those who serve on juries. All jury deliberations should remain confidential. The National Grange 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 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.
4. The National Grange supports federal legislation to create a reliable, national database of DNA evidence acquired during previous investigations of sexual assault investigations to be used in the investigation of other sexual assault cases across the nation that will balance the rights of the accused to due process and the presumption of innocence with the rights to privacy of the victims of sexual assault and the assurance of swift and certain justice. The National Grange further supports federal grants to the states, to audit the quality of the inventory of prior evidence acquired from sexual assault investigations by local law enforcement agencies in order to increase the value of this evidence in the investigation of sexual assault cases across the nation.
5. The National Grange supports the establishment of a consumer oriented, national conviction registry of medical professionals who have been previously convicted of ethical or criminal activity and barred from the practice of medicine.

General Law

1. The National Grange opposes federal regulations that force the closings of jails or that require excessive expenditures of state funds.
2. The National Grange supports legislation making the unauthorized entry or use of

a computer facility or illegal tapping of phones a felony.

3. The National Grange supports tort reform to exempt manufacturers of goods and machinery 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 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 supports legislation to place salvia divinorum under the control of the Controlled Substance Act.

7. The National Grange supports legislation, which will create a new 12th Circuit Court of Appeals to meet the needs to the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, Hawaii and the Pacific Territories.

8. 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.

9. The National Grange believes that cell phone use by inmates should be banned at all state and federal correctional facilities. Prison visitors should be required to surrender all cell phones at the facility entrance until their departure.

10. The National Grange supports legislation requiring that Members of Congress shall deposit all personal investments into blind trusts for the duration of their term of office.

11. The National Grange supports the use of drone aircraft and associated technologies for civilian and commercial purposes.

12. The National Grange supports that no federal official may halt harvesting and transporting of any farmer's perishable crop by declaring the crop as "hot goods."

Firearms and the Second Amendment

1. The National Grange opposes any additional 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 and stun guns. We favor severe and mandatory sentences, including incarceration, for anyone using firearms while committing a crime.

2. The National Grange supports prohibiting the manufacture and sale of toy guns that are replicas of real guns.

Bankruptcy

1. The National Grange favors additional penalties for bankruptcy fraud to combat planned bankruptcies and other abuses.

2. The National Grange supports legislation to 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 fairness in 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. 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 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 suits against farmers. The National Grange also 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 adoption or guardianships recognized for the purpose of receiving government assistance.

2. The National Grange supports efforts to increase public awareness of child abuse and the existence of child predators in our society. All child abuse laws and child predator laws should be reviewed, revised, and enforced so as to secure the safety and well being of all children while remaining protective of the rights of innocent families and individuals. The National Grange supports equalizing sentencing of perpetrators of sexual abuse without regard of the familial relationship of perpetrator to the child. We further support 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 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 recorded on the child's birth certificate for purposes of determining 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 financial, social and legal supports as needed to grandparent caregivers raising grandchildren. We further support protecting the visitation rights of grandparents. In the case of a child who is legally removed from the parents, the grandparents should be first be considered as the custodian of that child.

Consumer Protection Law

1. The National Grange supports legislation to 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. The National Grange supports requiring all companies to comply, to the full extent of the law, in 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 program to educate individual consumers regarding 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 allowing children's Social Security numbers and other private information to be frozen by the child's legal custodian 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. Regulations should be enacted that require companies to give consumers the option of mailed billings or statements without surcharges.

6. The National Grange encourages companies to print product expiration dates in the mm/dd/yyyy format.

7. The National Grange encourages changes in federal legislation, such that "compounding pharmacies" participating in interstate commerce would be classified as pharmaceutical manufacturers, under the Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act. The National Grange also supports that, as pharmaceutical manufacturers, "compounding pharmacies" be subject to Pharmaceutical Good Manufacturing Practices, FDA inspection and enforcement, and federal drug industry user fees.

