



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

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## The Grange can help amplify your voice

By [Betsy E. Huber](#), National Grange President

Excitement is building for this year's National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls!

Monday night was the most recent in the series of Convention Zooms to help explain to Grangers the importance of Convention to them and why they should plan to attend. Thanks to Pete Pompper for leading an engaged discussion on all sorts of topics related to resolutions, policy, and how individual Grangers can make a difference. Thanks to all those who joined in.

We are nearing the cut-off of the [early bird registration](#), so you'll want to register in the next two weeks to take advantage of the \$5 savings. New workshops and special features are being added every week, so stay tuned for updates here in the Patrons Chain.

Most of you will hold your State Sessions in the next two months. This is where members of the Community Granges in your state can begin the process of making your opinions known on Grange policy. Some deadlines have already passed, but some of you may still have the opportunity to submit resolutions to your local Grange to be sent to this year's State Grange session. Don't be discouraged about the way things are going in the country - speak up! Write a resolution with an idea to improve the situation.

Grange gives you the opportunity to amplify your voice. Take advantage of it now!

## Communication Fellows ready to tell the story

By [Philip J Vonada](#), National Grange Communications Director



Since 2012, the Communication Fellows have been a staple of National Grange Conventions, working (nearly) around-the-clock, learning about the ins and outs of how the Grange functions, interviewing Delegates, Officers, and guests, writing press releases and articles, and publishing the daily Patrons Chain newsletter.

The Communication Fellows program is also year-round, learning aspects of communication beyond print media, writing for the Patrons Chain and [Good Day!](#) magazine, and serving as regional touchpoints when it comes to helping with communication needs. This year's Fellows will be learning more about the audio/visual aspects of communication, working on mini-podcasts, short-form interviews, and capturing footage for use in the future.

More than 50 individuals have been through the program, some of whom now serve as State Grange Presidents, Officers, and Directors, National Grange Officers, and National Grange staff. What all of them had in common before starting was a deep passion for the work and mission of the Grange.



This program serves as a training ground for those who are already working hard in their Community Granges, and who want to be of service on the State or National Grange levels. They learn directly from current and past National Officers and staff, and past Fellows, as they dive into what it means to tell the #GrangeStory.

This year's 10<sup>th</sup> class of Communication Fellows represent 6 states and three regions. They will begin working at the end of August. If they reach out to you for information or an article, please say yes! Throughout the coming months, they will be learning and working, and building a strong fellowship with one another and the Grange members with whom they will be working.

### 2023 Communication Fellows

- **Karie Blasingame**, Prairie Grange #1832, Illinois – Senior Fellow
- **Mandy Bostwick**, Pleasant View Grange #1459, Kansas – Senior Fellow
- **Carolynn Chamlee**, Battle Born Stockton Well Grange #29, Nevada – Senior Fellow
- **Jim Dumolt**, Clarkes Grange #261, Oregon – Senior Fellow
- **Meagan McDonald**, Waller Road Grange #1111, Washington
- **Katie Squire**, Central Union Grange #559, California – Senior Fellow
- **Lexie Suing**, Crow Grange #450, Oregon – Senior Fellow

**Congratulations** to this class!

I hope each of you will also avail yourself by learning from the Fellows, and to reach out to them when you need assistance! I'm sure they'll be more than willing to help.

*The 2023 Communication Fellows program is sponsored by Grange Advocacy and the Grange Foundation.*

### Introducing the SHIPmates

By [Amanda Brozana Rios](#), National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director



I'm pleased to announce the selection of the first **SHIPmates** class that will meet prior to and at the 157th Annual National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls, then return home to put their new knowledge to work to grow the Grange and help advance leadership in their area.

Most importantly, I want to say that the inaugural class applicants were varied in age, membership longevity, past Grange leadership experience, their own work and personal pursuits, etc. It was a hard choice -- one I was happy to leave for the most part in the hands of the State Presidents from each region.

Without further delay, please join me in congratulating **Scott Lyle** (Western, WA), **Nathan Strawder** (Great Plains, KS), **John Evan Neff** (Midwest, IN), **Richard Stonebraker** (Eastern, MD), **Kelly Riley** (Northeast, RI) and **Dave Roberts** (Northeast, CT).

