



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

June 16, 2023

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## **General aviation will benefit from sustainable biomass fuels**

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

Last week, I attended the board meeting of the [Alliance for Aviation Across America](#), whose board I have served on for two years. This organization is about general aviation – not the big commercial planes you fly on to the [National Grange Convention](#) or your vacation or work, but the smaller planes that serve us in many ways we don’t realize. General aviation thus represents the "private transport" and recreational components of aviation – services such as air cargo and air taxis, sightseeing flights, search and rescue, medical evacuation, firefighting, skydiving flights, organ transplant transport, banner towing, and agricultural use such as crop dusting or cover crop seeding.

General aviation flights use 5200 airports in the U.S., compared to only 560 for commercial airlines. These small airports and services are so important to rural areas; that is why I represent the National Grange on the board of AAAA.

In addition to the business uses above, general aviation pilots serve their communities. During the pandemic, many volunteer pilots transported PPE, medical supplies, and ventilators to places where they were needed. [Angel Flights](#) provide free air transportation for any legitimate, charitable, medically-related need and are available in all states.

The biggest issue facing general aviation today is sustainable aviation fuel, or SAF. SAF is a biofuel used to power aircraft that has similar properties to conventional jet fuel but with a smaller carbon footprint. SAF made from renewable biomass and waste resources has the potential to deliver the performance of petroleum-based jet fuel but with a fraction of its carbon footprint, giving airlines solid footing for decoupling greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from flight.

While the aviation industry has found an environmentally sustainable technology in SAF, the technology to produce it is not yet economically sustainable. SAF currently costs four times as much as conventional jet fuel and it makes up less than one percent of fuel available in the market. It will take some time for the industry to move to enough SAF to make a difference in their GHG emissions.

## **Junior Ambassador goes on Grange adventures**

By [Nettie Hartley](#), National Junior Grange Ambassador



Hey everybody, National Junior Grange Ambassador Nettie Hartley here! Over the last several weeks, my dad (Walter) and I have been quite busy traveling! In late May, we attended Berks County (PA) Junior Camp at Camp Swatara. I was introduced to the famous game of Gaga Ball! Rhode Island doesn’t have that game, so it was very interesting to watch and then play! For

being the “newbie” at the game, I have to say that those Berks County Juniors had no mercy on me.

I was able to judge the new royalty which was lots of fun. Hearing the answers to some of the kids' interview questions was extremely funny. When Gail Switzer, the National Outstanding Young Patron and director of the camp, first invited me, she asked if I could present a workshop. On Saturday morning, the Juniors participated in a [Reduce, Reuse, Recycle](#) workshop, as well as working their way through a recycling escape room! I would like to thank Berks County Juniors for the invitation and warm welcome! It was a great camp to kick off my year of traveling!

This past weekend, the Youth Leadership Team and I headed to Kerrville, Texas for the Great Plains Regional Conference. It was great having the whole team there and being able to work through our first regional conference together. We started the weekend hanging out in San Antonio for a day, getting to experience the culture, great food, and visiting all the touristy places. On the top of my bucket list for going to Texas was to buy a cowboy hat. Dad made fun of me for wanting one, asking me when I was going to wear it in Rhode Island. But I told him I would figure it out, and you best believe that as a matter of fact, I did leave Texas with a cowboy hat in my suitcase.

I had lots of fun in Texas, spending time with juniors, presenting my workshop, as well as spending time with Autumn Whitaker and Gail Switzer, the National Grange Outstanding Young Patrons. I also got to see some familiar National Officers, which was great seeing some Grange Family again.

Until next time,  
Nettie Hartley  
National Junior Grange Ambassador

## [Webinar: Mental Health Benefits of Sleep, Nutrition, Exercise, and Mindfulness](#)

In keeping with our mission to serve as the informed voice for mental health in rural America, [Rural Minds](#)™ and the [National Grange](#) are pleased to present another *Rural Mental Health Connections Free Webinar*.

