

THE CALIFORNIA GRANGER



Growing Communities since 1873

Volume| 3 Date: August/September 2023

FROM THE TOP ~ JOSEPH STEFENONI ~ PRESIDENT



Greetings, Grangers! We are now fully into California summer and many of our Granges are taking advantage of the warmer weather to host outdoor events, participate in their county fairs, community farmers markets or other community events. During this summer season when we are getting out and about in our communities, I challenge each Grange to think about their community visibility. All Granges should be constantly asking themselves a couple of questions. First is “does our community know what our Grange is doing?” Second is “if someone wanted to join our Grange would they know how to?” The answers to both questions are vitally important to the health and success of your Community Grange. What your Grange is doing is what keeps the Grange moving forward and attracts new members to join your Grange. Knowing how to join, including providing a membership application and information on annual membership fees, illuminates the whole process and encourages a potential new member to attend a meeting of your Grange. This is a quick “health check” for your Grange to see how visible your Grange is to your community. Remember that each Grange is provided a free website by the National Grange.

Summer is also the gateway to our annual session in September. I am excited for our 148th Annual Session which will be September 20 – 24 in Petaluma. I encourage all members to attend the annual session for a day or the whole run of session. This year’s annual session will be structured differently than in previous years with each day being broken up by educational opportunities.

Daily highlights:

Wednesday; Opening of the annual session, State President’s annual address, rededication & 150th anniversary celebration of Bennett Valley Grange Hall.

Thursday; Workshop by Chris Hamp, National Grange Vice President, Election of Officers.

Friday; Agriculture tour at Singing Frogs Farms in Sebastopol, CA, workshops on Grange leadership, Grange talent & awards show.

Saturday; Livestock judging and nutrition seminar, presentation of Fifth & Sixth Degrees.

Sunday; Installation of Officers & closing of the annual session.

There are many ways to be involved in convention. If you have an interest in helping shape the Granges legislative policy, you can serve on a committee. More information can be found here <https://www.cognitofirms.com/CaliforniaStateGrange1/ResolutionCommitteeAssignmentNominationOrRequest>. Each Grange is also entitled to send two delegates to debate and vote on the resolutions submitted. There is also the Grange Expo where all the talents of our Grangers are put on display for your viewing.

I wish you all a wonderful and productive summer and look forward to seeing many of you in Petaluma this fall!

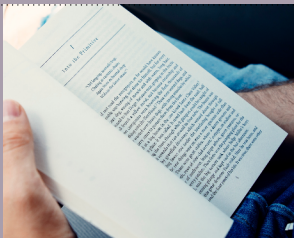
California's first Pomona Grange, Sonoma County Pomona Grange #1 was organized September 21, 1875, and has been in continuous existence.

LEGALESE

Snippets from the National Grange's "View from the Hill."

America Grows Act of 2023 Introduced

S.1628, introduced by Senators Durban (D-IL) and Moran (R-KS) would increase funding for agricultural research by 5 percent annually on an inflation-adjusted basis at the four main agricultural research and statistical agencies at USDA for the next 10 years. The National Grange and 73 other food, agriculture and research organizations expressed their support for the Act in a letter to the Senate and House Agriculture and Appropriations Committees.



NATIONAL NEWS - A PATRON'S CHAIN

A Patron's Chain Newsletter - News and Information Direct from the National Grange to You via your email inbox! You can download this article and more [here](#).

