

NATIONAL GRANGE

OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

151ST ANNUAL CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 7-11, 2017 | SPOKANE, WASHINGTON



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

151st Annual Convention
Spokane, Washington
November 7-11, 2017

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

The Grange will accomplish this mission through:

FELLOWSHIP

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

SERVICE

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

LEGISLATION

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

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Master	Betsy Huber 362 University Rd., Lincoln University, PA 19352	(484) 459-1957
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Melanie Bostwick, KS (Secretary)
Allen Stiles, MD
Cynthia Komski CA
Lynette Schaeffer IL
Bill Johnson, MT
Wayne Campbell PA
John Plank IN
Joe Fryman NE
Jessie Jo Guttridge, Trimble Youth Rep.

Audit & Budget

Duane Hamp, WA (Chair)
Mark Noah, OR (Secretary)
Dwight Baldwin, IA
Marilyn Johnson, MT
David Bryant, WA
Phil Prelli, CT
Chip Narvel, DE

Citizenship & Taxation

Brenda Rousselle, VT (Chair)
Sherry Harriman, ME (Secretary)
Susan Plank, IN
Barbara Borderieux, FL
Joan White, OH
Harry Greer, CO
Christine Hamp, WA
Jeannie Billmire, ID
Claire Logan, RI

Conservation

Bob White, OH (Chair)
Kay Stiles, MD (Secretary)
Larry Spencer, RI
Tom Gwin, WA
Don Schaeffer, IL
Michael Lynch, DE
Tammy Fryman, NE
Don Billmire, ID
Billy Shufeldt, OK
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Education & Health

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Scott Nicholson, MT (Secretary)
Debbie Campbell, PA
Marcia Miller, CT
Chris Johnston, MI
Steve Logan, RI
Anita Gentry, NC
Sharon Croucher, NY

Grange Growth & Development

Joe Goodrich, VT (Chair)
Kathy Baldwin, IA (Secretary)
TJ Malaskee, MN
Judy Sherrod, TN
Pete Pompper, NJ
Lena Shufeldt, OK
Patti Thomas, MA

Grange Law

Chris Heath, NH (Chair)
Cindy Greer, CO (Secretary)
Ed Komski, CA
Susan Noah, OR
George Thomas, MA
Leroy Watson, NH
Noel Miller, CT
Marie Nicholson, MT
Bruce Croucher, NY
Roger Bostwick, KS

Labor, Judiciary, Transportation & Postal Policies

Jimmy Taylor, VA (Chair)
Joan Smith, NJ (Secretary)
Steve Coye, NY
Jimmy Gentry, NC
Jack Smithers, TX
Helen Lynch, DE
Duane Scott, WI
Maureen Prelli, CT
James Owens, ME

OFFICIAL CONVENTION PROGRAM

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

8:30 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting
 Noon Executive Committee & New Masters Lunch
 1 p.m. New Masters/Delegates Workshop
 3:30 p.m. Committee Chairs & Secretaries Meeting
 4 p.m. Convention Overview and Budget Meeting & Foundation Meeting
 6 p.m. Host Banquet
 8:30-11 p.m. Committee meetings

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

8 a.m. Committee Meetings
 Noon Legislative Lunch
 2 p.m. Opening of the 151st Convention
 2:15 p.m. Admission of Fourth Degree Members
 2:30 p.m. President's Internal Address
 5:45 p.m. Session Recess; Delegate Photo
 7 p.m. Committee Meetings

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

8:30 a.m. Session Opens in Fourth Degree
 Noon Session Recess
 12:15 p.m. Salute to Agriculture Luncheon
 2 p.m. Committee Reports & Actions
 5 p.m. Session Recesses
 5 p.m. Showcase & Quilt Show Open
 5:30 p.m. Distinguished Grange Awards & Grange Legacy Families Presentation
 7:30 p.m. Session Reconvenes & Quilts of Valor Presentation
 9 p.m. Session Closes
 9 p.m. Committee Meetings
 9:30 p.m. Youth – Get Acquainted Party
 10:45 p.m. Vespers
 11 p.m. Youth Officers Practice

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

8:30 a.m. Session Opens in the Fourth Degree & Election of Officers
 9 a.m. General and Youth Tour
 Noon Session Recesses
 12:15 p.m. Past Delegate Luncheon
 2 p.m. Session Reconvenes in Fourth Degree
 3:30 p.m. Past Delegate Recognition & Memorial Service
 5 p.m. Session Closes
 6:30 p.m. Junior Get Acquainted Games
 7 p.m. Youth Community Service Project
 7 p.m. Youth Directors Workshop/Meeting
 7:30 p.m. Junior Games and Costume Party
 8 p.m. Assembly of Demeter Meeting & Election
 9:15 p.m. Committee Meetings
 9:30 p.m. Youth Costume Party & Dance
 11 p.m. Vespers

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

7 a.m. Chairs/Secretaries Breakfast
 8:30 a.m. Session Opens by Youth Officers & Junior Presentation
 10 a.m. Youth Workshops
 10:15 a.m. Junior Sign-A-Song and Public Speaking Contests
 Noon Session Recesses
 12:30 p.m. Junior Tour
 1:30 p.m. Community Service Workshop
 2 p.m. Session Reconvenes
 3 p.m. Youth Workshop
 3:30 p.m. Communications Workshop
 5 p.m. Session Closes
 5:30 p.m. G.R.O.W. Club/AOLE Dinner
 7:30 p.m. Evening of Excellence
 10:30 p.m. Youth Program & Vespers

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

8 a.m. Junior Grange Breakfast & Program
 8:30 a.m. Communications Workshop
 9 a.m. Parliamentary Procedure Contest, Grange Jeopardy & Youth Awards
 9:30 a.m. Junior Grange Activities
 9:30 a.m. Junior Grange Leaders Workshop
 10 a.m. Sixth Degree Conferral
 10:30 a.m. Grange Youth Fair Program Workshop
 11:30 a.m. Lecturer's Workshop
 1 p.m. Junior Grange Lunch and Activities
 1 p.m. Seventh Degree Conferral
 3:15 p.m. Convocation of the Assembly Demeter
 4 p.m. New State Masters & Officers Photos
 6:30 p.m. Grange Celebration Banquet
 11:30 p.m. Vespers

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 151st ANNUAL NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION

FIRST DAY

151st National Grange Convention

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Committee meetings began at 8 a.m. until noon. The Legislative Luncheon was held at noon with Senator Bob Nonini (ID) as the guest speaker.

At 2 p.m. the 151st Annual Convention of the National Grange was called to order in the Seventh Degree by High Priest, Bruce Croucher (NY). The session was held at the Red Lion Hotel in Spokane, Washington.

The National officers marched in and formed an altar circle, before going to their stations. The singers for the opening were a trio composed of Stephen Coye (NY), Linda Brumbaugh (OH), and Donna Keeton (OK).

National Master, Betsy Huber (PA), opened the Grange in the Seventh Degree, followed by the High Priest Bruce Croucher (NY) leading 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 Grange flag was presented by Ed Komski (CA). Each of the flags from the host states were standing in the hall.

The roll call of officers and assembly officers found all present, and the roll call of delegates showed all states represented, except West Virginia, due to illness. Also present was the John Trimble Legislative Experience Representative Jessie Jo Guttridge (OR).

Jessie Lowry was escorted to the Master's station. Ms. Lowry gave a welcome to Washington on behalf of U. S. Congresswoman Kathy McMorris Rogers. A video message from Congresswoman Rogers was shown. Also a video from Congressman Dan Newhouse, U.S. House of Representatives was presented.

Chairman of Audit and Budget committee, Duane Hamp (WA) gave a partial credentials report, reporting that the delegate count was 50 which constitutes a quorum.

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

Roger and Melanie Bostwick (KS) asked permission to make a presentation to the National Grange for the 150th birthday of the Order. They presented a hand-made case of wooden implements hand made by Roger.

Worthy Overseer, Jimmy Gentry (NC) assumed the Master's station, declaring the Grange at ease as Worthy National Master, Betsy Huber (PA) gave her annual address. Worthy Overseer Gentry (NC) assigned sections of National Master's Address to various committees.

Master Betsy Huber then gave her Internal Address. Jimmy Gentry (NC), Overseer, assigned sections of this report to Grange Growth Committee for review. Both of these reports will appear in the Journal of Proceedings.

Recess.

Following recess, Duane Hamp (WA), chairman of the Audit & Budget Committee made a partial report of two committee resolutions, and then setting a time certain for consideration of the budget to be 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 9.

Motion made by T.J. Malaskee (MN) that spelling, grammar, and punctuation be corrected by staff, which was adopted.

Announcements by Overseer, Jimmy Gentry (NC). Several personal privilege announcements were made.

Transfers of resolutions were made.

Larry Spencer (RI) moved that we release the external address of Master Huber to the public, which was adopted.

Brenda Rousselle (VT), chair of the Citizenship and Taxation Committee gave a partial report.

The Grange was closed at 5:33 p.m. Closing song "It's a Good Thing to Be a Granger."

A group photo of delegates and officers was taken immediately after close.

A banquet was held beginning at 6 p.m.

Pianist was Martha Stefenoni (CA).

Hospitality room hosted by California.

The committees met to work on resolutions during the evening, and National officers practiced.

SECOND DAY

151st National Grange Convention

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Master Betsy Huber (PA) opened the second day of the 151st Annual Convention of the National Grange in the fourth degree at 8:30 a.m. following an entrance march by the National officers.

Roll call of officers found all present, and a roll call of delegates found all states were represented except West Virginia. Also in attendance was the John Trimble Youth Representative Jessie Jo Guttridge (OR). Opening song was "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

Grange Law chairman, Chris Heath, gave a partial report.

Brenda Rousselle, chairman of the Citizenship Committee, gave a partial report.

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

Wilber Heath, Chairman of Education & Health, gave a partial report.

Recess.

Following recess, Bob White, Chairman of the Conservation committee, gave a partial report.

Joe Goodrich, Chairman of the Grange Growth Committee, gave a partial report.

Recess for lunch.

Legislative Luncheon at noon with guest speaker, State Senator Mark Schoesler, WA.

Following recess, at 2 p.m. the minutes from pre-convention and 1st day of session were read and adopted as corrected.

Joe Goodrich, Chairman of the Grange Growth Committee, gave a partial report.

Kevin Cooksley, Chairman of the Agriculture committee, gave a partial report.

Recess.

Following recess, the Audit and Budget Committee chair, Duane Hamp, gave the credentials report, which was adopted.

Brenda Rousselle, Chairman of the Citizenship Committee, gave a partial report.

Jimmy Taylor, Chairman of the Labor, Judiciary and Transportation Committee, gave a partial report.

Bruce Croucher, High Priest (NY) gave a report regarding last year's request that there be a review of archives in the national headquarters building, which report was adopted.

Ed Komski reported that the state of Idaho donated \$1,000 toward the purchase of the backpacks/delegate bags for this convention. Other money came from the sale of convention pins.

Recess.

The delegates, National officers and guests previewed The Showcase displays beginning at 5 p.m.

Distinguished Grange Awards were presented at 5:30 p.m. in the Skyline Ballroom. The 2017 Distinguished Grange Awards were presented by Jimmy Gentry, National Overseer (NC) to the following: State Granges – Idaho (3rd year), Maryland (8th year), Oregon (2nd year), and Washington (6th year), and to dozens of Subordinate Granges.

Following the awards for Distinguished Granges, nearly 80 Grange Legacy Families were recognized. These were families with five or more generations of Grange membership.

The session reconvened at 7:30 p.m. Master Betsy Huber (PA) welcomed the youth and guests to the session. Past Master Ed Luttrell (OR) and wife, Celia were escorted to the Master's station; both gave a few comments.

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

National Lecturer, Chris Hamp (WA) told about the Quilts of Valor organization. She introduced Diane Watters from Quilts of Valor Foundation, who told of the mission of their foundation. Quilts of Valor were presented to 10 veterans:

U.S. Navy Veterans: John Hamilton, Sr. 1971-75, Guy LaRue 1943-47, and William Booth 1972-77.

U.S. Army Veterans: Dennis McGert, 1973-99, William Narvel, Jr., 1967-88, Ms. Tracy Lee Hansen, 1979-88, Michael Beckman, Jr., 1983-89, Bill Johnson, 1966-69, and Dwight Baldwin, beginning in 1970.

U.S. Air Force Veteran: John Plank 1974-78.

An extra large roll of batting was given to Diane Waters for use in the making of other quilts.

Inductees into the Grange Hall of Fame for 2017 were announced by Gary Brumbaugh (OH) Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee. Those being inducted into the Grange Hall of Fame in 2017 are Eugene A. Eckert (IL), Charles M. Gardner (MA).

Last year's inductees were Aaron B. Grosh, William Ireland, John R. Thompson, and John Trimble, and others inducted into the Hall of Fame are Oliver Hudson Kelley, Frances McDowell, William Saunders, and Caroline Hall.

Besides Gary Brumbaugh, other members of the Hall of Fame Committee are Mary Johnson (ID), Arthur Merrill (NH) and George Spies (Potomac).

Bruce Croucher, High Priest (NY) made a report concerning the fact that he has been charged with the duty of trying to keep the costs down in the presentation of the Seventh Degree. His committee is still working on cost-effectiveness options, hopefully with those in place by 2019 at the National Convention in Minnesota. Bruce also reported there will be new directors for the Seventh Degree who are Gene and Marie Edelen (IA), and assistants are Brad and Donna Keeton (OK).

The Grange was closed at 8:48 p.m. Closing Song was "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds."

Session Pianist was Martha Stefenoni (CA).

Hospitality Room hosted by Oregon.

The resolutions projected on the large screen in the session room were taken care of today by Lillian Booth (CA).

Committees were to meet until approximately 11 p.m.

The Youth Check-in and Orientation began at 6:30 p.m. with Ambassador interviews beginning at 7 p.m. The youth enjoyed a get acquainted party in the evening, followed by vespers at 10:45 p.m. The Youth Officers practiced beginning at 11 p.m.

THIRD DAY

151stth National Grange Convention

Thursday, November 9, 2017

The third day of the 151st Annual Convention of the National Grange opened in the Fourth Degree at 8:30 a.m. following an entrance march by the National officers. Opening song was "The Welcome Song."

Roll call of officers found all present and roll call of delegates found all states represented except West Virginia. Also in attendance was the John Trimble Youth Representative, Jessie Jo Guttridge (OR).

The minutes from day two were adopted after corrections were made.

Happy Birthday greetings were sung to Wilber Heath (NH).

Worthy Master Betsy Huber (PA) called for the election of officers for the National Grange. Balloting proceeded in due form.

Betsy Huber (PA) was re-elected Master.

Burton Eller, Legislative Director, gave his report, followed by the report of Stephanie Tiller, Convention Planner & Operations Director.

Loretta Washington, Director of Sales/Benefits/Programs and Membership Recognition, gave her report followed by the report of the Communications Director, Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios.

Phil Prelli (CT) was elected Overseer.

Pete Pompper (NJ), Community Service Director, gave his annual report.

Betsy Huber reported on the remaining staff members. Stewart Hughes, Controller, Stephanie Wilkins, IT Director, Nelson Drake, Trademark Manager. She also reported that Sandor Szima, building engineer, will retire at the end of the year.

Following recess, the election continued.

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

The proposed budget for 2018 was adopted.

Duane Hamp (WA), Chairman of the Audit & Budget Committee, gave a final report, which was adopted.

Lynette Schaeffer (IL) was elected to Executive Committee.

Chris Heath (NH), Chairman of Grange Law, gave a partial report.

Wilber Heath (NH), Chairman of Education and Health Committee, gave a partial report.

Stephen Coye (NY) was elected to Executive Committee.

Chris Hamp (WA) was re-elected Lecturer.

Recess.

National Grange Flora, Marie Nicholson (MT) was emcee at the past delegates luncheon at 12:15 p.m., at which past delegates were honored. Guest speaker was Chris Gradoville, a motivational speaker, who spoke about the importance of mentoring.

Following recess, Wilber Heath (NH), Chairman of Education & Health gave a partial report.

Chip Narvel (DE) was re-elected Steward.

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

Brenda Rousselle (VT) was re-elected Lady Assistant Steward.

Barbara Borderieux (FL) was re-elected Chaplain.

Chris Hamp (WA), Lecturer gave a report regarding activities in her department, reporting on contest participation at this session as well as details regarding contests and activities in the coming year.

Dwight Baldwin (IA) was re-elected Treasurer.

The Grange was declared at ease by National Master Betsy Huber.

Past delegates of the National Grange were welcomed into the hall. At the office of the Overseer, the delegates introduced themselves and gave their years of service and positions held.

Bruce Croucher (NY), High Priest, reminded that the Business Meeting of the Assembly of Demeter is scheduled tonight beginning at 8 p.m.

The Grange was called back to order by Master Huber.

Judy Sherrod (TN) was re-elected Secretary.

The Grange was placed at ease for the memorial service.

The Grange memorial service was conducted by National Grange Chaplain, Barbara Borderieux (FL), assisted by Master Betsy Huber (PA), Pomona Susan Noah (OR), Ceres Claire Logan (RI), Flora Marie Nicholson (MT), Secretary Judy Sherrod (TN), Steve Coye (NY) and Mary Johnson (ID). Soloist Melanie Bostwick (KS). State Masters representing the states of the deceased members placed flowers on the altar in memory of their respective members. Pianist Martha Stefenoni (CA) provided the music for the memorial service.

Those honored in the Memorial Service were:

Robert "Bob" Smith (NE)

Woodrow W. "Woody" Tucker (RI)

William H. "Bill" Ringer (PA)

Archie Dee Knight (TX)
Anna D. Broyles (OK)
Jo Ann Webb Williams (SC)
Nancy Valentine (IN)

Master Betsy Huber (PA) called the Grange to order.

Chris Johnston (MI) was re-elected Gatekeeper.

Bob White (OH), Chairman of the Conservation committee, gave a partial report.

The Grange was closed at 5:07 p.m. by outgoing Overseer, Jimmy Gentry (NC). Closing Song, "Let There Be Peace on Earth".

Pianist for the day was Martha Stefenoni (CA).

Host in the hospitality room today is Idaho.

Lillian Booth (CA) was responsible for displaying the resolutions on the large screen in the session room.

The Annual Business Meeting of the Assembly of Demeter met at 8 p.m. Elections for Assembly officers as follows: Bruce Croucher (NY) re-elected High Priest, Roger Bostwick (KS) re-elected Priest Archon, and James Owens (ME) re-elected Priest Annalist.

Youth and Junior activities during the day included Junior Get-Acquainted Games, the Community Service Project by Youth, and a workshop for Youth Directors. The Youth and General Tour took place during the day. Both Juniors and Youth had their costume parties during the evening. The Youth officers held a practice and all youth members closed the evening with vespers at 11 p.m.

FOURTH DAY

151stth National Grange Convention

Friday, November 10, 2017

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

The fourth day of the 151st Annual Convention of the National Grange opened in the Fourth Degree at 8:30 a.m. following an outstanding entrance march by the Youth Officer Corps.

The following Youth served as officers:

Master – Brittney Oliver (WA)	Gatekeeper – Zac Mazag (NC)
Overseer – Derek Snyder (PA)	Ceres – Grace Wadsworth (PA)
Lecturer – Katie Kurburski (MI)	Pomona – Margie Griffin (NC)
Steward – Adam Terrell (NH)	Flora- Melody Shufeldt (OK)
Asst Steward - Andrew Kudsk (WA)	Exec- Joey Brenneman (WA)
LAS – Maggie Swartzendruber (OR)	Baylor Howerton (NC)
Chaplain – Olivia Yost (OH)	Emily Hartzel (NC)
Treasurer – Marcus Avendano (NC)	Sophia Ogden (WA)
Secretary – Morgan Browning (WA)	Musician – Jennifer Nauss (PA)

Roll call by Youth secretary of the youth team members. The opening song was "America the Beautiful."

Escorted to the Master's statement were Junior Ambassador Alexandra (Jomni) Tarbell (NY), Youth Ambassador Kennedy Gwin (WA), Youth Ambassador Asa Houchin (OH), Outstanding Young Patron Mandy Bostwick (KS), Samantha Wilkins (TX), National Junior Director, and Charlene Espenshade (PA), National Youth Director. Each Junior and Youth member spoke. The Assistants brought all Junior members who have participated in activities during this session in a march around the session room.

Samantha Wilkins, National Junior Director, gave her annual report followed by Charlene Espenshade (PA), National Youth Director, who gave her annual report. Master Huber presented a gavel to Youth Master. The gavel was hand made by a Granger in Washington. Youth officers exited the session with another excellent march. Youth and Junior activities will be going on throughout the day.

Master Huber called the Grange to order in the Fourth Degree.

Roll call of National officers found all present. The roll call of delegates found all State Granges were represented except West Virginia. Also answering roll call were the John Trimble Legislative representative, as well as Martha Stefenoni (CA), pianist.

The minutes from day three were adopted after corrections were made.

Voting resumed for officers, beginning with Ceres.

Kevin Cooksley, Chairman of Agriculture Committee, gave a final report, which was adopted.

Cindy Greer (CO) was elected Ceres.

Susan Noah (OR) was re-elected Pomona.

Jimmy Taylor (VA), Chairman of Labor, Judiciary and Transportation Committee, gave a final report, which was adopted.

Lena Shufeldt (OK) was elected Flora.

Pete Pompper, Community Service chairman, reported Monica and Michelle from Dogs from the Deaf (now called Dogs for Better Living) have a display in the Showcase room. At 1:30 p.m. a short film will be shown about their organization.

Announcements from Jimmy Gentry (NC): Billy Shufeldt (OK) has an op-ed published today in an Oklahoma newspaper regarding the federal tax overhaul legislation.

Recess.

Following recess, Grange Law Chairman, Chris Heath (NH), gave a partial report.

Wilber Heath, Chairman of Education and Health gave a final report, which was adopted.

Brenda Rousselle, Chairman of Citizenship & Taxation Committee, gave a final report, which was adopted.

Tom McKern, Chairman of the Board of Grange Insurance Association, was escorted to the Master's Station and gave a few remarks.

Grange Growth Chairman, Joe Goodrich, gave a final report, which was adopted.

Recess until 2:30 p.m.

The Grange was called to order at 2:30 p.m. Bob Quist and Ann Bercher from the Kelley Farm were escorted to the Master's Station. Because they are not able to be at the banquet tomorrow night, the annual donation to the Kelley Farm was presented to them today.

Chris Heath, Chairman of Grange Law committee, gave a final report, which was adopted.

Chairman of the Conservation Committee, Bob White, gave a final report, which was adopted.

Leroy Watson, Chairman of Grange Advocacy, gave a report.

The Grange Foundation met last night and a new board member was elected – Melanie Bostwick. There is one other spot available; interested members should send a resume of their experience to Betsy Huber by December 5.

Motion made by Kevin Cooksley to release all of our actions to the press at the close of the session, which was adopted. Also motion by Brother Cooksley to allow Executive Committee to approve today's minutes of the session, which was adopted.

The Grange was at ease to prepare for the installation of officers.

The Grange was called to order and officers for the upcoming year were installed. Installing officer High Priest, Bruce Croucher (NY); Installing Master, James Owen (ME); Installing Chaplain, Sharon Croucher (NY); Marshall, Roger Bostwick (KS); Regalia Bearer, Melanie Bostwick (KS); Implement Bearer, Kathy Baldwin (IA); Pianist, Martha Stefenoni (CA).

Jimmy Gentry (NC), Joe Fryman, (NE), Claire Logan (RI), and Marie Nicholson (MT) were escorted to the Master's station where each received their past officer pins.

Distribution of annual passwords by National Master, Betsy Huber.

Announcements.

Suggestion for good of the Order from Ed Komski (CA) – appoint a standing committee of each of the chairs to act as a year-long resource to the Grange in their particular area.

A round of applause was given for the National Master for a great National session, and also expressing thanks to the Host committee for making it a great session.

The 151st Session of the National Grange was closed in the Fourth Degree at 4:40 p.m. Everyone present formed a circle, joined hands and sang "Bless Be the Tie That Binds."

Hospitality room today was hosted by Washington.

Pianist for today was Martha Stefenoni (CA).

Lillian Booth (CA) was responsible for displaying the committee work on the large screen in the session room.

Youth workshops were held throughout the day as well as a Community Service Workshop and a Communications Workshop for all those in attendance, as well as Junior Grange Sign-A-Song and Public Speaking contests. The Junior tour to a fire station was today.

Grow Club dinner began at 5 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m. the Evening of Excellence was held. Lecturer Chris Hamp (WA) introduced participants in the talent portion of the evening, and National Youth Ambassadors introduced the participants in the Public Speaking, Sign-a-Song portion as well as introducing State ambassadors.

The winners in the Evening of Excellence were announced. There was voting on-line taking place throughout the evening, with the results being announced as follows: Speech: Jennifer Nauss (PA), Sign-A-Song: Baylor Howerton (NC), Instrumental: Eric Sable (WA), Vocal: Josh Harper (CA), and Variety: Joe Wrabek (OR).

The National Youth Ambassadors winners for 2018 were announced. Runners-up are Jacob Corl (OH), and Katie Leonard (NC). The winners are Jacob Gwin (WA), and Tessa Taft (NY). Outstanding Young Patron winner is Jennifer Nauss (PA) and runner-up Philip Vonada (PA).

A youth program was held at 10:30 p.m. hosted by the Eastern Regional Youth, with vespers at 11:30 p.m.

POST-CONVENTION

Saturday, November 11, 2017

A Junior Grange breakfast and program was held beginning at 8 a.m. The Youth participated in a Parliamentary Procedure Contest beginning at 9 a.m, followed by the Grange Jeopardy Contest, followed by the award ceremony. 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 Sixth Degree conferral began at 10 a.m. by Oregon State Grange officers, with the Rose Drill performed by Washington members.

There was a Junior Grange Luncheon at noon, which included an awards ceremony for Junior winners.

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

The Grange Celebration Banquet began at 6:30 p.m. Welcome by National Grange Overseer F. Philip Prelli (CT), followed by the pledge to the flag, and the invocation by Chaplain Barbara Borderieux (FL).

Following dinner, Master Betsy Huber introduced the National Grange staff members, national officers and Assembly officers, as well as past National Master and First Lady, Ed and Celia Luttrell. She also introduced the retiring Youth Ambassadors and Young Patron, thanking them for their work throughout the year, and then introduced the new Youth Ambassadors and Young Patron who were announced at last night's Evening of Excellence. The retiring Junior Ambassador Jomni Tarbell was recognized and the new Junior Ambassador was introduced, Riley Reynolds (OR).

The quilt that is to be given, as has been our practice for many years, to the Foster Family organization to be auctioned off at their annual convention was displayed. Membership awards were announced. There were seven states that had a net gain in membership: California, Colorado, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Youth awards were announced. The winning teams in the Youth Parliamentary Procedure Contest were announced: 1st North Carolina, 2nd New York. Grange Jeopardy winners were 3rd place Matt Horton (NY), 2nd Mandy Bostwick (KS), and 1st Jennifer Nauss (PA). The Youth silent auction for college scholarships received \$1,987.

Communications Director for National Grange, Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios, introduced the 2017 Communications Fellows and presented each with a certificate.

The National Grange community service awards were presented by Pete Pompper, National Community Service Director, as follows: Honorable Mention went to Montague #140 (NJ), Robertsville #1784 (OH), and Studley #1174 (MI). Winning entries were 4th Volunteer #1250 (TN), 3rd Ekonk #39 (CT), 2nd Bangor #372 (ME), and 1st Sterling #53 (MA).

Pete Pompper then announced the winners in other Community Service Award contests as follows: Law Enforcement Officer of the Year is Deputy Sheriff Tim Gosch (WA), Firefighter of the Year is Adam Ellwanger (IL), and Teacher of the Year is Jessica Phaneuf, N. Smithfield High School in Rhode Island.

The entertainment for the evening was the Wyrick Family Band, consisting of family members of all ages, some of whom are Grange members in WA. Sort of bluegrass, country, but truly home spun fun.

An invitation from the 2018 Host Committee Chair Jody Cameron (CT), was given from the Northeast Region, which convention will be held November 12-17, 2018 in Stowe, Vermont.

An auction conducted by Jerry Snyder (WA) was held including several items: Quilt in log cabin pattern \$400, Gift Card for Stoweflake Inn \$350, metal flag with Grange emblem in it \$400, a spa package in Tucson, \$200, and a crystal vase \$275. Total auction proceeds went to the National Grange building fund.

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

Annual Business Meeting

151stth National Grange Convention

Thursday, November 9, 2017

The Business Meeting of the Assembly of Demeter was held on the above date in the Ballroom of the Red Lion Hotel at the Park at 8 p.m. with the High Priest of Demeter Bruce M. Croucher calling the meeting to order. He explained who may vote in this meeting. The Priestess Hierophant Barbara Borderieux opened the Bible and led all in prayer. All joined in the salute to the flag of the United States of America, the Salutation of the Seventh Degree and singing "God Bless America".

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

The minutes of the meeting held in Herndon, Virginia in 2016 were read and approved.

High Priest Croucher talked about the marble gavel and gavel block which was obtained from the Temple at Eleusis. He commented that the password of the Seventh Degree is in the language of Sanskrit.

Remarks were given by National Master Betsy Huber. She was pleased with the attendance this evening. The theme for this next year is "That's the Grange Way". Strive to do the best that you can.

Seventh Degree Directors Scott and Jennifer Russell gave an update on how preparations for the Seventh Degree are progressing. There will be a walk through for the cast at 11 a.m. tomorrow. On Saturday the cast will be at the theatre at 7 a.m. Bud and Carolyn Hill were recognized, thanked for their work and given a standing ovation. Those who are part of the production were complimented for all that they do. Gene and Maria Edelen (Iowa) will be the new directors. Brad and Donna Keaton (Oklahoma) will be their assistants.

A count was taken with 79 voting members in attendance. Election of Officers was held with the following reelected:

High Priest – Bruce M. Croucher, New York

Priest Archon – Roger Bostwick, Kansas

Priest Annalist – James A. Owens, Maine

Past National Master Ed Luttrell was called upon. He spoke about our heritage and legacy in our Order.

Priest Croucher announced that five participated today in the Code Reading Contest which was sponsored by the Youth. Two scored perfectly in the preliminary round and a tie breaker was held. The Youth will announce the results tomorrow and the participants will be recognized.

The High Priest led all in the Salutation of the Seventh Degree and all joined in singing "Blest Be the Tie."

The Worthy High Priest declared the meeting closed.

Annual Convocation

151stth National Grange Convention

Saturday, November 11, 2017

The Convocation of the Assembly of Demeter was held in the INB Performing Arts Center on the above date at 3 p.m. following the conferral of the Seventh Degree.

Priest Herald James Taylor (VA) conducted to the stage the officers of the Assembly as follows: Priest Archon Roger Bostwick (KS), Priest Annalist James Owens (ME), Priest Treasurer Dwight Baldwin (IA), Priest Interpreter Jack Smithers (TX), Priest Archivist Steve Logan (RI), Priestess Hierophant Barbara Borderieux (FL), Priest Orator Christopher Johnston (MI), Priest First Mystagogue Chris Heath (NH), Priest Second Mystagogue Stephen Coyne (NY), Priest Conductor TJ Malaskee (MN), Priest Guardian Chip Narvel (DE), Priest Announcer Gary Brumbaugh (Ohio), Priestess Ceres Claire Logan (RI), Priestess Pomona Susan Noah (OR) and Priestess Flora Marie Nicholson (MT). The Priest Herald then conducted High Priest Bruce M. Croucher (NY) and National Grange Master Betsy Huber (PA) to their stations.

The Worthy High Priest then opened the Convocation in full form and the Priestess Hierophant gave the ritualistic prayer.

All were welcomed to the Convocation by the Worthy High Priest. He talked about the three copies of the Sacred Record which have been assembled over the years. The copies being produced following the original were the result of wear and tear due to use. These subsequent volumes contain additions which were found to be needed over time.

The minutes of the 2016 meeting in Alexandria, Virginia were read and adopted.

The High Priest expressed his thanks to the retiring Seventh Degree Directors Scott and Jennifer Russell and Bud and Carolyn Hill.

Priest Croucher talked about the gavel and gavel block from marble of the ruins at the Temple of Demeter.

High Priest Croucher spoke of the significance of Caroline Hall, niece of Oliver H. Kelley, who suggested full membership for women in the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. He read her biography from the Sacred Record.

154 Patrons received the Seventh Degree this afternoon.

The Convocation of the Assembly of Demeter was closed in form at 3:55 p.m.

2017 SEVENTH DEGREE CANDIDATES BY STATE

ALASKA	1	OHIO	1
CALIFORNIA	5	OKLAHOMA	1
IDAHO	19	OREGON	22
MONTANA	6	WASHINGTON	<u>97</u>
NORTH CAROLINA	2		
		TOTAL	154

2017 SEVENTH DEGREE CONFERRAL CAST

High Priest	Bruce M. Croucher (NY)	Priest Conductor	TJ Malaskee (MN)
Priest Archon	Roger Bostwick (KS)	Priest Messenger	James Taylor (VA)
Priest Annalist	James A. Owens (ME)	Priest Herald	Larry Spencer (RI)
Priest Treasurer	Dwight Baldwin (IA)	Priest Guardian	Chip Narvel (DE)
Priest Interpreter	Jack Smithers (TX)	Priest Announcer	Gary Brumbaugh (OH)
Priest Archivist	Steve Logan (RI)	Priestess Ceres	Claire Logan (RI)
Priestess Hierophant	Barbara Borderieux (FL)	Priestess Pomona	Susan Noah (OR)
Priest Orator	Christopher Johnston (MI)	Priestess Flora	Marie Nicholson (MT)
Priest 1 ST Mystagogue	Chris Heath (NH)	Ceres Attendant #1	Susan Plank (IN)
Priest 2 ND Mystagogue	Stephen Coye (NY)	Ceres Attendant #2	Debbie Campbell (PA)

National Master	Betsy Huber (PA)
Sacred Oracle	Duane Scott (WI) (slide presentation)

TRUMPET GIRLS (all from Washington State)

Jordanne Webb	Haley Ogle	Hanna Ogle	Isabella Lierman
Jazlynn Webb	Naomi Lierman	Alexis Kudsk	Gracie Eacret

MARCHING CANDIDATES

Jaycee Jett (MT)	Kyle Burrea (MT)
Alicia Ogle (WA)	Travis Cork (MT)

DIRECTORS	Scott and Jennifer Russell (OH)
New Directors	Gene and Maria Edelen (IA)
New Asst. Directors	Brad and Donna Keeton (OK)

WARDROBE, MAKEUP & BACKSTAGE ASSISTANTS

Bud & Carolyn Hill (CA)	Melanie Bostwick (KS)	Judy Sherrod (TN)
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Video Technician Patty Dyer (OH)

Soloist	Josh Harper (CA)
Pianist	Martha Stefenoni (CA)
Chief Deputy	Franklin "Pete" Pompper (NJ)

COURT LADIES

Joan White (OH)	Debbie Gegare (WI)	Lisa Beckman (WA)	Brenda Rousselle (VT)
Jeannie Billmire (ID)	Cindy Greer (CO)	Lisa Goodrich (VT)	Helen Gardner (WA)

Fraternally Submitted,
James A. Owens
Priest Annalist

STATE OF AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Delivered By Betsy E. Huber, National Master

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017

The National Grange has been very busy this year in public affairs. The new Administration in Washington meant a flurry of activity in all facets of government—political appointments, focus on new topics, a change of direction on existing issues, etc.

We started out the year by hanging our traditional banner to welcome the President to our neighborhood. Although I didn't get invited over for tea until October, we have been busy communicating our policies to the Administration throughout the year.

The major topic about agriculture in Washington so far this year has been the Administration's inability to get nominees cleared for leadership positions at USDA. But this is a government-wide problem stemming from tighter scrutiny on background checks by the FBI. Agriculture Secretary Perdue was the only confirmed appointee at USDA from April until October when the Senate confirmed Steve Censky as Deputy Secretary and Ted McKinney as Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs. Censky grew up on a Minnesota farm and was CEO of the American Soybean Association for 21 years following extensive Hill experience. McKinney had been the Indiana Agriculture Director for several years following earlier careers with Dow and Elanco. Next to arrive at USDA are Bill Northey, Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture, to be the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, and Greg Ibach, a grain and cattle producer and Nebraska's Director of Agriculture, to become Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. The Department of Agriculture has been in a holding pattern all year waiting for these positions to be filled so they can get to work.

WOTUS

The National Grange has been deeply involved with trying to bring some sense to the EPA's Waters of the United States or WOTUS rule. Seldom has a federal regulation unified landowners, farmers, ranchers, foresters, rural residents, small businesses, municipalities, states and developers as tightly as this one.

The saga began in 2014 when the EPA and Corps of Engineers published the proposed rule for public comment, supposedly to clarify the definition and scope of "navigable waters" which are federally regulated under the Clean Water Act. The agencies said the proposal would enhance protection for the nation's public health and aquatic resources. As soon as the proposal became public, it was obvious the EPA and Corps were significantly expanding the definition of "waters of the United States" beyond the limits approved by Congress and affirmed by the Supreme Court.

The WOTUS rule granted the federal government regulatory control over any and all waters on all lands, and many land areas that only hold water occasionally such as low spots where rain water collects. Analysis by legal experts suggested the new definitions were broad enough to give regulators or citizen plaintiff neighbors the authority to suggest such areas are subject to the Clean Water Act and to essentially regulate land use.

The agencies failed to listen to the affected parties and published the final rule as proposed in June, 2015. In August, 2015, a North Dakota Federal District Court blocked implementation of the rule in 13 states. In October of 2015, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a nationwide stay of the rule. In December, 2015, the Government Accounting Office (GAO) found that EPA had broken the law with its social media and grassroots lobbying campaign to generate public comment support for the rule during the comment period.

President Trump issued an executive order to withdraw the WOTUS rule in February, 2017. The EPA and Corps began the process in June, 2017 to rescind WOTUS and develop a new lawful and reasonable definition of "waters of the United States". In the meantime, the Supreme Court has accepted the challenge to decide whether the appellate court or the district court is the proper place for future WOTUS challenges. Keep watching this issue; it's not over yet.

Rural Broadband

Early in 2017 we submitted my application to serve on the FCC's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, BDAC, to advance the Grange's priority of wider rural internet coverage. Apparently Chairman Pai noticed my op-ed that supported his efforts for rural broadband, so I was appointed to serve. Thirty people from all sectors of the issue serve on the BDAC, with many more appointed to the five working groups and their subcommittees. I am the only person representing agriculture on the BDAC so I have a big responsibility to remind the others that farmers need service in their fields as well as in their homes and barns.

The first meeting was April 21, the second July 20, and the third, when our report is adopted and released, will be this Thursday. I served on the State Model Code working group, the Rural subcommittee of that group, and then later on the Streamlining Federal Siting working group. This meant three conference calls per week, sometimes four, almost every week since July, and I've learned a whole new language of terms—small cells, dark fiber, one touch make ready, backhaul, collocation, fixed wireless, ILEC, last mile, middle mile, dig once, etc.

Our mission for the BDAC is to make recommendations to the Commission on how to accelerate the deployment of high-speed Internet access, or "broadband," by reducing and/or removing regulatory barriers to infrastructure investment. We have identified lots of barriers to deployment. We developed a model code for states to use, in whole or in parts, to make

broadband deployment easier for states and municipalities, as well as for providers, to get through the lengthy permitting process to actual construction. We determined that the bottom line is economic—it costs more to run wires or towers to areas that are less densely populated—so we attempted to identify incentives that would make it more economically attractive for providers to serve these rural areas.

The most difficult areas to get broadband projects approved seem to be federal lands—military bases, national parks, government buildings, and Tribal lands, which should not be, since broadband expansion is a priority of our government. We recommended several ways to improve this—specifically by standardizing the process throughout every department and bureau, and asking that an inventory of facilities be created.

Of course the BDAC is just advisory. The FCC will need to take any of our suggestions through the regulatory process, with comment period and response, before any of our recommendations can be put in place. There are some innovative ideas in our report, and there were some heated discussions mainly between municipal representatives and provider company representatives. But with 30 knowledgeable members all working on the same issue, expansion of broadband, I think we made progress in advancing the cause.

We were delighted to meet with Chairman Pai and interview him for Grange Radio just a couple weeks ago, just after he was reconfirmed for another term on the FCC. You can listen to this interview on Grange Radio.

Just a few weeks ago I was privileged to be invited to the White House for the “Cutting the Red Tape” event where Vice President Pence unveiled the administration’s effort to reduce government overregulation. The same day USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue hosted a meeting of ag leaders, and the Grange was at the table, when he told us how the Department will tackle cutting the red tape in its many programs. I am so pleased that through Burton’s efforts the Grange is again being included and consulted in meetings like this. We have talked several times with Ray Starling, Assistant to the President for Agriculture, who is from North Carolina and is very familiar with the Grange.

Health Care

If you’ve looked around a Grange meeting recently, you don’t have to ask why the National Grange is so deeply involved in health care issues. Many of us are at that age when we must seriously think about elder care, preexisting conditions, the cost of supplemental insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, specialty drugs and drug prices.

There are no easy answers to our nation’s health care dilemma of who gets what care for which illness from whom at what price. It’s certainly gratifying to see a bipartisan group of Senators working to come up with some reasonable options for everyday Americans in the short run while Congress and the President try to figure out a long term solution. Perhaps now the average citizen is smarter, more attentive, and more engaged in the hard trade-offs buried in health care policy. It’s a shame the Affordable Care Act didn’t get this level of scrutiny in the beginning several years ago; we might have saved ourselves lots of time, trouble, political energy and money and been farther down the health care road by now.

The National Grange has been successful in protecting future Medicare and Medicaid coverage for Grange members. During the budget resolution vote-a-rama in the Senate a couple weeks ago, amendments were presented to make cuts in Medicare Part D (government-subsidized prescription program), Medicare Part B (outpatient services, preventive measures and early detection) and Medicaid (federal-state healthcare for families and individuals with limited resources such as low income adults, the elderly, children and persons with disabilities). All the amendments failed.

Grangers have been involved in combating the opioid drug epidemic for several years. Opioid addiction has now reached catastrophic proportions. It’s not enough just to provide safe and available drug disposal or sponsor educational awareness on the dangers of opioids. Our challenge is to have far less opioid drugs prescribed in the first place and for shorter periods of time. The Grange has called upon the medical profession and pharmaceutical industry to become deeply involved with this challenge.

I urge my fellow Grangers to use extreme caution when deciding to order foreign prescription and over-the-counter drugs because they’re cheaper. Although by law these drugs should be monitored by the Food and Drug Administration, it’s a low priority. Ordering from countries like Canada is not a safeguard. Your drug may have originated half way around the world and been transshipped through several countries on its way to Canada. Some of these transshipped drugs are counterfeit and worthless; others are dangerous and life-threatening. They may not be Canadian drugs at all. Please be careful.

Tax Reform

The top priority right now for President Trump and Republicans in Congress is reforming the tax code. Democrats on the Hill are interested in tax reform but they differ with the Republicans on the specifics of a tax bill. The Administration’s Framework for Fixing Our Broken Tax Code was unveiled in late September; this is only the starting point for legislation. The Senate will tie tax reform legislation to their FY’18 budget resolution through a budget reconciliation process which only needs 51 votes instead of 60 votes required for a stand-alone tax bill.

Members of Congress formed their battle lines almost immediately. Democrats say the Framework contains tax breaks for the wealthy and will prove costly to many in the middle-class. The legislation calls for full repeal of the income tax deduction for state and local taxes, and this has received a lot of pushback from both sides. Democrats oppose repeal of the

death tax even for farmers and family-owned businesses. Republicans want to simplify and reduce individual tax brackets. The Framework will be a starting point for tax reform but certainly not the end game.

I believe we need to reform the tax code so that it is simpler, more transparent, revenue neutral, and fair to farmers, whether they are sole proprietors, partnerships or some form of corporation. If deductions are removed, the tax rates should be reduced to make up for lost deductions making it expense neutral. Businesses and farms should be allowed to deduct expenses when they are incurred. Our Grange policy has long supported the repeal of estate taxes and continuing stepped-up basis, which sets the value of land and buildings at what the property is worth when inherited not when the ancestor purchased it. We will be watching Congress closely and advocating for Grange policy in the tax reform battle.

Agriculture Workforce

Many areas of Agriculture are struggling with the lack of a dependable workforce. The Agriculture Guest Worker Act of 2017 was introduced in October by the House Judiciary Committee Chairman Goodlatte (R-VA) with considerable input from Agriculture. Then an unlikely mix of opposition from pro-immigration rights advocates and anti-immigration conservatives sidetracked the process for a couple weeks. Anti-immigration conservatives believe the bill is too lax in many ways including granting amnesty to illegals currently working in U.S. agriculture. Liberal groups think any change to the temporary ag worker visa program must include a pathway to citizenship. Still others raised the hollow argument that there are enough American citizen workers to fill the void. The bill was marked up and passed out of committee October 25th by only one vote. The AG Act will create a new visa category, known as the H-2C, and effectively replace the previously impractical H-2A program. This act will provide an option to both seasonal and year-round labor needs, recognizing that not all agriculture jobs are the same or require the same level of skill or experience. The H-2C visa program will be administered by the USDA, which better understands the unique needs of America's farm and ranch operations, and the challenges of processing raw, perishable commodities. The AG Act will offer workers and employers more choices in their employment arrangements, with more flexibility and less bureaucratic red tape. Furthermore, employers will have to attest that their attempts to hire domestic workers did not yield the results necessary to keep their businesses viable. By ensuring American farmers have the labor they need to operate to their full potential, they will, in turn, create hundreds of thousands of jobs that do appeal to domestic workers. The AG Act moved forward with several additional amendments which we may not agree with.

Also, the Administration has instructed the Department of Labor, in consultation with the agriculture and food industries, to recommend substantive and workable improvements to the existing H-2A worker program that can be implemented early in 2018. The National Grange is a member of the Ag Workforce Coalition that is working with Congressman Goodlatte and the Labor Department to alleviate the ag labor crisis.

I would like our committees, especially Labor & Judiciary, but also any committees that have policy on this issue, to take a good look at our policies dealing with immigration and make sure they are current and address the issues currently being raised.

Legislative Fly-In

We hosted a successful Fly-in in May with attendees from twelve states. Excellent speakers informed the Grangers on timely issues such as Health Care, including the Affordable Care Act repeal and replace, Medicare Part D and B, rural hospital closings; Rural Broadband, the Lifeline Program (low-cost phones for elderly, disabled, low income), Infrastructure, 2018 Farm Bill preparations, and Tax reform. Intern Chris Sebastian worked tirelessly to set up over 30 appointments for the attendees with Senators, Congressmen, and their staff over three days. Next year's Fly-in will be April 16-18 so mark your calendars now to join us for this great event. It may be cherry blossom season in DC so that's an added incentive to attend.

The Grange – History and Future

We have had such a rich, productive history that we members are pretty familiar with—The Granger Laws to fight the railroad monopolies. Creation of the Department of Agriculture as a cabinet position. Experimental research farms to study new methods of agriculture for the benefit of farmers and consumers. The Cooperative Extension service to disseminate this research to those who need it. Rural electrification, rural free delivery, rural telephone service. There were many other successes won by the Grange through the early years.

With the coming of the Industrial Revolution, people left the farm for brighter opportunities in the cities, and the rural population diminished. Even as late as 1960, one farmer fed less than 26 people. Today 155 people are fed by a single farmer. Around the 1950s membership reached its peak and members became complacent. Since the Grange then was only for farmers, membership began to decrease as the farm population did, and legislative influence declined. I think the 1960s-80s was a transition period; we were changing our identity from only farmers to allow anyone to join who had interest in rural issues and community service.

Today we have Granges in urban areas as well as rural and suburban. At the national level we are still recognized as an agricultural organization. Some local Granges still concentrate on agriculture, food, or gardening, but many do not. And that's fine. I believe our two main focuses locally today are family and community service. However, I think we have a real opportunity for membership growth among the backyard farmers, farmers' market vendors, and people who just want to leave the rat race and go "back to the land." This should be our target audience today and in the future.

