



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

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Grangers needed to serve on policy review committees

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

The Delegates to the 156th annual National Grange convention voted to form two committees to study two issues and report back at the next convention in November 2023. (Plan to attend November 14-18 in Niagara Falls, NY!) I'm looking for volunteers who would like to contribute to these studies.

The first is a Special Committee on the Future of Pomona Granges. Its purpose is to analyze current membership numbers and participation by members, review the traditional procedures and ritual language, and examine the rules and regulations for Pomona Grange in the Digest of Laws regarding meeting frequency, dues, and jurisdiction. The committee will also brainstorm about the purpose and relevance of the Pomona Grange in today's world and how its purpose differs from the Community Grange.

The second committee is to study the current National Grange policy on hemp and cannabis, determining how they fit as agricultural crops in our policy based on current scientific information. Hemp is an old crop formerly grown on many farms and can be used for human and animal feed, rope, fabric, automobile manufacturing, hemp-crete for buildings, and many, many other uses. It is currently allowed as a crop by USDA under strict state regulations. The laws regarding cannabis vary in each state, though it is illegal under federal law. CBD is a chemical found in cannabis or marijuana, but CBD doesn't contain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive ingredient found in marijuana that produces a high. Many states allow use of marijuana for medical purposes, and some allow recreational use. I have several cannabis growers to serve on the committee, but I would really like to hear from some Grange farmers who grow hemp.

If you would like to serve on either of these committees that will meet by Zoom, please contact me at betsy@nationalgrange.org. Thank you.

What is our focus?

By [Samantha Wilkins](#), National Junior Grange and Youth Development Director



When I first came on board as the Junior Director, our theme at the time was 'Stand Up and Speak Out.' Looking back, that seems like so long ago, and so many things have changed within the department since then. One thing that has not changed is our goal to teach our young members to become young advocates and learn about the importance of expressing their thoughts and interests in things.

If you haven't had a chance to look at the [2023 Junior Program Guide](#) yet, then I really encourage you to do so. This year we have broken the program down into four

focus areas - Advocacy, Agriculture, Deaf Awareness, and Community Service. This first quarter of the year (January-March), we want to focus on **Advocacy**. It is our goal to get Junior Grangers excited to make a difference.

Many of you have heard me tell the story about the first Washington DC Experience we held in 2020, where a Junior Granger from Washington State attended the event, was excited about all the things she learned while in DC, and felt it was necessary to have a national day recognizing the work of Eleanor Roosevelt. This young lady was so moved by what she learned that she went home to her Junior Grange, wrote a resolution that then worked its way through all the channels and eventually made its way to the floor during a National Grange session where Delegates agreed to what this young member had to say. How awesome is it that a young member can say 'I made that difference, I made that change!'

Now, our goal with the Advocacy focus is to teach our young members that their voice matters. If it is as simple as petitioning to have a meeting date moved or something they would like to have seen done within their community or school; encourage your members to set up a local advocacy project.



Local Advocacy Project:

Do you have an issue that affects your community? What is it? How can you make a difference and create change within your community? With this project, we are encouraging Junior Grangers to identify issues within their community and research the issue and be an advocate for change. Within this process, Junior Grangers should learn the legislative process of the Grange and the community in which they are working for a change. (i.e., local government, school board, HOA, etc.)

Junior Leaders are to help the Junior Granger Identify the following:

- **Community**
 - Identify what community type you are interested in helping
 - This can be within your Grange, town, school, subdivision, etc.
- **Issue**
 - Identify what do you want to be advocating for?
 - Is this a Grange, school, local, state, or national issue?
- **Reason**
 - Once you have identified the issue determine why this issue is relevant and why you should be advocating for a change.
- **Plan**
 - Come up with a solution to work on solving the issue. Is that writing a resolution for your local Grange, speaking to the school board or local government officials?
- **Presentation**
 - Schedule a meeting with the correct officials and present your plan for change and advocate for why you think these changes are important.

Example:

Community- School

Issue- Homework is given three nights a week and you believe it should only be given once a week and due at the end of the week.

Reason- You believe homework should only be given once a week because kids are busy in the evenings, and it would give them an entire week to work on the assignment.

Plan: You want to speak to the school board to make the entire school follow the same homework guidelines.

Presentation: You went to speak with the school board about the issues and presented your plan of action and encouraged the school board to vote for a change in the homework policy.

Junior Grange leaders are encouraged to post on social media and send their advocacy projects to the National Junior Grange Department. They are also encouraged to celebrate victories and defeats that the Juniors may have during this process. Advocating for something doesn't always mean you will win, but it does mean that you are learning to work with others and help find a solution to a problem. We as Grangers have a long and very strong history in advocating. Training our Juniors at a young age to advocate is substantial to obstacles they will face all throughout life.

If you have questions about how to start an advocacy project with your Junior Grange please feel free to reach out to junior@nationalgrange.org.