Community Service threads through Grange Degrees

By Pete Pompper, National Grange Community Service Director

“With kindly feelings toward all orders which seek to promote human welfare, let us strive with them for the good we can do for our fellow-beings. Nothing on earth brings greater satisfaction to the heart of him who serves than to rejoice with those who are joyful or to sympathize with those who mourn. To aid a Brother or Sister in bearing a weary burden constitutes life’s highest privilege.” As I was looking for inspiration for this week’s Patrons Chain article, I found this passage. It made me realize that in the earliest part of our Grange journey, we were instructed in the importance of community service. As I read through the various Manuals, it is one of the common threads in our Order - each Degree has a charge by one of the Officers explaining the importance of giving back in some way. The above quote is given by the Installing Officer at the end of the Junior Grange Installation of Officers. The first line of the quote is also noteworthy, as it talks about the importance of working with other like-minded organizations for the betterment of the community. We are seeing more Granges working with more groups all the time. We are realizing that we can’t and don’t have to do it all by ourselves. I am very proud of the partnership we have fostered with Rural Minds (thank you Burton Eller for starting this process) on a National level that so many Community Granges have responded to, and have held or are holding Rural Suicide Awareness and Mental Health programs. Granges are teaming up with other groups that focus on these needs in rural America, and the community turnout has been amazing. It shows how much the Grange is looked at as a trusted organization in the local communities and wants to help - even on an uncomfortable subject. The more we work with others not only strengthens our communities but also the Grange. It gives your Grange visibility with others and in the community you serve. We always talk about opening our doors to the world not only to help people, but we also want to work with others. Think of how this will help build your membership. How many of us only belong to one group or organization? People like to be part of groups that are community service minded, have fun, and can socialize on many levels. The Grange can fulfill that need. “Help us to control our spirits, and to do to others as we would have them do to us; as we grow in years, may we gain in knowledge and usefulness.” – Junior Grange Chaplain

CALLING ALL GRANGE MUSICIANS

Music is love, let's share some...

State Grange Musician Wendy DeWitt invites local Grange Musicians to come together in conversation to share ideas for music in our Granges. What classic songs are still favorites?

What modern songs is your Grange singing? Have you written something the membership responds well to?

If you'd like to be a part of this conversation Let's get together via email or zoom. Drop a note to Wendy Dewitt at tqobw@yahoo.com or text 510-847-5847.

Music lifts our hearts, adds focus and joy to our meetings and brings us together with a smile.

150 YEARS - BENNETT VALLEY GRANGE

On June 4th, Bennett Valley Grange celebrated its 150th anniversary with its traditional community BBQ which has also been occurring since the Grange's organization in 1873.

Over 100 community members turned out to support the Grange including Sonoma County Supervisor Susan Gorin whose territory encompasses the Grange.

In addition to the chicken BBQ, guests enjoyed music from The Familiar Strangers, a silent auction, cherry pit spitting contest and educational displays from the Sonoma County Historical Society, Sonoma County Search and Rescue and the University of California Cooperative Extension office. Brief remarks were given by Bennett Valley Grange President Moira Jacobs and California State Grange President Joseph Stefenoni.

Thank you to the Sonoma County Search & Rescue group who assisted with the event. All the proceeds go to benefit the Grange's historic building preservation.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A GRANGE NEAR YOU?

President of the Dows Prairie Grange No. 505 in McKinleyville, Julie Rhodes, presented the 2023 Grange scholarship to Alexa Oquist at the June Business meeting. After speaking briefly about her education plans, Alexa was escorted to the President for her check by Assistant Steward Judy Byers. Each year, the Grange honors one or more McKinleyville High School students who distinguish themselves and plan career studies in the fields of agriculture, forestry, education, or medicine. Alexa has enrolled at the College of the Redwoods and is beginning her journey toward becoming a radiology technician. She wishes to help with early cancer detection that can lead to better outcomes for patients.



North Fork Grange in Junction City held a Father's Day Breakfast for the community on June 18th. Breakfast included eggs, sausage, hash browns, biscuits & gravy, fruit and coffee or juice. They even offered breakfast to go! Looks like a great turnout.

Would you like to see your Grange listed here? Then fill out this form to be included in the next newsletter.

[Grange Link Directory](#)

The first Junior Grange in California was Lincoln Juvenile Grange #1 organized in 1905.

GRANGE YOUTH FAIR PROGRAM - SUPREME CHAMPION

Lockeford Grange #579 - Lockeford, CA

Amandataylor Morelos, Lockeford Grange #579-member, Hampshire market hog was awarded the Champion 4-H/Grange Hog and the Supreme Champion Hog for the 2023 San Joaquin AgFest Junior Show & Auction at the Stockton Fairgrounds, Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

Miss Morelos had three outstanding hogs that she raised and showed at the 8-day livestock show. Her Hampshire was the Supreme Barrow in the Dave Luis Memorial Derby. Then later in the day, the hog was awarded Grand Champion 4-H/Grange Hog. At the Supreme Champion Drive, her hog was selected as the very best hog in the show. Miss Morelos's Yorkshire Market hog was selected as the Champion Yorkshire Market Hog. In addition, she showed a breeding Dark Cross Commercial Gilt that was awarded Supreme Champion Gilt.