Many of these folks don't really know how to grow things or manage a business—but our members do. We can serve as mentors and teach workshops on the skills we know—gardening, canning and freezing, sewing and needlework, making jams and jellies, many other things. I saw a Grange workshop advertised last month for making fermented foods. If you don't have the skills, find others such as the Extension Service who do, and host a meeting for the community.

This is where I see the Grange in 50 years. Still the community center, a place of social activity and learning, and a place for families to have fun together. A group people can turn to for help instead of to the government. A community garden, if you have land to devote to that. A commercial kitchen that area entrepreneurs can rent to produce their food products for value-added sales. This would make the Grange a business incubator for the community.

I would like to think that in 50 years there will not be a need for food cupboards and Goodwill stores, but Jesus said the poor will always be with us. The Grange will coordinate emergency food and clothing supplies and provide a temporary shelter for those who need to evacuate or whose homes are destroyed by fire or flood. We are seeing this with the wildfires in California, how the Granges stepped up to provide essentials for those who had to flee for their lives with nothing but the clothes they had on. Congratulations California State Grange for being an example for all of us.

Government officials from local to state to national levels will consult the Grange for our policies on important issues before deciding to support or oppose regulations or legislation. All these officials are of course Grange members. We are valued as a non-partisan organization whose opinions reflect American hometown values worthy of support by a majority of voters and legislators for the benefit of all citizens.

The Grange is a safe haven for children and youth, where they are mentored by many adoptive grandparents, aunts and uncles. They are taught the importance of civic participation, helping others, and learning to be community leaders. They learn to conduct a meeting and fulfill responsibilities by being officers in the Junior and Community Granges. They are proud of their accomplishments and bring their friends along to be a part of the Grange too.

There are still many Grange halls throughout the land, but many Granges don't own a hall; they use other meeting places like town halls, fire halls, libraries, bank's community rooms, churches. They conduct their activities and service projects in cooperation with other community groups and don't need a building to accomplish their programs. The Grange is not the building, but the people working together for the good of their community.

In summary, the Grange in 50 years will be the same as today but more vibrant. Members will be proud of their organization; committed to spreading the word and enlisting other civic minded people to assist with the work. As a 200 year old organization, we will have outlasted all others because our Founders got it right. They created an organization based on moral principles-- having faith in God, nurturing hope for the future, dispensing charity to the needy, and noted for fidelity, for faithfulness to our cause and dedication to our communities.

STATE OF THE GRANGE ADDRESS

Delivered By Betsy E. Huber, National Master

3 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." That could describe the past year since we met in Washington DC for the 150th Session. We have had many great successes, but a few setbacks for the National Grange.

First our successes—The Good Day!™ magazine, thanks to Amanda Brozana Rios and interns Kim Stefanick and Ferderica Cobb, is an amazing product, extremely professional, full of information for Grangers and the general public, and a fabulous tool for keeping informed those of our members who don't have access to the internet. There has been only one negative in this huge project—not enough subscribers or advertisers. I am sad to say, not even all of our State Masters have subscribed to the Good Day!™ Some states have really embraced it and publicized it among their membership, but other states have only two or three subscribers. The National Grange Executive Committee has stated that the magazine's financial status will be reviewed after the December issue and if it is not in the black, we may have to discontinue publication. This would break my heart to have to stop after only four issues, without even giving it a chance to succeed. Please promote the magazine in your state newsletters, at all your State Sessions and other meetings, and look around you for potential advertisers to increase the economic viability of this great opportunity for the National Grange to grow.

Our second great success this year has been the Grange Legacy Family program. Just announced on July 15th, we are so proud and happy to recognize nearly 80 families this week as Grange Legacy Families, with five, six, or even seven generations in the Grange. What a tribute to our dedicated members in this 150th year of Grange. We are truly a grassroots organization and these hundreds of committed members have kept the Grange alive and thriving in their communities across the country. Congratulations, and thank you to all of our Grange Legacy Families. This will be an ongoing project, so if you haven't filled out your application yet you can still do it and be recognized next year.

We are also pleased to recognize 33 Distinguished Community Granges and four Distinguished State Granges this week. These numbers are down a little because we raised the bar this year to challenge our Granges to do more. The Granges who

will be honored on Wednesday evening have gone above and beyond to really distinguish themselves among their peers. Congratulations, and thank you for your great work.

We had a successful Masters' Conference in February hosted by Ekonk Grange and the Connecticut State Grange. Thank you very much for your generous donation of meals and transportation and your wonderful hospitality. Those who were able to attend heard excellent speakers and had lots of time to compare notes with their fellow Masters, gaining new ideas to try in their own states. Next year's conference will be hosted by Oregon State Grange in the Portland area on the first weekend in March. Information is in your packets so put it on your calendar and plan to attend.

I had the opportunity to visit the Northeast Regional Leaders Conference, the Vermont Farm Show, New Jersey State Grange's Day of Learning, North Carolina's Ag Day and Beaufort County Ag Celebration, St Lawrence Pomona anniversary in New York, and the Mid-Atlantic Youth Conference.

Our National headquarters was a very lively place this summer, with six interns working at times on various projects. One was funded by Grange Advocacy, one by donations, and the others worked for free, with room and board provided by Amanda. We are so grateful for the excellent work and dedication of these college students, three of whom had no knowledge of Grange when they started. They worked on the magazine and Grange radio, re-designed the legislative portion of our website, represented us at many meetings on the Hill, and even provided some muscle in moving boxes for me in the subbasement. Thank you to Christopher Sebastian, Cait Cady, Ferderica Cobb, Kennedy Gwin, Mandy Bostwick, and Ben McEvoy, for your energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge shared.

We worked hard to organize the sub-basement but we barely made a dent in the job. The Assembly Officers came to the office and took inventory of categories of documents and items that are there. We need volunteers to read through the many drawers of files and determine which are of historical value. Let me know if you can visit for a few days!

With the help of the PA Grange Youth and Junior Departments we participated in Farm Aid concert day in September with an interactive booth on pollinators and a demonstration on making seed balls. The youth had a ball working in the Youth Market, selling local produce and baked goods for 10 hours. This was an audience very interested in what the Grange has to offer and we gained several contacts for membership. We hope to participate again next year, depending on the location of the concert. We also plan to apply for a Farm Aid grant that they award from the money raised at these annual events.

I sent out a request for Granges interested in constructing commercial kitchens for their communities, and received 30 expressions of interest. Twenty-eight Granges from 13 states completed the next step, a questionnaire on what assets they now have or can access in their communities. Unfortunately a crisis got in the way and I have not had time to follow up on this project. My mentor Gus Shumacher, a Grange member in MA and former USDA official, passed away suddenly in September, which also set us back. I do intend to proceed with this project if I'm reelected; I believe it will provide great benefit to those Granges and to the economies of their communities. National Grange will guide them but they will need to provide a project manager and lots of enthusiasm to make it successful.

The worst of times came on August 2nd, when the chiller died in our headquarters building. As you know, our finances have not been in the best shape for several years, and to be suddenly faced with a million dollar repair bill was an unbelievable shock. But the bright spot in this situation was the State Granges who immediately stepped up with offers of loans, and the hundreds of local Granges and individual members who sent donations large or small to repair their headquarters. I am so grateful to you all for showing how much you care about your Grange. At this time, the old equipment has been removed and the new chiller, pipes, valves, and pumps, are being delivered. The job won't be finished until the end of the year but progress is being made every day. Thanks to a very generous donation from the Grange Rural Retirement Housing Association of Washington, and \$225,000 in loans, we have covered more than half of the cost. With some luck, and we are very hopeful, we will receive the remainder from our insurance. Sincere thanks to Grange Advocacy, Grange Foundation, Red Lion Grange #1781 in PA, Potomac Grange #1, and New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, New York, and Indiana State Granges for their offers of loans.

On the California front, we were scheduled for a Summary Judgment hearing for the Grange II trademark case in October but the judge has put that on hold and reopened discovery with a new cut-off date of January 2. We had to reply to the Guild's discovery requests by October 23, and we also will ask for more discovery to further build our case. This means the appeals in both cases will not go to trial until mid- next year. While this is very disappointing, it does spread out the expense of preparing for trial over a longer period. The Guild has also appealed the attorney fee award we were granted last year, that's the \$245,000 we received this year from the contempt ruling in Grange I. Oral argument on this appeal will also take place next year.

Another part of the "worst of times" this year was the large amount of time I had to spend mediating civil wars within State Granges. Brothers and Sisters, this is not the Grange Way. I know you are all passionate about your Grange, but battles and power struggles are not building our organization, but tearing it down. Please spend your energy on things that will benefit and grow your state, not things that would turn people away. No one will join a Grange full of tension, bickering, and slandering others. Before you speak, ask yourself, "will this cause harm to the Grange that I love? Will this hurt a brother or sister?" We have all sworn to this pledge: "I will not knowingly wrong or defraud a Brother or Sister of the Order or allow it to be done by another if within my power to prevent it....Should I knowingly or willfully violate this pledge, I will invoke upon myself suspension or expulsion from the Order." Please keep this in mind and live by it.

I was very sorry to have to suspend two State Grange Charters this year—South Carolina that had only one active Grange, and Alaska with three remaining. Note that both were suspensions, not revocations, because we will work with them to get back to at least six Granges so the suspensions can be lifted and they can continue as State Granges. We have several other states that are in danger of dropping below six Granges. Please work now to revitalize your Community Granges so you don't lose your charters! It is easier to assist your Granges now to improve than to lose them and have to start over. Please talk with me this week so we can make a plan for growth in your state.

Our fraternal family bonds were broken this year by the loss of Woodrow Tucker, High Priest Emeritus. We will surely miss his presence, his wisdom and great store of knowledge of the Grange. We were also saddened by the loss of South Carolina First Lady JoAnn Williams, and Nancy Valentine, wife of High Priest Emeritus John Valentine. We will honor in the Memorial Service on Thursday a number of other past delegates who passed away during this year. A great legacy of dedicated members has been lost from our National family.

Well, enough of the bad! Let's get back to some good news. I was able to attend seven State Sessions this year—the best part of this job! Thank you to those for inviting me and welcoming me to your states. This is what our organization is all about—everywhere I went I felt at home with brothers and sisters doing good work, caring for their communities, loving our Order and its ceremonies, improving their part of the world through our resolution process. Every visit proved to me that we are indeed a great bunch of Doers. This year's Grange Month theme—"What will remain when the doers are gone?"—seemed to resonate with people everywhere I traveled. I have confidence that the Grange will be sure that doers are still around to serve their communities and keep the traditional events going long into the future. Through our emphasis on community service and by training and mentoring our youth and Juniors, there is bright hope for new generations of doers in our Granges. This is "the Grange Way!"

This saying has become quite popular around the office. What do you think of when I say "That's the Grange Way"? I think of American Values. Hometown Roots. Traditions and history. Honesty, trustworthiness, fidelity. Caring about others, helping our communities, helping others even far away. Civic participation. Interest in legislation and our government, from local to national. Holding leadership positions in your community. Using our hands to make things for others—Quilts for the Brave, premie caps, mittens, the hundreds of items that Grangers everywhere make. Teaching others how to make or grow things. Being DO-ers. Teaching Sunday School or 4-H clubs or Scouts. Being proud of our history. Trying new things, but staying true to our roots and ritual.

This is our theme for 2018 Grange Month — "That's the Grange Way." Following up our DO-ers theme from 2017, it's the Grange Way to be doers, to volunteer and give and contribute to life where we live. To be outstanding citizens and be the bridge between two sides who won't compromise. To teach the world how to get along, what faith, hope, and charity really mean in everyday life. How to love others even if you don't like them or don't agree with them.

We want to tell the world what the Grange Way means, and why they should care, why they should want to join us and help with our efforts to improve lives from the grassroots up. In our nation where people are more sharply divided and combative every day, the Grange Way is needed now more than ever. It's up to us to spread the Grange Way among our neighbors, friends, strangers, people who don't look like us. I hope you will take time to think about the Grange Way, discuss it in your meetings, and hold an open house to demonstrate it to others who will want to join the cause.

We have lots of things planned for 2018. Dates are set for the Grange Cruise in February, the Masters' Conference in Portland in March, and the Fly-in in DC in April. We hope to continue the Good Day! magazine (with your help), and the monthly Patrons Chain newsletter. I would like to begin a monthly Zoom meeting with state membership directors to give them some guidance and encouragement in their very important work. The lack of a National membership director should not excuse states from holding membership workshops or pep rallies, like Oregon's very successful Grange UP program. There are lots of resources on our website, and Amanda and I are willing to come to your state to do workshops and training. I only had one invitation last year for membership work—thank you, New York. I'm sure we have several good people who would volunteer to come help you if you cover their travel expenses. You just need to ask.

Here we are, just a few weeks away from our 150th birthday. What a rich legacy the Grange has given America! We owe it to our founders, and to our ancestors who started the Legacy Families we will honor tomorrow, to continue doing our best, working hard to advance our organization. It's a great organization—it must be to have lasted 150 years—but we need to keep improving. "Remember, nature moves forward, she never goes backward." If we are not continually striving to improve, we are sliding back. Keep the enthusiasm you will feel here in Spokane, and carry it home with you—it won't take up any room in your suitcase!

Let's all begin right now, in this 150th year, to again become that vibrant, well known, outstanding organization dedicated to our communities that we have been, and will continue to be, for generations into the future.

*Colorado State Grange**Submitted by Cindy Greer, Master*

Worthy National Master, National Officers, Delegates and Fellow Grange members, greetings from Colorful Colorado.

Three active Granges were presented with 100-year certificates this past year as they celebrated their 100th year of existence – Florida #306, Mt. Allison #308 and Mount Lookout #339 all three in the Durango area.

We were privileged to attend ten more Granges' activities in Colorado. Homestead Grange in Roggen has been holding a Palm Sunday Breakfast for a number of years. I made a presentation to the Historical group in Cortez and some of those individuals have joined the Lake Vista Grange. Enterprise Grange found us visiting twice, once for their fall Chili dinner and in June at a meeting with a potluck. We popped in for the Redlands Mesa's potluck supper in June and met many of the wonderful Grangers there as well as many community members and saw their commercial kitchen. Mount Lookout Grange's May Day Celebration was special and their commercial kitchen was just about finished. Darden Pomona Granges are to be congratulated for their 150th Anniversary celebration held in July – Community awards were presented, Entertainers preformed, Sister Jeanne Davies spoke about Ranch life and the Grange and several of the Granges in the Pomona set up tables displaying activities and projects that they have accomplished. Enterprise Grange also got a surprise visit when we again stopped in for their potluck and meeting in June. We've been on the road a lot, (5,857 miles). La Plata Pomona Granges went all out for their county fair by ordering Banners for the concession windows, special cups, and setting up a display for the 150th. Several possible new members were contacted.

I have continued to send out a Master's newsletter every other month. I was asked to author an OPED concerning the Affordable Healthcare Act which was published in the Colorado Business Journal. In cooperation with the ASP Coalition we have monitored the recommended changes to Medicare Part B and have cooperated with the Coalition in urging congressmen to protect the seniors affected by the changes. The CSG also joined the American Life Sciences Innovation Council in recognizing Congressman Mike Coffman for his efforts. I also edited and signed another op-ed about the Health care issues.

David McCord has continued to represent the CSG at the Ag Council meetings and keeps well informed about the issues agriculture faces. Alan Caldwell has kept the CSG visible to the legislators at the State Capitol. The Colorado State Grange sent Alan to attend the National Grange Legislative Fly-in in Washington, D.C.

The devastating fires near Beulah and the fires in Northern Colorado prompted the use of Emergency Relief funds this year. Two families in Beulah were given money to help with their losses and a donation through the Farm Bureau was sent to help the families in Northern Colorado affected by the fires.

We unfortunately had to close one Subordinate Grange this year, Mountain View Grange. We also closed Working Pomona Grange upon request of the Granges in that area.

The Revenue committee came up with some wonderful ideas for additional fund raisers. we just need to select some and put them into action.

Three Granges were given grants this year for capital improvements. Over the years 14 grants have been awarded. The program has been put on hold due to lack of available funds.

Colorado State Grangers considered 19 resolutions at State Session this year. We passed 17 of those resolutions of which five were sent to National for consideration. We were blessed to have our National Master, Betsy Huber at our state convention in Colorado Springs. 2018 is our 145th year. We will be compiling our history from 1975 to the present over the next five years. We have challenged our members to bring in 145 new members this coming year. Our 501c3 organization P.I.C.K. has been busy trying to match a \$5,000 grant that we have been offered by December 1 and we are awaiting word from the Coors Family Foundation about their decision regarding a grant for Golden Gate Grange.

Our Faith animates all our efforts, our Hope is a great incentive, we feel wonderful when we share our resources and our personal integrity helps us to be noted for fidelity. Let's hold on to these things as we begin the journey in the next 150 years.

*Florida State Grange**Submitted by Barbara Borderieux, Master*

It is a great honor to bring you greetings from the state of Florida to this 151st National Session. This year has been a busy one. Our State Session was held the end of January. Our four teenage state officers did a great job. John Plank National Assistant Steward was able to attend part of our session.

There have been ups and downs this year. Our state has been struggling with membership decline for several years. We have added one Grange but lost one as well. We are continuing to work on building new Granges but also in adding members to current Granges. We have a new membership chairman and that helps a lot to share the work.

In July the Southeastern Leadership, youth, and junior conference was held in St. Augustine, Florida. There was a good turn out from Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, and Florida. During our conference we were able to visit the Fountain

of youth which was fun for all. This year the new Junior director was able to attend and it was good to have more juniors as well. Many competed in the different contests for both youth and juniors. Lindsey Bethany took first in speech 19- to 20-year-olds, Joshua Bethany placed in the speech for under 19, and Michael Bethany for radio speech. Joshua won the Grange Jeopardy and will compete at the National session.

Our Grangers continue to help out in their communities. They are making things for pregnancy centers and Salvation Army. Many are helping with scouts and with activities though the agriculture museum.

Hurricane Irma made a visit to our state. She hit each end top to bottom and side to side. A couple of our Grange members lost an appliance and one a waterline their house but no lives were lost. There was and still is lots of clean up for all. Many trees and branches have come down all over the state. You can still see piles along the road. Our agriculture was hit pretty hard. The fruit was on the citrus trees and much ended up on the ground hurting this year's crop. Sugar cane was close to harvest but much was knocked over and laying in water. Nurseries lost green houses and many plants. They are still cleaning up. The migrant workers lost housing and there will be less jobs with crops destroyed. There was some good news-- the fall vegetable and strawberry crops had not been planted yet. We here were spared from much of the damage as the islands had, but it could have been worse.

When you visit our state we would love to have you give us a call and visit us during your stay. Our state session will be held at the Gateway Ramada in Kissimmee January 26th and 27th. Love to see you there.

Idaho State Grange

Submitted by Harold Eshelman, Master

First, I want to thank the membership of the Idaho State Grange for allowing me to be their State Master for this past year. It was not quite what I envisioned the position to entail, because the first five months were spent being a property manager and spending very little time working with the Granges in the State of Idaho. We have two rental apartments and one office that we try to keep rented, but for different reasons they were never all rented at the same time for what they should have been renting for dollar wise.

Finally in late April I was able to travel to North Idaho and visit with members of four Granges, two of which I had never been to before and two that did not own a building. Later, I again travelled to North Idaho along with Bill Grant a member of the Idaho State Grange Executive Committee and visited members of 6 Granges. Earlier my wife and I traveled to Eastern Idaho and visited with members of five Granges -- three have their own halls and two without halls. I was mostly interested in what they had to say and what their halls looked like and get their input as to what we as State Grange could do to help them. Most of the complaints were that they pay dues and get nothing from the State for any kind of help and in some cases they had not seen anyone from the State Office for quite some time. Therefore, I came up with the idea of "Granges helping Granges". I don't know what the other states do, but we have Granges folding up or consolidating with other Granges which leaves us with an empty building to get rid of and the Grange that consolidated with the Grange that folded ends up with a CD. This puts us into the real estate business. In some cases we have Granges with a CD that can't get to the money because the CD was put into long term. Then before they have a chance to use that money their building needing repairs, membership drops and they are forced to close. My goal is to make this money available for the Granges to use, not sit building up interest and that Grange is forced to close with the building needing repairs that we are forced to sell. Then we have to sit on that money for seven years. I want those Granges with a CD to use some of this money to improve their hall, possibly attract new activities and more members. It also increases the value of the Grange just in case they are forced to close. Granges that close with a CD are encouraged to give that CD to another Grange(s) before they close. With my staying in contact with the Granges I can get a feel as to what they need and then I can figure out ways to help them, but they must apply for the help giving us the project they want to do, how much it is going to cost and who is doing the work.

In the "Granges helping Granges" program I want the Granges to feel like someone else really cares what happens at their Grange and they are not alone to fend for themselves. This is not just an Organization that each entity survives on its own, but there are others out there that want to help make them a success, and expect nothing in return. We had to close one Grange this year that had a CD worth nearly \$20,000, but before they closed they gave that CD to two other Granges; however, one of the Granges could not get enough members together to decide if they wanted the money so the closing Grange asked the State Master if there was anyone else who could use the money and the second Grange had a project that would take over \$20,000 so the whole CD was directed to them to refurbish the logs on their building. We have 2 more Granges that have CD's, but no building.

I am hopeful I will be able to get around to all the Granges in the next year, but my health comes first. As some of you know I have a bit of a problem that only God knows the outcome. God willing, I will be seeing you all at the November Convention.

Illinois State Grange

Submitted by Lynette Schaeffer, Master

Worthy National Master Betsy, National Officers and Delegates of the 151th National Session;

It is with great pride and enjoyment that Don and I bring greetings from Illinois.

Don and I savored the 150th National Grange Session in the Washington, DC area and thank the Granges and Grangers of the region for their warmth and generosity. It was a memorial event in so many ways. One of my most moving was the wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown. Thanks to Veterans Jim Foster - WV, Chip Narvel - DE, Peg Johnson - Potomac Grange and Active Duty Doug Baldwin – IA for their service.

I was speaker at the 100th Anniversary of Beaver Valley Grange on December 4, 2016. Jerry Paulson had a great program, and I was glad to be part of it. It was interesting the way he did the history through the eyes of certain members.

The Grange Resources Information and Training – GRIT was held October 15, 2016. Presentations were made by Arline Magee (Editor), Bev Smith (Historian), Charles Treser (Membership), Elaine Hecathorn (Secretary & Communication), Karie Blasingame (Youth), Marion Thornberry (Legislative), Mike Ratcliffe (Website), Tom Rhoads (Agriculture), Patty Bearth (Lecturer), Deb Wade (Family Activities), Sara Ellwanger (Community Service) and Trisha Renken (Junior). I was glad that many Grangers came to discover the upcoming programs for this year.

Leadership Training was held in January and March. Presentations were made by Karie Blasingame, Overseer and Youth Director, Sara Ellwanger, Community Service Director, Dr. Ann Johnson. We reviewed the National Grange Database, Writing Resolutions, Community Service, writing newspaper articles, Grange Census and Grange Profile, Hashtags, donating blood, (Prairie Grange member) workshop on ticks. I led a workshop on Grange Ritual and Grange history.

The National Grange's State Master's Meeting was in February in Connecticut hosted by Ekonk Grange and Connecticut State Grange. Thanks to them for their hospitality. It was an educational well-planned event.

Grange Month was very busy for me with many events. The most memorable was open house at Turkey Hill Grange to celebrate the Grange Hall being placed on the National Register of Historic Places. I was one of the speakers and I was able to sit next to Maurice Vale a 74 year member of Turkey Hill Grange.

Illinois State Grange held the First State Grange picnic sponsored by the Youth at the Tom Madonia Park on Springfield Lake, Springfield, IL. July 16th was a HOT day, but we enjoyed drill team competition and speaking contest participants.

Junior Grange Days - two Junior Days; one north and one south. I attended that event. I assisted with making craft projects and working on badges. It takes lots of patience to work with Juniors, especially holding a nail while a 5-year-old holds the hammer for tin punch. IL State Grange Junior Day was held June 3.

The 146th State Session was hosted by the Granges of Central Illinois. The meeting was held at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria. The delegates were thrilled by the National Grange representatives Joe and Tammy Fryman. Past National Grange Secretary and Past Master Henrietta Keller, Past First Man Norm Keller, Past Master Lyle Lee and Past National Grange Flora and Past First Lady Patti Lee joined Joe and Tammy to be presented to start the session. I want to thank the State Officers and Committee Chairs and Directors for their diligent work to make the session a rewarding event. The contest display room was full of Junior crafts (like tin punch mentioned earlier), Family Activity; cookies, breads, needlework and crafts, Community Service books, Lecturer's photography, drawings and writings, Agriculture: vegetables, flowers, antique items. It was great to see how talented IL Grangers are. The Juniors from several Granges performed a drill and opened the meeting on Saturday morning. The drill work of the Youth and several older Juniors was once again extraordinary. The auction of items was economically beneficial to the Grange committees and lots of fun. Our Chaplain had an inspiring thoughtful memorial/worship service. We lost three people who had served the State Grange; Bonnie Rohlin, Family Activities Chair; Dee Purcell, State Ceres and co-director of Youth Department; D Clark Edwards, Agriculture Committee Chair. According to Sara, Community Service Director, Grangers and friends in Illinois are busy raising funds for many various community projects and concerns. We had hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours of community service projects and efforts. The Grange communities in IL greatly benefit from having a Grange in their area. All our Committee chairs, directors, officers organized a first-rate program this past year and I thank them for their efforts.

We lost one Grange this past year.

Legislative Day in Springfield was attended by five Grangers to talk with Illinois Representatives and Senators. We were represented at the IL Energy Conference.

Don and I are delighted and proud to once again be delegates for Illinois, at the 151st National Grange session in Spokane, Washington. We look forward to the committee work, session efforts, making new friends, and catching up with Grangers from across the country.

Iowa State Grange

Submitted by Dwight Baldwin, Master

Worthy National Master, officers, delegates, brothers and sisters of the National Grange it is with great pleasure that Kathy and I bring greetings from the members of the Iowa State Grange at this 151st annual session in Spokane, WA.

The 148th annual session of the Iowa State Grange was held in Kellogg, IA at the Amboy Grange hall with Delaware county hosting. I want to thank the officers and delegates of the Iowa State Grange for the dedication in making our session a productive and positive session. Thanks to Roger Bostwick the National Priest Archon and his wife Melanie for being our National representatives at our session.

Our State Lecturer worked hard on programs for the year. Our legislative director kept us informed on what is going on in Iowa and our national capital. I worked with our advocates diligently on our Medicare initiatives.

Our Youth and Junior Director had a successful Junior Camp and hosted the Midwest Youth Conference this year. They also served two breakfasts and had a sleep over the night before for the Juniors to help raise money for the fund for the coming year.

Our community service award went to Sonora Grange for all the work they have done this year.

We need to continue to work on membership. We must continue to work on membership or without new members we will not exist.

It is my honor to be the National Treasurer. I will continue to encourage our Executive Committee to make wise decisions with the finances of the National Grange. The building we have in Washington DC is a valuable asset to the order and we need to do everything in our power to retain the asset.

Once again I extend our thanks to the Western Region for hosting the 2017 National Session of the National Grange. We appreciate the work they have put into this convention.

Indiana State Grange

Submitted by John Plank, Master

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates and Members of the 151th National Grange Convention:

It is with honor and great privilege for Susan and me to bring you greetings from the State of Indiana. As I look back on the last six years as State Master, it has been a great journey for us so far.

We recently held our 147th Annual Session of the Indiana State Grange in October. This was the third year we held our session at Pine View Resort in Monticello, Indiana. Our members really like the setting and what the resort has to offer.

We lost some wonderful members this past year, 10 in all. One of them was Nancy Valentine, the wife of John Valentine High Priest Emeritus. State Session wasn't the same this year without her. We all missed the joy she brought to the meetings.

Indiana was honored in having National Master Betsy Huber as our National Grange Representative this year. This year our officers were installed by the National Master, something I'm sure they will remember.

In July we had our annual Elephant Ear stand at Cass County Fair. This is one of our money making projects for our State Grange Committees. Susan and I were able to help about every night this year. We tried pork rinds for the first time, wasn't a big hit at the fair. We are planning to take the stand to Elkhart next year to an air show. The food stand has been a great opportunity to get the Grange name out for the public to see and get to know us.

May all Granges have a successful year and Happy Holidays to all! We are looking forward with great expectation for the 152th National Session at Stoweflake Mountain Resort at Stowe, VT.

Kansas State Grange

Submitted by Roger Bostwick, Master

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates, and members attending the 151st National Grange Convention in Spokane, Washington, greetings from the Grangers in Kansas.

Melanie and I enjoyed the activities planned by the Southeastern Region at the 150th National Convention last year. One of the highlights of visiting the area was at Arlington National Cemetery. We always are enthralled by the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We were especially thrilled when a group of four Grangers laid a wreath at the tomb in memory of fallen members. Anyone who has ever witnessed the Wreath Laying at Arlington knows the emotion it evokes, however, when you are part of the group presenting it takes on a much greater significance.

On February 23, 2017, I attended the first U.S. Senate Ag Committee hearing on the 2018 Farm Bill. The hearing was titled, "Hearing from the Heartland: Perspectives on the 2018 Farm Bill from Kansas." Nearly 400 gathered at Kansas State University's McCain Auditorium to listen to two panels of witnesses, the first consisting of 10 producers of crops and livestock and the second containing eight members of ag related organizations, farm credit, water boards, renewable energy, rural electric and communications, etc.

Senator Pat Roberts, R-KS, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry presided over the first hearing on the 2018 Farm Bill. Joining Senator Roberts was Senate Agriculture Committee's Ranking Member, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, D-MI.

I was able to use the information I learned at these hearings to help fellow Granges in New York. John Cromie, Master of Milton Grange called me and asked if there were any Grangers in Kansas affected by this year's wildfires. His Grange members were hoping to do something in response to the fires. I told him that as with most disasters, they say the best thing to send is money, so needed items could be purchased. I told him what I heard when I attended the Farm Bill hearings in February in Manhattan. The fires would have been more devastating if it had not been for conservation funds that had helped to clear the prairie of dry tinder earlier and crop insurance which helped compensate for the loss of cattle, fencing and equipment. These funds were available as part of the last Farm Bill. This was an issue of which the New York Grangers were unaware.

Kansas was the host of Great Plains Regional Conference in June. In our region we combined Youth, Junior, Lecturers and Membership into one leadership conference a few years ago. With the distance people have to travel in our area this allows a greater attendance when several can travel together to one conference. To save cost, technology was used to bring the National Lecturer to the conference through a Zoom meeting. This worked well and was a great way to get the program information out and allowed interaction and idea sharing that would not have been possible otherwise.

At our State Grange convention in October, our Youth planned activities to help celebrate the upcoming 150th birthday of the Grange and other activities to raise funds. Bingo kept everyone active when there were slow moments in session and a birthday party was enjoyed after the Sixth Degree.

The skills and experiences that three Kansas Grange members brought back to Kansas who were selected to the Communication Fellows Program at the 150th National Convention have been and will continue to be a valuable asset to the State Grange for years to come. With DO·ers like the young people we have in Kansas I believe good changes for the organization are in store.

Maine State Grange

Submitted by Rick Grotton, Master

To the National Master, Officers, Delegates and members:
Greetings from Maine.

It has been a busy year. Two Directors meetings and two State Officer meetings were held; each being very productive as new ideas were formed. Sister Betsy Huber visited Maine in April. She visited three Pomona meetings throughout the state. There were some very educational and informational discussions; one meeting becoming a "town hall" type with very interesting points of discussion. Thank you Sister Betsy!

It has been a year of accomplishments and testing. Second year observations have been made from putting the first year plans into action. Many changes had good results. New committees were formed as a result of decisions from last year's Session and have been prospering. The Fund Raising Committee continues to grow. Each Pomona was asked to raffle a basket of goodies at State Grange this year. The second annual Variety Show was a hit. The annual yard sale was a success.

The continuation of cleaning up closed Granges and selling the halls occurred. Degree Days were held around the state resulting in many new members. Escutarsis #231 was reorganized just recently with all new membership.

My sincere thanks go to Sister Terry Lacombe-Stevens who took over as Youth Director and attended Northeast Youth Conference. Plans are being made to host the Conference next year.

State Lecturer's Conference was held in September. Sister Margaret Morse provided attendees with valuable information and a workshop.

State Session went very well. Thanks to our National Rep Amanda Brozana Rios for attending our session. There were seven resolutions not including the budget. The delegates were able to get the work done quickly. Charitable donations from Granges were given to Home for Little Wanderers and to the House in the Woods. Educational Aide and Howe's Nursing Scholarships were distributed. The Sixth Degree was done with seven new members. Thanks to all who helped make it a success!

Congratulations to our newly elected State officers, especially Sherry Harriman, our new State Master.
Working together and trying new ideas is working in Maine!

Maryland State Grange

Submitted by Allen Stiles, Master

I have tried to generate excitement about the National Grange's 150th anniversary. As I have been promoting the DO·er Program to Granges in the state it has generated much worthwhile discussion. I hope that it gets converted into action. Unfortunately, National Master Betsy Huber was correct in her Address to National Session. "What will happen when all the DO·ers are gone?" We keep losing faithful and capable members and are having difficulty recruiting someone willing to take their places. One such loss was Sister Nancy Wolfe, who as Maryland State Grange Youth Director taught me to love the Grange. I am reminded of the Steward's remarks at the beginning of the 6th Degree, because she "served the Order ably and faithfully in every station to which she was called."

We have continued the Grange tradition of advocacy by continually requesting improvements to the agricultural programs at the University of Maryland. These efforts are showing some fruit, as vacant positions are being filled. It has been a longstanding issue for the Maryland State Grange that the discontinued agricultural teachers' program should be reinstituted and revitalized and that is finally happening!

Many of our Granges sponsor Community Shows and most are an active presence at their respective County Fairs. Maryland State Grange continues a long tradition of having promotional booth space at the Maryland State Fair. This puts the Grange name out in front of the general public. I represent the Grange at the Governor's Luncheon at the fair.

We have representatives on the Maryland Agricultural Commission, many county Ag Commissions, the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, and the Governor's Dairy Council and Advisory Committee. While the Maryland General Assembly is in session, I continue to represent the Grange at weekly meetings of the Maryland agricultural industry as we network to help pass legislation helpful to farmers and defeat bills that would be harmful.

The crown jewel of Maryland is the Chesapeake Bay. Although Maryland farmers have always been leaders in conservation practices, agriculture is frequently blamed for the decline in the health of the bay. There has been improvement being seen in the last two years and Maryland farmers should be recognized for the sacrifices that they have made to accomplish this goal.

I represent the Grange on the Maryland Council of Agricultural Educators and learn useful information to help advocate for Ag Education. One of my main goals is to rebuild the strong relationship that we have had with the University of Maryland, 4-H and FFA. So far we have been the most successful at building a strong relationship with Maryland FFA.

We received a grant from National Grange with the hope that through New Deal Grange we can reach out to the large deaf community in the Greenbelt area. For the first time in many years we will have a sign language interpreter at the Agriculture and Awards banquet at State Session.

I seem to do a better job of promoting the Grange to those outside of our organization than I do connecting with our membership. As we celebrate the 150th birthday of the Grange, I am trying to create pride in our past while spreading optimism in our future.

Finally, my brother's significant other is alive today because of a liver transplant. Organ donations save lives! My wife survived a serious accident with only a scratch and some bruises. Seatbelts and airbags save lives! Use them! I leave you with a thought from George Orwell: "The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those who speak it."

Michigan State Grange

Submitted by Christopher Johnston, Master

Worthy First Lady, Officers, Delegates, Brother and Sisters: Today right here in Owosso Michigan, we meet again for the friendship, fellowship, deliberation, and ultimately the betterment our great organization. Since the Grange was organized in Michigan in 1874 we have met a total of now 144 times, always with the same goal in mind, and always with the same motto. As we begin our deliberations let us not forget those delegates from years gone by who have been faced with many of the same decisions that we face today, and how well their decisions have prospered for the Grange as a whole. Today we must make decisions to improve upon and move forward with the same intent and determination as our predecessors.

This past year we have lost so many Grangers to the Great Grange above, many of them were exceptionally beneficial to their respective Subordinate Grange and yet some were of exceptional benefit to the Michigan State Grange. While they have all played a role we may never be able to fill again with their poise and personality, we can appreciate what they have accomplished in their time with us. Now as we reflect back on all they have accomplished and all they have taught us over the years we must take their teachings and grow and become the teachers ourselves, by learning and leading through experience.

We have been presented with several topics of discussion from our local Granges in the form of resolutions, I encourage all to read the resolutions and contemplate with an open mind how will the end result affect the Michigan State Grange in the years and decades to come. We must also take a look at the Legislative policy book for our respective committees and take an in-depth look into the validity and relevance of the policies we have already passed in years gone by. If we are to sustain ourselves as a relevant organization we must maintain a relevant Legislative policy. We must also take a serious look into the By-Laws of the Michigan State Grange. There are many of the By-Laws that have been in place since the Michigan State Grange was organized way back in 1874.

As a Nation we have seen many Natural Disasters and many manmade disasters over the course of this last year. While we have no real control over Hurricanes, however through better building codes and material we have the ability to lessen the effects of these horrifically damaging storms. Through educational efforts we have the ability to control and limit the spread and damage of wildfires. Throughout the last decade or so, the overreach of the Environmental Protection Agency has limited the ability of the U.S. Forest Service to clear areas of thick dry debris, through means of controlled burns. As an organization with special interests in agriculture, and timber is an agricultural commodity, we need to speak up to the Governmental Agencies and let our voices be heard that we do not want to have hundreds of miles of forest becoming nothing but

smoldering tree stumps and ash. That we welcome the routine clearing of fire breaks that allow for fresh growth, and habitat. The Grange has the ability through legislative work to accomplish great things, we have done it several times before and we can do it several times again.

As a nation we are faced with the very real potential of the onset of yet another military confrontation. While I am not extremely concerned about the outcome of a war, I am deeply concerned about the well being of our state of mind as a nation. While there are several different theories about the protests of professional athletes, I have to feel troubled when thinking that there are children sitting with family or friends every Sunday or Monday night to watch the next big game and are getting the impression that the Government has in some way shape or form done these people wrong. When we instill the right ideals into the highly impressionable minds of children every now and then they become good citizens and leaders of the community. If we continue to allow the minds to be cultivated into believing that this is an appropriate behavior, without them having the knowledge of why we stand and salute and pay respect to the colors of this great nation, then how do we begin to think that they will know the difference between standing at attention or kneeling during the singing of our nation's anthem when the actions of those who many look to as professionals fail to be professional in their actions and protest our Nation's most iconic symbol. While I believe in the freedom of speech, let them protest by not playing the game rather than disrespecting the flag or National Anthem that earned them the right to protest.

The ability of a single individual carrying hundreds of pounds of firearms and ammunition through areas of the most secured places without being noticed, for the sole purpose of doing physical harm to potentially thousands of individuals is extremely mind boggling to me. While I do not claim to know all of the details of the most recent mass shooting I have done my fair share of research. I have to believe that there was some sort of mental illness that possessed this individual to carry out such a devious and atrocious act of violence. Allowing individuals to possess certain types and the number of firearms as well as ammunitions is not an issue that can be easily regulated out of existence overnight. I believe through our grassroots efforts we have the ability to progress better firearm regulations.

Just the other night, I joined a zoom meeting with the members of the 2017 National Grange Session Education and Health Committee to review and critique the Education and Health Policy of the National Grange Legislative Policy book. While nothing that was discussed can be acted upon until we are actually at the National Convention, it brings to light the fact that probably every State Grange has done the same thing National has and listed in policy a particular Legislative bill or Act that has been amended or revised 10 times since the resolution was passed at our conventions. While we have made some changes in the past few years to clean up the Michigan State Grange Legislative Policy Book there is always room for improvement. We might also consider taking the time to research the National Grange Policies and seeing if there are changes that we feel need to be made. Remember it is here that we become the legislators of our order for the State Grange and can suggest or recommend changes to the National Grange delegate body.

Montana State Grange

Submitted by Scott Nicholson, Master

Even though the long brutal winter cancelled and postponed many Grange activities and projects November through March this year the Granges of Montana kept busy with a variety of ongoing activities. Our Little Red Wagon project continues to help support local food banks and food banks in Western Montana.

Our Junior Grange camp was very successful again this year. We had a great turn out with almost as many adults as we had kids.

We are currently focusing on revitalizing some of the "at risk" Granges in the state. This is an ongoing process and we now have three teams working in three different areas. We are hoping that this will be more successful than one team going all over the state.

Nebraska State Grange

Submitted by Kevin Cooksley, Master

I welcome the Officers, Delegates, members and guests of the Nebraska State Grange to the Ramada Inn and River's Edge Conference Center, here in Columbus, site of this, our 129th annual convention of the Nebraska State Grange.

The staff here at the Ramada Inn continues to impress me with their professionalism and attention to detail in making us feel welcome and taking care of the "glitches" that always pop up during events such as these. And, as I have said many times before, this is a "team effort". Again, I want to thank all of you who take time from your busy lives to carry out your duties & sometimes doing what aren't your "duties", in order to see that this organization continues to make a difference in our local communities, the State & the Nation.

You may find yourself asking, "do we really make a difference"? Well, to answer that, I invite you to take a look at the Community Service reports that were turned in to Sandra Dunkel, our Community Service Chairperson. If you do, you will see firsthand how many activities the Grangers in those local communities manage to carry out, and oft times with small numbers

to do the work. Nonetheless, we persevere, and we DO make a difference, especially if you are one of the individuals on the receiving end of one of our benevolent activities. Thank you, Sandra, for overseeing this important department.

The "long" session of the 2017 Legislature was predominantly preoccupied with balancing the budget shortfall. Efforts to reach some sort of property tax relief plan failed to garner enough attention and concentrated effort to go anywhere. Compounding the issue was the fact our Governor decided to prioritize Income Tax relief instead of Property Tax relief. There was considerable backlash from the ag groups for his decision, and as a result, neither plan was successful. Because this was the "long" session, any bill not killed is still "alive" for this coming session. The Grange is part of two coalitions still working on legislation to achieve fundamental property tax relief that will carry forward and yet not pull the financial "rug" out from under our schools and county governments. It is a difficult and complex task, that has been made even more so, with the current downturn in the ag economy. In fact, given the current status of our state's economy, I wouldn't be surprised if we fail to get a meaningful tax relief package through the upcoming session. It may take all the political capital there is to even get a small state-level additional contribution to the Property Tax Relief Fund. One thing is for certain, if we fail to try, we will most certainly fail to succeed. I want to thank Richard and Darlene Janing for all the hard work they put in during the Legislative session, keeping us informed on what is going on and writing to the Senators on particular issues.

On the national level, the Grange, under the leadership of President Betsy Huber, the Executive Committee and Burton Eller, our National Grange Legislative Director, continues to be influential in policy-making and congressional hearings for administration appointments. Even as the financial needs mount for upgrades to our National Headquarters building, the Grange lawsuits in California against the "California Guild" are finally beginning to yield results. The Court has repeatedly ruled in our favor and recently ordered the "California Guild" to pay nearly \$200,000 to the National Grange for attorney fees and judgements. The legal process has been frustratingly slow and expensive, but crucial to the future existence of the Grange everywhere.

While the ag economy in Nebraska (and the country) struggles with low commodity prices, Nebraska continues to shine, when it comes to foreign trade. Our state enjoys having a large share of the commodities involved in our Foreign Trade Agreements, due to the high quality of our products. Given that large market, we Nebraska Grangers have a right to be concerned by the rhetoric being exchanged over the possibility of the United States pulling out of NAFTA and TPP rather than "renegotiating" the agreements. We support continuing "trade missions" at every opportunity, in order to promote our products. These Trade Missions have been proven to boost the demand for Nebraska commodities.

On the local level, our Granges continue the time-proven community service efforts of such activities as scholarship programs, the Dictionary Project, Toys for Loving, Pop Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, and many other projects too numerous to mention. Our thanks go out to those Granges & their dedicated members who sacrifice their time & efforts to make our good life even better through community service. This year, Phyllis Tooker has decided to "retire" from her role as Director of Family Activities Chairperson. We all owe her (and her family) a large debt of gratitude for her dedication and the quality of the program she has built over the years. She leaves large shoes to fill, but we will find a way to "carry-on". Thank you, Phyllis, Russ and Lila for all your hard work and dedication to the Grange!

The 2017 National Grange session will be in Spokane, Washington November 7th-11th. It will be the 151st annual session and the planners have cut it down by one day, as a cost-saving effort. I, as well as the Frymans will be attending. I will be on the Ag Committee again. We will be reporting back via the State Grange radio report on Friday the 10th, as well as through the President's comments in our quarterly Grange Newssheet. I am looking forward to seeing and hearing from our National President, Betsy Huber.

As I have said before, our challenges never go away, they just vary from year-to-year. Our membership grows a little older each year. We do what we can do with who we have. We still work on finding new members, but our best efforts seem to always fall short. Just remember, as I've said before, service to others is one of the most gratifying activities one can experience in life, and it gives one a sense of purpose. You can look around and always find someone who has it worse than you do. Let's keep on making a difference.

In closing, I wish to recognize our officers. You have a very dedicated & fine group of officers who do all the work, and for that I want to say thank you! Special thanks go to Judy Hansen for the invaluable work she does as Secretary, for without her efforts we couldn't function.

It takes all of us in a team effort to get the job done.

New Hampshire State Grange

Submitted by Chris Heath, Master

The New Hampshire State Grange held its 143rd annual session in Lebanon NH at the Fireside Inn and Suites. We had a large turnout for this year's session. On Thursday, before Session started, a small group of Grange members helped serve dinner at the local food pantry to 45 people who were less fortunate. Chris Heath, Ida Hutchins, Gary Ward, Stephen Tracy and Patricia Adams gave of their time to help prepare and serve dinner to the people in the community.

Thursday after session opened we celebrated Carl Adams, Past State Master, 100th birthday. Many of his family and colleagues were invited. Friday the State Master, Chris Heath and State Gatekeeper, Norman Brandt entertained the delegates and members with a Staple gun showdown.

Friday the Officers exemplified the 6th degree to a packed house. Many compliments were made on how well they did. Saturday morning found the chairs being filled by names being drawn out of a hat. State Overseer Robert Trombi served as Lady Assistant Steward, State Treasurer Dan Bascom served as Ceres, State Secretary Gerald Leclerc served as Pomona and State Pomona Sarah Leclerc served as Assistant Steward with those officers dressing up in the appropriate attire for their offices.

Election of officers was held later in the day and all officers were re-elected to their current positions. Saturday Night the New Hampshire State Grange honored many outstanding people at their Awards Banquet. Two weeks after State session, Master Chris Heath and elected delegate Wilber Heath attended National Session in Washington, D.C.

It was a long week of meetings and events that will remain with them for a lifetime.

In December the committees and deputies got together to have a day of training. The weather was cooperative and everyone had a great day of learning. In January the leaders from the New Hampshire State Grange attended the Northeast Leaders conference in Vermont. Many enjoyed the workshops that were presented and accomplished lots of work in their breakout session. In February the Youth Association held its annual Winter Rally at the State Grange building in Hooksett. The event was well attended and everyone enjoyed the workshops and fellowship. Sarah Leclerc and her committee did an excellent job planning and executing this event. In March we held our annual bowling tournament in Manchester NH. This is always a well attended event and many prizes were awarded to many good bowlers.

In April, the State Lecturer, Jane Trombi, hosted a wonderful Grange month celebration at the State Grange building. The day was full of activities that all who attended enjoyed. The talent contest was held, as well as a banquet with a few awards being handed out to some well deserving Grangers.

May was full of deputies starting their spring instructions to the Granges. This year the Secretaries were tasked in providing the duties of their offices and the Granges were requested to exemplify passing from degrees. The Granges will be asked to perform these two actions at their fall inspections.