### Rotate your crops to ensure proper growth

*An editorial by Christopher Heath, past National Delegate, New Hampshire*

Originally published in The Patrons Chain, November 12, 2021 (special Convention edition)

The rotation of officers is like a garden; crops need to be rotated and so do the officers in the Grange.

The cold hard fact about being a leader is that we have a physical or organizational shelf life. Most leaders do not want to admit this realization, but no matter how difficult or painful this is to grasp, it is inevitable.

This view does not need to be fatalistic or the end of you and your leadership, but instead an inspiration behind your desire to find the next-generation leader.

This next-generation leader should be capable and prepared to boost the organization to success from your mentoring and guiding leadership transferal. Most of us fear the thought of giving up the reins of our organization, especially when we have put many hours of blood, sweat and tears into it over many years.

We, as leaders, need to realize that there are some basic questions we should ask ourselves, like what will the new leader look like, *how will the new leader act?*, *how will they interact with others within the organization?*, and most importantly, *will this new leader be able to build the success and continue the vision of the organization?*

Too often, we think that our replacement should look like the person staring back at us in the mirror. If this is you, then you are not looking for your replacement, but rather, you are looking for a clone....*you* in another body. If this is you, then my advice is to start looking somewhere else.

The genetic, chemical, and neurological facets of your being are woven together to make the leader you are but - rest assured - this cannot be replicated.

All the *meta* and *micro* attributes combined to create you, the leader, are not easily duplicated to create your replacement. Some leaders are just confident enough to think that more of themselves will mean more success to the team or organization. They set out on a quest to copy their leadership by finding individuals who maintain the same physical, mental, or duplicative traits without understanding that divine intervention has built them uniquely. So, in the end, the ill-fated adventure leads to one result.

What leaders should understand is that when the organizational blues and purples foreshadow the twilight of your leadership career, it's time to seek the individual that has a blend of physical, emotional, intellectual, and interpersonal traits along with the forward vision to potentially have what the organization needs.

The person should have a gleam in their eye and a clear path forward for the organization. Most likely, this person will lay awake at night thinking about the future, bound only by their imagination and not what they should do to follow your lead. Be careful not to choose the functional expert who can produce in a pinch or meet that impossible deadline.

Leaders need to ask themselves these questions:

- Are you developing and strengthening your organization to survive after you are gone?
- Do you take the time to invest in someone that can own the position and work beside you?
- Are you taking the time and energy to transfer your knowledge to the next generation or peer who is looking to advance?
- Do you have a proper succession plan and have you taken the time to train your replacement?
- Are you making sure that the next person will be able to perform the duties of their office?

Training your replacement doesn't have to be a hard task, it just needs to be thought-out and planned. Remember that you may still fail in this training of your replacement. Some things that you should do to assist with this task include creating a book with all the tasks that will be required of them when they take over; starting to train your successor at least six months before the transition to the leadership role; working with them and answer any and all questions that they may have concerning the operations and requirements of the office; and remembering that they will find their own way to do the tasks and as long as they reach the final result, there is success.

Here are seven ethical steps to take when training your successor: 1) Provide a list of duties or training manuals. 2) Introduce new material at a comfortable and steady pace. 3) Teach them the proper way and not "your" way. 4) Be prepared to answer questions and clarify instructions. 5) Demonstrate how it is done. 6) Stay in a professional mode. 7) Keep your opinions to yourself and make introductions.

## **Deadlines approaching for National Grange contests**

The deadlines for many National Grange contests are approaching!

**Due by September 1st are:** Cape of Honor (Juniors), Garden Design Contest (Lecturer), GRANGE Youth Pillar Project (Youth), Grange in Action (Programs/Membership), Grassroots Advocacy Award (Legislative), Horizon Leadership Ambassador/Young Patron applications (Youth), John Trimble Youth Legislative Experience (Youth), Junior Mentor Award (Youth), National Junior Grange Ambassador applications (Juniors), Publicity Item (Communications), Quilt Block Contest (Lecturer), State Junior Director Reports (Juniors), Virtual Photo Contest (Lecturer), Weather Watcher Challenge (Lecturer), Wib & June Justi Community Service Award

(Youth/Community Service), Youth Membership Recruitment Award (Youth/Membership), Youth Officer Council applications (Youth), and the Youth Officer T-Shirt Design (Youth). That's a lot!

More information on all of these can be found in the [2023 Guide to Contests](#) or in the Junior & Youth Program Handbooks.

