



# JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

149TH ANNUAL  
NATIONAL GRANGE  
CONVENTION

November 10-14, 2015  
Lincoln, Nebraska

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## DAILY RESUME OF THE 149th ANNUAL NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION

### PRE-CONVENTION

Arriving early at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska were National Grange staff members to finalize plans and begin pre-convention activities, Stephanie Tiller, Executive Assistant, Bryan Marchefsky, Communications Manager, Burton Eller, Legislative Director, Stewart Hughes, Controller, and Dadly Cordero-Teran, Program Assistant. Members of the Host Committee also arrived early. Michael Martin (PA), former Membership Director and Joseph Stefenoni (CA), Membership Director arrived on Saturday.

National Master Ed and First Lady Celia Luttrell (OR) arrived on Thursday and members of the Board of Directors arrived on Saturday, November 7, 2015, and more staff members. The Board of Directors met Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

### *Sunday, November 8, 2015*

The Board of Directors and National Master met beginning at 8:30 a.m. New Delegates were welcomed to the 149th National Grange Convention on Sunday, November 8 from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. for a workshop. New delegates are Cindy and Harry Greer (CO), Rick Grotton (ME), George and Patty Thomas (MA), T. J. Malaskee (MN), Billy and Lena Shufeldt (OK), Edsel and JoAnn Williams (SC), Tom Gwin (WA) and Joseph Goodrich (VT), that state's second delegate. A noon luncheon was held for the Executive Committee and new delegates.

Beginning at 4 p.m., Burton Eller, Legislative Director, conducted a workshop for committee chairs and secretaries. A reception welcoming the National officers, delegates and staff was held beginning at 6 p.m. Joseph Stefenoni, Membership Director, announced the number of new or reorganized Granges over the past several years.

Beginning at 7 p.m., a convention overview and budget meeting for officers and delegates was held. Attorney Jim Bikoff, gave an update on the status of the case in the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court in California regarding the federal trademark case with the former California State Grange (the McFarland Group). Following questions from the group regarding the trademark case, Attorney Craig Engle then gave an update on the California state court case dealing with physical assets and property.

Copies of the budget were handed out and Chairman of the Board, Phil Prelli, gave updates regarding income and expenses. There was a time for questions regarding the budget, which questions were answered by a Board member or Master Luttrell.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

### *Monday, November 9, 2015*

Beginning at 7 a.m. the freshman delegates met for breakfast. At 8 a.m. an hour-long workshop by Legislative Director, Burton Eller, was held.

Committees met for work on resolutions beginning at 9 a.m. working until lunchtime.

A Legislative Luncheon was held at noon with the speaker being Roger Wehrbein, a former member of the Nebraska State Legislature and a farmer and livestock producer. Following lunch, committees again met for work on resolutions until approximately 6 p.m.

Beginning at 7 p.m., the Great Plains Region Host Committee hosted a Welcome Dinner. Upon arriving at the door, guests were greeted by convention hosts from Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas. Kevin Cooksley, (NE) Master of the Nebraska State Grange welcomed everyone to the evening's activities, followed by the prayer by National Chaplain, Barbara Borderieux (FL) and the Lord's Prayer solo by Jamie Unger, accompanied on the piano by Janet Simonitch. Ms. Simonitch also played the piano during dinner.

Following the meal, the entertainment for the evening was introduced – the Big Red Singers, a group of about 40 or so singers and dancers from the University of Nebraska who danced as they sang accompanied by an 8 member band. They also sang some songs a capella, harmonizing beautifully.

Following the entertainment, Kevin Cooksley (NE) introduced the Masters of the host states: Cindy and Harry Greer (CO), Nathan Strawder (KS), Billy and Lena Shufeldt (OK), Jack and Margaret Smithers (TX), and past State Masters Donna and Brad Keeton (OK). He then introduced those at the head table, Ed Luttrell National Master, and wife, Celia (OR), First Lady of the Nebraska State Grange and his wife, Shannon Cooksley, National Chaplain Barbara Borderieux (FL), former First Lady of the Nebraska State Grange, Phyllis Tooker, and the Convention Coordinator, Lila Tooker (NE). He also introduced the speaker for the evening, University of Nebraska Dean Steve Waller, and his wife, Jessie. Dean Waller spoke about land grant colleges, first established in 1862, the first couple of which were Iowa State and Kansas State. He said that both land grant colleges and the Grange share long-lived philosophies along the same path, same values, mission and future opportunities, and share a common advocacy around agriculture. The evening ended with Jamie Unger singing “I’ll Be Seeing You” accompanied on the piano by Janet Simonitch, followed by a historical video of the North Platte Canteen, which was a railroad stop in North Platte, NE during World War II. Volunteer women served snacks and meals to servicemen on the trains as they were taken to their training stations in preparation for overseas deployment.

Rehearsal of the National Grange officers began at 9:30 p.m. Session committees met to continue working on the 2015 resolutions.

The hospitality room was hosted by the State of Kansas.

## **FIRST DAY of the 149th Annual National Grange Convention**

*Tuesday, November 10, 2015*

Beginning at 8:30 a.m. delegates and officers participated in the pre-convention tour of the Nebraska Capitol Building followed by lunch at the Governor’s mansion.

The 149th Annual Convention of the National Grange was called to order in the Seventh Degree at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 by High Priest, Bruce Croucher. The session was held at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The National Officers marched in and formed an altar circle, before going to their stations. The singers for the opening were a quartet composed of Linda Brumbaugh (OH), Stephen Coye (NY), Michael Martin (PA), and Jeanne Davies (CO).

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.

The State flags from each of the host states were presented by Masters in the Great Plains Region: Cindy Greer (CO), Nathan Strawder (KS), Kevin Cooksley (NE), Billy Shufeldt (OK), and Jack Smithers (TX). The Grange flag presentation was made by the first ladies of the Nebraska State Grange, past and present.

The roll call of officers found all present, and the roll call of delegates showed all states represented. Also present were a representative from Potomac Grange #1, Amanda Brozana, as well as John Trimble Legislative Experience Representative Emily Kurburski (MI).

Chairman of Audit and Budget, Brenda Rousselle (VT) 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 Ed Luttrell gave his Internal Address. Jimmy Gentry, Overseer, assigned sections of this report to committees for review. This report will also appear in the Journal of Proceedings.

Recess at 4 p.m. During recess a group photo of delegates and officers was taken.

Session reconvened at 4:30 p.m. National Chaplain, Barbara Borderieux (FL) told of several members who are facing medical issues, offered a prayer for them, and reported she will have cards available for us to sign for each of them.

Rick Gobel, Master of Gold Country Grange in Nevada, and National Deputy was escorted to the Master's station to receive the first Ira E. Shea Organizer Award. Rick Goble has organized three new Granges in Nevada. The award was named for Ira Shea who organized over 100 Granges from late 1930 to 1970 in state of Washington. He also organized 2 Granges in Wisconsin, 4 in MN and when he retired in Arizona, he organized 4 Granges there.

Citizenship Committee chair, Beth Downey (PA), gave a partial report.

Announcements were made. National Gatekeeper, Chris Johnston (MI) announced that if a cell phone rings during session, the offender will be fined \$10 with all money collected being split between the Youth and Junior Departments.

The first day of the 149th Annual Session of the National Grange closed in the Fourth Degree at 6 p.m. Closing Song was Battle Hymn of the Republic.

Pianist was Sheryl Ayers (CO).

Hospitality room hosted by Colorado.

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

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

## SECOND DAY

*Wednesday, November 11, 2015*

Salute to Agriculture Breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. Speaker was Dr. Ronnie Green, Vice Chancellor of University of Nebraska Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Master Ed Luttrell (OR) opened the second day of the 149th Annual Convention of the National Grange in the fourth degree at 10:30 a.m. following an entrance march by the National officers.

Roll call of officers found all present and roll call of delegates found all states were represented. Amanda Leigh Brozana represented Potomac Grange #1 and the John Trimble Youth Representative is Emily Kurburski (MI). Opening song was "America the Beautiful."

On this Veterans Day, a tribute to Veterans was presented by Lecturer Jim Tetreault, which included a moment of silence and prayer by National Chaplain, and a tribute in song by Steven Coye (NY), accompanied by Lester Gibbs on piano.

Minutes of the pre-convention activities and first day of the 149<sup>th</sup> National Grange Convention were approved as corrected.

The Chairman of the Audit & Budget Committee, Brenda Rousselle (VT), moved to amend the Credentials Report to indicate that Brother Steve Logan from Rhode Island be added as the alternate second delegate for the State of Rhode Island.

Point of Personal Privilege by Maurice Wiles. He read a poem he wrote entitled "A Loving Tribute to All" and then thanked everyone for their prayers, cards, e-mails and encouraging thoughts as he fought cancer this past year.

Brenda Rousselle (VT), Chairman of the Audit & Budget Committee reported a new version of the budget is being passed out and made the motion to set a time certain for a vote on the budget tomorrow at 11:30 a.m.

Committees transferred resolutions.

Ed Kowski (CA), chairman of Grange Law Committee, gave a partial report

Grange Growth and Development Chairman, Chris Heath (NH), gave a partial report.

Recess for lunch until 2:30 p.m.

Luncheon at 12:15 p.m. "Preparing to Celebrate our 150". National Master Ed Luttrell (OR) introduced Sesquicentennial Committee chair, Sharon Croucher (NY) and she gave comments about work that has been done to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grange. Brother Ed then introduced The Virtual Hall of Fame Committee chairman, Gary Brumbaugh (OH). Gary told of the first members who would be inducted into the Hall of Fame. The four Grangers who will be inducted are Oliver Hudson Kelley, Caroline Hall, Frances McDowell, and William Saunders.

Following recess, committee reports continued. Grange Law Chairman, Ed Komski (CA), gave a partial report.

Grange Growth & Development Chairman, Chris Heath (NH), gave a partial report.

Lecturer, Jim Tetreault (NH) led the group in singing "Shine on Harvest Moon". Melanie Bostwick (KS) gave some fun facts about one of the host states, Colorado.

Brenda Rousselle (VT), Chairman of the Audit & Budget Committee, gave a partial report.

Roger Bostwick (KS) asked for a point of personal privilege. Colonel Kernel's Fraternal Kernel Korn packets of seeds will be available for a donation of \$2 for the trademark protection fund. Colonel Kernel himself (Michael Martin) is available to receive your donation. They will be at the Idea Fair.

Larry Spencer (RI), Chairman of the Labor, Judiciary and Transportation committee, gave a partial report.

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 5:30 p.m., Distinguished Grange Awards were given to 11 State Granges and 60 Subordinate Granges by National Membership Director, Joseph Stefenoni (CA).

When the Grange was called to order at 7:30 p.m., Master Ed Luttrell (OR) introduced Matt Espenshade (PA) Chairman of the standing Agriculture Committee of National Grange. Matt then introduced the members of his committee. Sesquicentennial Committee chair, Sharon Croucher (NY) and her team members were introduced. The Hall of Fame Committee chairman is Gary Brumbaugh (OH) who was introduced as well as his committee. Ed Luttrell thanked Lester Gibbs (VT) who volunteered to run the Grange Store during this convention. Beth Merrill (NH) took over the Idea Fair during this convention and Pete Pompper (SC) is the Chairman of the Community Service Program. All were introduced and thanks given by Brother Ed Luttrell (OR) for all of these who helped during convention.

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

Joseph Stefenoni (CA), Membership Director, introduced several youth who told about how important increasing membership is. They each told about their experiences in Grange and why you should grow Grange. Emily Kurburski (MI), Dan Greer (CO), Melanie Fitch (OH), Philip Vonada (PA).

Larry Spencer (RI), Chairman of the Labor, Judiciary, Transportation Committee, gave a partial report.

Kevin Cooksley (NE) Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, gave a partial report.

Noel Miller (CT), Chairman of the Conservation Committee, gave a partial report.

Chairman of Education and Health Committee, Bob White (OH) gave a partial report.

Citizenship Chair, Beth Downey (PA), gave a partial report.

The second day of the 149<sup>th</sup> session was closed in due form at 9:30 p.m. Closing song was "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

Sheryl Ayers (CO) 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 from Oklahoma.

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

### **THIRD DAY**

*Thursday, November 12, 2015*

The third day of the 149th 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 the representative from Potomac #1 and the John Trimble Youth Representative.

Opening Song was "I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover".

Ed Kowski (CA), Chairman of Grange Law Committee gave a partial report.

The minutes from the second day were read and adopted as corrected.

The Master of the Nebraska State Grange, Kevin Cooksley, came to the Master's station, where Master Ed Luttrell read a Proclamation wherein today is declared A. Edward Andersen Day honoring him for his years of work as Master of the National Grange and his service at all levels of Grange throughout his life.

Worthy Master Ed Luttrell called for the election of officers for the National Grange for the next two years. Balloting proceeded in due form.

Betsy Huber (PA) was elected Master.

Ed Luttrell introduced Burton Eller, Legislative Director, who then gave the annual report for the Legislative Department.

Jimmy Gentry (NC) was re-elected Overseer.

Bryan Marchefsky, Communications Manager, gave his annual report.

Phil Prelli (CT) was re-elected to the Executive Committee.

Executive Assistant and Convention Planner, Stephanie Tiller, gave her report.

Stewart Hughes, Controller, was introduced. He gave a few remarks. It was announced that today was his birthday, so Happy Birthday was sung by all.

Joseph Stefenoni (CA), Membership Director, gave his report.

Recess until 11 a.m.

Following recess, a prayer was given by the National Chaplain for Roger Bostwick's mother who is currently in the hospital.

A motion was made and adopted to release to the public the results of the election to this point.

Beth Downey (PA), Chairman of the Citizenship and Taxation committee, gave a partial report.

Joe Fryman (NE) was re-elected as a member of the Executive Committee.

As the time certain for vote on budget at 11:30 a.m. had arrived, the budget as amended was adopted.

Recess for lunch until 2 p.m.

National Grange Flora, Marie Nicholson (MT) was emcee at the past delegates luncheon at 12:30 p.m., at which past delegates were honored. Jeannie Davies, past Master of the Colorado State Grange, and past Overseer of the National Grange, was the guest speaker.

When the Grange was called back to order, election continued.

Chris Heath (NH), Chairman of the Grange Growth and Development committee, gave a partial report.

Chairman of Education and Health, Bob White (OH), gave a partial report.

Amanda Leigh Brozana (Potomac) was elected Lecturer.

Chip Narvel (DE) was re-elected Steward.

John Plank (IN) was re-elected Assistant Steward.

Chris Hamp (WA) was re-elected Lady Assistant Steward.

Barbara Borderieux (FL) was re-elected Chaplain.

Dwight Baldwin (IA) was re-elected as Treasurer.

The session received 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 (until 3:30) 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 Sheryl Ayers (CO) provided the music for the memorial service, and special music was by Melanie Bostwick (KS). The 2015 memorial service was held in memory of: Joan Miller (CO), John Hammett, Sr. (SC), Marvin Purdy (OK), Mary LeVangie Pearl (CT), Doris Rae Kershner (WY), Robert Brown (MI), Oliver Orton (NY), Harlan Appleby (IA), Alice McKee (AK), Judith Skinner (MA), Claude R. Hoffman (DE), Francis J. Silveira (RI), Dorothy "Mickey" Morris (OR), James Carson Loomer (WY), Dolores Barrow (MA), Wills Passmore (DE), Edward Andersen (NE), and Edwin Hadlock (NY).

The Grange was called back to order and Master Ed Luttrell thanked Chaplain Barbara (FL) for a beautiful memorial service. He also thanked Flora, Marie Nicholson (MT) for arranging the past delegates luncheon.

Point of personal privilege given to Jack Smithers (TX), who introduced a group of Texas Grangers who arrived today.

Beth Downey (PA), Chairman of the Education and Health Committee, gave a partial report.

Judy Sherrod (TN) was re-elected Secretary.

Chris Heath (NH) presented the Policy Statement, Index and Thank you for the Grange Growth and Development committee, whose final report was adopted.

Chris Johnston (MI) was re-elected Gatekeeper.

The third day session was closed in due form at 5 p.m. Closing Song was "Good Night Grangers."

Pianist for the day was Sheryl Ayers (CO).

Hosts in the hospitality room today were from Nebraska.

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

### **Assembly of Demeter Business Meeting**

Beginning at 8 p.m. the Assembly of Demeter business meeting began. The minutes from last year's business meeting were read and officers were elected as follows: High Priest of Demeter, Bruce Croucher (NY), Priest Archon, Roger Bostwick (KS), and Priest Annalist, Jim Owens (ME).

Beginning at 9 p.m., the Nebraska hospitality crew hosted an "Ice Cream Social" in the Hospitality Room for convention attendees, National Officers & Delegates. The event began with Nebraska State Master Kevin Cooksley presenting the Ed Andersen Family with the National Grange Certificate proclaiming November 12, 2015 as "A. Edward Andersen Day". The proclamation was to honor Brother Ed Andersen for his years of work as Master of the National Grange, as well as his service at multiple levels of the Grange throughout his life. The award was accepted by Ed & Darlene's son Robert and his wife Jackie. Ed's widow, Darlene, and their daughters Susan, Nancy, and Peggy, and their husbands, were unable to attend the evening ice cream social. A display table was present, with mementos and photos from the years Ed Andersen served in Washington D.C. as National Grange Master (1979-1988). These included photos of Ed with President Reagan and President Carter. The Ice Cream Social then commenced, with the NE Hospitality Committee serving 6 flavors of homemade ice cream produced by the University of Nebraska Dairy Store on the Ag Campus. Several hundred people were served, and the ice cream seemed to be a big hit.

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 13, 2015*

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

The fourth day of the 149th Annual Convention of the National Grange opened in the Fourth Degree at 8:30 a.m. following an excellent entrance march by the Youth Officer Corps of the National Grange.

The following Youth served as officers:

- Master – Bailey Shufeldt (OK)

- Overseer – Philip Vonada (PA)
- Lecturer – Samantha Hanson (IA)
- Steward - Darby Madewell (NC)
- Asst Steward – Joshua Bethany (FL)
- Lady Asst Steward – Rachel Edelen (IA)
- Chaplain – Melanie Fitch (OH)
- Treasurer – Leah Bardal (WA)
- Secretary – Katie Kurburski (MI)
- Gatekeeper – Landan Woolard (NC)
- Ceres – Jessi Jo Gutridge (OR)
- Pomona – Rylee Furr (NC)
- Flora – Marie Jones (NC)
- Exec. Comm – Dominick Breton (CO)
- Exec. Comm – Grace Wadsworth (PA)
- Exec. Comm – Melody Shufeldt (OK)
- Exec. Comm – Emily Hartsell (NC)

The Youth Secretary called the roll of Youth Officers. The opening song was “It’s a Good Thing to Be a Granger.”

Escorted to the Master’s Station were National Youth Development Director, Charlene Espenshade (PA), and the National Grange Junior Director, Lillian Booth (CA) along with Youth Ambassadors and Junior Royalty. The 2015 Junior Ambassador Morgan Browning (WA) gave a few remarks, followed by the 2015 National Grange Youth Ambassadors, Cassidy Cheddar (PA) and Derek Snyder (PA). National Grange Junior Director, Lillian Booth (CA), then gave her annual report followed by the annual report of the National Youth Director, Charlene Espenshade (PA).

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 someone in OK) to youth Master, Bailey Shufeldt (OK). 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 #1, the John Trimble Legislative representative, as well as Sheryl Ayers (CO), pianist.

Thomas McKern, Chairman of the Board of Grange Insurance Association, was presented to the Master’s station to give remarks.

Announcements by Overseer, Jimmy Gentry (NC).

Claire Logan (RI) was re-elected Ceres.

Kevin Cooksley (NE), Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, gave a final report, which was adopted.

Susan Noah (OR) was re-elected Pomona.

Marie Nicholson (MT) was re-elected Flora.

Motion to release the newly elected slate of officers to the media was adopted. Recess until 11.

Following recess, the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Kevin Cooksley (NE), continued the report, which was adopted in its entirety.

Ed Komski (CA), Chairman of Grange Law committee, gave a report.

Recess for Lunch until 2 p.m.

Following recess, the newly elected officers were installed. The installation team consisted of Installing Officer: Bruce Croucher (NY); Marshalls: Melanie Bostwick and Roger Bostwick (KS), Regalia Bearer: Beth Merrill (NH), Implement Bearer: Arthur Merrill (NH), Installation Master: James Owens (ME); Installation Chaplain: Sharon Croucher (NY); Pianist: Sheryl Ayres (CO).

Ed Luttrell was escorted to the Master’s Station to receive the Past National Officer lapel pin.



The Grange was called back to order, and Ed Kowski (CA), Chairman of the Grange Law committee, gave a partial report.

Larry Spencer (RI), Chairman of the Labor, Judiciary & Transportation gave a partial report.

Jim Tetreault (NH), outgoing National Lecturer, was escorted to the Master's station to receive his Past Officer's pin.

Ed Kowski (CA), Chair of the Grange Law committee, gave a partial report.

Beth Downey (PA), Chairman of the Citizenship and Taxation Committee, gave a report, which was adopted in its entirety.

Ed Kowski (CA), Chairman of Grange Law Committee, presented his report, which was adopted in its entirety.

Brenda Rousselle (VT), Chairman of the Audit & Budget Committee, presented the final report, which was adopted in its entirety.

Larry Spencer (RI), Chairman of Labor, Judiciary & Transportation, gave a final report, which was adopted in its entirety.

Bob White (OH), Chairman of Education and Health, gave a final report, which was adopted in its entirety.

Noel Miller (CT), Chairman of the Conservation Committee, gave the committee report, which was adopted in its entirety.

Motions made and carried as follows: to allow the Executive Committee to approve the minutes of the last day, to allow the staff and Executive Committee to make grammatical corrections to the work, and to allow the business of the session be released to the press.

Worthy Master Betsy Huber (PA) gave the 2016 Annual Words. Secretary Judy Sherrod (TN) read the roll call of State Masters, National officers, and Assembly officers to receive the annual words.

The 149th Session of the National Grange closed in the Fourth Degree at 6:20 p.m. Everyone present formed a circle, joined hands and sang "Bless Be the Tie That Binds."

Hosts in the hospitality room today were from Texas.

Sheryl Ayers (CO) served as the pianist for the day.

Projector managed by Lisa Tharp (OH).

The GROW Club dinner began at 5 p.m. in the Atrium at the Cornhusker Hotel.

At 7:30 p.m. the Evening of Excellence was held in the Grand Ballroom at the Cornhusker hotel. Lecturer Jim Tetreault (NH) along with State Lecturers from the region, introduced participants in the talent portion of the evening, and National Youth Ambassadors Derek Snyder (PA) and Cassidy Cheddar (PA) introduced the participants in the Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song portion as well as introducing State ambassadors. The National Youth Ambassadors winners for 2016 were announced: Brodi Olds (NC) and Shannon Ruso (NY). Young Patron winners were Rob and Jennifer Beamon (PA).

The following workshops were held throughout the day: Membership Growth Workshop by Joe Stefenoni (CA), National Leadership/Membership Director, a Communications Workshop by Bryan Marchefsky (PA), National Communications Director.

The Junior tour and other Junior activities took place throughout the day. A youth program was held at 10:30 p.m. hosted by the Great Plains Region, with vespers at 11:30 p.m.

## **SATURDAY, November 14, 2015**

A Junior Grange breakfast was held beginning at 8 a.m. Jim Tetreault, National Lecturer, led a workshop at 8:30 a.m. The National Youth Ambassadors and National Youth Director presented a workshop entitled "Grange Jeopardy and Parli-Pro Fun" beginning at 9:30 a.m. A Junior Grange Leadership Workshop for adults was also held at 9:30 a.m. while at the same time there were Junior Grange activities for children, followed by awards ceremony for Juniors. The Juniors also enjoyed a swim party in the hotel pool.

The Sixth Degree conferral began at 10 a.m. by Grangers in the host states.

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

The Grange Celebration Banquet began at 7 p.m. Welcome by Past National Master, Ed Luttrell (OR), followed by the pledge to the flag and the invocation by Chaplain Barbara Borderieux (FL). Music during dinner was by University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) Jazz Combo.