She will show the Hampshire Hog in the showmanship contest on Wednesday and sell the hog at the AgFest Livestock Auction on Saturday at 9:30 am in the hog ring.

Miss Morelos just graduated from the 8th grade at Delta Charter and will attend Tracy High in the fall. Her parents are Jennifer and Frank Morelos. The Morelos family joined the newly re-organized Lockeford Grange two years ago. There are about 20 families from San Joaquin County involved in the 149-year-old club.

The mission of the California State Grange since 1873, is to serve, steward and teach the virtues of the land to our children and community. The Grange maintains a commitment to grassroots advocacy, supporting farmland preservation, farm development, community service, sustainable, and regenerative agriculture, and the consumer's role in the food production system.



Left to right: Jennifer, Frankie, Frank, Amandataylor & Kathleen Morelos with the Supreme Champion AgFest Hampshire Hog

Amandataylor Morelos with all the awards she won with three hogs.



GRANGE YOUTH FAIR PROGRAM - A FAMILY AFFAIR

Anderson-Mt. Lassen Grange #418's Hawkins family had a bevy of success at the Shasta County District Fair this year. The three sisters all had animals entered. Tai, the oldest, while a Grange member, competed with her FFA group and the two youngest competed as Grange Youth (albeist in the 4-H category.) They proudly wore their red vests and blue jeans while showing their animals and what a show they had this year! Here are all of their outstanding accomplishments. Congratulations to all of them!



Tai:

- Champion Advanced FFA Sheep Showman
- Reserve Champion Advanced FFA Goat Showman
- Third Overall Advanced FFA Swine Showman
- Champion Commercial Ewe
- Reserve Champion Commercial Ewe
- 1st place Class 8 FFA Market Hog



Fallon:

- Champion Senior 4H Sheep Showman
- Champion Junior Sheep Showman
- 4th Overall 4H Senior Dairy Goat Showman
- Champion Intermediate Dairy Goat Showman
- Supreme Champion Market Goat ~ Champion 4H Market Goat
- Champion Registered Breeding Ewe
- 2nd place Class 2 Fall Commercial Does
- Champion Dry Dairy Doe (Yearling Toggenburg)

Dakota:

- Champion Beginner 4H Sheep Showman
- 4th Overall Junior Sheep Showman
- Reserve Overall Senior Goat Showman
- Reserve Champion Junior 4H Goat Showman
- Champion Beginner 4H Sheep Showman
- Reserve Champion Junior Poultry Showman
- Champion Commercial Boer Doe
- 1st place Single Comb Clean Legged Chicken