## Participate in a National Grange service project

For 20 years, the Grange has been the leading voice advocating for the expansion of broadband into rural communities. Most frequently, we focus on the infrastructure of build-out, which is still a major factor keeping millions of Americans from high-speed, reliable internet to their homes. However, for others, broadband is available but unaffordable.

For this reason, the National Grange is actively working to promote the [FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program](#), which provides a discount benefit for broadband to low-income and other eligible individuals. After receiving a grant to assist with the program's promotion, we have begun registering Granges to take part in the work to inform people in the communities in which Granges are located, and beyond, about ACP.

Please remember that taking part in this outreach program is **community service**.

Certainly, we want all Grange members to know about the benefit and sign up if they are eligible, but this cannot stop within our doors. Just like giving nonperishable items to the food bank is important, so is taking the information about ACP to the director of the food bank and asking for it to be placed in the boxes and bags of recipients.

Please take the time to register your Grange to take part in this outreach service, which will allow you to receive free materials to give to your local food bank, to senior centers, to veterans' organizations in your hometown, to place on bulletin boards in your halls and in other community spaces, to put on tables at events your Grange takes part in and more. From placemats that can be used at your community breakfasts and dinners to yard signs that can be placed on the lawns of members whose properties are on well-traveled roadways, there are many ways your Grange can increase awareness about the ACP program.

When you register through [grange.biz/signupgrange](http://grange.biz/signupgrange) or by texting or calling National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios at 301-943-1090 and leaving a message, you will be assigned a Community Navigator - an individual that works with our partner, Oregon Institute for a Better Way, to help Granges plan for the outreach, order and packaging the materials, perform data collection and more.

Navigators - all of whom are also Grange members - will also work to collect more information about your Grange, its outreach, goals, and needs. This data will help us create future grant proposals and allow us to search for grants and other funds that may directly benefit individual Granges.

Granges that take part in this program may even be eligible for a small financial incentive, but it all starts with the first step of registering your Grange to become an outreach partner. Registering through this link does not commit your Grange, but will instead allow you to receive further information and connect with a navigator to brainstorm and talk about your Grange.



*Carol Carpenter, President of Bethlehem Grange #137 in Albany, New York, displays the banner they received as a part of the National Grange's Affordable Connectivity Program project.*

## Register for National Grange Convention –Early Bird registration savings end soon



We are just three months away from when we “Flow into the Future” in Niagara Falls, New York as we celebrate the 157<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Grange. ***We want you to be there!***

This year's Convention will be just blocks from the Falls! The [Sheraton Niagara Falls](#) is an incredible hotel which will also house the hospitality room, and the convention itself and many of the evening activities will be held at the [Niagara Falls Convention Center](#), just across the street!

Use [this link](#) to book your stay at the main Convention Hotel using our group rate.

For guests who would prefer to call, as opposed to making their reservations online, please call **716-285-3361 x2295** to reach Reservation Coordinator Cierra Duck. She is typically in the office Monday through Friday 8am – 4pm Eastern).

We invite ALL Grange members to participate in the Convention activities, so please make plans to attend from November 14-18, 2023.

Stay tuned over the coming weeks and months for more information about speakers, tours, and other opportunities (both fun and educational!) for all Grange members during the Convention.

Learn more about this year's Convention and register today on the National Grange website!

**Early Bird Registration** - \$32 – open through September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Standard Registration - \$37 – September 5<sup>th</sup> - October 20<sup>th</sup>

Late Registration - \$42 – October 20<sup>th</sup> through convention - *no meal ticket options available*

**[Register for Convention](#)**

The Host Committee has chosen [Community Missions of Niagara](#) as the recipient of this year's community service collection. Granges and attendees are encouraged to send or bring socks, hats, or mittens for men or women to this year's Convention. If you would rather make a financial contribution, please contact Paula Turner.



## Participate in Multigenerational Panel Discussion on Rural Mental Health

Everyone attending the National Grange Convention is invited to attend a session about rural mental health conversations, featuring panelists representing several generations. If you will be attending the convention on Thursday, November 16 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET and are interested in being considered as a panelist, please complete [this form](#).

This panel is co-presented by the National Grange, [Rural Minds](#), and [NY FarmNet](#).