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 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 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 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 oppose unreasonable delays in the availability of the funds from a deposited check. We support requiring 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 insurance guarantee funds.

2. The National Grange supports the current McCarran-Ferguson Act. We support state jurisdiction over the insurance industry. We support a federally funded terrorist reinsurance program.

3. The National Grange believes that the National Flood Insurance Program should

operate on an actuarially sound basis. Natural Flood Insurance Programs should not be available for properties that have suffered multiple losses where steps were not taken to protect the property from further damage.

4. The National Grange urges state and federal regulators 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 any legislation that would require insurance companies to comply with “The Community Reinvestment Act,” 12 U.S.C. 2901,

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.

7. The National Grange supports legislation on a federal level that will require insurance companies to cover testing for breast cancer for all patients regardless of age.

Immigration, Aliens, and Migrant Workers

1. The National Grange supports the strict enforcement of the immigration laws of the United States and regular review of these laws to be sure they meet the needs of our country. We support increased efforts 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 support requiring proof of citizenship and/or legal registered immigration to receive 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 legal programs to bring guest workers into the United States on a temporary basis for the harvesting of seasonal crops. We support reform of current foreign guest worker programs to allow for expedited processing of foreign guest workers employed in the agricultural sector as well as reform of the H2A program so that the wage costs to farmers when hiring under the H2A program more closely reflects the prevailing local wage. We further support an amendment to the Migratory and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act recognizing that a crew chief is an independent contractor who is responsible for the general care of his crew when it does not conflict with the requirements that are assigned to the landowners.

3. Agricultural employers should not be responsible for checking the authenticity of migrant and seasonal worker documentation at the time of employment. Employers who unknowingly hire illegal aliens should not be penalized. 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.

4. The National Grange supports enactment of a practical and enforceable guest worker visa program. The National Grange supports the expansion of the H1B visa program for professionals to enter the United States to provide services in sectors where there is a documented need.

5. The National Grange supports existing federal law that includes sheepherders in the H-2A visa (temporary work visa) program.

Commercial Trade Policies

1. The National Grange believes that opening trade between nations increases international understanding. We will actively support programs to increase the competitive position of U.S. companies in world markets.

2. The National Grange encourages purchasing American-made products and recommends that all levels of government be required to buy American made products whenever feasible.

3. The National Grange supports a fair and equitable textile import policy that provides assistance to the domestic industry, is beneficial to the producers of fibers and is not be price inflationary to the U.S.' consumers.

4. The National Grange supports removal of trade, financial, and travel restrictions to Cuba.

5. The National Grange supports prohibiting the sale or lease of properties and/or businesses within the limits of the United States to any foreign purchaser or leaser whose country prohibits the sale or lease of properties and/or businesses to U.S. businesses or citizens.

6. The National Grange supports national, coordinated policies to combat 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.

Foreign Aid

1. The National Grange urges the U.S. government to unconditionally extend foreign aid only in cases of natural disasters. We further support basing a greater use of agricultural products in lieu of cash transfers for humanitarian assistance; closer monitoring of International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans to encourage Third World countries to provide self-help; considering the recipient countries' present foreign debt, repayment schedule, and record before providing them with new financial assistance; and keeping in mind the needs of domestic programs when Congress considers the appropriate amount of foreign aid. We recommend that all countries share in the economic assistance to developing countries through the United Nations. The National Grange supports 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 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 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 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 strongly supports extending and maintaining the protections of U.S. Constitutional law, guaranteeing individual rights, under all international law. We urge the United States government not to ratify or sign agreements or treaties 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.

6. The National Grange supports legislation to 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 from being subject to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

National Defense

1. The National Grange supports international agreements leading toward a balanced reduction and eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons and chemical 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.
5. The National Grange supports expanding our military capabilities using unmanned aerial vehicles.