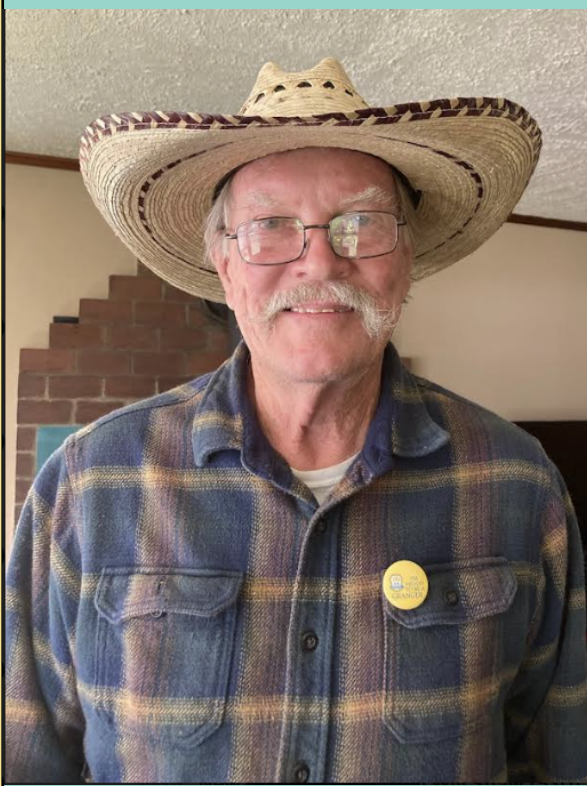
BE PROUD

BE LEADERS

BE GRANGE YOUTH



MEET FIELD REP ~ WILL SHAW



Will Shaw is the Field Rep for Northern California including Siskiyou, Trinity and Shasta Counties. He is a member of North Fork Grange in Junction City, Trinity County where he was a past President for 14 years. Will is also one of your California State Grange Executive Board Members as well as a Board Member for the California State Grange Foundation. He is a 20 year Grange member.

A CSG Field Rep helps to re-organize a Grange, start a new Grange, answer questions from Granges regarding anything Grange related. Field Reps are the liason between Granges and the State Grange. If you have a question or want information about re-organizing a Grange he's your guy. There are other CSG Field Reps around the state, if you don't know who yours is please give the CSG office a call and they will get you their info. When you join us for the CSG State Convention in September be sure to introduce yourself to Will!

John M. Hamilton, second Master (today called President) of the California State Grange organized the State Grange of Delaware in December of 1875. Hamilton was a native of Philadelphia and had friends and colleagues in Delaware whom he shared the Grange with.

2023 Grange Expo Book - NOW AVAILABLE!!

The California Grange Expo brings together all Grange contests to make it easier for you, our members and friends, to participate in and support the Grange. This book is for Grange and Junior Grange members of all ages as well as prospective members within the community.

Use the Expo to introduce the Grange to other people. Consider offering workshops or classes at your Grange Hall or meeting place that could result in entries for these contests. Invite experts to introduce new techniques or skills of interest to your members and the community. Hold your own local Exposition to increase the visibility of your Grange in the community.

Entries are OPEN NOW!

[Click here to get the 2023 Grange Expo Handbook.](#)

ARE YOU READY TO CONVENTION GRANGE STYLE?

Everyone is welcome to join the California State Grange in celebrating 150 years at this year's annual session! The fun begins September 20-24 at the Sonoma-Marín County Fairgrounds in Petaluma. Registration is now open, the link is below. Annual session is an opportunity to meeting Grangers from around the state, see friends you haven't seen a while, make new friends and learn from each other. Representatives from the National Grange will be there providing some educational opportunities. Be sure to sign up for the tour of the Singing Frogs Farm in Sebastopol and plan to attend the evening of excellence to include awards and a talent show! If you haven't entered the Expo yet there is still time and on Sunday some of those Expo items will be available to bid on in an auction. There is something for everyone from the youngest Granger to the Granger that knows a few things. Everyone at the CSG Office looks forward to seeing you there!

CALIFORNIA STATE GRANGE - EVER FACING THE LIGHT - GENERAL SESSION INFO

Location:The 148th Session will be held at the Sonoma-Marín Fairgrounds in Petaluma.

Lodging:There are hotels and vacation rental services in the area. There is a KOA Campground about 5 miles from the fairgrounds.

Meals:Lunches will be \$15.00 and Dinners will be \$25.00.

Registration Fees:There are two choices

- (1) Registration for all attendees is \$25.00 This will include the Delegate Packet by electronic download, OR
- (2) Registration with a printed Delegate packet with binder, the Registration fee will be \$50.00

Schedule Highlights

Wednesday 9/20:Opening in the Sixth Degree, rededication and reception of the Bennett Valley Grange Hall.

Thursday 9/21: Workshop by National Grange Vice President, Chris Hamp, Opening of Grange Expo, Election of officers

Friday 9/22:Ag tour of Singing Frogs Farms in Sebastopol (transportation provided. Tour ticket includes lunch. Tour is limited to 40 individuals.) Lectuer's talent & awards show.