Following dinner, Brother Ed introduced the National Grange staff members, national officers and Assembly officers. The quilt that was completed this past year from the last years' contest squares was displayed. The quilt was completed and quilted by Donna Champion (MN). As has been our practice for many years, it was given to the National Foster Parents Association to be auctioned off at their annual convention. A check for \$3,500 was presented to a representative from the Kelley Farm.

The National Grange community service awards were presented by Pete Pompper, National Community Service Director, as follows: Honorable Mention went to Florissant (CO) and Grantham (NC). 4<sup>th</sup> place Volunteer #1250 (TN), 3<sup>rd</sup> Montague #140 (NJ), 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Harbour #225 (WA), 1<sup>st</sup> Little Compton #32 (RI). Pete also reported that in the next year or two the 1 millionth dictionary will be presented to school children from Grangers.

The entertainment for the evening was a cowboy poet and 4<sup>th</sup> generation rancher, R.P. Smith. What an absolute delight he was.

A Junior Grange graduation ceremony was demonstrated by National Junior Director Lillian Booth and several Junior Grangers, 3 of which were graduated to the Subordinate Grange – Matthew Panewska (WA), Morgan Browning (WA), and Jaycee Jette (MT).

Announcement was made regarding the winners in the GROW Club silent auction, which netted \$993, and a total of \$1,200 from the Youth raffle. The proceeds help fund the GROW Club college scholarship program, the travel scholarship program to help youth ambassadors/young couples get to National Convention, and to help the National Youth Fund. Winners were announced in the Parliamentary Procedure Contest with prizes sponsored by the North Carolina State Grange-- 1<sup>st</sup> place team from North Carolina, 2<sup>nd</sup> place team from Pennsylvania. The winners in the Grange Jeopardy Contest, sponsored by DCI Communications, 1<sup>st</sup> place Jennifer Beamon (PA), 2<sup>nd</sup> Matt Horton (NY), and 3<sup>rd</sup> Robert Beamon (PA).

Joe Stefenoni, Membership/Leadership Director announced those states with net gains in membership: Alaska, California, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Texas, New Jersey and South Carolina. Dozens of Subordinate Granges had net gains. There has been a banner on the wall in the meeting room listing all of these Granges by State. Nine newly organized or re-organized Granges were in New York, New Hampshire, Oregon, California and Minnesota.

Sister Lila Tooker, convention coordinator from Nebraska, recognized everyone present from the host region states, and thanked the host region members who helped make this year's convention a success. She reported that hundreds of items were placed on the mitten tree at this convention.

A video was shown about Washington, DC which will be the site for the 2016 convention hosted by the Eastern Region. The coordinator is Joan Smith from Potomac Grange. This will be the 150<sup>th</sup> National Convention. She told of several activities and events planned in our nation's capital next November.

Ed Luttrell (OR), explained that although it will be the 150<sup>th</sup> convention of the National Grange, it is not the 150<sup>th</sup> year since organization. There were two sessions held in 1875 and that's the reason the 150<sup>th</sup> convention and 150 years since organization don't match.

An auction by Marty Billquist (MT) and Jack Smithers (TX) was held for a crystal vase engraved with the Grange emblem. The vase was donated by Jerry Billquist (TX), with the winning bid (\$575) by Chris Hamp (WA). Marty reported that his home Grange in Montana would match the money received, up to \$1,000. The proceeds from the auction, as well as money placed into the vase as it passed around the banquet hall, went to the new National Grange Lecturer for implementation of new programs.

The benediction was given by National Chaplain, Barbara Borderieux (FL) and the evening's events were concluded. Youth vespers were at 11:30 p.m.

## National Grange Building and Staff Department Reports

### Annual National Grange Building Report

By Stephanie Tiller, National Grange Executive Assistant/Meeting Planner/Building Manager

#### Tenants/Leases

Below is a summary of the status of all leases in the National Grange Building. **New information is bolded.** The building is currently at 100% occupancy.

| Location                           | Sq. ft. | Company  | Status   |
|------------------------------------|---------|--|--|
| Suite 105                          | 545 sf  | AMAR US  | Lease renewed May 2015   |
| Suite 106                          | 555 sf  | Dr. Beth Dzaman                                | Lease expires Jan 2017/option to 2019  |
| Suite 200                          | 480 sf  | Joel Weingarten                                | Lease renewed May 2015   |
| Suite 201                          | 304 sf  | American Executive Security                    | Lease expires November 2016  |
| Suite 202                          | 895 sf  | Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau | Lease expires December 2016  |
| Suite 204                          | 442 sf  | The Right Stuff/Solutions Team                 | <b>Working with this tenant on rental payment issues</b>   |
| Suite 300                          | 898 sf  | M Powered Strategies                           | New lease expires April 2018   |
| Suite 301                          | 252 sf  | Burton Rands Associates, LLC                   | Tenant lease expired April 2015. They opted to release their larger office and keep the smaller suite. Will be signing a new lease starting May 2015 |
| Suite 302                          | 489 sf  | PointClickShoot, LLC                           | Lease expires June 2016  |
| Suite 303                          | 1092 sf | Transcendental Meditation Center               | Lease expires May 2015/option to 2016  |
| Suite 400                          | 2567 sf | Pathfinder Consultants                         | Lease expires September 2017   |
| Suite 400                          | 210 sf  | Anthrosphere                                   | New lease expires September 2017   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor              | 3158 sf | M Powered Strategies                           | Lease expires April 2018   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor              | 3158 sf | Redbrick Partners                              | Lease renewed May 2015 to include storage space in basement and shower room...Awaiting executed copy.  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor              | 3158 sf | American Horse Council                         | Lease expires July 2017/option to 2019   |
| Suite 800                          | 682 sf  | Consultants International                      | Lease expires August 2015/option to 2017   |
| Suite 820 & 10 <sup>th</sup> floor | 2148 sf | Afterschool Alliance                           | Lease expires June 2017  |
| Suite 900/901                      | 1353 sf | EarthSpark International                       | Lease renewed May 2015 to include storage space in basement – Tenant also interested in office that will become vacant on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor  |
| Suite 902                          | 505 sf  | RetireSafe                                     | Lease expires July 2015/option to 2017   |

|                   |         |   |  |
|-------------------|---------|---|--|
| Suite 903         | 709 sf  | Cunningham Strategic Communications LLC | Lease expires January 2016 (Tenant decided to close his company so EarthSpark expanded to this space and will sublet until lease term is up) |
| Suite 904         | 578 sf  | Chiswell Langhorne, Jr.                 | Lease expires July 2015/options to 2017  |
| Suite 1020        | 410 sf  | The Stella Group                        | Lease expires September 2015   |
| Suite 1010 & 1030 | 1210 sf | M Powered Strategies                    | Lease expires September 2016   |

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

March-November: Several leaks found in multiple pipes to include sewer lines. Plumber had to be called in to replace pipes and perform other plumbing functions.

### **Report of the Communications Department By Bryan Marchefsky, Communications Manager**

To the Board of Directors of the National Grange,

Over the past 3 months, the Communications and Information Technology Departments has completed several projects, as well as initiated new outreach efforts. Below is a synopsis of these endeavors for your consideration.

#### **Major Completed Projects**

##### ***Further Redesign of our Promotional Materials***

In our previous report, we had listed that much of our promotional material has been re-evaluated and updated. During the last three months we have moved forward with outsourcing the printing of much of this material to an outside vendor, Via Services, LLC. We've had excellent results from their printing services. We will continue to finish evaluating and updating the last of our promotional material in the following three months.

##### ***Finished major preparations for the 2015 National Convention***

Much of this quarter's time was spent collecting data and information from the host committee, event hosts, officers, and staff about the design of the materials to be distributed at the 2015 national Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska. This includes, but is not limited to, programs, brochures, pins, tickets, maps, and other relevant paperwork. However, the DCI Fellow program that we have employed the last few years was not utilized this year due to funding constraints. At next year's convention in Washington, DC, the program will be fully employed again as that will be our 150th anniversary convention.

One of the more interesting aspects that will be deployed extensively for the first time at this year's convention is the real-time use of social media and live-streaming throughout the week. This will give those who are not present at the convention an inside look at the operations and activities at the convention. This effort will be focused on increasing support and knowledge of the Grange by interacting with Grange members and non-grange members alike – particularly members of other organizations such as 4-H and FFA. A full report of the outcome of this endeavor will be provided during the Q1 2016 report.

##### ***Video Production for State Sessions***

Since May, I have been working with National President, Edward Luttrell to tape personalized messages for each State Grange to be shown during their respective State Sessions. These videos are then edited and send along with other media in a kit to each state. This annual production project concluded in late October following the production and preparation of 31 media kits.

Finished Development and (Pending) Printing of the 2013 and 2014 Journal of Proceedings  
At your time of reading this report, the 2013 Journal of Proceedings (JOP) should be done a print of 200 copies and the 2014 JOP should be available in an electronic copy to be printed immediately upon return from the 2015 National Convention. This progress brings the National Grange back in sync with our traditional JOP creation cycle, as the 2015 JOP will be prepared on time by the end of January, 2016.

## **Major Ongoing Efforts**

### ***Increased Social Media Outreach***

Usage of social media as a PR and membership-generating platform continues. Our sustained usage of the National Grange Facebook generates roughly 300-500 views per post. This figure is, again, up ~25% since my last report. Through the enacting of “#Hashtags” and other cross-platform linking techniques, we have generated a great deal more of visibility and media penetration. On Twitter, we have gained 13 new followers (to a total of 673) since my last report. Since I began re-utilization of twitter in late March, we have reached an additional 7,000 with our comments. In addition, we have seen a rise in shares of both our Facebook and Twitter posts – averaging 10 shares per post. This is a 500% increase since I started the re-utilization of social media. Further data collection, investigation into new methods, and implementation adjusts will continue.

### ***Sales, Benefits, and Programs Department Relief***

Due to the resignation of our Sales and Programs Director, Samantha Johnson, the Communications Department (with support from our temporary staff member, Dadly Cordero-Teran) has assumed primary responsibility and oversight of the Sales, Benefits, and Programs Departments until a suitable replacement can be found. Recently, this has included vendor scouting and stock item purchasing.

## **Conclusion**

Thank you again for your ongoing support of the National Grange staff in our efforts to improve this great and historic organization. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the National Grange office. Thank you for your time and consideration of this report.

Fraternally Submitted,

Bryan Marchefsky  
National Grange Communications Manager

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## **Report of the Legislative Department** **By Burton Eller, Director**

National Grange strength in the public policy arena for close to 150 years has been its grassroots Grange members who characterize the Grange slogan “American Values-Hometown Roots” and live it every day. Grange members involve themselves at the local, county, state and national levels to ensure public policy decisions match their values and the needs of their fellow citizens. They are the “real world” Americans.

Grange policy originates at the local Grange and winds its way to the National Grange Annual Session where committees of Granger peers deliberate for the better part of a week. The policy that emerges becomes the road map for the leadership and staff of the National Grange to advocate on behalf of the grassroots member. This is great but it’s only half a picture. The other half requires state and local Granger advocacy to deliver the policy message back home. Talking to Senators and Representatives at home on local Grange turf is the truest form of lobbying to leverage your position on the policies you



want to effect. Good policy is a good foundation but it must be delivered to have any real value. To create that value, we will need your personal commitment and your active involvement.

National Grange legacy has been built upon its effective guidance of public policy in America starting right after the Civil War. Grange has been in the lead of so many public policy initiatives like Rural Free Delivery, highway trust funds, temperance, cooperative extension, farm cooperatives, women's suffrage, vocational education, mutual insurance companies, Medicare, farm bills, trade pacts and more. These struggles have required determination, tenacity and resiliency. These same attributes are required for effective public policy advocacy today, tomorrow and next year.

An aging rural America is demanding expanded involvement from the National Grange. Baby boomers are now this country's older citizens. Health care and health coverage have become major National Grange policy priorities for time, attention and budget. Of course, more traditional issues like good stewardship (of land, water and animals), the environment, the family, citizenship, property rights, taxes, broadband, agriculture policy, rural infrastructure, energy independence, fair trade and immigration remain as major priorities.

Coalitions and alliances in Washington continue to seek National Grange participation on a whole host of issues. Most partners are looking for three things, 1) Grange input and counsel, 2) Grange policy advocacy and, 3) Grange information dissemination to grassroots members.

*During 2015, the National Grange has been actively involved in numerous major and high profile issues in Washington. Among them are:*

#### *Waters of the United States (WOTUS)*

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Corps of Engineers (Corps) issued a proposed regulation to clarify the definition of navigable waters under the Clean Water Act. This proposal sought to expand EPA and Corps jurisdiction to practically all water sources. In addition, it would essentially give EPA and the Corps oversight of management practices in entire watersheds. The Grange issued an alert to members urging them to comment on the proposal and was active in coalition efforts to attempt to convince EPA and the Corps to reconsider the scope of the proposed regulation. Unfortunately, the two agencies promulgated a final rule that was actually worse for farmers, ranchers, landowners and rural businesses than the original proposal. Legislation is pending in Congress to overturn the final rule. Fortunately, several recent court rulings have effectively suspended the rule's implementation nationwide for now.

#### *Genetically Modified Products (GMO) Labeling*

GMO labeling is a continuous issue of national and international debate. The National Grange has been working to find a reasonable solution to this dilemma. Grange policy states that until credible scientific studies indicate that a real health risk exists from GMOs, the Grange should oppose mandatory labeling of GMO products. Policy also supports labeling as the consumers right to know. What appears to be a credible compromise solution has passed the House and is pending in the Senate. This legislation, The Safe and Affordable Food Labeling Act, will set up a uniform national USDA GMO-free certification process similar to Certified Organic for the labeling of authentic non-GMO foods. The Act would provide the consumer access to foods that do not contain GMO ingredients while preserving the integrity of science and technology in food policy.

#### *Highway Funding*

The Grange continues to push for permanent funding of the Highway Trust Fund for infrastructure construction and repair. A short term funding patch by Congress expires October 29. In mid-October, the House passed a six-year, \$325 billion highway bill but the Senate is yet to act. Congress seems reluctant to raise the gas tax which has been the traditional source of highway funding. Another temporary funding extension may necessary while Congress deliberates further on funding sources.

### *Country of Origin Labeling (COOL)*

The U.S. law requiring meat labels to identify where the animals were born, raised and harvested has been contested for several years. In four separate rulings, the World Trade Organization (WTO) confirmed the U. S. law is protectionist and gives less favorable treatment to Canadian and Mexican livestock.

Earlier this year, the Grange joined several other groups in opposing language in the Omnibus spending package to repeal COOL and urging Congress to wait for the final WTO appeal ruling. The repeal language was omitted from the Omnibus. However, the final appeal ruling came down again against the United States. Canada and Mexico are seeking about \$3 billion annually in retaliatory tariffs against U.S goods. A WTO decision on retaliatory tariffs by Canada and Mexico has been expected by November 27, but rumors from WTO indicate the ruling may now be closer to December 7. The House voted in June to repeal the COOL law.

The Senate is considering a separate bill that would not repeal COOL but would authorize a voluntary label specifying born and raised in the USA. Both Canada and Mexico have vowed retaliatory action as soon as it is authorized unless Congress repeals the law.

### *Taxes*

The Grange supported the successful passage of legislation making same-year capital expenditure write-offs permanent for agriculture and small business. Following House passage (240-179) of the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015, the Grange logo was placed by the Speaker alongside several major national organization logos on a large thank you sign in the Capitol Rotunda. The Senate has not yet acted death taxes.

### *Medicare*

The Grange cosigned a letter to Congress highlighting the success of Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit and urging their opposition to proposals that could weaken the program to seniors and persons with disabilities.

### *Rare and High Cost Drugs*

The Grange authored an op-ed calling for an audit and increased oversight of the Section 340B drug pricing program. Congress created 340B to give medically at-risk, vulnerable, low income patients access to expensive specialty medicines by requiring drug manufacturers to provide discounts. Hospitals and pharmacies may be obtaining discounted drugs then selling them to regular patients at full price.

### *Patent Reform*

The Grange cosigned a letter to the bipartisan leadership of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees in support of pending patent reform legislation. The bills are meant to rein in so-called patent trolls who file frivolous patent infringement law suits. Trolls would have to provide more detail in their initial pleadings and be required to pay defense attorney fees when a judge deems a suit frivolous.

### *Broadband/High Speed Connectivity*

High speed connectivity is rapidly becoming a necessity in rural America. IT services are playing an increasingly vital role in agriculture, tele-business, telemedicine and tele-education. Yet rural Americans are still among the most underserved consumers of high speed internet. The problem is population. Rural America is not a huge market in terms of numbers of devices and applications. The Grange and other interested parties must find ways to increase both innovation and investment in rural America.

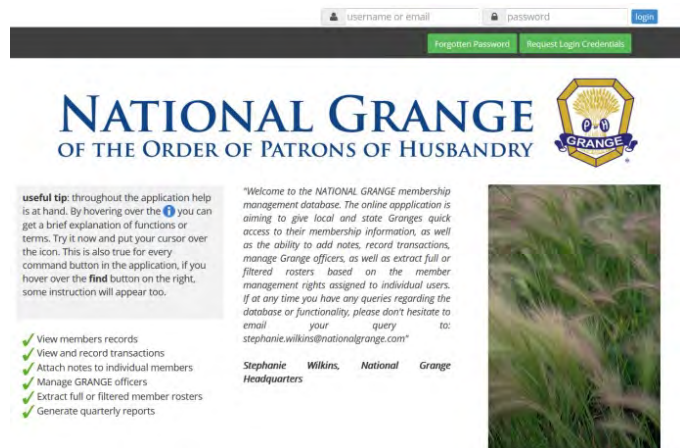
### *Additional public policy issues areas covered by the Grange include:*

- Postal service cuts
- Ensuring Seniors Access to Local Pharmacies Act
- Health insurance tax

- Export promotion
- Spectrum reallocation
- Tele-Med Act
- Apple v. Samsung
- Modernizing the Universal Lifeline Program
- Energy pipelines
- Immigration
- Grange Legislative Fly-In
- Grange Advocacy grants

#### *Coalitions and alliances that include the National Grange:*

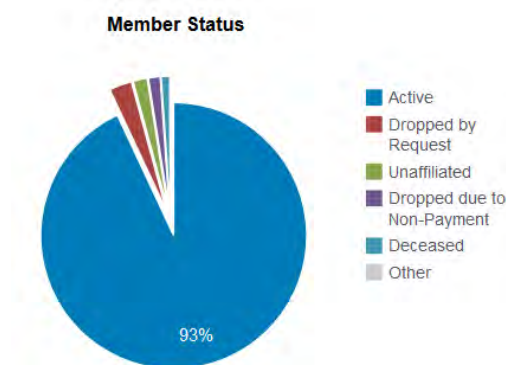
- Alliance to Feed the Future
- Alliance for the Integrity and Reform of 340B
- Agriculture Workforce Coalition (Immigration)
- Bee Friendly Farming Task Force
- Coalition to Promote Agricultural Exports
- Council for Affordable Health Coverage
- Family Business Coalition ( Death Tax)
- Health Insurance Tax Coalition
- Health Leadership Council
- I Am Still Essential
- Medicare Advantage Care Coordination Task Force
- Rural Healthcare Coalition



### **Report of the Information Technology Department** **By Stephanie Wilkins, Manager**

#### *Membership Database*

Local and state Granges have slowly been utilizing the National Grange Online Membership Database as we are seeing more and more inquiries and participation. A user activity report will allow us to determine which state and local granges are utilizing the system and which Granges need a little nudge.



Since the initial unveiling of the Online Membership Database a new design has been constructed which we anticipate will streamline the process of updating information more efficiently for local, state and national users. Several beta testers have agreed to review this redesigned database prior to it being made available to all state and local granges. The feedback has been very positive. Three instructional sessions have been held thus far with two state and one local user. Additional instructional sessions will be scheduled to accommodate the schedule of each beta tester.

One of the changes made to this site, is the ability for a local granges to request login credentials. After filling in the necessary information correctly, the designated member assigned to updating their respective grange

member information, will be able to gain access to the online database. This feature will help those granges who have not yet received their login information from their state grange. Granges can also contact the National Grange to receive their respective login credentials. During this process, we have learned that some states are concerned with the ability of local granges updating information without their knowledge. That concern has been taken into consideration and multiple solutions can be put in place to notify the state of any changes made or the option for the state to approve a change before it is made. This option would be at the discretion of the individual state Grange.

Another feature included in the redesign is the ability to view membership via pie chart. This view is provided immediately after logging in and displays what percentage of members are active, deceased, dropped by request, dropped due to non-payment, and those who are unaffiliated.

An additional feature of this redesign is the ability to easily change or update elected officers within a local grange. Instead of having to open an individual member and editing their profile as an officer, the process for selecting officers for a specific grange can be updated all on one page simply by choosing from the list of members of that Grange which show in a dropdown box.

Various other additions have also been made that will greatly assist in editing member information. Condensing the layout, utilizing the full screen and reducing the need to scroll down a long page for information will all help in the process of making edits substantially quicker.

Embedded video tutorials will provide a visual assistance while explanation links throughout the site will give a written description of what information is expected in a particular field.

Adding incentives such as Distinguished Grange Award Certificates for example will be used to further increase the participation of this program.

At its full potential, the National Grange Online Membership Database will ultimately benefit the National Grange, State Granges and Local Granges in maintaining up-to-date member information while providing a way to utilize the obtained information to best meet the needs of each Grange.

## **Websites Updates/Changes**

### **[www.nationalgrange.org](http://www.nationalgrange.org)**

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 149<sup>th</sup> Annual National Grange Convention, Grange Month, Online Meetings, Regional Conferences and more.

As a safeguard against web hackers, the National Grange has installed two security plugins to combat foul play. One plugin called “Limit Attempts” restricts the amount of unsuccessful logon attempts to five before blocking the IP address. After three blocks, the IP address is then moved to a blacklist. The National Grange has the option of whitelisting any IP address if needed. The second security plugin is called “BruteProtect”. This plugin is a security plugin that guards against botnets by tracking. BruteProtect fully supports multisite networks such as the Grange Member’s Only site.

As of October 23, 2015, there are 637 users registered for the grange member’s site and hosts 2,426 Subordinate/Pomona/State grange websites.

The National Grange and Members Only website experienced some temporary down time due hardware failure with our webhost provider, InMotion Hosting. The hardware failure which caused significant corruption to various tables within the MySQL database resulted in some sites not loading. Upon the complete cleaning and repairing of the full database, all sites were restored and operable again. Steps have been taken to create daily backups of all sites to multiple locations.

All domains associated with the National Grange are scheduled to automatic renew and currently enrolled in the Domain Discount Program through GoDaddy. All WordPress sites are running with the latest version of 4.3 with all plugins and themes up-to-date.

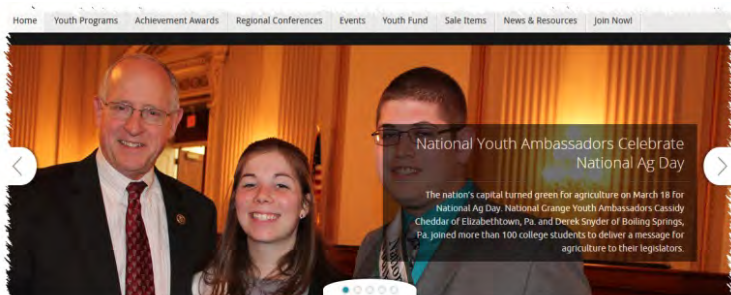
[www.juniorgrange.org](http://www.juniorgrange.org)

Updates to the Junior Grange website are submitted by the Junior Grange Director and uploaded to the website when they are received.

With our youth being the Grange of tomorrow, plans to develop an interactive section for our juniors will be discussed with Lillian Booth in an effort to increase activity among our juniors. The objective is to develop and/or introduce them to the world of technology via the Grange.