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 (HTF). We support removing the HTF from the federal budget. We 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. The National Grange supports the creation of a Federal Mass Transportation Trust Fund from user tax revenues separate from the HTF and highway user taxes. The National Grange opposes increasing the federal gasoline tax for purposes other than the HTF and reaffirms its position that all funds received from highway fuel taxes be used only for construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. The federal and state governments should not use these funds to balance their budgets or fund other programs. We oppose impounding HTF monies as a means of enforcement of federal laws.
2. We support federal legislation to remove federal fuel tax from fuel used to operate farm trucks, including legislation that would use a federal motor fuel tax increase to reduce federal budget deficits.
3. The National Grange favors full compensation for homes, farming operations and businesses when displaced by eminent domain for highway right-of-ways.
4. 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.
5. The National Grange supports the following provisions as part of any reauthorization of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA).
 - 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 HTF for revenue enhancements related to the new tax collection on ethanol.

6. 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 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 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. 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.

Highways – Non-Interstate

1. The National Grange urges government agencies to conserve 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 and local highways, including rural roads and bridges that are built to the community's needs as determined by county and local road commissions. 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 adopt standards to ensure a better and more durable road surface.

3. The National Grange supports expansion of rural intercity bus, air and rail services.

4. The National Grange supports funding to construct adequate parking or rest areas to allow commercial and other drivers to stop and rest.

5. The National Grange continues to uphold the States' rights to regulate the farmer's transporting of equipment and crops and opposes any federal legislation or regulations that would require farmers to obtain commercial drivers' licenses to operate farm equipment.

Roadway Safety

1. The National Grange supports the enforcement of weight limits on vehicles operating on our highways.

2. The National Grange supports truck regulations requiring the use of brushes and/or flaps that will channel the water down reducing the spray.

3. The National Grange supports legislation that would require rear and side impact/under ride guards on all newly manufactured semi-trailers.

4. The National Grange requests that the Federal Highway Administration establish and promulgate standards for the minimum walk light time, type of visual images, and audible sound level for controlled crosswalks throughout the United States.

5. 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.

6. The National Grange supports 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.

7. The Grange supports an effective federal Highway Safety Program.

8. The National Grange supports requiring all motor vehicles to have a rear bumper or undercarriage guard coming within 16 inches of the ground.

9. The National Grange urges automobile manufacturers to include the following modifications on their new models: uniformly located door latches; louder and more visible interior direction signal indicators; spare tires of equal quality and size as regular tires; uniform tow points; light sensitive sensors that would automatically turn on automobile headlights at a certain degree of darkness; 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.

10. The National Grange supports standardizing the cellular emergency numbers for the interstate highway systems throughout the country to *91.

11. The National Grange supports legislation that would penalize a driver for using a cell phone when it is the cause of an accident.

12. 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.

13. The National Grange strongly supports state and national laws that require reflective tape on all existing and new trucks to help reduce under-ride accidents.

14. The National Grange supports legislation banning high intensity discharge (HID) headlights and/or driving lights and/or Xenon lights.

15. The National Grange encourages 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. We further support, all school buses being 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.

16. The National Grange supports present U.S. Department of Transportation requirements for random drug and alcohol testing for school bus drivers. We oppose any requirement for installed school bus driver monitoring devices on school buses as unnecessary. The National Grange supports legislation restricting the placement of any visual entertainment device within the driver's area of vision within a motor vehicle.

17. The National Grange urges automobile manufacturers to standardize the placement of air bag components and furnish documentation on their operations to Fire/Rescue and EMS personnel.

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. We believe the dangers of drinking and driving should be included in all federal anti-drug information and education programs.

2. The National Grange supports maintaining 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 supports legislation and regulatory policies that enhance stability and competition in truck operations for cost-effective and dependable service.