We welcome the longest day of sunlight on June 21, the official start of the summer season. Sunshine can improve mental health, as skin exposed to sunlight produces vitamin D, which naturally elevates your mood.

Mental health is an important part of physical health and well-being. That's why understanding the connection between mental and physical health – and the need to care for both – is essential for overall wellness.

This webinar focuses on the mental and physical health benefits of sunlight, sleep, nutrition, exercise and mindfulness. We will also share tips about how to help boost mind and body wellness.

### PRESENTERS:

- **Joseph Dzierzewski**, PhD, Vice President, Research and Scientific Affairs at the National Sleep Foundation (NSF)
- **Dawn Grittmann**, PharmD, CPHQ, Senior Manager, National Education Programs, Research, Support and Education at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
- **Em Skehill**, Director of Public Awareness and Education at Mental Health America (MHA)
- MODERATOR: Julie Lux, Vice President of Communications – Rural Minds

**Rural Mental Health Connections Webinar Series**  
**Mental Health Benefits of Sleep, Nutrition, Exercise and Mindfulness**  
Presented by Rural Minds and the National Grange

As we welcome the longest day of sunlight on June 21 and the official start of the summer season, **Rural Minds** and the **National Grange** are pleased to present **Mental Health Benefits of Sleep, Nutrition, Exercise and Mindfulness**.

This webinar will feature:

- Presentations from the National Alliance on Mental Health, the National Sleep Foundation, and Mental Health America
- Speakers sharing their expertise on the benefits of physical health for mental health
- Helpful tips to help boost your mind and body wellness
- Discussion about the unique circumstances of maintaining overall health while being in rural America

**Wednesday, June 21, 2023**  
4 pm PT | 5 pm MT | 6 pm CT | 7 pm ET

**CLICK HERE for FREE event registration!**

Or scan QR Code to register now!

This webinar will be presented live via Zoom with the option to hear live audio as listen-only. Webinar video will be archived and available post-event on [www.RuralMinds.org](http://www.RuralMinds.org).

If you don't have computer access, you can call into the webinar using any of the following numbers:  
West Coast - +1 408 638 0968  
Central - +1 346 248 7799  
East Coast - +1 540 513 3888  
When prompted, provide the Webinar Passcode: 368845

Please note that this webinar discusses aspects of mental health, including suicide, that certain individuals may find disturbing or triggering. If you or someone you know is suicidal or in emotional distress, call or text 988. These services are free and confidential. If this is a life-threatening emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency room.

We invite you to join us for this FREE educational event featuring:

- **Joseph Dzierzewski**, PhD, Vice President, Research and Scientific Affairs at the National Sleep Foundation (NSF) - Dr. Joseph Dzierzewski is the Vice President of Research, Scientific Affairs at the National Sleep Foundation (NSF). Dr. Dzierzewski's educational background is in Clinical Health Psychology, focusing on behavioral sleep medicine, and he maintains an active clinical license.
- **Dawn Grittmann**, PharmD, CPHQ, Senior Manager, National Education Programs, Research, Support and Education at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Dr. Grittmann is a licensed Doctor of Pharmacy with more than 17 years of hospital, quality, managed care and teaching experience. A suicide loss survivor, Dawn joined NAMI after losing two cousins and her father to suicide.
- **Em Skehill**, Director of Public Awareness and Education at Mental Health America (MHA) - Ms. Skehill develops accessible educational resources for MHA's awareness initiatives, including Mental Health Moments, Prosa Month, and youth wellbeing. Prior to this role, she was the Manager of Peer Advocacy, Supports, and Services, and she continues to integrate the values of lived experience and self-directed care into her work.
- **Julie Lux** - Rural Minds Vice President of Communications, moderating the webinar
- Interaction from the online audience during Q&A sessions

**RURAL MINDS**

[www.NationalGrange.org](http://www.NationalGrange.org) | 202-429-3567  
[www.RuralMinds.org](http://www.RuralMinds.org) | info@RuralMinds.org  
800-226-8113

*Click the image to enlarge*

## WEBINAR REGISTRATION DETAILS:

There is no charge to register for the webinar. To honor confidentiality and privacy of those attending this webinar, please note:

- Attendees (those watching the webinar) will only be able to see the webinar presenters.
- No one watching the webinar will be able to see the name or image of any other person who is watching the webinar.
- Any question submitted by an attendee will only be seen by the webinar moderator or the presenter.
- Questions will not be visible to other people watching the webinar.

