

THE CALIFORNIA GRANGER



Introductory Volume | Date: February 2023

FROM THE TOP ~ JOSEPH STEFENONI ~ PRESIDENT



Welcome to the revival of *The California Granger*, the official publication of the California State Grange! I hope that through this publication, Granges from across the state can share their successes and we can build a stronger fraternal bond between our Granges and Grangers. This publication will only be successful and relevant with buy-in and participation from you! We want to hear what Granges across California are doing to serve their communities, raise funds, build resilience, promote agriculture, and strengthen connection to our organization's history and traditions.

Let me start by saying what an immense privilege it is to serve you as President of the State Grange. I hope that over the next few years, we can build programs that raise the profile of the State Grange and the whole Grange organization in California so that the public knows that their Community Grange is THE place to be. During this term, there are three goals which I hope that the State Grange can work towards to ensure our continued success for the next 150 years.

- 1. Rebuild our legislative voice. A cornerstone of the Grange is our grassroots legislative process. My hope is that we can get more members engaged in that process internally through resolution writing and externally by having our members let their voice be heard in Sacramento and Washington DC promoting Grange policy.*
- 2. Strengthen the relationship between the Community Granges and the California State Grange. The State Grange has a corps of Officers, Directors and Field Representatives that are available to help make your Grange stronger. This leadership team at the State Grange is ready and eager to help your Grange generate ideas for events, fundraising, community relations, etc. We are at our core a fraternal organization with communal bonds that unite us from the largest urban center to the smallest rural hamlet. Don't be afraid to reach out to that network!*
- 3. Secure the long-term financial future of the State Grange. We are fortunate to have a headquarters property in Sacramento that can generate an income stream for the State Grange. At our last Annual Session, delegates adopted a budget that allocated funds to begin upgrades to the main building so that we have an attractive space to offer to potential renters. The ultimate objective is to have the income from our headquarters property pay the operating costs of the State Grange so that dues revenue can be spent on member services, outreach, strengthening Community Granges and legislative advocacy.*

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LEGALESE

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

Smuggled Eggs in Your Pan

U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel are reporting a rise in attempted egg smuggling at the Mexican border. They attribute the increase in smuggling to a 59.9% spike in U.S. egg prices over the past year. U.S. egg production is down sharply as the result of the massive outbreak of deadly avian flu among American flocks. Eggs must be inspected and originate from disease free flocks to enter the U. S.



FCC Guidance Needed For Rural Broadband

Barriers such as rights-of-way, pole attachment fees, slow permitting and other barriers are slowing rural broadband deployment projects. Until these barriers are mitigated, rural broadband is at risk of falling behind for the funding provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

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 the latest issue here.

Channel your passion into changing the world

By Betsy E. Huber, National Grange President

Channel your passion into changing the world By Betsy E. Huber, National Grange President Sunday was an exciting day for football fans in Philadelphia and Kansas City. I'm not really an Eagles fan until they get this far, but my household was glued to the TV Sunday afternoon and very excited at the result. Now we wait two weeks for the BIG game! Thousands and thousands of fans filled the Philly streets after the game, a wall-to-wall sea of green. Many downtown high-rise buildings have been bathed in green lights for weeks, and there was a really cool drone light show in the skies after the win. It got me thinking about how passionate people are about sports teams and games, things that don't really matter in the grand scheme of things (except to the players who make millions.) What would the Grange world look like if our members were that excited and motivated? We do activities and serve our communities in a much more meaningful way than just playing a game. Our small numbers, compared to football fans, could change the world if they showed half the enthusiasm and passion. Your meetings aren't as exciting as a football game? It's up to you to change that. Poll your members at the next meeting and ask what would make them excited to attend; then make some changes! You may attract a lot more interest and attendance. I look forward to your report on what you did and the results.

ALL ABOUT THE EXPO

The National Grange has published the 2023 contest Guide. These contests are open to all members across the nation. Check it out and plan to enter. some of them will be included in the 2023 California Grange Expo.

2023 National Grange Guide to Contests

For the 2023 Grange Expo book email:

jstefenoni@castatgrange.org



FROM THE TOP (CONTINUED)

The last few years have been a learning experience for our honored institution. In early 2020, our world was turned upside down by a global pandemic which took us away from our regular routine of monthly meetings, community events, breakfasts, dinners, etc. It provided an opportunity to evaluate how Granges can best serve their communities and break the mentality of “that’s the way we’ve always done it”. It has been profoundly impressive to watch the creativity of our members and Granges in response to having to find new ways of being successful. Now that we have been able to return to regular in person events, activities and fundraisers, it is precisely that creativity which will keep our organization growing.