[www.nationaljuniorgrange.org](http://www.nationaljuniorgrange.org)

The newly revamped website for the Youth and Young Adults has been completed. This site originally created in Dreamweaver, was rebuilt using WordPress. Final edits and tests were performed and approval was given by Charlene Espenshade to migrate the testing site over to the existing Youth URL in August 2015. Online submissions forms such as the 2015 Francis McDowell Trivia Challenge have been generated and 45 Grange Trivia Challenges have been submitted thus far. Each online submission form is emailed to the Youth Director and maintained on the Youth website as a backup. Future forms will be generated for online submission. Visit [www.nationalgrangeyouth.org](http://www.nationalgrangeyouth.org)



### Computer/Hardware/Software

The National Grange server software, being very outdated and soon to be unsupported by Microsoft was upgraded to Windows Server 2012. This upgrade was extremely necessary since Microsoft would no longer be supplying updates to the previous version making it particularly vulnerable to security breach. Upgrading the server presented the option to migrate the National Grange email to the cloud using Microsoft Office 365. This allows access to Grange email from any location via a web browser.

The existing server hardware is just about two years old and still operable so no update is needed in the area of server hardware currently.

The National Grange office computers are protected by Symantec Endpoint Protection with the latest upgrade version of 12.1.6. The National Grange holds 12 licenses to provide protection for all desktops users at the National Grange headquarters.

The National Grange no longer occupies office space for staff on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor. Thus, the server and other office computers and hardware were successfully relocated to the 11<sup>th</sup> floor. Existing phone and data lines on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor were disabled and relocated to the appropriate offices on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor.

The daily backups of the server were not successfully completing and it was discovered that Drive 4 had failed and needed to be replaced. Upon replacing Drive 4, it was also discovered that Drive 3 was starting to show bad sectors and would also need replacing. The 2 failing drives were ordered and replaced. Daily backups were restored and are currently running successfully.

An RBC7 battery was ordered and replaced into the Smart-UPC battery backup device. This device is necessary to provides emergency backup power to the (1) National Grange server, (2) the server storage



unit and (3) the data switch. In the event of a power failure, the Smart-UPC battery will provide power to these 3 devices without interruption or damage due to power surge.

The National Grange met all financial obligations and terminated its contract with Capitol Office Solutions (COS) and moved its business to United Business Technologies (UBT). Final shipping instructions were obtained from CIT (leasing company) in order to return the Xerox 7775 copier. This switch was mainly based on service guarantees, competitive pricing and the ability to manage the needs of the National Grange's copy/print needs. A check in the amount of \$6042.00 was issued to the National Grange to buy out our remaining contract with COS. This transition will ultimately save the National Grange approximately **\$722.00 per month**.

UBT offers:

- 100% money back guarantee if we are not completely satisfied the 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Transportation/Set-up of existing copier to another location (i.e. National Convention)
- \$500 credit if response time exceeds 4 hours
- Comparable copy features as our previous machine, and more

All remaining COS supplies have been returned and a refund of \$272 was distributed to the National Grange.

### **Software, Safety Upgrades/Licenses**

The National Grange renewed its license agreement with Symantec Endpoint Protection Suite Enterprise, which is currently running with the latest version (12.6) 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.

### **Conference Call/TeamSpeak**

The National Grange has held various online meetings via TeamSpeak and phone meeting via FreeConferenceCall.com. Both of these platforms function and serve as a free service to the National Grange and Delegates.

The National Grange maintained a non-profit license with TeamSpeak until they recently changed their terms. The new terms for a non-profit license indicate that there can not be any advertisement of any kind on our website. The "Grange Store" (link to online store) and the "Donate" (link to Grange Foundation) shown on our main navigation bar has resulted in denial of our request to renew our non-profit license.

Seeing that TeamSpeak is more of a gaming platform, various options have been reviewed as an alternative to TeamSpeak more designed for holding professional and/or casual group meetings with the ability to be used via mobile device. A few options being reviewed are GoToMeeting, JoinMe, Webex, ReadyTalk, and MeetingBurner. A few factors will ultimately decide the platform to be used such as reliability, functionality, ability to record meetings and ease of use.

In the interim, meetings have been held using FreeConferenceCall.com which offers 100% free unlimited audio conferencing with up to 1,000 attendees, free online meetings with up to 25 attendees, recording and playback options, radio streaming, detailed reporting, site customization, device compatibility, top-notch security, and more!

### **E-Newsletter**

The National Grange has produced a number of electronic newsletters in the past. With the new Communications Manager, Bryan Marchefsky, we anticipate more e-newsletters to be distributed to all our members and e-members.

We hope to increase the number of members currently receiving electronic communication from the National Grange. We currently communicate with 6883 contacts via Constant Contact.

### ***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.

The National Grange successfully completed the evaluation process necessary to participate in the USPS Delivery Confirmation Services and packages in excess of 13 ounces are now being shipped with the USPS barcode method. This method of shipping barcoded packages allows the Grange and/or members the ability to track their shipment upon request and determine the estimated delivery day/time.

### ***Building Security***

An updated inventory of all front door pass cards to the National Grange headquarters is being maintained. As of 10/23/15 there are a total of 232 pass cards assigned and issued to a combination of National Grange employees, building tenants, subtenants, vendors, etc.

Fraternally Submitted,

Stephanie J. Wilkins  
National Grange IT Manager

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## **Report of the Membership/Leadership Development Department** **By Joseph Stefenoni, Director**

Worthy Master, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters:

It is my honor to stand before you and present the report of the membership department for the preceding year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brother Michael Martin for his dedication to the position over the last four years and to the organization for the last 40 years.

During this past year Brother Michael has been present in sixteen states, covering our Grange bases as broadly as possible, working from California to Maine with training sessions across the North East, Great Plains, Great Lakes, the south and the west. One common reflection he has shared with me is the positive outlook for our Order, in his words “even with a small group of a dozen Patrons, their pride in the Grange is palpable; you can feel it.”

### ***Retrospective***

In January, Brother Martin assisted the Pennsylvania State Grange at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, where they 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. Three G.O.A.L seminars were conducted in Pennsylvania which were presented to over 50 members from 20+ Granges.

Brother Martin assisted Sister Barbara Borderieux and Brother Pete Pomper with a state meeting in South Carolina where the Charter for Sweetwater Grange #727 was presented. Sixteen Patrons from five South Carolina Granges were present, including young people from Sweetwater Grange #727.

Over the last year, Brother Martin conducted eight G.O.A.L seminars in the State of New York; the result of a partnership between the membership department, Brother Stephen Coye, Master of the New York State Grange, and Vinni and Al Kirmss, state leadership/membership directors. These seminars

were strategically located within a short drive of every Patron in New York so as to encourage participation from as many Granges and members as possible.

A successful G.O.A.L. seminar for Delaware was held in mid-January. This was the first opportunity to work with the Patrons in Delaware; approximately 22 people from eight Delaware Granges participated. Delaware is right in the middle of our State Granges with 14 states larger and 20 states smaller in terms of membership. Also, Delaware has only lost one Grange since 1991.

In March, Brother Martin accompanied Lynette and Don Shaeffer, on a Grange Growth Tour in Illinois. In two sessions, they reached sixty Patrons from twenty Granges (nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Illinois Granges). Two day-long G.O.A.L. seminars in Vermont brought 49 Grange members from 23 Granges (over 50% of Vermont's Granges). One day-long G.O.A.L. seminar reached 20 Kansas members from seven of their 13 Granges (over half).

Brother Martin spent part of March in Montana to bolster existing Granges and facilitate information/organization sessions in two additional communities interested in having Granges. State Master Scott Nicholson, First Lady Marie and Brother Martin met at Round Butte Grange to bolster their members' enthusiasm for the Grange in Ronan. Together with members of nearby Granges, six of Montana's twelve Granges were represented that evening. To their great delight, they received three applications for membership the following day. During the week, a meeting was held with a group of 18 of highly enthusiastic young (age 30s-50s) agriculturally-minded folks in Missoula. Eleven were ready to organize a Grange that night. They have met with Scott twice more and I await their Charter application. A meeting was also held with 13 people, mostly Grange members, to explore organizing a new Grange in Anaconda. They will meet again to gauge the readiness of their Charter application.

Along with National Grange Youth Ambassadors, Derek Snyder and Cassidy Cheddar and Charlene Espenshade, Brother Martin assisted at the Eastern Regional Youth Conference in Ohio, Great Plains Youth Conference in Colorado and Western Region Youth Conference in Idaho where he presented a workshop on Code reading.

Aided by Sandi Ludi and members of the Oregon State Grange Membership team, Brother Martin embarked on a six Grange tour of the State of Oregon. Six evening sessions, each preceded by a pot luck supper were conducted. A "Meet and Greet Night" was held at Redland Grange, Redland has received the Distinguish Grange Award for the last six years in a row. Fruitdale Grange, Mohawk-McKenzie Grange, Ada Grange, Fairview Grange (a rather new Grange) and Sauvie Island Grange, the Grange with the most membership in Oregon, rounded out the tour of the Beaver State.

The end of May found Brother Martin in Maine for a weekend training tour. He headed "Downeast" visiting Washington and West Washington Pomona Granges, Alexander, Cathance, Perry, Princeton, Robbinston, Indian River, Jacksonville, Jonesboro, Machias Valley and Osceola. Brother Martin returned in August for the Northeast Lecturer's Conference in Standish, Maine. There may not be any other place on earth where Grange passion and tradition collide with such fervor as when approximately 100 Patrons gather for this annual excitement.

Following the Great Plains Region Leadership Conference in Colorado Brother Martin facilitated a series of meetings at Florissant, Castlewood and Liberty Hall Granges.

In July, Brother Martin served as the national representative to the 140<sup>th</sup> Session of the California State Grange. Our California Brothers and Sisters witnessed the Sixth Degree for the first time in since 2011. In his own words Brother Martin said "This was perhaps the most emotional experience of my Grange year. The words of the Obligation have never been so present and alive and the duties of each officer have never been clearer than when I installed their officers. Welcoming the California State Grange back into the warm embrace of our Order was the most fulfilling task I performed on your behalf." From my own perspective, Brother Martin and National Master Luttrell were inspiring figures for the Brothers and Sisters of California who have endured multiple years of hardship.

Bryan Marchefsky and Brother Martin have revised the design of the Grange Rip Card and replaced the photo on the previous version of the card. The language of the Declaration of Purposes brochure has been updated to reflect the action of the delegates at the 148<sup>th</sup> National Grange session in Sandusky, Ohio.

The Leadership/Membership TeamSpeak sessions have been conducted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 9:00 p.m. ET. The average participation is twelve to eighteen people spread across the nation. National Chaplain, Barbara Borderieux, and National Youth Director, Charlene Shupp Espenshade, have been co-hosts and several sessions are available for your use as audio files on the National Grange website.

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. This year we recognize and congratulate eight Distinguished State Granges and 58 Distinguished Subordinate Granges.

### *Grange Growth*

Since the National Grange convention in Sandusky, Ohio, our Patrons have been active in supporting and organizing new Granges. We have realized additional Grange growth with Capital City Grange #1606 in Albany, New York and Sweetwater Grange #727 in South Carolina. Prairie Fire Grange #835 was chartered in Minnesota. We have also reorganized a Grange in California and two in Oregon. Two new Junior Granges were organized in Washington and two Junior Granges were reorganized in Massachusetts and one more in Virginia and Washington. Also Barnstead Community Grange was organized in New Hampshire.

We have had a resurgence of Grange growth in Nevada, welcoming Gold Country Grange #21 and High Desert Grange #22. To expand the impact and reach of the organization as well as efficiently manage financial resources, the National Master appointed Brother Rick Gobel as a Deputy of National Grange, with authorization to support and organize Granges in Nevada. Since April, Rick has been instrumental in organizing three. This brings the total number of Subordinate Granges in Nevada to four. I look forward to working with Brother Gobel over the next year to continue the positive growth in his state.

### *Granges Organized July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015*

| <b>Subordinate Granges Organized</b>    |                 | <b>State</b> | <b>Date</b> |
|---|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Capital City Grange #1606               | New York        |              | 1/14/15     |
| Sweetwater Grange #727                  | South Carolina  |              | 1/14/15     |
| Gold Country Grange #21                 | Nevada          |              | 4/13/15     |
| Prairie Fire Grange #835                | Minnesota       |              | 4/15/15     |
| High Desert Grange #22                  | Nevada          |              | 6/27/15     |
| <b>Subordinate Granges Re-organized</b> |                 |              |             |
| Dixon Grange #19                        | California      |              | 3/4/15      |
| Bandon Grange #702                      | Oregon          |              | 7/10/14     |
| Lexington Grange #726                   | Oregon          |              | 7/15/14     |
| <b>Junior Granges Organized</b>         |                 |              |             |
| North River Junior Grange #408          | Washington      |              | 7/24/14     |
| San Poil Junior Grange                  | Washington      |              | 4/10/15     |
| <b>Junior Granges Re-organized</b>      |                 |              |             |
| Dartmouth Junior Grange #104            | Massachusetts   |              | 7/1/14      |
| Easton Junior Grange #107               | Massachusetts   |              | 8/15/14     |
| Bellefonte Junior Grange #23            | Virginia        |              | 10/14/14    |
| Camas Valley Junior Grange              | #395 Washington |              | 4/20/15     |

As a special note, three Granges have been organized or reorganized since the close of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2015.

|                            |               |         |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------|
| Barnstead Community Grange | New Hampshire | 7/14/15 |
| Central Nevada Grange #23  | Nevada        | 8/25/15 |
| Phoenix Grange             | New Jersey    |         |

In addition, there are currently four open Charter applications being worked on by Worthy Masters John Poirrier (AK), Scott Nicholson (MT) and Judy Sherrod (TN)

### *Membership Data*

One of the most important things I have learned in the real world is that you cannot manage what you do not measure. To this end, I continue to work with Sister Vinni Kirmss (NY) to analyze membership data and create graphs, tables and trend analysis 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. 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 four years.

Please see the addendum to this report for the detailed membership data of fiscal year 2014-1015.

### *Future Plans*

The next year is an exciting challenge for the Membership Director. Naturally, the primary objective will be to promote our organization throughout the nation, organizing new Granges and recruiting new members. I will be developing short programs about the relevance of the Grange and how it can fill many needs in communities, to take into areas where we do not currently have a Subordinate Grange. I look forward to speaking with each State Master to discuss how the Membership Director can assist your State Grange. The National Grange is responsible for aiding and supporting existing State Granges and organizing new Granges in states without a State Grange. State Granges are responsible for aiding and supporting existing Subordinate Granges while organizing or reorganizing Subordinate Granges. But the responsibility to grow membership is on the shoulders of each of us.

As I travel visiting our Brothers and Sisters over the next year, the central message of my presentation will be "Membership Begins with Mindset". The first step in our Granges growth journey will be adopting a positive mindset. Too often have I read in various publications where a Grange member is interviewed a quote along the lines of "The Grange is a dying organization..." or "We just can't do x, y or z..." Brothers and Sisters, I want to make a clear statement to you,

### **THIS ENDS NOW**

We **MUST** cast off this mantle of pessimism and maintain a positive attitude with Faith, Hope and Perseverance.

When someone talks to you about our great Order or visits your Grange, they do not want to hear about what CAN'T be done, instead they want to know what CAN be done and how they can help make it happen. For our Granges that are at a loss on how to recruit new members, I offer this advice: find a need in your community, plan a way to fill that need and tell the world about it. We cannot expect new members to walk in the doors if they do not know what we are doing.

Since 2012 our Brothers and Sisters in the State of Wyoming have been without a State Grange. A proposal was recently presented to the National Master for the development of an Organizing Deputy internship for the state. The program will be set up as an internship for a student studying communication, marketing, sales or a related field from the University of Wyoming at Laramie. The Deputy will have a clearly defined target area to work as well as clearly defined benchmarks to evaluate their performance. The National Grange has previously sent Deputies into the state. It is my opinion that a person who lives in and is familiar with the state and its people is a wise investment.



Currently there are Subordinate Granges in Nevada, Arkansas, Louisiana and Georgia not affiliated with a State Grange. Over the next year, I plan to spend time in each location strengthening the Subordinate Granges and exploring new opportunities for growth there.

I am a firm believer in goal setting. Therefore, I present you with my goals for the upcoming year, I ask that each assist in holding me accountable to these goals and if so able assisting me in achieving them.

1. Organize, or assist an organizer with chartering at least one new Subordinate Grange in each state.
2. Charter the requisite number of Subordinate Granges to organize the State Grange of Nevada.
3. Charter or Re-Charter at least three Granges in the State of Wyoming.
4. Provide a leadership training session in each region of the country.

There's a final goal that is not just for me, but for everyone in this room. Let us work to show a net gain in membership and Granges at the 150<sup>th</sup> annual session of our Order.

Brothers and Sisters, when the gavel falls on the final day of this session we must return to our homes and begin the good work of the Grange again. The time to grow the Grange is now and it is on each of us to make it happen. I look forward to working with each of you over the next year. Remember, it's a good thing to be a Granger!

Fraternally Submitted,

Joseph B. Stefenoni  
Membership/Leadership Development Director

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**Report on Trademark Protection and Brand Management Activities**  
**For 11/1/14 through 10/27/15**  
**By Darlene Tzou**  
**Trademark Protection Manager**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Number of trademark management cases resolved since 12/31/07- 132 (123 last year)
- Number of CHE agreements signed or pending since 12/31/07 – 8 (8 last year)
- Number of open trademark management cases as of 10/27/15- 60 (43 last year)
- 2 cases in litigation (1 last year)
- 5 cases before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (3 last year)
- 34 cases in general commerce (19 last year)
- Number of licenses concluded since 12/31/07-29 (25 last year)
- 24 active licenses (24 last year)
- 9 active licensee in default for non-payment of license fees as of 10/27/15 (1 last year)
- Number of Grange trademark or domain name registrations or re-registrations finalized so in 2015-7 (4 last year)

**COMMENTARY**

This is the seventh annual report on activities to protect our Grange trademarks. This year we continued to see additional trademark protection cases requiring our attention. We have been responding to attempts by many smaller and medium sized companies to register or infringe on our general trademarks for commercial gain, usually inadvertently.

Financially, the trademark litigation case against Mr. McFarland's group in California has significantly impacted our budget.

This past year we successfully resolved 14 trademark infringement cases and brought our total number of closed cases since we began this program to 132. Some of our previously resolved cases have been temporarily moved to unresolved as slight new issues came to light where the infringing party has not followed through on their agreement, but we were diligent in our monitoring and are moving towards ensuring the matters are able to be considered resolved once again. 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. While our number of open cases seems to have increased by 17, the majority of these cases are small and medium sized business infringements that are usually inadvertent and cases that were previously seemingly resolved but a minor issue regarding compliance to our resolution has arisen. We hope that most of these cases may be dismissed or resolved easily.

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. With the unwillingness to cooperate, we are hoping to negotiate co-existence agreements with these more difficult issues.

### **TRADEMARK QUALITY CONTROL**

We are continuing our efforts to monitor and assess our growing number of active licensees. Unfortunately, quality control reports were not compiled last year, but we strive to put in place the process and structure in creating a quality control report for each licensee this year. 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.

### **LEGACY GRANGE INSURANCE COMPANIES**

We have been meeting with some of our legacy companies to engage in discussions and negotiations to agree upon a license agreement with these companies. This would provide greater protection by showing that we are managing our trademarks and that these companies also acknowledge our ownership of these marks.

### **CLOSELY HELD ENTITIES**

As previously mentioned, closely associated or closely held Grange affiliated entities (CHEs) are separately incorporated foundations, associations, cooperatives, 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 continued 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.

### **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.

Many of these issues were brought to our attention by our fellow Grangers and we appreciate the unified effort in ensuring the protection of our trademarks and therefore our name and reputation. Your efforts have been essential in our ability to effectively protect our marks. Our Grangers are our eyes and ears nationwide and being made aware of these issues as they encounter allow us to reach out to these infringing parties early when it is easier for them to cease use of the marks and therefore are more amenable to complying with our requests. If not for your support and efforts, we would not be where we are and for that, we are grateful.

Sincerely,

Darlene Tzou, Trademark Protection Manager

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### **Report of the Youth & Young Adult Leadership Development Department By Charlene M. Shupp Espenshade, Director**

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 and promoted our organization.

This year, Grange youth and young adults continued to submit for achievement seals. At the time of this report, 850 seals have been requested.

The Distinguished Grange Youth Program had five recipients – a total of three state and two subordinate Granges – which applied for 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 second annual Parliamentary Procedure Contest. The object of this contest is to develop an appreciation for the Grange's opening and closing ritual and conducting business in proper form. Thank-you to the North Carolina State Grange for sponsoring the contest for the second year in a row.

I want to thank all of our host states this year for the Regional Youth Conferences/Leadership Conferences. I also want to thank all of the states for their willingness to adapt. The host states were Ohio, Illinois, Colorado, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Idaho. I would like to encourage you all to have your

youth join us at one of the conferences in 2016 in New Jersey, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, New York, Virginia and Oregon.

Due to a budget increase, I was able to have one, if not both, of the National Grange Youth Ambassadors travel to each regional conference to visit with Grange youth and promote the National Grange Youth

#### *Department programs.*

At each conference, the youth ambassadors and I presented a workshop on the new membership growth program called PI2, Participate, Invest, and Invite, where Grangers “built” their perfect Grange hall. The second workshop focused on meeting with legislators and promoting the Apathy Not Allowed Program.

Returning this year was Grange Jeopardy. The final contest will be hosted here on Saturday. The format follows the popular game show, and provides an opportunity for youth to test their Grange knowledge against others. We have 12 Grangers planning to compete in the National session. DCI Communications is again sponsoring our first-place award.

Attendance estimates for each of the conferences included as follows:

- Eastern: 60
- Northeastern: 92
- Midwestern: 25
- Great Plains: 35
- Western: 60
- Southeastern: 45

At the Eastern Regional conference, we hosted a Drill exhibition where youth from Ohio and 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, 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.

#### *National Agriculture Day*

National Grange Legislative Director Burton Eller organized legislative visits for the National Grange Youth Ambassadors Cassidy Cheddar and Derek Snyder in Washington, D.C. as part of the National Agriculture Day festivities in March. The ambassadors were able to share key Grange policy points with their elected officials. The National Ambassadors also attended a legislative luncheon with 4-H and FFA members and had the opportunity hear from leadership of the House Agriculture Committee.

#### *Citizenship*

For 2016, the National Grange Youth Department will be focusing on citizenship, as part of a larger initiative in development the National Grange departments. The Grange has a great legacy of community involvement. Regional conference workshops will focus on encouraging the development of programming at community/subordinate and state Grange levels, key topics include engaging in the political process by registering to vote, becoming informed citizens and grassroots advocacy.

#### *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 2014-15 are Cassidy Cheddar and Derek Snyder of Pennsylvania.

This year I am pleased to announce that we have three state young couples and 11 youth ambassadors. They are:

#### *Ambassadors*

Iowa - Emma Edelen  
New York - Shannon Ruso  
North Carolina - Brodi Olds  
North Carolina - Emily Harrison  
Ohio - Jenna Wyler  
Ohio - Jason Shiltz  
Pennsylvania - Lindsay Schroeder

### *Young Couples*

Colorado - Daniel and Jennifer Greer  
Illinois Adam and Sara Ellwanger  
Pennsylvania - Jennifer and Rob Beamon

### *National Youth Officer Team*

Master – Bailey Shufeldt OK  
Overseer Philip Vonada PA  
Lecturer- Samantha Hanson - IA  
Steward – Darby Madewell -NC  
Assistant Steward – Joshua Bethany - FL  
Lady Assistant Steward – Rachel Edelen – IA  
Chaplain – Melanie Fitch - OH  
Treasurer – Leah Bardal - WA  
Secretary – Katie Kurburski - MI  
Gatekeeper Landan Woolard  
Ceres – Jessi Jo Gutridge - OR  
Flora – Marie Jones - NC  
Pomona – Rylee Furr  
Executive Committee – Dominick Breton, CO; Grace Wadsworth, PA; Melody Shufeldt, OK; Emily Hartsell, NC

### *Legislative Experience*

Emily Kurburski

### *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 of \$7,000. Potomac Grange #1 donated \$3,000 through a memorial T-shirt fundraiser honoring the first National Youth Director Wib Justi.

Thank you to the subordinate and Pomona Granges for your continued support of the program.

### *Grow Club*

The GROW Club board includes Samantha Hanson, Midwest; Jennie Gentry, Eastern; Rick Ferguson, Western; Lois Barber, Great Plains and Christopher Szkutak, Northeast. The club continues to sponsor a \$500 scholarship and this year's winner was Leah Bardal of Washington State. The GROW Club board is also sponsoring a travel scholarship to support a Horizon Leadership Ambassador or Young Couple to cover part of their travel costs to attend this year's national session.