**Note** that due to a limit on the number of panelists, your reply does not confirm your participation as a panelist. We will follow up with an email to provide you with more information.

## Upcoming National Grange events



**Youth Yammerings**

**Combined!**  
Sunday, August 20, 9:00pm Eastern  
Login: 833 7712 0738  
Passcode: 969128  
or <http://bit.ly/JuniorsYouth>

**JUNIOR JIBBER-JABBER**

Logos for Youth Yammerings (GY) and Junior Jibber-Jabber (JG) are included.

National Junior & Youth Development Director Samantha Wilkins will lead this joint Youth Yammerings/Junior Jibber-Jabber for anyone interested in Junior & Youth programs at the National level. ALL are invited to join! Join: <http://bit.ly/JuniorsYouth>

**Meeting ID:** 833 7712 0738  
**Passcode:** 969128



**LECTURER'S FORUM**  
with Ann Bercher, National Grange Lecturer  
August 22, 8:30pm Eastern  
**CONTESTS!**  
**PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**  
Connect: <http://grange.biz/lecturerforum>

Logos for National Grange Lecturer and National Grange are included.

Join National Grange Lecturer Ann Bercher on Tuesday, August 22 at 8:30pm Eastern for a Lecturer's Forum about "Contests! Past, Present, and Future." This forum is open to ALL (not just Grange Lecturers) - we hope you tune in! Connect:

<http://grange.biz/lecturerforum>

**Meeting ID:** 825 5731 0725  
**Passcode:** 962144



 **SUPPLY STORE**

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

**\*NEW\* JUNIOR GRANGE PINS**



Show off your Junior Grange pride with this new 1" soft enamel Junior Grange clutch-back pin!

The seven-sided JG emblem will be sure to stand out, whether you're wearing it at a fair, at a meeting, or just to show off how proud you are to be a Junior member or supporter!

Order at [www.grangestore.org](http://www.grangestore.org) or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

**\$5.00**  
PLUS SHIPPING



## SUPPLY STORE

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

### \*NEW\* GRANGE SOCKS

*Limited quantity available!*

**Show and wear your Grange Pride at various events and activities, especially at State Session!**

These Grange socks feature the Grange emblem on a navy blue sock.

They are 80% combined cotton, 15% nylon and 5% elastane.

**One size fits most**

*For each pair purchased, National Grange will donate a pair of socks to the National Grange Community Service Project - Community Missions of Niagara*

**\$16.00 plus shipping**

Get yours by ordering online through the Grange Supply Store at [grangestore.org](http://grangestore.org) or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.



## SUPPLY STORE

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

### "A GRANGE STORY" COMIC BOOK



This newsprint comic book is a perfect introduction for children, new members, or potential members to tell them about what the Grange is and how YOU can find your place in it!

The perfect giveaway item for fairs, dinners, carnivals, or other special events.

Order by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109 or emailing

[Lwashington@nationalgrange.org](mailto:Lwashington@nationalgrange.org)

**FREE!**

*(just pay shipping)*



## SUPPLY STORE

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

### "RAISED RIGHT HERE" VINYL STICKERS



**Great way to celebrate Grange month and to have at other Grange activities and events.**

**Die-Cut Vinyl Stickers** - in two designs, celebrating the National Grange "Raised Right Here" theme

*25 stickers of each design*

**\$12 for 50 stickers stickers plus shipping**

Get yours by ordering online through the Grange Supply Store at [grangestore.org](http://grangestore.org) or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

## Grange Member Benefit: Wyndham Hotels

# WYNDHAM

HOTELS & RESORTS

As a member of the National Grange, you will **receive up to 20% off** the Best Available Rate at over 7,500 participating locations worldwide.

Book online or call and give the agent your special

discount ID number **100007487** at the time of booking to receive the discount. So, start saving now. [Click here](#) or call our special member benefits hotline 1-877-670-7088 and reserve your room today. [http://www.wyndhamhotelgroup.com/?corporate\\_id=100007487](http://www.wyndhamhotelgroup.com/?corporate_id=100007487)



## GRANGE JEWELRY



Grange Jewelry is now in stock at the Grange Store. Pins include years of service and member recognition pins from 5-80 years, past officer pins, Degree recognition pins, and much more!

*Some jewelry is now on clearance!*

**Prices vary**

Order online through the Grange Supply Store at [grangestore.org](http://grangestore.org) or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

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

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