



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

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Kickoff for Affordable Connectivity held at Goodwill Grange

By Betsy E. Huber, National Grange President

Last week, we were privileged to kick off our FCC Affordable Connectivity Program grant at the Goodwill Grange in Troutdale, Virginia. This was the perfect location for the first event; for ten years, Goodwill has served as the community's internet hub for this very rural area of far southwest Virginia. While still in the state, this town is a six-hour drive from the National Grange office in DC.

We were amazed to discover that the Troutdale area not only has no internet service, but no cell phone service either! The Grange Hall serves as the center of this rural community - not only for internet, but it also houses a large library of books and DVDs, a location for food distribution, weekly yoga sessions and Bingo. There is no other entertainment in the area (except outdoor activities like hiking, fishing, hunting, or trail riding,) and only two restaurants. It's a beautiful area to vacation if you want to get away from it all!

In addition to telling the residents about the ACP and reduced-price internet service, we were able to collect information on those who want internet but are unable to connect. We will report these addresses to the FCC to make sure their broadband mapping is correct, and hopefully encourage providers to serve the area.

It was wonderful to see how this small Grange has such a beautiful, useful facility for its community and offers great benefits to the residents. Congratulations Goodwill Grange!



**JULY
NATIONAL GRANGE EVENTS**

TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

JULY 2023

ALL TIMES EASTERN

9: CONVENTION COUNTDOWN (ZOOM) 8:00 P.M.
Connect: grangebiz.conventionzoom

Hosted by Pete Pompper and Loretta Washington - learn about what this year's National Grange Convention has to offer!

12: NATIONAL GRANGE FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING

18-23: GRANGE REVIVAL

 Log Cabin Resort & Campground - Curtis, Michigan
Registrations are still being accepted! Visit www.grangerevival.com to learn more!

27-30: WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

California Agricultural Museum - Woodland, California

Membership Matters & the Communications Zoom-torials will return in September!

JUNIOR GRANGE FOCUS AREA:
DEAF AWARENESS
YOUTH FOCUS AREA:
NETWORKING



Believe in yourself so others will believe, too!

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



In 2010, a group of scientists proposed that standing in a “power pose” for as little as two minutes before an important meeting or task could produce higher testosterone levels and lower cortisol (stress) levels, boosting self-esteem and confidence.

And although follow-up studies say the initial findings cannot be scientifically replicated, there’s still something to the fact that believing in yourself and “hyping yourself up” is the first step toward helping others believe in you, too.

I frequently hear Granges apologize for themselves, with phrases like “It isn’t much...” or “It’s the best we can do...”

Imagine what a difference it would make to the self-confidence of your Grange if you believed that your “little” bit can and WILL do vast wonders for your community.

Studies have proven that believing in yourself can improve your success in goal-setting and following through on your plans. Does this mean you won’t make a mistake along the way? No. But there’s no reason to beat yourself up over it – just move on and allow yourself to “get back on track.”

By believing that you and your Grange make a difference, by projecting internal confidence among your members and volunteers, you will begin to show those outside that you are making a difference. Individuals are more likely to join an organization when they believe in you and your mission and can see results.

According to the law of attraction, “being follows doing,” or sometimes you have to act positive to get positive. If you don’t believe you’re worthy, neither will other people. Conversely, believing you’ll fail will lead to failure.

So, how can we do this? How can we start believing in ourselves and take pride in our work?

- Start using “positive talk” and encouraging positive thinking in your Grange
- Have a clear idea of your Grange’s purpose and values
- Understand that not everything will be amazing, so missteps will happen – we just have to move on
- Stay focused on your goals and programs, and make sure everything you do is done with purpose.
- Project a community-changing image with your social media and through the press
- “Brag” on yourself – don’t be afraid to make a big deal out of the work you’re doing or the donations you’re making, no matter how “small” you may think it is
- Spend some time reflecting with your Grange members – look at what you’ve been doing and see if there are things that can be changed, projects that can be let go, and see if there’s a new area you can reach out to.

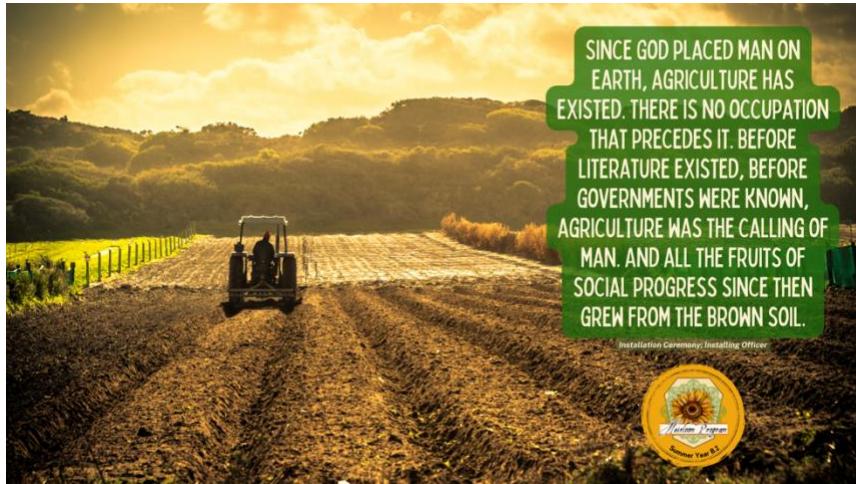
Believe that you can and WILL (and already DO!) do great things, and great things will happen. And when great things happen, your donors and volunteers (who *really* like seeing their impact on the community) will tell their friends, bringing in more donors, volunteers, and new members to your Grange.

Before your next fundraiser, community event, or project, gather your members and stand in a “power pose” for a few minutes – to see if this little bit of extra “power” will help you believe in yourself and project that positive image.