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. 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 Grange staff and officers, thank you for your continued support.

Thanks to National Youth Ambassadors Cassidy Cheddar and Derek Snyder 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



# **THE GRANGE FOUNDATION**

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**Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2015 and 2014**

# THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>Independent Accountant's Review Report</b>           | <b>2</b>    |
| <b>Financial Statements</b>                             |             |
| <b>Statement of Financial Position</b>                  | <b>3</b>    |
| <b>Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets</b> | <b>4</b>    |
| <b>Schedule I - Expenses</b>                            | <b>5-6</b>  |
| <b>Statement of Cash Flows</b>                          | <b>7</b>    |
| <b>Notes to Financial Statements</b>                    | <b>8-10</b> |

# ERIC BOLIN CPA P.C.

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Board of Directors  
The Grange Foundation  
Washington, DC 20006

We have reviewed the accompanying Statements of Financial Position of The Grange Foundation (a nonprofit corporation) as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related Statements of Activities and Change in Net Assets and Cash Flows for the years 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.

Our 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. We believe that the results of my procedures provide a reasonable basis for my report.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying consolidated financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our review was made primarily for the purpose of expressing a conclusion that there are not material modifications that should be made to the consolidated financial statements in order of them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Eric Bolin CPA, P.C.*

October 18, 2016

# THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

## Statement of Financial Position

|                                       | December 31,      |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                       | 2015              | 2014              |
| <b>ASSETS</b>                         |                   |                   |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                 |                   |                   |
| Cash – Operating                      | \$ 29,669         | \$ 24,677         |
| CD Investments                        | 46,898            | 37,411            |
| Account Receivable - National Grange  | 12,293            | 22,400            |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>           | <b>88,860</b>     | <b>84,488</b>     |
| <b>Other Assets</b>                   |                   |                   |
| Endowment Fund (Restricted)           | 208,965           | 208,965           |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                   | <b>297,825</b>    | <b>\$ 293,453</b> |
| <b>LIABILITY</b>                      |                   |                   |
| Accounts Payable                      | 0                 | 340               |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                     |                   |                   |
| Unrestricted                          | 27,666            | 20,201            |
| Temporarily Restricted                | 61,194            | 63,947            |
| Permanently Restricted – Endowment    | 208,965           | 208,965           |
| <b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>               | <b>297,825</b>    | <b>293,113</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS</b> | <b>\$ 297,825</b> | <b>\$ 293,453</b> |

*See Accompanying Accountants' Review Report and Notes to Financial Statements*

# THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

## Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Years Ended December 31,

|   | 2015              | 2014              |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:</b>                      |                   |                   |
| Revenues:   |                   |                   |
| Contributions   | \$ 1,717          | \$ 1,797          |
| Loss in Investment Value  | (665)             | (1,573)           |
| Interest and Dividend Income                                    | 11                | 209               |
| Prior Period Adjustment   | 9,487             | 0                 |
| Gift Annuity  | 66                | 0                 |
| Total Unrestricted Revenues                                     | 10,616            | 433               |
| Expenses:   |                   |                   |
| Legal Fee   | 0                 | 4,620             |
| Office Expense  | 152               | 619               |
| Donations, Other  | 3,000             | 3,670             |
| Total unrestricted expenses                                     | 3,152             | 8,909             |
| <b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>           | <b>7,464</b>      | <b>(8,476)</b>    |
| <b>CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS :</b>           |                   |                   |
| Contributions, Interest, Grants                                 | 12,601            | 23,737            |
| Expenses  | (15,357)          | (6,251)           |
| <b>(DECREASE) INCREASE IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b> | <b>(2,752)</b>    | <b>17,486</b>     |
| <b>CHANGES IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:</b>            |                   |                   |
| Increase  | 0                 | 2,897             |
| <b>INCREASE IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:</b>           | <b>0</b>          | <b>2,897</b>      |
| <b>(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS</b>                                 | <b>4,712</b>      | <b>11,907</b>     |
| <b>NET ASSETS – JANUARY 1,</b>                                  | <b>293,113</b>    | <b>281,206</b>    |
| <b>NET ASSETS – DECEMBER 31,</b>                                | <b>\$ 297,825</b> | <b>\$ 293,453</b> |

*See Accompanying Accountants' Review Report and Notes to Financial Statements*

# THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

## Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

### Schedule I – Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

|                      | OH Kelley<br>Historical<br>Prog. Fund | Junior<br>Leadership<br>Program | Youth<br>Leadership<br>Fund | Program<br>For the<br>Deaf | G.R.O.W.<br>Club | American<br>Arts | Youth<br>Exchange<br>Program | Community<br>And<br>Leadership | Trademark<br>Protection |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Balance- January 1   | \$ 6,050                              | \$ 12,693                       | \$ 14,229                   | \$ 18,832                  | \$ 6,003         | \$ 3,061         | \$ 5,449                     | \$ 10                          | \$ (2,380)              |
| Contributions        | 1,304                                 | 210                             | 8,156                       | 50                         | 48               | 0                | 0                            | 0                              | 4,315                   |
| Interest Income,     |                                       |                                 |                             |                            |                  |                  |                              |                                |                         |
| Loss on Investment   | (90)                                  | (239)                           | (445)                       | (442)                      | (134)            | (72)             | (12)                         |                                | (45)                    |
| Expenses             | (3,520)                               | (2,752)                         | (8,347)                     | (101)                      | (368)            | (16)             | (242)                        | (0)                            | (10)                    |
| Balance- December 31 | \$ 3,743                              | \$ 9,912                        | \$ 13,594                   | \$ 18,339                  | \$ 5,549         | \$ 2,973         | \$ 5,195                     | \$ 10                          | \$ 1,880                |

See Accompanying Accountants' Review Report and Notes to Financial Statements



# THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

## Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

### Schedule I – Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

|                           | OH Kelley<br>Historical<br>Prog- Fund | Junior<br>Leadership<br>Program | Youth<br>Leadership<br>Fund | Program<br>For the<br>Deaf | G.R.O.W.<br>Club | American<br>Arts | Youth<br>Exchange<br>Program | Community<br>And<br>Leadership | Trademark<br>Protection |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Balance- January 1        | \$ 4,323                              | \$ 12,293                       | \$ 4,249                    | \$ 18,413                  | \$ 3,646         | \$ 1,510         | \$ 2,027                     | \$ 0                           | \$ 0                    |
| Contributions             | 5,517                                 | 295                             | 11,987                      | 264                        | 2,518            | 1,600            | 3,376                        | 10                             | 2,640                   |
| Interest Income,<br>Other | 50                                    | 105                             | 118                         | 155                        | 50               | 26               | 46                           | (0)                            | (20)                    |
| Expenses                  | (3,840)                               | (0)                             | (2,125)                     | (0)                        | (211)            | (75)             | (0)                          | (0)                            | (5,000)                 |
| Balance- December 31      | \$ 6,050                              | \$ 12,693                       | \$ 14,229                   | \$ 18,832                  | \$ 6,003         | \$ 3,061         | \$ 5,449                     | \$ 10                          | (2,380)                 |

See Accompanying Accountants' Review Report and Notes to Financial Statements

# THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the Years Ended December 31,

|  | 2015             | 2014             |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>  |                  |                  |
| Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets  | \$ 4,712         | \$ 11,907        |
| Adjustments to Reconcile Increase in Net Assets<br>to Cash flow from operating activities: |                  |                  |
| (Decrease) Increase in Due From The National Grange  | 10,107           | 5,189            |
| (Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable  | (340)            | 340              |
| <b>NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>                                    | <b>14,479</b>    | <b>17,436</b>    |
| <b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>   |                  |                  |
| Change in FMV of Investment Endowment Fund   | (9,487)          | (2,897)          |
| Increase in CD Investment  | 0                | 0                |
| <b>NET CASH (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>   | <b>(9,487)</b>   | <b>(2,897)</b>   |
| <b>CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>   | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>         |
| <b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH</b>   | <b>4,992</b>     | <b>14,539</b>    |
| <b>CASH – January 1,</b>   | <b>24,677</b>    | <b>10,138</b>    |
| <b>CASH - December 31,</b>   | <b>\$ 29,669</b> | <b>\$ 24,677</b> |

*See Accompanying Accountants' Review Report and Notes to Financial Statements*

# THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

## Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015

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### NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION

The Grange Foundation is a non-profit organization affiliated with The National Grange through common officers and management. The National Grange acts as trustee for funds received on behalf of The Grange Foundation.

### NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting - The financial statements of the Organization have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and accordingly reflect all significant receivables, payables and other liabilities.

The accounts of the Organization are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Under fund accounting, resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purpose. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund; however, in the accompanying financial statements, funds have been combined and presented for the Organization as a whole in accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 117, "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations".

Cash and Cash Equivalents - We consider all cash and highly liquid financial instruments with original maturities of three months or less, and which are neither held for nor restricted by donors for long-term purposes, to be cash and cash equivalents. Cash and highly liquid financial instruments restricted to building project, permanent endowment, or other long-term purposes are excluded from this definition.

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 - Revenues, gains, and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, net assets and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

Unrestricted Net Assets: Net assets available for use in general operations. Unrestricted board-designated net assets consist of net assets designated by the Board of Directors for operating reserve and board-designated endowment.

# THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

## Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015

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### NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets: Net assets subject to donor restrictions that may or will be met by expenditures or our actions and/or the passage of time, and certain income earned on permanently restricted net assets that has not yet been appropriated for expenditure by our Board of Directors.

We report contributions as temporarily restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statements of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Permanently Restricted Net Assets – Net assets whose use is limited by donor-imposed restrictions that neither expire by the passage of time nor can be fulfilled or otherwise removed by our actions. The restrictions stipulate that resources be maintained permanently but permit us to expend the income generated in accordance with the provisions of the agreements.

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.

# THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

## Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015

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### NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

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.

### NOTE 3 – INCOME TAXES

The Grange Foundation is organized as a nonprofit corporation and has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3), qualifies for the charitable contribution deduction under Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) and (viii), and has been determined not to be a private foundation under Section 509(a)(1) and (3) respectively. AP is annually required to file a Return of Organization of Organization Exempt from Income Tax (Form 990) with the IRS. In addition, The Grange Foundation is subject to income tax on net income that is derived from business activities that are unrelated to its exempt purpose. We have determined that The Grange Foundation is not subject to unrelated business income tax.

We believe that The Grange Foundation has appropriate support for any tax positions taken affecting its annual filing requirements, and as such, does not have any uncertain tax positions that are material to the financial statements. We would recognize future accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits and liabilities in income tax expense if such interest and penalties are incurred. The Grange Foundation's Form 990 tax filings are no longer subject to tax examination for years before 2011.

### NOTE 4 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In preparing these financial statements, Grange Foundation's management has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through October 18, 2016, the date the financial statements were available to be issued. There were no additional events or transactions that were discovered during the evaluation that required further disclosure.

# **NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY**

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**Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2014**



# NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Independent Auditor's Report                | 2      |
| Financial Statements                        |        |
| Statement of Financial Position             | 3      |
| Schedule I - Cash on Hand and on Deposit    | 4      |
| Schedule II - Accounts Receivable           | 4      |
| Statement of Activities - Operating Account | 5      |
| Statement of Activity - Building Operations | 6      |
| Statement of Cash Flows                     | 7      |
| Notes to Financial Statements               | 8 - 12 |

# ERIC BOLIN CPA P.C.

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## 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, 2014, 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, 2014, 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 15, 2015

# NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

## Statement of Financial Position

*December 31, 2014*

|   | GRANGE<br>OPERATING<br>ACCOUNT | GRANGE<br>BUILDING<br>ACCOUNT | TOTAL<br>NATIONAL<br>GRANGE |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                           |                                |                               |                             |
| Cash on hand and on deposit (Sch. I)    | \$ 579,116                     | \$ -                          | \$ 579,116                  |
| Investments (Note 3)                    | 525,778                        | -                             | 525,778                     |
| Accounts receivable (Sch. II)           | 222,314                        | -                             | 222,314                     |
| Rents Receivable                        | -                              | 34,980                        | 34,980                      |
| Prepaid expenses and Deposits           | 9,169                          | -                             | 9,169                       |
| Inventory - sales (Note 2)              | 123,367                        | -                             | 123,367                     |
| 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)                       | (762,282)                     | (818,394)                   |
| Land                                    | -                              | 255,238                       | 255,238                     |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                     | <b>\$ 1,459,744</b>            | <b>\$ 426,487</b>             | <b>\$ 1,886,231</b>         |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                      |                                |                               |                             |
| Accounts Payable-Trade                  | \$ 561,629                     | \$ -                          | \$ 561,629                  |
| Prepaid Rent                            | -                              | 17,333                        | 17,333                      |
| Accrued Expenses                        | -                              | -                             | -                           |
| Grange bonding                          | 1,125                          | -                             | 1,125                       |
| Tom Severance Fund                      | 1,220                          | -                             | 1,220                       |
| Building Fund                           | 1,833                          | -                             | 1,833                       |
| Security Deposits - tenants             | -                              | 41,109                        | 41,109                      |
| Trial Funding                           | 10,208                         | -                             | 10,208                      |
| Escrow                                  | 3,000                          | -                             | 3,000                       |
| Due to State Granges                    | 58,062                         | -                             | 58,062                      |
| Note Payable -LMA                       | 254,096                        | -                             | 254,096                     |
| Note Payable -Oregon State Grange       | 250,000                        | -                             | 250,000                     |
| Grange Foundation                       | 22,400                         | -                             | 22,400                      |
| Due to (from) building account          | 9,143,833                      | (9,143,833)                   | -                           |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>                | <b>10,307,406</b>              | <b>(9,085,391)</b>            | <b>1,222,015</b>            |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                       |                                |                               |                             |
| Unrestricted - building                 | -                              | 9,511,878                     | 9,511,878                   |
| Unrestricted - operating                | (9,155,427)                    | -                             | (9,155,427)                 |
| Delegate Restricted Fund                | 307,765                        | -                             | 307,765                     |
| <b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>                 | <b>(8,847,662)</b>             | <b>9,511,878</b>              | <b>664,216</b>              |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b> | <b>\$ 1,459,744</b>            | <b>\$ 426,487</b>             | <b>\$ 1,886,231</b>         |

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

# NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

## Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2014

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### Schedule I - Cash on Hand and on Deposit

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|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Operating account | \$ 542,042 |
| Payroll account   | 7,096      |
| Petty cash        | 995        |
| Reserve           | 14,208     |
| Money Market      | 7,775      |
| Escrow            | 4,000      |
| Imprest           | 3,000      |

---

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>Total Cash on Hand and on Deposit</b> | <b>\$ 579,116</b> |
|--|-------------------|

---

### Schedule II - Accounts Receivable

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Dues             | \$ 221,206 |
| Youth Leadership | (273)      |
| Potomac Grange   | 366        |
| Other            | 1,015      |

---

|                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Total Accounts Receivable</b> | <b>\$ 222,314</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|

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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, 2014*

| <b>REVENUE</b>                                |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Dues and Fees                                 |                       |
| Subordinate Grange Dues                       | \$ 849,296            |
| Subordinate Grange Charter Fees               | 240                   |
| Junior Grange Charter Fees                    | 160                   |
| E-Memberships                                 | 425                   |
| Sixth Degree Fees                             | 1,000                 |
| Seventh Degree Fees                           | 2,184                 |
| GIA   | 75,000                |
| Membership Assessments                        | 52,010                |
| Sponsors, Grants                              | 24,744                |
| Sales Income                                  | 57,776                |
| Interest, Dividend Income                     | 21,772                |
| Fund Raising Donations                        | 24,834                |
| Bonding Commission                            | 9,068                 |
| Licensing, Communication                      | 18,339                |
| Other   | 8,483                 |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>                          | <b>1,145,331</b>      |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                               |                       |
| General and Administrative                    | 802,169               |
| Gen & Admin - Professional Services           | 752,690               |
| National Master                               | 80,809                |
| National Secretary and Lecturer               | 1,058                 |
| Board of Directors                            | 6,117                 |
| Communication Publication                     | 5,909                 |
| Youth Activities                              | 15,860                |
| Junior Grange                                 | 6,794                 |
| High Priest                                   | 645                   |
| Membership, Leadership                        | 13,709                |
| Legislative                                   | 37,879                |
| IT/ Systems                                   | 23,159                |
| National Convention                           | 121,444               |
| Marketing/Sales                               | 33,696                |
| President Meeting                             | 0                     |
| Simple IRA                                    | 0                     |
| Depreciation                                  | 0                     |
| Miscellaneous                                 | 3,641                 |
| Interest                                      | 7,620                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                  | <b>1,913,199</b>      |
| <b>DECREASE IN NET ASSETS – OPERATING</b>     | <b>(767,868)</b>      |
| Loss in Fair Market Value—Investment          | (8,767)               |
| <b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS – January 31,</b>  | <b>(8,378,792)</b>    |
| <b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS – December 31,</b> | <b>\$ (9,155,427)</b> |

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

# NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

## Statements of Activity - Building Operations

*For the Year Ended December 31, 2014*

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### INCOME

|                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Rent                             | \$ 1,010,137 |
| NG Building – Expense Allocation | 3,558        |
| Storage, Other                   | 1,372        |

---

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b> | <b>1,015,067</b> |
|---------------------|------------------|

---

### EXPENSES

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Salaries and Payroll Taxes    | 1,600   |
| Real Estate Taxes             | 144,018 |
| Electricity, Gas and Water    | 85,527  |
| Building Supplies             | 1,951   |
| Service Contracts, Inspection | 154,578 |
| Repairs and Maintenance       | 27,392  |
| Insurance                     | 0       |
| Miscellaneous, Commissions    | 1,077   |

---

|                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b> | <b>416,143</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------|

---

|                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS</b> | <b>598,924</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------|

---

|                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Provision for Depreciation</b> | <b>(23,356)</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|

---

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS - Building</b> | <b>575,568</b> |
|--|----------------|

---

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>NET ASSETS - Building Operations – January 1,</b> | <b>8,936,310</b> |
|--|------------------|

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|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>NET ASSETS - Building Operations - December 31,</b> | <b>\$ 9,511,878</b> |
|--|---------------------|

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



# NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

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### CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Decrease in Net Assets - Operating   | \$ (776,635)     |
| Increase in Net Assets - Building  | 575,568          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>(201,067)</b> |
| Adjustments to Reconcile Decrease in Net Assets to Cash (Used) by Operations |                  |
| Depreciation   | 23,356           |
| Decrease (Increase) in Accounts Receivable                                   | (216,585)        |
| Decrease (Increase) in Rents Receivable                                      | (34,980)         |
| (Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expenses, Deposits                            | (3,397)          |
| Decrease (Increase) in Inventory   | 6,310            |
| Increase (Decrease) in Grange Bonding  | (5,026)          |
| (Decrease) Increase in Due to State Granges                                  | (136,351)        |
| (Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable                                      | 287,366          |
| (Decrease) Increase in Accrued Expenses                                      | 10,841           |
| (Decrease) Increase in Tenant Security Deposits                              | 10,704           |
| Increase (Decrease) in Prepaid Rent  | 17,333           |
| (Decrease) in Due to Grange Foundation                                       | (677)            |
| (Decrease) in Escrow Payable   | (1,000)          |

---

**NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES** (243,077)

### CASH USED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Building Improvements                     | 0        |
| Decrease (Increase) in Investment Account | (12,866) |

---

**NET CASH (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES** (12,866)

### CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Increase in Loan Payable - LMA                 | 254,096 |
| Increase in Note Payable - Oregon State Grange | 250,000 |

---

**NET CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES** 504,096

**NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH** 243,485

**CASH - January 1,** 335,631

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**CASH - December 31,** \$ 579,116

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

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**Interest Paid During Year** \$ 7,620

# NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

## Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

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### NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION

The National Grange is a non-profit organization comprised of four distinct divisions. The mission of the National Grange is to improve the quality of life in America's families and communities. The National Grange provides representation for its members on agriculture and rural/urban issues, encourages and supports grassroots community and organizational leadership.

### NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

Basis of Accounting - The financial statements of the Organization have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and accordingly reflect all significant receivables, payables and other liabilities.

The accounts of the Organization are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Under fund accounting, resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purpose. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund; however, in the accompanying financial statements, funds have been combined and presented for the Organization as a whole in accordance with the provisions of 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, 2014

### 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 -FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Accounting Standards on Fair Value Measurement clarify the definition of fair value for financial reporting, establish a framework for measuring fair value and require additional disclosures about the use of the fair value measurements. The standards also establish a three level hierarchy for fair value measurements based upon the transparency of inputs to the valuation of an asset or liability. The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

# NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

## Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

### NOTE 3: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

Level 1: Quoted prices in active markets for identical investments

Level 2: Other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar investments, interest rates, credit risk, etc.)

Level 3: Significant unobservable inputs (including National Grange's own assumptions)

The following indicates the assets carried at the three levels in these financial statements.

The National Grange did not have any Level 2 and Level 3 asset valuations.

Level 1 Investments include:

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Fixed Income | \$344,689      |
| Common Stock | <u>181,089</u> |
|              | <u>525,778</u> |

Funds are allocated to:

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Convention Bank | \$ 307,765        |
| Savings         | <u>218,013</u>    |
| Total           | <u>\$ 525,778</u> |

### NOTE 4 - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property, equipment and accumulated depreciation are as follows at December 31, 2014

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Depreciable Assets             |                    |
| Equipment                      | \$ 56,112          |
| Building                       | 1,174,014          |
| Building Improvements          | <u>898,551</u>     |
|                                | 2,128,677          |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | <u>(1,992,408)</u> |
|                                | <u>\$ 136,269</u>  |

### NOTE 5 - UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS- BUILDING

Building unrestricted net assets is comprised of at December 31, 2014

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| From Operations                              | \$8,540,648        |
| Contributions                                | 260,745            |
| Provided from Exchange of<br>Former Building | 396,936            |
| Bicentennial Cookbook                        | <u>313,549</u>     |
|  | <u>\$9,511,878</u> |

# NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

## Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

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### 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, 2014, the matching portion was \$14,950.

### 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, 2014 totaled \$525,778.

### 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 year ending December 31, 2014, are \$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, 2015 is estimated at \$976,700, depending on renewals and if additional space becomes available.

### NOTE 10 - NOTES PAYABLE

The National Grange has a Loan Management Account (LMA) with Merrill Lynch under which it obtains advances as needed. The account is a demand loan and is secured by the Grange investment account. The loan bears finance charges at a variable rate of interest equal to the Libor Rate plus the Spread and is payable monthly. The balance at December 31, 2014 is \$254,096.

The National Grange also has a promissory note with the Oregon State Grange in the amount of \$250,000 as of September, 2014, bearing interest at 6%. The note is payable quarterly, interest only for 2015, and starting in March 2016 in the amount of \$8,356.78 principal and interest. The note and any unpaid interest is due in full by December 31, 2026.



# NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

## Notes to Financial Statements

*December 31, 2014*

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### NOTE 11 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In preparing these financial statements, the Organization has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through October 27, 2015, the date the financial statements were available for use.

### NOTE 12 – DUE TO STATE GRANGES

During the current year the National Grange reorganized the charter of one of the two State Granges previously suspended. 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.

### NOTE 13 – LEGAL MATTERS

In 2014 the National Grange was engaged in two major litigations. First, a case in California Superior Court to determine if a former part of the organization could disregard the rules and retain the assets of the Grange, Second, a case in Federal Court with the same group that was sued for trademark infringement and counterfeiting.

In 2015 the Federal case was won on a motion for summary judgment and that case is now final and we are currently waiting to see if the other side appeals. The State Case was won on a motion for summary judgment and we are waiting to see when the case will be final as the other side is already claiming that they are going to appeal.

### NOTE 14 – PROPERTY HELD IN TRUST

As of December 31, 2014, the National Grange is holding in trust the property of the Tulalake Grange of California. The Charter to the Tulalake Grange was revoked on October 31, 2013. Title to the property was not transferred to the National Grange. The return of this property and associated funds to the California State Grange to be held in trust as per the Digest of Laws is scheduled for consideration at the November 2015 board meeting.