June found the Youth and Juniors at Camp Spaulding in Penacook NH for the annual Summer Youth Rally. Juniors participated in a nature scavenger hunt while the youth did a low ropes course. In the afternoon, the Juniors worked on contest entries and the youth enjoyed canoeing and archery. It was a great weekend enjoyed by all.

In July the youth attended the NorthEast Youth Conference in Amherst MA. Beth Merrill and Adam Terrell represented New Hampshire well in Sing-A-Song and Public Speaking contest respectively. They will be representing the NorthEast and New Hampshire at this year's Night of Excellence in Spokane, Washington. Also in July, Grangers attended the Go To Church service at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge and the Grange Family camping at Gunstock in Gilford. In August, the Junior department celebrated the 90th birthday of the program here in the state. State Junior director Joann Brandt had a fun filled day for the all the juniors and adults who attended. Juniors built bird houses, recycled boats and angel bookmarks. They enjoyed a great lunch provided by the Junior committee and held a junior Grange meeting in the afternoon. September found the deputies back on the road completing their Inspections of the Granges. It also found the State Grange gearing up for the 144th Annual session which will be held at The Margate located on Lake Winnepesaukee in Laconia NH October 26th through the 28th.

New York State Grange

Submitted by Stephen Coye, Master

Penning this ninth report to the National Grange has given cause to a lot of reflection. Over the past years there has been much to be thankful for, progress made in many areas, and of course, disappointments and ongoing concerns.

On the encouraging side, we had a half dozen opportunities over the course of the year to expose the Grange to the public arena via a manned display booth complete with video "bells and whistles" and printed materials. We again printed a special edition of our Empire State Granger, a four page full color publication containing information of the benefits of membership to all ages. Over 3,000 copies were distributed. In relation to training and encouragement, we held a "Do-ers" Seminar this past spring, specifically inviting attendees of the G.O.A.L. Seminars held with Dr. Martin between 2012 and 2015. This conference was highlighted by a workshop conducted by our Worthy National Master, and follow-up is being conducted on a continuing basis into next year. Legislatively we had a visible year, as we were involved with sign-on letters, and lobbying both in Albany and Washington. Our State Headquarters continues to be fully rented, and the addition of a solar array on our rooftop is reducing our operational costs. It is worth noting also that the Granges in our State that are out there doing community service have fewer concerns with membership numbers. Some of our Granges are doing great work, and it is our hope that we can facilitate the spread of this enthusiasm.

On the discouraging side, the "numbers game" is taking its toll in respect to securing individuals willing to step up to the plate and commit to leadership roles on all levels of our Organization. Smaller memberships translate to fewer in each willing to take on responsibilities, thus requiring the dedicated folks that have a deep desire to see success to assume multiple leadership roles, which most are more than willing to do, but it comes at a cost, as available time rears its ugly head, and the kind of job that needs to be accomplished is diminished because of this factor. It is probably not possible to measure the

impact of this situation, but it is in all likelihood not that positive. On the number subject, our inability to turn the membership numbers around is deeply concerning. We're not giving up on it, but it has become a major frustration as the continued emphasis, complete with excellent materials and methods, along with very candid discussions seem to be providing little motivation in most areas. The numbers are also affecting our Pomona structure to the point that unprecedented action may have to be taken.

In relation to ongoing concerns, over the past 20 to 30 years I've witnessed a marked decline in the number of Granges actively executing ritual work. The excuses are many, and serve no purpose in this report. An unintended consequence of this I believe is a generation of newer members who have a very limited knowledge, if any, of what Fraternity really is and the learned philosophy and thus standards of conduct it expects. Thus we are seeing a reduction of the standards of civility in our meetings and interactions, little or no respect for persons holding opposing political or policy views, along with a marked decline in general socialization. I do not believe this is a positive trend for the Grange, as any kind of unity of action, which enabled our cause down through the years, becomes less and less likely due to fractured feelings and thus unwillingness to work together. Not only do we need to remember our motto, but we need to know and embrace why it is our motto, and the teachings found in our Manual do just that. While we have made the conscious decision not to include Degree Work in the path to membership, which isn't a bad thing, the material contained therein still needs to be systematically studied, as there can be no application without knowledge.

North Carolina State Grange

Submitted by Jimmy Gentry, Master

In North Carolina, we believe that providing a voice in governmental affairs is vital. Therefore, we place a lot of effort and resources toward being a strong part of the lobbying process. Three lobbyists represent the NC State Grange in this work including Laurie Barnhart, Legislative Director; Jeff Barnhart, Laurie's husband who works as a lobbyist for a firm in Raleigh, and Jimmy Gentry. This summer, we were fortunate to have Ashley Pekrul, a student at NC State University, who served as a legislative intern for the State Grange during the summer. This was the year of the long session of our General Assembly where many bills of interest were considered. In addition, we traveled to Washington, DC to meet with members of the NC Congressional Delegation. For that trip the focus was on farm labor issues and the need for a reformed H2A guest-worker program. One of our friends from North Carolina was named as Agriculture Advisor to President Trump. We also visited with him while in DC.

The Grange along with a number of other organizations and agencies are working with a program known as Sentinel Landscapes. This is an initiative that was first announced in 2013 between the US Departments of Agriculture, Defense, and Interior. The effort is aimed toward the protection of farm and forest land in the interest of national defense. This program maintains open space around military bases and helps to protect their training areas. The State Grange has signed onto a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the partners, which include a total of eighteen groups.

Our annual Family Conference was a different type of event. Instead of the usual speakers and workshops, we worked with an organization called NC Med Assist. The CEO of Med Assist met with the Grange group on Friday evening of the conference explaining the mission of her organization. This group provides over-the-counter and prescription drugs to the needy. An over-the-counter drug give-away day was held on Saturday of our conference, which was in Wilmington, NC. Grangers attending the conference worked as volunteers for the give-away. It was a great day and our members came away feeling good about their part in this worthy cause.

Betsy Huber, National Grange President, visited North Carolina and spoke at the annual Agriculture Celebration held at Beaufort County Grange. This event is organized by the Grange, Farm Bureau, and Agricultural Extension and draws a large attendance.

An Agricultural Awareness Day was held at the NC General Assembly. Laurie Barnhart served on the planning committee and the State Grange had a table at the event. Many agricultural and commodity groups participated in the effort to highlight agriculture as the number one industry in our state. The Governor, Commissioner of Agriculture, and other dignitaries spoke during a ceremony that was held.

We were happy that Darby Madewell, one of our young adults was selected to participate in the National Grange Grassroots Activism Program. She received a travel scholarship to participate in the National Grange Fly-In held in Washington, DC.

Jimmy Gentry was honored to receive the Excellence in Agriculture Award, which is a program associated with the Tobacco Farm Life Museum located in Kenly, NC. The award was presented by Steve Troxler, NC Commissioner of Agriculture during a breakfast event held in Raleigh. Also during the year, Gentry was selected to serve as Chair of the Advisory Board for the College of Agriculture at North Carolina A&T State University.

During a couple of days in June, we closed the Grange office and had a retreat of the full-time staff near the coast of North Carolina. In this time together we discussed a lot of different aspects of our organization and some possible new ideas to help

energize our State Grange. We believe strongly that we have to renew our organization in order to keep it fresh. We cannot stay the same and expect better results. The staff developed some great ideas that will be presented to our Board at an upcoming meeting.

Jennie Gentry and Laurie Barnhart were part of a TV interview on WRAL TV in Raleigh about the 150th anniversary of the organization. They both did a great job!

The State Grange continues to support a scholarship program to benefit students who are Grange members. Scholarships of \$1,000 each are available to students who are entering college for the first time. The students have the opportunity to renew their scholarships for as long as they remain a full-time student if they meet scholastic and community service requirements.

The State Grange also conducts a Primary-Secondary scholarship program that is available to help students to pay certain expenses such as school related equipment, field trips, and other expenses that may be required by the school, up to a limit of \$200 per scholarship.

The State Grange was honored to receive the Partner in 4-H Award which was presented during the 4-H Congress held in Raleigh. The Grange has been a long-time supporter of 4-H and their activities.

The Grange should play a role in making states and communities better, and this is what we hope that we are accomplishing in our state!

Ohio State Grange

Submitted by Bob White, Master

Worthy Master, National Officers and Delegates:

This year has been interesting for me, the First Lady and the State Grange of Ohio. We have been involved in many legislative and lobbying issues.

I did another internet video for Internet support of the Rover Gas Pipeline. The large discovery of natural gas in Northwest Ohio, Western Pennsylvania and Northern West Virginia has caused a necessity for underground pipelines to be put in place to sell this newly found natural resource. The Ohio State Grange finds many reasons to support the new lines across our state. There are two plants being built to produce electricity. It is cleaner and cheaper than nuclear.

The nuclear energy plants in Ohio put a bill in the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate requesting \$880,000,000 subsidy because they cannot compete with the gas fired electric generating plants.

The Ohio Grange does not agree to support a company that cannot compete. I testified before the Ohio House Public Affairs Committee of our opposition. Currently the bill is dead and will not go to the full House of Representatives for a vote.

Another issue we have on the ballot this November is a bill that a company wants to take over drug sales in Ohio. The Ohio State Grange is active in lobbying and advertising the bad effects of a single company handling the drug business in Ohio. I have done a television ad to be aired in opposition to this ballot issue. As of this writing, the support for the issue is only 20 percent.

Another issue is the Humane Society wants all fair animal project participants to pass a test on animal welfare by 70% and pay a fee to the Human Society to take this test. I have met three times with the Ohio Director of Agriculture to discuss how to handle this situation.

Ohio State Grange has had many projects meeting with great success.

Our Community Service Director Kevin Evans started a pill bottle collection project. Grangers collect pill bottles, take the labels off and rinse. They are then taken to a group who ships them to countries who have no access to bottles to hold their medicine. This year, at this point, he has collected over 25,000 bottles and we still have our convention where most counties bring their bottles.

Our Junior directors had another great camp with 45 juniors in attendance. Patty and Opal Dyer do a great job of directing the camp.

Our Youth program is on the rise again as we are in another growth period. We surely had great leadership from Asa Houchin who has been the National Grange Youth Ambassador this year. He also served on the Ohio State Junior Fair Board along with Olivia Yost.

Our Deaf Activities Director Judith Carrick has worked hard for the Dogs for the Deaf project and has sent a check for \$5,000 to train a dog for a deaf individual.

Legislative Director Sue Roy put on one of the best legislative days we have had in many years. The speakers were great and many concerns of Grange members were addressed by a State School Board member, State Chamber of Commerce Director, a lobbyist for Ohio Manufacturers and a lobbyist for Medicare issues. She attends meetings representing Grange policy and has had newspaper interviews on Grange positions. Sue also attended the National Grange Legislative Fly-in.

We had a booth at the Ohio State Fair and the Ohio Farm Science Review. It is always interesting to meet people and discuss the organization, our positions and hear their concerns.

This coming year, a goal of mine is to have membership growth in Ohio. I have some ideas to try.

I cannot say enough about the Directors and their committees for all the work they do.

We wish every State Grange in the Nation to have a successful program and a great active year.

Oklahoma State Grange

Submitted by Billy Shufeldt, Master

Greetings from Oklahoma! Our Oklahoma Grange will be represented at the 151th National Grange Convention with 10 members attending. Everyone is looking forward to coming to Spokane, Washington and participating in the Convention activities. We truly hope this will be a great Convention and adventure for all of us.

Oklahoma has two members coming to join in the Night of Excellence, Tamara Stoelzing will perform an instrumental on the piano and Leslie Nutter will give a speech. Also, we have our first Junior Granger, Carlie Conrady coming to give her speech at the Junior's breakfast on Friday morning.

Our own Brad & Donna Keeton will be there to serve as Co-Directors of the Seventh Degree Conferral.

Everyone in Oklahoma has had a wonderful year and once again we have had an increase in membership. Oklahoma State Grange had an increase of 188 members this year. Thanks to the hard work of our membership directors Jerry Taylor and Carl Shufeldt and all the other Oklahoma Grangers that put in the work to gain members.

On March 11, 2017 we had our State Degree Day in Ponca City, OK where our State Officers exemplified the first Four Degrees. There were four candidates with 60 members in attendance over all. A great time was had by all.

In April, we presented nine Oklahoma State Grange Scholarships, the winners are: Alexander Foley, Bluejacket #353; Jace Couch, Cabin Creek #359; Kennedy Webb, Kody Webb, Bailey Shufeldt, Melody Shufeldt & Katelyn Bailey, South Coffeyville #351, Stephanie Nutter, Cherryville # 221 and Olivia Shufeldt, OU #355.

27 Oklahoma State Grange members attended the Great Plains Regional Conference in Lawrence, KS in June, Kansas State Grange hosting. We all had a great time participating in the many activities and outings. Mandy Bostwick along with all the Kansas Grangers put on an excellent Conference.

This year was our 102nd Oklahoma State Grange Convention held on the weekend of October 20-22, 2017, there were 111 Grangers in attendance and this was an election year. Our National Grange Representative this year was National Junior Director Samantha Wilkins. Our other honored guests were Priest Archon of Assembly of Demeter and Kansas State Master Roger Bostwick and Kansas First Lady Melanie Bostwick and National Grange Outstanding Young Patron, Mandy Bostwick.

Mandy Bostwick put a challenge to all the State Granges that were having their State Sessions that weekend to see which State Grange could raise the most money for the National Youth Department by noon on Sunday the 22, 2017. The Oklahoma State Grangers raised over \$3,200.

The Oklahoma State Grange Youth Department had a fund raiser of their own again during State Session. They served at our Celebration Banquet and the Saturday luncheon, they worked for tips and raised \$2,904. Our Youth Department continues to grow and get stronger each year.

Thank you to our Youth Department for exemplifying the Fifth Degree on Saturday night. The Youth made us all proud to be part of this great Organization we call the Grange.

Thank you to Kansas State Master, Roger Bostwick for exemplifying the Sixth Degree as Master; you always do a wonderful job. Roger also installed all the eight newly elected State Officers.

Donna Keeton received the Granger of the Year award during the Celebration Banquet. Donna has been a dedicated hard-working Granger for over a quarter of a century and she deserved the award very much and I would like to thank her for all that she does.

I have been reelected for another two-year term as Master of the Oklahoma State Grange and I look forward to facing the challenges of the year to come.

Oregon State Grange

Submitted by Susan Noah, Master

Mark and I bring you greetings from the great State of Oregon! In late 2016 at our annual program directors retreat my Directors and I came up with a membership campaign for the 2017 year called "GrangeUp '17, Engage. Connect. Celebrate." The program ends this December. The Grange with the highest percentage of net gain will win \$750, second \$500, third \$250 and the top Grange in each of our six districts, who does not win a cash prize, will receive an ice cream social at an event of their choosing to be put on by the GROW club and the State Grange. We are showing a net gain for the state. I believe that our success is due to the personal visits by our state officers, directors, and district chairs to all 270 Granges in our state.

This year at the same retreat we decided to keep the momentum going and are now planning a "Grange Connections" campaign. Our goal is to continue the work we have started on membership growth, and to find ways to enhance our connections with each other, Grange-to-Grange, and between each level of the Grange. We intend to employ the same face-to-face method for communicating this program, so our state officers, program directors and their district chairs will be visiting Granges with new information and promotional items.

Another endeavor we have taken on, this time in celebration of the 150th anniversary, is a traveling library display. Sister Marilyn Reiher has been the driving force behind this program. She made contact with many libraries around the state and so far has had the exhibit in 13 of them, with nine more scheduled. Most want the exhibit for one to two months. We have made sure that our Granges in the area are informed of the timing for their library in order to coordinate any programs they may have, or just to take in the exhibit themselves. The most exciting event is yet to come, however. When the Multnomah Central Library was contacted, they were most excited about the idea. They are located in downtown Portland and are planning on the exhibit for a two-month period in the spring of 2018. In return for filling the dozen display cases with Grange information and memorabilia, they will be hosting a reception for us on the opening weekend. So we are very excited about this event.

Our State Convention this year was held in Florence, a first time visit for us. The Florence Events Center welcomed our 200 plus delegates, members and guests. It was a great venue for us where even the Oregon coast weather cooperated with sunny days. National Master Betsy Huber was our distinguished guest and we were happy to have her with us for the entire session. Due to a resolution calling for policies over ten years old to sunset that was adopted last year, we ended up with over 80 resolutions to consider. Our delegates worked hard throughout the week to deliberate on many issues. We also hosted a Grange Up pep rally to highlight the membership drive where the delegates and members had time to share their success stories while enjoying an ice cream float. Our Directors hosted a variety of conferences, tours and community outreach during the week, and the youth and junior programs were on display with the youth officers opening session and our junior officers exemplifying their degree for the entire body.

At the end of September I traveled with several of our Directors and State Officers to Southern Oregon to reorganize Roxy Ann Grange in Medford. This Grange has been dormant for just about three years so it was wonderful to find that members of the community wanted to reorganize it. The Welcoming ceremony was given to 24 new members. They elected four officers and will elect the remainder at their first meeting in October. It is great to be able to welcome a new Grange and new members to our family.

We are currently planning our Oregon celebration for the 150th anniversary. We will be hosting an open house at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem on December 10th and hope to be joined by many of our members around the state.

As one of the Western Region hosts I hope that you will enjoy your time in Spokane, and if you have time available please consider visiting the great State of Oregon! We would be more than happy to host any of our brothers and sisters. Our State convention this next June will be held in Astoria, at the northwestern-most area of our state. I would like to extend an invitation to all our brothers and sisters across the United States.

Mark and I wish all of you the best for the coming year. After 150 years we Grange members have earned the time to celebrate! In doing so remember to share your joy and commitment to the Grange with all your friends and family.

Pennsylvania State Grange

Submitted by Wayne Campbell, Master

National Worthy Master, fellow Delegates and guests to the 151st Annual Session of the National Grange. It is indeed a privilege and an honor to be representing the State of Pennsylvania. I was installed into the office of President/Master on February 17, 2017. I was installed into office at the National Masters Conference in Connecticut. There is nothing like hitting the ground running. This gave Debbie and I a chance to interact with many of you and get an idea of what lay ahead. I would like to thank all of you that were at the conference for welcoming us in and sharing your guidance.

I am sad to report that Pennsylvania lost one of its great Masters this past year. Brother William Ringler passed away on February 07, 2017. Brother Ringler was a 73-year member of Wills Grange. He was a member of the Grange on a local, state and national level, and served as the PA State Grange Master for four years.

I will start with a summary of some of the items the Pennsylvania State Grange has been active in with respect to legislation in our state. The Pennsylvania State Grange has worked on a number of state issues including but not limited to, Broadband access for rural areas, reducing liability for property owners who allow their property to be used for recreational purposes, urging the General Assembly to adequately fund the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, urging the legislature not to tap into dedicated funds such as the Conservation District Fund in order to balance the State Budget, and advocating funding for Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. In addition, Pennsylvania State Grange was involved in helping produce growers understand compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and is an active Board member of the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations, an advocacy umbrella organization of agricultural groups. Grange testified at hearings involving Sunday hunting and pipeline construction safety standards. At the Farm Show in Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania State Grange held programs on natural gas pipelines and the rural opioid crisis. An issue sparking interest right now is legislation protecting Marcellus Shale leaseholders from not receiving the royalties entitled to them by law. Two priority issues in the next six months will be organizing a field trip for urban legislators who serve on the House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee to learn about urban agriculture and pushing for legislation that would exempt Grange Halls more than 100-years old from the property tax. Vince Philips, our lobbyist, has been working with legislators and attorneys representing the legislators for interpretations of the new Libre's Law that was enacted to further protect animals from abuse in Pennsylvania. The law, as with many laws, has wording that creates very gray areas of understanding.

Since I have been in office I have revoked the Charter of 4 Granges and we have completed the consolidation of six Granges into three. We are aggressively trying to complete this process, so we can get back to the work of trying to grow the Grange. We have also completed the sale of three Grange halls. We believe the Grange is needed in our country today as much or more than ever. Family and respect must never go out of style and there is no better organization to represent these values than the Grange. Elizabeth Bailey, our Public Relations/Membership Consultant and myself are aggressively working to consolidate struggling Granges to form stronger Granges in our state. We believe these Granges can make a difference not only in the lives of the members but in the communities they reside.

My wife Debbie, the Pennsylvania State Grange Secretary, and I have traveled the great state of Pennsylvania from our home in the center of the state to Granges that reached all four corners of the state and in-between. We met a lot of DO-er's along the way and people that shared the Grange enthusiasm. We look forward to continuing our work in the State of Pennsylvania and joining with each of you as we continue our work across America!!

Rhode Island State Grange

Submitted by Lawrence "Larry" Spencer, Master

This is my third year as Master of the Rhode Island State Grange.

Our 130th State Session was in 2016. After a wonderful installation by the Connecticut team of Jody Cameron and Jeff Barnes, my wife and I got ready for the 150th National Session in Washington, DC. We went by train, a fantastic way to travel.

Washington, DC by night is something everyone should see, and I would congratulate National for placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Back from National our Grange year got started. We went snow tubing and then a movie night; what a fun day.

Northeast Leaders Conference was in Vermont. Meeting your counterparts from other states is always great.

In Rhode Island we had a big problem. The railroad decided they wanted to straighten the tracks. They were taking 3 Farms, Indian land and wetlands. This was totally unacceptable. We started a campaign to stop the Railroad. After a few weeks and hundreds of calls to Senators and Representatives, Rhode Island Governor, Gina Raimondo agreed and rejected the project and the Railroad backed out.

Again, this year, we had our annual Degree Day and took in 17 members with all 4 Pomonas doing the four degrees in grand form.

Our State was in mourning for the passing of our own Woodrow W. Tucker, Past State Master and High Priest of Demeter.

In June we had our annual State Grange Church Service. I also attended the Northeast Church Service in New Hampshire.

In July the Northeast Youth Conference was held in Amherst at the University of Massachusetts. They had many events for the youth and it ended with the drill competition. Rhode Island again had a great Drill Team.

In August the Northeast Lecturers' Conference was held in Vermont. The program the lecturer came up with was fantastic. Also in August the Washington County Pomona Grange Fair, the biggest Fair in Rhode Island, where the RI State Grange has a Food Booth and a Membership Booth. I brought this back in my first year. I suggested they continue with it in future years.

In September the Grange has a building at the Big E. Many Grangers attend on Grange Day.

We also have a special day for our Junior Grangers to get their awards with 80 people attending this event. You are definitely kept busy in Rhode Island.

Tennessee State Grange

Submitted by Judy Sherrod, Master

Greetings from the Volunteer State.

Our 109th annual state convention was held in upper East Tennessee in Greene County, hosted by Wesley's Chapel Grange, the oldest Grange in the state. All meetings, contest judging, displays, and meals were held at the hall.

In the Community Service contest we had 100% participation. The statewide community service project was the collection of socks to be donated to shelters, nursing homes, and veterans' homes. We again had excellent participation in all the contests sponsored by the various departments. The Lecturer reported lots of entries in the photography contest, as usual, but the number of art contest entries remain down a little. Certificates were presented to Lecturers who turned in reports of their work during the year, to members who read books from the annual reading list, to Granges that sent aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. The Family Activities Director reported a large number of entries in the needlework, canning, baking, and craft contests. The Junior Grangers continue to enter almost every category in the Junior division. The Tennessee Granger, our state newsletter, is now in its 62nd year of publication. Thanks to those reporters who regularly send items for the newsletter.

During the year I attended several conferences, the annual Masters' Conference in February, in April the Mid-Atlantic Lecturer's Conference (MALC) in Pennsylvania, and in July the Southeast Youth and Junior Conference in Florida. It will be Tennessee's turn to host the MALC in 2018.

Unfortunately, we did not achieve a net gain in membership this year, although we had Granges with gains in membership, we also had losses, some due to death. We spend considerable time at the quarterly regional meetings in Tennessee talking about the necessity for organizing a new Grange, or two, in our state. We realize the challenges ahead, but are encouraged by members across the state who have made commitments to make the Tennessee State Grange the best it can be.

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

Vermont State Grange

Submitted by Brenda Rousselle, Master

Worthy National Master, It's been a year already! Time does fly. I keep waiting for summer to begin.

Almost immediately after State Session in October, it was time to head out to National. I was once again appointed to the Budget and Audit Committee. This year, I felt more comfortable with the process. I think it went well.

January brought the Leaders' Conference in Rutland, Vermont. It was a lot of work organizing the weekend, but it went well. The only unfortunate thing that happened was that it was decided to discontinue the Northeast Leaders Conference. This is too bad as I have always felt that the meeting of the northeast leaders was always a very productive and information sharing opportunity.

Meetings were held at the Leaders Conference to begin the planning for the 2018 National Convention to be held in Vermont. Since January, almost monthly meetings have been held via ZOOM to continue the process of planning. Volunteers to chair committees have been recruited and they in turn are looking for volunteers to help. I am happy to report that just about everyone that has been asked for help has replied with "I'd be delighted."

The Masters of the six Pomona Granges in Vermont are the members of the Fund- Raising Committee. They are charged with working with the Subordinate Granges in coming up with fund-raising ideas and programs. Contributions are coming in and I expect that there will be an increase in contributions as the current year ends and the new year begins.

At this time, I'd like to spend some time taking a look at ourselves and what we have tried to do and what we have been able to accomplish this past year.

Departmental Meetings

To be in compliance with a resolution that was passed at State Session, the Department Chairs are to meet with their Pomona committee members to discuss programming. These meetings have and are being held and information is making its way down to the Subordinate Granges.

This system will only work if Pomona Chairs for each committee agree to be full working partners with the State Director.

Educational Aid

The Educational Aid Committee has scholarship monies that they are responsible for. This year they awarded five scholarships. The Educational Aid Committee was asked to look at their program and to discuss the possibility of increasing the awards they hand out, both scholarship and loans.

The State Grange also awards scholarship aid—the Agriculture Scholarship and the Cossingham Scholarship for nursing students. This year the Ag Scholarship was awarded to a student from Morrisville who is attending Wellesley College; the Cossingham Scholarship was awarded to a student in the nursing program at Castleton University.

Legislative

A very successful Legislative Day was held here in Montpelier in May with, if I'm not mistaken, over 60 Grangers present. It was an impressive sight to see so many Grangers stand and be recognized when we were introduced in the well of the House. The guest speaker was the Secretary of Agriculture. It was a very informative and enjoyable day.

Information

Information rules the world. Our Information Director has been working with Granges to help them set up web pages on the Vermont State Grange web page. Progress is being made and there are now more Granges on the page than there were last year. She is also busy attempting to keep the State web page current and accurate as well as working on the Program Book and the Policy Book.

Membership

As mentioned in a previous report, we are a member driven program. Several Granges in Vermont are having a hard time maintaining their membership rolls. The Granges in my own Pomona have not been all that successful in recruiting new members. Most of the Granges are in an urban area. While we are sending out information as fast as we get the request cards, no applications are being returned. The most common reason: "We are really busy and don't have the time for one more thing." Those Granges in more rural area are having a little more success. One of our Granges has been working hard this past year to start their own new Junior Grange. It is a slow process, but progress is being made.

Junior Program

A change was made in the Directorship of the Junior Program. The previous Director no longer wanted to work with the day to day details, but absolutely wants to be involved in Junior Camp. I have appointed her the Junior Deputy. She enjoys visiting Granges and encouraging them to think about forming their own Junior Grange.

Youth Program

The new Youth Director has been working hard trying to pull the Vermont youth together. It is not an easy road, but progress is slowing being made.

Degree Day

On a very hot July day, Grangers got together at the Grange Center to go through a Degree Day. The Executive Committee decided that our recognition of the 150th Anniversary of the National Grange would be a wonderful opportunity to exemplify the first Four Degrees of the Grange in full form. A leader was appointed for each degree and they were instructed to pull together a team to exemplify a degree, including a tableau. It was the hope of the Executive Committee that those members that who have joined the Grange in the past five years would take advantage of this event and come to the Grange Center to witness each degree. The day was very well attended, but not by the members that we were hoping would attend. The day ended with a celebration banquet.

G.R.I.T. Workshop

July was a busy month as this was the time that we were able to schedule two G.R.I.T. workshops in the State—one in the Central part of the State and the second in the South. Both workshops were well attended with 29 of the 38 Granges in Vermont in attendance. Again, this was set up with new members in mind and as a refresher course of “senior” Grangers. The evaluations that came back were very positive with more than one suggestion that this be done at least once a year.

Real Estate, Regalia, Records, Etc.

I’m still dealing with cleaning out and selling Grange Halls. The sale of one hall in Ascutney, Vermont is due to be completed by mid-October. As far as I know (as this time) there is only one more Grange Hall that needs to be put on the market for a Grange that closed down and locked their doors.

This has been a busy year. I have had the honor of being present at several Grange meetings where 50, 60, 70 and even 80 year seals and/or pins have been handed out. What an honor it was to be able to provide these fine Grangers the recognition they so richly deserve for all their years of service to the Grange. I’ve also been present when Granges have handed out Community Service Awards to deserving members of their community. In those instances, the Grange meetings were filled with Grangers and non-Grangers like. It was truly wonderful to see the community come together to honor these people.

In Summary

This year had its ups and downs. Its good times and its not so good times. Strides have been made and, unfortunately, some ground has been lost. But at the end of the day, we, as a Grange, are still here and we can make our presence known in how we work for the betterment and advancement of all by working together and by remembering who and what we are.

Washington State Grange

Submitted by Tom Gwin, Master

Welcome to the Evergreen State! It is indeed our honor to host you in our diverse state for the 151st Annual Session of the National Grange.

We chose the theme “Setting Sail Toward a Brighter Future” to represent our year. Following the success of “Charting Our Voyage”, where we set our goals and outlined our objectives for the next few years, we set sail toward reaching those goals that will lead to a brighter future for the Washington State Grange. We held 16 leadership conferences across the state working to increase communication, share our goals and receive feedback as to the direction we were heading as an organization. I was joined at these conferences by our Lecturer and department heads (Family Living, Membership, Community Service, Juniors, and Youth) to assist in sharing information with our Grangers and to get the necessary feedback to improve our programming.

We held our 128th Annual Session in June at the Ocean Shores Convention Center. Our delegates enjoyed clear, sunny skies as they considered nearly 50 resolutions and revised our legislative policy book. There were over 1000 contest entries. The large group of youth and Junior Grangers were able to enjoy the beach and nearby tidal pools. We increased the social time during the convention to allow great discussions and sharing of ideas between the delegates. We are so pleased to have over 500 in attendance at this years’ state convention.

Following the convention, which included a full election of officers, we called the new state officers together for a work session. The intent was to identify projects that will increase the visibility of the State Grange and to building a “TEAM” of officers that will work for the betterment of the WA State Grange. We left the session with a set of goals and committees established to work on those goals. The goals of our officer team for the next two years are:

- Mentoring for New Granges and New Convention Delegates
- Updating Programs
- Strengthening Subordinate Granges
- Youth & Junior Involvement at all Levels
- Development of 4-H and FFA Partnerships
- Creation of a Vision & Mission Statement for the WA State Grange

The Washington State Grange is proud of our recognition as a Distinguished State Grange for the sixth consecutive year. We are also proud of our five Distinguished Subordinate Granges: Five Mile Prairie #905 and Humptulips #730 for the eighth year; Issaquah Valley #581 and Mossyrock #355 for the fourth year; and East Hill #786 for the first time.

Our Grange departments are continuing to thrive. Our State Grange Youth Department will be recognized as a Distinguished Grange Youth Program. The Annual Youth Weekend was held in Toledo at the Lewis & Clark State Park Retreat Center. As a service project, our youth members helped clear the trails after a stormy winter. The youth also participated in a resolution writing workshop, where they wrote two resolutions.

The Junior Grange Programs are gaining strength. Nearly 450 Junior Grangers attended camp this summer, with the assistance of 85 youth counselors and 90 adult staff members. The positive memories created in our camping program are sure to benefit the organization for years to come. We implemented the 1+ Junior Program this year. Our total Junior Grange membership, including the 1+ members now numbers over 700.

The Grange Youth Fairs Program is starting to expand into Washington State. In 2016, we added a second fair to the program and also added animal science exhibits to our program. The Junior/Youth Grange Program at the Clark County Fair was awarded the Washington State Fairs Commission Special Award for their innovative displays featuring agricultural programs in an urban and suburban environment.

Our membership director, Shavanna Burlingame, developed new publications for our use. In recognition of the Grange Sesquicentennial, we developed a series of banners, booklets, t-shirts, and posters with the theme of "150 Years of Family Fun". The materials were introduced at our Annual State Grange Session and sold out within a few hours. The development of these materials will surely be useful for several years and designed to give a common message amongst our Granges.

Legislative activities continue to remain a priority for the Washington State Grange. Our legislative day was held in March. Grangers from across the state came to our headquarters building for a day of speakers and workshops. We facilitated tours of the capitol building and made appointments for our members to meet with their legislators. We reorganized our legislative department this year to include a State Legislative Committee working with a Legislative Lobbyist. The Committee sets the legislative priorities, while the lobbyist carries out the goals and objectives set forth by the legislative committee and the State Grange Executive Committee. We are making plans for our 2018 activities and have February 6 to be our "2018 Grange Day at the Legislature."

We tried increasing our social events for the State Grange this year. One of our new activities was "Grange Day with the Seattle Mariners". The State Grange arranged for group ticket sales and we attended the event as a group. We were treated to an extra inning win over the Boston Red Sox. We will continue with this evening in 2018.

Now that we have "Set Sail Toward a Bright Future," we hope to "Cross the Horizon to Grange Growth" through the upcoming year. Throughout the State of Washington, we are planning to cross the horizon with a resurgence of Grange activity. Granges and Grangers are working together to make their communities stronger. Our leadership team will continue to provide a diversified program and a wide range of tools that will allow our Granges to flourish in their communities.

Best wishes for a successful convention. Thank you for visiting our state. We hope for an exciting year of progress for all Granges across the nation!

West Virginia State Grange

Submitted by Jim Foster, Master

It is indeed a pleasure to represent the West Virginia State Grange at the National Grange Convention. As we complete another year I find the West Virginia State Grange continues to decline as membership is in a negative position.

The loss of a newly chartered Grange was very disappointing. As I look over the paper work for this Grange and see all 37 members that signed the Charter I wonder what happened. There was sufficient leadership in this Grange as two members had previously organized a Grange in Pennsylvania. Three members attended the 2016 State Grange Session, resulting with two members being elected to a State Office. Members of the Delegate body were very enthused with this new Grange and newly elected State Officers.

This influx of new members gave the West Virginia State Grange a more positive outlook for the future. Then with no advance warning or inquiry the Master announced that the Grange was closing; this putting our membership in a negative position.

The West Virginia State Grange will put forth every effort to survive and represent the Rural Citizens of West Virginia and will maintain a strong present in our Legislative Programs while supporting programs that are beneficial to Rural America.

I wish West Virginia had a more positive outlook for the future. With the decline in members and an aging membership the leadership position for our State is very dim.

MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

November 12-13, 2016

150th National Grange Convention

Hilton Hotel at Dulles

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 7:55 p.m. EST by Chairman Phil Prelli. Present were Betsy Huber, Phil Prelli, Jimmy Gentry, Joe Fryman, Leroy Watson and Duane Scott.

Prayer was led by Joe Fryman.

Betsy Huber moved to accept the August 16-17, 2016 minutes and the August 23, 2016 ZOOM meeting minutes. Seconded by Leroy Watson and approved.

Phil Prelli suggested that we document the time spent in Executive Session in the minutes.

Master's Report

Betsy Huber reported that she believed that we had the basement level office space rented to a sub-lessor of a current tenant. That subject had paid two months' rent, but then wanted to get out of the lease. Betsy allowed them to cancel the lease, but we kept the two months' rent. That space is currently listed with a broker.

Betsy Huber reported that the 2nd floor is occupied by the Decatur House's White House museum staff and they are very happy.

Betsy reported that one tenant is currently behind in rent and she will be meeting with them after the Convention. She is also most likely not going to renew their lease as they have been an ongoing problem with collecting rent.

Betsy reported that the building tour scheduled for Monday night is all set. The tour guides will be reminding those on the tour that the building is aging and pointing out some of the areas where updates are needed, in preparation for the issuance of an appeal letter.

Joe Fryman moved to into Executive Session to discuss the Attorney action and staff issues, seconded by Leroy Watson and approved at 8:05 p.m.

Membership

Betsy Huber reports that Joseph Stefenoni and Lillian Booth provided a report on the Nevada Granges.

There are currently four Granges in Nevada. Two of the Granges are looking at buying or leasing property. Discussion was held on what the National Grange's responsibility would be if there is no State Grange in place.

7th Degree Revision Committee

Betsy Huber reported that High Priest Bruce Croucher had provided a report with suggestions from the Assembly of Demeter and the Seventh Degree directors on ways to reduce the cost of putting on the Seventh Degree.

Discussion was held on the possibility of purchasing our own sound system and equipment or looking at asking State Granges who already own sound systems of the possibility of leasing those systems for the Convention.

Betsy will ask to meet the Assembly to discuss the proposals sometime this week.

Recess at 9:45 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at November 13, 2016 at 9:08 a.m. EST.

Leroy Watson led the prayer.

Budget

Income - Discussion was held on the proposed budget to be presented to the Audit and Budget Committee. Questions asked on how the California situation affects the dues income line item.

Discussion was held on product sales with the switch to Monroe Classics.

Discussion was held on E-memberships, FFA member education and outreach, direction for the Membership Director when Joe Stefenoni is replaced.

Discussion was held on the scholarships and grants which Amanda Brozana, Communications Director was able to secure for the Convention.

Discussion was held on the Gala Event planned for December 2017.

Expense – Discussion was continued on the Membership Director position.

Question asked as to where the equipment line item had been moved to.

Recess at 10:30 a.m. Reconvene at 10:45 a.m.

Leroy Watson moved to adjust the Board of Directors Travel/Meals/Lodging line item to \$6,500, seconded by Duane Scott and approved.

Discussion was held on staff salaries.

Phil Prelli moved to reduce increases in salary of more than 10% to a maximum of 10%. Seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved.

Discussion was held on the building expenses and income projections.

Discussion was held on other expenses that had occurred throughout the year.

Meeting recessed at 11:58 a.m. for lunch with the new State Masters group.

Meeting reconvened at 1:29 p.m.

Stewart Hughes joined the meeting.

Communications and Publications – Question was asked about outside services usage. Stewart Hughes explained most of that expense comes from National Convention.

Discussion was held on the proposed National Grange magazine. The plan is for a quarterly printing, subscription required and ad sales to fund the magazine. Betsy Huber brought up the Grange Radio has been restarted earlier this month.

Discussion was held on Sales/Marketing, Legislative, IT and Membership/Leaderships proposed budgets.

Phil Prelli moved to move \$800 from the Awards line item to Travel/Meals/Lodging in the Membership budget. Seconded by Leroy Watson and approved.

Leroy Watson moved to change the Training Expense line item to \$1,500 and the Registration line item to \$750. Seconded by Betsy Huber and approved.

Discussion was on the proposed Youth Director budget.

Discussion was held on the National Convention proposed budget.

Phil Prelli moved to add \$15,000 to the Membership Directors salary. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Recess at 3:05 p.m. Stewart Hughes left the meeting. Meeting reconvened at 3:23 pm.

Leadership/Membership Director

Discussion was held on hiring full time person after January 1, 2017, Betsy Huber advised she was thinking of holding off hiring until July 1, 2017 or hiring Regional Directors on a part-time basis.

Phil Prelli discussed the need for looking at what the National Grange wants the program to be, by setting some goals and bench marks to measure success. Discussion was held that we need to look at what has worked and have a program that will be successful.

Discussion was held that we need to think of the goals we want and the program direction and discuss it at the February Board meeting.

Jimmy Gentry commented that we need to have the right person or people in place to do this right. Jimmy stated he liked the idea of regional people to be more in touch with the needs of the State Granges in their region.

Leroy Watson asked about the usage of Amanda Brozana's time with several large projects coming up: The Grange magazine, Grange Radio, 2017 Gala planning.

Betsy Huber explained that Amanda is constantly working and thinking of new ways to promote the Grange. She has accomplished a lot in the time that she has been back. Betsy shared an example of Amanda's abilities with the Fellows Program at the Conventions. She has used grants to pay for materials and meals, the Hilton provided points to cover the room nights needed, most of the trainers coming in are at no cost. Betsy feels that Amanda has the ability to complete the tasks she has set for herself.

2019 National Convention Proposals

Discussion was held on the three proposals Stephanie Tiller had vetted; One each in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Indiana. Discussion was held on possible start dates and concerns in regards to professional football conflicts with the weekends.

Digest Revision Committee

Leroy Watson reported that the committee had met; he continued to receive suggestions, including some since he has arrived here, and he will be scheduling a phone conference in the near future.

Discussion was held on what the goals are and that the committee is looking at several large area of the Digest of Laws which needs to be updated: conflicting portions of the digest need to be brought into alignment, updates on the past Master's rulings and a set of financial auditing rules.

2017 Proposed Budget

Jimmy Gentry moved to present the proposed budget to the Audit and Budget committee, seconded by Leroy Watson.

Phil Prelli moved to amend the proposed budget on page 9 of 28, "Commercial Insurance" back to \$21,000 and lower the contingency total by \$11,000 to \$121,895.22 and increase the expenses total to \$2,517,680.95, seconded by Duane Scott and approved.

The amended motion was then approved.

The budget meeting will be tonight and the approved proposed expense and income pages will be given to the delegates with the entire proposed budget being provided to the Audit and Budget Committee.

Betsy Huber discussed that the Fellows have organized a virtual Grange at the convention and have been chartered. They elected officers and are working on By-Laws. This group will be a test to see how and what needs to be done make this type of Grange successful.

Jimmy Gentry moved to adjourn, seconded by Leroy Watson and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m. EDT

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Scott, Secretary

National Grange Executive Committee

February 16, 2017

Holiday Inn

Norwich, Connecticut

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Phil Prelli. Present were Betsy Huber, Phil Prelli, Joe Fryman, Leroy Watson, and Duane Scott. Jimmy Gentry absent.

Opening prayer was given by Leroy Watson.

At 7:09 p.m. Jimmy Gentry joined via telephone.

Joe Fryman moved to approve the minutes from November 12, 2016, seconded by Betsy Huber and approved with grammatical corrections.

Leroy Watson moved to adopt the Convention minutes for November 18 and 19, 2016, seconded by Duane Scott.

Leroy moved to amend page 2 Final reports by Grace Boatright (DC) to a partial report. Joe Fryman seconded and it was approved.

Phil Prelli moved on page 4 to add the number of 7th Degree candidates, seconded by Leroy Watson and approved.

Discussion on the grammatical and other editing to be completed by National Staff.

Minutes approved as amended.

Department Reports

Master's Report

Building and tenant issues.

Betsy Huber reports that we have a tenant for the basement office space beginning April 1, 2017 for \$2,200 per month

A number of leases are coming due. There may be some shifting of office spaces as some of the tenants want more space and some want less.

Betsy Huber discussed the sewer gas smell issue. The tenant that wanted the shower installed was supposed to be responsible for all costs, but Ed Luttrell had a verbal agreement and no written agreement.

Sandor is running water every few days to see if this alleviates the problem, and will need to keep a log to see if this helps.

Betsy Huber moved at 7:30 p.m. to go into Executive Session for attorney actions and issues as well as State Grange issues. Leroy Watson seconded and adopted.

Joe Fryman moved to come out of Executive Session. Jimmy Gentry seconded and adopted at 9:25 p.m.

Recess until February 17, 2017 at 9 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 9:05 a.m.

All members present with Jimmy Gentry attending by phone.

Controller

Discussion was held on the current bills of \$377,434.28. The 4th quarter dues for 2016 are due the end of February. Rents come due the 1st of the month. The LMA may need to be tapped to pay the taxes.

Stuart Hughes is sending \$50,000 payments to Jim Bikoff's firm as cash flow allows. Bikoff's bills are around \$80,000 per month. 80% of these bills are related to California cases.

Discussion was held on the Gala planned for December 2017.

2016 National Convention bills are all paid. National Grange's portion was \$14,000. \$35,000 was paid from the assessment account. The Eastern Region also paid a portion of the costs.

Leroy Watson moved to ask Jim Bikoff to provide copies of the written communications between him and California State Grange officials, which the National Grange was billed for. Joe Fryman seconded.

Leroy Watson indicated that the monthly bills show that there have been communications and he would like to see what those communications were.

Betsy Huber moved to amend the motion by adding "since June 1, 2016". Jimmy Gentry seconded. The motion was adopted as amended.

Discussion was held on when we want to start paying principal on the Oregon State Grange loan.

Sales and Benefits

Betsy Huber reports that Loretta Washington is doing a great job. She got a little behind with having the subscriptions to the Good Day!™ become part of her duties.

The partnership with Monroe Classics is working well.

Juniors

Samantha Wilkins is making a lot of changes in a short period of time. She has a lot of travel plans. Leroy Watson mentioned that the directors need to be encouraged to ask for financial support for their programs.

Youth

Betsy Huber commented that she was disappointed that only one youth has applied for the Potomac Grange Fly-In scholarship. They have until March 31, 2017 to apply.

Legislative

Burton Eller has been very busy with the new administration coming into office. A lot of positive comments were made on the Trans-Pacific Partnership op-ed

Discussion was held on the Fly-In agenda and plans.

Recess at 10:42 a.m. Reconvened at 10:52 a.m.

Communications

Now that the magazine is out, we need to promote subscriptions.

The Gala planning is now going to be moving to the forefront.

Leroy Watson brought up the need for paid advertising to pay for the magazine. We need to look at highlighting our Benefits Partners.

Leroy also discussed the need to capitalize on using our trademarks in the communication materials we are producing.

Unfinished Business

Joe Fryman moved to confirm Samantha Wilkins as the Junior Director. Leroy Watson seconded. Motion adopted.

The Seventh Degree Revision Committee – Bruce Croucher will be providing a report later.

- High Priest budget for travel to DC.

The Delegates requested to have the Assembly of Demeter go to DC and catalogue the historic items in the National Grange Building. \$350 is in the budget for travel.

Phil Prelli moves to transfer \$500 from the miscellaneous line in the Board budget to the High Priests budget and requests a \$1,000 grant from the Foundation to bring the Assembly of Demeter officers to DC to catalogue the historic documents at the National Grange Building. Betsy Huber seconded. Motion adopted.

Leadership / Membership

Betsy Huber discussed that there is no money in the budget at this time and no one has expressed an interest in the position or even trying as part time regional people.

Jimmy Gentry feels that without the money to cover the position that we need to continue to hold off on filling this position.

Leroy Watson discussed using the communication tools to push the membership message, "How to Organize."

Discussion was held on what the membership director's goals and expectations should be.

New Business

- Convention Hosting Instructions. Discussion was held on the document that Betsy Huber put together from materials on her computer and the past host committees input.

- 2019, 2020, 2021 Convention proposals.

Duane Scott moved to accept the proposal for the Doubletree by Hilton in Bloomington – Minneapolis South for November 9-17, 2019, if the food and beverage minimum can be lowered. Betsy Huber seconded.

Discussion was held on the \$60,000 food and beverage minimum being a big number.

Phil Prelli moved to amend the motion by asking to have the food and beverage minimum lowered or look at another area. Leroy Watson seconded. Adopted.

Amended motion was adopted.

- 2020 - Betsy Huber will have Stephanie Tiller look into the Valley Forge Resort.
- 2021 – Table discussion until the May meeting.

Recess for lunch at 12:30 p.m. Reconvened at 1:55 p.m.

- Pomona manuals – the last printing was in 1997. To have 1,000 paperback manuals printed is \$1,600. 2,000 paperback manuals would be \$2,500.

We could print them in-house with card stock covers.

Discussion on having them available electronically or print them as needed.

Leroy Watson moves that upon revocation of the charter of the Zion Oak Grange in Arkansas by the National Grange, the National Grange shall sell Zion Oak Grange to the local school district for one dollar plus costs, provided that all regalia, signage, charters, records related to the Grange and other personal property maybe removed by a representative of the National Grange prior to the final completion of the sale. Jimmy Gentry Seconded.