2. The National Grange supports 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 so long as there is a mandatory right of appeal and a second test to eliminate false positive results. The report of a positive drug test should remain in the driver's file for a period of two years. 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. All user fees on waterways should be based on the percentage of federal expenditures attributable to opening waterways to barge traffic and 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 upgrades to the locks on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, facilitating greater barge traffic and providing an economic engine to fuel growth and prosperity.
4. The National Grange recommends repeal of the Jones Act, which requires all freight moved between American ports being carried in American ships.
5. The National Grange supports legislation to prevent any company controlled by a foreign government from taking over management of 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 supports scheduling more commuter trains to offer better service to the public.
2. The National Grange urges all appropriate state and federal 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 as well as meaningful local public hearings in the areas affected as a part of the abandonment process.
3. The National Grange supports 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.
4. The National Grange supports legislation requiring warning reflectors to be placed on both sides of all railroad cars in the United States.
5. 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.

6. 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 a telephone as well as assure their timely removal from the disabled train.

Air Travel

1. 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.

2. The National Grange supports the assignment of Air Marshals on random flights.

3. 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 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 creating a board dominated by airline representatives that would recommend FAA user fee pricing schedules.

General Transportation Policy

1. The Grange believes that a balanced transportation system, at the lowest cost consistent with adequate and efficient service, is in the best interest of farmers and consumers. 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 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 when that intermodal ownership is consistent with the public interest; 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. The National Grange strongly supports a simple public announcement procedure for special-needs citizens in intercity bus transportation systems.

6. The National Grange supports 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 consumers have a choice of where to take their vehicle for maintenance and repair.

7. The National Grange supports safety and educational programs for individuals 17 years and younger for the use of all non-roadway vehicles such as ATV’s, snowmobiles, dirt bikes, sleds, etc. and also endorses the use of helmets and other protective gear.

8. The National Grange encourages states that do not currently place proof of military service on drivers’ licenses and other forms of official identification to initiate such a program.

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 support the following postal reforms:

- a. We urge that any future postal rate increases be no greater than the rate of inflation.
- b. We will 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 supports 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 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 opposes 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 encourages the Postal Service to make their patrons aware that handicapped persons may apply for mail delivery to their door.

5. The National Grange will lobby Congress to allow the U.S. Postal Service to be innovative and flexible in the modern business world and develop a competitive culture within its employees so it may return itself to financial and operational soundness and continue to fulfill its mission.

6. The National Grange urges the United States Postal Service to utilize guidelines such as the 10-mile proximity rule, in relation to the proposed post office closures, taking into consideration the special needs of the community as well as the statistical analysis developed for closure criteria.

Thank you to the members of the Labor, Judiciary, and Transportation Committee. We did great work! We owe a really big thanks to sister Sharon Croucher, Secretary, who kept our committee business in order. We also owe thanks to the staff at this session for their professionalism in processing the huge volume of documents that pass through their fingers - to the keyboards - to the printers - to the Delegate folders to the Digest.

Thanks again,

John Poirrier, AK (Chairman)
Marcia Miller, CT
Scott Nicholson, MT
Kymm Scott, WI
Barbara Narvel, DE

