



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

January 6, 2023

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Be aware of scams in the New Year

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

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and were able to celebrate with family and Grange friends.

As we now hunker down for the long dark winter, I encourage you to use the time to plan some exciting events for 2023. There are so many Grange events posted on Facebook these days, you should have no problem finding lots of ideas to try out in your Grange. Let your New Year's resolution be to try something new!

I want to urge you to beware of scams, especially through your email. The National Grange had someone try to become a signer on our primary bank account just last week. It seems they were able to get enough information to access the bank, make up a fake National Grange letterhead, and were almost successful. Fortunately, the bank called me to verify before they added the false signer. We think they accomplished all this through an email to us that looked legitimate from a nonprofit organization in the northeast that wanted us to apply for a grant.

Every one of us should have a trusted internet advisor - probably a child or grandchild - who can check out these false emails for us so we are not fooled. There are many people out there who want to make a "fast buck" using illegal means. **Don't be fooled!**



Learn more about email scams and how to avoid phishing on the [FTC website](#).

Strike while the iron is hot

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



*Lose weight.
Quit smoking. Save
money. Get more
involved in my
community/give
back.*

These are
some of the most

common resolutions people make for the new year.

While our potlucks may prove the first of those a hard goal to reach, those that make the last on the list are calling for a Grange invitation.

Many people don't make hard-and-fast resolutions. Instead, at the beginning of the year they can be enticed to do something new or make a change just by simple suggestion.

Why not take the month of January to invite a few people to visit your upcoming meeting or event, noting that it's a great time to start a new habit.

Remember, most people who are looking to give back are most likely to find the Grange a great outlet if they are actively engaged in planning or doing for others. If your next meeting doesn't include a discussion about an upcoming service project, maybe skip the meeting and get them directly into a hands-on position with a meal function raising money for a cause that tugs on the heartstrings or Valentine's card delivery at a local nursing home or some other option for active philanthropy.

Don't forget to welcome these new members both in your meeting with the welcoming ceremony but also online in your Grange's social media and by sending their name and contact information to your State Grange and their name and your Grange information to the National Grange so we can include them in upcoming issues of [Good Day!](#) magazine.

Granges sought for assistance with awareness campaign; financial incentives may be available

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

The Grange has championed the expansion of broadband and affordable and equitable access to it for more than two decades in a variety of ways. In 2023, we hope to secure a grant from the Federal Communications Commission that will allow us to provide materials to Granges who wish to be part of a program that informs individuals in your communities about the Affordable Connectivity Program, which allows eligible households to receive a monthly discount on broadband service through providers and one-time discount on connected devices such as laptops.

JANUARY NATIONAL GRANGE EVENTS

TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF
YOUR MEMBERSHIP

JANUARY 2023

ALL TIMES
EASTERN

10: MEMBERSHIP MATTERS (ZOOM) 8:30 P.M.

Open to all! Connect: bit.ly/mm1867
Contact: brozana@nationalgrange.org for
more information

15: JUNIOR JIBBER-JABBER (ZOOM) 9:00 P.M.

Connect: bit.ly/JibberJabberZoom
Join National Junior Grange and Youth
Development Director Samantha Wilkins for
updates about the National Junior Grange
department. Contact junior@nationalgrange.org
for more information.

25: COMMUNICATIONS ZOOM-TORIAL 8:30 P.M.
(ZOOM) Connect: bit.ly/GrangeZoomtorial

The National Grange Communications
Department will be leading a 1-hour crash-course
on using [canva.com](https://www.canva.com) to make a strong impression
in your advertising and public relations. Contact
pvnada@nationalgrange.org for more
information.



JUNIOR GRANGE FOCUS AREA:

ADVOCACY

YOUTH FOCUS AREA:

RITUAL

*Note: There will be no **Membership Matters** in January! We will return on the second Tuesday of February.*

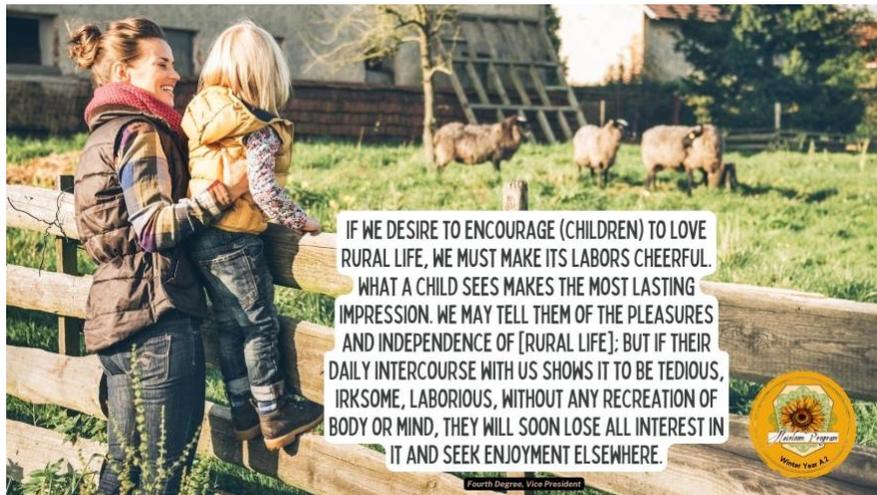
As part of our application process, we are seeking a number of local Granges including local Lecturers, Community Service Chairs, individuals responsible for tabling or membership booths and more to agree to take part in this outreach, awareness-building campaign. Activating our grassroots system is an essential part of successfully competing for this grant and completing the work for which we hope to receive funding.