Take a minute to “brag” on yourself here, by entering the [Grange In Action](#) program.

July Heirloom



SINCE GOD PLACED MAN ON EARTH, AGRICULTURE HAS EXISTED. THERE IS NO OCCUPATION THAT PRECEDES IT. BEFORE LITERATURE EXISTED, BEFORE GOVERNMENTS WERE KNOWN, AGRICULTURE WAS THE CALLING OF MAN. AND ALL THE FRUITS OF SOCIAL PROGRESS SINCE THEN GREW FROM THE BROWN SOIL.



Since God placed man on Earth, agriculture has existed. There is no occupation that precedes it. Before literature existed, before governments were known, agriculture was the calling of man, and all the fruits of social progress since then grew from the brown soil.
– Installing Officer, Installation Ceremony

[Access the July Heirloom Program materials here](#)

NAITC offers FREE Summer Virtual Conference

National Agriculture in the Classroom

has announced they will offer a free, one-day summer virtual conference sponsored by the CHS Foundation on July 20, from 10:00 AM - 5:45 PM Eastern Time.

Hear from children's book author [Lisl H. Detlefsen](#), and attend valuable sessions featuring a variety of agricultural subjects and interests for all grade levels.

This professional development event is sure to leave you with valuable agricultural literacy resources and excitement for the new school year.

The conference will be recorded and accessible shortly after it takes place.

[Register here!](#)



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 orange.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.



Register for National Grange Convention



This November, we are going to "Flow into the Future" in Niagara Falls, New York as we celebrate the 157th Annual Session of the National Grange. ***And 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. You can also call (716) 285-3361 and let them know that you're with the Grange when booking your rooms.

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

This is your early warning to ensure your passport is up to date. You won't want to miss the opportunity to pop over to Canada when you're just a few steps away:
<https://www.usps.com/international/passports.htm>

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 4th, 2023.

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](#).



Join National Grange Community Service Director Pete Pompper and "sidekick" Loretta Washington, National Grange Sales, Programs, and Benefits Director, on Sunday, July 9 at 8pm Eastern for a fun preview of everything you can expect to see at this year's National Grange Convention!

[Click here to join!](#)

Participation 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 from several generations. If you will be attending the convention on Thursday, November 16 from 3:30 - 5:00 pm ET and are interested in being considered as a panelist, please complete [this form](#).

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.

Order your 2023 Grange shirts



The National Grange has released its 2023 Grange t-shirt. A modern label-looking image that includes the Grange logo and the phrase "First Voice of the American Farmer" as well as "Esto Perpetua" and "Established 1867" appears on the back of this District brand t-shirt that comes in six colors for youth sizes and eight colors for adult unisex sizes (heathered colors of cardinal, navy, kelly green, brown, turquoise, purple and charcoal; and black). District shirts are true-to-fit or a bit generous, and very soft with a slightly larger-than-average rib knit neck.

Single shirts are \$20 each with \$5 shipping. If you are placing a group order, you may use the "multiple quantities" button you see just under the shirt pricing, you will enjoy a reduced shipping rate.

You may also choose to add for only \$3 your name or the name of your Grange in an imprint on the front chest pocket area or leave the front blank.

This is a limited-time sale that closes July 31.

To order, visit <http://grange.biz/grangeshirt>

USDA Launches Feds Feed Families 2023 to Combat Hunger and Improve Access to Healthy Food



WASHINGTON, June 28, 2023 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) shepherded in the 2023 summer campaign of the [Feds Feed Families](#) program, a voluntary food drive that encourages federal employees to make in-kind contributions, including food, services, and time, to food banks and pantries of their choice. This year's theme is Fighting Hunger – Giving Hope.

"We're the richest country on earth. But even here, people are hungry, and people don't have enough food," said USDA Acting Deputy Secretary Kevin Shea at the official launch event in Washington on Monday that highlighted food and nutrition insecurity, the power of innovation, and the importance of donating to local food systems.

During his keynote address, Shea explained that USDA operates a variety of effective nutrition assistance programs designed to help meet people's basic food and nutrition needs, including the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP), [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children](#) (WIC) and [school meal programs](#).

Shea added that one way federal employees can supplement government programs is by supporting food banks and pantries through the Feds Feeds Families campaign.

The Feds Feed Families campaign launched in 2009. In 2022, the program raised more than 8 million pounds of food and in-kind donations to food systems nationwide. In its 14th year, the program is nearing the goal of donating and delivering nearly 100 million pounds of food.

"USDA is the designated lead agency for Feds Feed Families. But we work together as a federal community to be successful on this campaign," said Andrea Simao, the 2023 Feds Feed Families National Chair.

The summer campaign was launched to help food banks meet the increased demand for food during summer break, when donations are typically lower and families with children do not have access to school meal programs.

To learn more about the 2023 campaign, upcoming events, and enhancements to the Feds Feed Families website, visit [The Hub](#).



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.org

PEOPLE, PRIDE and PROGRESS

125 Years of Grange in America
by David H. Howard

Celebrate our 155th Birthday by taking a look back at our history!
335 Pages, pub. 1992

WAS: \$12
SALE PRICE: \$6 plus shipping

Get your copy by ordering online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.com or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.



SUPPLY STORE

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 plus shipping

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

Grange Member Benefit: Nationwide Pet Insurance



Nationwide®

Nationwide Pet Insurance provides affordable pet health coverage from preventive care to significant medical incidents.

National Grange members are eligible for a 5% discount (or more for multiple pets) which makes this peace-of-mind protection even more affordable. Find out why Nationwide is the #1 choice in America for pet insurance.

Click on the link to enroll or get more information:

<https://benefits.petinsurance.com/national-grange>

SUPPLY STORE



GRANGE JEWELRY



www.grangestore.org

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

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