Sharon Croucher, NY
Connie Johnston, MI
Larry Spencer, RI
Maureen Prelli, CT

ANNUAL CONVENTIONS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

Session No.	Year	Place	Master
	1867, Dec.4	Washington, DC	Birthday
1	1868, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
2	1869, April	Washington, DC	William Saunders
3	1870, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
4	1871, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
5	1872, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
6	1873, Jan.	Georgetown, DC	William Saunders
7	1874, Feb.	St. Louis, MO	D.W. Adams
8	1875, Feb.	Charleston, SC	D.W. Adams
9	1875, Nov.	Louisville, KY	D.W. Adam
10	1876, Nov.	Chicago, IL	John T. Jones
11	1877, Nov.	Cincinnati, OH	John T. Jones
12	1878, Nov.	Richmond, VA	S.E. Adams
13	1879, Nov.	Canandaigua, NY	S.E. Adams
14	1880, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
15	1881, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
16	1882, Nov.	Indianapolis, IN	J.J. Woodman
17	1883, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
18	1884, Nov.	Nashville, TN	J.J. Woodman
19	1885, Nov.	Boston, MA	J.J. Woodman
20	1886, Nov.	Philadelphia, PA	I.P. Darden
21	1887, Nov.	Lansing, MI	I.P. Darden
22	1888, Nov.	Topeka, KS	James Draper
23	1889, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	J.H. Brigham
24	1890, Nov.	Atlanta, GA	J.H. Brigham
25	1891, Nov.	Springfield, OH	J.H. Brigham
26	1892, Nov.	Concord, NH	J.H. Brigham
27	1893, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	J.H. Brigham
28	1894, Nov.	Springfield, IL	J.H. Brigham
29	1895, Nov.	Worcester, MA	J.H. Brigham
30	1896, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.H. Brigham
31	1897, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	J.H. Brigham
32	1898, Nov.	Concord, NH	Aaron Jones
33	1899, Nov.	Springfield, OH	Aaron Jones
34	1900, Nov.	Washington, DC	Aaron Jones
35	1901, Nov.	Lewiston, ME	Aaron Jones
36	1902, Nov.	Lansing, MI	Aaron Jones
37	1903, Nov.	Rochester, NY	Aaron Jones

38	1904, Nov.	Portland, OR	Aaron Jones
39	1905, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Aaron Jones
40	1906, Nov.	Denver, CO	N.J. Bachelder
41	1907, Nov.	Hartford, CT	N.J. Bachelder
42	1908, Nov.	Washington, DC	N.J. Bachelder
43	1909, Nov.	Des Moines, IA	N.J. Bachelder
44	1910, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	N.J. Bachelder
45	1911, Nov.	Columbus, OH	N.J. Bachelder
46	1912, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Oliver Wilson
47	1913, Nov.	Manchester, NH	Oliver Wilson
48	1914, Nov.	Wilmington, DE	Oliver Wilson
49	1915, Nov.	Oakland, CA	Oliver Wilson
50	1916, Nov.	Washington, DC	Oliver Wilson
51	1917, Nov.	St. Louis, MO	Oliver Wilson
52	1918, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Oliver Wilson
53	1919, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Oliver Wilson
54	1920, Nov.	Boston, MA	S.J. Lowell
55	1921, Nov.	Portland, OR	S.J. Lowell
56	1922, Nov.	Wichita, KS	S.J. Lowell
57	1923, Nov.	Pittsburgh, PA	S.J. Lowell
58	1924, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	L.J. Taber
59	1925, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	L.J. Taber
60	1926, Nov.	Portland, ME	L.J. Taber
61	1927, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	L.J. Taber
62	1928, Nov.	Washington, DC	L.J. Taber
63	1929, Nov.	Seattle, WA	L.J. Taber
64	1930, Nov.	Rochester, NY	L.J. Taber
65	1931, Nov.	Madison, WI	L.J. Taber
66	1932, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	L.J. Taber
67	1933, Nov.	Boise, ID	L.J. Taber
68	1934, Nov.	Hartford, CT	L.J. Taber
69	1935, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	L.J. Taber
70	1936, Nov.	Columbus, OH	L.J. Taber
71	1937, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	L.J. Taber
72	1938, Nov.	Portland, OR	L.J. Taber
73	1939, Nov.	Peoria, IL	L.J. Taber
74	1940, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	L.J. Taber
75	1941, Nov.	Worcester, MA	L.J. Taber
76	1942, Nov.	Wenatchee, WA	A.S. Goss
77	1943, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	A.S. Goss
78	1944, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	A.S. Goss