Saturday 9/23: Annual meeting of the California State Grange Foundation, livestock judging & nutrñion seminar, Fifth Degree presentation by Mendo-Lake Pomona, Sixth Degree presentation

Sunday 9/24: Memorial service, Installation of Officers, Grange Expo auction

[Convention Registration Form / DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 \(cognitofrms.com\)](https://cognitofrms.com)

GRANGERS ARE TALENTED

Are you a singer, dancer, comedian, musician or great at lip syncing? Then show off your talent at the CSG Annual Session Talent Show! There are some new categories this year and any age is welcome to participate. Are you a solo act or have a group you perform with, then request the registration form from your CSG Lecturer at sdavis@castategrange.org.

Talent Show Categories:

Adult:

Song - Solo or Group

Recitation/Speech/Poetry - Solo or Group

Stand Up Comedy/Comedy Skit - Solo or Group

Instrumental - Solo or Group

Lip Sync - Solo or Group

Youth:

Song - Solo or Group

Recitation/Speech/Poetry - Solo or Group

Dance - Solo or Group

Instrumental - Solo or Group

Lip Sync - Solo or Group

NATIONAL CONVENTION NOVEMBER 14-18, 2023!



California State Grange Resolution Deadline Information - Resolutions are due by August 15th.

Resolutions can be submitted using the link [here](#), or emailed to jstefenoni@castategrange.org, or mailed to:

3830 U St.

Sacramento, CA 95817

ATTN: Resolutions

2022-2024 CSG Officers:

President - Joseph Stefenoni

Vice President - Vince Scholten

Lecturer - Suzanne Davis

Steward - Chad Smith

Asst. Steward - Paul Hanks

Lady Asst. Steward - Suzi Lawksowski

Chaplain - Barbara Geiger

Treasurer - Susan Hanks

Secretary - Lilian Booth

Gatekeeper - Robert Smith

Ceres - Ellie Bruce

Pomona - Marilla Peeler

Flora - Emily Casterson

Executive Committee:

1 year - Steven Hood

2 year - Martha Stefenoni

3 year - Will Shaw

Musician - Wendy Dewitt

CSG FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

This year the California State Grange Foundation is proud to present 3 scholarship awards. Here is a little about each of them.

Veronica Rodriguez is a member of Turlock Grange #29 and is currently studying Biological Sciences at the University of California, Irvine. Following the completion of her undergraduate degree, Veronica plans on attending medical school with a desire to become a pediatrician.



Joshua Weaver graduated from Rio Americano High School in 2023. He lives with his family in Elverta, CA and they are members of the Rio Linda Grange. Joshua will be attending Sacramento City College with the intention of transferring to UC Santa Cruz or UC Santa Barbara, studying business and accounting. Joshua also plans to study abroad for a semester in Spain.



Analise Scholten, of Sebastopol, CA is a graduate of Analy High School and will be attending Montana State University in the Fall of 2023. Analise is pursuing her degree in Agricultural Education and hopes to be a high school agricultural education instructor.



GETTING LECTURED

Greetings Grangers! It's almost time for another California State Grange Session. What a great year this will be for the California State Grange, celebrating 150 years! What a milestone and accomplishment that is for our Grange. If you have never been to an annual session before then this is the year to make plans on attending. You do not have to attend every day of the annual session to attend. You can attend for a few hours, part of a day, a full day or any combination that works for you. Is CSG Annual Session child friendly? Absolutely!! Everyone of any age is welcome to attend. There are lots of options for lodging in the area including camping if you have a tent or RV. Your officers are hard at work to make this the best annual session yet. The deadline to register is September 1st so get those registrations in ASAP! Now, I have a special project I am working on and need some help from all of you. Do you have some great pictures of your Community Grange Hall? I am looking for pictures of Grange Halls from around the State. They can be old pictures or you can take a brand new picture too! Please send them to sdavis@castategrange.org by September 1! Enjoy the remainder of your summer, read your emails, stay hydrated and remember to be kind to all. ~ Your CSG Lecturer ~

This is a publication of the California State Grange.

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Joseph Stefenoni - Editor-in-Chief

Suzanne Davis - Editor

Chad Smith - Communications Director

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