Discussion was held on the lack of liability insurance and do we have a legal right to sell the property.

Betsy Huber moved to adopt the November 17, 2016 National Convention minutes. Phil Prelli seconded.

Discussion was held on when to have state designation included for members mentioned. On Page 3 there is a question on the wording of the acceptance of the Agriculture Committee consent calendar.

Minutes adopted as amended.

- Digest revision Committee – Leroy Watson suggested discussion on limiting wat sections are worked on to have a product ready for November. Bruce Croucher, High Priest has submitted a rewrite of Chapter 12. Betsy Huber has provided National Masters rulings. The need to look at areas that are referenced in multiple areas. We also need General Counsel to look at the real estate management areas.

- Necessary revisions to Grange Trial procedure are a priority to get completed.

Next meeting is tentatively set for May 18-19, 2017 in Washington, DC.

3 p.m. Jimmy Gentry left the meeting.

3:21 p.m. High Priest Bruce Croucher joined the meeting to discuss the Seventh Degree revisions for the Vermont Convention in 2018.

Leroy Watson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Betsy Huber and approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Fraternally Submitted,

Duane Scott, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

March 24, 2017

Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Phil Prelli at 8:01 p.m. EDT. Members of the Executive committee who were present were Chair Prelli, National Master Betsy Huber, National Overseer, Jimmy Gentry; members Joe Fryman and Leroy Watson. Secretary Duane Scott was absent. Chair Prelli appointed Leroy Watson as secretary Pro Tem. Also present was Attorney Jeff Skinner, General Counsel of the National Grange.

At 8:04 p.m., Brother Gentry Moved and seconded by Brother Fryman to go into Executive Session to hear reports on legal matters affecting the National Grange from Attorney Skinner and Master Huber. So Voted.

Joe Fryman moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Leroy Watson and adopted at 9:37 p.m. EDT.

Phil Prelli discussed his meeting with the Idaho State Grange Executive Board last week. There are two groups which each want to have their way. They were advised that they need to work together for the good of their State Grange.

Discussion was held on cleaning up and separating some of the money being held in the Merrill Lynch account so that there is a better understanding of what is in the Foundation, Convention Assessment Fund and National Grange accounts.

The Board will need another ZOOM meeting after we receive the contract with Mr. Serlin.

Leroy Watson moved to adjourn, seconded by Betsy Huber and approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:41 p.m. EDT

Fraternally Submitted,

Duane Scott, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

March 26, 2017

Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Phil Prelli at 8:04 p.m. EDT.

Members present were Phil Prelli, Betsy Huber, Joe Fryman, Leroy Watson and Duane Scott. Jimmy Gentry joined at 8:06 p.m.

Discussion was held on the request from the California State Grange to join a Federal Lawsuit against the Bennet Valley Guild. California is reorganizing the Bennet Valley Grange #16, and the reorganization meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2017.

Leroy Watson is wondering if the newly reorganized Bennet Valley Grange should be a part of this suit as well. He is concerned that a newly chartered Bennet Valley Grange will be used by the Bennet Valley Guild in the case.

Phil Prelli asked do we want to be part of this suit and do we want California to wait on rechartering Bennet Valley Grange?

Betsy Huber advised that the reorganization form has the list of all the charter members and we are going to be going after the guild for keeping the Grange property.

Discussion was held on making certain that the reorganization of a Grange whose charter has been revoked has been done in the proper manner.

Jimmy Gentry brought up that we as a National Grange are not a party to suing a local Grange, and are we certain that the suit is against the Guild only.

Betsy Huber said the suit is against the Guild, not the local Grange.

Phil Prelli moved that the National Grange join the California State Grange Federal Lawsuit against the Bennet Valley Guild for using our trademarks, as long as there is not an issue with the reorganizing of the Bennet Valley Grange, seconded by Leroy Watson.

Discussion was held on Guild members who may still join the Grange if they do it in the proper way. Leroy Watson asked if the Bennet Valley Grange was incorporated and who controls the corporation?

Betsy Huber advised that the lawsuits are being put in place because the Guild has kept the property of the Grange and have refused to return it.

Motion adopted.

Betsy Huber will make certain that we are advised prior to Ed Komski and the California State Grange taking any further action against other Guilds.

Discussion was held on the contingency agreement with Mark Serlin Law Group.

Further discussion was held on outstanding court cases.

Betsy Huber advised that she has a meeting with Jeff Skinner and Jim Bikoff on Tuesday, and she will discuss these concerns with them at this meeting.

Discussion was held on the 2012 National Grange Convention in the Great Plains Region. No responses from the San Antonio, Texas, hotels have come in that are adequate for our needs.

Stephanie Tiller had sent information requests to Kansas City, Kansas, and Colorado Springs, Colorado, hotels. Betsy Huber stated she will work with Stephanie Tiller to get more information for the Board

Betsy Huber advised the Board that she had heard some concerns about holding the convention in a casino in 2020 in Pennsylvania. Phil Prelli asked Betsy to poll the region and see if they have any concerns, and if they do to bring that report to the Region's State Masters.

Jimmy Gentry moved to adjourn, seconded by Duane Scott and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m. EDT

Fraternally Submitted,

Duane Scott, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

May 18-19, 2017

National Grange Building

Washington, DC

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 5:00 pm by Phil Prelli. Present were Betsy Huber, Phil Prelli, Joe Fryman and Duane Scott. Leroy Watson and Jimmy Gentry excused.

Opening prayer was given by Joe Fryman.

Joe Fryman moved to approve the minutes from February 16, 2017, March 14 ZOOM meeting and March 26 Zoom meeting, seconded by Betsy Huber and approved with the following corrections:

Page 1 – strike the "W" from Grace Boatright's name; Page 3 – Add Sandor Szima's last name; Page 7 – Added "when member's names are mentioned; Change 201th to 19th; March 14 – Page 2 "Res Adjudicata" strike the "?"; March 26 – Page 1 – "the suit is against the Guild, not the local Grange."; Page 2 – strike paragraph.

Department Reports

Controller

At 5:15 p.m. Stewart Hughes joined the meeting.

Reviewed cash balances as of May 15, 2017.

Assessment holdings are in two separate accounts; a SunTrust account and a Merrill Lynch account for about \$410,000 total.

Stewart explained other accounts.

Discussion was held on outstanding 2016 4th Quarter dues.

At 5:25 p.m. Jimmy Gentry joined the meeting.

Discussion was held on the Bonding revenue accounting.

Discussion on Long Term Liabilities.

Discussion on the outstanding amount owed to Jim Bikoff's law firm.

Discussion on tenants' payments for property tax assessment.

Discussion on the current tenants and possible movement of tenants within the building.

Discussion on Fly-in expenses; they are not shown in the financial statement we were given as they occurred in the present quarter.

6:25 p.m. Stewart left the meeting and we broke for supper.

Reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

Betsy Huber brought up that the window washing company had come to her with the need to upgrade the roof anchors due to OSHA regulations which will go into effect in November 2017. They are willing to bring in an inspector and have the new anchors installed if needed. The inspection would cost \$1,500; anchor installation could cost up to \$25,000. Plus an annual inspection cost of \$2,000 Betsy will be looking further into this.

Betsy Huber discussed that Joe Blecker had been studying our water bill and found that we had been overcharged for several years and got us a refund.

Joe has also researched our storm water surcharge, which is for 16,000 square feet of impervious surface and we only own 3,900 square feet. We may have been overcharged since 2001 and Betsy will be looking into if we have been overbilled, what can happen about a refund or credit.

Sales and Benefits

Betsy Huber reports that things are going well and Loretta Washington is looking at ways to save on postage.

Clearance sales, membership awards and member packets are the big sellers.

Monroe Classics' license is up and Betsy is offering to make it a 5-year term

Betsy Huber reported that she and Loretta Washington visited the marker on the Mall at 4th and Madison along with the National Parks people. They have cleaned it up and it looks better. The Parks representatives have offered to put up a sign by the marker explaining about the Grange. And they may be able to pay for it out of their budget, Betsy will learn more in the coming weeks.

Juniors

Samantha Wilkins has expressed an interest in trying to get to the Regional Conferences and camps.

Samantha, her husband and oldest son came to the Fly-in and got some good feedback on his participation.

The Junior+1 Program is still not well understood or participated in by the State Granges.

Samantha is planning on having the Junior Programming starting on Thursday afternoon at the 2017 convention.

Youth

Betsy Huber reported that the Youth have been having monthly ZOOM meetings; the last one was on the Youth Fair Program.

IT

This is the first quarter that the reports should be coming from the data base.

Betsy Huber reports that the new website format was supposed to be more user friendly, but it is not. She and Stephanie Wilkins will be working on this in the next few weeks.

Discussion was held on the need to continue with a password protected members area.

Legislative

Betsy Huber reported on the Fly-in. It was very good and Burton Eller had some good speakers come in to provide training for the participants. Burton will have one and a half interns for the summer to assist him.

Convention

Betsy Huber reported that there has been some confusion from the Western States Masters in getting information to her. Betsy will be attending the Oregon State Convention in June and the Western Regionals in August and so she is hoping to be able to have more information by then.

2018 Vermont convention planning is going along well. Stephanie Tiller is going on a site visit soon.

Jimmy Gentry moves to approve \$36,000 from the convention account for the Western Region to use for the 2017 convention in Spokane. Seconded by Joe Fryman and adopted.

2019 Minnesota there is a conflict with the usage of the room for the Seventh Degree. Discussion was held on having the Seventh Degree earlier.

Jimmy Gentry moves to have Stephanie Tiller continue to secure the convention site at Valley Forge Casino Hotel for the 2020 convention. Seconded by Duane Scott and adopted.

2021 Stephanie Tiller is looking at Colorado Springs – Hotel Elegante Conference and Event Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. for the night to reconvene at 9 a.m. on May 19.

Meeting reconvened on May 19, 2017 at 9:05 a.m.

Present were Betsy Huber, Phil Prelli, Joe Fryman and Duane Scott. Leroy Watson by phone and Jimmy Gentry was excused for another meeting.

Communications

Betsy Huber reported that Amanda Brozana feels that we (National Grange) needs to reach out to a reputable reporter that could provide a neutral story in regards to the situation in California.

Phil Prelli states he feels it should come from the California State Grange. The frustration is that the Guild is putting out bad press and both sides of the situation are not being heard.

Discussion on the need for the local Granges to refute the stories in their areas.

Betsy Huber provided an update on the Gala planning. A caterer has been selected. Some sponsorships have been either promised or received. Betsy Huber and Burton Eller are going to visit some businesses in the area and leave information on to help sponsor the Gala.

Discussion was held on the possible attendees and we are looking at around 200 seats available.

Discussion was held on having a guest list and not allowing ticket transfers without prior approval, so that we know who is attending.

Discussion was held on the need to promote subscriptions for the Good Day!™ magazine. There are 650 subscriptions so far, but expectations had been higher. Discussion of ways to encourage our members to subscribe to the magazine.

Leroy Watson will write the next article for the Board to put in the next issue of Good Day!™.

Leroy Watson stated that Granges in his area are not giving demits, but are providing an E-membership and subscription to the magazine.

Trademark

Betsy Huber reports that Nelson Drake is the new trademark intern and he is working Tuesdays and Fridays. He has been working with Darlene Tsou to learn the ropes.

Two recent violators were found in Oregon: a marijuana industry – hydroponics grower who is changing their name and a dispensary that we sent a letter to, but have not heard back.

Discussion was held on the procedure needed to work with infringers to either phase out their usage or work toward a long-term lease.

Unfinished Business

Betsy Huber reported that the Assembly of Demeter, along with Lou from Maine, Sharon Croucher, Leroy Watson and Steve Coye were here after the Fly-in and went to the basement to catalogue the historic items down there and Bruce Croucher will provide a report of what we need to do to keep moving forward with this project.

Leroy Watson shared a paper copy of a PowerPoint he had received 10 years ago from an archivist who provided some guidelines to staff at that time.

***Convention Hosting Instructions – Betsy Huber moved to approve the Regional Convention Host Committee Information and Instructions. Seconded by Leroy Watson and approved.**

Discussion was held on the packet provided by Betsy Huber. By unanimous consent the motion was amended to read **"approve the Regional Convention Host Committee Information and Instructions for use beginning with the 2018 Convention."**

Motion adopted as modified.

***Social Media Policy – Betsy Huber provided a first draft of a social media policy.**

Discussion was held and modifications suggested.

Discussion was held on if the policy should apply to not only staff, but Officers and Directors.

Phil Prelli moved to table this until the August meeting to allow Betsy Huber to continue to work on the policy and provide the next draft for review. Seconded by Duane Scott and adopted.

Betsy Huber reviewed the building roof anchor issues for Leroy Watson's benefit.

Recess at 10:25 a.m. and Jimmy Gentry arrived at this time.

Reconvened at 10:43 a.m.

Building

Stephanie Tiller joined the meeting to review the tenant situation. Currently the building is at 100% occupancy, however; one tenant is leaving and one tenant wishes to downsize.

There is a possible renter for two entire floors who needs the space by January 1, 2018, which would leave the space unrented for several months.

Stephanie states there have been several inquiries for space, which she is working at securing space for them as well. Stephanie left the meeting.

Joe Fryman moved to go into Executive Session for attorney actions and State Grange issues. Betsy Huber seconded and adopted.

Jimmy Gentry moved to come out of Executive Session. Leroy Watson seconded and approved.

New Business

Betsy Huber brought up that now might be the time for the Grange to work on Special Legislative protection for the Grange name, it may be a good time to get something passed. Betsy will have Jim Bikoff speak with Grange Mutual of Ohio about trying to get the legislation moving.

Noon recess for lunch.

John Poirrier joined us by phone and we had a presentation provided by Tom Massey, a local architectural engineer and building consultant, who John had recommended, on a usage analysis of the National Grange Building.

1:30 p.m. Tom Massey and John Poirrier left the meeting.

New Business (cont.)

Betsy Huber reported that there has been a run on requests for duplicate Charters. Currently there is no charge, but a lot of work and cost goes into preparing the new Charter. Loretta Washington will be asked to put together some numbers as to the actual costs.

"New Grange" Trademark registration – Betsy Huber discussed the recent court case we won in the "New Grange" case; do we need to register the trademark, "New Grange"?

Leroy Watson is concerned that we need to use it. If we don't have a use for the trademark, it may cause us issues in the future.

Updates

Digest Revision Committee

Leroy Watson has nothing to report at this time. The committee is hoping to have something available to share by convention time.

Next meeting is August 17-18, 2017 in Washington, DC, beginning at 6 p.m.

Leroy Watson reported on the Grange Advocacy Board meeting. They have amended their by-laws to stagger the election of Board members.

Board membership is to be no less than six and no more than eight members.

Payments to the National Grange will be made quarterly as opposed to annually.

The Grange Advocacy's bank account is doing very well, so Grange Advocacy will pay a share of the Meltwater fees.

Jimmy Gentry moved to adjourn. Seconded by Leroy Watson and approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Faternally Submitted,

Duane Scott, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

June 4, 2017

Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Phil Prelli at 8:15 p.m. EDT. Members of the Executive committee who were present were Phil Prelli, Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Joe Fryman, Leroy Watson and Duane Scott.

Discussion was held on adding the audio-visual cost to the Host region's cost to come out of the Convention Fund.

The AV cost for the Convention held in Washington, DC was about \$20,000. We are expecting to be able to utilize the sound system owned by the Washington State Grange at this year's convention. This cost would cover both the Night of Excellence and the Seventh Degree.

Phil Prelli moved that the cost of the Audio Visual equipment cost for the Night of Excellence and the Seventh Degree is to come out of the Convention Fund. Seconded by Joe Fryman and approved.

Discussion was held on an unexpected cost that had occurred at the 2016 Convention and a video that the host Region wanted to show at the Sixth Degree.

Discussion was held on the Host Region rules adopted at the last meeting; clarification that the rules would be going into effect for the 2018 Convention.

Betsy Huber reported that the 4th and 8th floors will be vacant sometime near the end of September. Betsy reported that this might be a good time to start renovation of those two floors. The 8th floor is the most in need of repairs.

Betsy spoke to Tom Massey about the possibility of moving forward with the updates on the 4th and 8th floors.

Leroy Watson asked if we had a time line for completion of the renovations.

Discussion was held on the possible costs and options to try to pay for the cost of the renovations.

Discussion was held on the cost of completing painting and carpet replacement to make the space rentable.

Leroy Watson moved to go into Executive Session for the Master's report on State Grange issues and Court cases.

Seconded by Betsy Huber and approved.

Jimmy Gentry moved to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Leroy Watson and approved.

Leroy Watson moved to adjourn, seconded by Duane Scott and approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:04 p.m. EDT

Fraternally Submitted,

Duane Scott, Secretary
National Grange Board of Directors

August 4, 2017

Zoom Meeting

Call to order at 8:02 p.m. EDT by Chair Phil Prelli

Present were National Master Betsy Huber, Brother Phil Prelli, Brother Joe Fryman and Brother Leroy Watson. Absent were National Overseer Jimmy Gentry and Brother Duane Scott.

Brother Watson was appointed as Pro Tem secretary.

Master Huber reported that the 22-year-old chiller unit in the National Grange building experienced a catastrophic and complete failure. The unit is a total loss. Our heating and cooling maintenance contractor reported that such complete failures are rare for these units, even when they are this old. There is no warranty on a unit this old. Our insurance carrier is being contacted to see if there is a possible claim that we can file.

A temporary replacement unit needs to be installed immediately to keep the building functioning in the Summer heat. Installation of the temporary chiller units will be in place in the parking spaces behind the building on Monday or Tuesday of the next week at the latest. Master Huber reported that the estimated cost for the temporary replacement would be \$65,000. Installation of temporary window air conditioner units was considered but the building electricity system will not tolerate the increased load.

Watson moved and Fryman seconded that the \$65,000 for the installation of the temporary chiller unit be funded by withdrawing \$40,000 from the National Convention Assessment Fund; \$20,000 as a line of credit from the LMA investment account and \$5,000 from the National Grange Building Improvement Fund established at the 2016 National Convention and/or the general fund. Brother Prelli noted that the \$40,000 withdrawn from the National Convention Assessment Fund must be repaid as soon as possible but he would support the motion provided the issue of repayment was part of the discussion at the next regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting on August 17-18, 2017.

Motion passed 4-0.

Master Huber went on to discuss permanent replacement of the chiller unit. The initial estimate she received from our contractor is that the replacement chiller will cost \$200,000, plus installation costs. It will take at least a month before the chiller installation can be completed. Master Huber stated that she would also make inquiries about other recommendations before recommending a final chiller unit and contractor. Our contractor assured Master Huber that financing is available for the purchase and installation of the new chiller unit but specific terms and interest rates were not available at this time. Master Huber recommended that we postpone further discussion of the final decision on the permanent chiller until more information was available at our next Executive Committee meeting.

On other business, Master Huber reported that the White House Historical Society will be renting the entire 4th floor starting in September. The 8th floor is not yet rented.

Brother Duane Scott joined the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

At 8:33 p.m., Brother Watson Moved and Brother Fryman seconded that the Executive Committee convene in executive session to discuss legal matters. Motion passed

At 8:42 p.m., Watson Moved and Scott seconded to close Executive Session. Motion passed.

At 8:43 p.m., Master Huber moved and Brother Scott seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.

Fraternally submitted,

Leroy Watson
Secretary, Pro Tem

August 17-18, 2017

National Grange Building

Washington, DC

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 6 p.m. by Phil Prelli. Present were Betsy Huber, Phil Prelli, Jimmy Gentry, Joe Fryman, Leroy Watson and Duane Scott.

Opening prayer was given by Joe Fryman.

Leroy Watson moved to approve with corrections the minutes from May 18, 2017, June 5 ZOOM meeting and March 26 Zoom meeting, seconded by Betsy Huber and approved.

Leroy Watson moved to go into Executive Session to discuss attorney and State Grange issues. Seconded by Betsy Huber and approved at 6:16 p.m.

Leroy Watson moved to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Betsy Huber and approved at 7:43 p.m.

At 7:45 p.m. Stewart Hughes joined the meeting.

Discussion was held on outstanding rent of three tenants.

Pathfinder's International – Betsy Huber will talk to Skinner about taking action.

Spark Meter – The accounting error and they will pay.

Stella – moved out – still owes.

Discussion on outstanding payables.

Discussion on chiller replacement.

Discussion on the budget.

Stewart Hughes left the meeting at 9:31 p.m. and the meeting was recessed until 9 a.m. August 18, 2017.

Meeting reconvened at 9:02 a.m.

Betsy Huber led the prayer.

Leroy Watson moved to reconsider the March 26, 2017 ZOOM meeting minutes. Seconded by Betsy Huber.

Leroy Watson moved to adopt the modified March 26, 2017 ZOOM meeting minutes. Seconded by Betsy Huber and adopted.

Betsy Huber moved to adopt the August 4, 2017 ZOOM meeting minutes. Seconded by Duane Scott and adopted with grammatical corrections.

Betsy Huber reported on a conversation with Ed Kowski regarding CA's dues.

Phil Prelli moved to go into Executive Session to discuss State Grange issues. Seconded by Leroy Watson and approved.

Joe Fryman moved to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Leroy Watson and approved.

Sales, Benefits and Programs

Betsy Huber reports that the Youth T-shirt sale fund raiser exceeded their goal.

Betsy Huber brought the Board up to date on the Birth Place marker on the Mall being cleaned. The wayside signage is on hold as the U.S. Park Service works through their process and a survey of all markers is completed.

Discussion on obtaining promotional materials for the three member benefits that report royalties to the National Grange.

Juniors

Discussion was held on badges and buttons that are available to be earned by Juniors.

The current inventory of buttons and badges varies.

Samantha is still working on new ideas. The National Grange does not have the art work for the old badges, so we need to redesign the badges.

Samantha Wilkins was able to attend all of the Regional Conferences and camps.

Youth

Discussion was held on fund raising ideas.

IT

Discussion was held on how to increase data base usage by the states.

Discussion was held on the need to update the security card system.

Discussion was held on the need for a ZOOM meeting for the State Masters to inform them on the chiller issues.

Legislative

Convention

Discussion was held on the up-coming convention and the status of the 2018 session and the progress of the 2019 convention.

Communications

Betsy Huber provided an update on the Gala planning and discussion ensued.

Leroy Watson moved to change the order of business to discuss chiller and boiler issues. Seconded by Phil Prelli and approved at 10:40 a.m.

Mike Laciny joined the meeting to give his proposal on the chiller and boiler needs. Mike Laciny left the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Discussion was held on the needed chiller repair and boiler rebuilding.

Jimmy Gentry moved to divest our Merrill Lynch invested funds with \$40,000 going to repay the invested Convention Assessment account, \$100,000 (or necessary amount) to pay down the LMA and the remainder to pay the down payment toward the chiller and boiler repair. Seconded by Betsy Huber and approved.

Phil Prelli Moves that Betsy Huber contact Eagle Bank to investigate taking out an additional loan. Seconded by Leroy Watson and approved.

Discussion was held on other possible loan sources from State and Local Granges.

Recessed at 12:18 p.m. for lunch.

Reconvene at 12:48 p.m.

Betsy Huber reported on honoring four Legislators at the Gala. There was certain criteria looked at and the four selected were: Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Cong. Collin Peterson (D-MN), Cong. Greg Walden (R-OR).

Trademark

Discussion was held on Westwood Partners, LLC judgement in New Jersey, now that they have moved to New York State.

Discussion other trademark issues.

Unfinished Business

Discussion was held on the report from the Assembly on records in the basement and sub-basement.

Betsy Huber reports she has kept several copies of National Journal of Proceedings and put them in them in the UV room. The rest will be disposed of.

State Journals are not complete sets. A survey will be sent to each State Master asking them what they want to do with them.

The Assembly did not go through the filing cabinets.

Discussion was held on the Social Media Policy.

Phil Prelli moved to adopt the National Grange Social Media Policy as amended. Seconded by Leroy Watson and approved as amended.

Discussion was held on the building roof anchor requirements. Window washing will be suspended until the need may arise.

Discussion on the need for an off-site theater for the 2018 convention.

New Business

2021 Convention site – Stephanie Tiller will be looking at sites in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Wichita, Kansas.

Phil Prelli moved to table this decision until November.

Betsy Huber reported that the Grange Special Legislative protection is moving forward slowly.

Betsy Huber discussed charging for duplicate charters; charging for Loretta Washington's time, materials and shipping. After discussion we will continue as we have been doing at this time with no fee.

Grange Hall Insurance

Betsy Huber discussed a proposal from Mitch Clouse to sell Grange Hall and Personal Property Insurance to members. After discussion, it was decided we need more information to make a decision.

Discussion on possible cost saving measures.

At 2 p.m. Amanda Brozana-Rios joined the meeting to talk about the gala plans. Amanda left the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

Discussion continued on cost saving measures.

Leroy Watson moves to suspend publication of Good Day!™ magazine after this current third issue, until finances improve. Seconded by Jimmy Gentry. Motion defeated.

Phil Prelli moves to give each employee one (1) furlough day each month until the end of the year, but not during the National Convention or the Gala. Seconded by Leroy Watson and approved.

Leroy Watson moves to direct the National Master to separate the original Goss conference room from the space with windows and look at renting that space. Seconded by Joe Fryman and approved.

Updates

Leroy Watson reported on the Digest Revision committee.

Farm Aid Booth

Betsy Huber reports that Farm Aid is being held outside of Pittsburgh, PA and they would like four (4) youth to help with their market booth, as well as a Grange Booth and an interactive Ag Booth. Pennsylvania's Youth Director and youth are

doing most of the work as well as Asa Hutchings from Ohio. Betsy advises that her camper will be utilized for the days needed.

Leroy Watson moves to have the National Master contact an estate sale firm to look at selling excess Grange furniture and art works. Seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved.

Next meeting is November 5-6, 2017 in Spokane, Washington, beginning at 6 p.m.

Jimmy Gentry moved to adjourn. Seconded by Duane Scott and approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Fraternally Submitted,

Duane Scott, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

October 24, 2017

Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Phil Prelli at 8:02 p.m. Members of the Executive committee who were present were Phil Prelli, Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Joe Fryman, Leroy Watson and Duane Scott.

Legal Matters

Duane Scott moved to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters. Seconded by Leroy Watson and approved.

Jimmy Gentry moved to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Joe Fryman and approved at 8:26 p.m.

Goss Conference room

Discussion was held on the decision to split the Goss conference room. Betsy Huber reported that both the staff and tenants are opposed to the idea as many currently utilize the room.

Jimmy Gentry moved to delay the remodeling of the Goss conference room until we are able to see the financial disclosures at the up-coming National Convention. Seconded by Duane Scott and approved.

Chiller financing

Betsy Huber reported on the \$400,000 donation from the Grange Rural Retirement Housing Association in Washington State.

\$25,000 loan from Grange Advocacy at .7%, of current CD rate

\$100,000 loan from a Pennsylvania Grange at current CD rate.

Loans were offered for \$60,000 from the Indiana State Grange at 3%; principal due in 5 years and \$25,000 loan from the Potomac Grange.

Several others have made offers that were told to hold off until we hear from the adjustors.

Betsy reports that the current insurance carrier for Property and Liability has not renewed our policy, so she feels that we will be getting a settlement from them.

The large temporary chiller has been removed. The temporary boiler can be brought in when needed.

Stewart Hughes is to put together a list of donations, offers and expenditures for the board to review.

Betsy Huber moved to go into Executive session to discussion personnel issues. Seconded by Leroy Watson and approved at 8:47 p.m.

Joe Fryman moved to come out of Executive session. Seconded by Leroy Watson and approved at 9:14 p.m.

A Seventh Degree update will be ready from High Priest Bruce Croucher for the November meeting.

Jimmy Gentry moved to adjourn, seconded by Duane Scott and approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Fraternally Submitted,

Duane Scott, Secretary

National Grange Board of Directors

NATIONAL GRANGE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Prepared by Stephanie Tiller, Convention/Operations Director

Tenants/Leases

Below is a summary of the status of all leases in the National Grange Building. New information is bolded. Available or upcoming space is in red. The building is currently at 90% occupancy.

Location	Sq. ft.	Company	Status
Suite Zero	814 sf	Capitol Coin & Stamp Company	Lease expires March 2019
Suite 105	545 sf		Currently looking for new occupant. Space has been advertised for lease. Suite had a water leak and needs new carpet and paint before we can lease to anyone.
Suite 106	555 sf	Dr. Beth Dzaman	Lease expires Jan 2018/option to 2019
Suite 200	480 sf	Joel Weingarten	Lease expires July 2018
Suite 201	304 sf	Net Limousine	Lease expires November 2019
Suite 202	895 sf	Greater Houston CVB	Lease expires December 2018
Suite 203	579.15 sf	White House Historical Association	Lease expires August 2021
Suite 204	442 sf	The Right Stuff/Solutions Team	Lease expires April 2019
Suite 300	898 sf	M Powered Strategies	Lease expires April 2018
Suite 301	252 sf	Burton Rands Associates, LLC	Lease expires May 2018
Suite 302	489 sf	PointClickShoot, LLC/	Lease expires May 2019 – Tenant has asked to downsize space due to her partner closing her side of the business. We will relocate her to a smaller vacant office across the hall from current space. Space has already advertised for lease. Please see message below. – PLEASE SEE BELOW
Suite 303	1092 sf	Transcendental Meditation Center	Lease expires April 2018 – Tenant will be expanding into part of suite 302. Renovations to begin in November. Additional space not taken by this group will be advertised and leased separately.
Suite 304	198 sf	Capital Photography	Lease expires November 2018
Suite 400	2567 sf	White House Historical Association	Lease began October 1, 2017 – Monthly rent for 2017-18 is \$11,000. Tenant signed a 5-year lease.
5 th Floor	3158 sf	M Powered Strategies	Lease expires April 2018
6 th Floor	3158 sf	Redbrick Partners	Lease expires April 2018
7 th Floor	3158 sf	American Horse Council	Lease expires July 2022
Suite 800	682 sf	Consultants International	Lease expires August 2018 – Option to 2019
Suite 820 & 10 th floor	2148 sf	Afterschool Alliance	Lease expires June 2017 – Tenant intends to vacate at end of lease term. They have asked for a three month extension to wait for their new office space renovation to be completed. They will move by end of November 2017. Space has already been advertised for lease. The 10 th floor space will be taken over by current tenant Redbrick.
Suite 900/901/904	1353 sf	EarthSpark International	Lease expires April 2020
Suite 902	505 sf	RetireSafe	Tenant signed a new one year lease; expires July 2018
Suite 903	709 sf	SparkMeter, Inc.	Lease expires April 2018
Suite 1020	410 sf	Anthrosphere	Tenant relocated from their space on 4th floor to recently vacated space on the 10th floor, which was formerly occupied by The Stella Group. They have partnered with a company called EMX Corp and co-signed the lease.
Suite 1010 & 1030	1210 sf	M Powered Strategies	Lease expires September 2018
11 th Floor		National Grange Headquarters	

BUILDING

The National Grange Building at 1616 H Street, NW, Washington, DC continues to run smoothly.

Currently, building is 90% occupied (as of August 1, 2017).

Chiller and boiler issues are being addressed and I am working closely with the contractors for updates and progress reports.

A few tenants are within their 5 year TI period and we will be refreshing up their suites with paint and either cleaned and/or new carpet.

COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT

Prepared by Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios, Communications & Development Director

Brothers and Sisters,

In this sesquicentennial celebration year, the message of the Grange has centered on our continued relevance. Outreach to press, partners and potential donors highlighted our celebration and our successes, but also the connection younger, beginning farmers; young families; those keen on the food-to-table movement and more are making with our mission and our local Granges.

The department, as usual, also assisted with a range of projects spearheaded by other departments/directors and assisted with membership and leadership development. However, the great amount of time this year for the director was spent on developing the new quarterly magazine, Good Day!™, planning and working with the 150th birthday gala prep and solicitations, preparing the monthly and annual publications and the day-to-day functions of the department. The following is a summary of activities from just before the start of the 150th Annual Convention in 2016 through mid-October 2017 and details of progress in specific areas.

Media Relations/Coverage (PR)

From October 15, 2016 through October 15, 2017, the National Grange has been mentioned in 444 unique articles. Many of those were redistributed (such as the release in which National Grange President Betsy Huber was quoted related to AT&T's fixed wireless broadband deployment). The total potential reach of just under 256 million readers, almost exclusively in the United States. The equivalent ad value of our positive coverage was about \$2.5 million.

The majority of our negative coverage (15 articles that distinctly discuss National Grange negatively either through quotes included or as part of the writers' point/opinion) were based in California related to the internal strife between the Guild and the Grange. Several were related specifically to one Grange where Guild members had taken to squatting in the Hall and their quotes about National Grange were negative in sentiment (and when examined by someone with knowledge of the conflict, completely false/misinformation). This will continue to be a problem as long as the Guild/Grange struggle remains in the courts and beyond, however, our neutral or positive press coverage continues steadily and we have taken no negative press thus far from a very reputable and widely read source. Additionally State Master Ed Komski and his team should be commended for the very positive coverage of their Granges in California who have responded to wildfires that ravaged areas where Granges are prevalent and showed what the Grange spirit is and what we are built to do for our communities. Alternatively, the Guild has shown no such outreach or caring response that we have been able to track, helping to solidify ours as the "brand" that cares and is community oriented.



Several other stories not captured in the following chart also mention “the Grange” turning 150 in 2017 but because they used the phrase “national organization” or other descriptor or the writer/editors failed to note the National Grange in relation to the sesquicentennial celebration, they were not included here. More than six-dozen stories about local Granges referenced the anniversary.

Good Day!™ Magazine

We started with just shy of 400 subscribers and nearly doubled that number by our third issue. State Conventions proved successful grounds to inform people that the magazine was in print and prove it was a quality publication worth subscribing. Many state masters took on the challenge of offering to sign members up for the magazine at their sessions and we expect after entering late submissions turned in at this convention we will have between 950-1,000 subscribers.

The initial subscription price was based on a subscriber base of 1,500 by the end of 2017 with about 500 for the initial printing and 750 by mid-year (prior to the printing of the second issue). The hope was there would be at least one subscriber per Subordinate Grange (of which we report about 1,700) so that each Grange could stay informed of Grange news and connect emotionally with other members of the Order. We have clearly fallen short of this goal. Several State Masters and National Officers do not subscribe and a few states have not promoted the magazine in their publications/correspondence with members. This makes unrealistic our initial idea for it to inform our entire organization as members shared with each other details about new programs, news and updates. However, nearly all of those who subscribe have offered very positive feedback and have shared the publication with at least one other person in their family or Grange.

Two benefit partners have purchased ads for four issues (one year), and we offer Monroe Classic a free full-page ad to help promote Grange-related products and strengthen that partnership. We also have a few individuals or small businesses that have purchased ad space or paid for classified ads that began in issue 3. We have also placed some in-house ads, informing readers of items available in the Grange Supply Store, promoting the Grange Foundation’s fundraising activities, noting the availability of e-books and more. This is free space for our organization that should enhance revenue in other areas for the Grange to help assist with the overall budget concerns.

Advertising revenue is the biggest piece of the puzzle to make the magazine financially solvent. It is important to find someone that can commit to assisting with ad sales for the magazine in order to continue the publication in its current fashion. I hope to work with the officers to find a champion for subscriptions and advertising, however, if a volunteer cannot be found, we may consider paying a percentage to a person contracted to sell advertising. Our very small subscription base, however, keeps the ad rate low and would likely increase the amount we would have to pay (percentage) to an ad-seller.

We have had interest by some people who are not members of the Grange in the magazine, including several of our benefit and advocacy partners. Also at the Big E, New England Granges offered a card to Grange Building attendees that provided details about how to contact State Granges to learn more about membership and a subscription application. We received two back from people who indicated they are not Grange members and have had a few other non-members subscribe through our online platform and our subscription cards found in the magazine. Again, these numbers are very small, but it is a positive sign to see that it appeals to people “like us” who have not yet joined Grange but may be more inclined to do so because of what they read in Good Day!™.

Interns & Communication Fellows

This year started with the support of one communications intern, Kim Stefanick, a Grange member in New Jersey, by Potomac Grange and a personal donation by Foundation Board Chairman Stephen Coye. She was invaluable to the start-up of Good Day!™ magazine and keeping our social media accounts fresh. Kim also attended with me the ACT7 Magazine conference in Oxford, Mississippi, as a guest of Dr. Samir Husni (Mr. Magazine™). She was hosted by my husband and I for her five month stay.

During the summer, my husband and I hosted four interns – Mandy Bostwick (KS), Kennedy Gwin (WA), Christopher Sebastian (CT) and Federica Cobb (MS) – for between four and ten weeks. Three are Grange members and one we hope will become a member and help to start our first Grange in Mississippi in nearly a century. A personal donation by National Master Betsy Huber and several donations by National Staff members kept the four interns well-stocked in home-cooked meals and creature comforts. We were also fortunate enough to have one other non-member intern, Ben McEvoy, a senior marketing/business major at Emerson University (MA), to work with us from June through late August, focusing on Grange Radio upkeep/clean up, marketing plans, design work and social media.

A brief narrative from the interns details of their work is attached as an appendix to this department report. Their service was invaluable to the entire national staff, especially the communications department, and their training should assist the Grange long-term.

This year we have selected four Communication Fellows, sponsored by Colorado State Grange via their generous donation in 2016. The fellows are Lurae Benzio, PA; Tacy Currey, CA; Josh Bethany, FL; and Senior Fellow Elizabeth Hiner, CO. They will also see a shortened program as convention is one day shorter for delegates and officers this year. However, the small group allows more one-on-one training time and additional experience for each fellow, so they will learn about many different communications strategies and interact with our national staff, officers and others to connect their training to membership and programming efforts.

Social Media

During the first half of the year when we were fortunate enough to have Kim Stefanick, who had a great deal of versatility in training and was well-versed in social media, our social media was quite active, especially on Facebook. Our Twitter account is primarily managed by partner DCI, who helps to tweet and re-tweet news and announcements related to policy priorities of the National Grange, especially broadband expansion and Farm Bill funding for things like crop insurance. Over the summer, intern Ben McEvoy assisted with several National pages.

The following reflects the reach of the National Grange Facebook page.

The following individuals are administrators on our various Facebook pages:

- National Grange: Betsy Huber, Amanda Brozana Rios, Stephanie Wilkins, Chris Hamp
- National Grange Youth: Charlene Shupp Espenshade, Betsy Huber, Amanda Brozana Rios, Matt Espenshade, Phil Vonada, Jennifer Beamon, Robert Beamon, Mandy Bostwick, Kennedy Gwin, Cassidy Cheddar, Chris Szkutak, Lindsay Schroeder.
- National Junior Grange: Samantha Wilkins, Amanda Brozana Rios, Betsy Huber
- National Grange Lecturer: Christine Hamp; Amanda Brozana Rios, Betsy Huber
- Grange Foundation: Amanda Brozana Rios; Betsy Huber
- Grange Herd: Scott Nicholson; Amanda Brozana Rios
- National Grange Chaplain: Barbara Borderieux, Amanda Brozana Rios, Betsy Huber
- Great American Quilt and Handicraft Expo: Christine Hamp, Amanda Brozana Rios, Betsy Huber
- Grange Radio: Amanda Brozana Rios, Scott Nicholson, Betsy Huber, Bob Charbonneau, Samantha Wilkins, Pete Pompper, Mandy Bostwick

The following groups related to the National Grange are administered by:

- National Grange Community Service: Pete Pompper
- National Grange Communication Fellows: Amanda Brozana Rios, Betsy Huber, Mandy Bostwick, Samantha Wilkins, Karie Blasingame, Debbie Gegare, Joe Stefanoni
- National Grange Youth Fair Program: Lillian Booth (group unaffiliated with National Office)
- 2017 National Grange Youth Officers, Ambassadors and Legislative Experience: Charlene Shupp Espenshade, Robert Beamon, Cassidy Cheddar, Christopher Szkutak
- Grange Happenings around the Nation: Ellen McManus (group unaffiliated with National Office)
- National Grange Youth: Charlene Shupp Espenshade, Ryan Orton, National Grange Youth (page admins)
- E-Grange Order of Patrons of Husbandry: Ellen McManus (group unaffiliated with National Office)

Grange Radio

Grange Radio relaunched just before the 150th Annual National Grange Convention. Since then, Bob Charbonneau has added to our lineup a weekly funny song variety show and several short radio skits. We have added more than 7,000 songs and thanks to intern Ben McEvoy, reduced duplicates and categorized them better.

In late summer, Grange Advocacy Board Member and former USDA Secretary John Block offered to allow us to rebroadcast his weekly podcast as a segment which is now available daily.

In October, we were able to have our first high-profile interview that is now available for download/on demand listening or can be heard at scheduled time on Grange Radio. The interview, conducted by National Master Betsy Huber, was of FCC Chairman Ajit Pai and focused on rural broadband build out.

We are seeking more contributors for the radio, including both segments and shows as well as short interviews/bumpers. We also wish to find a volunteer to assist with radio ad sales for the internet station.

150th Anniversary

This year, much time was spent working to highlight our milestone anniversary and position our relevance. We worked closely with partners and did a lot of outreach to the press, locally, regionally and nationally with some success. The December news cycle will be a large "moment of proof" to see if we were able to interest and explain the importance of this anniversary for our organization and agriculture/rural America. It is expected that a great deal of time will remain focused on this celebration in 2018.

National Lecturer Christine Hamp is one of the greatest advocates and partners for the department, as evidenced by the fact that she jumped in to spearhead efforts related to The Great American Quilt and Handicraft Expo for the Grange



Foundation. Along with great assistance by Bonnie Mitson (ID), the two publicized the show locally in shops and in quilting circles and worked with a facility that could host the event. However, by September it was clear that news about the show and understanding about the need for home-made high quality handicraft and quilt donations had not spread far. There were very few items that had come in as donations that could be displayed or sold to benefit the Foundation and many potential vendors were reticent to commit to taking part in the first-time event without a proven successful track record. The Expo was downsized to fit in convention space at the hotel and all of the deposit was refunded by the venue we did not use for the show. This was a very lost opportunity to both show off our members' great skills and produce revenue/donations for the foundation without digging deeply into members' pockets.

Research/academic conference on Grange was canceled due to lack of interest/participation. We will not follow with an e-book as it was to come from submitted materials. We hope to revisit this sometime in the future with greater assistance by someone in the academic community. Discussion about this has begun with Ohio University Press representatives and I am seeking other potential scholars who may be interested in seeing such a conference come to fruition.

150th Birthday Gala

As of this report, we have raised just over \$110,000, with an expected net of about \$60,000 (to increase as we gain additional sponsorships or sell additional tickets). This was not as successful as we had hoped for fundraising, but fairly successful in raising our profile among D.C. and rural partners and those on the Hill who are allies of rural America and agriculture. We chose four legislators to receive an award from the Grange for their leadership on agricultural and rural issues and their bipartisan approach to legislation. We hope this helps to strengthen our relationship with important members of the House and Senate as well as their staff and committees.

Other Publications

Each year the department is tasked with producing several monthly or annual publications, this year in addition to the quarterly magazine. The following were completed and are available for members:

- 2017 Digest of Laws. Completed in December 2016 and available for download online. Sent by National Master to State Masters and National Officers.
- Monthly Patron's Chain E-newsletter.
- Pomona Manual. We had run out of this manual in the Grange Supply Store. It was typed and put into layout. It has been printed in-house and is available for purchase through the Grange Supply Store.
- JOP 2015. Completed mid-summer 2017 and printed. Available for pick-up at convention for delegates and past officers. Available for free download online.
- JOP 2016. Completed mid-October 2017 and printed. Available for pick-up at convention for delegates and past officers. Available for free download online.
- Youth Handbook 2018. Completed in mid-September and printed. Available for pick-up with the Youth Director or for free download online at www.nationalgrangeyouth.org. Provided as a digital file to all Delegates and Officers of the 151st Annual Convention on USB drives.
- Guidebook for Grange Leaders, Revised Edition. Typed by National Master Betsy Huber and provided for basic layout and editing to the department, this 40-page booklet is available for purchase in the Grange Supply Store.

The following publications are expected to be handled in the near future:

- Digest of Laws 2018. At the close of convention, the National Master will gather bylaw changes and determine changes that should be made to our Digest. These should be forwarded to Communications in December and the final 2018 Digest should be ready for free download online or purchase through the Grange Supply Store by Jan. 1, 2018.
- JOP 2017. The design of the JOP has been changed to allow any department with Word capabilities to produce the JOP. This allows for the Legislative Department to produce the JOP as it once had, freeing up some time for Communications to focus on the monthly and quarterly publications and decreasing the likelihood of errors as parts are moved from one person and department to another.
- Patron's Chain. The monthly publication will continue with projected release date of the 15th of each month. We highly encourage everyone who has access to email to provide their address to the National Grange. If you believe you have and are not receive the publication, please contact Stephanie Wilkins, IT Director, who manages the correspondence lists, to confirm the address you use and make sure you did not "unsubscribe" in the past.
- Communications Handbook, Revision. The Communications Handbook for Granges issued in 2012 and revised in 2013 is in need of updating. I expected to do so in 2017 but was unable to make the changes while we had interns in place. I hope to update it in 2018 and have the revised version available for sale in the Grange Supply Store and for download online. We may examine ways to make it an e-book available through Amazon, but this is yet to be determined.

Other Events

- Masters' Conference. Presentation on Writing Op-Eds.
- Ag Day/Youth Training Weekend. Fundraising and media management discussions.

- Fly-In.
- 151st Annual Convention. Program designs, press outreach prior to event, general packing and planning; prep for Fellows program, etc.
- Also attended: New Jersey Day of Learning; PA State Grange Family Festival; Farm Aid 2017; Nebraska State Grange Convention; Maine State Grange Convention.

Other

- We designed and placed a 40' x 7' banner welcoming President Trump to "the neighborhood" in January.
- Worked with Youth to conceptualize fundraising scheme and provide additional support.
- Provided Junior Grange department with support and started working with director on the Junior Grange Passport ideas and design.
- Worked with National Master Betsy Huber and the Sales/Marketing/Benefits/Membership Recognition Director on the Grange Family Legacy Program.
- Updated several brochures and other documents for State Granges and assisted a few local Granges with media planning.
- Provided support to several State and local Granges for basic communication material.
- Assisted with the Distinguished Grange program, including answering questions as a point of contact and gathering submissions, verifying information and more.
- Digitized a few additional historical documents and made a list of other documents we should seek to add to our digital collection.
- National Master Betsy Huber asked States to inform her if there were JOPs from their state sessions that they were missing in their collections and provided to a few respondents missing editions. We highly encourage state Granges to digitize all of their Journals of Proceedings and provide to the National Grange digital copies of the JOPs for our history. States who require assistance with the digitization process should contact the department. This is a priority for 2018 as it allows us to better contextualize our history and provide researchers and journalists with primary source documents.

Reflection

Each year it would be impossible to serve our members without the help of those around the nation who assist as advisors and foot soldiers for this department. A great many thanks to several members who provided content for Good Day!™ magazine, to many members who have contributed as gala sponsors, to those who provided funds and support for our interns, including PA State Grange for hosting Ferderica Cobb and myself at Family Festival, and so much more.

In late May, I married my very tolerant and amazing husband, Victor Barreto Rios, who serves as the New Deal Grange #447 Steward and co-Youth Director for Maryland State Grange. We were able to share the happy occasion with many of our Grange family who came to see that someone is indeed insane enough to commit to a lifetime with me. Many other Brothers and Sisters around the nation sent well-wishes and gifts, and we thank each and every one of you and truly appreciate your words of wisdom and the way in which many of you live as examples to us.

I was able to experience two new State Grange Conventions this year and meet many new people who I have only interacted with online or not at all. Each reminded me why being part of the Grange is special and how this could never just be a job but a giant part of my life.