Communications Department to present Zoom-torial on Canva



Did you know that Facebook and other social media posts with images have higher-than-average engagement rates?

Do you want to build eye-catching graphics for your Grange? Do you want to step up social and print media beyond clipart? Do you want a budget-friendly option for spreading your message?

On January 25th at 8:30pm Eastern, the National Grange Communications Department (Communications Director Philip Vonada with assistance from the 2022 Communication Fellows) will be hosting a one-hour crash course "Zoom-torial" on how to use the website Canva!

Can't make it? Don't worry; it will appear on our YouTube channel later in the week.

Make plans to join us then! If you have questions ahead of time, please email them to pvonada@nationalgrange.org.

Did your Grange have a successful holiday program?

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

Each year, Granges across the country create Christmas and holiday-season programs and events for their members and the wider community. This summer, we are going to spotlight many of these in a special "Christmas in July" issue of *Good Day!* magazine!

If you would like your Grange's program to be featured, here's all you need to do:

1. Write up a brief (2-3 paragraph) summary on what you did, and how it went
2. Include as many details as possible, and especially what made *your* program unique.
3. Be sure to include your Grange name & number *and your state*.
4. Email it to Philip Vonada (pvonada@nationalgrange.org) by April 1, 2023.

We are looking to feature programs, events, recipes, community drives – whatever your Grange did to create the "holiday spirit" in your hometown!

Another Rural-Voter Survey Finds That the High Cost of Living Is the Most Pressing Problem

By Kristi Eaton, Courtesy of [The Daily Yonder](#)

A child advocacy organization's survey says more than half of rural respondents worry about having enough food to feed their families in the coming year.

Inflation and gas prices are two of the biggest issues facing rural voters, according to a new survey commissioned by a children's humanitarian aid organization.

The [survey](#), commissioned by the [Save the Children Action Network](#), the political arm of Save the Children, shows that rural residents are facing several challenges, including worries about the ability to feed their children and access to good and affordable child care.



“Rural voters deem inflation to be the greatest challenge facing rural families,” according to the survey findings. “In an open-ended question about the biggest problems facing families in rural areas, respondents are most apt to volunteer gas prices and inflation. When asked about specific problems in their area, 68% say children not having enough to eat is a serious problem.”

The survey used an online panel of rural participants distributed proportionately across the U.S.

Depending on many factors, surveys that use self-selected respondents can introduce a different set of accuracy issues compared to randomized sampling of a population, [according to the Pew Center for Research](#).

Respondents’ concerns about inflation did match the findings of the [Daily Yonder’s rural voter poll](#), conducted just before the November midterm election. In that poll, which used randomized sampling, the rising cost of living was the biggest issue on rural voters’ minds.

In the Save the Children Action Network survey, six out of 10 respondents were worried they might not be able to afford enough food to feed themselves and their families over the next year. Eight out of 10 parents said they have such worries. And nearly a quarter of respondents said they are “very worried” about being able to feed their families.

The survey dug deepest into respondents’ opinions on childcare and hunger.

More than half (55%) said that high-quality and affordable childcare has become less accessible since the pandemic. Additionally, a majority (54%) of rural voters said there are only some or very few high-quality, affordable early education programs in their area.

Rural voters see childcare as important for strengthening the economy. Overall, 70% of rural voters said childcare is “essential” or “very important” to strengthen the economy. Another 25% said affordable, quality daycare is important for the economy.

The survey was conducted for the Save the Children Action Network by New Bridge Strategy, a Republican firm, and Hart Research, a Democratic firm. The poll conducted 1,006 completed interviews from November 9-20 using an online panel of American voters residing in rural counties. Seventy-two percent said they lived in a rural setting, while 28% said they lived in a small town. Rural counties were defined as those considered “mostly rural” or “completely rural” by the U.S. Census. Interviews were distributed proportionally across the country and quotas were set for key demographic subgroups, such as gender and age, based on census information. The credibility interval (which is similar to but [different from a margin of error](#), according to the American Association of Public Opinion Research) is +3.5% for the overall national sample.

Read the full article on [The Daily Yonder](#).



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GOOD DAY!™ **JANUARY 2023 ISSUE**

This issue reflects on the 156th Annual Convention of the National Grange, held in Sparks, Nevada. Showcasing culture and craft, the Western Region was on full display, providing a colorful backdrop for the events of the convention. Also in this issue, articles about protecting yourself from identity theft, winners of convention contests, the start of the second year of the Heirloom Program, and celebrating a year of Grange growth across the nation. Plus, the agritourism feature journeys to the western states, and pasta is the delicious food feature.

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a quarter's worth

A quarterly publication for Grange Lecturers

Submission Deadline: February 1st

(but sooner is better!)

Email articles, ideas, etc. to lecturer@nationalgrange.org



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Be sure to check the website often – special offers change frequently.



SUPPLY STORE

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

www.grangestore.com

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