[Register for the Webinar](#)

## “Service Project Sweeping the Nation”

Granges have been signing up to be part of what has been called the "service project sweeping the nation" and touted as outreach that is "both on brand and free to complete - a rare combination."

The program allows Granges to connect and request free materials such as posters, placemats, info cards, bulletin inserts, tabletop tent cards, banners, and yard signs, to name a few, in order to spread the message in their community: individuals in need of affordable broadband service may qualify for free or reduced plan prices from most providers thanks to the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

Materials are made free thanks to grant funding awarded to the Grange and our partner, Oregon Institute for a Better Way, who is providing "community navigators" that will 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.

We're still looking for more local, Pomona and State Grange partners in this outreach program. It's simple, can be part of your already planned community events, or involve members in new opportunities. Your Grange may even be eligible for a small incentive for taking part.

The first step is signing up by going to [grange.biz/signupgrange](http://grange.biz/signupgrange).

Signing up 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. Sign up today!



The graphic features a yellow and blue color scheme. At the top, it says "AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM" in bold blue letters, with the tagline "Helping Households Connect" below it. On the left is an icon of a house with a Wi-Fi signal, and on the right is an icon of a cell tower with a Wi-Fi signal. A yellow banner with black diagonal stripes contains the text "ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO AFFORD INTERNET?" in large blue letters. Below this banner, it says "SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A MONTHLY DISCOUNT" in smaller blue letters. On the right side, there is a QR code and the website "ACPRC.ORG" in white text on a blue background.

## Advocacy Playbook: Family Farm and Small Business Families to Face Higher College Costs

By [Sean O'Neil](#), National Grange Legislative Assistant

### The Issue:

In 2020, Congress passed the [FAFSA Simplification Act](#) as part of a large end of year omnibus package. The act included numerous changes designed to make the FAFSA process easier for families and students to work through. Amongst these changes, the legislation included language that eliminated the exemption for farm and small business assets on the FAFSA. Currently, the Department of Education is still working on implementing the changes required by the FAFSA Simplification Act with the goal to roll out a new FAFSA in spring of 2024. However, the bipartisan [Family Farm and Small Business Exemption Act](#) would prevent this change and preserve the exemption for farm and small business assets on the FAFSA.

### Why it matters:

Currently, rural and small-town Americans are less likely than their suburban and urban counterparts to pursue a college education. For many rural Americans, one of the primary barriers to a college education is the high cost of enrollment. The changes coming to the FAFSA which would count farm and small business assets against an applicant's aid application would exacerbate this divide. As a result, many families will face the choice of either selling the farm or denying their children the opportunity to pursue an affordable college education.

The Family Farm and Small Business Exemption Act would direct the Department of Education to maintain the farm exemption on the FAFSA application as it has existed for decades. This exemption recognizes that farm and small business assets are not the same as income or more liquid assets such as stocks and bonds, and cannot easily be used to pay for a college education. In doing so, farm kids will have the opportunity to access America's college and university system while allowing their families to continue to operate their farms. This is not a free pass for farmers - family income and other assets would still be counted in the FAFSA process, but farm assets like tractors and land, which are essential to the continued operation of the farm, would be exempt.

### What you can do about it:

If you want to get involved and make sure the Family Farm and Small Business Exemption Act becomes law, you can advocate for the bill is by reaching out to your member of Congress (if you are not sure who that is, use this website: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>). Whether you plan to call, send an email, or write a letter to your member of Congress, it is important to make clear that you would like to see them support the Family Farm and Small Business Exemption Act by cosponsoring the bill and later voting for it. Additionally, try to include a story about how the bill will affect you, your family, and your community. Each call, email, and letter an office receives is tallied up and considered when your Representative is deciding whether or not to support a bill, and extra weight is given to those contacts which include personal stories. By lending the voice of Grangers across the country in support of the Family Farm and Small Business Exemption Act, together we can ensure that future generations of farm and small business families can access higher education opportunities.