I believe in the Grange, maybe in this 150th year, in the face of some of our greatest challenges, more than ever before. I know the need for it each time I turn on the TV to bickering political pundits or tragedies too surreal to understand.

I look forward to continuing to serve the Grange – for everyone associated with the Order from the highest to lowest degree – and thereby being in service to a better America and brighter future. *Esto Perpetua.*

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Prepared by Pete Pompper, Community Service Director

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates and Patrons,

I am happy to render this report at the 150th anniversary of the Grange here in Spokane Washington. I thank all of the State, Pomona and Subordinate Community Service Directors who work tirelessly to make their communities a better place. I truly hope that each of you when you have the opportunity will thank these individuals and their committees for all they do. We should all be impressed by the number of hours that Grange members and non-Grange members put into the various projects they do. See chart.

To me and I hope you these are humbling numbers and show the amount of dedication we have to our Order. The number of non-member hours also shows how much people outside of our walls value the Grange.

The Judges and I thank the States that utilized the suggestions that were sent out after last year's National Grange session. These guidelines have helped make the judging easier as some of the suggestions were about the organization of the books which is important. It has helped us see better what a Grange has done for the year and all of the State winners truly deserve winning on the state level.

I encourage Granges to look for new opportunities to better serve their communities. Several Granges have done that this year and I want to spotlight one of them. Gardner Grange (KS) which is a smaller community and shares their hall with the local Historical Society and museum. The past couple of years they have taken in new members who the members made feel welcome and part of the Grange. These new members wanted to start a Farmers Market in the town to bring local and fresh vegetables, meats and products to the community. This had been tried in the past by the town and other groups but didn't take hold. Instead of being discouraged by this news they discussed it at a meeting and the Grange said the famous words "I'd be delighted". They then approached the Mayor and council about the idea and they all worked together to make it a success. To say it was a success does not give it its due justice. From all I have heard and read it was an overwhelming success. The farmers and producers were very pleased with a new place to bring their freshly grown or locally produced goods to market. The community members came in big numbers to buy these products from individuals they could talk to about what they were buying. The response was so good that the Grange and the City have already planned next year's Farmers Market and the city leaders have a new respect and understanding of the Grange. The Mayor is attending more Grange events when he can and is supportive of their efforts. Of course Grangers being Grangers I think they are trying to get the city to change its meeting night so he can become a member. Well Done Gardner Grange, you should be proud.

I thank Martha Stefenoni who Brother Komski appointed as the California State Grange Community Service Director for her work in getting my information into the Granges there. I am seeing more CA Granges on Facebook and they are doing wonderful things in their communities. The recent wildfires in California had many Granges open their Halls to not only members who had to evacuate their homes. The Halls were also used as relief centers for the community and for Emergency Operation Centers for first responding agencies. Other Grange Halls were used as meal and sleeping locations for those fighting the fires. I personally thank all the Granges who helped in anyway including the leadership of the California State Grange.

Cibolo Grange (TX) collected items and monetary donations for victims of the historical flooding in their area. Cibolo Grange also received a grant to redo the hall and the kitchen area. They then teamed with another organization to start a farmers and artisans market at the hall.

This is only a small sampling of the great projects our Granges are doing in the communities they are in. I am sure each of you can and I hope will, as we are meeting this week, brag about what Granges in your state are doing. They deserve the recognition from us for the hard work they do. This year I need your help with a new form of recognition from this Department. If a Grange in your state does something exceptional as a Community Service project I ask that you send me an email with a little snippet of what they are doing and an email address or regular mailing address. I would like to send them a personal note on a job well done.

I encourage Granges to continue participating in the "Of the Year" program. It continues to get a wonderful response and is a way to honor those individuals who deserve the recognition.

I thank Loretta Washington for all she does throughout the year to keep me in line. She and I have a great working relationship and I cannot imagine doing this job without her help at National Grange Headquarters.

We as leaders need to make sure we continue to give the Community Service Department the support they need so they can keep on doing what they do. I hope you as State Grange leaders will reach out and thank your State Grange Community Service Directors and their committees for all they do to help build our Grange.

STATE	# OF HOURS
Texas	21,304
New Jersey	17,507
Vermont	2,500
Illinois	133,559 (236,711)
Kansas	5,000(1056)
Oregon	116,105
New Hampshire	15,311
New York	13,187
Massachusetts	9,086* (14,422)
Connecticut	51,000 (3,805)
Tennessee	1,673
Virginia	19,006
Washington	230,150
West Virginia	7,823
Pennsylvania	149,488
	*142 Junior Grange
	792,699 members
	255,994 nonmembers

Total # of Community Service Hours 1,048,835

CONVENTIONS & OPERATIONS

Prepared by Stephanie Tiller, Convention/Operations Director

Convention 2017- Spokane, Washington

Dates: November 7-11, 2017

Total number of online registrations: 358. 73 online Seventh Degree registrants. Convention is under way. Post-convention report to follow at 2018 Masters Conference. Looking into storage options for Seventh Degree trunks in Spokane, WA.

Convention 2018- Northeast Region (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY)

Dates: November 9-18, 2018

Host Hotel: StoweFlake Resort & Spa in Stowe, VT

Looking into storage options for 7th Degree trunks to be shipped after convention in Spokane to Stowe. Will meet with the 2018 Host Committee on-site at the 2017 Convention in Spokane.

Convention 2019 – Midwest Region (OH, MI, IN, IL, IA, WI, MN)

Dates: November 8-17, 2019

Host Hotel: DoubleTree Bloomington/Minneapolis South

Contract has been signed and deposit sent.

Convention 2020 – Eastern Region (PA, NJ, WV, MD, DC, VA, DE, NC, TN, SC, FL)

Dates: November 6-15, 2020

Hotel: Valley Forge Resort & Casino, King of Prussia, PA (Philadelphia area)

Contract has been signed and deposit sent.

Convention 2021 – Great Plains Region (CO, KS, NE, OK, TX)

Dates: November 12-21, 2021

Conducted site visit to the Hotel Elegante in Colorado Springs on September 20th. Property will work perfectly for convention. 7th Degree will fit in hotel. In addition, I have a site visit scheduled for January 16, 2018 for the Hyatt in Wichita, KS. I will give full details at the 2018 Masters' Conference.

Convention 2022 – Western Region – (MT, WY, ID, WA, OR, CA, AK, NV)

Dates: 1st option: November 12-20, 2022

2nd option: November 5-13, 2022

My recommendation is to focus on either CA, OR or NV for Convention host state. Alaska is too expensive to get to; Montana and Wyoming have very limited convention (larger properties) hotels to choose from Washington was host state last cycle and Idaho hosted a few years back.

Convention 2023 – Northeast Region – Need to determine dates.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

150th Birthday Gala – Event to be held in Washington, D.C. on December 4, 2017. Finalizing Sponsors and logistics for this event.

2018 Masters Conference – Oregon State Master, Susan Noah has offered to host the Delegates for the 2018 Masters Conference. The Executive Committee meeting and sleeping rooms will be at the Monarch Hotel and Conference Center in Clackamas, OR (15-20 mins outside of Portland) and the Masters' Conference will be held at the Sunnyside Grange in Clackamas, OR. Transportation from hotel to Grange Hall and meals will be provided by the Oregon State Grange.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Prepared by Stephanie Wilkins, IT Director

National Grange Online Membership Database

The National Grange Online Membership database provides a consolidated, comprehensive system that includes all relevant member and Grange information at the local, state and national level. This system allows state users access only to the information for Granges in their state, and local/subordinate users access only to the information in their local/subordinate Grange.

The 2016 quarterly reporting information for all for all states has been entered into the database. Although some quarterly reports for 2017 continue to come in via email and US mail, more and more states are logging into the online membership database and entering in their membership totals themselves. The National Grange office has assisted states with inputting their information into the system and/or inputting the respective states information into the system directly. Dues are still submitted by check and mailed to the National Grange office.

When the quarterly report is entered into the online membership database it is easy to see the contrast (if any) between the membership total submitted in the quarterly report and the actual total of members listed in the database. This helps to easily determine the accuracy of the total local grange members or if it needs updating. Many states are working on correcting the contrasting membership totals that are easily shown when quarterly report numbers are submitted.

The National Grange has upgraded to a PayPal Pro account for the purpose of seamlessly

# Total Members For Quarter (10)	# Total Members in Database
(10)	DB(10)
0	n/a
3	8
28	35
0	0
4	15
0	6
11	9
0	1
0	0
0	14

processing online subscriptions of the Good Day!™ magazine. Members may purchase a subscription of the magazine via the National Grange website interface that is linked to the online membership database. The membership database maintains the subscriptions, produces the mailing list for the distributing mailhouse as well as alert of upcoming renewals.

The section for creating local users and assigning the necessary credentials needed to login and edit member information has been completed. Local users and credentials can be created and assigned by both the National Grange and/or the state grange. Some states wanted to reserve the ability to edit member information while other states wanted to allow local granges the ability to edit their own member information. This set-up allows both to be possible.

Good Day!™ Magazine Subscription

Members and Non-Members can now subscribe to Good Day!™ magazine online via the online form on the National Grange website in the NEWS section. They can also mail in or call in subscription information and National Grange staff can enter it into the online system and all information is managed in the AMS (online database).

Subscribers fill in the online form with subscription type (member/non-member/single issue), contact information (name, phone, email, Grange), delivery address and whether or not the subscription is a gift. The form allows for multiple subscriptions to be added to the order prior to checkout.

Subscribers are offered three payment options:

1. Pay by credit card online:
 - a. Payment is processed via National Grange PayPal account
 - b. Subscriber receives an acknowledgement and receipt via email
 - c. National Grange staff receives notification of the subscription via email
 - d. Subscription details are immediately visible in the AMS (online database), in the Pending subscription report, with subscription shown as paid
2. Pay by check – confirm subscription and indicate payment by check will be sent in the mail:
 - a. Subscriber receives an acknowledgement and invoice via email
 - b. National Grange staff receives notification of the subscription via email
 - c. Subscription details are immediately visible in the AMS (online database), in the Pending subscription report with subscription shown as payment due
3. Pay by credit card over the phone:
 - a. Instructions guide the subscriber to enter a callback number so that Loretta Washington can call them back to get their credit card details.
 - b. Subscriber receives an acknowledgement and invoice via email
 - c. National Grange staff receives notification of the subscription and callback request via email
 - d. Subscription details are immediately visible in the AMS (online database), in the Pending subscription report with subscription shown as payment due

Rules for subscription timing is defined within the AMS. Based on the publication schedule and lead times, subscriptions are automatically set to start with the next issue date, and payment and start date information is tracked and managed within the AMS. Subscriptions default to auto-renew after the one-year subscription period unless the subscriber has indicated they do not want this to occur automatically.

National Grange staff can run reports at any time to see the Pending and Confirmed subscriptions.

In the Pending report records, staff can link up the subscriber information to an existing record in the database, see who has payments due, update Payer and Recipient information, modify the issue start date, update the records with payment information and change the subscription to “Confirmed” once payment is received and confirmed.

When the mailing list for the issue is due for a given issue, National Grange staff can run the Recipient mailing list report, make last minute modifications, and send the list to the mail house.

✓	Subscriptions	Good Day Magazine - Confirmed	List of current good day magazine subscriptions orders - confirmed
✓	Subscriptions	Good Day Magazine - Pending	List of current good day magazine subscriptions orders - pending
✓	Subscriptions	Good Day Magazine - Recipients	List of current good day magazine subscriptions orders - recipients

2017 National Grange Roster

The 2017 National Grange roster was printed and distributed to each State Grange. Two printable versions were constructed, one handheld booklet size, and one larger booklet size. Each individual state was shipped two small and two large versions as well as a CD containing the 2017 roster in digital format (Word and Adobe Acrobat). Also included on the CD was an Excel document with multiple but separate spreadsheets for state officers, national officers, staff, directors, etc. Creating a roster in digital format would be helpful to state granges when doing mail merges, group emails, etc.

Website Updates/Changes

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, program information, the new Grange newsletter "Patrons Chain" and a number of Grange events. The yearly calendar was updated to include 2017 events such as Grange Month, Regional Youth Conferences, the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Grange, future National Grange Convention information, 2017 Legislative Fly-In and more.

The navigation of the National Grange website is being revised to make valuable information easier to find. The objective is to create sections that make the most sense with the information we currently have today, while maintaining organization as new information is added moving forward. Incorporating customized menu sidebars for each section will allow visitors to see information as it correlates to that section.

The main slider of the homepage features highlighted items such as the 151st Annual National Grange Convnetion, The 150th National Grange Birthday Gala as well as the official quarterly magazine of the National Grange "GoodDay!" Each item in the main slider links to a webpage with complete information. A number of other valuable news items are featured within the news slider such as the recent statements made by President Betsy Huber and the National Grange responses to various actions by the current administration and various departments.

There are currently 2,380 local grange websites hosted on the grange.org domain. The default image header of these local grange websites has been changed to reflect the 150th Celebration of the National Grange. This image header can be changed by the local grange administrator if they so choose. Granges are becoming more actively involved in editing their respective website. To further increase the activity of these local grange web pages, each State Grange was given a CD containing a video tutorial and written instructions. In addition, a workshop was held at the 149th Annual National Grange convention demonstrating and encouraging Granges on how to use this tool to advertise their local grange. Written and oral instructions are still given to those inquiring about accessing and maintaining their site and support is available via phone or email on a daily basis by contacting the National Grange IT Manager, Stephanie Wilkins.

All domains associated with the National Grange are current and will renew automatically with GoDaddy. All websites have been verified by Google for searching. All WordPress websites have been upgraded to the latest version of 4.8.2. All other installed plugins and themes are up-to-date.

The member only information currently maintained on www.grange.org will be moved over to the National Grange website allowing members to view information from the same URL.

www.nationaljuniorgrange.org

In 2017, the Junior Grange website has been successfully migrated to a WordPress driven website. The Junior Grange website includes all the latest updates from the Junior Grange Director, Samantha Wilkins. The home page slider focuses on three key points of Junior Grange (1) how you can become a Junior Grange member (2) how you can support the Junior Grange by donating to the Junior Fund and (3) a glimpse of the fun programs offered by Junior Grange. WordPress offers various plugins that can be incorporated into the site to make it fun and interactive for our junior grangers.

This WordPress driven site offers various plugins that can be incorporated into the site to make it fun and interactive for our junior grangers while adding functionality for new upcoming features such as online interactive games. WordPress extends various plugins for kids that can be added to the website like Sudoku, Memory and more. With our youth being the Grange of tomorrow, our objective is to develop and/or introduce them to the world of technology via the Junior Grange website.

www.nationalgrangeyouth.org

The Youth and Young Adults website have been updated to reflect the 2017 Regional Youth Conference information, various Youth Programs changes for the year, as well as Youth News and stories submitted by the Youth Ambassador and Youth Director including the recording of the monthly Youth ZOOM meetings which are convenient for those who were unable to attend.



Redesigned Junior Grange

All of the online questions included in the 2017 Trivia Challenge have been updated so that members can submit their forms electronically. All submissions are emailed to the Youth Director and saved on the website dashboard. There have been 24 Trivia Challenge submitted online this year.

The "150th T-shirt fundraiser" was advertised on the National Grange Youth website. This fundraiser received favorable response and participation and the t-shirt goal was met. The "Pie in the Face" fundraiser was advertised on the National Grange Youth website as well with online and offline donations available. Notifications for both fundraisers have been promoted through social media and email marketing.

www.grangefoundation.org

In 2017, the Grange Foundation website, which was previously edited via Dreamweaver, underwent reconstruction and migrated to an up-to-date WordPress platform. WordPress offers various unique and creative designed themes that are mobile-ready and can be easily updated from any device, home or office.

The website features information on the Junior Grange Fund, Kelley Farm Fund, Deaf Awareness Fund, Youth Leadership Fund, Community & Leadership Fund, and the American Arts & Culture Fund and just recently the CA Wildfires Fund. The webpage for each fund provides valuable information about the fund with a donation button on that respective page that links directly to PayPal for that fund.

Additional information such as the Great American Quilt & Handicraft Expo and the Grange Foundation sponsorship of 2017 Agriculture Advocate Award which was presented to Carol Baker-Dunn at the 2017 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference was featured on the website

www.grangeradio.org

The domain assigned for the Grange Radio website is now live and streaming music. Frequent updates to the website plugins are successfully performed to maintain website security.

www.grangestore.org

In 2017, the Grange Supply Store was redesigned using WordPress as a platform with AbanteCart as the free-to-use shopping cart. Loretta Washington was thoroughly trained on how to use the Grange Supply Store dashboard, retrieve orders, notify customers of order status and run reports. The newly designed site and shopping cart has been operating and processing online orders flawlessly.

This e-commerce website gives a full complete look and feel of an online store. It features online credit card processing, photos with zoom capability, item reviews, testimonials, coupon/promo code options and more. Customers who place an order online, immediately receive an email confirmation while another email is generated and sent to the National Grange with the order details.

Customers who place their order online have the option of checking the status of their order. When the order is process and shipped, the National Grange now has the ability update the order status and notify the customer that their order has been processed and shipped with USPS/UPS tracking numbers allowing members to follow their package and plan for its arrival.

Within the Grange Store dashboard, an assortment of information is being collected such as total orders, total sales this year, the number of online customers, the number of products sold, real-time statistics on orders placed and much more.

A "Clearance" section has been added to the Grange Supply Store. Clearance items can be viewed on the website with a red sale tag and shows the clearance price as well as the original purchase price for comparison. All clearance items are advertised in an email via Constant Contact with direct links to the store item for purchasing.

With the increase of shipping rates, it may be necessary to either increase shipping rates or change the way we ship packages. Currently we ship based on the cost of the total order which has resulted in a loss to the Grange. Shipping by weight would ensure an accurate calculation of what the actual shipping will cost will be. This would mean all items in the store would need to be weighed and entered into the store ecommerce platform currently being used.

Computer/Hardware/Software

The MAC workstation, running with the latest version of OS Sierra, has received all the updates from Apple. With the assistance of Apple Tech Support, system maintenance has been run on both MAC workstations to increase the performance of each machine and resolve issues related to searching the National Grange server for files/images. Unfortunately, these attempts to resolve the existing intermittent problems came back unsuccessful. Apple Tech Support suggested performing a fresh install of the operating system as a more desperate option to increase production of both MAC's. The fresh installation of the operating system was done using the existing AppleCare plan.

The Symantec Endpoint Protection anti-virus software was uninstalled from the MAC workstation. It was determined that the Apple updates, include anti-virus definitions, which conflict with Symantec and was causing functionality issues. Adobe Creative Cloud software was installed on the MAC workstation and includes Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Adobe Stock,



Comp CC and Illustrator Draw. This software is a design tool used to comprise the Good Day! magazine, newsletters, images and various other Grange material by the Communications Department. This software replaced the older version of Adobe Creative Suite which has been uninstalled from the workstation.

The National Grange purchased a new HP Color Laserjet printer to replace the Okidata 9600 which needed to be repaired. The cost of purchasing a new printer was more cost effective than it was to pay labor rates, and parts to repair this 7-year old printer with multiple issues. This printer features a number of functions such as color print/copy, scan to various destinations like email or network folders, low energy consumption, print from mobile devices, print directly from USB drive with easy walk-up USB port, wireless capability and more. This printer also has fax capabilities which will be useful when and if the existing yet older fax device is no longer operable. The Okidata 9600 printer was unable to be discarded in the trash and was transported to Staples for recycling at no cost.

All office workstations receive the latest Windows Updates needed as they become available for download and installation. Symantec Endpoint Protection (version 12.1.6) runs live updates to provide Virus Spyware Protection, Proactive Threat Protection and Network Threat Protection for all workstations with the exception of the one MAC workstation.

Microsoft Office 365 subscription renewed on 8/17/2017. This subscription is for the cloud hosting service of all nationalgrange.org email accounts.

A firmware upgrade was performed for the 3 wireless routers, one located in the 1st floor conference room and the other 2 located on 11th floor of the National Grange building. This upgrade was necessary to address sporadic connection to the router itself and ultimately access to the internet. The firmware upgrade was able to resolved these issues.

The operating system currently running on the grange laptops used during the National Grange Annual Convention is no longer supported. This means security and software updates are no longer available for download to this Windows version. A possible upgrade or new laptops will be needed.

The Information Technology Department has set up VPN (Virtual Private Network) connections for those needing or wanting remote access to their office workstation when out of the office. This will become very useful during The National Grange Annual Session when access to the server is needed to retrieve files and folders. Written detail instructions have been provided and a walk-through with the staff member has also been completed.

Conference Call/Online Meetings

The National Grange continues to use ZOOM as an online meeting platform. ZOOM has become more and more popular among the states, increasing the number of meetings being held. There are a few regularly scheduled monthly meetings held via ZOOM such as Executive Committee meetings, Grange Foundation meetings, Youth meetings, Lecturer Programs, State Grange convention planning meetings and more.

FreeConferenceCall.com remains as an alternative meeting source. A number of meetings have also been held this year via this platform.

These two meeting platforms both provide the ability to record and download individual meetings while keeping cost to a minimum and providing two meeting options to alleviate scheduling conflicts. The ability to move to a more advance version of both platforms are available when and if the need presents itself. Currently, there is no need for advancement.

A monthly schedule is being maintained for both ZOOM and those who choose to meet via conference call.

A permanent ZOOM meeting was created for the Executive Committee to use when needing to join for emergency or undetermined meeting dates and times. It is suggested that when possible, to confirm the availability of ZOOM so as not to interrupt a scheduled meeting in progress.

Mailing/Shipping/Printing

Mail processing/shipping has been handled on a daily basis effective January 2017 by the Information Technology department as a result of the elimination of the Shipper position. Summer Interns, Cait Cady, Benjamin McEvoy and Kim Stefanick received training on processing mail for the Communications Department to assist in the office workflow and Good Day!™ magazine subscriptions to Grange members.

It was necessary to undergo the necessary steps to obtain a Business Reply Mail account and permit number for the Good Day! magazine so that the postcard enclosed within each issue would be mailed back to the National Grange. After setting up this BRM account we were then able to retrieve the postcards being held by the Post Office. This will resolve any problems or delays with future postcards being returned to the Grange.

The Pitney Bowes mailing machine has received the latest updates necessary to process mail and parcel packages. These updates reflect any and all rate changes associated with UPS, USPS, and FedEx. Intellilink Desktop running on the mail workstation notifies of these updates and when they are available for download and installation.

In an effort to regain more business from the National Grange, FedEx has offered additional discount codes to compete with UPS rates. These discount codes have been added to the Pitney Bowes mail machine so that a price comparison between carries can be checked before shipping packages.

A damage/loss claim was submitted to the USPS Postal Service for \$112 for the replacement of a Grange banner that was package and shipped to Diane Andrews, on 5/24/17. The claim was settled and the value and shipment fees of the package was fully refunded to the National Grange.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) announced the requirement to move away from using the File Transfer Protocol (FTP), which was so longer secure, to the Parcel Data Exchange (PDX) Protocol. The USPS is eliminating FTP as an acceptable transmission method for uploading daily Shipping Services Files (SSF), Electronic Mail Manifesting File (EMM), and downloading Bulk Proof of Delivery (BPOD), Delivery Extract (DEXTRO) and Error Warning Report (ERR) files. The National Grange took the necessary steps to prepare for this change which went into effect August 2017 and is in compliance with the Mailer ID and CRID numbers assigned to our organization.

The National Grange has been sending the majority of USPS shipments using Media Mail as the selected carrier. Media Mail is a cost-effective way with the U.S. Postal Service to send media materials such as books, videotapes, DVDs, CDs, printed music and other sound recordings weighing less than 70 pounds. With most of the items in the Grange Supply Store being songbooks, record books, etc., we have been able to use Media Mail as the selected carrier which in turn adequately offsets the current shipping and handling rates we charge our members. This allows the Grange to break even on shipping charges in most cases but not all.

The National Grange supplies various printed items for sale through the Grange Supply Store and for other departments. Certificates such as Community Citizen Awards, Pomona Award for Public Service, Silver Star Certificates, etc. are printed. Booklets such as the Pomona Manuals, Youth Handbooks, Grange Initiate, etc. are also created.

In preparation for The National Grange Annual Convention, the Information Technology Department has completed multiple tasks associated with formatting, tracking and organizing resolutions for all committees, printing tabs for all committee binders, as well as printing necessary items for convention such as name badges for all attendees, meal tickets, and more.

The National Grange would like to implement the use of digital signatures on legal documents such as trademark licenses, lease agreements, or anything that requires a signature on an electronic document. This would intentionally alleviate postage fees associated with certified mail which we have been sending recently to trademark licensees and lease agreements that require signatures from the National Secretary, Judy Sherrod. There are various free options to do digital signatures such as HelloSign, eSignatures.com, Acrobat Reader DC and more. Additional research into what platform is most efficient will be performed.

Building Security

An ongoing inventory of all front door pass cards to the National Grange headquarters is being maintained. As of 10/27/17, there is a total of 274 pass cards assigned and issued to a combination of National Grange employees, building tenants, subtenants, vendors, etc.

The front door pass card system, WinPak 2.0, is functioning yet quite outdated. Honeywell no longer supports our current front door access system and the replacement cards issued by Honeywell are no longer available. Currently, we are using a universal HID card that works with our existing front door access system. Eventually an alternative system will be needed but it is not essential at this time.

JUNIOR GRANGE

Prepared by Samantha Wilkins, Junior Grange Director

What a year it has been! Being appointed as the National Junior Grange Director in November 2016 I was not sure what the year would hold or how I could possibly have impact across the nation with the Junior Grange program.

Communication

- Over the last year I have been able to keep up-to-date information posted on social media and have maintained communication through Facebook on a State Junior Grange Directors page. It has been a good platform to utilize easy communication with State Directors, create surveys and get their opinions, and for directors to ask questions.
- I have worked to maintain a quick response rate to emails and phone calls.
- Over the next year I have a goal to contact by phone each State Director and learn more about the Junior Granges within their state and develop a plan on how I can help.

Junior 1+ Program/ Data

At this point I am still unaware of which states are participating in the 1+ program and how many 1+ members we may have. I was hoping when annual reports were sent to me in October I would have a better idea of this but that wasn't the case. I have spoken to several Leaders who are thrilled to have implemented this within their states. And states such as California and Nevada have implemented this program with strong force. I will continue to promote this program and make directors

aware of its benefit for potential growth in their state. When states are spread out and have a small amount of Juniors across the state this program creates and encourages growth and participation within the Junior program.

Leadership Training

Leadership Training is and will continue to be an important aspect in growing the Junior Grange Program. Providing good leadership training to all of our State directors and their leaders proves to be an important aspect of developing a successful program. Beginning in January I will be pushing for State Directors to join me for Zoom Conferences on a quarterly basis. If there are more needs within certain states I will be available to work with them on monthly Zoom Meetings or on an as needed basis.

I have sent out email and social media blast to inform Grangers that I am willing to come to them for training, workshops, or other Junior Grange Events. Throughout 2017 I made myself available to attend each Regions Leadership/Youth conferences and was able to provide leadership training, workshops, and/or directors informational meetings at each conference. I plan to continue attending regional conferences throughout 2018.

Travel

In 2017, I attended all 6 of the regional conferences across the nation. I also worked with individuals in charge to prepare Junior Activities and workshops. I was invited to attend several Junior Grange camps, however, their dates conflict with regional conferences. I felt it was important, especially this year, to attend Regionals over Camps. The regional conferences gave me a chance to meet with more Junior Directors and leaders and understand the issues that each state faces within their Junior Programming.

I also attended the 2017 National Grange Legislative Fly-In with 1 Junior Granger. Understanding that this is not a typical Junior activity it was important for me to attend to gain a better understanding of the Legislative side of the Grange. My goals and intentions for attending were to hopefully walk away with a program idea for Junior Grangers to be involved with Legislative activities and promote this area of the Grange within the Junior Grange. Beginning in 2018 we will have a Junior side of the Legislative Fly-in, inviting Junior Grangers to take part in a legislative experience and begin to understand the workings of the Government and how the Grange utilizes their legislative side.

Programs

The Program Guide for 2018 has been tweaked from the 2017 program which I totally reorganized.

This is a recap of changes:

- Ambassador Program
 - New rules and guidelines have been put into place.
 - Similar to that of the National Youth Ambassador Program
 - Each State is allowed to send a male and female Ambassador.
 - After a series of interviews a National Junior Ambassador will be chosen at the National Convention.
- New rules for earning the Super JG Award have been implemented.
- 18 new merit badges have been created
 - They will be placed into the Merit Badge Manual.
 - We are currently re-designing the old badges to match the new designed badges.
- Awareness Award. (NEW AWARD)
 - Each year there will be a topic selected for the Juniors to work to bring awareness to. For 2017 we will be focused on Honeybee Awareness. Awards will be given during National Session.
- Leaders 12 Month Meeting Guide (NEW)
 - A simple month by month guide with ideas for helping a leader plan.
 - Crafts, hands-on-activity, Grange implementation, Merit Badge to work on, etc.
- Good Day! Magazine (NEW)
 - Quarterly creative writing contests for Juniors.
 - Winner will have a piece published in next issue of Good Day!
- National Contest- some have stayed the same while the Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song contests have been reopened to all age Juniors

Overall the changes within the program have yielded great response. Directors are thrilled with the new badges and are excited about the contests being reopened to all ages of Junior Grangers to participate in. I am very excited about the response the Awareness Award has received. I have seen many pictures posted by Junior Grange leaders of their kids working on the award requirements. I appreciate the support and response that the National Grange has given this issue and I look forward to the continued growth and Awareness of this project.

New for 2018: I have come to really understand that across the nation many people see the Junior Grange as a fun time for arts and crafts, and when asked how Junior Grange and the Grange are alike there were few similarities. My goal has been to bring the Junior Grange back to the roots of the Grange and begin the training process for the future leaders of our organization. With implementing 4 new areas/contests.

- 2018 Legislative Fly-in: Juniors are invited to DC to learn about the Legislative side of the Grange and how as Juniors they can begin to learn how to be a voice for their communities. Following in with the 2018 theme, Stand Up and Speak out for the Junior Grange.
- 2018 Awareness Award: With the success of the 2017 theme and the excitement that was built around honeybees, we have expanded out 2018 theme to include Pollinators. The Awareness Award is used to promote the agriculture roots of the Grange and for Juniors to learn the importance agriculture has on our world.
- 2018 Handy-Craft Contest: Getting back to the family activity roots of the Grange we will introduce a cross stitch contest to get Juniors of any skill level thinking and working to create a Junior Grange inspired item.
- 2018 Junior Grange Jeopardy: promoting the history of our 150 year old organization, it is time that Junior Grangers are challenged to learn our history. By competing in a fun trivia contest states will be allowed to send their Junior Members to compete to be the Junior Grange Jeopardy Champion!

National Junior Grange Ambassador

Our National Junior Grange Ambassador, Alexandria 'Jomni' Tarbell, has been hard at work within her state promoting Junior Activities and creating workshops that promote both deaf activities and the awareness award. She attended 3 regional conferences, Great Plains, Eastern, and North Eastern, the Pennsylvania Junior Grange Camp, Fairs in Rhode Island and New York and other events throughout the year; Expenses were at her own cost for these Conferences and trips. However, I would like to be able to figure out a way for our NJGA to attend more activities across the nation that are not at her own expense. She is doing a great job within her state representing the National Junior Grange Program. With many regional conferences being open to Junior Granges now it is important for our National Ambassador to be seen and help out with those activities.

Jomni, is currently working on a couple of workshops for National Convention in Spokane, WA that will be presented to Junior Grangers in attendance.

The 2018 Junior Grange Ambassador has been chosen, Riley Reynolds of Oregon will be representing the National Junior Grange in the year 2018. He will officially be announced as the new Ambassador at National Session in Spokane Washington. However, he is already hard at work preparing for workshops at National Session in Spokane and planning on what Regional Conferences they may be able to attend.

National Conference

Some changes have been made to the overall convention schedule for Junior Grangers. It has been noticed by many that Junior Grangers arrive at convention by Wednesday, usually because a parent or sibling (in the youth program) have to be there earlier than the Friday we have typically had Juniors come in and there have not been many activities made available for these Juniors during their time at National Convention. Juniors will now have an extra day added to their itinerary. Starting Thursday afternoon, the Juniors will have opening activities and a fun costume dance. This allows Juniors a little more fun time and activities geared just for them. They will also be attending a tour to the Fire Training facilities in Spokane for the Junior Tour on Friday and on Saturday, they will have a presentation from a group of American Revolution impersonators speaking about the history of the US Flag.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Prepared by Burton Eller, Legislative Affairs Director

Overview

The Legislative Department takes a four-pronged approach to advocating for National Grange policy in Washington, DC. These three are Congress, regulatory agencies of the Federal Government, media outlets, and issue coalitions and alliances. This approach depends upon a strong, visible, and active presence in Washington in partnership with state Grange leadership and the Grange's local grassroots member network. Organizations like the National Grange which have a large grassroots base are precious commodities for both policy advocacy and information dissemination. A grassroots constituency validates an organization's authenticity and believability. The Grange policy positions advocated in Washington come from back-home folks in rural and small town America who are engaged in the community around them.

Several national organizations and government agencies speak of their connections to rural America in some form or fashion. Some speak about rural America, some speak to rural America, others supposedly speak for rural America, but the Grange is about the only organization that speaks as rural America. In today's Washington, this fact is important. Washington is keenly aware of the impact of rural and small town citizens in the last presidential and congressional election. This climate allows the Grange to raise its profile and to be heard more effectively on the issues.

The National Grange has experienced a fruitful year in 2017 in Washington and on the national stage. We engaged Congress, regulatory agencies, organizations, corporations, and the media on a wide array of National Grange policy

priorities. Our advocacy actions primarily revolved around food and agriculture, health care, telecommunications, tax reform, agriculture workforce, regulatory reform, and infrastructure.

Food and Agriculture

The major topic about agriculture in Washington so far this year has been the Administration's inability to get nominees cleared for leadership positions at USDA. But this is a government-wide problem stemming from tighter scrutiny on background checks by the FBI. Agriculture Secretary Perdue was the only confirmed appointee at USDA from April until October when the Senate confirmed Steve Censky as Deputy Secretary and Ted McKinney as Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs. Censky grew up on a Minnesota farm and was CEO of the American Soybean Association for 21 years following extensive Hill experience. McKinney had been the Indiana Agriculture Director for several years following earlier careers with Dow and Elanco. Next to arrive at USDA are Bill Northey, Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture, to be the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, and Greg Ibach, a grain and cattle producer and Nebraska's Director of Agriculture, to become Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. Dr. Sam Clovis, an Air Force veteran and college professor from Iowa, is a controversial nominee for Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics. Senate hearings are pending on his nomination.

Farm bill hearings and information gathering sessions around the country occupied Senate and House Agriculture Committee agendas this year. There seems to be general consensus in Congress and among agriculture groups to continue wrapping farm programs and food assistance programs together in one bill as has been the case for several years. Allocating funding between agriculture (20% of current funding) and food assistance (80% of current funding) will be a challenge for lawmakers. Mark-up on a farm bill is scheduled for late fall and will be major must-pass legislation for Congress in 2018.

The National Grange will follow present standing policy and any new policies passed by delegates at the National Grange convention in Spokane as the farm bill debate heats up.

Health Care

Availability of health insurance, the cost of insurance, what treatments are allowed by insurance, coverage for preexisting conditions, and the individual mandate tax penalty are top-of-mind health care issues. These questions dominate health care discussions in Washington. Congress has been unable to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act commonly known as Obamacare. As a result, health insurance markets are in a state of flux nationwide.

While Obamacare is still the law of the land, President Trump announced he would stop making scheduled payments to insurance companies that lower deductibles for low income customers. He also signed an executive order asking three federal agencies to consider possible new regulations that include short term insurance plans people can join as "association" plans that may be cheaper, less comprehensive, have higher deductibles, and charge more for preexisting conditions coverage. Neither of these actions should affect Medicaid or Medicare coverage. At this time, there are several bipartisan efforts in Congress to craft workable health plans for the future, including efforts to stabilize individual insurance markets by Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Chairman Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Minority Member Murray (D-WA).

The National Grange continues to advocate for affordable health plans, the preservation of Medicare and Medicaid, investigations of counterfeit drug importations and ways to counter the opioid prescription drug crisis.

Telecommunications

Bringing high speed broadband to Rural America has been a National Grange priority for several years. The Grange was fortunate this year to have Betsy Huber appointed to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Pai's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee. Betsy is the only member of the committee speaking as a rural citizen for rural and small town America. She is able to relay numerous examples of students driving to the library to do homework, businesses and entrepreneurs who cannot locate in rural areas because of slow internet speeds, farmers who cannot utilize the latest technology to increase their efficiency and many more examples.

The Administration assures the Grange that broadband expansion to rural areas is a high priority. Rural broadband is a high priority for several key members of Congress as well. Paying for that expansion is challenging because of the relative low number of users per square mile. However, the Administration can make the policy decision to redirect Universal Service Funds to broadband expansion. Congress can appropriate funds or redirect funds to expand rural broadband infrastructure. Several telecommunications companies are beginning to explore the use of emerging technology to break down barriers to rural expansion.

FCC Commissioner Rosenworcel understands our friends in New York, Washington, Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Chicago just cannot believe there are high school students who must go to the library regularly to do homework, college students who can't get online courses, entrepreneurs who can't locate their business small town areas, rural hospitals close but diagnostic centers are unable to open in their place, and the latest farming technology is not available; all because of the lack of high-speed rural broadband. The National Grange sent a blast email urging Grangers without broadband

access to email Commissioner Rosenworcel with their name, address and zip code so she can build a grassroots map of underserved areas. Senators are beginning to The National Grange will continue to advocate expansion of rural broadband in every way possible.

Lifeline is a government assistance program that offers phone service discounts to qualified low-income customers. As a part of the Universal Service fund, only one discount is allowed per household and for some is a vital link to health care, employment, emergency services and families. The National Grange is working with Congress to address claims of waste, fraud and abuse by some provider companies. The National Grange will continue to support Lifeline and advocate for a program that gives the customer the choice of wireless, landline or broadband services in the future.

Tax Reform

Reforming the tax code is the top priority for President Trump and Republicans in Congress. Democrats on the Hill are interested in tax reform but they differ with the Republicans on the specifics of a tax bill. The starting point for legislation is the Administration's Framework for Fixing Our broken Tax Code unveiled on September 27 (see the September National Grange Policy Updates and Issue News). The Senate will tie tax reform legislation to their FY'18 budget resolution through a budget reconciliation process which only needs 51 votes instead of 60 votes required for a stand-alone tax bill.

Members of Congress drew battle lines almost immediately. Democrats say the Framework contains tax breaks for the wealthy and will prove costly to many in the middle-class. Democrats and some Republicans are balking at full repeal of state and local tax deductions. Democrats oppose repeal of the death tax even for farmers and family-owned businesses. Republicans want to simplify and reduce individual tax brackets. The Framework will be a starting point for tax reform but certainly not the end game.

Senators are beginning to look at ways to square tax reform with the 2010 statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act (PAYGO). PAYGO states that if a new law will increase the deficit over a five-year period, the administration must enact across-the-board cuts to federal programs, although Congress can issue a PAYGO waiver for specific legislation. Can Tax reform be accomplished by Christmas? Probably not.

National Grange policy supports cash accounting for agriculture, reducing the capitals gains rate, deductions for interest on land and input costs, repealing the death tax and lowering the individual tax rate among others. The National Grange is an active member of the Family Business Coalition, a strong group of agriculture and family-owned business interests.

Agriculture Workforce

Much of Agriculture is reeling from the lack of a dependable workforce. The Agriculture Guest Worker Act of 2017 was introduced in October by the House Judiciary Committee Chairman Goodlatte (R-VA) with considerable input from Agriculture (see September National Grange Policy Updates and Issue News). His intent was to have a quick markup in committee and move the bill to the House floor in short order. Then an unlikely mix of opposition from pro-immigration rights advocates and anti-immigration conservatives sidetracked the process. Anti-immigration conservatives believe the bill is too lax in many ways including granting amnesty to illegals currently working in U.S. agriculture. Liberal groups think any change to the temporary ag worker visa program must include a pathway to citizenship. Still others raised the hollow argument that there are enough American citizen workers to fill the void. Chairman Goodlatte has revised his bill to create a new H-2C visa program for ag workers that would become effective six months after the bill is signed into law. The revised bill passed out of the Judiciary Committee October 25 on a 17-16 vote. However, on such a close committee vote, it could be a long road to the House floor for ag labor relief.

The Administration has instructed the Department of Labor, in consultation with the agriculture and food industries, to recommend substantive and workable improvements to the existing H-2A worker program that can be implemented early in 2018. The National Grange is a member of the Ag Workforce Coalition that is working with Goodlatte and the Labor Department to alleviate the ag labor crisis.

Infrastructure

Rebuilding America's infrastructure seems to be on everyone's priority list. However, this legislative priority will have to wait until next year. Health care, budget and tax reform come first. Plus as a practical matter, Congress needs to know the outcome of tax reform before funding can be proposed for infrastructure projects. The National Grange is a member of the Rebuild Rural Coalition seeking improvements in roads, bridges, waterways, rural drinking water, rural electric grids and rural broadband access. The Administration has promised that any infrastructure plan must include rural broadband. That same promise has been made by several influential members of Congress.

Regulatory Reform

As digital technology improves and government budgets shrink, everyone seems to be forcing Americans to access information electronically. Directives from the Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, Department of Labor, USDA and others are forcing the electronic delivery of essential government services. The National Grange has joined the Coalition for Paper Options as a voice for those who need or want to continue receiving paper-based information.

Media Advocacy

The past year has been a productive one in the media for the National Grange and several state Granges. Numerous National Grange articles and op-eds about Grange issues have appeared in The Washington Times, The Hill, Morning

Consult, Washington Post Express, and Politico among others. Several of our state Grange partners were published in their state and local media outlets advocating several Grange policy positions.

MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

Prepared by Sales, Benefits, Programs and Membership Recognition Director Loretta Washington

Details for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

Fees Received

Sixth Degree Fee - \$395.00

Golden Sheaf Certificate Fees - \$3,642.50

Membership Recognition

Sixth Degree Certificates: 157

40 year seals: 182

70 year seals: 103

Golden Sheaf Certificates: 360

55 year seals: 231

75 year certificates: 56

Silver Star Certificates: 135

60 year seals: 185

80 year: 18

65 year seals: 200

85 year letter: 2

Junior Granges

Phoenix Junior Grange #71, NJ, was organized 8/20/16

Organized, Reorganized Granges

Name of Grange and #	State	Date of Org. or Reorganization	Type
New Deal Grange #447	MD	8/17/2016	New
Eagle Creek Grange #433	MN	10/1/2016	Reorg
Mankato Grange #257	MN	10/1/2016	Reorg
Redwood Valley Grange #382	CA	10/25/2016	Reorg
Quartz Hill Grange #697	CA	11/12/2016	Reorg
Clinton Grange #862	CA	12/8/2016	New
Bennett Valley Grange # 16	CA	1/30/2017	Reorg
Inland Grange #863	CA	3/9/2017	New
Fort Bragg Grange #572	CA	3/29/2017	Reorg
Moses Lake Grange #1151	WA	5/31/2017	New
Balmville Grange #982	NY	6/29/2017	Reorg
Sunrise Pomona Grange #9	MA	7/14/2017	New
Tri-County Grange #215	FL	7/15/2017	New
Roxy Ann Grange #792	OR	9/26/2017	Reorg

Congratulations to the following State Granges showing net gains:

California – 3%

New Jersey – 7.36%

Colorado - .97%

Oklahoma – 3.55%

Maryland – 1.57%

Texas – 8.28%

Minnesota – 15.74%

Also 419 Subordinate Granges in 31 states showed net gains. Congratulations!

SALES, BENEFITS & PROGRAMS

Prepared by Loretta Washington, Sales, Benefits, Programs and Membership Recognition Director

National Grange Officers, Delegates and Members,

I now have a year and several months under my belt with the National Grange as your Sales, Benefits, Program and Membership Recognition Director, I must say that things are shaping up pretty good this past year. I got to attend my very first National Convention last year; during that time I got to meet a lot of the members whom I have taken orders from over the phone, it was nice to put name and faces together. During this past year I have been very busy as the expression goes "I wish there was more time in the day to get everything done on my plate." I can say that I have learned a lot about the Grange and I am looking forward to great, positive things to happen in the upcoming year. My overall goal is to keep the members happy and to generate revenue to the National Grange. This report is based on October 15, 2016 to October 15, 2017.

Grange Store

The Grange Supply Store has gone through the last transition in December 2016 with the retirement of Elijah Hunter, who was packing and shipping items out. I now do all the packing of all items that have been sold through the store and Stephanie Wilkins, Director of IT, takes care of the all the postage. Wilkins works very closely with me to make sure that we get the best postage rate possible. Since I am doing the packing I try very hard to get the items out 10 days or less from the time the items have been purchased on line or over the phone. We have put together several promotion sales like music kits, promotion kit, greeting cards and etc. that have sold very well.

Our partner, Monroe Classic has been doing an outstanding job for the National Grange. Warner stated that he had the best sales at the 2016 convention. Mike and I had strategy planning meetings over the phone to outline the 2017 sales. I have been very pleased how the various Granges have worked with the "New Grange Store @ Monroe Classic" for purchasing various items. We have a wonderful and happy working relationship with our partner, Mike Warner and his team.

Mike and I worked very closely with Charlene Shupp Espenshade, Youth Development Director, on the Youth Birthday T Shirt. It was the very first fund raising program with the "New Grange Store @ Monroe Classic." (It was similar to Booster.com program but is ours.) The program was a great success, 170 t-shirts were sold and the youth raised \$2,070. We would like to thank everyone that purchased a t-shirt.

Total Sales income from October 15, 2016 to Oct 15, 2017 was \$33,8824.16.

Sales income from the New Grange Store @ Monroe Classic was \$10,521.13.

Sales income from the Grange Supply Store was \$23,303.03.

Programs

I continue to have many programs, which we help promote and help local Granges to use for members fulfillment, community outreach and to entice new members. While the programs are interesting, few are developed by the Grange – such as the Patriot's Program – or are actual programs with longevity (for example, the Kelley Farm "Program" DVD is an educational resource that could be used as a Lecturer's program, but is not a program in the sense of having elements of outreach, service and learning). I will also continue to promote partnerships that may be of interest to members like they have been used to, such as the Dictionary Project and Dogs for the Deaf (as of November 1 of this year this program will have a new name).

Patriot's Program

This is an excellent example of a program that allows the Grange to honor those in the community who have done well for the nation, teach others about the sacrifice of soldiers in these times and potentially interest their members or others in doing more to recognize or assist veterans of all wars. The entire program continues to be possible due to the generosity of Potomac Grange #1 (DC) who funds the certificate printing and mailing as well as creation of DVDs that can be used to allow members and communities to learn more about the wars our service men and women have fought on behalf of our nation since WWII. In 2017, about 150 certificates were made for Vietnam War, Korean War and World War II Veterans.

Community Service

National Grange continues to support community service in our Granges and by our members. The National Grange awards certificates to all 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place winners at the State Grange level as well as the Granges that participate in all states. This year the National Grange recognized 90 Granges in 22 states. It has been a pleasure to work with National Community Service Director Pete Pompper to make sure the State Granges received their certificates in a timely a fashion along with their checks for community service awards. Pete has done an outstanding job this year and I look forward in working with him next year and many years to come.

Distinguished Grange

This program is now in its eighth year. A total of 34 Subordinate Granges and four State Granges qualified to receive Distinguished Grange status in 2017, for which I print certificates and order plaques. We only give out plaques for the 5th consecutive year recipients and certificates for the years thereafter. I have worked with Communications Director Amanda Leigh Brozana-Rios this year on many significant and exciting changes which included a digital form included in the 2017 program. I am presently evaluating this process as we had a few technical problems but we will give the digital process one more try.