Finally, we should be making sure that our Granges are not just the place where people eat, meet and leave. Over the next year, I would encourage you to visit other Granges in your area or invite them to visit your Grange and have the visiting Grange put on the program for the evening. Invite a State Grange Officer, Director, or Field Representative to visit your Grange to share the latest happenings of the State Grange what other Granges are doing to be successful. Organize events for the community to attend on topics of relevance or just to have fun and show them how the Grange benefits the community.

Let me close with one of my favorite quotes from our ceremonies. “Remember that Nature’s motto is ‘onward’, she never goes backward.” I look forward to our continued growth as an organization and hope to visit as many Granges as I can over the next year.

SHOWING OFF GRANGES AROUND THE STATE



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR

Greetings Golden State Grangers!

What a pleasure to have a chance to speak to you all, in this medium. I'm Chad Smith, your state Communication Director. What does that mean? Well, it means that I aspire to be a conduit of communication between Granges all over the state and nation. I want to help you all! Providing information and stories of success from Granges around California and the Nation, as well as participating in your Community Grange in developing relevant, meaningful, inclusive programming. How are we going to get there? Well, if you're reading this, we're already well on our way!

The idea of Communication is more diverse in this moment than ever before. Telephones in every pocket, televisions in every room, and the internet weaving it all together. We have tools and skills that were the stuff of science fiction a few short decades ago. We can grow stronger in our communities and fraternal bonds just by getting more familiar and comfortable with these tools, and if we do it right, we can do it in ways that include every skill level.

2023 promises to be an active year, ripe with opportunities to share in the successes each of us accomplish in the communities we serve. We want to hear about your successes; but more than that, we want to hear about your struggles and your failures. By sharing the struggles amongst each other, we can find communion and tackle creative methods of solving those problems. We will also see that none of us struggle alone. Each Grange, in communities throughout the state, has its own struggles with maintenance, upkeep, fund raising, membership, and more. It's time to create some community spaces where we can come to catalog, share, and solve problems, as well as successes.

Are you on social media? Meta, formerly known as Facebook, is the platform of choice at the moment, with a significant group of Granges already established and interacting there. Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, and more are immensely important to the younger generations, and provide a way to solicit interaction from those groups. We aim to make these more accessible, as well as to help Granges without active web pages log in, and utilize the web pages already furnished by the National Grange. Did you know you had a web page? Well, we'll be putting out a guide on setting up, and utilizing these webpages in short order.

In addition to this, we'll be launching a new Community Group in Meta (Facebook), with the intention of creating a safe dialogue space between granges. I have been thinking: "Golden State Grangin'" as a title. Got a better idea? Let's hear it! The concept is simple: A single group, where individuals and Granges can interact with others in the state. There will be a Calendar where, if your Grange desires, you can publish all of your events and meetings or find out what is happening at a hall somewhere else in the state. It will give opportunity to interact with your elected California State Grange Leadership, as well as members of Granges from other communities. I encourage you all to seek this community out, when we launch it! Stay Tuned!

This is going to be an amazing year, and I look forward to interacting with each of you! My email is csmith@castategrange.org. I invite you to reach out, and I'll do my best to be of service.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A GRANGE NEAR YOU?

March Events:

Sebastapol Grange - Sebastapol Carbon Conversations - Wed, Mar. 1

Humboldt Grange - Pancake Breakfast - 4th Saturday until Oct.

Redwood Valley Grange - Women's History Gala - March 5

Buena Vista Grange - Polenta & Stew Dinner - March 2

Anderson Mt. Lassen Grange - Bingo Night - March 2

Buckeye Grange - Pancake Breakfast - 1st Saturday every month

Wyandotte Grange - Trash to Treasure Sale - March 10th & 11th

North Fork Grange - Cabin Fever Dance - March 18

April Events:

Orangevale Grange - Spaghetti Dinner & Dance - April 1

Merced Colony Grange - Plant Give & Take - April 1

Ono Grange - Spring Marketplace Craft Show - April 15

Morgan Hill Grange - Edgar Loudermilk Band - April 14

APRIL IS GRANGE MONTH!

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

Grange Link Directory



GUESTORIAL - GRANGES WITHOUT WALLS

By: Daniel Feldman ~ Santa Cruz Live Oak Grange #503

What Are Granges Without Walls?

Granges without walls is a 21st century evolution of the Grange that does not sacrifice and might even enhance our 19th century roots. It is a network of digitally connected Community Granges that have the ability to stream live lectures, seminars, workshops, cultural events, etc. among one another at any time.

Our statewide collective Grange membership has an expansive, multi-generational wealth of knowledge, expertise, and talent. Each Community Grange gets to enjoy its own such wealth. But, with Granges without walls, we could all get to share in and contribute to this wealth. Our recent experience with the CA State Grange convention during the peak of the COVID pandemic proved that virtual streaming is a viable option for Granges to collectively communicate.