## 2015 National Grange Session Committees

### AGRICULTURE

**Kevin Cooksley, NE**  
**Mark Noah, OR**  
Michael Lynch, DE  
John Plank, IN  
Nancy Clark, ME  
Maurice Wiles, MD  
Jimmy Gentry, NC  
Edsel Williams, SC  
Phil Prelli, CT (H)  
Claire Logan, RI (H)

### AUDIT & BUDGET

**Brenda Rousselle, VT**  
**Judy Sherrod, TN**  
Lynnette Schaefer, IL  
Susan Plank, IN  
Dwight Baldwin, IA  
Vicki Huff, ME GL, LJ  
June Hendrickson, WA  
Jack Smithers, TX  
Chip Narvel, DE (H)  
Jim Owens, ME (H)

### CITIZENSHIP & TAXATION

**Beth Downey, PA**  
**Pete Pompper, NJ**  
Barbara Borderieux, FL  
Sharon Croucher, NY  
Anita Gentry, NC  
Joan White, OH  
Earlene Foster, WV  
Emily Kuburski, Yth (H)  
Tammy Fryman, NE (H)  
Christine Hamp, WA (H)

### CONSERVATION

**Noel Miller, CT**  
**Jimmy Taylor, VA**  
Don Heikkila, ID  
Shannon Cooksley, NE  
Billy Shufeldt, OK  
JoAnn Williams, SC  
Margaret Smithers, TX  
Jim Foster, WV  
Joe Fryman, NE (H)

### EDUCATION & HEALTH

**Bob White, OH**  
**Jim Tetreault, NH (H)**  
Cynthia Komski, CA  
Don Schaefer, IL  
Chris Johnston, MI  
T. J. Malaskee, MN  
Kerriann Heath, NH  
Joan Smith, NJ  
Amanda Brozana, Pot (H)

### GRANGE GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

**Chris Heath, NH - GL, L&J, A&B**  
**Nathan Strawder, KS**  
Helen Lynch, DE  
Kathy Baldwin, IA  
Donna Wiles, MD  
Lena Shufeldt, OK  
Tom Gwin, WA  
Joe Goodrich, VT  
Melanie Bostwick, KS (H)

### GRANGE LAW

**Ed Komski, CA**  
**Cindy Greer, CO**  
George Thomas, MA  
Marie Nicholson, MT  
Steve Coye, NY  
Susan Noah, OR  
Betsy Huber, PA  
Duane Scott, WI  
Bruce Croucher, NY (H)  
Roger Bostwick, KS (H)

### LABOR, JUDICIARY & TRANSPORTATION

**Larry Spencer, RI**  
**Scott Nicholson, MT**  
John Poirrier, AK  
Harry Greer, CO  
Marcia Miller, CT  
Patty Thomas, MA  
Connie Johnston, MI  
Maureen Prelli, CT (H)  
Steve Logan, RI (H)



Duane Hamp, WA (H)

**Complete Index of Resolutions and Actions  
of the 149<sup>th</sup> Annual National Grange Convention**

| <b>Agriculture Committee</b> |               |  |  |
|------------------------------|---------------|--|--|
| <b>Res. #</b>                | <b>Origin</b> | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Action</b>  |
| 016                          | MT            | Informed Consent Labeling of Genetically Engineered Organisms and Products The Right to Know | Adverse  |
| 001                          | NC            | Aerial Systems   | Policy Statement   |
| 002                          | OR            | Aggregate Removal on Class 1 and 2 Farmland  | State issue  |
| 003                          | NC            | Avian Influenza  | Present Policy   |
| 004                          | TX            | Bee Shortage   | Adverse  |
| 005                          | IA            | Controlling GMO Drift Contamination of Organic Crops   | Adopted as Amended   |
| 006                          | NE            | Country of Origin Labeling   | Adopted as Amended;<br>includes portions of Master's Address |
| 007                          | ID            | Crops, Timber, or Livestock Losses not Covered by Insurance                                  | Adopted as Amended   |
| 008                          | MD            | Dairy Regulations  | State issue  |
| 009                          | PA            | Establishment of an Open Source Seed Model   | Present Policy   |
| 010                          | MN            | Food Safety and Inspections  | Policy Statement   |
| 011                          | PA            | GMO-Free Labeling Certification Program  | Adopted as Amended   |
| 012                          | IA            | Government Support for Increasing National Honey Bee Populations                             | Policy Statement   |
| 013                          | WA            | Grain Inspection   | Withdrawn  |
| 014                          | MA            | Importation of Foreign Agriculture   | Transferred to: Labor & Judiciary                            |
| 015                          | IA            | Increase Nationwide Funding and Staffing Support for State Apiarist Departments              | State issue  |
| 017                          | MD            | Net Metering for Anaerobic Methane Digesters   | State issue  |
| 018                          | OR            | Oppose Non-Transparent Trade Pacts   | Adopted  |
| 019                          | MT            | Opposed FDA Regulation on Spent Grains   | Present Policy   |
| 020                          | ID            | Opposing Further Federalization of State and Private Lands                                   | Transferred to: Conservation                                 |
| 021                          | IA            | Organic Farming Concerns over Pesticide Contamination  | Withdrawn  |
| 022                          | WA            | Perishable Item Enforcement  | Present Policy   |
| 023                          | ID            | Potting Soil Mix pH Labeling   | Withdrawn  |
| 024                          | WA            | Privacy Rights Assurance in Use of Unmanned Aerial Systems                                   | Policy Statement   |
| 025                          | MT            | Rezoning of Agricultural Lands   | State issue  |

|                                     |               |   |  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---|--|
| 026                                 | CO            | Support Labeling of Food Products to Show Countries Where the Food is Processed | Policy Statement                                   |
| 027                                 | NY            | American Foulbrood and the Honey Bee  | Adopted as Amended                                 |
| 028                                 | NY            | Labeling of Foods Containing or Sourced from Genetically Modified Organisms     | Policy Statement                                   |
| 029                                 | NY            | Young Farmer Success Act of 2015  | Policy Statement                                   |
| 030                                 | OH            | Allowing Drones to be Used as Agricultural Commercial Use                       | Policy Statement                                   |
| 031                                 | OH            | Double Knocking or Stunning   | State issue  |
| 032                                 | VT            | Federal Legislation of GMO Labeling   | Adverse  |
| 033                                 | OH            | Honey Bees  | Adopted as Amended                                 |
| 034                                 | WI            | Recycling of Agricultural Plastic Bags  | State issue  |
| 035                                 | WI            | Research for Human Made Nanoparticles   | Transferred to: Health and Education               |
| 036                                 | WI            | The Production of Beef in the USA   | Withdrawn  |
| 307                                 | COM           | Moratorium on Bio-direct Spraying   | Adverse  |
| <b>Audit &amp; Budget Committee</b> |               |   |  |
| <b>Res. #</b>                       | <b>Origin</b> | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Action</b>                                      |
| 101                                 | CT            | Dues for National Programs  | Withdrawn  |
| 102                                 | AB            | Compensation for Elected Officers   | Adopted  |
| 103                                 | AB            | Covered Expenses for Officers & Delegates                                       | Adopted  |
| 104                                 | AB            | Authorized Travel Reimbursement   | Adopted  |
| 613                                 | PA            | National Grange Delegate Session Expenses                                       | Adverse  |
| <b>Citizenship Committee</b>        |               |   |  |
| <b>Res. #</b>                       | <b>Origin</b> | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Action</b>                                      |
| 201                                 | KS            | Arming Military Recruitment Centers   | Adopted  |
| 202                                 | MD            | Banking Laws  | Policy Statement                                   |
| 203                                 | WV            | Business Withholding Forms  | Withdrawn  |
| 204                                 | MD            | Cell Phones in Prison   | Withdrawn  |
| 205                                 | OR            | Eliminate Requirement that USPS Pre-fund Retiree Insurance Benefits             | Adopted as Amended                                 |
| 206                                 | IL            | Establish National Monument to Abraham Lincoln                                  | Transferred to Labor, Judiciary and Transportation |
| 207                                 | IN            | IRS Supplies  | Adverse  |
| 208                                 | OR            | Keep Gateway Postal Facility Open   | Policy Statement                                   |
| 209                                 | PA            | National Right to Parent  | Adopted as Amended                                 |
| 211                                 | CO            | Opposing Donations to the Humane Society of the United States                   | Policy Statement                                   |
| 212                                 | WV            | Opposition to Automatic Voter Registration                                      | Adopted as Amended                                 |
| 213                                 | WV            | Opposition to Illegal Immigrants Getting Money from Tax Returns                 | Covered by 228                                     |
| 214                                 | WV            | Opposition to the Payment of Ransoms  | Withdrawn  |
| 215                                 | WV            | Opposition to the Proposed Treaty of Iran                                       | Policy Statement                                   |

|                               |               |   |   |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---|---|
| 216                           | MT            | Pertaining to Rural Broadband                                 | Adopted as Amended                                    |
| 217                           | NE            | Planned Parenthood Funding                                    | Transferred to Labor,<br>Judiciary and Transportation |
| 218                           | IN            | Political donations; Campaign contribution<br>distribution    | Adverse   |
| 219                           | MN            | Preservation of Postal Services                               | Withdrawn   |
| 220                           | MD            | No Call List for Cell Phones                                  | Adverse   |
| 220                           | ID            | Purple Hearts for American Armed Service<br>Members           | Policy Statement                                      |
| 221                           | MT            | Reinstatement of Small Business Tax<br>Deductions             | Present Policy  |
| 222                           | MD            | Remove Deceased Persons from Social Security                  | Adopted as Amended                                    |
| 223                           | PA            | Space Available Travel for 100% Service-<br>Disabled Veterans | Adopted as Amended                                    |
| 224                           | WV            | Support More Enforcement of the “Do Not<br>Call” List         | Withdrawn   |
| 225                           | WV            | Support More Time for Windows in Rural Post<br>Office         | Transferred to Labor,<br>Judiciary and Transportation |
| 226                           | NY            | Baby Tourism  | Adopted as Amended                                    |
| 227                           | NY            | Tax Deduction for Federal Student Loan<br>Interest            | Adopted   |
| 228                           | OH            | Opposition to Earned Income Credit for Illegal<br>Aliens      | Adopted   |
| 229                           | OH            | Opposition to the Payment of Ransoms                          | Adopted as Amended                                    |
| 230                           | OH            | Psychological Testing for Returning Veterans                  | Withdrawn   |
| 231                           | VT            | Robocall Enforcement Improvement Act                          | Adopted   |
| 232                           | OH            | “The Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act”                   | Adopted as Amended                                    |
| 420                           | TN            | Schools Teaching Respect for U.S. Flag                        | Policy Statement                                      |
| 421                           | MD            | Social Security Funds   | Adopted   |
| 425                           | OR            | World War II Veterans and Mustard Gas<br>Exposure             | Adopted as Amended                                    |
| 427                           | NY            | Camp Lejeune Water Contamination                              | Adverse   |
| 526                           | NY            | Toxic Exposure  | Adopted as Amended                                    |
| <b>Conservation Committee</b> |               |   |   |
| <b>Res. #</b>                 | <b>Origin</b> | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Action</b>   |
| 020                           | ID            | Opposing Further Federalization of State and<br>Private Lands | Present Policy  |
| 301                           | CO            | Definition of Waters of the United States                     | Policy Statement                                      |
| 302                           | WV            | Opposition to Federal Control of Tributaries                  | Policy Statement                                      |
| 303                           | PA            | Support of Energy Independence                                | Policy Statement                                      |
| 304                           | PA            | Support of Pipeline Work                                      | Policy Statement                                      |
| 305                           | IN            | US Clean Water Rules  | Policy Statement                                      |
| 306                           | MT            | Waters of the US  | Policy Statement                                      |
| 307                           | NY            | Moratorium on Bio-direct Spraying                             | Transferred to Agriculture                            |

|   |               |   |                            |
|---|---------------|---|----------------------------|
| 308                                     | ID            | Wild Fires in Western United States                                   | Present Policy             |
| 309                                     | OH            | New Ozone Regulations   | Adopted as amended         |
| <b>Education &amp; Health Committee</b> |               |   |                            |
| <b>Res. #</b>                           | <b>Origin</b> | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Action</b>              |
| 217                                     | NE            | Planned Parenthood Funding  | Adverse                    |
| 401                                     | OR            | Acupuncture Pain Relief   | Policy Statement           |
| 402                                     | NJ            | Aspartame Warning Labels  | Withdrawn                  |
| 403                                     | MN            | Financial Exploitation of Students                                    | Policy Statement           |
| 404                                     | TX            |   | Policy Statement           |
| 405                                     | MD            | Flavored Milk   | Policy Statement           |
| 406                                     | PA            | “Good Samaritan” Protection Regarding Children in Unattended Vehicles | Withdrawn                  |
| 407                                     | ME            |   | Present Policy             |
| 408                                     | OR            | Mental Health Day   | Adopted                    |
| 409                                     | PA            | Milk in Schools   | Policy Statement           |
| 410                                     | MI            | More Recognition and Further Study of Lyme Disease                    | Adopted as Amended         |
| 411                                     | WV            | Opposition to Community Schools                                       | Adverse                    |
| 412                                     | IN            | Paid Maternity Leave  | Policy Statement           |
| 413                                     | MI            | Pay to Play High School Sports  | Policy Statement           |
| 414                                     | MT            | Pertaining to Affordable Health Care Act                              | Adverse                    |
| 415                                     | MT            | Pertaining to School Shootings  | Withdrawn                  |
| 416                                     | NJ            |   | Present Policy             |
| 417                                     | ID            | Protect Students and Education System                                 | Adopted as amended         |
| 418                                     | PA            | Require Carbon Monoxide Detectors in Hotels                           | Withdrawn                  |
| 419                                     | MD            | School Lunches  | Adopted as Amended         |
| 420                                     | TN            | Schools Teaching Respect for U.S. Flag                                | Transfer to Citizenship    |
| 421                                     | MD            | Social Security Funds   | Transfer to Citizenship    |
| 422                                     | PA            | Support Service Provider Programs for Deaf-Blind People               | Adopted                    |
| 423                                     | NE            | Uniform Labeling for Mono-sodium Glutamate in Processed Foods         | Adverse                    |
| 424                                     | ME            | Vitamins and Herbal Supplements Label Country of Origin               | Adopted as Amended         |
| 425                                     | OR            | World War II Veterans and Mustard Gas Exposure                        | Transferred to Citizenship |
| 426                                     | NY            | 2015 Toxic Exposure Research Act                                      | Transferred to Citizenship |
| 427                                     | NY            | Camp Lejeune Water Contamination                                      | Transferred to Citizenship |
| 428                                     | NY            | Dementia and Alzheimer’s Drug Research                                | Adopted as Amended         |
| 429                                     | NY            | Herbal Supplements  | Adopted as Amended         |
| 430                                     | NY            | Mandated Safe Nurse-To-Patient Ratios                                 | Adopted as Amended         |
| 431                                     | NY            | The Caregiver, Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) ACT                      | Adopted as Amended         |
| 432                                     | PG            | Rural access to Health Care   | Adopted as Amended         |

|  |               |   |                               |
|--|---------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 433  | WI            | Research on Human Made Nanoparticles  | Adopted as Amended            |
| <b>Grange Law Committee</b>                      |               |   |                               |
| <b>Res. #</b>                                    | <b>Origin</b> | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Action</b>                 |
| 505  | WA            | Journal of Proceedings  | Transferred to Grange Growth  |
| 506  | TX            | Junior Grange and Alumni  | Adverse                       |
| 601  | GL            | Seventh Degree Application Fee  | Adopted                       |
| 602  | GL            | Executive Committee Decisions in the Absence of the Master/President            | Adopted                       |
| 603  | GL            | Incapacitation of the Master/President  | Adopted                       |
| 604  | GL            | Allow Subordinate Granges to Set the Dues for Associate Memberships             | Adopted                       |
| 605  | CA            | Amend Sections 4.17.1, 4.17.2, and 4.17.3 of the By-Laws of the National Grange | Adopted as Amended            |
| 606  | WV            | Eliminate Restriction on Dual Grange Offices                                    | Adopted                       |
| 607  | CO            | Executive Committee Decisions in the Absence of the Master/President            | Covered by GL602              |
| 608  | WV            | Golden Sheaf Members  | Withdrawn                     |
| 609  | OR            | Grange and Drugs  | Adopted as Amended            |
| 610  | WA            | Grange and Drugs  | Covered by GL609              |
| 611  | CO            | Grange Real Estate Management   | Transferred to Grange Growth  |
| 612  | CO            | Incapacitation of the Master/President  | Covered by GL 603             |
| 613  | PA            | National Grange Delegate Session Expenses                                       | Transferred to Audit & Budget |
| 614  | MA            | National Grange Membership List Opt-Out   | Present Policy                |
| 615  | MA            | National Grange Officer Term Limits   | Withdrawn                     |
| 616  | NJ            | National Grange Voting Rights for Potomac Grange #1                             | Adverse                       |
| 617  | ME            | Recognize Caroline A. Hall  | Withdrawn                     |
| 618  | NJ            | Reinstatement of Continuous Membership  | Adverse                       |
| 619  | ID            | Retain Proceeds of Sale of Grange Property                                      | Adverse                       |
| 620  | CO            | Seventh Degree Application Fee  | Covered by GL 601             |
| 621  | CO            | Sixth Degree Fees   | Withdrawn                     |
| 622  | KS            | Subordinate/Community Grange Title (National Digest)                            | Withdrawn                     |
| 623  | PA            | The Grange Altar  | Withdrawn                     |
| 624  | GL            | Grange Trials   | Adopted                       |
| 625  | GL            | Dissolution of Incorporation  | Adopted as Amended            |
| 626  | GL            | Obligation wording  | Adopted                       |
| <b>Grange Growth &amp; Development Committee</b> |               |   |                               |
| <b>Res. #</b>                                    | <b>Origin</b> | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Action</b>                 |
| 501  | MI            | Communication from National Grange  | Adopted                       |
| 502  | MI            | Discontinuation of National Grange Store  | Rejected                      |

|   |               |   |                        |
|---|---------------|---|------------------------|
| 503                                       | WA            | Grange Hall Pack Insurance  | Withdrawn              |
| 504                                       | CT            | Grange Mailing Lists  | Present Policy         |
| 505                                       | WA            | Journal of Proceedings  | Rejected               |
| 506                                       | TX            | Junior Grange and Alumni  | Transfer to Grange Law |
| 507                                       | WA            | National Grange Horizon Youth Ambassador Program                  | Withdrawn              |
| 508                                       | NJ            | National Grange Roster  | Adopted as Amended     |
| 509                                       | WV            | National Grange Talent Revue                                      | Withdrawn              |
| 510                                       | CO            | Placement of Stamp on National Grange Dues Envelopes              | Rejected               |
| 511                                       | CO            | Recognizing Grange in Rural Post Offices                          | Policy Statement       |
| 512                                       | NY            | World Almanac and Book of Facts                                   | Policy Statement       |
| 513                                       | GGD           | Grange Documentry   | Adverse                |
| 514                                       | GGD           | Duties of National Lecturer                                       | Adopted as Amended     |
| 515                                       | GGD           | Duties of Secretary and Treasurer                                 | Adopted                |
| 516                                       | GGD           | Grange Store  | Adopted                |
| 611                                       | CO            | Grange Real Estate Management                                     | Policy Statement       |
| <b>Labor/Judiciary/Taxation Committee</b> |               |   |                        |
| <b>Res. #</b>                             | <b>Origin</b> | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Action</b>          |
| 014                                       | MA            | Importation of Foreign Agriculture                                | Withdrawn              |
| 206                                       | IL            | Lincoln Highway   | Withdrawn              |
| 225                                       | CT            | Increased Time for Rural Postal Windows                           | Policy Statement       |
| 701                                       | PA            | Hatch Act   | Rejected               |
| 702                                       | CO            | Blind Spot indicators   | Adopted                |
| 703                                       | RI            | ChildAbuse/Domestic Abuse   | Policy Statement       |
| 704                                       | MN            | Wages of Home-Care Attendants                                     | Withdrawn              |
| 705                                       | WV            | Defunding Planned Parenthood                                      | Adverse                |
| 706                                       | OR            | Executive Orders Can't become Law                                 | Adverse                |
| 707                                       | IN            | Federal Judges  | Adopted                |
| 708                                       | CT            | Federal Road Guidelines   | Policy Statement       |
| 709                                       | MT            | Federal Transportation Bill                                       | Adopted                |
| 710                                       | ID            | Fort Knox Gold Audit  | Withdrawn              |
| 711                                       | MT            | Increase Railroad Safety Standards for Oil Shipments              | Present Policy         |
| 712                                       | RI            | Lowering the Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)                    | State Issue            |
| 713                                       | ID            | Military Equipment  | Withdrawn              |
| 714                                       | IL            | Police Body Cameras   | Policy Statement       |
| 715                                       | WV            | Removal of Homosexual Marriage Ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court | Adverse                |
| 716                                       | IL            | Renewable Fuels Standard  | Present Policy         |
| 717                                       | PA            | "Revenge Porn" Legislation  | State Issue            |
| 718                                       | ID            | Stop Bullying of Adults and Children                              | Present Policy         |



|     |    |  |                    |
|-----|----|--|--------------------|
| 719 | MD | Support to Increase Minimum Wages      | Adverse            |
| 720 | IN | Toll Road Transponders Uniformity      | Rejected           |
| 721 | PA | Tractor Trailer Licensing              | State Issue        |
| 722 | MD | Vehicle Weights for Milk Haulers       | Adopted as Amended |
| 723 | OH | Lifting Crude Oil Ban                  | Present Policy     |
| 724 | OH | Opposition to North American Passport. | Policy Statement   |
| 725 | VT | Selective Service                      | Adopted as Amended |

## AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT

### Index of Resolutions

| Res. # | Origin | Title   | Action  |
|--------|--------|---|---|
| 005    | IA     | Controlling GMO Drift Contamination of Organic Crops        | Adopted as Amended  |
| 006    | NE     | Country of Origin Labeling                                  | Adopted as Amended;<br>includes portions of<br>Master's Address |
| 007    | ID     | Crops, Timber, or Livestock Losses not Covered by Insurance | Adopted as Amended  |
| 011    | PA     | GMO-Free Labeling Certification Program                     | Adopted as Amended  |
| 018    | OR     | Oppose Non-Transparent Trade Pacts                          | Adopted   |
| 027    | NY     | American Foulbrood and the Honey Bee                        | Adopted as Amended  |
| 033    | OH     | Honey Bees  | Adopted as Amended  |

### POLICY STATEMENT

Agriculture is, as always, a foundation of America's economy, providing directly, or indirectly through value-added processing, currently 4.7% of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For 149 years the National Grange has been working to improve agriculture in America, and the welfare of those who work the soil or care for the creatures of the field. Our roots are in agriculture and our future is tied to our faith in the perennial cycle of planting and harvest.

Conservation of our soil, water and air quality remains a priority for the Grange, keeping in mind that all pertinent regulations should reflect local conditions. A key component of the future security of our water supply for both domestic and agricultural uses is the ability to store it. Challenges from environmental groups and climate change have brought progress in that area to a standstill. The National Grange will continue to promote water storage projects that benefit agricultural and domestic needs while appropriately safeguarding fish and wildlife safety concerns.

The National Grange continues to monitor issues concerning GMO-related food production and labeling. Unless credible scientific studies indicate a real health risk exists, the National Grange will continue to oppose mandatory labeling of Genetically Modified products. We support efforts to create a federal standard for the voluntary labeling of foods containing GMOs. We further request that the National Grange Legislative Director share the latest reliable research on this subject with State Granges on a continual basis.

Support for Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) is a long-standing position of the National Grange and is favored by consumers. However, adverse international rulings are threatening this program. We urge the adoption of voluntary labeling programs that provide clear information about country of origin and processing so that consumers can make informed choices about the food they feed their families.

Food safety continues to be a significant issue for Americans in light of the ever-increasing amount of our food that is imported. We believe the responsibility for all food safety inspection should fall under one federal agency, preferably the US Department of Agriculture. Healthy bee populations are important to food production in the US. We are pleased that the USDA has information available to assist first-time beekeepers in learning how to begin production. The National Grange supports ongoing efforts to preserve proven bee health practices, while identifying new pesticide crop treatments that are not harmful to bee populations.