79	1945, Nov.	Kansas City, MO	A.S. Goss
80	1946, Nov.	Portland, OR	A.S. Goss
81	1947, Nov.	Columbus, OH	A.S. Goss
82	1948, Nov.	Portland, ME	A.S. Goss
83	1949, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	A.S. Goss
84	1950, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	Henry D. Sherwood
85	1951, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Herschel D. Newsom
86	1952, Nov.	Rockford, IL	Herschel D. Newsom
87	1953, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Herschel D. Newsom
88	1954, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Herschel D. Newsom
89	1955, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	Herschel D. Newsom
90	1956, Nov.	Rochester, NY	Herschel D. Newsom
91	1957, Nov.	Colorado Springs, CO	Herschel D. Newsom
92	1958, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Herschel D. Newsom
93	1959, Nov.	Long Beach, CA	Herschel D. Newsom
94	1960, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	Herschel D. Newsom
95	1961, Nov.	Worcester, MA	Herschel D. Newsom
96	1962, Nov.	Fort Wayne, IN	Herschel D. Newsom
97	1963, Nov.	Portland, OR	Herschel D. Newsom
98	1964, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Herschel D. Newsom
99	1965, Nov.	Topeka, KS	Herschel D. Newsom
100	1966, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	Herschel D. Newsom
101	1967, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Herschel D. Newsom
102	1968, Nov.	Peoria, IL	Herschel D. Newsom
103	1969, Nov.	Daytona Beach, FL	John W. Scott
104	1970, Nov.	Boise, ID	John W. Scott
105	1971, Nov.	Charleston, WV	John W. Scott
106	1972, Nov.	Hartford, CT	John W. Scott
107	1973, Nov.	Lincoln, NE	John W. Scott
108	1974, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	John W. Scott
109	1975, Nov.	Columbus, OH	John W. Scott
110	1976, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	John W. Scott
111	1977, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	John W. Scott
112	1978, Nov.	Denver, CO	John W. Scott
113	1979, Nov.	Lancaster, PA	John W. Scott
114	1980, Nov.	Cedar Rapids, IA	Edward Andersen
115	1981, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Edward Andersen
116	1982, Nov.	Providence, RI	Edward Andersen
117	1983, Nov.	San Antonio, TX	Edward Andersen
118	1984, Nov.	Portland, ME	Edward Andersen
119	1985, Nov.	Eugene, OR	Edward Andersen

120	1986, Nov.	Madison, WI	Edward Andersen
121	1987, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Edward Andersen
122	1988, Nov.	Redding, CA	Robert E. Barrow
123	1989, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	Robert E. Barrow
124	1990, Nov.	Wichita, KS	Robert E. Barrow
125	1991, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Robert E. Barrow
126	1992, Nov.	Denver, CO	Robert E. Barrow
127	1993, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	Robert E. Barrow
128	1994, Nov.	Peoria, IL	Robert E. Barrow
129	1995, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	Robert E. Barrow
130	1996, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Kermit W. Richardson
131	1997, Nov.	Springfield, MA	Kermit W. Richardson
132	1998, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	Kermit W. Richardson
133	1999, Nov.	Portland, ME	Kermit W. Richardson
134	2000, Nov.	Fresno, CA	Kermit W. Richardson
135	2001, Nov.	Cedar Rapids, IA	Kermit W. Richardson
136	2002, Nov.	Portland, OR	Kermit W. Richardson
137	2003, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Kermit W. Richardson
138	2004, Nov.	Rochester, NY	William A. Steel
139	2005, Nov.	Columbus, OH	William A. Steel
140	2006, Nov.	Springfield, IL	William A. Steel
141	2007, Nov.	Reno, NV	William A. Steel
142	2008, Nov.	Cromwell, CT	Edward L. Luttrell
143	2009, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Edward L. Luttrell
144	2010, Nov.	Charlotte, NC	Edward L. Luttrell
145	2011, Nov.	Tulsa, OK	Edward L. Luttrell
146	2012, Nov.	Boise, ID	Edward L. Luttrell
147	2013, Nov.	Manchester, NH	Edward L. Luttrell
148	2014, Nov.	Sandusky, OH	Edward L. Luttrell

Upcoming

149	2015, Nov.	Lincoln, NE
150	2016, Nov.	Washington, D.C.
151	2017, Nov.	Spokane, WA

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