Grange Legacy Family

I was very happy when President/Master Betsy Huber talked with me in more detail about her idea to recognize Grange Families. We want a program where anyone can nominate any family with at least five generations. Intern, Mandy Bostwick helped give leadership to this project by setting the application up on line and sharing ideas for the program. I am very excited to say that we have about 75 families that were nominated. We have received some wonderful photos from the families ranging from the first generation up to the present. We ran into a few technical problems with the online application, but we will give the digital process one more try.

Dictionary Project "Words for Thirds"

Granges continue to support this program with purchases, either dictionary or thesaurus for the local 3rd graders in local schools. According to the Dictionary Project in our decade-plus long partnership, nearly 943 Granges have given 6,916 books this past year which is an overall total of 942,702 reference books donated so far.

Dogs for the Deaf

It was good to reconnect with the Dogs for the Deaf. I spoke with Blake Matrey, President and CEO and during the conversation I invited them to 2017 National Convention as an exhibitor for the Showcase. Blake also introduced me to Harvey Pott, Development Director; we spoke and he forwarded me updated information for our website for the Dogs for the Deaf. In fact they will have a booth in the 2017 Showcase and will be giving a presentation on Friday during the community service workshop.

Food for Thought

This program has officially ended here at the National Grange as of July 1, 2017. This program, created by Sesame Street Workshop, was introduced in 2013 and listed the National Grange as a partner during that time of the program. Granges should be commended for the outstanding work with the community on this project. Outstanding Job to All who had participated in the program.

2016 Showcase

At the 150th Annual National Grange Convention, we introduced the Showcase, which was formerly the Idea Fair & Best of Show, with several new features. We had several new vendors participating with sponsored booths. We also introduced the Best of the Best – highlighting a single great program from each state in the host region. Each year the host region will be able to display creative, quality programs happening in their states and Granges to encourage and inspire others. I would like to thank Rebecca Heritage who ordered the ribbons for the showcase and a special thanks to the members of the Beach Community Grange #958 VA, my home State; they were a great asset in helping with the Grange Supply Store and Showcase.

2017 Showcase

I have been working with Chris Hamp, National Lecturer, on various parts of the Showcase ranging from the Photo Contest, Quilt Contest, Best of the States and the Quilt Show. I am looking forward to our exhibitors/vendors this year. The New Grange Store @ Monroe Classic will also be housed in the Showcase area this year. I am hoping that when people come to the Showcase they will stop by and purchase from the stores.

Grange Birth marker

Betsy and I met with National Park Services, Catherine Dewey, Chief of Resource Management and Justine P. Bello, Architectural Conservator. The park services do not want to replace the stone because of historical reasons. We talked about the possibility of a wayside sign. Catherine will talk with the appropriate people about this. I did learn that Justine P. Bello is responsible to keep the marker polished and I will work closely with her to make sure the marker is polished for the 150th Anniversary in December 2017.

I was notified by Dewey in July of 2017 with this statement "'NAMA is currently in need of a thoughtful, overall exhibit plan. Careful prioritization will help to enhance visitor experience, reduce production and maintenance costs, and help to maintain a professional appearance. This plan will include consideration and placement of waysides, as well as an approach to developing and providing digital media that is easily accessible to NAMA's visitors. In the interim, the goal is to not place any additional waysides on the landscape. The concept for a wayside at the Grange Marker, along with others, will be reviewed and considered once the plan is in place.'" Perhaps as we get closer to the event we can figure out a way to call attention to it without direct signage. I will stay in contact with the National Mall Park Services on this.

Good Day!™ Magazine

During one quarter I worked extensively on the Good Day!™ Magazine. I was extremely busy with this endeavor assisting Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios, Director of Communications. My task for this was to make sure that all subscribers are entered in the database, send invoices by computer or by mail and then to process all payment. During this time the magazine took over my life, that some of my other duties had suffered a little. Stephanie Wilkins, Director of IT worked with Blue Tahiti to help put in place a better process which freed me up to get back to work on my responsibilities. However I still have to assist in minor part of the magazine.

Legislative Fly-In

I had the opportunity to help Burton Eller, Legislative Director with Fly In this year. I assisted him in locating the portfolios and placing the order for them, as well as helping with the food set up.

Membership Recognition and Award

40 Year Seals: 116

55 Year Seals: 157

60 Year Seals: 204

70 Year Seals: 113

Silver Star Certificates: 156

Golden Sheaf Award (Diamond): 312

75 Year (Diamond) Award: 44

Congratulatory Letter: 9

Granges celebrating 100th Anniversaries

The following Granges celebrated 100 years of services and all of them received the certificate plaques.

Florida Grange #306-CO, Mt. Allison Grange #308-CO, York Grange #2109-OH, Baughman Grange #2114-OH, Unity Grange #2116-OH, Mount Lookout Grange #39-OH, Scrubgrass Grange #1705-PA, Addy Grange #603-WA, St. Urban Grange #648-WA, Broadway Grange #647-WA, Nob Hill Grange #671-WA.

Granges celebrating 125th Anniversaries

The following Granges celebrating 125 years' service and all of them received the certificate plaques: Pleasant Hill Grange #101-WA, Silver Lake Grange #105-WA and Home Grange #129-MI.

Charters

We continue to have growth in the Grange even without a Membership Director and I feel the credit needs to go to the members. I have also sent out several duplicate Charters this year. I have worked even harder to maintain all the records.

Benefits

This year I updated the membership benefit brochure with the help of intern Kim Stefanick who helped lay out the design. The brochure is now on the website where members can print it themselves or I can change the information as needed at any time.

Also I would like to thank those members who completed the survey earlier this year. Intern Cait Cady compiled all the information which will be very useful in the future for finding other types of benefits for members.

During this year we kept the benefits out in front and reminding the members of them in the Patrons Chain each month and in the winter, spring, and fall issue of the new Good Day!™ magazine.

Choice Hotel International

The program that we have with Choice Hotel International (all Choice Brand Hotels including Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Quality, Sleep Inn and Clarion) is well-used by Grange members, making it very successful. Our royalty payment for the year was \$920.03

Gallagher Affinity (formerly Affinity Marketing Group)

This partner offers a wide variety of benefits including VPI Pet Insurance, MetLife Auto & Home, Car Rental (Avis, Budget), Orlando (FL) vacations, Office Depot and Life Line Screening. Our royalty payment for the year was \$484.54.

National Affinity Services (NAS)

We continue to work with National Affinity Services, a long-standing partnership we have had that has served our members well. We have many programs with them ranging from discounts on health care, a discounted online shopping site, Shop.com, and international travel medical insurance. Our royalty payment for the year was \$650.

I am looking forward to continue to give you good customer service and care in the upcoming year. I will also encourage the members to email or call me with suggestions for programs, benefits. It is an honor and privilege to serve as Sales, Benefits, Program and Membership Recognition Director for this historic organization.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Prepared by Charlene Shupp Espenshade

Worthy Master, National Officers, Delegates and fellow Grangers:

This past year, I have enjoyed reading several past director reports to the delegates. The reports can provide a trip down memory lane as many familiar names appear documenting their journey through different youth department programs. This program continues to develop the Grange leaders of today and tomorrow. As we prepare for this year's national session, I am impressed by the hard work, dedication and leadership displayed by the youth that you will meet at this year's national session.

Hopefully, you have had the opportunity to review the 2018 youth handbook. We have added several new programs for 2018. The first is a partnership between the community service and youth departments recognizing Youth and Young Adult Grangers who have an outstanding commitment to community service. We will recognize individual state winners as well as one overall winner.

The second new program is the new Junior Mentor award recognizing Grange Youth and Young Adults who donate their time to a Junior Grange program. Grange youth and young adults can have a powerful impact on the Grange experience with our youngest

members. These youths invest into our Junior Grangers at multiple levels – at the community, Pomona and state levels. This award is designed to recognize the Grange Youth and Young Adults that go above and beyond to guide and mentor Junior Grangers.

I hope you will take the time to review these two new programs and select an outstanding youth or young adult to nominate.

NJHA – This youth organization has remained committed to its support of the National Grange and opened up its programs to our Grange youth members. These are programs that are open to Grangers between 14 and 21. To date, participation has not been what I had hoped it would be. The contests offered through NJHA provide our members with the opportunity learn more about potential careers, compete in contests and represent the Grange to another youth organization. I would like to encourage our state masters and youth directors to evaluate these programs and encourage youth to enter one contest this year.

This week, several Grange Youth have taken on the challenge of Code Reading. I would like to thank the Assembly of Demeter for judging this contest. Also, congratulations to all of the Grangers who took on the challenge. Learning the code is not an easy feat. I appreciate the time invested to prepare for this contest. A special thank you to the Massachusetts State Grange for sponsoring this contest.

In reporting on the activity of the department, I would like to thank the state youth directors who submitted achievement awards for the 2016-17 year. As of the time of this report, we have 1,101 achievement award seals. While close to where we were from the year before, I believe this falls short in documenting the work of our Grange youth as so few states submitted reports. These numbers provide an activity barometer for local and state youth departments.

The Distinguished Grange Youth Program has four winners this year, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Washington. I would like to encourage other youth departments to set the goal to join these programs next year.

The Parliamentary Procedure Contest will commence on Saturday of this year's session. We have two teams entered in the contest at the time of this report. We have an anonymous donation from a Granger to support the program this year. I would like to thank North Carolina for its many years of support to the program. Without your early support, this program would not have been possible.

The Grange Jeopardy Contest continues to grow as well. We have 14 youth representing different Grange regions ready to compete on Friday evening of session.

I want to thank all of our host states for the 2017 Regional Youth Conferences/ Leadership Conferences -- Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Florida and California. Thank you for all of your efforts for the past year. I would like to invite everyone to join youth and Grangers to attend one of our 2017 conferences in Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, Maine, and Washington. The Southeastern Regional Conference host state is yet to be decided.

As the budget and schedules allowed, members of the Youth Team of Outstanding Young Patron Mandy Bostwick and Youth Ambassadors Kennedy Gwin attended the conferences as well. We focused on encouraging youth to think big as they developed a new community service project.

Attendance estimates for each of the conferences included as follows:

Eastern: 30	Great Plains: 75
Northeastern: 90	Western: 60
Midwestern: 20	Southeastern: 50

A drill competition was hosted at Northeastern Regionals with teams from Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

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 5 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 Team in Washington, D.C. as part of the National Agriculture Day festivities in March. Team members were able to share key Grange policy points with their elected officials. The youth team, Burton and I were joined by National Master Betsy Huber at the Ag Day Breakfast.

Youth Contests and Recognition Programs

For this year's National Session, the youth recognition program participants are as follows:

The National Grange Outstanding Young Patron Mandy Bostwick, Kansas. The National Youth Ambassadors are Kennedy Gwin of Washington State and Asa Houchin of Ohio.

The Horizon Leadership Class is:

Ambassadors

North Carolina: Katie Leonard and Landon Woolard
New York: Tessa Taft
Ohio: Jacob Corl
Pennsylvania: Sara Benzio
Washington State: Jacob Gwin

Outstanding Young Patron

New York Heidi Henderson
North Carolina: Missy Mueller
Pennsylvania: Jennifer Nauss and Phil Vonada

The John Trimble Legislative Youth is Jessie Jo Guttridge of Oregon.

The 2017 National Youth Officer Team :

Master: Brittney Oliver , Washington
Overseer: Derek Snyder, Pennsylvania
Lecturer: Katie Kurburski, Michigan
Steward: Adam Terrell, New Hampshire
Assistant Steward: Andrew Kudsk, Washington
Lady Asst. Steward: Maggie Swartzendruber, Oregon
Chaplain: Olivia Yost, Ohio
Secretary: Morgan Browning, Washington
Treasurer: Marcus Avendano, North Carolina

Gakekeeper: Zac Mazag, North Carolina
Ceres: Grace Wadsworth, Pennsylvania
Flora: Melody Shufeldt, Oklahoma
Pomona: Margie Griffin, North Carolina
Executive Committee: Joey Brenneman,
Washington; Emily Kurburski, Michigan; Sophia
Ogden, Washington; Baylor Howerton, North
Carolina

Youth Leadership Fund

This year, the youth department completed several fundraisers to support the National Grange Youth Fund. The first, a t-shirt sale featuring a Grange birthday shirt, raised more than \$2,000 for the department. Thank you to all of the Grangers who supported the program with a shirt purchase. I would like to also thank Loretta Washington in the office and Mike Warner from Monroe Classics for helping to set up the fundraiser.

Pie in the Face fundraiser: This year, the youth team set forth on a very ambitious goal to raise \$10,000 for the youth department. We have reached that goal thanks to the hard work of the National Grange Youth Team. I would like to also thank Mandy Bostwick for taking this crazy idea and pushing it across the finish line. To all of the states, community Granges and individuals who donated, Thank you so much. These funds are supporting the youth at the national convention this year. With a focus change by one of our key supporters, the youth department lost its \$7,000 sponsor. Thank you to our Grangers for picking up the slack and supporting our youth.

DCI Communications has also continued its support of our Grange Jeopardy contest.

GROW Club

The GROW Club board includes Samantha Hanson, Midwest; Emily Helzel, South Eastern; Ellen Wadsworth, Eastern; Rick Ferguson, Western; Daniel Greer, Great Plains and Christopher Szkutak, Northeast. The club continues to sponsor a \$500 scholarship and this year's winners (will be decided Monday). 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.

It is my honor and privilege to work with the talented Grange youth and young adults across this country. I look forward to another year of service. This program is built on the success of all Grangers – the youth directors and committees, state leadership and supporters who believe in our youth. I would like to take this time to thank all of the Grangers who have assisted me in the past year.

Thank you to my National Grange Youth Team for helping to develop so many of the youth projects this year. I hope you enjoyed your year and thank you again for your service.

To Master Betsy, Thank you for giving me this amazing opportunity to work with our Grange Youth. I believe they have many great things in store for our Order.

To the DC office staff: Thank you for your support of the department. You all have been quick to offer a lending hand, words of encouragement and support to youth programs.

To my family. Anyone who has ever volunteered for this organization knows it's a family effort and more than the person who has the title of director. Thank you to my husband Matt and my parents Dale and Judy Shupp for holding down the home farm as I travel for the Grange. Your love and support have helped to make this Grange journey possible. To my boys, Evan and Alan, I love watching you both step into roles in the Junior Grange and look forward to your future steps in our Order.

There are so many others who have helped with projects, assisted at events and provided your talents to help me execute the work of the National Grange Youth Department. More than I have space to list, so I will simply close with a thank you to all who have supported the continued success of our Youth and Young Adults.

COMPLETE INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS & ACTIONS

AGRICULTURE			
RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
101	ID	2018 Farm Bill	Present Policy
102	OR	Active Support for Ending Neonicotinoid Use by General Public	Present Policy
103	CA	Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program	Present Policy
104	NE	Checkoff Funds & FOIA	Present Policy
105	MD	Crop Insurance Due Dates	Withdrawn
106	MD	Crop Insurance Fees	Withdrawn
107	MD	Crop Insurance for Double Crop Soybeans	Adopted
108	MD	Crop Insurance Statistics	Withdrawn
109	MI	Crop Insurance	Adopted
110	MD	Dairy Check-Off	Adopted
111	MD	Dairy Margin Protection Program	Adopted
112	NY	Dairy Pride Act	Adopted
113	OH	Dairy Products	Covered by 112
114	KS	Expanding Funding for Rural Broadband	Adopted
115	NY	Fair Milk Hauling Practices	Adverse
116	CA	Farm Bill – Crop Insurance	Adopted
117	NY	Farm Bill of 2018	Adopted as Amended
118	NY	Forest Fire Funding	Transfer to Cons.
119	MA	Glyphosate	Withdrawn
120	MA	Hot Food and Food Stamps	Transfer to Ed & Health
121	ID	Imported Food Labeling	Present Policy
122	CA	Maintain and Increase Funding for the National Organic Program	Adopted as Amended
123	NE	Maintaining Crop Insurance Support	Covered by 109
124	TX	Milk Labeling Law	Adverse
125	M	Milk Marketing Orders	Adopted
126	RI	Milk	Present Policy
127	NY	National Milk Hearing	Adopted
128	CA	National Organic Certification and Cost Share Program	Covered by 122
129	OH	New Regulations on Feed Mills	Adopted
130	CA	Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative	Adopted
131	NY	Puppy Mills	Adopted
132	VY	Restriction of Neonicotinoid Pesticides	Withdrawn
133	CA	Specialty Crop Research Initiative	Adopted
134	ID	Supporting the Alpaca and Llama Farms	Adopted as Amended
135	MT	The Harvesting of Beetle Kill Trees that Fuel Wildfires	Adopted
136	CT	Use of the Word “Milk”	Present Policy
137	CO	Waters of the U.S by E.P.A	Present Policy
138	MD	Weed Resistance	Adopted as amended
139	CA	Whole Farm Revenue Protection	Adopted
140	NY	Whole Milk in Schools	Transfer to Ed & Health

AUDIT & BUDGET			
RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
201	Committee	Covered Expenses for Officers and Delegates	Adopted
202	Committee	Travel Reimbursement Not Authorized	Adopted as Amended

CITIZENSHIP & TAXATION			
RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
301	NY	Additional Child Care For Military Families	Policy Statement
302	NY	Armed Forces Retirement Home	Adopted as Amended
303	MA	Assistance for Homeless Youth	Adopted as Amended
304	IL	Climate Research	Withdrawn
305	NE	Congressional Health Care	Adopted
306	CO	Congressional Term Limits of Senators and Representatives	Present Policy
307	NE	Congressional Term Limits	Policy Statement
308	CT	Connecticut Valley National Heritage Corridor	State Issue
309	ID	Co-Pay Medications for Honorably Discharged Veterans	Withdrawn
310	FL	Daylight Saving Time	Adopted as Amended
311	OH	Do Not Call List	Present Policy
312	NY	Establishing Individuals' Right to Have and Use Outdoor Clotheslines	State Issue
313	CO	Excise Tax on Certain Outdoor Recreation Equipment	Adverse
314	MD	Fraudulent Social Security Numbers	Adopted as Amended
315	NJ	Free Paper Statements for Elder Adults	Adverse
316	VT	Gerrymandering of Voting Districts	State Issue
317	OH	Government Benefit Fraud	Withdrawn
318	ID	Healthcare for Elected Officials	Combined with 305
319	NJ	National Data Security Standards for Retailer, Merchants and Credit Reporting Services	Adverse
320	NJ	Opposing Elimination of Tax Deduction for State And Local Taxes	Adopted
321	OH	Opposition to Foreign Aid to Fund Terrorist Acts	Policy Statement
322	PA	Postage Stamps	Withdrawn
323	OH	Preserving Memorial Monuments	Adverse
324	OH	Presidential Candidate Financial Disclosures	Adverse
325	OR	Prohibition of Gerrymandered Political Districts	State Issue
326	WV	Removal of History	Adverse
327	OH	Respect for the Flag	Policy Statement
328	OH	Selling Personal Information	Adverse
329	OH	Sequestration (A National Security Threat)	Withdrawn
330	MD	Social Security Retirement Age	Adverse
331	IL	Social Security	Present Policy
332	VT	Support National Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (E.R.A.)	Transferred to LJT
333	OH	Tax Burdens Plague Family Farmers	Adopted
334	PA	Term Limits	Present Policy
335	ME	United States Constitution	Present Policy
336	OH	Veteran Emergency Care Funding	Withdrawn
337	NE	Voter Fraud / Voter Photo IDs	Present Policy
338	WV	Voting Rights	Present Policy
339	OH	Welfare Reform	Adopted as Amended

823	CA	Use of Eminent Domain for Pipeline Transporting Fossil Fuels	Adverse
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CONSERVATION			
RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
118	NY	Forest Fire Funding	Present Policy
401	CA	Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative	Present Policy
402	CO	Opposing Sale or Transfer of Federal Public Land	Withdrawn
403	CA	Planting Trees	Present Policy
404	MD	Restoring the Chesapeake Bay	Present Policy
405	MD	Science-Based Conservation	Adopted as Amended
406	MD	WOTUS	Adopted

EDUCATION & HEALTH			
RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
120	MA	Hot Food and Food Stamps	Withdrawn
140	NY	Whole Milk In Schools	Present Policy
501	MD	Affordable Care Act	Adopted
502	CA	Affordable Hearing Aids	Adopted
503	503	Breathalyzers	Withdrawn
504	504	Caffeine Limits in Sports Drinks	Withdrawn
505	505	Chemical Contamination At Laurel Bay	Adverse
506	NY	Choices In Education 2017	Adopted As Amended
507	MD	Food Safety Modernization Act	Adopted As Amended
508	508	Free The Tampon	Withdrawn
509	RI	Health Insurance	Present Policy
510	TX	Healthcare	Present Policy
511	WA	Highschool Career Path Training	Present Policy
512	OR	High Stakes Testing	Adopted
513	WA	In-Depth Marijuana Studies for Medical Purposes	Adopted As Amended
514	VT	Labeling on Prescription Bottles	Withdrawn
515	MD	Local School Menu Planning	Present Policy
516	IL	Medicare	Present Policy
517	RI	Mental Health Needs for Children	State Issue
518	CO	Monitoring of the Over-the Counter Act of 2017	Withdrawn
519	NJ	National Opioid Problem	Withdrawn
520	MD	Nutrient Standards For School Lunch	Present Policy
521	NJ	Public Education on the Use of Narcan	Policy Statement
522	522	Student Loan Forgiveness for Farmers	Rejected
523	NJ	Support and Funding for Better Tick-Borne Disease Education in NJ and Nationwide	State Issue
524	OH	Support Fast Track Approval of Xeljanz	Withdrawn
525	MD	Youth Job Training	Present Policy
526	NH	Health Care Reform	Covered by 501-MD

GRANGE GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT			
RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
601	NJ	40 Year Membership Recognition	Rejected on the Floor
602	IA	Activities at National Session for Young Adults Needs to be Separate from the Junior Activities and the Youth Activities	Policy Statement
603	PA	Admittance to Annual National Grange Sessions	Present Policy
604	PA	Honorary Members	Withdrawn
605	CT	Image Likeness Rights of Grange Members	Rejected on the Floor
606	MA	Lifetime "Military Honorary Grange Membership"	Withdrawn
607	NJ	Master of The National Grange	Withdrawn
608	TX	National Grange \$1.00 Assessment	Rejected on the Floor
609	NJ	National Grange Certificate	Adopted
610	KS	National Junior Grange Membership Dues	Withdrawn
611	OH	Pond and Ecology	Policy Statement
612	OH	Talent Contest Time Limit	Withdrawn
613	IA	The Appropriateness of the Youth and the Young Adults Sharing Activities and Housing at National Session	Policy Statement
614	PA	Use of Vote Cards by National Grange	Withdrawn
615	NH	Electronic Device Substitution	Adopted as Amended
616	NH	Junior Grange Membership	Rejected on the Floor

GRANGE LAW			
RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
701	WA	Applying the Termination of Grange Membership in One State to a Second State	Adopted as Amended
702	CA	Custodial Accounts	Adopted
703	WA	Electronic Attendance at Pomona Meetings	Withdrawn
704	DC	E-membership Dues	Adopted as Amended
705	MN	National Grange Article Amendment Regarding Voting Processes	Adverse
706	NH	Election of Officers at National Grange	Adopted as Amended

LABOR, JUDICIARY, TRANSPORTATION & POSTAL POLICIES			
RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
81	MD	Immigration Reform	Present Policy
332	VT	Support National Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (E.R.A.)	Adverse
801	PA	Abide by Laws in Other Countries	Withdrawn
802	IL	Car Lights	Policy Statement
803	IN	Car Safety	Present Policy
804	MD	Child Immigration	Withdrawn
805	OH	Controlling Legal Costs in Class Action Suits	Present Policy
806	NY	Daytime Driving Lights	Policy Statement
807	ID	Defending Our Natural Resources	Adverse
808	MI	Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Issues	Postponed Indefinitely
809	OH	Ethanol Plants	State Issue
810	RI	E-Z Pass Use by Out-of-State Drivers	Withdrawn
811	NY	Federal Constitutional Convention	Adverse
812	IN	Foreign Law	Adverse/Resolution

813	WV	Grandparents Rights	Present Policy
814	CA	Grange Support of Passenger Rail	Present Policy
815	MD	H-2A Reform	Present Policy
816	TX	H-2A Temporary Agriculture Worker Visas	Present Policy
817	WA	Highway Rumble Strips	Adverse
819	WA	Mandatory Headlight Illumination for All Vehicles	Policy Statement
820	NY	Modify H-1b Visa Program	Present Policy
821	IN	Police Body Cameras	Adverse
822	VT	Support for Legislation to Shield Farmworkers from Deportation	Present Policy
823	CA	Use of Eminent Domain for Pipelines Transporting Fossil Fuels	Transferred to Cit.

POLICY STATEMENT

Agriculture is, as always, a foundation of America's economy, providing directly, or indirectly through value-added processing, currently approximately 5.7% of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For 150 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.

Agricultural producers have been leaders in protecting the environment. The National Grange urges Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agencies to implement Nutrient Management Plans (NMP's). Good soil health, including proper nutrient management is a priority and we encourage all farmers to develop and follow a Nutrient Management Plan to insure that no more nutrients are applied than are needed to grow the crop.

The National Grange recognizes that other additional challenges facing producers are the precipitous drop in commodity prices coupled with ever-rising cost of inputs and the yearly increases in property taxes. We will continue to work on solutions to help minimize their impact on the agriculture sector. The National Grange continues to monitor issues concerning GMO-related food production and labeling. The National Grange supports voluntary labeling of Genetically Modified products. We further request that the National Grange Legislative Director share the latest reliable research on this subject with State Granges on a continual basis. As consumers become more concerned about where and how their food is produced, the National Organic Program (NOP) has become more popular. The National Grange supports the continued growth and federal support for the NOP, in order to meet the increasing consumer demand for organic food products.

Support for Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) is a long-standing position of the National Grange and is favored by consumers. We support 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 critical 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. Although Neonicotinoids are a critical component of seed treatments, their misuse via over-the-counter products has resulted in their increasing presence in water and wetlands. Their toxic effect on bee populations has reached the point where we feel it is time to consider designating Neonics as a restricted use pesticide.

The use of drone or UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) technology is rapidly becoming an important tool for agricultural production. However, privacy concerns have arisen as drones have become more popular. The National Grange supports the implementation of developed FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) regulations governing the use of drones, and will continue to work with USDA, FAA and other agricultural organizations to address issues related to drone use as they pertain to 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. Adequate 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 more critical now than ever to help consumers understand the basic food system, where their food comes from, and what, if any genetic-alteration was integral to its development. 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. Opportunities exist to expand agricultural tourism as an additional source of income for farm families. The National Grange urges government at all levels to remove unnecessary laws and regulations that hamper its expansion.

As production agriculture becomes more dependent on computer technology, access to high speed internet has become critical to farming and marketing activities. The National Grange strongly supports expanded funding efforts necessary to develop high-speed internet access in rural areas that are currently under-served.

The National Grange recommends that the 2018 Farm Bill address several issues. Among them is the USDA Margin Protection Program (MPP), which has not been an adequate safety net for dairy farmers, and does not properly calculate the milk margin over feed price in various regions of the United States. We recommend that it be addressed in the next farm bill so as to

correct its current deficiencies. The National Grange also strongly supports retaining adequate levels of financial support for the USDA Risk Management Division and the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCI) so that coverages accurately reflect cost of production, provide adequate price protection, yet insure that premiums remain affordable. Disaster Relief programs are also a critical component of farm income safety nets and must be addressed in the 2018 farm bill. We also strongly urge that provisions are made to adequately address the needs for a reliable source of seasonal as well as year-round farm labor.

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 is the "Grange way," 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?" It is a well-known fact that a strong agriculture makes a strong country.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES. #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
107	MD	Crop Insurance for Double Crop Soybeans	Adopted
109	MI	Crop Insurance	Adopted
110	MD	Dairy Check-Off	Adopted
111	MD	Dairy Margin Protection Program	Adopted
112	NY	Dairy Pride Act	Adopted
114	KS	Expanding Funding for Rural Broadband	Adopted
116	CA	Farm Bill – Crop Insurance	Adopted
117	NY	Farm Bill of 2018	Adopted as amended
122	CA	Maintain and Increase Funding for the National Organic Program	Adopted as amended
125	MD	Milk Marketing Orders	Adopted
127	NY	National Milk Hearing	Adopted
129	OH	New Regulations on Feed Mills	Adopted
130	CA	Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative	Adopted
131	NY	Puppy Mills	Adopted
133	CA	Specialty Crop Research Initiative	Adopted
134	ID	Supporting the Alpaca and Llama Farms	Adopted as amended
135	MT	The Harvesting of Beetle Kill Trees that Fuel Wildfires	Adopted
138	MD	Weed Resistance	Adopted as amended
139	CA	Whole Farm Revenue Protection	Adopted

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

AG-107-MD - Crop Insurance for Double Crop Soybeans

WHEREAS full season soybeans are naturally higher yielding than double crop soybeans planted after small grains; and

WHEREAS there are no actuarial tables on the yield for double crop soybeans; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange supports a separate category of crop insurance be created for double-crop soybeans and that an actuarial table for double-crop soybeans be created.

AG-109-MI - Crop Insurance

WHEREAS the current administration is proposing budget cuts to Federal Crop Insurance Program; and

WHEREAS these subsidies to crop insurance make crop insurance more affordable; and

WHEREAS one year's loss of crop can financially destroy a farming operation; and

WHEREAS hurricanes Harvey and Irma have destroyed major portions of Texas and Florida agriculture; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange oppose budget cuts to the Risk Management Agency and the Federal Crop Insurance Program below fiscal 2016-2017 levels.

Covers Resolution AG-123 – NE

AG-110-MD - Dairy Check-Off

WHEREAS the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture is required by law to send a report to Congress on the use of funds in the various agricultural commodity check-off programs; and

WHEREAS the USDA has not sent a report on the dairy check-off program for the last 5 years; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange urges the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to file the required reports to Congress on the dairy check-off program in a timely manner.

AG-111-MD - Dairy Margin Protection Program

WHEREAS the Margin Protection Program (MPP) enacted in the last Farm Bill is total inadequate as a safety net for dairy producers. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) model for the program was inaccurate because it underestimated true feed costs; and

WHEREAS despite prolonged periods of low prices paid to dairy farmers over \$200 million was collected in premiums while only \$12 million has been paid out to dairy farmers; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange urges that the Margin Protection Program be made more effective by allowing it to be complementary to the LGM-Dairy (Livestock Gross Margin) program, return to the original feed/cost formula that more accurately calculated the margin than the CBO (Congressional Budget Office) model, does take into account local instead of national prices paid, and makes the program more effective by increasing incentives and subsidies.

AG-112-NY - Dairy Pride Act

WHEREAS the marketing and sale of non-dairy products with the labeling indicating a dairy product, such as almond "milk," "coconut yogurt," and "cashew cheese" to name but a few; and

WHEREAS this practice not only hurts the dairy industry and also confuses consumers; and

WHEREAS supporters in Congress have recently introduced the DAIRY PRIDE (Defending Against Imitations and Replacements of Yogurt, milk and cheese to Promote Regular Intake of Dairy Everyday) Act, which aims to enforce the labeling requirements of dairy products; and

WHEREAS our neighbors in Canada and United Kingdom are much more forceful in policing how dairy alternative companies label their products, as an example to label "almond beverage" instead of "almond milk;" therefore be it

RESOLVED that National Grange support the DAIRY PRIDE Act or similar legislation and request that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) require impersonators of dairy products to remove the terms "milk", "yogurt", and "cheese" from nutritionally inferior plant or artificial substitutes and "milk", "yogurt", and "cheese" only be used for those foods that come from a mammalian animal source.

AG-114-KS - Expanding Funding for Rural Broadband

WHEREAS there are some broadband providers that cover areas of 5,000 square miles or more; and

WHEREAS their statistics of one company states that 81% of their customers live in 15 square miles and the remaining 19% live in the other 4985 square miles; and

WHEREAS that if they don't provide them with service there is no one else to do so; and

WHEREAS broadband increases economic development that produces jobs in agriculture, energy and other industries as well as healthcare; and

WHEREAS data transfer in today's farming practices such as, yield data, fertilizer application rates, pesticide application, and irrigation needs; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange supports expanding funding in the 2018 Farm Bill for development of broadband infrastructure in rural areas.

AG-116-CA - Farm Bill – 2018 Program Support

WHEREAS The National Grange was founded as the Patrons of Husbandry; and

WHEREAS The California State Grange serves and protects the interests of farming Brothers and Sisters; and

WHEREAS The US Congress is preparing to pass legislation known as the 2018 Farm Bill; and

WHEREAS over the past 5 years California farmers and ranchers have experienced devastating drought conditions, the impact of which was tempered by Farm Service Agency programs such as the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, and the Conservation Reserve Program-Grasslands; therefore be it

RESOLVED that The National Grange will actively lobby Congress to support the continuation of current levels of funding for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, and the Conservation Reserve Program-Grasslands in the 2018 Farm Bill.

AG-117-NY - Farm Bill of 2018

WHEREAS the Farm Bill has traditionally supported prices only in a certain number of popular crops and commodities; and

WHEREAS the Farm Bill is moving away from direct support programs to a more generic insurance based program to cover losses for farmers of all crops and commodities; and

WHEREAS current price insurance programs are not adequately serving all agriculture sectors, crops, commodities, and/or production methods, geographical concerns, target markets, etc.; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange supports passage of a Farm Bill in 2018, which provides price insurance protection for farmers that takes into account the diversity in crops, commodities, production methods, target markets, and regional situations present across the spectrum of the agricultural industry.

AG-122-CA - Maintain and Increase Funding for the National Organic Program

WHEREAS organic certification has created a niche for family farmers to make their living in an increasingly competitive marketplace; and

WHEREAS the success of organic depends on consumer trust in the organic seal which is achieved through strong national organic standards and rigorous enforcement; and

WHEREAS The National Organic Program (housed in the US Department of Agriculture) supports the governance structure that regulates the word organic and provides national oversight of certification bodies that certify organic; and

WHEREAS The National Organic Program is a low-cost program with a significant return—the organic sector returns \$200 for every \$1 spent; therefore be it

RESOLVED The National Grange will actively lobby Congress to maintain and increase funding for the National Organic Program through the 2018 Farm Bill.

Covers Resolution AG-128 – CA

AG-125-MD - Milk Marketing Orders

WHEREAS the Federal Order program for pricing milk and purchasing excess products causes some less popular products to be produced solely to be sold to the government and discourages the production of newer products that are in demand but don't fit the government program; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange urge the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) to adopt the current (2017) higher California Standards for protein and solids-not-fat in fluid milk to help standardize and improve milk quality.

AG-127-NY - National Milk Hearing

WHEREAS dairy farming is a widespread, important, and historic industry in New York State's economy; and

WHEREAS prices for milk per hundredweight have been too low in recent years, with the prices for Class 1 milk below production cost, and prices for lower classes being even more deficient; and

WHEREAS the present marketing order system is very complex, and few understand how it works; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) hold a national milk hearing, which would investigate pricing policies that would be in the best interest of all dairy farmers.

AG-129-OH - New Regulations on Feed Mills

WHEREAS the people that wrote these rules are thinking of their pets and not farm animals, and this sways their actions in writing these burdensome rules; therefore be it

RESOLVED that National Grange support actions to rewrite Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) regulations to stop the VFD regulations from growing to include on-farm animal feed or forage products.

AG-130-CA - Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative

WHEREAS The Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) is crucial to organic farmers and ranchers who rely on biologically-based inputs and management practices that require stable funding for long term studies; and

WHEREAS the funding increase would provide baseline funding for organic research programs, bringing much needed stability over the next 10 years to research for domestic organic crop and livestock production; and

WHEREAS more OREI funds for researchers at California land grant institutions will not only help California's organic producers, but the study of organic management practices will also contribute to CDFA's work to improve soil health on farms and ranches; therefore be it

RESOLVED that The National Grange will actively lobby Congress to support an increase in funding for the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative through the 2018 Farm Bill.

AG-131-NY - Puppy Mills

WHEREAS there are thousands of puppy mills operating in the U.S. and

WHEREAS many of these puppy mills operate with little or no licensing or oversight; and

WHEREAS current puppy mill regulations are not always followed by puppy mills or enforced by puppy mill inspectors; and

WHEREAS puppy mills are allowed to transport and sell their animals across state lines; and

WHEREAS puppies raised in puppy mills are more likely to be malnourished and/or ill-treated; and

WHEREAS it is one of the objects of our order to protect dumb animals from abuse; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange supports enforcement of current puppy mill laws and regulations.

AG-133-CA - Specialty Crop Research Initiative

WHEREAS The Specialty Crop Research Initiative is valuable to California organic producers because the majority of organic crops grown in California are specialty crops (vegetables, fruits, and nuts); and

WHEREAS programs such as the Specialty Crops Block Grant Program fund important projects related to food safety, research, marketing and other specialty crop needs; and

WHEREAS it is important that the funds are available to address each state's unique market and research needs and to ensure reporting requirements are not overly burdensome for grant recipients; therefore be it

RESOLVED that The National Grange will actively lobby Congress to maintain and increase funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) through the 2018 Farm Bill.

AG-134-ID - Supporting the Alpaca and Llama Farms

WHEREAS The Idaho State Grange supports the Farming industry, in all forms; and

WHEREAS County, State and National agencies need to protect and embrace the Alpaca Farms as they did the Sheep and Wool industry 30 years ago; and

WHEREAS Federal elected officials from the U.S. Senate are attempting to put the Alpaca Industry into a category as a cottage industry as "Hobby Farms," rather than treating them as Agra business producing Fiber (similar to the wool industry); and

WHEREAS the Alpaca Farm is a growing industry with more than 176,000 Registered Alpacas in the United States and 6,895 in the State of Idaho; therefore be it.

RESOLVED that the National Grange supports the domestic Alpaca and Llama Farming industry, by lobbying the USDA to afford them the same business opportunities as other USDA recognized agricultural livestock enterprises.

AG-135 - MT - The Harvesting of Beetle Kill Trees that Fuel Wildfires

WHEREAS there are three conditions that needs to be present in order for wildfires to burn: fuel, oxygen and heat source; and,

WHEREAS fuel is any flammable material surrounding a fire such as live or dead trees, grasses, brush and dead debris; and,

WHEREAS the beetle kill trees in the Western United States has caused devastation to our forests and created the combustible material that fuels wildfires; and,

WHEREAS these wildfires burn millions of acres of our western forest and cost individuals thousands of dollars' worth of personal property as well as gravely endangering the lives of hundreds of people; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange urges the US Forest Service and its Interagency partners,-along with the appropriate Departments of State Lands to expedite the harvest and removal of beetle-kill trees from all public lands, and be it further

RESOLVED a copy of this resolution will be sent to the US Forest Service and our Congressional delegations.

AG-138 - MD - Weed Resistance

WHEREAS the development of Round Up Ready corn and soybeans has been beneficial to farmers; and

WHEREAS the possibility of weeds developing resistance to Round Up has always been a likely occurrence; and

WHEREAS Round Up resistant mare's tail found in Maryland soybean fields is just one example; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange urges researchers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture,- Agricultural Research Stations, and Extension to devise comprehensive strategies to minimize or prevent weed herbicide resistance issues and devise workable, effective, and profitable strategies to implement them on farms, and educate farmers on the use of these strategies.

AG-139-CA - Whole Farm Revenue Protection

WHEREAS whole Farm Revenue Protection is one of the few crop insurance options available for small, diversified farms; and

WHEREAS the risk management options for California producers have improved with the increase of organic price elections and the availability of Whole Farm Revenue Protection; and

WHEREAS organic producers continue to need additional organic price elections to ensure coverage for the full value of their crops; and

WHEREAS insurance agents have been unwilling to work with producers to use this program because it is overly complicated; therefore be it

RESOLVED that The National Grange will actively lobby the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Risk Management Agency to adequately train insurance agents about the Whole Farm Revenue Protection program, and work to streamline the paperwork associated with the program for producers, and possible opportunities for additional organic price elections.

PRESENT POLICY

Agricultural 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 (Agency for International Development) 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.

Agricultural 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. National Grange supports continued restrictions on imports of animals, meat, meat products and bone meal into the United States from any country having Mad Cow Disease until sound scientific data proves it is safe.
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 Trade Policy

1. 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. The National Grange opposes non-transparent, non-amendable fast-track pacts, which are not open to debate by our legislative bodies.
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 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."
8. The National Grange insist that trade pacts require all imported products from signatory countries, not just agricultural products, meet the same strict standards as domestically-produced goods for environmental protection, residue, labeling and worker safety. These standards must be strictly enforced.
9. The National Grange believes trade pacts should not cede judicial power to foreign tribunals, such as the World Trade Organization, not bound by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

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 cooperatives 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 issues related to the electronic 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.
5. The National Grange opposes any effort to exempt commodity check off funds from being subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to continue transparency.

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.

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, including comprehensive strategies to minimize weed resistance issues. 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 opposes the federal Environmental Protection Agency's proposed increased requirements for recertification of private and commercial pesticide applicators licenses.
6. 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.
7. The National Grange supports legislation that provides increased and continuous funding for the Inter-regional Research Project Number Four (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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. The National Grange opposes the EPA classifying plants as a pesticide based upon genetic engineering.
11. All fertilizer manufacturers using toxic, heavy metal, chemical or radioactive wastes should be required to list those components on the package label.
12. 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.
13. 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.

14. The National Grange supports legislation allowing farmers, ranchers and others to protect their property from predators, including endangered species.
15. 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.
16. The National Grange urges the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to continue to allow the use of atrazine after its registration review.

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 (subject to state FSA Committee rules) 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. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) appropriations should be maintained at a level that will significantly help meet the conservation needs of America's farmland. EQIP to complete needed conservation practices and CSP to maintain those practices. 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. EQIP and CSP 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.
4. The National Grange urges each State Grange work with their respective Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agencies implement Nutrient Management Plans (NMP's).

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 (Commodity Credit Corporation) stocks, and the percentage of Class I use.
2. 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 in all federal milk marketing orders.
3. We support the continued payment of Class I differentials and oppose any effort to form a national pool of Class I milk differentials.
4. The National Grange opposes any change in the classification of reconstituted milk and the depooling of Class III milk.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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) charging Class I processors an assessment to fund the cost of cooperatives that balance the pool of milk in their areas, (3) keeping multiple component pricing, (4) declassifying Class I prices from other classes, (5) makes major improvements to the dairy producer income insurance program that is complimentary to the Livestock Gross Margin Program, returns to the original feed cost formula and takes into account local prices paid, (6) Create 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; (7) provides that any Growth Management Program must contain a minimum time period of 5 years before a total buy-out of a dairy operation can be restarted or if a partial buy-out of a herd, before an increase in production from the operation will be allowed.
8. The National Grange supports the implementation of a forward contracting pilot 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.

9. The National Grange continues to seek an increase in exports of milk and milk products. We support funding of the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) to the full limit permitted by WTO agreements. We urge milk cooperatives and other associations to become actively involved in the development of export markets for dairy products. We support additional funding for USDA to provide technical assistance to private sector dairy export trading entities.
10. The National Grange opposes the importation of caseinates and urges the adoption of tariff rate quotes on Milk Protein Concentrates entering the country. 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.
11. The National Grange continues to support the National Dairy Product Promotion Program as a means to promote and increase the consumption of dairy products. We urge the USDA to periodically account to the public for any monies that have been collected from dairy farmers under any assessment programs, including required reports to Congress.
12. The Extension Service, nutrition educators, farm organizations, processors, and vendors should promote the nutritional value of "Real" dairy products and should promote use of the "Real Seal" merchandising program. Only those foods from mammalian sources should be allowed to use the term "milk."
13. The National Grange continues to support government purchases of dairy for domestic programs.
14. The National Grange opposes the Food and Drug Administration's proposal to allow products with the "nutritional equivalency" of a food to be labeled "substitute." We suggest that any "imitation" or "substitute" product which resembles a dairy product, whether or not nutritionally equivalent, yet includes substitute dairy ingredients, may not in any manner be allowed to bear the name of the dairy product which it is purported to resemble. This also includes imported "imitation" or "substitute" products. The National Grange supports Federal Government oversight to enforce strict labeling regulations concerning organic milk, ensuring that all milk labeled organic comes from certified organic farms only.
15. The National Grange opposes legislation that requires the labeling of milk/milk products as it relates to rBST.
16. The National Grange supports legislation that would extend the present pay and trust provision of the Packers and Stockyards Act to the dairy industry. We further support a national security fund, funded by processors or secured by bonding, to protect against processor bankruptcy if the fund does not preempt a stronger state program.
17. We recognize the need for dairy farm and dairy plant inspections to help insure the highest quality of dairy products but insist that duplication of inspections by the several government entities (city, county, state and federal) be discontinued, where possible. The several levels of government should agree to accept uniform and reciprocal dairy farm and dairy plant inspections.
18. The National Grange encourages the continued performance of dairy genetic evaluations for the dairy industry.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. The National Grange supports legislation that would expand the definition of qualifying livestock eligible for the 50% bonus depreciation to include all dairy cows purchased by a dairy farm operator for business use.
24. The National Grange urges the reform of Federal Milk Marketing Order regulations so that excess milk can more easily be donated to food banks while still protecting milk processors from unfair pricing practices and protecting the price being paid to farmers for their milk.
25. The National Grange encourages fundraisers to purchase excess milk to donate to food banks.
26. The National Grange urges FDA to adopt the 2017 higher California Standards for protein and solids-not-fat fluid milk to help standardize and improve milk quality.

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 including double-crop soybeans. 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% 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% to 42% 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 and urges the Risk Management Agency to adequately train insurance agents about the Whole Farm Revenue Protection Program.
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. The National Grange supports the continuation of the current funding levels for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and the Conservation Reserve Grasslands Program in the 2018 Farm Bill.

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. This includes recognizing Alpaca and Llama farming as a livestock business enterprise.
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 request federal, state and county governments streamline the process to transfer farms and other small businesses from one family member to another so that the cost of compliance and tax consequences do not prevent the transfer from occurring.
5. 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.
6. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture to maintain the *Farm Service Agency (FSA)* as an agency in order to enhance its critical roles in supporting farmer - owned cooperatives and the rural communities they serve.
7. 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.
8. 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.

9. The National Grange supports efforts to enhance new economic opportunities for urban agriculture by supporting programs that provide mentorship and education.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. The National Grange encourages federal, state and local governments to protect agriculture against bio-terrorism.
15. The National Grange supports 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.
16. The National Grange strongly supports the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) and similar legislation.
17. The National Grange supports price insurance protection for farmers that takes into account the diversity of crops, commodities, production methods, target markets and regional differences.

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.

4. The National Grange supports public awareness initiatives for rural road safety involving the presence of agricultural equipment, to improve signage, education awareness and promotional efforts.

Farmer Credit Programs and the Farm Credit System

1. The primary function of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan officers should be a lender of first opportunity for farmers/ranchers and veterans seeking funds for agricultural purchases. 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. Loan programs should provide needed short and long-term low interest credit for soil and water conservation. 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 Services 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, Services, and we specifically recommend that the Farm Credit Services 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 Services 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.

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 or under-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 the Farm Storage Facility Loans Program (FSFL) 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 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 USDA's farm programs in order to

eliminate any abuse of farm program regulations. The Grange supports funding and staffing of local USDA programs and offices 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.

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 Service Agency at levels that are consistent with congressional mandates. In meeting these mandates, we will support co-locations 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 actively 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.
8. The National Grange supports expanding funding in the 2018 farm bill to develop Broadband infrastructure in rural areas.
9. The national Grange urges Congress to maintain funding for the National Organic Program and the Specialty Crops Block Grant Program through the 2018 Farm Bill.

Food and Meat Inspection Programs

1. The National Grange urges an increase in inspection 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.
10. The National Grange supports a rewrite of the Veterinary Feed Directive regulations to exclude on-farm animal feed or storage products.