The use of drone technology is rapidly becoming an important tool for agricultural production. However, privacy concerns have arisen as drones have become more popular. Agricultural organizations

must be a part of any solutions developed. We believe that the National Grange should play a major role as policy is created to regulate the utilization of drones in agriculture.

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. It is vital that we encourage the younger generation to enter into farming. We support programs or policies that will enhance the ability of young farmers to be successful as they pursue production agriculture as an occupation.

Individual incomes in developing countries are rising, leading to changes in diet that will increase demands on the world’s food supply even as population growth adds its inevitable impact. Cooperative nonpartisan effort and an understanding of the direct relationship between science and the natural world will be required, to answer the question “How will we feed them all?” In our installation ceremony we hear the words “The Order...by encouraging education, will advance to a higher state of perfection the science of Agriculture.” Our first four degrees are based on the cycles of nature and the lessons derived therefrom. And the Degree of Pomona includes a charge to “...discover new methods or to ascertain precisely what are the elements of success.” The coexistence of nature and science has always been a part of the teachings of the Grange. It is of paramount importance that the public understands the critical relationship between science, agriculture and protection of natural resources. Because of our foundational teachings the Grange is in the ideal position to play a leading role in these educational efforts.

*This policy statement covers portions of the Master’s Annual Address and resolutions 001-NC, 010-MN, 012-IA, 024-WA, 026-CO, 028-NY, 029-NY, and 030-OH*

## RESOLUTIONS

### AG-005 (IA) - Controlling GMO Drift Contamination of Organic Crops

WHEREAS, contamination of GMO genetic material onto Non-GMO crops is a growing concern, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support ongoing educational programs through the Cooperative Extension Services that address genetic material drift.

*Adopted as Amended.*

### AG-006 (NE) - Country of Origin Labeling

WHEREAS, Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (M-COOL) was enacted by Congress several years ago, following many, many years of fighting off opposition from Packing interests, and

WHEREAS, efforts to eliminate M-COOL have persisted, claiming that consumers don’t care, producers are getting paid less, due to the extra burden of costs associated with M-COOL, and finally, that the countries of Canada and Mexico are being financially harmed by its effects, and

WHEREAS, the World Trade Organization Court has ruled four times that M-COOL language violates the North American Free Trade Agreement, and

WHEREAS, Canada and Mexico have threatened to sue the USA for financial damages they claim to have suffered because of M-COOL, leading the 2015 Congress to consider legislation eliminating M-COOL as a way to fend off the pending lawsuits, and

WHEREAS, in an effort to salvage the hard-fought gains in food safety and truth-in-labeling, while still being WTO-compliant, bi-partisan legislation has been introduced in the Senate that would allow for a VOLUNTARY COOL program which would pertain to beef, pork, chicken and ground meats, and that the label “Product of the U.S.” would require the subject product come from animals born, raised and harvested in the U.S., therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports a VOLUNTARY Country of Origin (COOL) Labeling program which includes beef, pork, poultry, lamb, ground meat goat, wild and farm raised fish and shellfish that will:

1. Retain control over what it means to label a meat product “Product of the U.S.” by requiring that meat products identified as being a “Product of the US” under voluntary labeling programs, must come from animals born, raised and harvested in the US.
2. Maintain some standards which allow for the consumer to know where their food comes from.
3. Not violate the World Trade Organization (WTO) compliance language governing Free Trade.

*Adopted as amended.*

#### **AG-007 (ID) - Crops, Timber, or Livestock Losses not Covered by Insurance**

WHEREAS, extreme weather conditions seem to occur more frequent, and

WHEREAS, these weather conditions may have devastating effects on agricultural production, and

WHEREAS, that financial burdens may result on farmers and ranchers because of these extreme weather conditions, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that The National Grange encourage Congress to provide additional insurance programs to farmers, growers and ranchers that have crops, timber lands or livestock that are destroyed and not covered by insurance programs as result of extreme weather conditions (fire, flooding, tornadoes, etc.)

*Adopted as Amended*

#### **AG-011 (PA) - GMO-Free Labeling Certification Program**

WHEREAS, in recent months, several states have passed state-level genetically modified organism, or “GMO” label laws. Each state’s interpretation would require different mandates and lead to a patchwork of laws. Congress is now looking into the issue to develop a federal standard; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing interest in GMO labeling from consumer groups, but there is also a desire among many farmers to have the freedom to select the seed hybrids that best work in their farming operation; and

WHEREAS, the National Grange’s Declaration of Purposes supports the use of science-based technology to advance agriculture and farming; and

WHEREAS, there could be an economic opportunity for farmers who desire to develop a farming model that certifies a farm as GMO-free and allows for some farming practices that are not allowed under the USDA’s Certified Organic program; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports a voluntary GMO-free labeling certification program regulated through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and be it further

RESOLVED, that farms that achieve the USDA’s Certified Organic label would automatically qualify for the GMO-free label program.

*Adopted as amended.*

#### **AG-018 (OR) Oppose Non-Transparent Trade Pacts**

WHEREAS, fast-track trade pacts, which are non-transparent and do not allow discussion, debate, and amendments, do not allow informed public debate; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange opposes non-transparent, non-amendable fast-track trade pacts, which do not allow open debate by our legislative bodies.

#### *AG-027 (NY) - American Foulbrood and the Honey Bee*

WHEREAS, about one third of the food consumed by Americans come from crops pollinated by honey bees, including fruits and vegetables and nuts, and

WHEREAS, the American Foulbrood (AFB) is a highly contagious bacterial disease of the honey bee larvae, and

WHEREAS, the use of Terramycin and Tylan, treatments for this disease, were over-the-counter until the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) implemented a new plan on December 1, 2013 requiring these limited treatments to be available only by prescription to a private bee owner or by veterinarian feed directive (VFD), effective June 2, 2015 and few veterinarians are trained in honey bee diseases, and

WHEREAS, the cost of hobby beekeepers to obtain a prescription could be prohibitive and in turn will contribute to the spread of the contagious disease and further threaten the honey bee population, important to our agricultural ecosystem; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange opposes any ban on the use of antibiotics for treatment of honeybees, or any proposals to reclassify as 'prescription only' any such over-the-counter antibiotics used for treatment of honeybees, unless scientifically based information indicates otherwise.

*Adopted as Amended.*

#### *AG-028 (NY) Labeling of Foods Containing or Sourced from Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)*

WHEREAS, consumer labels are a means to identify attributes of the products consumers purchase, and

WHEREAS, no science-based research has found nutritional differences between foods containing GMO material and non-GMO materials, or sourced from products containing GMO or bio-engineered material, and

WHEREAS, 30 states have introduced 70 bills concerning GMO food labeling standards, and

WHEREAS, this patchwork of inconsistent labeling laws is onerous to the food manufacturing sector and food retailers; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that New York State Grange supports federal legislation and regulation that would bring consistency in Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) labeling standards throughout the United States.

#### *AG-033 (OH) - Honey Bees*

WHEREAS, studies have proven that pesticides are harmful to the honey bee population, and

WHEREAS, these pesticide studies are discovering that they affect other insects that are beneficial to the environment, and

WHEREAS, other products need to be developed to take the place of these harmful pesticides, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange encourage agricultural universities to research and develop pesticides that are not harmful to honey bees and other insects beneficial to the environment.

*Adopted as Amended.*

## **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 nation-al 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 guide-lines should provide authority to the local committees so they can best meet conservation needs. Conservation contracts should follow land ownership with penalties assessed for destruction of said practices before the final contract date. In the event any federal conservation cost-share funds are granted to states, all such funds should be made available to farmers for cost-share payments. ACP funds should be used for the cost-sharing program for which they have been appropriated.

and none of these funds should be diverted for administrative costs of the states' delivery systems. The Farm Service Agency should update its State ACP funds distribution formulas to help address the most serious long-term conservation needs.

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 daily 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 manu-facturers to report only the total use of domestically-grown and imported tobacco by class or kind of tobacco, thus leaving manufacturers the flexibility to adjust blends for their various brands of cigarettes to meet their customer demand.

4.The National Grange supports programs at the federal level to help tobacco farmers diversify their farming operation by raising and marketing of alternative crops and will support new research programs to discover new uses for tobacco, such as a new source of protein.

5.The National Grange supports negotiations, regulations, or legislation to control the importation of low grade, inferior quality tobacco.

6.The National Grange supports steps to make U.S. tobacco more competitive in the world market. We urge that all tobacco that is export-ed as U.S. tobacco must be certified as 100 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.

7. The National Grange encourages agricultural universities to develop pesticides that are not harmful to bees and other beneficial insects.

8. The National Grange opposes the ban or prescription restriction of over-the-counter antibiotics for treatment of honeybees unless such restrictions are based on scientific information.

### 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 Johnes's disease in cattle. We further support the development of a test that can isolate the causal organism of Johnes'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 National Grange opposes non-transparent, non-amendable fast-track pacts which do not open debate by our legislative bodies. 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.

6. To allow for the consumers' right to know where their food comes from, the National Grange supports voluntary country-of-origin labeling for beef, pork, lamb, fish and shellfish that is compliant with World Trade Organization (WTO) trade rules.

### 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, Tartarian 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 National 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. The Grange supports a voluntary GMO-free labeling certification program regulated by USDA and urges that the USDA Certified Organic label automatically qualify as GMO-free.

4. The National Grange supports ongoing educational efforts by the Cooperative Extension Service that address growing concerns about GMO genetic material drift to non-GMO plants.

#### 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.

10. Because extreme weather conditions are devastating to producers, The National Grange encourages Congress to provide additional insurance programs for catastrophic losses to livestock, crops and timber not covered by existing insurance programs.

### 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.

Fraternally,

Kevin Cooksley, NE, Chairman

Michael Lynch, DE

Nancy Clark, ME

Jimmy Gentry, NC

Phil Prelli, CT (H)

Mark Noah, OR (secretary)

John Plank, IN

Maurice Wiles, MD

Edsel Williams, SC

Claire Logan, RI (H)

## AUDIT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

### Index of Resolutions

| Res. # | Origin | Title                                     | Action  |
|--------|--------|---|---------|
| 102    | AB     | Compensation for Elected Officers         | Adopted |
| 103    | AB     | Covered Expenses for Officers & Delegates | Adopted |
| 104    | AB     | Authorized Travel Reimbursement           | Adopted |

### POLICY STATEMENT

The members of the Audit and Budget Committee thank 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 Grange 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 encourage all members to continually monitor the many member benefits that are listed on the National Grange website. We recommend that the members take advantage of these programs. We continue to support 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.

Few organizations give such value for the small monetary contribution from its membership. The Grange membership should consider sending contributions to the National Grange office to assist in helping to resolve the current financial situation.

### RESOLUTIONS

#### *AB-102 - Compensation for Elected Officers*

RESOLVED, the Audit and Budget Committee recommends the following annual compensation for elected officers:

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| National Master    | \$55,000          |
| National Lecturer  | \$ 500 honorarium |
| National Secretary | \$ 500 honorarium |

#### *AB-103 - 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 2016 National Grange Convention.

#### *AB-104 - 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 2016 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 2016 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.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Audit and Budget Committee for their hard work and many long hours.

|                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Brenda Rousselle, Vermont, Chair | Judy Sherrod, Secretary, Tennessee |
| Lynnette Schaefer, Illinois      | Susan Plank, Indiana               |
| Dwight Baldwin, Iowa             | Rick Grotton, Maine                |
| June Hendrickson, Washington     | Jack Smithers, Texas               |
| Chip Narvel, Delaware (H)        | Jim Owens, Maine (H)               |

We, the Committee, would like to thank Leroy Watson for his invaluable help with our budget questions, those Directors who so willingly answered our questions about their programs, and a special thank you to the Controller, Stewart Hughes, for his mastery of spreadsheets and ability to explain expenses from the 2012 budget year forward.

Fraternally submitted,  
Brenda Rousselle, Chair

### 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 149<sup>th</sup> annual Convention of the National Grange.

|                |                      |                  |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| California     | Ed Kowski            | Cynthia Kowski   |
| Colorado       | Cindy Greer          | Harry Greer      |
| Connecticut    | Noel Miller          | Marcia Miller    |
| Delaware       | Michael Lynch        | Helen Lynch      |
| Idaho          | Don Heikkila         |                  |
| Illinois       | Lynette Schaeffer    | Don Schaeffer    |
| Maine          | Rick Grotton         | Nancy Clark      |
| Maryland       | Maurice Wiles        | Donna Wiles      |
| Massachusetts  | George Thomas        | Patty Thomas     |
| Michigan       | Christopher Johnston | Connie Johnston  |
| New Hampshire  | Christopher Heath    | Kerriann Heath   |
| New Jersey     | Pete Pompper         | Joan Smith       |
| New York       | Stephen Coye         | Sharon Croucher  |
| North Carolina | Jimmy Gentry         | Anita Gentry     |
| Ohio           | Bob White            | Joan White       |
| Oklahoma       | Billy Shufeldt       | Lena Shufeldt    |
| Oregon         | Susan Noah           | Mark Noah        |
| Pennsylvania   | Elizabeth Downey     | Betsy Huber      |
| Rhode Island   | Larry Spencer        |                  |
| Vermont        | Brenda Rousselle     | Joseph Goodrich  |
| Washington     | Tom Gwin             | June Hendrickson |

The Secretary's records show the following states have the required six to 14 Granges, have their dues paid for the current year, and the following duly elected delegates are entitled to one vote and are entitled to be seated as representatives of these states at the 149<sup>th</sup> annual convention of the National Grange:

|                |                    |                   |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Alaska         | John Poirrier      |                   |
| Florida        | Barbara Borderieux |                   |
| Indiana        | John Plank         | Susan Plank       |
| Iowa           | Dwight Baldwin     | Kathy Baldwin     |
| Kansas         | Nathan Strawder    |                   |
| Minnesota      | T. J. Malaskee     |                   |
| Montana        | Scott Nicholson    | Marie Nicholson   |
| Nebraska       | Kevin Cooksley     | Shannon Cooksley  |
| South Carolina | Edsel Williams     | JoAnn Williams    |
| Tennessee      | Judy Sherrod       |                   |
| Texas          | Jack Smithers      | Margaret Smithers |
| Virginia       | James Taylor       |                   |
| West Virginia  | Jim Foster         | Earlene Foster    |
| Wisconsin      | Duane Scott        |                   |

Potomac Grange #1 is represented by Amanda Leigh Brozana

Emily Kurburski (MI) has been selected as the John Trimble Youth Legislative Experience participant for the 149<sup>th</sup> annual convention, and is entitled to be seated as the Youth Representative.

## CITIZENSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

### Index of Resolutions

| Res. # | Origin | Title   | Action             |
|--------|--------|---|--------------------|
| 201    | KS     | Arming Military Recruitment Centers                                 | Adopted            |
| 205    | OR     | Eliminate Requirement that USPS Pre-fund Retiree Insurance Benefits | Adopted as Amended |
| 209    | PA     | National Right to Parent  | Adopted as Amended |
| 212    | WV     | Opposition to Automatic Voter Registration                          | Adopted as Amended |
| 216    | MT     | Pertaining to Rural Broadband                                       | Adopted as Amended |
| 222    | MD     | Remove Deceased Persons from Social Security                        | Adopted as Amended |
| 223    | PA     | Space Available Travel for 100% Service-Disabled Veterans           | Adopted as Amended |
| 226    | NY     | Baby Tourism  | Adopted as Amended |
| 227    | NY     | Tax Deduction for Federal Student Loan Interest                     | Adopted            |
| 228    | OH     | Opposition to Earned Income Credit for Illegal Aliens               | Adopted            |
| 229    | OH     | Opposition to the Payment of Ransoms                                | Adopted as Amended |
| 231    | VT     | Robocall Enforcement Improvement Act                                | Adopted            |
| 232    | OH     | “The Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act”                         | Adopted as Amended |
| 421    | MD     | Social Security Funds   | Adopted            |
| 425    | OR     | World War II Veterans and Mustard Gas Exposure                      | Adopted as Amended |
| 526    | NY     | Toxic Exposure  | Adopted as Amended |

### 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 republic 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. Our constitution remains as relevant today as it has ever been in our national history and we must be careful in looking at any changes to these vital amendments. As we approach the National Grange sesquicentennial our motto, “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity” continues to illustrate the importance of our moral values and integrity.

We as citizens of the United States are stewards of our resources, rights, and way of life. It is our responsibility to ensure 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. Our economy is based on a variety of factors to promote growth each being as important as the next. Some of these factors are nature, labor, business and us the consumers. The Grange recognizes that laws and regulations are necessary for the health and safety of our citizens and the environment, but those rules cannot be made so stringent that they outweigh someone’s individual rights or liberties.



We are currently in an economy where the potential of this nation is being mortgaged for short-term economic solutions. Our elected legislators must remember that economically the more you tax an individual the less they have to spend elsewhere. 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. An ever expanding set of banking regulations, which if not followed properly, can be devastating to small businesses. Ongoing education concerning new banking and IRS regulations is important for the growth and longevity of these small businesses. We call on the United States Postal Service not to close regional mail distribution centers. We encourage individuals to support to their local animal care shelters.

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 have defined it, we as a people must oppose their actions. The Purple Heart is one of our country's oldest and most sacred medals a service member can be awarded. In recent years, there have been instances where service members have been injured or killed while on duty. For those service members that don't fit the criteria to be awarded the Purple Heart, we suggest the Armed Services design an award for these individuals. 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. It is important that not only at home, but also in our schools, proper respect for our flag is shown. We believe the Pledge of Allegiance and/or The National Anthem should continue to be taught in our schools and public gathering places 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. As our nation grows we must realize that not everyone is going to share the same beliefs or values and we need not be exclusive but inclusive of all. 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 policy statement covers 202-MD, 215-WV, 208-OR, 220-ID, 211-CO, 420-TN, and portions of the Masters Address.*

## RESOLUTIONS

### **CT-201 (KS) Arming Military Recruitment Centers**

WHEREAS, military recruitment centers are often targeted because of such by persons wishing to cause harm, and

WHEREAS, we believe that military personnel at such recruitment centers should have the ability to protect themselves from external threats; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Grange supports allowing military recruiters to bear arms inside recruiting centers.

### **CT-205 (OR) Eliminate Requirement that USPS Pre-fund Retiree Health Insurance Benefits**

WHEREAS, proposed cuts to regional mail distribution centers in Oregon could leave only the facilities in Portland and Medford to serve the entire state of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, a letter mailed from Springfield to Eugene would first be sent to Portland for sorting, then returned to Eugene for delivery; trucking mail across the state only to return it for local delivery seems the height of inefficiency; and

WHEREAS, the USPS is the only federal entity forced by Congress to pre-fund retiree health insurance benefits, a practice that no private sector employers are required to do and which amounts to a cost factor to USPS of approximately 5 billion dollars annually, and

WHEREAS, not counting the unfair and overly burdensome prefunding requirement, the USPS has actually been at or near profitability in recent year; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange encourage Congress to eliminate the requirement that United States Postal Service pre-fund retiree health insurance benefits.

*Adopted as Amended*

#### *CT-209 (PA) National Right to Parent*

WHEREAS, more than four million Americans with disabilities are parents, and

WHEREAS, this number will increase as more people with disabilities exercise a broader range of lifestyle options as a result of social integration and civil rights, and

WHEREAS, no research exists to support the proposition that children of parents who have other disabilities are in more danger of being injured, mistreated, or neglected than children of parents without disabilities, and

WHEREAS, despite the lack of support for the proposition that parents with disabilities cannot raise children safely and competently, and despite the fact that the Americans with Disabilities Act has been the law of the land for over two decades, parents with disabilities are the only distinct community of Americans who must struggle to retain custody of their children, and

WHEREAS, research validates the experience of parents with disabilities by demonstrating extremely high rates of reported discrimination and removal of children from the home, and

WHEREAS, the legal system is not protecting the rights of parents with disabilities and their children, since two-thirds of dependency statutes allow the court to reach the determination that a parent is unfit (a determination necessary to terminate parental rights) on the basis of the parent's disability, and

WHEREAS, despite the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act that makes it illegal for courts to consider disability in custody and adoption cases, children are still being unjustly removed from their parents' custody, and potential parents are being refused the right to adopt children solely because of their disability, and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2012 the National Council on Disability (NCD) transmitted a report to the President entitled Rocking the Cradle: ensuring the rights of parents with disabilities and their children, and

WHEREAS, this report further confirms that the child welfare system is ill equipped to support parents with disabilities and their families, resulting in disproportionately high rates of involvement with child welfare services and devastatingly high rates of parents with disabilities losing their parental rights, and

WHEREAS, the NCD report calls on the U. S. Congress and federal agencies to take immediate action to secure the right of disabled Americans to be parents; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support the National Council on Disabilities (NCD) in their efforts to ensure the rights of parents with disabilities to raise children.

*Adopted as Amended*

#### *CT-212 (WV) Opposition to Automatic Voter Registration*

WHEREAS, Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, is proposing to have automatic voter registration rather than requiring a citizen to register to vote; and

WHEREAS, the need for requiring a citizen to register to vote occurs in order to determine who is eligible to vote; and

WHEREAS, automatic voter registration would make impossible to determine who eligible voters are in a voting precinct thus promoting illegal voting by ineligible voters; and

WHEREAS, voting is a citizenship responsibility that is not denied by the need for voters to register to obtain voting rights; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange opposes automatic voter registration.

*Adopted as Amended.*

**CT-216 (-MT) - Pertaining to Rural Broadband**

WHEREAS, the US Government has excess spectrum (broadband connectivity) which is needed in rural areas for broadband connectivity; and

WHEREAS, the US Government excessively taxes the commercial enterprises that install broadband connectivity in rural areas; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange urge the US Government to reallocate its unused spectrum (broadband connectivity) government licenses to be available for commercial and rural broadband connectivity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange go on record as being in favor of the US Government providing funding for rural broadband infrastructure improvement; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange urge the US Government to impose reasonable taxation for private investment in rural broadband infrastructure improvement.

*Adopted As Amended*

**CT-222 (MD) Remove Deceased Person's Name from Social Security**

WHEREAS, the Social Security Administration (referred to as SSA) currently reports over 100,000 recipients who are 100 years old getting benefits and the census figures showing far less people of that age, there appears to be a conflict of information and a huge financial difference of benefits paid, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange encourage the Social Security Administration to remove deceased person's name from the rolls of Social Security and all benefits to that person be terminated immediately.

*Adopted as amended.*

**CT-223 (PA) - Space Available Travel for 100% Service-Disabled Veterans**

WHEREAS, the Space Available Program, operated by the Air Mobile Command, allows members of the active military, family members of active military, members of the reserve military, emergency workers, and retirees to fly on military aircraft if space is available, and

WHEREAS, this program does not include servicemen and servicewomen who have become disabled while serving in the military because they do not have enough time in the service to have retiree status, so

WHEREAS, many of these brave individuals would have reached retiree status if they had not become disabled during service to their country; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange call upon both houses of Congress to support the inclusion of 100% service-disabled veterans in the Space Available Program operated by the Air Mobility Command.

*Adopted as Amended.*

**CT-226 (NY) - Baby Tourism**

WHEREAS, an estimated 40,000 babies are born to couples posing as tourists each year. This is called "birth tourism." The United States is one of the few countries in the world that automatically grants citizenship to any child born here, regardless of the parents' nationality, and

WHEREAS, companies offering to help foreign nationals give birth in the U.S. operate openly on the internet, promising a U.S. passport, birth certificate and social security number for their newborn. Prices range from \$8,000 to \$80,000 depending on the services, and

WHEREAS, wealthy couples from China, the Middle East, Africa and South Korea predominate the trade. Once here, they claim they are indigent. This leaves U.S. citizens to pick up the tab for the delivery, which can exceed \$25,000; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange support legislation that penalizes businesses that engage in the act of aiding foreign nationals who come to the United States for the sole purposes of giving birth in the United States so the newborn will automatically gain United States citizenship.

*Adopted as Amended.*

**CT-227 (NY) - Tax Deduction for Federal Student Loan Interest**

WHEREAS, students and parents are paying thousands of dollars each year in student loan interest, and

WHEREAS, current Federal tax deductions of student loan interest is limited to \$2,500 each year, and

WHEREAS, students and parents are struggling every year to pay their student loan payments; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation that would allow parents or students to be able to utilize all student loan interest as an adjustment of income on their Federal tax return.