Granges without Walls is a brick-and-click approach for Community Granges that is now widely deployed by many businesses to expand their market base. The brick-and-click model combines a physical facility (i.e. the brick) with an on-line portal for commerce (i.e. the click). Embracing a brick-and-click model could attract new members from a wider geographic area and a more diversified base including those with disabilities that do not allow them to attend in person. This model has the potential to generate revenue, better serve our communities, and leverage multiple marketing platforms. It could attract new media-sophisticated Gen X, Y, Z members who would bring their expertise and experience with social media to enhance our ability to market our Granges within our communities.

What Would It Take?

To become a Grange without walls, we would need for as many Community Grange halls as possible to have access to Wi-Fi, to subscribe to the same streaming platform e.g. a YouTube channel, a digital projector, a laptop, a 6' screen, and a minimum of video and audio equipment. The acquisition of such tech would also have the upside of enhancing the rental profile of Granges. The video streaming capability could be initially accomplished via a smart phone, though a higher quality camera(s) and audio gear would ultimately be desirable. The initial capital outlay for the equipment could be realized via hall rentals, fund raising, and grant writing.

The other capability the Community Granges would need is an online mailing list which all Community Granges could use to communicate with one another as to what and when they will be streaming. Using the same model, the CA State Grange's outreach to all its Community Granges could likewise be further enhanced.

How to Begin?

Aside from acquiring the equipment and WiFi subscription already mentioned (some Granges already have these), the way to begin is for Community Granges to survey their members i.e. "Do you have a skill, expertise, hobby, knowledge, or talent that you would like to share?" It is of note that, beyond our members, each community in which a Grange is located also has its own social capital that could be tapped for the benefit of neighboring communities resulting in a stronger sustaining organization for all.

Why is This Important?

Granges have not only been losing members, but have attracted few new younger members. If this continues, as the older generations pass on, the Grange could eventually become a historical footnote. But, there is still time if we remain relevant, serve our communities in new ways, and stay in step with our rapidly changing world.

WHAT'S UP AND COMING?

CA State Grange Round Table is BACK!!

Grange Round Tables are a discussion forum facilitated by Lillian Booth, CA State Grange Secretary, and other members or subject matter experts. This is an open discussion format typically centered on one topic. The Round Tables are recorded and posted to the California State Grange YouTube Channel for viewing later and reference as needed. Please feel free to submit topics for future sessions. These are scheduled for the 4th Thursday of the Month.

This months topic is **Community Service**.



April is Grange Month!

Get wardrobe ready! Outfit your vehicle too!



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must purchase by March 13!
delivery by April 1

Polo - \$33* (Royal)
Hoodie - \$40* (Navy)
Junior T-Shirt - \$18* (Red)
T-Shirt - \$20* (Green)
Women's V-Neck - \$20* (Light Blue)

*plus applicable taxes and shipping

GRANGE MONTH SALE!

Raised Right Here Shirts

*the final time the Raised Right Here logos
will be for sale on apparel!*



bit.ly/grangemonthshirt



GRANGE LINKS AROUND THE STATE

California State Grange Links:

CA State Grange Website

CA State Grange Facebook

CA State Grange Expo

CA State Grange Lecturer

Subordinate Grange Links

Central Union Grange #559 Facebook

Central Union Grange #559 Website

Ono Grange #445 Facebook

Ono Grange #445 Website

This section is a work in progress and we need your help to fill it up!

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



If you missed the National Grange Convention here are some videos to see what you missed and make plans to attend this year! The CA State Grange Convention is Sept.20-24 and this year the CA State Grange celebrates 150 YEARS!!! It will be amazing!



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

GETTING LECTURED

Greetings Grangers! My name is Suzanne and I am your California State Grange Lecturer. I have to say I am super excited to be in this position and looking forward to spending the next year getting to know and visit as many Granges as possible. Learning about each of our unique subordinate Granges and working on getting all of us to communicate better is one of my top goals. As Lecturer sharing information and education is another top priority. To do this I need your help in knowing what is happening in your Granges. The more we know the more we grow! Growth is vital to keeping our Granges alive and relevant. If you have any questions about Lecturer programming, how or what to share or anything else you can email me at sdavis@castategrange.org or send me a message on the California State Grange Lecturer Facebook Page! This year marks 150 Years for the California State Grange!! The State Grange Convention will be in Petaluma, Sept 20-24. This will be an epic Convention and I am challenging everyone to make plans to attend at least part of the convention this year. April is Grange Month! This is the perfect time to spread your love of the Grange to others in your community! Be on the lookout for a special Grange month newsletter packed full of ideas on how to make the month Grangetastic! Have a beautiful day Grangers!

This is a publication of the California State Grange.

Since 1873 the mission of the California State Grange has been to serve, steward and teach the virtues of the land to our children and community. We maintain our 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.

Joseph Stefenoni - Editor-in-Chief

Suzanne Davis - Editor

Chad Smith - Communications Director

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