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. While a particular cause for this syndrome has not been identified, research strongly suggests that colony collapse may be caused by a combination of many factors, one of which is the prophylactic use of neonicotinoid pesticides in agriculture production. Therefore the National Grange supports the designation of neonicotinoids as restricted use pesticides.
7. The National Grange supports continued efforts to improve honey bee health.
8. The National Grange encourages agricultural universities to develop pesticides that are not harmful to bees and other beneficial insects.
9. 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.

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 disease in cattle. We further support the development of a test that can isolate the causal organism of Johnes 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.
7. The National Grange supports enforcement of puppy mill laws and regulations.

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 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 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.
16. 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.

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% 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.

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 the concept of a Cover Crop Program that is voluntary and incentive-based for all farm programs that involve government funding.
4. Surplus food purchased by the Government should in no way be sold at reduced prices to be in competition with ongoing farm prices. Instead, we encourage surplus foods to be given to charitable organizations. The National Grange encourages increased USDA purchases of surplus agriculture products to be given away through various food assistance programs.

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 (BMP) 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 organic farming research and education.
7. The National Grange urges continued research on the benefits and risks of using biosolids as agricultural fertilizer.

Tobacco Policy

1. The National Grange recommends that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture use simple regulations in requiring cigarette manufacturers to report only the total use of domestically-grown and imported tobacco by class or kind of tobacco, thus leaving manufacturers the flexibility to adjust blends for their various brands of cigarettes to meet their customer demand.
2. 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.
3. The National Grange supports negotiations, regulations, or legislation to control the importation of low grade, inferior quality tobacco.
4. The National Grange supports steps to make U.S. tobacco more competitive in the world market. We urge that all tobacco that is exported as U.S. tobacco must be certified as 100% U.S. tobacco.
5. 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.
6. The National Grange opposes any proposals to ban the use of menthol in cigarettes.

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 urges the USDA to review and recommend changes to current EBT (electronic benefit transfer) eligibility guidelines in order to avoid unintended consequences to the beneficiary.
6. 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.

Miscellaneous

1. The National Grange supports the agricultural weather forecasting service.
2. The National Grange continues to support the development of aquaculture. We urge aqua cultural 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 supports the production of industrial hemp when production is done within the guidelines of applicable state and federal laws.
5. 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.
6. The National Grange opposes EPA regulations that concern unsubstantiated dust blowing attributed to agricultural operation.
7. 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.
8. The National Grange urges the United States Congress to direct the USDA Food and Nutrition Service to amend their rules to allow consumption of grapes, whole milk and white potato agricultural products by students in school meal programs and to insert that language into the 2018 Farm Bill.
9. The Grange at all levels support initiatives to encourage the use of farm structures as a base for communication antennas.
10. 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.
11. The Grange supports legislation that offers a form of reimbursement of student loans for large animal veterinarians committing to work in private practice.
12. The National Grange supports the market availability of GPS (Global Positioning System) tracking devices to monitor the locations of agricultural/farm equipment.
13. 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% and allow the labeling as hard cider rather than as wine.
14. The National Grange supports legislative efforts that would allow individuals involved in agriculture as well as independent mechanics to have access to diagnostic software, information and other necessary technological tools used to repair modern farm equipment.
15. The National Grange opposes the expansion of areas considered navigable waters under the Clean Water Act.
16. The National Grange urges all appropriate agencies of federal, state and local governments to expedite the harvest and removal of beetle-kill trees from all public lands.
17. 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.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Agriculture Committee for their hard work and many long hours before and during the Convention. Thanks to National Grange, Betsy and Burton for allowing us to ZOOM prior to this meeting. We were able to use that time to agree on the points of the National Grange Agriculture Policy that needed to be updated or researched prior to arrival at the session. Thank You.

Kevin Cooksley, NE Chr.
 Melanie Bostwick, KS Sec.
 Allen Stiles, MD
 Cynthia Komski, CA
 Lynette Schaeffer, IL

Bill Johnson, MT
 Wayne Campbell, PA
 John Plank, IN
 Joe Fryman, NE
 Jessie Jo Guttridge, Trimble Youth Rep.

POLICY STATEMENT

The members of the Audit and Budget Committee thank the National Master, Executive Committee and the National Grange staff for presenting us with a budget that allows us to continue with the programs and projects of the National Grange during a difficult time for our organization.

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 encourage membership growth. Every member should make a sincere serious effort to attract new members while working to retain our existing members.

Generations of our members have enjoyed our National Grange headquarters and it is a major asset to the Order. The income generated by the rentals is a significant portion of our annual operating funds. We must maintain this financial asset for future generations. We encourage members and Granges to consider making donations to the National Grange Building Reserve Fund and/or the Building Maintenance Fund.

The Communications Department has expanded communications to the State Granges, Community Granges and our membership. Some of these programs include The Patrons Chain, Grange Radio and our new quarterly subscription based 'Good Day!' publication. Communication between the National Grange and our membership is vital and the outstanding 'Good Day!' publication is an essential part of that effort, but to continue it must receive support by increased subscriptions.

Interns at the National Grange are a vital resource to the staff at the National Grange office. They play a supportive role to the staff. We are encouraging State and local Granges to assist by generously contributing to the Intern Program. All money contributed to the Intern Program will be earmarked for this purpose.

Please remember that donations to the Grange Foundation may be tax deductible as the Foundation has 501(c)(3) tax status. We encourage members and those supportive of our mission 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 as they are not only a benefit to the membership but many of these programs provide an ongoing revenue stream to the National Grange. Few organizations give such value for the small monetary contribution from its membership.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES. #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
201	A&B Committee	Covered Expenses for Officers and Delegates	Adopted
202	A&B Committee	Travel Reimbursement Not Authorized	Adopted as Amended

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

AB-201 – 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 2018 National Grange Convention.

AB-202 – Travel Reimbursement Not Authorized

RESOLVED that the National Grange will not pay travel expenses, mileage or other public transportation costs to begin with the 2018 National Grange convention incurred by National Grange officers, delegates and approved non-delegates.

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

We would also like to thank Stewart Hughes for his assistance and expertise. We commend him for his time and effort in making sure the finances of the National Grange are presented in a clear and concise manner.

Duane Hamp, WA, Chair
Mark Noah, OR, Secretary
Dwight Baldwin, IA
Marilyn Johnson, MT

David Bryant, WA
Phil Prelli, CT
Chip Narvel, DE

Income		2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed Budget	2017 Q3	% of Budget	2018 Proposed Budget
Dues and Fees Income								
Subordinate dues		\$ 771,709.00	\$ 768,438.00	\$ 767,166.50	\$ 766,000.00	\$ 534,940.00	70%	\$ 740,000.00
E-membership		\$ 501.01	\$ 200.00	\$ 819.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 252.00	126%	\$ 250.00
Subordinate & Pomona charter fees		\$ 150.00	\$ 425.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 425.00	\$ 50.00	12%	\$ 400.00
Junior Grange charter fees		\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 10.00	20%	\$ 50.00
6th degree fees		\$ 325.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 600.00		0%	\$ 500.00
7th degree fees		\$ 120.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 120.00	4%	\$ 6,000.00
Dues and Fees Subtotal:		\$ 772,855.01	\$ 772,613.00	\$ 769,755.50	\$ 770,275.00	\$ 535,372.00	70%	\$ 747,200.00
Other Income								
Building Income		\$ 1,117,764.17	\$ 1,103,708.74	\$ 1,156,266.51	\$ 1,213,251.17	\$ 868,022.67	72%	\$ 1,265,425.00
Sales Income		\$ 49,765.02	\$ 43,500.00	\$ 54,696.60	\$ 25,500.00	\$ 25,695.21	101%	\$ 42,500.00
Supportive Memberships		\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 62,500.00	\$ 46,875.00	75%	\$ 62,500.00
Legislative Sponsorships (Grants)		\$ 89,388.70	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 44,500.00	\$ 50,225.00	113%	\$ 50,000.00
Fundraising and donations		\$ 10,737.45	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	0%	\$ 5,000.00
License Agreement		\$ 16,510.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 22,960.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 21,185.00	141%	\$ 20,000.00
Communications Income		\$ 1,056.75	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 39,025.01	\$ 363,750.00	\$ 100,044.00	28%	\$ 41,250.00
Electronic Media Income			\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	0%	\$ -
Advertising			\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	0%	\$ -
Foundation Management Fee			\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	0%	\$ 100.00
Bonding Commission		\$ 9,543.20	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,580.20	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	0%	\$ 6,000.00
Interest, dividends		\$ (1,804.09)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 25,653.05	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 22,152.15	222%	
Reimbursement from Subsidiaries			\$ 25,000.00	\$ 17,073.70	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	0%	
Miscellaneous		\$ 12,851.47	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 145,466.82	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 93,707.78	4685%	\$ -
National Convention		\$ 27,108.84	\$ 59,500.00	\$ 116,973.38	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 35,867.84	51%	\$ 66,000.00
Loan			\$ 150,000.00		\$ -			
Other Subtotal:		\$ 1,407,921.51	\$ 1,558,008.74	\$ 1,698,195.27	\$ 1,833,801.17	\$ 1,263,774.65	69%	\$ 1,558,775.00
Total Income:		\$ 2,180,776.52	\$ 2,330,621.74	\$ 2,467,950.77	\$ 2,604,076.17	\$ 1,799,146.65	69%	\$ 2,305,975.00
Cash Forward:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Total Income and Cash Forward:		\$ 2,180,776.52	\$ 2,330,621.74	\$ 2,467,950.77	\$ 2,604,076.17	\$ 1,799,146.65	69%	\$ 2,305,975.00
NOTE								
2016								
Miscellaneous Revenue- The National Grange was awarded \$145,466.82 from the California Guild. The payment was received on 3/31/17 and the check was endorsed and given to Jim Bikoff as partial payment of outstanding balance.								
2017								
Miscellaneous Revenue- The National Grange was awarded an additional \$93,707.78 from the California Guild. The payment was received on 6/22/17 and the checks were endorsed and given to Jim Bikoff as partial payment of outstanding balance.								
Interest, Dividends & Capital Gains- Includes the Gain on Sale of Investments & Other Portfolio Income from Investments at Merrill Lynch								
Budget:								
Reimbursement from Subsidiaries-Moved to revenue Legislative Budget								
Interest, dividends-								

Expense	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed Budget	2017 Q3	% of Budget	2018 Proposed Budget
Personnel							
Board of Directors	\$ 3,300.28	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 1,226.39	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 2,058.17	32%	\$ 6,500.00
National Master Expense	\$ 28,110.26	\$ 26,779.40	\$ 19,514.20	\$ 25,500.00	\$ 5,375.92	21%	\$ 23,150.00
National Master Salary	\$ 62,615.27	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 55,211.42	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 39,980.68	73%	\$ 55,000.00
National Lecturer	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	0%	\$ 500.00
National Secretary	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 541.30	\$ 500.00	\$ -	0%	\$ 500.00
Staff Salaries, taxes, benefits	\$ 562,380.32	\$ 621,899.40	\$ 578,983.41	\$ 563,682.95	\$ 409,014.67	73%	\$ 559,861.81
High Priest	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,850.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 985.82	30%	\$ 1,800.00
Subtotal:	\$ 657,906.13	\$ 714,028.80	\$ 656,476.72	\$ 654,982.95	\$ 457,415.26	70%	\$ 647,311.81
Departments							
Building expense	\$ 519,799.37	\$ 483,500.00	\$ 473,007.47	\$ 501,000.00	\$ 489,480.08	98%	\$ 516,000.00
Marketing & Sales	\$ 7,632.95	\$ 35,250.00	\$ 16,467.25	\$ 37,750.00	\$ 7,534.69	20%	\$ 26,750.00
General Administration	\$ 1,179,945.54	\$ 498,500.00	\$ 1,265,805.97	\$ 664,400.00	\$ 1,044,758.33	157%	\$ 605,700.00
Interest payment-Oregon State Grange	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,430.90	50%	
Loan Principal Repayment-Oregon State Grange	\$ -	\$ 18,428.00	\$ -	\$ 18,428.00	\$ 9,282.66	50%	\$ 33,027.12
Eagle Bank Loan-Principal & Interest		\$ 125,000.00	\$ 116,241.95	\$ 126,810.00	\$ 63,404.70	50%	\$ 126,809.40
Loan-Grange Advocacy							\$ 18,775.44
Loan-Grange Foundation							\$ 21,243.96
Loan-Red Lion							\$ 3,200.00
Communications/Publications	\$ 10,915.31	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 23,207.13	\$ 136,950.00	\$ 80,526.59	59%	\$ 58,750.00
IT Systems	\$ 48,110.20	\$ 40,800.00	\$ 56,439.49	\$ 45,400.00	\$ 28,099.84	62%	\$ 46,200.00
Junior Grange	\$ 12,075.88	\$ 17,380.00	\$ 13,231.10	\$ 16,580.00	\$ 9,348.68	56%	\$ 19,130.00
Legislative	\$ 24,694.19	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 22,410.39	\$ 32,600.00	\$ 14,129.56	43%	\$ 30,000.00
Membership/Leadership	\$ 15,298.24	\$ 33,200.00	\$ 11,427.77	\$ 19,150.00	\$ 700.00	4%	\$ 1,000.00
Youth Development	\$ 15,240.53	\$ 19,630.00	\$ 19,403.05	\$ 19,630.00	\$ 16,065.77	82%	\$ 19,130.00
Subtotal:	\$ 1,848,712.21	\$ 1,400,188.00	\$ 2,032,641.57	\$ 1,633,698.00	\$ 1,770,761.80	108%	\$ 1,525,715.92
Events, Services, Training							
National Convention	\$ 155,296.26	\$ 209,500.00	\$ 127,715.91	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 4,140.16	2%	\$ 129,000.00
Subtotal:	\$ 155,296.26	\$ 209,500.00	\$ 127,715.91	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 4,140.16	0%	\$ 129,000.00
Other Expenses							
Building Reserve Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	
Contributions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	
Furniture and equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	
Special Fundraising/Special Event	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	
Subtotal:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -
Total Expenses:	\$ 2,661,914.60	\$ 2,323,716.80	\$ 2,816,834.20	\$ 2,508,680.95	\$ 2,232,317.22	89%	\$ 2,302,027.73
Budget Contingency:	\$ (481,138.08)	\$ 6,904.94	\$ (348,883.43)	\$ 95,395.22	\$ (433,170.57)	-454%	\$ 3,947.27
Gross Contingency:	\$ (481,138.08)	\$ 6,904.94	\$ (348,883.43)	\$ 95,395.22	\$ (433,170.57)	-454%	\$ 3,947.27

POLICY STATEMENT

The National Grange supports the Military providing child care for their employees and enlisted personnel.

The National Grange supports Congressional pension plans be limited to the Federal Employee Retirement System Pension plan.

We oppose aid to any government which funds terrorism.

The National Grange supports honoring our flag by standing at attention, if physically able, during the "Star Spangled Banner," the "Pledge of Allegiance" and presentations of our flag.

We support the expansion of broadband service to all areas of the United States.

We support reforming the tax code so that it is simpler and more transparent, revenue neutral and fair to agricultural communities.

Covers 301-NY; 307-NE; 321-OH; 327-OH and parts of the Master's External Address.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES. #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
302	NY	Armed Forces Retirement Home	Adopted as Amended
303	MA	Assistance for Homeless Youth	Adopted as Amended
305	NE	Congressional Health Care	Adopted
310	FL	Daylight Saving Time	Adopted as Amended
314	MD	Fraudulent Social Security Numbers	Adopted as Amended
320	NJ	Opposing Elimination of Tax Deduction for State And Local Taxes	Adopted
333	OH	Tax Burdens Plague Family Farmers	Adopted
339	OH	Welfare Reform	Adopted as Amended

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

CT-302-NY - Armed Forces Retirement Home

WHEREAS the Armed Forces Retirement Home is open to former enlisted and Warrant Officers, with certain exceptions and eligibility requirements. The home has campuses in Washington, D.C. and Gulfport, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS the Armed Forces Military Home is running out of money; and

WHEREAS active duty military personnel have a 50-cent-a-month deduction from their paycheck that goes to the Armed Forces Military Home; and

WHEREAS funding for other operational costs come from the residents themselves and from fines and forfeitures paid by active duty service members as punishment for misconduct during military service; and

WHEREAS the retirement home trust fund balance has declined from \$186 million in 2010 to \$46 million in 2015. Reductions in the number of active duty personnel has significantly contributed to the reduction in the retirement homes fund balance; and

WHEREAS current actions to save money include reducing spending on veterans' activities, revising the fee structure, and eliminating a golf-course subsidy; therefore be it

RESOLVED that National Grange supports legislation that would increase the active duty service member's deduction to \$1 per month from their monthly paycheck for the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

CT-303-MA - Assistance for Homeless Youth

WHEREAS the 2016 publication of the Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress reported there are about 35,686 unaccompanied homeless youth in the United States with Massachusetts alone reporting 374; and

WHEREAS more resources are needed for youth for both day and night because daytime activities alone do not fully address the problems facing homeless youth; and

WHEREAS the Standard Times in New Bedford stated in an article entitled "Homeless Shelter Operating in New Bedford" on January 10, 2017, that the first homeless shelter specifically for unaccompanied homeless youth in that city had just opened; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange request elected officials to seek solutions to ongoing problems facing homeless youth including making more resources available both day and night so they may become self-sufficient, independent, gain self-esteem and thus become productive individuals.

CT-305-NE - Congressional Health Care

WHEREAS Members of Congress currently enjoy their own exclusive healthcare insurance program, which is much better and cheaper than the healthcare options available to the general public, as well as not being subject to provisions of the Affordable Healthcare Act; and

WHEREAS those same members of Congress can't seem to come to agreement on how to improve the healthcare insurance program that the public has to adhere to; therefore be it

RESOLVED that members of Congress and their staff be required to participate in the same healthcare insurance programs that the general public is offered; and be it further

RESOLVED that the members of Congress and their staff not receive any federal subsidization for the rates they pay, unless the same applies to the general public.

Covers Resolution CT-318-ID.

CT-310-FL - Daylight Saving Time

WHEREAS fewer than 40% of the worlds' countries and not all state or territories within the United States participate in Daylight Saving Time; and

WHEREAS this program was originally enacted to conserve energy; and

WHEREAS this program does not produce significant energy savings due to the switch to more efficient light bulbs, the increase of 24 hour corporate and retail operations, and increase used of air conditioners; and

WHEREAS changing the clock, forward and back, leads to reduced productivity in the weeks following the time change; and

WHEREAS the United States Law stipulates that individual states may opt out of participation in Daylight Saving Time; therefore be it

RESOLVED that National Grange encourage members of the United States Congress to abolish Daylight Savings time.

CT-314-MD - Fraudulent Social Security Numbers

WHEREAS a recent internal audit of Social Security found that there are 65 million people with birthdates before 1901 who had active Social Security numbers and there are only 42 people in the world who are that old; and

WHEREAS 67,000 of those Social Security numbers reported a total wages and earnings of \$3 billion between 2006 and 2011. 1 number was used 613 times and 194 were used at least 50 times; and

WHEREAS illegal immigrants and other people not wanting to be found by the government use stolen Social Security numbers to get jobs and report wages; and

WHEREAS the Internal Revenue Service estimates that it paid out \$5.8 billion in fraudulent tax refunds in 2013; and

WHEREAS the Social Security Administration maintains a Death Master File containing the name, number, date of birth, and date of death for deceased card holders which is used by employers, financial firms, and credit reporting agencies; therefore be it

RESOLVED National Grange urges the Social Security Administration to be more diligent in updating its Death Master File so that the Social Security numbers of deceased individuals cannot be used for fraudulent purposes.

CT-320-NJ - Opposing Elimination of Tax Deduction for State And Local Taxes

WHEREAS there is a proposal on the federal level to eliminate the federal tax deduction for state and local taxes; and

WHEREAS the federal deduction for state and local taxes was part of the original tax code over 100 years ago and is an important aspect of the relationship between the federal government and the states; and

WHEREAS over 40% of all New Jersey residents take the deduction for state and local taxes; and

WHEREAS the proposed plans to eliminate the state and local tax deduction would have wide-ranging impacts across the country and would reduce the policy options available to state and local governments facing economic hardships; therefore be it

RESOLVED that National Grange opposes the proposal on the federal level to eliminate the federal tax deduction for state and local taxes.

CT-333-OH - Tax Burdens Plague Family Farmers

WHEREAS: the current state of estate taxes threatens agriculture and the constant change to estate laws; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that National Grange encourage Congress to write a tax code that gives farmers and ranchers flexibility to adapt quickly to challenges concerning estate planning.

CT-339-OH - Welfare Reform

WHEREAS: welfare roles have increased 260% in recent years and welfare fraud is becoming rampant; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that National Grange urge our Legislators to take steps to reduce the current welfare rolls and place limits on recipients and to further take steps to reduce fraud in this program.

PRESENT POLICY

CITIZENSHIP

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 supports the continuation of religious broadcasts on radio and television.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. The National Grange supports the current financial assistance to support quality, commercial-free educational children's programs.

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 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.
5. 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." This includes health care insurance programs and rates.

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. Proof of citizenship be required at the time of voter registration with federally approved photo identification when voting. 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.
7. The National Grange supports laws requiring individuals to show appropriate/proper identification at the polls and/or anyone requesting an absentee ballot, to verify they are a legal voter within this country and proper state.

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 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.
8. The National Grange supports the continuation of public tours of the White House.
9. 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 encourages legislation to require the Commerce Census Bureau to return to inclusion of a separate category for farm families.
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 immediately following the successful request by a State Governor for a declaration of a national disaster in the United States.

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. The National Grange supports a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget as a permanent solution to our deficit problems.
3. 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.
4. 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 and/or eliminate government jobs where possible.
5. The National Grange supports the enforcement of regulations to assure that government programs abide by the bidding process, when appropriate.
6. The National Grange encourages Congress to eliminate the United States Postal Service requirement to pre-fund retiree health insurance benefits.

Native Americans

1. The National Grange supports Native Americans in their reservation treaty rights to retain their mineral deposits and rights.
2. 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, which includes being subject to the same laws as other citizens.

3. 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.

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 Veterans Cemetery facilities available.
3. The National Grange believes the American flag be treated with all due respect in accordance with recognized flag etiquette and protocol. We support the purchase of American flags made in the USA and made from domestically produced 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. We support the words "In God We Trust" remaining on our currency and as our national motto.
6. The National Grange supports maintaining November 11th as Veterans Day.

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; this includes being more diligent in updating its Death Master File.
8. 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.
9. The National Grange encourages legislators to raise the Social Security Death Benefit to at least \$500.

Social Welfare Programs

1. The National Grange urges enforcement of current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations and encourages related social agencies to assist SNAP recipients with information about foods that meet their basic needs. The National Grange asks the SNAP program to allow essential non-food personal articles such as laundry soap and toilet paper to be purchased using SNAP and opposes replacing SNAP with cash distributions. The National Grange further urges Congress to reduce current welfare rolls and take steps to reduce fraud.
2. The National Grange supports requiring additional means to facilitate the identification and location of each child's parent 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, vitamins and/or supplements, etc.

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. Remove the regulatory uncertainty that has deterred broadband investment in rural America.
 - c. Provide the incentive for private businesses, government agencies, and private citizens to invest in rural broadband deployment, stimulate broadband competition and impose reasonable taxation for private investment in rural broadband infrastructure improvement.
 - d. Spark the creation of new service providers and new innovations that will assist a host of new technologies becoming more affordable, including cutting-edge wireless technologies that promise to deliver broadband to even the most remote parts of our country.
 - e. Reallocate unused government agency spectrum (broadband connectivity) for commercial and rural broadband connectivity.
 - f. Allow Public Utility Districts (PUDs), or other public utilities to get involved in establishing the wireless communication systems.
2. The National Grange supports continued strict enforcement of the Federal Communications Commission's national "Do Not Call List." The National Grange supports expansion of the Do-Not-Call list to include computer dialed political telemarketing, including but not limited to charities and political groups. 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 towers and new technologies where needed in 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.
 7. The National Grange opposes any relinquishing of control of the American internet access to the UN or any foreign entity.

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 of 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. The National Grange urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to continue the use of Veterans Administration Medical Centers and allow Veterans to seek community based medical attention. All veterans' medical services be paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs Services.
6. Tinnitus is a condition caused by inner ear damage from exposure to hazardous noise levels causing constant ringing or

roaring in the ear. The National Grange supports legislation allowing for a separate 10% disability rating by the Veterans Administration for each ear when veterans suffer from Tinnitus as a result of military service.

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. The National Grange 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 in combat to toxic substances.
11. The National Grange supports legislation to increase active duty service members' payroll deduction to one dollar per month for the Armed Services Retirement Home.

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 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.
4. The National Grange favors the establishment of a new branch of the Smithsonian dedicated to the nation's food and farm heritage.
5. 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.
6. The National Grange urges Congress to reject the United Nations "Small Arms Treaty".
7. The National Grange urges elected officials to address ongoing problems facing homeless youth and to make more resources available day and night until they can become self-sufficient.

TAXATION

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 \$10 million.
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.

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 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% 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 and on state and local taxes.
10. The National Grange supports legislation to allow voluntary contributions of \$1 to be solicited on all federal income tax forms to fund our national parks. The Grange supports permitting an individual to designate \$1 on his/her federal income tax return for the USA Olympic Program.
11. The National Grange supports a federal income tax credit to law enforcement officers for purchasing their own bulletproof vests.
12. 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.
13. The National Grange supports a 100% federal income tax deduction for all medical insurance.
14. The National Grange supports legislation to allow parents or students to utilize all student loan interest as an adjustment of income on their federal tax return.
15. 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.
16. The National Grange urges Congress to give farmers and ranchers flexibility in the tax code to adjust quickly to estate planning challenges.

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 increasing levels of taxation for all tobacco products, medical and recreational marijuana, and alcohol 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.

The Citizenship and Taxation committee thanks Legislative Director Burton Eller and National Master Betsy Huber for information and advice.

Thanks also to Sophia Keller and Kathleen Knott, Washington, for all their help with publishing; Jay Sexton, Oregon, and Tim Dehne, Oregon, for coming in to speak to our committee.

Many thanks to our esteemed secretary for her organization skills and for keeping us on track and to our whole committee for their hard work, dedication and good humor.

Brenda Rousselle, VT, Chair
Sherry Harriman, ME, Secretary
Susan Plank, IN
Barbara Borderieux, FL
Joan White, OH

Harry Greer, CO
Christine Hamp, WA
Jeannie Billmire, ID
Claire Logan, RI

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 on the importance of our natural resources as a necessity for life of all types.

The National Grange should ensure that conservation programs continue to receive a high commitment. These programs should encourage farmers to farm in an environmentally sound manner, focusing on technical assistance, research, education, loans, and cost-share programs. We cannot support the zealous pursuit of unrealistic and unscientific conservation goals that cause unnecessary economic hardship for landowners and producers.

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.

We encourage the responsible stewardship of our natural resources from all who own or use them. We define responsible Stewardship as a balance between use, preservation, and the environmental standards appropriate to the regional needs.

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, developers, and landowners in future Farm Bills, which will maintain a commitment to conservation. In that light, we also urge USDA to ensure that they use only scientifically based research when crafting regulations to implement the conservation portions of the Farm Bill. The optimum result should be that the environment be protected with the least amount of prime, productive farmland taken out of production.

This covers MD-405 and portions of the National Master’s address.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

STATE & RES. #	TITLE	ACTION
405-MD	Science-Based Conservation	Adopted as amended
406-MD	WOTUS	Adopted

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

405 - MD- Science-Based Conservation

WHEREAS farmers across the country are being tasked to make major improvements to improve water and air quality; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange urges that conservation programs continue to receive a high commitment. These programs should encourage farmers to farm in an environmentally sound manner, focusing on technical assistance, research, education, loans, and cost-share programs. We do not support the zealous pursuit of unrealistic and unscientific conservation goals that cause unnecessary economic hardship for landowners and producers; and be it further

RESOLVED the National Grange urges USDA to use only scientifically based research when crafting regulations to implement the conservation portions of the Farm Bill. The optimum result should be that the environment be protected with the least amount of prime, productive farmland taken out of production.

406 - MD - WOTUS

RESOLVED the National Grange shall reaffirm its commitment that the original wording of the Waters of the United States in the Clean Water Act be adhered to and oppose any expansion of its definition.

PRESENT POLICY

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 carpooling, and sponsor more research to make alternative energy cars viable.

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% 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 and/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.

Energy Conservation

1. The National Grange supports voluntary and economically viable energy conservation for agriculture, industry, commerce, and the home.
2. The National Grange encourages the voluntary "energy efficient" construction of new structures without mandating retrofitting existing structures.
3. 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.
4. The National Grange endorses the continuation of state and federal subsidies for home and business generation of solar energy.
5. 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.

6. 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.

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.
6. The National Grange urges USDA to use only scientifically-based research when crafting regulations to implement the conservation title of the Farm Bill.

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.

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.

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 priority 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 that 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 Land Use, Planning, Zoning, and Eminent Domain

1. The National Grange urges the USDA, in conjunction with land grant universities, to provide assistance to local governments and citizen groups in educating the public on the importance of keeping land in agricultural production and in developing farmland retention programs which protect the rights of landowners and the prerogatives of local governments. The National Grange supports land use planning and zoning remaining a function of local and state governments.
2. The National Grange urges that the transfer of development rights be used to protect family farms. Whenever land is designated for permanent agricultural use, farmers should receive adequate compensation for the loss in land value.
3. The National Grange urges the Farm Service Agency or any other agency not to relinquish the use of any farmlands, wetlands, or other lands to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or any other government agency.
4. The National Grange supports efforts to improve locally controlled site-specific resource and environmental management in the Columbia Basin.
5. The National Grange supports legislation reaffirming congressional power over international agreements concerning disposal, management and use of lands owned by the United States and also protects state powers, from federal actions designating lands to international agreements.
6. The National Grange supports legislation to mandate that when private property is acquired for a specific purpose by any federal agency through eminent domain, condemnation, foreclosure or negotiated price, and the property is subsequently not needed or used for the specific purpose it was acquired for, the original owner shall have first right of repurchase at either the original price or the current market price, whichever is less.
7. We support legislation that eminent domain be used only for public purposes, such as rights of way for transportation and utilities.
8. The National Grange urges the federal government to replace, whenever possible, condemned private land with public land of equal value/productivity, and to maintain a balance between public and private lands throughout the nation.
9. The National Grange supports changing laws so that, in points of controversy, private property rights take precedence over environmental regulations.
10. The National Grange supports legislation to prohibit the Federal Government or any agency or authority of the Federal Government from exercising its power of eminent domain to be used for private economic development unless there is an immediate danger to the health and/or safety of citizens. Furthermore, the National Grange supports federal legislation to require that no state, political subdivision of a state or any person or entity to which such power has been delegated shall exercise its power of eminent domain, for the purpose of private economic development or over property that is subsequently used for economic development unless there are situations of immediate danger to the health and/or safety of citizens. Any state or political subdivision that exercises the power of eminent domain for private economic development shall be ineligible for any federal economic development funds for any purpose for a period of at least two years.

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.

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.
12. The National Grange opposes the creation of the Owyhee Canyonlands Monument in Oregon and Idaho.

Recycling

1. The National Grange supports legislation that would require a deposit on non-biodegradable beverage containers and urges manufacturers to use recycled materials.
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.
5. The National Grange encourages the use of alternative bags such as canvas, cotton, mesh, biodegradable paper, or other biodegradable products.

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.

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% 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 with sustainable forests and arboreal practices 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 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.
2. 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 taxes.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The National Grange supports continued research on non-toxic materials in preparing pressure-treated wood for building materials.
7. 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.
8. The National Grange supports the current exemptions for family farmers from the EPA's Toxic Spill Prevention Containment and Control regulations.

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 alter the flow of water into downstream states unless such transfer is dictated in an approved river basin compact.

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 supports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the chief administrator of the National Bison Range.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. The National Grange opposes the listing of the Eastern Oyster on the endangered species list.

The Conservation Committee would like to thank the National Master, Legislative Director and staff (especially Stephanie) for their help and assistance with our Committee.

I would like to thank Billy Shufeldt for chairing the Committee until I could arrive in Spokane.

I'd also like to thank our secretary, Kay Stiles, for capturing all the information and comments that were being simultaneously offered.

We'd like to welcome the newest Committee member extraordinaire Debbie Gegare.

And a big thank you to all Committee members for sharing opinions, rewriting resolutions, policy statement and present policy during our many hours of meetings.

I also thank the Committee for listening to my suggestions and stories.

Bob White, OH, Chair
Kay Stiles, MD, Secretary
Larry Spencer, RI
Tom Gwin, WA
Don Schaeffer, IL

Michael Lynch, DE
Tammy Fryman, NE
Don Billmire, ID
Billy Shufeldt, OK
Debbie Gegare, WI

POLICY STATEMENT

Education

A quality education opens minds to new possibilities and encourages students to think for themselves. While the Grange commends those who have followed the traditional path for higher education, we need to encourage those who fall outside the term “traditional student” to look at the educational opportunities available offered by vocational or trade schools or other nontraditional degree programs to expand their personal and professional lives. We implore the students of the technological age to pursue studies in the agricultural implement field due to the increasing complexity of the machinery. 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 Boards Association 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 Americans to be mindful of the opioid crisis that is sweeping America with a strong concentration in rural areas of our country. We recognize that many lives have been saved in the treatment of opioid overdoses with use of Narcan, we recommend addiction education and/or treatment be required when Narcan is administered.

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 (Food and Drug Administration) and the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) 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 drug 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 encourages a commitment to quality healthcare for all. We encourage Congress to look for areas of common ground to continue to reform health care. We commend Congress on their bipartisan work toward eliminating the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). 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 and working with businesses to build a comprehensive policy that benefits both the employee and employer.

This Policy Statement includes portions of the Master's External Address and the following resolution EH-521-NJ.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES. #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
501	MD	Affordable Care Act	Adopted
502	CA	Affordable Hearing Aids	Adopted
506	NY	Choices In Education 2017	Adopted As Amended
507	MD	Food Safety Modernization Act	Adopted As Amended
512	OR	High Stakes Testing	Adopted
513	WA	In-Depth Marijuana Studies for Medical Purposes	Adopted As Amended

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

EH-501-MD - Affordable Care Act

WHEREAS our legislative process is designed so that proposals can be scrutinized in committees in a bi-partisan manner and needed improvements are made before passage of laws; and

WHEREAS the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was hurriedly passed without the needed examination of its contents on a partisan vote. All attempts replace or repair it have been handled in the same manner; and

WHEREAS the ACA has failed to make health care more affordable. In fact, many citizens lost their coverage. Most people have seen the cost of their health insurance increase dramatically with higher deductibles. Self-employed working people not eligible for subsidies are finding health insurance totally unaffordable; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange urges Congress to reform the Affordable Care Act in an open, bi-partisan manner. Special care needs to be taken so that rural hospitals that traditionally have high numbers of uninsured patients are not harmed by the reform.

This covers Resolution EH-526-NH.

EH-502-CA - Affordable Hearing Aids

WHEREAS an estimated 48 million Americans suffer from some form of hearing loss, with almost one-third of people ages 65 to 74 reporting difficulty hearing, as well as about half of those 75 and older, according to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders; and

WHEREAS evidence is mounting that untreated hearing loss is a significant national health concern, and studies have linked it with other serious health problems, including depression, a decline in memory and concentration, and perhaps even dementia; and

WHEREAS hearing aids can make a profound difference in a person's quality of life and, according to a 2015 Consumer Reports survey, many adults who need them put off buying them because of the high cost, and only hearing-aid look-alike devices are available now without a prescription, (devices that are not regulated and could possibly cause additional hearing damage); and

WHEREAS The Food and Drug Administration doesn't even allow the products to be marketed for improving impaired hearing, and hearing aids are not covered by Medicare or most private insurance plans and out-of-pocket costs for a single device average \$2,700; and

WHEREAS a group of bipartisan lawmakers in Congress recently sponsored the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act, H.R. 1652, aimed at making easy-to-use, prescription quality hearing aids available to adults with mild to moderate hearing loss for purchase without a medical exam, giving consumers more cost-effective options; therefore be it

RESOLVED that The National Grange will urge all lawmakers to support the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act, H.R. 1652.

EH-506-NY - Choices in Education Act 2017

WHEREAS Bill H.R. 610 – Choices in Education Act of 2017 has been introduced in the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS this bill repeals the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS the Choices in Education Act of 2017

WHEREAS this will be financially detrimental to the public-school system which has been established to provide free education to our children. This is especially true for small rural districts; therefore be it

RESOLVED that The National Grange oppose any legislation that establishes a voucher program which distributes block grant funds to be distributed as vouchers to children attending non-public schools; and be it further

RESOLVED that the National Grange oppose any repeal of the provisions in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 which provides necessary accommodations for children with special needs.

EH-507-MD - Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)

WHEREAS it is important for the public to have confidence in the safety of the food that they eat; and

WHEREAS the Food Safety and Modernization Act of 2011 was an important step towards that goal; and

WHEREAS the regulations are going into effect for the FSMA, some of which cause a crushing handicap for farmers selling food direct to consumers; and

WHEREAS the Grange always calls for regulations to be fair and reasonable; therefore be it

RESOLVED The National Grange urge the Food and Drug Administration to modify regulations for the Food Safety Modernization Act in order to balance the need to ensure the safety of the food supply while seeing that the farmers selling direct to the consumer are not harmed economically.

EH-512-OR - High Stakes Testing

WHEREAS our nation's future well-being relies on a high-quality public education system that prepares all students for college, careers, citizenship and lifelong learning, and strengthens the nation's social and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS our nation's school systems have been spending growing amounts of time, money and energy on high-stakes standardized testing, in which student performance on standardized tests is used to make major decisions affecting individual students, educators and schools; and

WHEREAS the overreliance on high-stakes standardized testing in state and federal accountability systems is undermining educational quality and equity in U.S. public schools by hampering educators' efforts to focus on the broad range of learning experiences that promote the innovation, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and deep subject-matter knowledge that will allow students to thrive in democracy and an increasingly global society and economy; and

WHEREAS it is widely recognized that standardized testing is an inadequate and often unreliable measure of both student learning and educator effectiveness; and

WHEREAS the over-emphasis on standardized testing has caused considerable collateral damage in too many schools, including narrowing the curriculum, teaching to the test, reducing love of learning, pushing students out of school, driving excellent teachers out of the profession and undermining school climate; and

WHEREAS high-stakes standardized testing has negative effects for students from all backgrounds, and especially for low-income students, English language learners, children of color, and those with disabilities; and

WHEREAS the culture and structure of the systems in which students learn must change in order to foster engaging school experiences that promote joy in learning, depth of thought and breadth of knowledge for students; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange lobby the U.S. Congress and administration to overhaul the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (currently known as the "Every Child Succeeds Act"), reduce the testing mandates, promote multiple forms of evidence of student learning and school quality in accountability, and not mandate any fixed role for the use of student test scores in evaluating educators.

EH-513-WA - In-Depth Marijuana Studies for Medical Purposes

WHEREAS there have not been complete, comprehensive in-depth studies of the use of marijuana in many of its derivative forms for benefit as medical treatment; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange encourage legitimate scientific studies on the risks and benefits of the use of medical marijuana in the treatment of disease.

PRESENT POLICY

Education

Education for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Special Needs Children

1. The National Grange believes that parents of deaf and hard of hearing children, deaf and hard of hearing people, teachers, and professionals who are trained in the area of educating the deaf should assist in determining the extent, content, and purpose of the educational program, and particularly consider those program options that provide the pupil with an appropriate and equal opportunity for communication access, including the state's school for the deaf, which may be the least restrictive environment for a deaf or hard of hearing child.
2. The National Grange strongly supports continuation of the Education of the Deaf Act to provide maximum benefit for deaf and hard of hearing persons, both in programs and services, including funding for Gallaudet University and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID).

Educational Funding

1. The National Grange supports the continuation of the federal guaranteed student loan, grant, and work-study programs. The National Grange recommends that Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Expected Family Contribution (EFC) regulations be adjusted to reflect family expenses, such as real estate taxes, medical expenses and other financial obligations in the determination of financial aid. We urge strict enforcement of the requirements for repayment of federally financed student loans with severe penalties for default. The National Grange suggests that the guidelines for student financial aid laws be revised so financially independent students are eligible to receive financial aid for their higher education.
2. The National Grange supports the retention of Federal Government Impact Aid for public school districts that lose traditional revenue sources due to a federal presence or activity.
3. The National Grange supports federal categorical aid to school library centers.
4. The National Grange believes that public funding should be used only in public schools. We support redirecting public funding to nonpublic or charter schools, only when the money is for special needs students where the law mandates special training not available in public schools.
5. The National Grange supports federal funding for state allocation of dollars for rural education to promote better salaries and benefits for teachers in rural education and to improve rural school conditions.
6. The National Grange urges adequate funding by the federal government for all federally mandated education programs. In particular, we support equal educational opportunities for exceptional and handicapped persons including federal funding at the 40% 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.

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.
8. The National Grange encourages the continued efforts of the FDA and the USDA to establish a viable definition for the term "Natural" on Food Labeling.

General Education Policies

1. The National Grange supports public education and supports the idea of strengthening and improving the system of public education. 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. The National Grange seeks to establish a program for State Granges to advocate for American Sign Language to be offered in primary and secondary schools.
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 encourages civics classes to be included in high school graduation requirements as suggested by the U.S. Department of Education and 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. National Grange is opposed to any changes in the language of classic literature, with the exception of those necessary for translation from another language.
14. The National Grange opposes any legislation that may be proposed permitting or requiring non-security school staff to carry firearms while at school.
15. The National Grange urges the Federal Department of Education to encourage all local school systems to retain recess for elementary school children.
16. The National Grange supports legislation to establish standardized requirements for school nurses in all 50 states, as well as legislation to adequately fund school nurse programs to be able to handle the increased workload.
17. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Education to mandate that penmanship be a required course of study in early primary education.
18. 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.

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 supports legislation that would require adjustments to child nutrition programs as necessary to promote better consumption of milk by the nation's students and to permit schools to offer all varieties of milk consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, including low-fat flavored milk containing no more than 150 calories per 8-ounce serving, as well as provisions for meeting the needs of lactose-intolerant children.
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.

Health

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.

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.
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% 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.

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.

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.
 - h) 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 encourages all continued legal and legislative actions necessary to eliminate the sources of counterfeit medications and to pursue the prosecution of those found responsible for the making and marketing of them, in support increased efforts to educate the public on the dangers of obtaining medications from unreliable sources.
 6. 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.
 7. We support extending health care coverage under COBRA for all terminated employees who qualify for a period of up to 36 months or until eligible for Medicare/Medicaid and include portability of health insurance coverage - even if there is a pre-existing condition - for those who change jobs or become unemployed. The National Grange supports tax incentives for businesses to provide health insurance coverage for their employees and 100% tax deductibility of health insurance premiums for the self-employed and individuals acquiring private health insurance.
 8. 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.
 9. 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.
 10. 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.
 11. The National Grange strongly urges hospitals to charge uninsured patients the same rates that are negotiated by insurance companies and Medicare for their clients.
 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 systems to limit the over prescribing of opioids and the education of the application of Naloxone (Narcan) pursuant to state regulations.
 16. 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.

17. 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.
18. 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.
19. The National Grange supports adoption of "The Registered Nurse Staffing Act" or similar legislation by the United States Congress to meet patients' needs safely.
20. The National Grange support World Mental Health Day observed annually on October 10.
21. The National Grange will work with other organizations to urge the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission to reject proposals to increase patient out-of-pocket costs and co-pays for beneficiaries under the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit (Part D).

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.

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.
14. The National Grange and all state and local Granges support the various national, state and local agencies and commissions striving to eliminate the unintended and intended abuse of heroin and opioid addiction. The National Grange will be proactive in support of a variety of treatment solutions and programs.

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.
 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 supports the continued process to eliminate the "donut hole" for Medicare prescription coverage.
 11. 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.
 12. The National Grange supports passage of legislation mandating the Medicare system to use an identification number other than the individual's Social Security Number.
 13. 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.
 14. 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.

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.
7. The National Grange urges the Food and Drug Administration to mandate that pharmaceutical producers label all products and commodities containing gluten.

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

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Education and Health Committee for their input, attention to detail and perseverance in accomplishing our goal to presenting our resolutions in a timely manner. It takes a team to work together and finish a goal.

Wilber Heath, NH, Chair
Scott Nicholson, MT, Secretary
Debbie Campbell, PA
Marcia Miller, CT

Chris Johnston, MI
Steve Logan, RI
Anita Gentry, NC
Sharon Croucher, NY

POLICY STATEMENT

Since our inception, our Grange has endeavored to improve the world around it through our growth to expand and influence to effect change.

Civic engagement is an integral component of the Grange way. We encourage Grange Members to engage in local, state, and national government especially through Grange programs and activities like Legislative Fly-In. These programs are of particular value to our youth, who are the future of our Order.

Continued development of Youth and Young Adult programs are essential to the growth of the Grange. We view Youth and Young Adults as two distinct groups that require their own distinct programs and activities due to diverging interests. It is important that all leaders within the Grange recognize this fact, and we encourage the current and continued development of programs that meet the independent needs of both Youth and Young Adult age groups.

We encourage Subordinate, Pomona, and State Granges to continue to develop Agricultural based educational programs to include environmental topics such as ways to control nutrient runoff. A better effort must be made where possible to keep nutrients out of our water where it can be detrimental to our health and the health of our food system.

Two of the Grange's main focuses are family and community service. Along with these, attention should be invested to backyard farmers, farmer's market vendors, and people who desire to go "back to the land." These individuals and families are valuable prospective members that can carry on the original ideals of the Grange for the next 150 years.

The Grange is not a building, but the people working together for the good of their communities. We want our Granges to partake in the various benefits that the National Grange offers to celebrate our members and the great history of our Order such as Good Day!™ magazine, Distinguished Grange Program, and Grange Legacy Family Program.

Communication is instrumental not only in contributing to the growth of the Grange, but also the basic stability of our diverse national organization. We encourage communication to travel throughout our established grassroots structure to disseminate the flow of information at all levels of the Order. We encourage conversations to be the lifeblood of developing new ideas into tangible results. We encourage conversations to be the venue for reviewing established programs and procedures to ensure relevancy to our members and organization in the 21st century. We encourage conversations that are positive and constructive instead of destructive. We encourage conversations between Masters of the various divisions of the Order, while respecting the independence of individual Granges. We encourage conversations between Masters that take the form of coaching and developing leadership as opposed to getting involved in internal politics. We encourage communication to sustain the Grange for the next 150 years.

Membership is the life-blood for growth of our organization at all levels. It is important that Granges not only have a membership director – but a membership committee to which we all belong. One tool to increase our membership is the use of the One Plus Junior program. We encourage all Granges to use this program.

As Grangers we will only succeed with pride in our organization and the continued update of our programs. We cannot cling to outdated ideas and programs. We have to encourage our youth to become more active and offer them more responsibilities on all levels of the Grange to enrich their lives and ensure the Grange will be here for many years to come.

This report covers portions of the Master's Internal and External Address and the following resolutions assigned to our committee GGD 602 IA, GGD 603 PA, GGD 613 IA.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES. #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
609	NJ	National Grange Certificate	ADOPTED
615	NH	Electronic Device Substitution	ADOPTED AS AMENDED

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

609 - NJ - National Grange Certificate

WHEREAS It is very important to recognize our longtime members for their length of service and dedication to the Grange; and

WHEREAS the current process to order Silver Star, Golden Sheaf Certificates as well as seals for long termed service is a manual process requiring paper applications and manual processing of requests and payments; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange IT department determine the methodology of offering electronic submission of requests and electronic payments for membership recognition. This to be completed for implementation by January 2019.