**CT-228 (OH) - Opposition to Earned Income Credit for Illegal Aliens**

WHEREAS, Illegal aliens can receive the Earned Income Credit, and other financial benefits not required by the U.S. Constitution, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation preventing illegal aliens from receiving the Earned Income Credit, or any other financial benefit from the United States Government.

**CT-229 (OH) - Opposition to the Payment of Ransoms**

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the United States to refuse to pay ransoms, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support the policy of the United States to refuse to pay ransoms on terrorist demands in the case they have taken hostages.

*Adopted as Amended.*

**CT-231 (VT) - Robocall Enforcement Improvement Act**

WHEREAS, “Voice Over Internet Protocol”, or VoIP, allows scammers and fraudulent agents to disguise and route calls from anywhere in the world at practically no cost, and

WHEREAS, disreputable computer generated calls from abroad can “spoof” caller ID mechanisms into identifying the caller as legitimate, and

WHEREAS, many of these calls are disguised as being from the IRS or other federal agencies, and

WHEREAS, legislation to address this situation has been introduced by Senators Claire

McCaskill of Missouri and Susan Collins of Maine, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support adoption and enforcement of the Robocall Enforcement Improvement Act or similar legislation that will enhance the Federal Communication Commission’s ability to regulate and penalize fraudulent telemarketers.

**CT-232 (OH) - The Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act”**

WHEREAS, the average infant adoption costs anywhere between \$10,000 and \$35,000 and,

WHEREAS, the current Adoption Tax Credit is only available to families with higher incomes, meaning that many families willing and able to adopt and care for children are not eligible for the adoption tax credit and,

WHEREAS, the “The Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act” will make the current tax credit fully refundable to all families who bring a child into their home through adoption,

WHEREAS, this will support families making the choice to grow their family through adoption, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange fully support “The Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2015”.

*Adopted as Amended.*

## PRESENT POLICY

### Citizenship

#### 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 capital, 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.

10. The National Grange supports allowing military recruiters to bear arms inside recruiting centers.



## 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.

9. The National Grange encourages Congress to eliminate the United States Postal Service requirement to pre-fund retiree health insurance benefits.

## 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. However, the Grange encourages the Social Security Administration to remove deceased persons from the rolls of social security and terminate all benefits to that person.

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."

9. The National Grange supports legislation to eliminate the taxable employment ceiling for the collection of Social Security taxes thereby increasing available funds for future benefits.

#### 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. Further, the Grange calls upon Congress to support the inclusion 100% service-disabled veterans in the Space Available Program operated by the Air Mobility Command.

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 (VA) 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.

9. The National Grange supports legislation to require the VA to approve health benefits for any

World War 11 veteran exposed to mustard gas within 180 days of application receipt. The Grange further supports legislation that would direct the VA to select a VA medical facility to serve as the national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of biological children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of service members exposed to toxic substances.

### 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. The National Grange supports a national broadband policy that will:

- a. Provide federal government funding for rural broadband infrastructure improvement.
- 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, stimulate broadband competition and impose reasonable taxation for private investment in rural broadband infrastructure improvement.
- 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. Reallocate unused government agency spectrum (broadband connectivity) for commercial and rural broadband connectivity.
- g. 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 robocalls should be prohibited from calling cell phones as well. The National Grange supports the Robocall Enforcement Improvement Act.

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 and automatic voter registration.

4. The National Grange Supports legislation that penalizes businesses that engage in the act of aiding foreign nationals' travel to the United States for the sole purpose of giving birth to automatically allow the newborn to gain United States citizenship.

5. The National Grange supports the policy of the United States to refuse to pay ransom on terrorists demands.

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. The Grange supports the National Council on Disabilities efforts to ensure rights of parents with disabilities to raise children.

### 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.

17. The National Grange supports the Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2015.

18. The National Grange legislation to allow parents or students to utilize all student loan interest as an adjustment of income on their federal tax return.

19. The National Grange supports legislation to prevent illegal aliens from receiving earned income tax credit or any other financial benefit from the United States government.

#### **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 thank the members of this Committee for the many hours of debate and discussion on the resolutions that were assigned to us. I want to recognize Emily Kurburski , John Trimble Youth Representative, for her insight and especially for helping our secretary.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beth Downey- PA, Chairperson  
Barbara Borderieux-FL  
Anita Gentry-NC  
Earlene Foster-WV  
Tammy Fryman- NE (H)

Pete Pompper-NJ Secretary  
Sharon Croucher-NY  
Joan White-OH  
Emily Kuburski-JohnTrimble Legislative Youth (H)  
Christine Hamp-WA (H)



## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

### Index of Resolutions

| Res. # | Origin | Title                 | Action             |
|--------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 309    | OH     | New Ozone Regulations | Adopted as amended |

### 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 encourages localities and municipalities to consider building small watershed dams for flood control and water supply. The National Grange continues opposition to the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waters of the United States (WOTUS) regulation. The federal government has no basis for extending its regulatory arm across all waters everywhere in the country. Common sense would seem to prioritize impaired waters and begin working from there under the intent of the Clean Water Act.

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 that pipeline expansion and upgrades are also keys to U.S. energy independence. However, we want to assure the rights of private property owners are preserved in the process of leasing rights of way. We further recognize U.S. agriculture must be part of the solution to the country’s energy needs.

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.

*This covers, CO 301, WV 302, PA 303, PA 304, IN 305, MT 306  
and portions of the National Master’s address*

### RESOLUTIONS

#### CON-309 (OH) - New Ozone Regulations

WHEREAS, the new ozone regulations in Ohio could cost \$22 billion of lost revenue from 2017 to 2040, and over 22,000 jobs could be lost per year, and

WHEREAS, the new ozone regulations would negatively affect the economy, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange oppose Environmental Protection Agency regulations further curtailing the presence of ground level ozone in the atmosphere below the current 0.075 parts per million (PPM) level.

## 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 though 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, which ever 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. The Grange opposes the Environmental Protection Agency's regulations further curtailing the presence of ground level ozone in the atmosphere below the current 0,075 parts per million levels.

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 insights and deliberations as they worked on the resolutions before the committee. I would especially like to thank the committee secretary for keeping the committee running smoothly and completing our work in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Noel Miller, CT Chairman  
Don Heikkila, ID  
Billy Shufeldt, OK  
Margaret Smithers, TX  
Joe Fryman, NE (H)

James Taylor, VA Secretary  
Shannon Cooksley, NE  
JoAnn Williams, SC  
Jim Foster, WV

## EDUCATION AND HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

### Index of Resolutions

| Res. # | Origin | Title   | Action             |
|--------|--------|---|--------------------|
| 408    | OR     | Mental Health Day                                       | Adopted            |
| 410    | MI     | More Recognition and Further Study of Lyme Disease      | Adopted as Amended |
| 417    | ID     | Protect Students and Education System                   | Adopted as Amended |
| 419    | MD     | School Lunches  | Adopted as Amended |
| 422    | PA     | Support Service Provider Programs for Deaf-Blind People | Adopted            |
| 424    | ME     | Vitamins and Herbal Supplements Label Country of Origin | Adopted as Amended |
| 428    | NY     | Dementia and Alzheimer's Drug Research                  | Adopted as Amended |
| 429    | NY     | Herbal Supplements                                      | Adopted as Amended |
| 430    | NY     | Mandated Safe Nurse-To-Patient Ratios                   | Adopted as Amended |
| 431    | NY     | The Caregiver, Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) ACT        | Adopted as Amended |
| 432    | PG     | Rural access to Health Care                             | Adopted as Amended |
| 433    | WI     | Research on Human Made Nanoparticles                    | Adopted as Amended |

## POICY 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. One of the core values of the Grange is the right to free expression and the respect of differing opinions. We especially see these as relevant in educational institutions.

We believe we must have a partnership between Federal, State and Local officials who all have a seat at the table when it comes to educating our children. 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 OCRE (Organizations Concerned about Rural Education), the National School Board Associations and other educational associations as well as supporting the efforts to reduce the pupil to teacher ratio at all levels of education through 12th grade. The National Grange supports the idea of more study in regards to Common Core to determine the educational benefits.

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, 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 dictionary program) and exposure to volunteerism and community service. These contributions will help us remain positive role models for school children and increase the awareness of our organization.

The National Grange encourages individuals to become educated consumers. Consumers, using modern technology, should research their purchasing and borrowing options carefully and make decisions that positively benefit their future and that of their community. The National Grange renews its historical commitment to free primary and secondary education, affordable higher education and support of the arts, music and athletics, recognizing their value in elevating the standard of social and intellectual life.

## Health

It is important that each of us take responsibility for our own health. The National Grange continues to support efforts to target the epidemic of childhood obesity, to return responsibility to the local communities to develop their own guidelines and to seek waivers on requirements that would allow farm to table produce and products to be fed to our children. We would recommend and encourage that the guidelines include healthy lunches, choice of milk and flavored milks, increased physical activity and limited access to soda and snack machines.

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 encourages all American to be mindful of the opioid crises that is sweeping American with a strong concentration in rural areas of our country.

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 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.

The National Grange should have a commitment to quality healthcare for all. We encourage Congress to look for areas of common ground to continue to reform health care. We support further research and potential coverage by insurance or Medicare/Medicaid for alternative therapies for medical conditions such as acupuncture for pain management.

We support paid maternity leave, working with businesses to build a comprehensive policy that benefits both the employee and employer.

*This Policy Statement includes portions of the Masters Internal Address and the following resolutions: MN-403, OR-401, MD-405, PA-409, IN-412, MI-413, TX404*



## RESOLUTIONS

### *EH-408 (OR) - Mental Health Day*

WHEREAS, it is estimated 42.5 million American adults suffer from some mental illness; and  
WHEREAS, 39,518 Americans took their lives in 2011 (the most recent data); and  
WHEREAS, suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death; and  
WHEREAS, bullying in the schools, "cyberbullying," and the lesser acknowledged workplace bullying causes great harm to an individual; and  
WHEREAS, access to help is limited and evasive; and  
WHEREAS, many hospitals are not equipped to handle many cases of the call for help; and  
WHEREAS, the individual who suffers feels alienated; and  
WHEREAS, mental health is a national crisis; and  
WHEREAS, mental health is still misunderstood; and  
WHEREAS, ignoring causes greater harm than knowledge; therefore be it  
RESOLVED, the National Grange support WHO's (World Health Organization) World Mental Health Day on October 10th of each year to help educate and support education on mental health.

### *EH-410 (MI) - More Recognition and Further Study of Lyme Disease*

WHEREAS, we hear a tremendous amount of publicity or informing of the public of breast cancer awareness, colon cancer awareness, and other diseases, and  
WHEREAS, there is some information available on the danger of ticks and how they can cause Lyme Disease if you look for it on the Internet or other means of information, and  
WHEREAS, we very seldom ever hear about the risk of what ticks can do to a person, and  
WHEREAS, the precautions to take when exposed to ticks are not widely made aware of, therefore be it  
RESOLVED, that The National Grange encourage further funding for studies of and information dissemination of tick borne illnesses and Lyme Disease.

*Adopted as Amended*

### *EH-417 (ID) - Protect Students and Education System*

WHEREAS, Common Core State Standards (CCSS) will require "Data Mining", which is a huge invasion of an individual's right to privacy. States who have adopted CCSS to continue being eligible for Obama's "Race to the Top" and other federal funding will be obliged to implement a State Longitudinal Database System (SLDS) used to track students. They will track students by obtaining personally identifiable information, including such intimate details as the SS# of parents, mother's maiden name, political affiliation or beliefs of the student and parents, mental and psychological issues of the child and family, sex behavior or attitudes, a history of personal behavior (including illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior), special relationships (with lawyers, physicians, ministers, etc.) religious beliefs and affiliations, and income, and

WHEREAS, the Common Core standards are copyrighted by the National Governors Association (NGA) and council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and are therefore protected by intellectual property. Hence states are issued licenses to use them and forbidden, for the most part, from making any changes to them. In other words, CCSS, I fully enacted, will end the historical and legal rights of our communities to determine what our children are taught and how the material will be taught, and

WHEREAS, according to the new 2012 Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) any educational related group has access to students' personal information tied to these tests, therefore be it

RESOLVED, The National Grange opposes the dissemination of personal student information without the written consent of the adult student or minor student's parent or guardian to any person or entity other than schools or education agencies

*Adopted as amended*

#### *EH-422 (PA) - Support Service Provider Programs for Deaf-Blind People*

WHEREAS, deaf-blind people rely on Support Service Providers (SSP's) to reduce reliance on family members and friends by facilitating communications and by providing environmental and situational information so that they can participate in all aspects of community life, and

WHEREAS, the SSP's are not to provide personal care or serve as an interpreter (as required by law), and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are 45,000 to 70,000 deaf-blind people in the U. S., a statistic that will rise because people are living longer and will experience sensory losses as part of the aging process, necessitating the need for more SSP's, and

WHEREAS, according to a survey by the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults, only ten states have state-wide programs to provide SSP's, and only fourteen states and the District of Columbia have smaller, regional SSP programs, and the remaining states have no SSP programs at all, and

WHEREAS, in addition to the availability of SSP's in many states the level of service in states with some programs fluctuates because the state or region determines who are eligible for the service and how many hours they receive, and

WHEREAS, since some programs such as those in Louisiana, Connecticut and Washington State are under the jurisdiction of an office or department for the deaf, these programs frequently discriminate against deaf-blind people by requiring them to communicate by using American Sign Language, which is more visual, rather than the communication method of their choice such as oral English, English Sign Language, or tactile sign language, and

WHEREAS, since SSP's are vital to the independence of all deaf-blind Americans, the federal government should implement a national program that will eliminate discriminatory practices and provide a higher level and greater uniformity of service; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange urge the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U. S. Congress to extend the Support Service Provider program to all 50 states.

#### *EH-424 (ME) - Vitamins and Herbal Supplements Label Country of Origin*

WHEREAS, it has been determined that some store-brand dietary vitamin and herbal supplements have been found not to contain the beneficial vitamins or herbs stated on the label, and

WHEREAS, many of these supplement products originate in countries where there is no regulation or oversight by a governing body or consumer protection agency, and

WHEREAS, these products are not subject to testing in this country before being offered to the public, and

WHEREAS, consumers have the right to know the origin of products they purchase, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange support legislation requiring that vitamins and herbal supplements be labeled to indicate the country of origin.

*Adopted as amended*

#### *EH-428 (NY) - Dementia and Alzheimer's Drug Research*

WHEREAS, little progress has been made in the treatment of dementia and Alzheimer's disease since the late 1970's, and

WHEREAS, as the number of older Americans grows, so will the number of victims of these diseases and the associated costs to Medicare and Medicaid, and

WHEREAS, dementia poses particular challenges because symptoms emerge a decade or more after the disease starts, making clinical trials expensive and lengthy, and

WHEREAS, because of the nature of this disease, drug treatment trials would take years, and even assuming a successful result after the trials, there would be virtually no patent life left and there is no real incentive for a pharmaceutical company to invest their resources and time in this science, and

WHEREAS, to make discovery of dementia drugs a priority, companies must know that the years of research and testing can deliver a payoff at the end that is more than humanitarian, and

WHEREAS, Congress has recognized this problem in other areas of medical research and has offered market exclusivity for “orphan” diseases and “biologic” drugs as an incentive for the pharmaceutical industry to develop drugs, and

WHEREAS, if a new drug could slow the progress of dementia by 50 percent, most of those individuals who now suffer in their 70’s would not be severely impaired until their 90’s, which would result in significant savings to the Medicare and Medicaid programs, while enhancing quality of life for patients and their loved ones; therefore be it

RESOLVED, National Grange encourage “market exclusivity” for orally administered Alzheimer’s and Dementia medicines and treatments.

*Adopted as Amended*

#### *EH-429 (NY) - Herbal Supplements*

WHEREAS, New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has stated an ongoing investigation of popular herbal supplements subjected to DNA testing has found numerous store brand supplements aren’t what their labels claim to be, and

WHEREAS, letters have been sent to GNC, Target, Walmart and Walgreen Company concerning supplements that either could not be verified to contain the labeled substance or that contained ingredients not listed on the label. These products include Echinacea, Ginseng, St. John’s Wart and others, and

WHEREAS, since the findings showed just 21 percent of store brand supplements verified DNA from the plants listed on the label Schneiderman asked the companies to provide detailed information on production, processing, testing and quality control for herbal supplements sold at their stores, and

WHEREAS, the Mayo Clinic advises that supplements can interact with prescriptions, can affect success of surgeries, and can be harmful for those under 18 as well as those over 65; therefore be it

RESOLVED, National Grange encourages legislation requiring all herbal supplements to be verified to contain all and only the ingredients listed on the product label.

*Adopted as amended*

#### *EH-430 (NY) - Mandated Safe Nurse-To-Patient Ratios*

WHEREAS, lower staffing ratios for nurses and higher patient loads have both been shown to result in increased exposure to hazardous conditions and insufficient recovery time (see Shogren E. & Calkins A. Findings of the Minnesota Nurses Association Research Project on occupational injury/illness in Minnesota between 1990 – 1994, St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Nurses Association: 1997.), and

WHEREAS, numerous studies reveal an association between high levels of experienced RN staffing and lower rates of adverse patient outcomes, and

WHEREAS, existing Federal regulation, 42 Code of Federal Regulations (42CFR 482.23(b)), only contains the nebulous requirement that hospitals certified to participate in Medicare “have adequate numbers of licensed registered nurses, licensed practical (vocational) nurses and other personnel to provide nursing care to all patients as needed,” and

WHEREAS, the American Nurses Association supports legislation to mandate specific nurse to patient ratios in legislation or regulation, and

WHEREAS, Congress’s continued failure to enact a federal law “The Registered Nurse Staffing Act” has left it to the states to ensure that staffing is appropriate to meet patients’ needs safely, and

WHEREAS, while New York State currently addresses nurse staffing in hospitals in law/regulations, these do not specifically set out minimum nurse to patient ratios; therefore be it

RESOLVED, The National Grange supports adoption of “The Registered Nurse Staffing Act,” or similar legislation by the United State Congress.

#### *EH-431 (NY) - The Caregiver, Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) ACT*

WHEREAS, at any given time, an estimated 4.1 million New Yorkers provide varying degrees of unreimbursed care to adults with limitations in daily activities, and

WHEREAS, family caregivers play a critical role when a loved one comes home from a hospital stay, and

WHEREAS, despite the importance of these caregivers, many are left out of discussions involving a patient's care while they are in the hospital and, upon the patient's discharge, receive little or no instruction on the tasks they are expected to perform, possibly resulting in the patient having to be readmitted to the hospital, and

WHEREAS, legislation has been proposed as the Caregiver, Advise, Record and Enable (CARE) Act, which would allow every patient to identify a caregiver and require hospital staff to show said caregiver how to perform medical or nursing tasks needed at home such as managing medications or dressing wounds as well as notifying caregivers of the patient's discharge plans, and

WHEREAS, ensuring caregivers receive the instruction they need could improve patient outcomes and reduce readmissions which, in turn, could reduce costs for patients, hospitals, and taxpayers; therefore be it

RESOLVED, The National Grange supports the passage of the Caregiver, Advise, Record and Enable (CARE) Act.

#### ***EH-432 (PG) - Rural Access to Health Care***

WHEREAS, Rural access to health care is currently lacking and

WHEREAS, the American Association of Community Cancer Centers has labeled rural America as "cancer deserts" and

WHEREAS, the National Grange Legislative Director has been in contact with the American Association of Community Cancer Centers regarding this issue, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange, through Grange Advocacy, engage in discussions with the American Association of Community Cancer Centers regarding potential joint efforts addressing the lack of access to proper health care in rural America, especially cancer care.

#### ***EH-433 (WI) - Research for Human Made Nanoparticles***

WHEREAS; there has been recent research that support further research regarding tiny human made substances called nanoparticles, which are already being used in bio-medical devices and sunscreen, and

WHEREAS; they are quietly making their way into agriculture fields as Nano-formulation of pesticides, and

WHEREAS; there is broad consensus from academia, industry and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the total amount of toxins (pesticides, etc.) sprayed onto groups would be significantly reduced, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange support continued research of nanoparticles.

*Adopted as amended*

## **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.

19. The National Grange opposes dissemination of personal student information to any person or entity other than the school or education agency without written consent of the adult student or minor student's legal guardian.

### 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. The National Grange urges school systems to promote milk in school lunches and urges USDA to promote the greater use of milk in other child nutrition programs.

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 vitamins, herbal supplements and other dietary supplements to report certain information to the Secretary of Health and Human Services annually, including a list of supplements manufactured, the labeling to include the country of origin and the major ingredients for such supplements, and be verified to contain only and all ingredients listed on the product label.

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.

18. The National Grange supports adoption of "The Registered Nurse Staffing Act" or similar legislation by the United States Congress to meet patients' needs safely.

19. The National Grange support World Mental Health Day observed annually on October 10.

#### 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.

9. The National Grange supports passage of the "Caregiver, Advise, Record and Enable (CARE) Act" to prepare caregivers for home healthcare medical and nursing tasks.

10. The National Grange, through Grange Advocacy, engage the American Association of Community Cancer Centers in discussions regarding potential joint efforts to address the lack of access to

proper health care and cancer care In rural America.

### 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 other tick-borne illnesses, to disseminate information and to educate the public about its prevention, detection, and treatment.

12. As an incentive for the pharmaceutical industry to develop drugs for "orphan" diseases, the National Grange encourages "market exclusivity" for orally administered Alzheimer's and Dementia medicines and treatments.

13. The National Grange supports continued research on man-made nanoparticles used in medical devices and sunscreen.

### 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.

10. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Congress to extend the Support Service Provider program to all 50 states.

### 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.

The Education and Health Committee would like to thank Grange members across our country for taking the time to write these resolutions. We would also like to thank the committee for great discussion and passion shown about the issues. We appreciate the assistance of the National Staff members.

Sincerely,

Bob White, Ohio, CH

Cynthia Komski, CA

Chris Johnston, MI

Kerriann Heath, NH

Amanda Brozana, Potomac (H)

Jim Tetreault, NH Sec

Don Schaefer, IL

TJ Malaskee, MN

Joan Smith, NJ

## GRANGE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

### Index of Resolutions

| Res. # | Origin | Title                              | Action             |
|--------|--------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 501    | MI     | Communication from National Grange | Adopted            |
| 508    | NJ     | National Grange Roster             | Adopted as Amended |
| 514    | GGD    | Duties of National Lecturer        | Adopted as Amended |
| 515    | GGD    | Duties of Secretary and Treasurer  | Adopted            |
| 516    | GGD    | Grange Store                       | Adopted            |

### POLICY STATEMENT

The growth of our Granges and the development of our members are vital to continued existence and future of the Grange. These goals are intertwined. Without continued development in leadership and programming the Grange will not grow, nor possess, the experience to face future challenges. We have the knowledge to address these problems and achieve these goals. We must keep our attitudes positive and unified as we work together as a team to develop programming that will mold today's leaders and those of tomorrow.

A true leader should recognize they are to serve the membership and not seek the position but rather let the position seek the person. Every leader in the Grange should strive to build a cohesive team to lead the Grange in the pathway to success.

In today's ever-changing world, Granges, at all levels, should strive to create new ways to encourage all members to be involved in the Grange process. Granges should also be encouraged to remind their officers regularly of the duties with which they were charged during the installation ceremony and provide them with the mentoring and tools to accomplish these tasks. Granges should also be encouraged to think outside the box, and not be afraid of change that will provide opportunities to create leadership and membership development.

While Granges should strive to look ahead, we shall not forget to pause and remember our vast accomplishments that have benefited American life for the past 148 years. In recognition of the Granges involvement in Rural Free Delivery, we recommend that the National Grange develop a certificate program commemorating the Granges involvement with this major achievement in rural American life.

The National Grange should research and pursue appropriate national publications, such as the "World Almanac and Book of Facts" to promote the Grange as America's oldest agricultural fraternal organization.

In an effort to help address Grange real estate issues, we recommend the National Grange develop programs to help guide our Granges in appropriate property management practices to better manage our Grange properties.