Granges would assist in raising awareness about this benefit by hanging posters in their hall or other community spaces; by using placemats at public dinners that promote the Grange and inform individuals about the program; by hosting FCC speakers at a Grange meeting or public event to inform the community about ACP; by placing banners or lawn signs at their hall with a link to learn more about ACP; by sending letters to the editor to their local newspaper; by placing brochures about ACP out on their tables at community events; by working with their local school to ensure information is going home in childrens' backpacks; and in other ways.

Should we be selected as a recipient of this grant, Granges that participate will receive free materials such as brochures and signs, as well as financial incentives or compensation as part of the partnership.

If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Membership/Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios at membership@nationalgrange.org or by calling 301-943-1090 as soon as possible.

January Heirloom



Use the Heirloom Program to encourage your Grange members (and friends who aren't Grange members) to continue learning about the core tenets of the Grange, and what we stand for.

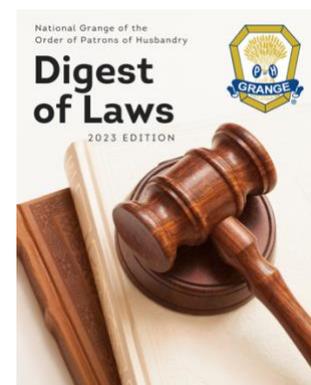
These "digestible" bits of Grange ritual help our members grow in the Grange.

[Check out January's Heirloom Program materials here.](#)

2023 Digest of Laws now available

The latest edition of the Digest of Laws is now available, including changes made by resolutions passed at the 156th Annual Session of the National Grange in November. The Digest includes the rules and procedures for Granges at all levels and is a good resource for Grange leaders and members.

[Read and download the Digest here](#)



Do this now if you don't have high-speed internet

By [Burton Eller](#), National Grange Legislative Director

If you don't currently have high-speed internet at your home, farm, ranch, or business, find somewhere to get online and check the latest [Federal Communications Commission broadband map](#) of your location before federal funding is allocated to states on January 13. The FCC website works well, and you'll be surprised how well the map shows your area once you enter your address.

Review the map and see what the FCC considers your current broadband service and availability at <http://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home>.

If your location is shown to have high-speed broadband in error, you can submit a challenge on the website as well. While challenges will be accepted on a rolling basis, you should submit your challenge **by January 13** to ensure it is noted before funding is released. Federal funding will be allocated to states proportionally based on the number of sites with no access to high-speed internet.

Seeking potential members in new locations

We have leads on new Granges in several areas. Specifically, if you know of a current or former member or someone who may be interested in joining a new Grange in **Hilo, Hawaii**; **Haiku, Hawaii**; **Silver City, New Mexico**; or **Safford, Arizona**, please reach out or connect them to National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios at membership@nationalgrange.org or by phone at 301-943-1090.

Also, if you know of a Grange member or relative of a member stationed at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska who may wish to receive a friendly invitation to visit the local Grange in nearby North Pole, please let us know.

National Grange social media calendar available

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

Are you looking to add some spice to your Grange's Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter pages? Check out our 2023 [downloadable Social Media Calendar](#), which lists various "holidays" about which you can make posts or celebrations. This free resource can help you engage your Grange members and the wider community. You certainly don't need to post about all of these things, but they can be a great way to keep your social media from going stale.

Also included on the calendar are recurring National Grange meetings, holidays, events, and more. Feel free to pass this on to your Grange's Lecturer, Secretary, social director, or anyone who helps plan events or activities for your Grange.



LECTURER
NATIONAL GRANGE

a quarter's worth
A quarterly publication for Grange Lecturers

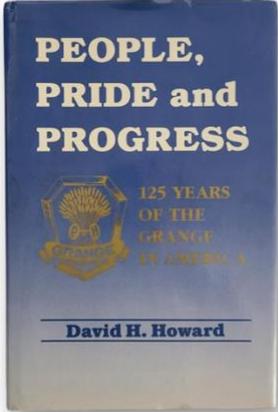
Submission Deadline: February 1st
(but sooner is better!)

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



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.org



PEOPLE, PRIDE AND PROGRESS
 125 Years of Grange in America
by David H. Howard

335 Pages, pub. 1992

WAS: \$12
SALE PRICE: \$6.00
plus shipping

Get your copy by ordering online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.org or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 x109.

Grange Member Benefit: Lenovo



Save up to 50% off PCs & tech
 New year, new products.
 Save big on last year's models

[Shop Now](#)

Lenovo

New year, new products. Save big with Lenovo.

Is your computer freezing? Start your new year off frustration-free with a new PC. Don't forget Lenovo offers consumer electronics from the top tech brands. Grange Members save up to 50% off PCs and tech, plus you can get FREE expedited delivery when you sign up for MyLenovo Rewards. Joining is free and easy.

Shop Now: www.lenovo.com/us/en/lsp

For assistance with purchases, call: 1-800-426-7235 (M-F: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. ET, Sat: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET)

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



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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Editor Philip J Vonada, National Grange Communications Director. Contact to submit a story idea for Patrons Chain or *Good Day!* magazine, request assistance with publicity, business cards, and more. Email pvonada@nationalgrange.org or call/text (814) 404-7985

Leadership Training and Membership Development Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Membership, and Leadership Development Director. Contact to learn more about membership recruitment or how to start or reorganize a Grange, leadership training and more. Email at abrozana@nationalgrange.org or call/text (301) 943-1090

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