615 - NH - Electronic Device Substitution

WHEREAS the price of paper is increasing every year and the cost of printing is expensive; and

WHEREAS the use of paper is creating a large burden on paper producers and natural resources around the world; and
WHEREAS this is a gross misuse of our natural resources and it is affecting our environment; and
WHEREAS the National Grange supplies paper copies of all resolutions, that are submitted, and other paperwork to all the delegates, officers and staff each year at National Session; and
WHEREAS the National Grange reprints most all of the changes to resolutions and redistributes these papers to all the delegates, officers and staff; and
WHEREAS the National Grange is and has been trying to reduce the costs to the National Grange by eliminating programs and distributions and, WHEREAS: today's technology could provide a cheaper alternative to the National Grange's current process for providing these documents to the delegates, officers and staff during National Session; therefore be it
RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the National Grange be tasked with researching alternative methods including the cost of providing paperless documents during National Session; and be it further
RESOLVED that the National Grange Executive committee report their findings and make recommendations to the delegate body at the next Annual Session; and be it further
RESOLVED that the delegates at that Annual Session vote on the said findings of the National Grange Executive committee.

The committee would like to thank the National Master for tasking us with the responsibility of serving on this committee. We enjoyed the time spent together building relationships with each other. We feel that Grange Growth and Development is an important part of the future of the Grange. I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Grange Growth and Development Committee for their hard work and many long hours.

Joe Goodrich, VT, Chair
Kathy Baldwin, IA, Secretary
TJ Malaskee, MN
Judy Sherrod, TN

Pete Pompper, NJ
Lena Shufeldt, OK
Patti Thomas, MA

POLICY STATEMENT

Just as our Ritual provides the vehicle to present and understand our teachings and principles, our Constitution and By-laws provide the unified structure for our order to function with unity of action. Understanding why we have our code is as important as understanding the code itself. Over the past 150 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.

With today's political climate we want to stress how important it is to remain non-partisan, that we as the Grange do not support any nominee, appointee, candidate, or agency appointees, etc. The officers and staff of the National Grange should be reminded while a publicly released assessment of the qualifications of any cabinet or agency appointee is a positive; any endorsement or opposition statement by the Grange risks harming the public perception of our non-partisanship in dealing with the issues before the agencies of the federal government.

Social media has afforded the members the opportunity for instant communication of Grange activities and successes. We understand that not all will ever agree with all policies and undertakings of our Order, and that makes our organization unique. We strongly oppose the posting of personal grievances, the purpose of which is to divide and destroy. The First Amendment of the United States Constitution, makes us powerless to stop the negativity. We challenge our Grangers to apply the high standards demanded by our Fraternal bonds to conduct our personal participation on social media sites accordingly.

As members we all enjoy the protection of our Digest of Laws and our fraternal responsibility to abide by them and hold our brothers and sisters accountable. 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.

The National Grange should communicate with the State Granges regarding all the entities that have entered into contractual trademark agreements in their state, so that they may act as agents for the National Grange. This will insure that the State Grange is aware of all the entities that use our trademark in that State Grange and that licensees are complying.

There were no Master's Rulings issued between the times at which the 150th and 151st Annual Conventions were convened.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES. #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
701	WA	Applying the Termination of Grange Membership in One State to a Second State	Adopted as Amended
702	CA	Custodial Accounts	Adopted
704	DC	E-membership Dues	Adopted as Amended-first reading
706	NH	Election of Officers at National Grange	Adopted as Amended

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

GL-701-WA - Applying the Termination of Grange Membership in One State to a Second State

WHEREAS, the National Grange Digest of Laws Chapter 4 By Laws, Article VI, Paragraph 4.6.16 defines the processes necessary for the suspension or termination of membership in a subordinate or Pomona Grange; and

WHEREAS, additional causes for suspension or termination of membership is defined in the National Grange Digest of Laws, Chapter 10 Code of All Granges, Paragraphs 10.9.1 and 10.9.3; and

WHEREAS, the National Grange Digest of laws, Chapter 12 Code of Judicial Law, Paragraphs 12.2.13, 12.2.23, and 12.2.32 defines the procedures to be used if a guilty finding is determined in a Grange Trial Court; and

WHEREAS, there are Grange members who are regular members of a Grange in one state and affiliate members of a Grange in a different state; and

WHEREAS, the authority of the Trial Court appears to be limited to the state in which the trial court occurs as dual state Grange membership is not addressed in the National Grange Digest of Laws; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that section 4.6.16 (D) be amended to read "(D) A guilty finding of a State or National Grange Trial Court for a violation of the Manuals of the degrees of the Order or the By-Laws and Laws of the National Grange, and the By-Laws and Laws of the other Granges of the divisions of the Order, which is not reversed on appeal. A guilty finding by a Grange Trial Court terminating Grange membership shall be effective in all Granges in all states; or...."

Adopted by 5/6 majority on first reading; second reading not needed.

RESOLVED: that The National Grange will change all references to holding items in "trust" for Granges to holding items in "Custodial Accounts."

Following are the sections of the Digest that need to be changed.

4.4.3; (A) (2) Real property owned by Granges which surrender their charter in a consolidation:

(a) May be sold by the dissolving Granges and the proceeds there from remitted to the State Grange to be held in ~~trust~~ a Custodial Accounts according to Article XI, Section 4.11.1 of these By-Laws. The ~~trust~~ Custodial Account fund shall be transferred to the name of the surviving Grange of the consolidation

4.5.4; Disposition of Assets - As soon as possible after the final determination of revocation of a Charter the affected Junior Grange shall proceed to discharge any and all of its financial obligations. All the remaining assets owned by such Junior Grange shall be turned over to the sponsoring Grange having jurisdiction; all remaining assets owned by such Subordinate or Pomona Grange shall be transferred or placed in ~~trust~~ Custodial Accounts as provided for in Article XII of these By-Laws.

4.5.9; Disposition of Assets - As soon as possible after the final determination of revocation of a Charter, the affected State Grange shall proceed to discharge any and all of its financial obligations. All remaining assets owned by such State Grange shall be placed in ~~trust~~ Custodial Accounts as provided for in Article XII of these By-Laws.

4.10.10;(A) The National Grange shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the National Grange) by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Director, an Elected Officer, or an Appointed Officer of the National Grange or is or was serving at the request of the National Grange as a Director or officer of another association, corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, Custodial Account or

(B) The National Grange shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or contemplated action or suit in its favor by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Director, an Elected Officer, or Appointed Officer of the National Grange, or was serving at the request of the National Grange as a Director or Officer

of another association, corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, Custodial Account, or other enterprise,.....

Article XI 4.11.1; (G) When a sale of real property is concluded, the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange shall Account for the net proceeds of the sale received at the time of settlement and shall remit all but the sum of \$1,000 of such net proceeds to the State Grange having jurisdiction to be held in ~~trust~~ a Custodial Account for the said Subordinate or Pomona Grange...

(I)(4) For use in accordance with the general purposes of the Order. Use of the funds held in ~~Trust~~ a Custodial Account must be approved by the Executive Committee of the State Grange having jurisdiction over the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange. All earned income derived from such ~~Trust~~ a Custodial Account shall be the property of the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange, provided, however, that the said State Grange in its sole discretion may be paid up to ten percent (10%) of such earned income as a ~~trustee's~~ custodial fee for administering the ~~Trust~~ Custodial Account. In the event that the selling Subordinate or.....

4.11.1 (G) and the ~~trust~~ Custodial Account shall terminate. However, if the Inactive Grange is not reorganized within such period of time the ~~trust~~ Custodial Account shall terminate and all former ~~trust~~ Custodial property held for the Account of said Inactive Grange shall become the property of the State Grange with both legal title and all beneficial interest therein accruing to the State Grange....

Article XII 4.12.1; (A) All right, title and interest as to all real and personal property owned by an Inactive Grange shall become the property of the State Grange having jurisdiction over the said Inactive Grange. The said State Grange shall hold such property in a ~~trust~~ Custodial Account for the benefit of the Inactive Grange in the event said Grange is reorganized pursuant to Grange Law. The Master and Executive Committee of such State Grange, may sell, invest, or otherwise dispose of any of the ~~trust~~ Custodial property in the Account of any Inactive Grange, except the books, jewels, regalia and seal of the..... Any income which shall accrue from the ~~trust~~ Custodial property held for the Account of an Inactive Grange

(B) If an Inactive Grange is reorganized within a period of seven years after it was determined to be inactive pursuant to Section 4.12.1 of these By Laws or such additional period of time as the State Grange may determine, then all ~~trust~~ Custodial property held for the Account of the Inactive Grange shall revert to the reorganized Grange for the purposes listed in Article XI Sec.

4.12.2; (A) All right, title and interest as to all real and personal property owned by a State Grange which surrenders its Charter or otherwise becomes Inactive shall become the Property of the National Grange. The National Grange shall hold such property in ~~trust~~ a Custodial Account for the benefit of the Inactive State Grange until said State Grange is reorganized pursuant to Grange Law. The Master and Executive Committee of the National Grange may sell, invest or otherwise dispose of any of the ~~trust~~ Custodial Account property except the books, jewels, regalia and seal of the Inactive Grange, which property shall be retained for use by the Inactive Grange upon reorganization, or by any other Grange as needed for the good of the Order. Any income which shall accrue from the ~~trust~~ custodial property shall be paid to the National Grange in lieu of a fee for acting as ~~trustee~~ Custodian.

(B) If the Inactive State Grange is reorganized within a period of seven years or such additional period of time as the Master of the National Grange may determine, then all ~~trust~~ Custodial Account property shall revert to the reorganized

Grange, and the ~~trust~~ Custodial Account shall terminate. However, if the Inactive Grange is not reorganized within such period of time the ~~trust~~ Custodial Account shall terminate and all former ~~trust~~ Custodial property shall become the property of the National Grange with both legal title and all beneficial interests therein accruing to the National Grange. The former ~~trust~~ Custodial Account property so accruing to the National Grange shall be used in accordance with the general purposes of the Order.

10.13.2 Definitions "~~Trust~~" "Custodial Account", "~~In-Trust~~" "Custodial Account", "~~Held in trust~~" "Custodial Account"

(A) "~~Trust~~" Custodial Account", "~~In-Trust~~" Custodial Account", "~~Held in trust~~" Custodial Account" shall be defined as monies, Accounts or property (real, intellectual or personal) held by the State or National Grange that are managed or administered for an indefinite period of time by the State or National Grange under an affirmative obligation of fiduciary responsibility to preserve capital, generate income, facilitate the organization, reorganization or continuation of an existing Subordinate/ Community, Pomona, or State Grange or for other general purposes of the Order as outlined in Chapter 4, Article 11 of this Digest of Laws.

(B) "~~Trust~~" Custodial Account, "~~In-Trust~~" Custodial Account, "~~Held in trust~~" Custodial Account shall also be defined as monies, Accounts or property (real, intellectual or personal) as well as any previously vested equitable rights of interest or any other formal legal interest held by the State or National Grange that are managed or administered for a definite period of time by the State or National Grange under an affirmative obligation of fiduciary responsibility to preserve capital, generate income, facilitate the organization or re-organization of a Subordinate/Community, Pomona, or State Grange within the jurisdiction from which the monies, Accounts, property or legal interests were derived or for other general purposes of the Order on behalf of Granges which have surrendered or had their Charter revoked as outlined in Chapter 4, Article 12 of this Digest of Laws.

(C) "~~Trust~~ Custodial Account", "~~In-Trust~~ Custodial Account", "~~Held in trust~~ Custodial Account" shall never be defined or construed at any place in this Digest of Laws to imply or require the formal or implied creation or existence of any: separate legal entity to hold or manage the monies, Accounts, properties or previously vested legal interests in question; equitable right or interest that is distinct from legal ownership of the monies, Accounts, property or previously vested legal interests in question, or other formal legal interests in the monies, Accounts, properties or previously vested legal interests in question, that are held by the State or National Grange on behalf of and for the benefit of another Grange and that would be recognized or constituted under any local, state or federal law in order for that State or National Grange to faithfully discharge the affirmative obligations of fiduciary responsibility created under Chapter 4, Article 11, Chapter 4, Article 12 or any other Article of this Digest of Laws.

Index page 73, 81, 82, 83, 90, 93, 97.

Adopted by 5/6 majority on first reading; second reading not needed.

GL-704-DC - E-membership Dues – First Reading 2017

RESOLVED that Section 4.6.15 of the Digest of Laws be replaced with the following language:

"(F) E-Membership. Membership in the National Grange and in a State Grange as an E-member may be attained by individuals or families who may have an interest in the advancement of agriculture, improvement of rural life, and policies and principals of the organization. Membership is gained by completion of the approved membership form and paying the annual dues for this class of membership directly to the National Grange, under the terms and conditions provided for by the National Grange.

(A) E-members will receive such information, publications, programs, benefits and services from the National Grange, in such manner, as shall be determined by the National Grange. In addition, State Granges, may, at the discretion of each individual State Grange, extend the benefits of information, publications, programs, benefits and services provided by the State Grange to its Subordinate, Pomona or Junior members to the E-members who reside in their state, in such a manner and under such terms and conditions, as shall be determined by the respective State Granges. E-members shall not be entitled to vote on matters of Grange policy or compete in National Grange sponsored contests that are designed for the benefit of Subordinate Grange members only.

(B) The National Grange shall report, via electronic communication, to the various State Granges, on a quarterly basis, the contact information of all active E-memberships within their jurisdiction, provided that State Granges may not sell, barter, exchange or otherwise provide this information to any entity outside the jurisdiction of this Digest of Laws without the expressed approval of the National Grange. Individual or family E-memberships may be terminated by the Executive Committee of the National Grange for improper conduct, illegal action, conflict of interest or other reasons that the Executive Committee may determine are taken for the Good of the Order." and be it further

RESOLVED: that Section 4.8.2 (F) in the Digest of Laws be replaced with the following language:

"(F) E-Membership. The annual dues for E-Memberships will be forty dollars (\$40.00) for individuals and eighty dollars (\$80.00) for families, to be paid directly to the National Grange.

(1) A. Dues will be divided as follows: \$32.50 to the National Grange, \$7.50 to the State Grange for individual e-memberships and \$65.00 to the National Grange and \$15.00 to the State Grange for family memberships for e-members who reside within a state with an active, chartered State Grange.

B. For the purpose of this subsection only, Potomac Grange #1 in Washington, DC shall be entitled to receive the State Grange portion of the annual dues for e-members who reside within the District of Columbia.

C. One hundred percent of all E-membership dues collected from E-members who reside in any state or territory of the United States without an active, chartered State Grange, or who reside outside of the United States, shall remain with the National Grange, provided that the National Grange Executive Committee, may, by annual vote, on a cases by case basis, elect to share the State Grange portion of E-membership dues collected from residents of any US states or US territories, with State Granges that have been assigned jurisdiction by the National Grange to organize and manage the affairs of the Order in a neighboring state or territory without an active chartered State Grange.

(2) At the end of each calendar quarter, the National Grange will forward to each respective State Grange entitled to receive them, the annual State Grange portion of E-membership dues collected from residents of their respective states during the previous quarter. All transfers of dues funds from E-memberships within the various divisions of the Order entitled to receive them shall be by means of electronic funds transfers, unless both the sender and receiver agree to other alternatives."

Resolution adopted by 2/3 majority on first reading.

GL-706-NH - Election of Officers at National Grange

WHEREAS the election of officers process is defined in National Grange Digest of Laws 10.4.1 as "ELECTIONS -- 10.4.1 Nominating speeches shall not be allowed in any of the Granges in the various divisions of the Order (Junior, Subordinate, Pomona, State or National) at the time of the election of officers; but in the election of officers, a member may present the name of another member as a candidate for a Grange office provided this rule has been adopted by the Grange having jurisdiction. A motion to close nominations is never in order and members may vote for a member whether the member's name has been placed in nomination or not." and

WHEREAS in all divisions of the order, except the National Grange, this process is followed by the numerous Granges across the country and have for as long as the organization has been in existence; and

WHEREAS the delegates at National Session could spend this valuable time doing other important requirements assigned to them instead of guessing who they should suggest as the officers of the National Grange; and

WHEREAS the election of Officers at National Session is traditionally conducted by secret ballot and counted by the Assistants and the Steward; and

WHEREAS the National Session has now been shortened to cut down on expenses but still has the same amount of work to complete; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the election of officers at National Grange be conducted in the same manner as prescribed in the Digest of Laws and the National Master will open the floor for suggestions for the officers of the National Grange, beginning at the 2018 National Grange Session.

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

Chris Heath, NH, Chair
Cindy Greer, CO, Secretary
Ed Komski, CA
Susan Noah, OR
George Thomas, MA

Leroy Watson, NH
Noel Miller, CT
Marie Nicholson, MT
Bruce Croucher, NY
Roger Bostwick, KS

PRESENT POLICY IS REPRESENTED IN THE CURRENT DIGEST OF LAWS.

POLICY STATEMENT

Labor

The Grange has long fought for the rights of both employers and employees to live and thrive, understanding that worker protection and prosperity are not in conflict with company success and solvency. We believe that the hardworking men and women of America's workforce deserve the opportunity to earn a fair wage in a safe work environment and the guarantee that their pensions and subsequent benefits will be protected and preserved. We encourage businesses across the country to be proactive in ensuring the future growth and stability of employee pension benefits and to guard against their loss in the unfortunate event of a company merger or bankruptcy.

The National Grange supports the Agriculture Guest Worker (AG) Act of 2017 for the establishment of the H-2C visa program administered by the USDA. This act will provide an option to both seasonal and year-round labor needs, recognizing that not all agriculture jobs are the same or require the same level of skill or experience. The H-2C visa program better understands the unique needs of the American farm and ranch operations, and the challenges of processing raw, perishable commodities. The AG Act will offer workers and employers more choices in their employment arrangements, with more flexibility and less bureaucratic red tape than the H2A visa program.

The global economy has allowed American businesses to reach markets once inaccessible and has increased the demand for many of our goods, including our agricultural products, in far regions of the world. The Grange continues to be an advocate for the implementation of fair free trade agreements that encourage international commerce while also incentivizing domestic job growth and economic output for American companies. We do not; however, support the bailout of any country, state, or territory that has engaged in wasteful spending and behaved in a financially irresponsible manner.

Judiciary

Since the Grange was organized in 1867, it has been a staunch defender of our Constitution and the rights and privileges it protects for each and every citizen. We are a nation of law and order and as such must work to draft, pass, and maintain legislation aimed at ensuring a peaceful society and a fair judicial system. Our first responders work hard and serve bravely on a daily basis to maintain this order. The National Grange will forever strive to grant them the support and respect they deserve.

The Grange understands that citizens and the officials they elect are the best candidates to write the laws by which we will be governed, and that administrative agencies, commissions and other unelected governing bodies should be prohibited from drafting and implementing such regulations that dramatically impact our daily lives. We urge elected officials at all levels to periodically review and purge outdated laws and reduce burdensome and unnecessary regulations that stifle economic growth and fundamentally impede the free market system.

We vehemently oppose the use of eminent domain to confiscate such private property for commercial use or any project that does not directly benefit the general citizenry.

Transportation

From its inception in 1867, the National Grange has been an advocate for a strong transportation infrastructure. In many ways, agriculture is the "original" business and as such has driven the establishment of a multitude of subsequent industries down the economic food chain, including infrastructure development. The need for farmers to get their products to consumers drove the establishment of our nation's railroads, highways, and waterways and today continues to drive the development of our national infrastructure.

We continue to support laws requiring drivers to slow down and move over while passing an emergency vehicle that is stopped with lights flashing and believe all drivers should be held responsible for their driving and guard against distractions from cell phones and other such devices. We also support increased visibility devices for school buses. We strongly support technology that enhances the visibility of vehicles, rail cars, bicycles, motorcycles, trucks, etc.

We support the designation of English as our national language and thus believe that all road and highway signage should be printed in English only. We further urge that all drivers' tests, licenses and permits be printed in English as well.

This policy statement covers 802-IL, 806-NY, 819-WA and portions of the Master's Address.

NO RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED BY THIS COMMITTEE AT THE 151st ANNUAL CONVENTION

PRESENT POLICY

LABOR

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 production 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/advanced agricultural skills/technical skills to enter the United States to provide services in sectors where there is a documented need.
5. The National Grange supports existing federal law that includes sheepherders in the H-2A visa (temporary work visa) program.

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 the child labor laws of the U.S. Department of Labor restricting family members 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 family members 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 enrolled in an accredited job training or vocational education program, who are collecting unemployment compensation, to decline offers of employment without losing their unemployment benefits.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. The National Grange urges the necessary changes to the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) that would exempt volunteer worker member co-operatives from minimum wage requirements, allowing members access to quality foods at affordable prices.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. The National Grange supports legislation that allows employers to hire replacement workers during a strike.

JUDICIARY

Banking and Consumer Credit Law

1. 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.
2. The National Grange believes 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 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.

Bankruptcy

1. The National Grange favors additional penalties for bankruptcy fraud to combat planned bankruptcies and other abuses.
2. The National Grange supports that companies or businesses that file for bankruptcy 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.

Children and Family Law

1. 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 wellbeing 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.
2. The National Grange favors reforms that would consider the best interests of the child in all proceedings, investigations, or rulings by the courts.
3. 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.
4. 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 considered as the custodian of that child.

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.

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.

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 supports identification of all products that are foreign-made or assembled.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. The National Grange supports allowing nonprofit organizations to make continued "incidental use" of copyrighted music.
6. Regulations should be enacted that require companies to give consumers the option of mailed billings or statements without surcharges.
7. The National Grange encourages companies to print product expiration or use by dates in the mm/dd/yy format.
8. 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.

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. An appropriate prison sentence should be imposed upon conviction for any felony drug offense.
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.

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, except for 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.
3. The National Grange urges at the federal level, a law of national reciprocity between states be created so that a legal permit to carry weapons from one state be recognized by all states.

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.
2. National Grange recommends 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.
3. 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.
4. The National Grange encourages agricultural research and development in and for Third World nations.

General Law

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. The National Grange recommends that there be no changes in the federal laws that currently ban the production and sale of marijuana in the United States.
4. The National Grange supports legislation to place salvia divinorum under the control of the Controlled Substance Act.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. The National Grange supports the use of drone aircraft and associated technologies.
10. 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."
11. The National Grange supports the principle that all federal judges be reconfirmed every 10 years to remain on the bench.
12. 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.

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 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.
3. The National Grange urges that the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conduct a public awareness campaign to help property owners understand their rights when there is a flood map reclassification.
4. The National Grange urges the National Flood Insurance Program to change policy provisions to allow blanket coverage over multiple structures on a property. Additionally, we support the continuation of the 'Write Your Own' (local insurance agent) model of securing Flood Insurance.
5. 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.
6. The National Grange opposes any legislation that would require insurance companies to comply with "The Community Reinvestment Act," 12 U.S.C. 2901,
7. The National Grange supports passage of legislation mandating the Medicare system to use an identification number other than the individual's Social Security Number.
8. 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.

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 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 continues to support the US non-participation in the International Criminal Court 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.

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.

TRANSPORTATION & POSTAL POLICIES

Air Travel

1. The National Grange supports the assignment of Air Marshals on random flights.
2. 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 rights-of-way and to work with the railroads to control noxious weeds along railroad rights-of-way 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 Placard 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 supports a standardized toll road transponder that works on all toll roads across the USA.

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 intra-city 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. We encourage the use of "Weigh Stations" as rest locations.
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.

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 rights-of-way.
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.
7. The National Grange recommends that the interstate highway system adopt the use of a uniform transponder system for all open-road tolling.
8. The National Grange opposes the sale of any toll roads or bridges.
9. 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.

Impaired Driving

1. The National Grange believes 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.

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 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 rights-of-way, 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 and water, as well as assure their timely removal from the disabled train.

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 high visibility clothing or have an apparatus to make them more visible to other motorists.
7. The National Grange supports requiring all motor vehicles to have a rear bumper or undercarriage guard coming within 16 inches of the ground.
8. 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.
9. The National Grange supports standardizing the cellular emergency number for the interstate highway systems to *91.
10. The National Grange supports legislation that would penalize a driver for using a cell phone when it is the cause of an accident.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. The National Grange supports legislation banning high intensity discharge (HID) headlights and/or driving lights and/or Xenon lights.
14. 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 have blind spot sensors or devices.
15. The National Grange supports present U.S. Department of Transportation requirements for random drug and alcohol testing for school bus drivers.
16. 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 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.

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.
4. The National Grange supports Department of Transportation (DOT) reclassifying light-, medium-, and heavy-duty utility vehicles separate from on-highway (cross-country) trucks. However, we recommend that logbooks not be required on light-, medium-, and heavy-duty utility vehicles.

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.
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 encourages 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.

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.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the, Labor, Judiciary and Transportation Committee for their hard work and many long hours. We would like to also thank the Legislative Director and his staff for their support.

Jimmy Taylor, VA, Chair
Joan Smith, NJ, Secretary
Steve Coye, NY
Jimmy Gentry, NC
Jack Smithers, TX

Helen Lynch, DE
Duane Scott, WI
Maureen Prelli, CT
James Owens, ME

FOUNDING OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE:
December 4, 1867 Washington, D.C

HISTORY OF THE CONVENTIONS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

Session #	Year, Month	Place	Master
1	1868, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
2	1869, April	Washington, DC	William Saunders
3	1870, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
4	1871, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
5	1872, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
6	1873, Jan.	Georgetown, DC	William Saunders
7	1874, Feb.	St. Louis, MO	D.W. Adams
8	1875, Feb.	Charleston, SC	D.W. Adams
9	1875, Nov.	Louisville, KY	D.W. Adam
10	1876, Nov.	Chicago, IL	John T. Jones
11	1877, Nov.	Cincinnati, OH	John T. Jones
12	1878, Nov.	Richmond, VA	S.E. Adams
13	1879, Nov.	Canandaigua, NY	S.E. Adams
14	1880, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
15	1881, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
16	1882, Nov.	Indianapolis, IN	J.J. Woodman
17	1883, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
18	1884, Nov.	Nashville, TN	J.J. Woodman
19	1885, Nov.	Boston, MA	J.J. Woodman
20	1886, Nov.	Philadelphia, PA	I.P. Darden
21	1887, Nov.	Lansing, MI	I.P. Darden
22	1888, Nov.	Topeka, KS	James Draper
23	1889, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	J.H. Brigham
24	1890, Nov.	Atlanta, GA	J.H. Brigham
25	1891, Nov.	Springfield, OH	J.H. Brigham
26	1892, Nov.	Concord, NH	J.H. Brigham
27	1893, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	J.H. Brigham
28	1894, Nov.	Springfield, IL	J.H. Brigham
29	1895, Nov.	Worcester, MA	J.H. Brigham
30	1896, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.H. Brigham
31	1897, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	J.H. Brigham
32	1898, Nov.	Concord, NH	Aaron Jones
33	1899, Nov.	Springfield, OH	Aaron Jones
34	1900, Nov.	Washington, DC	Aaron Jones
35	1901, Nov.	Lewiston, ME	Aaron Jones
36	1902, Nov.	Lansing, MI	Aaron Jones
37	1903, Nov.	Rochester, NY	Aaron Jones
38	1904, Nov.	Portland, OR	Aaron Jones
39	1905, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Aaron Jones
40	1906, Nov.	Denver, CO	N.J. Bachelder
41	1907, Nov.	Hartford, CT	N.J. Bachelder
42	1908, Nov.	Washington, DC	N.J. Bachelder
43	1909, Nov.	Des Moines, IA	N.J. Bachelder
44	1910, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	N.J. Bachelder
45	1911, Nov.	Columbus, OH	N.J. Bachelder
46	1912, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Oliver Wilson
47	1913, Nov.	Manchester, NH	Oliver Wilson
48	1914, Nov.	Wilmington, DE	Oliver Wilson
49	1915, Nov.	Oakland, CA	Oliver Wilson

50	1916, Nov.	Washington, DC	Oliver Wilson
51	1917, Nov.	St. Louis, MO	Oliver Wilson
52	1918, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Oliver Wilson
53	1919, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Oliver Wilson
54	1920, Nov.	Boston, MA	S.J. Lowell
55	1921, Nov.	Portland, OR	S.J. Lowell
56	1922, Nov.	Wichita, KS	S.J. Lowell
57	1923, Nov.	Pittsburgh, PA	S.J. Lowell
58	1924, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	L.J. Taber
59	1925, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	L.J. Taber
60	1926, Nov.	Portland, ME	L.J. Taber
61	1927, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	L.J. Taber
62	1928, Nov.	Washington, DC	L.J. Taber
63	1929, Nov.	Seattle, WA	L.J. Taber
64	1930, Nov.	Rochester, NY	L.J. Taber
65	1931, Nov.	Madison, WI	L.J. Taber
66	1932, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	L.J. Taber
67	1933, Nov.	Boise, ID	L.J. Taber
68	1934, Nov.	Hartford, CT	L.J. Taber
69	1935, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	L.J. Taber
70	1936, Nov.	Columbus, OH	L.J. Taber
71	1937, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	L.J. Taber
72	1938, Nov.	Portland, OR	L.J. Taber
73	1939, Nov.	Peoria, IL	L.J. Taber
74	1940, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	L.J. Taber
75	1941, Nov.	Worcester, MA	L.J. Taber
76	1942, Nov.	Wenatchee, WA	A.S. Goss
77	1943, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	A.S. Goss
78	1944, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	A.S. Goss
79	1945, Nov.	Kansas City, MO	A.S. Goss
80	1946, Nov.	Portland, OR	A.S. Goss
81	1947, Nov.	Columbus, OH	A.S. Goss
82	1948, Nov.	Portland, ME	A.S. Goss
83	1949, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	A.S. Goss
84	1950, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	Henry D. Sherwood
85	1951, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Herschel D. Newsom
86	1952, Nov.	Rockford, IL	Herschel D. Newsom
87	1953, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Herschel D. Newsom
88	1954, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Herschel D. Newsom
89	1955, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	Herschel D. Newsom
90	1956, Nov.	Rochester, NY	Herschel D. Newsom
91	1957, Nov.	Colorado Springs, CO	Herschel D. Newsom
92	1958, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Herschel D. Newsom
93	1959, Nov.	Long Beach, CA	Herschel D. Newsom
94	1960, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	Herschel D. Newsom
95	1961, Nov.	Worcester, MA	Herschel D. Newsom
96	1962, Nov.	Fort Wayne, IN	Herschel D. Newsom
97	1963, Nov.	Portland, OR	Herschel D. Newsom
98	1964, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Herschel D. Newsom
99	1965, Nov.	Topeka, KS	Herschel D. Newsom
100	1966, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	Herschel D. Newsom
101	1967, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Herschel D. Newsom
102	1968, Nov.	Peoria, IL	Herschel D. Newsom
103	1969, Nov.	Daytona Beach, FL	John W. Scott
104	1970, Nov.	Boise, ID	John W. Scott
105	1971, Nov.	Charleston, WV	John W. Scott
106	1972, Nov.	Hartford, CT	John W. Scott

107	1973, Nov.	Lincoln, NE	John W. Scott
108	1974, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	John W. Scott
109	1975, Nov.	Columbus, OH	John W. Scott
110	1976, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	John W. Scott
111	1977, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	John W. Scott
112	1978, Nov.	Denver, CO	John W. Scott
113	1979, Nov.	Lancaster, PA	John W. Scott
114	1980, Nov.	Cedar Rapids, IA	Edward Andersen
115	1981, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Edward Andersen
116	1982, Nov.	Providence, RI	Edward Andersen
117	1983, Nov.	San Antonio, TX	Edward Andersen
118	1984, Nov.	Portland, ME	Edward Andersen
119	1985, Nov.	Eugene, OR	Edward Andersen
120	1986, Nov.	Madison, WI	Edward Andersen
121	1987, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Edward Andersen
122	1988, Nov.	Redding, CA	Robert E. Barrow
123	1989, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	Robert E. Barrow
124	1990, Nov.	Wichita, KS	Robert E. Barrow
125	1991, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Robert E. Barrow
126	1992, Nov.	Denver, CO	Robert E. Barrow
127	1993, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	Robert E. Barrow
128	1994, Nov.	Peoria, IL	Robert E. Barrow
129	1995, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	Robert E. Barrow
130	1996, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Kermit W. Richardson
131	1997, Nov.	Springfield, MA	Kermit W. Richardson
132	1998, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	Kermit W. Richardson
133	1999, Nov.	Portland, ME	Kermit W. Richardson
134	2000, Nov.	Fresno, CA	Kermit W. Richardson
135	2001, Nov.	Cedar Rapids, IA	Kermit W. Richardson
136	2002, Nov.	Portland, OR	Kermit W. Richardson
137	2003, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Kermit W. Richardson
138	2004, Nov.	Rochester, NY	William A. Steel
139	2005, Nov.	Columbus, OH	William A. Steel
140	2006, Nov.	Springfield, IL	William A. Steel
141	2007, Nov.	Reno, NV	William A. Steel
142	2008, Nov.	Cromwell, CT	Edward L. Luttrell
143	2009, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Edward L. Luttrell
144	2010, Nov.	Charlotte, NC	Edward L. Luttrell
145	2011, Nov.	Tulsa, OK	Edward L. Luttrell
146	2012, Nov.	Boise, ID	Edward L. Luttrell
147	2013, Nov.	Manchester, NH	Edward L. Luttrell
148	2014, Nov.	Sandusky, OH	Edward L. Luttrell
149	2015, Nov.	Lincoln, NE	Edward L. Luttrell
150	2016 Nov.	Herndon, Virginia	Betsy E. Huber
151	2017, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Betsy E. Huber
Upcoming			
152	2018, Nov.	Stowe, VT	
153	2019, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	
154	2020, Nov.	Valley Forge, PA	
155	2021, Nov.	Wichita, KS	

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Financial Statements

December 31, 2016

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

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ERIC BOLIN CPA P.C.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2016, 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, 2016, 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 17, 2017

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NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2016

	GRANGE OPERATING ACCOUNT	GRANGE BUILDING ACCOUNT	TOTAL NATIONAL GRANGE
ASSETS			
Cash on hand and on deposit (Sch. I)	\$ 144,537	\$ -	\$ 144,537
Building Fund		2,910	2,910
Investments (Note 3)	538,940	-	538,940
Accounts receivable (Sch. II)	315,827	-	315,827
Rents Receivable	-	2,560	2,560
Prepaid expenses and Deposits	27,701	-	27,701
Inventory - sales (Note 2)	143,207	-	143,207
Building (at cost)	-	1,174,014	1,174,014
Accumulated depreciation - Building	-	(1,174,014)	(1,174,014)
Equipment and Improvement (at cost)	56,112	898,551	954,663
Accum.Depr.- Equip & Improvements	(56,112)	(806,536)	(862,648)
Land	-	255,238	255,238
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,170,212	\$ 352,723	\$ 1,522,935
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable-Trade	\$ 402,611	\$ -	\$ 402,611
Accrued Membership Assessment	57,233	-	57,233
Accrued Expenses	13,829	-	13,829
Grange bonding	0	-	0
Tom Severance Fund	1,220	-	1,220
Building Fund	7,377	-	7,377
Security Deposits - tenants	-	41,456	41,456
Trial Funding	10,208	-	10,208
Escrow	3,000	-	3,000
Due to State Granges	65,078	-	65,078
Note Payable -LMA	100,504	-	100,504
Note Payable -Oregon State Grange	250,000	-	250,000
Loan Payable	927,410	-	927,410
Due to Grange Foundation	10,379	-	10,379
IRA Contribution Payable	1,368	-	1,368
Due to (from) building account	10,437,449	(10,437,449)	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	12,287,666	(10,396,993)	1,891,673
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted - building	-	10,748,716	10,748,716
Unrestricted - operating	(11,425,219)	-	(11,425,219)
Delegate Restricted Fund	307,765	-	307,765
TOTAL NET ASSETS	(11,117,454)	10,748,716	(368,738)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 1,170,212	\$ 352,723	\$ 1,522,935

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2016

Schedule I - Cash on Hand and on Deposit

Operating account	\$	100,671
Petty cash		1,761
Reserve		14,316
Money Market		0
Escrow		27,789
Total Cash on Hand and on Deposit	\$	144,537

Schedule II - Accounts Receivable

Dues	\$	315,042
Other		785
Total Accounts Receivable	\$	315,827

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statements of Activities - Operating Account

For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

REVENUE	
Dues and Fees	
Subordinate Grange Dues	\$ 767,145
Subordinate Grange Charter Fees	50
Junior Grange Charter Fees	30
E-Memberships	819
Sixth Degree Fees	40
Seventh Degree Fees	1,650
GIA	75,000
Membership Assessments - National Convention	116,105
Sponsors, Grants, Other	38,507
Sales Income	71,440
Interest, Dividend Income	21,086
Fund Raising Donations	2,001
Bonding Commission	5,580
Licensing	58,193
Gain On Sale of Investments	4,567
Subscriptions	1,778
California Litigation	145,467
TOTAL REVENUE	1,309,458
EXPENSES	
General and Administrative	630,090
Gen & Admin - Professional Services	1,172,046
National Master	74,726
National Secretary and Lecturer, High Priest	1,541
Board of Directors	1,226
Communication Publication	23,207
Youth Activities	19,403
Junior Grange	13,231
Bank Charges	38,183
Membership, Leadership	11,427
Legislative	22,410
IT/ Systems	56,489
National Convention	127,326
Marketing/Sales	11,665
Program Resources	5,252
Simple IRA	5,324
Interest	59,598
Miscellaneous	508
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,273,652
(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(964,194)
Prior Period Adjustment	14,420
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS – January 1,	(10,475,445)
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS – December 31,	\$ (11,425,419)

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statements of Activity - Building Operations

For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

INCOME

Rent	\$ 1,106,261
NG Building – Expense Allocations	41,561
Storage, Other	9,097

TOTAL INCOME	1,156,919
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EXPENSES

Salaries and Payroll Taxes	23,600
Real Estate Taxes	162,128
Electricity, Gas and Water	90,657
Building Supplies	2,453
Service Contracts, Inspection	164,643
Repairs and Maintenance	399
Insurance	21,380
Miscellaneous, Commissions	7,747

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	473,007
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CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS	683,912
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Provision for Depreciation	(22,127)
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INCREASE IN NET ASSETS - Building	661,785
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NET ASSETS - Building Operations – January 1,	10,086,931
--	-------------------

NET ASSETS - Building Operations - December 31,	\$ 10,748,716
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See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Decrease in Net Assets - Operating	\$ (964,194)
Increase in Net Assets - Building	661,785
Total	(302,409)
Adjustments to Reconcile Decrease in Net Assets to Cash (Used) by	
Operations	
Depreciation	22,127
Decrease (Increase) in Accounts Receivable	(98,629)
Decrease (Increase) in Rents Receivable	(2,560)
Decrease (Increase) in Prepaid Expenses, Deposits	(18,938)
Decrease (Increase) in Inventory	(13,777)
(Decrease) Increase in Grange Bonding	3,237
(Decrease) Increase in Due to State Granges	5,402
(Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable	(800,329)
(Decrease) Increase in Accrued Expenses	2,038
(Decrease) Increase in Tenant Security Deposits	(228)
(Decrease) Increase in Prepaid Rent	0
(Decrease) in Due to Grange Foundation	(1,914)
(Decrease) Increase in Accrued Membership Assessment	15,733
(Decrease) Increase in IRA Payable	692
(Decrease) Increase in Building Fund	5,544

NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES (1,184,011)

CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Decrease (Increase) in Investment Account	(19,994)
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NET CASH (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES

CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES

(Decrease) Increase in Loan Payable - LMA	42,165
(Decrease) Increase in Bank Loan Payable	927,410

NET CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES 969,575

NET (DECREASE) IN CASH (234,430)

Prior Period Adjustment 14,420

CASH - January 1, **367,457**

CASH - December 31, **\$ 147,447**

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

Interest Paid During Year **\$ 59,598**

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2016

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.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2016

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (Continued)

Property and Equipment

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.

We record property and equipment additions over \$5,000 at cost, or if donated, at fair value on the date of donation. Depreciation and amortization are computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets ranging from three to thirty years, or in the case of capitalized leased assets or leasehold improvements, the lesser of the useful life of the asset or the lease term. When assets are sold or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related depreciation or amortization are removed from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is included in the statements or activities. Cost of maintenance and repairs that do not improve or extend the useful lives of the respective assets are expensed currently.

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.

Financial Instruments and Credit Risk

We manage deposit concentration risk by placing cash, money market accounts, and certificates of deposit with financial institutions believed by us to be creditworthy. At times, amounts on deposit may exceed insured limits or include uninsured investments in money market mutual funds. To date, we have not experienced losses in any of these accounts. Credit risk associated with accounts receivable and promises to give is considered to be limited due to high historical collection rates and because substantial portions of the outstanding amounts are due from members. Investments are made by diversified investment managers whose performance is monitored by the executive committee. Although the fair values of investments are subject to fluctuation on a year-to-year basis, we believe that the investment policies and guidelines are prudent for the long-term welfare of the organization.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2016

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (Continued)

Net Assets

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

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.

NOTE 3 -FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

We report certain assets and liabilities (or on or the other) at fair value in the consolidated financial statements. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction in the principal, or most advantageous, market at the measurement date under current market conditions regardless of whether that price is directly observable or estimated using another valuation technique. Inputs used to determine fair value refer broadly to the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk. Inputs may be observable or unobservable. Observable inputs are inputs that reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity. Unobservable inputs are inputs that reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability based on the best information available. A three-tier hierarchy categorizes the inputs as follows:

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2016

NOTE 3: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

Level 1 – Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that we can access at the measurement date.

Level 2 – Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, and market-corroborated inputs.

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability. In these situations, we develop inputs using the best information available in the circumstances.

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	\$ 238,841
Common Stock	229,075
Other	<u>71,024</u>
	<u>538,940</u>

Funds are allocated to:

Convention Bank	\$ 307,765
Savings	<u>231,175</u>
Total	<u>\$ 538,940</u>

NOTE 4 - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property, equipment and accumulated depreciation are as follows at December 31, 2016

Depreciable Assets	
Equipment	\$ 56,112
Building	1,174,014
Building Improvements	<u>898,551</u>
	2,128,677
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(2,036,662)</u>
	<u>\$ 92,015</u>

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2016

NOTE 5 – UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS- BUILDING

Building unrestricted net assets is comprised of at December 31, 2016

From Operations	\$ 9,777,486
Contributions	260,745
Provided from Exchange of	
Former Building	396,936
Bicentennial Cookbook	<u>313,549</u>
	<u>\$ 10,748,716</u>

NOTE 6 - PENSION PLAN/SIMPLE IRA

In March 2002, The National Grange established a SIMPLE IRA employee benefit plan covering substantially all employees after the 90 day probation period at open enrollment 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, 2016, the matching portion was \$5,324.

NOTE 7 – INCOME TAXES

The National Grange is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501 (c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code. However, entities that are classified under this section of the code are subject to tax on “unrelated business income” as defined by IRS regulations. The National Grange had no unrelated business income for the year ended December 31, 2016.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require the National Grange to evaluate tax position taken and recognize a tax liability if it is more likely than not that uncertain tax positions taken would not be sustained upon examination by taxing authorities. The National Grange has analyzed tax positions taken and has determined that, as of December 31, 2016, there are no uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability or disclosure in the financial statements. The National Grange’s tax returns are subject to examination by taxing authorities, generally for a period of three years after the returns are filed.

NOTE 8 - 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, 2016 totaled \$538,940.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2016

NOTE 9 - LEASE COMMITMENT

The National Grange has entered into an operating lease for a copier. The lease for the copier was signed on August 29, 2013 for 57 months starting in September 2013. The monthly payment for the copier is \$514..

NOTE 10 - 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 to five years, renewable, leases at current market rents. Some leases have expense pass-through clauses based on the previous year's operating costs.

NOTE 11 - 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, 2016 is \$100,504.

The National Grange also has a promissory note with the Oregon State Grange in the amount of \$250,000 as of December, 2016, bearing interest at 6%. The note is payable quarterly, interest only for 2016 at \$3,750, and starting in March 2017 in the amount of \$8,356.78 principal and interest. The note and any unpaid interest is due in full by December 31, 2026.

NOTE 12 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In preparing these financial statements, the Organization has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through November 2017, the date the financial statements were available for use.

NOTE 13 - DUE TO STATE GRANGES

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

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2016

NOTE 14 – 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 15 – PROPERTY HELD IN TRUST

As of December 31, 2016, 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 GRANGE FOUNDATION

Financial Statements

December 31, 2016 and 2015

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

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ERIC BOLIN CPA P.C.

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, 2016 and 2015, 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.

June 1, 2018

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THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Financial Position

	December 31,	
	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash – Operating	\$ 37,050	\$ 29,669
CD Investments	46,945	46,898
Pledge Receivable	100	0
Account Receivable - National Grange	10,379	17,143
Total Current Assets	94,474	93,710
Other Assets		
Endowment Fund (Restricted)	208,965	208,965
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 303,439	302,675
LIABILITY		
Accounts Payable	842	0
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	18,958	27,665
Temporarily Restricted	74,674	66,045
Permanently Restricted – Endowment	208,965	208,965
TOTAL NET ASSETS	302,597	302,675
TOTAL LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS	\$ 303,439	\$ 302,675

See Accompanying Accountant's Review Report and Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Years Ended December 31,

	2016	2015
CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:		
Revenues:		
Contributions	\$ 1,211	\$ 1,717
Gain (Loss) in Investment Value	5,442	(665)
Interest and Dividend Income	4,850	11
Prior Period Adjustment	0	9,491
Gift Annuity, Other	133	66
Other Income	90	0
Total Unrestricted Revenues	11,726	10,620
Expenses:		
Investment Fees	1,905	0
Office Expense	1,328	152
Donations, Other	17,200	3,000
Total unrestricted expenses	20,433	3,152
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	(8,707)	7,468
CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS :		
Contributions, Interest, Grants	37,865	17,451
Expenses	(29,236)	(15,357)
(DECREASE) INCREASE IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	8,629	2,094
CHANGES IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:		
Increase	0	0
INCREASE IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:	0	0
(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(78)	9,562
NET ASSETS – JANUARY 1,	302,675	293,113
NET ASSETS – DECEMBER 31,	\$ 302,597	\$ 302,675

See Accompanying Accountant's Review Report and Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

Schedule I – Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

	OH Kelley Historical Prog. Fund	Junior Leadership Program	Youth Leadership Fund	Program For the Deaf	G.R.O.W. Club	American Arts	Youth Exchange Program	Community And Leadership	Trademark Protection	Elmer Grange	National Lecture Program	Communi- cation fellows program
Balance- January 1	\$ 3,743	\$ 9,912	\$ 18,444	\$ 18,339	\$ 5,549	\$ 2,973	\$ 5,195	\$ 10	\$ 1,880	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Contributions	1,221	2,072	13,019	25	4,283	0	0	0	2,045	13,775	1,175	250
Interest,												
Other Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenses	0	(1,530)	(13,796)	(500)	(1,500)	0	0	0	0	(11,650)	(260)	0

Balance- December 31	\$ 4,964	\$ 10,454	\$ 17,667	\$ 17,864	\$ 8,332	\$ 2,973	\$ 5,195	\$ 10	\$ 3,925	\$ 2,125	\$ 915	\$ 250
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See Accompanying Accountant's 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 Historical Prog. Fund	Junior Leadership Program	Youth Leadership Fund	Program For the Deaf	G.R.O.W. Club	American Arts	Youth Exchange Program	Community And Leadership	Trademark 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	13,006	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	\$ 3,744	\$ 9,912	\$ 18,443	\$ 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 Cash Flows

For the Years Ended December 31,

	2016	2015
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ (5,520)	\$ 4,712
(Decrease) Increase in Due From The National Grange	6,764	10,107
(Increase) Decrease in Pledge Receivable	(100)	0
(Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable	842	(340)
NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	1,986	14,479
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Change in FMV of Investment Endowment Fund	5,442	(9,487)
Increase in CD Investment	(47)	0
NET CASH (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	5,395	(9,487)
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	0	0
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	7,381	4,992
CASH – January 1,	29,669	24,677
CASH - December 31,	\$ 37,050	\$ 29,669

See Accompanying Accountants Review Report and Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2016

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, 2016

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, 2016

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 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 subject to tax examinations for three years from date filed.

NOTE 4 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In preparing these financial statements, Grange Foundation's management has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through June 1, 2018, 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.

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