The Grange will only succeed and grow with the proper attitude and hard work of its members. We must remember to have pride in our organization. We must continue to review our programming and update it as needed. We cannot cling to outdated ideals or programming that holds us from growth. With the assistance, teaching, and respect of veteran members, we are able to train and develop our members who will one day be the officers, delegates and leaders of the Order. This is our future and it is our responsibility to ensure that it endures forever.

*This report covers portions of the Master's Internal Address and the following resolutions assigned to our committee: GGD-511-CO, GGD-512-NY, and GL-611-CO.*

### RESOLUTIONS

#### GGD-501 (MI) - Communication from National Grange

WHEREAS, over the years communication from National Grange has been cut way back, and

WHEREAS, the National Lecturer and directors of other departments use to send out Quarterly Bulletins/Newsletters to the State Lecturer and Directors, and

WHEREAS, this was an excellent way to keep communication lines open between National and States, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange Program Directors (Lecturer, Youth and Young Adults, Junior Grange, Community Service, etc.) develop program material on an annual basis and quarterly updates be provided by them to State Masters, State Secretary, and corresponding State Directors and that the program material, and updates, also be available on the National Grange website.

*Adopted as Amended.*

#### *GGD-508 (NJ) - National Grange Roster*

WHEREAS, the National Grange publishes a roster each year showing the officers, departments and committees of the State Granges, and

WHEREAS, multiple copies of this roster are produced and distributed to the State Granges and other interested parties at a significant expense to the National Grange, and

WHEREAS, the National Grange is in a cost cutting measure where every expense should be analyzed and all costs cut whenever possible, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange produce the Roster electronically and placed on the “member only” portion of the website for members to print off at their discretion as per the privacy policy of the National Grange.

#### *GGD-514 (Committee Resolution) - Duties of National Lecturer*

RESOLVED, the National Grange Lecturer be responsible for developing educational programs that can be used on a nation-wide basis; coordination and development of contests to be used as potential membership tools; seek corporate sponsorships; and development of other programs as appropriate.

#### *GGD-515 (Committee Resolution) - Duties of Secretary and Treasurer*

RESOLVED, the National Grange Executive Committee review the duties of the Secretary and Treasurer as described in the Digest; and define the duties to be completed / performed by the elected officers and to be completed / performed by a staff member with the goal of increased fiscal responsibility, and be it further

RESOLVED, the Executive Committee report back at the 2016 National Convention such definitions.

#### *GGD-516 (Committee Resolution) - Grange Store*

RESOLVED, the National Grange continue to operate and maintain the Grange Store.

I would like to thank the members of the convention committee on Grange Growth and Development for their dedication and commitment to our Order. It was a pleasure to serve as chairperson of this committee with such a knowledgeable group of Grangers who have many years of experience serving the National Grange. I appreciate their patience and guidance with this being my first year serving as a chairperson. I know that we have done our due diligence for our organization.

Chris Heath (NH), Chair

Helen Lynch (DE)

Donna Wiles (MD)

Tom Gwin (WA)

Melanie Bostwick (KS),(H)

Nathan Strawder (KS), Secretary

Kathy Baldwin (IA)

Lena Shufeldt (OK)

Joe Goodrich (VT)

## GRANGE LAW COMMITTEE REPORT

### Index of Resolutions

| Res. # | Origin | Title   | Action             |
|--------|--------|---|--------------------|
| 601    | GL     | Seventh Degree Application Fee  | Adopted            |
| 602    | GL     | Executive Committee Decisions in the Absence of the Master/President            | Adopted            |
| 603    | GL     | Incapacitation of the Master/President  | Adopted            |
| 604    | GL     | Allow Subordinate Granges to Set the Dues for Associate Memberships             | Adopted            |
| 605    | CA     | Amend Sections 4.17.1, 4.17.2, and 4.17.3 of the By-Laws of the National Grange | Adopted as Amended |
| 606    | WV     | Eliminate Restriction on Dual Grange Offices                                    | Adopted            |
| 609    | OR     | Grange and Drugs  | Adopted as Amended |
| 624    | GL     | Grange Trials   | Adopted            |
| 625    | GL     | Dissolution of Incorporation  | Adopted as Amended |
| 626    | GL     | Obligation wording  | Adopted            |

### 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 the Grange at all 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 we would challenge all to apply the high standards demanded by our Fraternal bonds to conduct our personal participation on social media sites accordingly.

Given that many Granges 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 Corporations 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 are very important aspects 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.”

We recommend the National Grange Executive Committee engage legal counsel in a review and request editorial suggestions to Chapter IV, Article XII, "Property of Granges which surrender their Charter or whose Charter has been revoked" and utilize recent court decisions. We also recommend the same process to be applied to Chapter IV, Article V of the National Digest of Laws to define consequences and actions to be taken when a Charter is suspended.

*This covers sections of the Master's Internal Address.*

## RESOLUTIONS

### GL-601 – (Committee Resolution) - Seventh Degree Application Fee [Second Reading]

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 (\$30.00) which shall be paid to the National Grange.

### GL-602 (PA) - Executive Committee Decisions in the Absence of the Master/President [Second Reading]

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.

### GL-603 (PA) – Incapacitation of the Master/President [Second Reading]

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.

#### GL-604 (WA) – Allow Subordinate Granges to Set the Dues for Associate Memberships [Second Reading]

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.

#### GL-605 (CA) Amend Sections 4.17.1, 4.17.2, and 4.17.3 of the By-Laws of the National Grange

WHEREAS, Proposals to adopt, amend or repeal the By-Laws of the National Grange now require two votes, at two consecutive annual sessions before they can be adopted, and

WHEREAS, The National Grange should be able to respond to urgent or time-sensitive proposals, which may require immediate adoption, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Section 4.17.1 of the By-Laws of the National Grange be amended to read as follows:

4.17.1 By-Laws of the National Grange – By-Laws of the National Grange with the exception of sections pertaining to dues may be adopted, amended, or repealed in whole or in part by a five-sixths vote of the delegates present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present. If the vote in favor of adoption is less than five-sixths, but more than two thirds, the proposal shall lay over until the next annual session, where it will require a two-thirds vote for adoption.

4.17.1(B) Any dues increases shall require adoption by two-thirds majority at two consecutive sessions.

*This is the first reading 2015.*

#### GL-606 (WV) - Eliminate Restriction on Dual Grange Offices

WHEREAS, the current “Digest” says that no member may hold the same office in two different Granges simultaneously; and

WHEREAS, each Grange should decide for itself who it wants to place in an office; and

WHEREAS, there is no harm to either Grange when a member holds the same office in two different Granges; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the by-laws of the National Grange be amended to read as follows:

4.10.2 Election of Officers, Except Members of Executive Committees—

(A) Qualifications of Officers. Each officer of the various Granges of the Divisions of the Order must be a member in good standing in a Subordinate Grange, or must hold an unexpired demit



there from. Any Fourth Degree member may be elected to office in a Grange of a higher degree but shall not be installed until such member shall have received the higher degree. Affiliate members in a Subordinate and Pomona Grange may hold office in any Grange in which they hold membership; provided, however, an Affiliate Member shall not hold the office of Master in two Subordinate or two Pomona Granges.

4.6.4 Junior Grange Affiliate Membership – A Junior Grange member may not be a member of more than one Junior Grange at the same time except that a Junior Grange member may be elected to membership in one additional Junior Grange as an affiliate member. A proposal for affiliate membership and election thereto shall be the same as provided in 4.6.1 above except election to membership shall be by majority vote by paper ballot. Such affiliate member shall pay the applicable membership dues and be entitled to hold office and vote in the additional Junior Grange, provided that affiliate members are clearly designated as such in reports to the Secretaries of State Granges and the National Grange and further provided such affiliate members shall not hold the office of Master in two Junior Granges at the same time.

4.6.9 Pomona Grange Affiliate Membership – A Fifth Degree member may not be a member of more than one Pomona Grange at the same time except that a member of a Pomona Grange may be elected to membership in one additional Pomona Grange as an Affiliate Member. A proposal for affiliate membership and election thereto shall be the same as provided in Section 4.6.6 above. Such Affiliate members shall pay the applicable membership dues to, and be entitled to hold office and vote in, the additional Pomona Grange provided that Affiliate members shall be clearly designated as such in reports to secretaries of State Granges and further provided that such Affiliate Members shall not hold the office of Master in two Pomona Granges. Pomona Grange Affiliate Members are eligible to hold office in State Granges and participate in contests sponsored by the National Grange; neither of these two benefits of the Order may be exercised by such Affiliate Members in more than one Pomona Grange, State Grange at the same time.

4.6.7 Subordinate Grange Affiliate Membership - A Fourth Degree member may not be a member of more than one Subordinate Grange at the same time except that Fourth Degree members may be elected to membership in one additional Subordinate Grange as an Affiliate Member. A proposal for affiliate membership, including proof of the member being in good standing in their original Grange, and election thereto shall be the same as provided in Section 4.6.4 above except election to membership shall be majority vote by paper ballot. Such Affiliate members shall pay the applicable membership dues and be entitled to hold office and vote in the additional Subordinate Grange, provided that Affiliate members are clearly designated as such in reports to the secretaries of State Granges and the National Grange, and further provided such Affiliate Members shall not hold the office of Master in two Subordinate Granges at the same time. Subordinate Grange Affiliate Members are eligible to hold office in State Granges and participate in contests sponsored by the National Grange. Neither of these two benefits of the Order may be exercised by such Affiliate Members in more than one Subordinate Grange, State Grange at the same time.

*This is the first reading.*

#### **GL-609 (OR) - Grange and Drugs**

WHEREAS, the Grange has a long history of opposition to the production, distribution, use and sale of illegal drugs; and

WHEREAS, Grange members believe the evidence shows illegal drug use is destructive to the individual, and negatively effects families and the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA) designates five schedules of dangerous drugs of which Schedule I is the most serious and Schedule V the least; and

WHEREAS, federal law prescribes serious penalties for the unlawful production, distribution, use and sale of these defined and controlled drugs and substances, including the seizure of real and personal property; and

WHEREAS, several states have passed state laws in conflict with the prohibitions in CSA and there is great uncertainty about how the Grange should deal with this conflict; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange Digest of Laws be amended by inserting a new section following Chapter 10, Article 11 and renumbering the existing Article 12:

**Illegal Drugs**

**10.12.1** All Granges are prohibited from allowing the use of Schedule I drugs, as defined by the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA), in a Grange hall or on any Grange property or at any Grange meeting in buildings or on property not owned by the Grange.

**10.12.2** Section 1 of this Article shall apply to all Schedule II through V drugs as defined by the CSA, except those held in lawful possession as prescribed by a licensed physician.

**10.12.3** No Grange shall allow on Grange property any other person to engage in activities that circumvents Section 10.12.1 or encourages the disregard of the CSA.

*Adopted as amended*

**GL-624 (Committee Resolution) - Trial Court Filing Fees**

Be It Resolved, that Sections 12.2.8, 12.2.9, 12.2.13, 12.2.19, 12.2.20, 12.2.23, 12.2.28, 12.2.29, and 12.2.31 of the Digest of Laws of the National Grange be deleted and the following substituted:

12.2.8. Prior to appointment of the Trial Court, the Complainant will pay a filing fee of \$100 to the State Grange. If Complainant shall fail to pay the filing fee required, the Complaint will be dismissed.

12.2.9. Once the Complaint has been referred to the Trial Court, the Trial Court shall transmit to Respondent a complete copy of the Complaint and its attachments, the names of the members of the Trial Court, and a copy of this section of the Digest. Respondent shall have twenty (20) days in which to pay the filing fee of \$100 to the State Grange and to answer the Complaint in writing. A copy of the Answer shall be delivered to the Chairperson of the Trial Court and to Complainant. If Respondent shall fail to pay the filing fee required, the Trial Court may deny Respondent the privilege of presenting evidence at the Trial.

12.2.13. If the Trial Court makes a finding of guilty, then as to each such finding it may:

(Keep Sections (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) as currently written)

Delete Section 12.2.13 (B)

12.2.19. If a Complaint is referred by an Arbitration Panel to the National Master for delivery to a Trial Court, the National Master shall appoint a Trial Court composed of three (3) members within 30 days of referral, naming one member as Chairperson. Prior to appointment of the Trial Court, the Complainant will pay a filing fee of \$200 to the National Grange. If Complainant shall fail to pay the filing fee required, the complaint will be dismissed.

12.2.20. Once the Complaint has been referred to the Trial Court, the Trial Court shall transmit to Respondent a complete copy of the Complaint and its attachments, the names of the members of the Trial Court, and a copy of this section of the Digest. Respondent shall have twenty (20) days in which to pay the filing fee of \$200 to the National Grange and to answer the Complaint in writing. A copy of the Answer shall be delivered to the Chairperson of the Trial Court and to Complainant. If Respondent shall fail to pay the filing fee required, the Trial Court may deny Respondent the privilege of presenting evidence at the Trial.

12.2.23. If the Trial Court makes a finding of guilty, then as to each such finding it may:

(Keep Sections (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) as currently written)

Delete Section 12.2.23 (B)

12.2.28 If a Complaint is referred by an Arbitration Panel to the High Priest of Demeter for delivery to a Trial Court, the High Priest of Demeter shall appoint a Trial Court composed of three (3) members within 30 days of referral, naming one member as Chairperson. Prior to appointment of the Trial Court, the Complainant will pay a filing fee of \$300 to the High Priest of Demeter. If Complainant shall fail to pay the filing fee required, the complaint will be dismissed.

12.2.29. Once the Complaint has been referred to the Trial Court, the Trial Court shall transmit to Respondent a complete copy of the Complaint and its attachments, the names of the members of the Trial Court, and a copy of this section of the Digest. Respondent shall have twenty (20) days in which to pay the filing fee of \$300 to the High Priest of Demeter and to answer the Complaint in writing. A copy of the Answer shall be delivered to the Chairperson of the Trial Court and to Complainant. If Respondent shall fail to pay the filing fee required, the Trial Court may deny Respondent the privilege of presenting evidence at the Trial.

12.2.32. If the Trial Court makes a finding of guilty, then as to each such finding, it may:  
(Keep Sections (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) as currently written)

Delete Section 12.2.32 (B)

All remaining Sections shall be renumbered appropriately.

#### GL-625 – (Committee Resolution) - Dissolution of Incorporation

Be It RESOLVED, that Chapter 4, Article V of the Digest of Laws of the National Grange be amended by adding a new section as follows:

4.3.9. Dissolution of a Grange – When a Grange which has been incorporated under state law surrenders its charter or its charter is revoked and all appeals are exhausted, it will be the duty of the Master of that State Grange to immediately take steps to dissolve the incorporation and file the appropriate documents as required by the state.

*This is the first reading.*

#### GL-626 – (Committee Resolution) – Obligation Wording

RESOLVED that the following statement be incorporated into the obligation of the First Degree, Fourth degree, Obligation Ceremony, Welcoming Ceremony, and all Grange application forms: *“I further promise to uphold the by-laws of this Grange and the constitution and by-laws of the State and National Granges. I also promise to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to obey the laws of the land.”*

**First Degree on page 26 and 27 of the 2013 Manual would read as follows:**

M: In the presence of our Heavenly Father and these witnesses, I do hereby pledge my sacred honor that, whether in or out of the Order, I will never reveal any of the secrets of this Order, nor communicate the ritualistic work of this Order to anyone unless legally authorized to do so. *I further promise to uphold the by-laws of this Grange, and the constitution and by-laws of the State and National Granges. I also promise to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to obey the laws of the land.* I will never propose for membership in the Order nor.... Friends, is this your Obligation?

**The fourth degree in the 2013 Manual, pages 64 and 65 would read:**

M: Brothers and Sisters, I will now administer the Obligation. You will repeat after me:

*“I hereby renew and confirm...and aid others in the performance of the same. – I further promise to uphold—the by-laws of this Grange—and the constitution and by-laws—of the State and National Granges. I also promise to uphold—the Constitution of the United States—and to obey the laws of the land.”*

**The Welcoming Ceremony obligation on pages 76 and 77 of the 2013 Manuals would read:**

A member is recognized for high character, commitment to principles, concern for others and for financial responsibility. A Grange member exemplifies these characters on a daily basis. As a member of our Grange we expect that you will support the organization by contributing time and talent to the best of your ability, and will meet your financial obligations in a timely manner. *I further promise to uphold the by-laws of this Grange and the constitution and by-laws of the State and National Granges. I also promise to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to obey the laws of the land.*

**The Short Form Obligation on pages 82 and 83 of the 2013 Manual would as follows:**

M: Please place your right hand over your heart and repeat after me:

In the presence of our Heavenly Father and these witnesses, I do hereby pledge my sacred honor that, whether in or out of the Order, I will never reveal any of the secrets of this Order, nor communicate the ritualistic work of this Order to anyone unless legally authorized to do so. *I further promise to uphold the by-laws of this Grange and the constitution and by-laws of the State and National Granges. I also promise to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to obey the laws of the land.* I will never propose for membership in the Order ....

**That all Grange Application Forms would read:**

I desire to unite with others in elevating and advancing the interest of the American family and community life, receiving in turn the benefits and advantages of those who belong to the Grange. *I further promise to uphold the by-laws of this Grange and the constitution and by-laws of the State and National Granges. I also promise to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to obey the laws of the land.* I have not previously applied for membership in this or any other Grange during the past six months.

I'd like to thank Master Ed Lutrell for bestowing upon me the honor of serving as chairman of the Grange Law Committee. All members of the committee have the utmost respect for Grange Law. We also have a deep understanding of the importance of our laws as our fraternal foundation and acknowledge the fundamental reality of having a living and breathing Digest of Laws. We have taken our responsibilities seriously and have all been honored to serve the delegate body. We thank the delegate body for submitting constructive resolutions and spirited interactions.

I would like you to join me in thanking the members of the Grange Law committee:

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Cindy Greer, Secretary (CO) | Betsy Huber (PA)    |
| Marie Nicholson (MT)        | Roger Bostwick (KS) |
| Bruce Croucher (NY)         | George Thomas (MA)  |
| Duane Scott (WI)            | Steve Coye (NY)     |
| Susan Noah (OR)             |                     |

Respectfully and Fraternally Submitted,  
Edward L. Komski (CA), Chairman

## LABOR AND JUDICIARY COMMITTEE REPORT

### Index of Resolutions

| Res. # | Origin | Title                            | Action             |
|--------|--------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 702    | CO     | Blind Spot indicators            | Adopted            |
| 707    | IN     | Federal Judges                   | Adopted            |
| 709    | MT     | Federal Transportation Bill      | Adopted            |
| 722    | MD     | Vehicle Weights for Milk Haulers | Adopted as Amended |
| 725    | VT     | Selective Service                | Adopted as Amended |

### 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. 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 National Grange opposes the possible actions considered by some members of the U.S. Congress that would lead to the U.S. Government's issuance of passports for citizens of other countries in the American continent.

The Grange urges Congress to reform immigration laws to provide for an orderly, well-regulated immigration process with special focus on a 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, child abuse, animal abuse, terrorism, corporate fraud, consumer fraud, electronic crimes and Internet crimes. The Grange supports cross reporting by all agencies involved for all crimes.

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.

National Grange encourages law enforcement agencies nationwide to consider the use of body/dash cameras in their day to day operations.

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 support allowing for exemptions to the federal guidelines for using transportation funds when it can be shown that these exceptions will not produce new major safety concerns.

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.

The Grange opposes reductions of service to rural America. A sustainable and prospering postal service is a necessity for rural America; and we urge the USPS to vigorously pursue ways to keep the same quality service it presently provides.

*This policy statement covers CO-702, RI-703, CT-708, IL -714, OH-724  
and portions of the Masters Address.*

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **LJT-702 (CO) - Blind Spot Indicators**

WHEREAS, blind spots when driving are a serious concern; and

WHEREAS, technology is in use that warns drivers when a vehicle is in their blind spot; and

WHEREAS, many accidents could be prevented if a driver was aware of vehicles that are not visible in their mirrors; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange lobby the Highways and Transportation Commission to insure that newer production vehicles can be equipped with blind spot indicators visible by the driver; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange request other after-market suppliers to have blind spot indicators available for earlier vehicles.

### **LJT-707 (IN) - Federal Judges**

WHEREAS, the judicial branch is independent from the rest of the government, and

WHEREAS, all judges must be confirmed by the executive branch of government by due process for life terms, and

WHEREAS, the life span today far exceeds that which the founding fathers knew, and therefore be it



RESOLVED, that the National Grange support a plan that all federal judges be reconfirmed every ten years to remain on the bench.

#### LJT-709 (MT) - Federal Transportation Bill

WHEREAS, since 2009, States have received the same annual federal funding allocation to maintain and repair local bridges, and

WHEREAS, many bridges are considered either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete with some 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century) or very similar legislation that increases the federal funding allocation to maintain and repair local bridges throughout the nation.

#### LJT-722 (MD) - Vehicle Weights for Milk Haulers

WHEREAS, dairy farmers and processors rely on milk haulers to transport milk from farms to processing plants, and

WHEREAS, due to the regional nature of milk marketing, milk trucks frequently have to cross state lines to pick up and deliver milk to processing plants, and

WHEREAS, milk production is seasonal in nature making it difficult for a milk hauler to accurately predict the amount of milk that will be on each load, and

WHEREAS, gross vehicle weight limits on raw milk haulers vary greatly from state to state in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast with the state recently allowing special permits to allow a truck to haul up to 88,000 pounds on state highways, but federal interstate highways still have much lower gross vehicle weight limits, and

WHEREAS, lower vehicle weight limits are inefficient, wasting time, fuel and money and causing more trucks to be on the nation's roadways; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange reaffirms its request that state and federal transportation leaders in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast work together to establish higher gross vehicle weight limits for milk haulers where reasonable precautions are taken to address safety concerns, and be it further

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports the amendment by Representative Richard Hanna (5-NY) to the Federal Highway Bill that would classify milk as an indivisible load so that milk trucks can legally haul the same amount on interstate highways as on state roads.

#### LJT-724 (OH) - Opposition to North American Passports

WHEREAS, the United States is a sovereign country which should determine its own practices on issuing passports to its citizens as well as to determine who may enter the United States, and

WHEREAS, some members of the United States Congress are considering allowing a passport for any person in North America, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange opposes the United States issuance of any passport covering more than the just United States citizens.

#### LJT-725 (VT) - Selective Service

WHEREAS, this nation has had an all-voluntary military since 1973, eliminating the need for conscription for the past 42 years, and

WHEREAS, we still maintain the Selective Service System, a relic of World War I wherein all male citizens from 18 to 26 must register, and

WHEREAS, such registration is a requisite for Federal student loan and grant programs and can have serious negative impact on ability to obtain a driver's license, qualify for financial aid, or pursue certain careers, and non-compliance carries the risk of prosecution, and



WHEREAS, restricting registration to male citizens flies in the face of equal protection under the law, guaranteed by the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, The National Grange favors all citizens between the ages of 18 and 26 be required to register with the Selective Service.

*Adopted as amended*

## 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.”

13. The National Grange supports the principle that all federal judges be reconfirmed every 10 years to remain on the bench.

14. The National Grange supports revisions to the Hatch Act to permit federal employees to run for local municipal and county offices so long as no conflict of interest exists.

### 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 shepherders 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.

6. The National Grange favors all citizens between the ages of 18 and 26 be required to register with the Selective Service.

#### 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.

8. The National Grange supports the amendment to the Federal Highway Bill that would classify milk as a indivisible load to allow milk trucks to legally haul the same weight on the interstate system as on state roads.

### 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.

6. The National Grange supports legislation to increase federal funding to maintain and repair local bridges throughout the nation.

## 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.

18. The National Grange supports requirements that newer vehicles be equipped with blind spot indicators visible by the driver and that after-market suppliers have blind spot indicators available for earlier models.

## 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.

9. The National Grange supports a standardized toll road transponder that works on all toll roads across the USA.

## 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.

I wish to thank all of the Labor, Judiciary, and Transportation Committee for their dedication and hard work. We accomplished all the work in the best interest of the Grange. Working with this team made my job so much easier and we all had a good time working together.

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|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Larry Spencer, RI Chairman | Scott Nicholson, MT |
| John Poirrier, AK          | Harry Greer, CO     |
| Marcia Miller, CT          | Patty Thomas, MA    |
| Connie Johnston, MI        | Maureen Prelli, CT  |
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