## Register for National Grange Convention



**We are just five months away** from another incredible National Grange Convention!

This November, we are going to “Flow into the Future” in Niagara Falls, New York as we celebrate the 157<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 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](#).



## [2023 Grange Shirt sale is now open](#)



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>

## Land's End becomes distributor of National Grange logo items



Have you ever wanted a Grange-branded item that isn't carried in the Grange Store? Maybe just one or two polo shirts, a tote bag, an apron? A new partnership with **Land's End** allows Grange members the option of applying embroidered logos (National Grange or Grange Youth) to products – sometimes with the option to order as few as just ONE item.

To order, visit



<https://business.landsend.com/store/grange/> and use the dropdown options (MEN – WOMEN – PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS) at the top to see what items our Grange logos can be applied to!

**Note:** *The National Grange receives no commission from these sales, however this is an option that allows officially-licensed merchandise to be purchased with quality control on our logos.*



SUPPLY STORE

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

### NEW GRANGE 4TH DEGREE PIN



This is a **BRAND NEW** 1" pin with 1/4" clutch back. Perfect for welcoming new members into the Grange, celebrating milestones, and more. Featuring the Grange emblem, surrounded with the names of the 7 Founders.

*Limited quantity available.*

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

**\$10.00**  
PLUS SHIPPING



SUPPLY STORE

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

### GRANGE DECALS



These 10" decals of the Grange emblem have an adhesive back, which makes them easy to use on displays, posters, roadside signage, and more! The reflective gold on the emblem makes them stand out, and will have everyone looking in the direction of your Grange

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

**\$3.50**  
PLUS SHIPPING

## Grange Member Benefit: Worldwide Hotel and Car Rental Discounts

**Did you know?** Grange members have access to a worldwide inventory of hotels and car rentals at discount rates! Each search goes through hundreds of local hotels and rental agencies to find the best rates available – and give you a discount on top of it!

Click here to access: [Exclusive Grange Worldwide Car Rental Discount Program](#), [Exclusive Grange Worldwide Hotel Discounts](#)



## 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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### National Grange HQ | 1616 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20006 | (202) 628-3507

**Publisher** Betsy Huber, National Grange President. Available to members at [betsy@nationalgrange.org](mailto:betsy@nationalgrange.org) or by phone at (484) 459-1957

**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](mailto: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](mailto:abrozana@nationalgrange.org) or call/text (301) 943-1090

**Legislative and Policy Issues** Director Burton Eller, *National HQ*, ext. 114 or email [beller@nationalgrange.org](mailto:beller@nationalgrange.org); Assistant Sean O'Neil, *National HQ*, email [soneil@nationalgrange.org](mailto:soneil@nationalgrange.org)

**Membership Recognition, Grange Supply Sales, Grange Programs and Member Benefits** Loretta Washington, *National HQ*, ext. 109 or email [sales@nationalgrange.org](mailto:sales@nationalgrange.org)

**Free Grange Websites, Emails, *Good Day!* subscription questions and Membership Database** Stephanie Wilkins, *National HQ*, ext. 101 or email [swilkins@nationalgrange.org](mailto:swilkins@nationalgrange.org)

**Lecturer** Ann Bercher, [lecturer@nationalgrange.org](mailto:lecturer@nationalgrange.org) or (612) 501-1231

**Junior and Youth Programming** Samantha Wilkins, [samantha@nationalgrange.org](mailto:samantha@nationalgrange.org) or (210) 838-7892

**Community Service** Pete Pompper [communityservice@nationalgrange.org](mailto:communityservice@nationalgrange.org) or (609) 820-6239

**Grange Foundation** Chairperson Joan C. Smith [ngfb@grange.org](mailto:ngfb@grange.org) or (571) 662-7220