



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

June 23, 2023

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## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations bring fun and renewed interest

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

In the last two weeks, I've had the privilege to attend two Community Grange 150th anniversary celebrations, one in Pennsylvania and one in Massachusetts.

[Keystone Grange #2](#) was the second Grange formed in PA. (We celebrated the first, Eagle #1, in September 2021.) Keystone is located in downtown Trappe, in a beautiful building purchased from the local Masonic Lodge in the early 1900s. For forty years, it organized a wonderful country fair until the area became too suburbanized and land was no longer available (it is less than 30 miles from Center City, Philadelphia.) Keystone raises its operating funds through a designer handbag Bingo and an elegant Ladies' Tea Party each year. They are well-known in their community and include many local dignitaries in their membership.

[Guiding Star Grange #1](#) was the first Grange organized in Massachusetts on June 17, 1783. Forty years ago, they were struggling and about to lose their beautiful hall, but the local contra dancers stepped in, joined the Grange, and through their weekly dances continue to raise enough money to keep the building in top condition. In fact, it has been totally renovated, adding an accessible addition, elevator, new dance floor, new windows, and most recently a remodeled lower-level dining room and commercial kitchen.

Guiding Star had a day-long celebration, with ethnic dancers; historical lectures; presentation of citations from legislators, State Grange President and National President; and a delicious dinner prepared with local-grown foods. And of course, to top off the day, a contra dance. They even pulled me onto the dance floor and kindly showed me how to dance—we don't have this in PA! Contra dancing is similar to square dancing but in long lines instead of squares. And the dances are about 15-20 minutes long!

Thank you to both Granges for inviting me and hosting me at their wonderful events!



## Celebrating June!

By [Ann Bercher](#), National Grange Lecturer



June is a busy month for celebrations! First, we need to celebrate the end of the school year and the beginning of summer! We have already had Father's Day, Flag Day and Juneteenth. It is also Pride Month, Camping Month, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Month and Dairy Month - just to name a few.

One great way to honor Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Month is to go out to your local farmer's market, chat with the growers and make some tasty

purchases. Many growers in Minnesota use hoop houses to get an early start on their plants, so we have been enjoying lots of greens, radishes, spring onions herbs, and tons of rhubarb! To find a farmer's market near you, use the USDA Locally Grown Directory:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-directories>

Dairy Month is near and dear to me as my grandfather was a dairy farmer, and my father worked in a dairy processing plant before operating several cheese specialty shops. I still have a glass milk bottle from my grandfather's "Model Dairy" store which he operated out of his home in Waukon, Iowa.

Dairy Month was originally established to promote milk sales in 1937 following several years

of low milk prices. Today, while the dairy industry is still volatile in many instances, we can honor Dairy month by enjoying the health benefits of milk and milk products. Milk and milk products contain many essential nutrients such as calcium, potassium, vitamin D and protein. Milk and milk products can help reduce the risk of high blood pressure, osteoporosis and help with weight management.

I started to examine my milk intake and realized that while I don't drink a lot of milk by the glass, I do enjoy milk and yogurt in my morning smoothie, yogurt for lunch and frozen yogurt for snacks. I put real cream in my coffee, and I keep a variety of cheeses on hand for sandwiches, snacks and sauces. I always have Ice cream in the freezer!

If this isn't enough to celebrate this month, check out this website for more ideas. <https://www.today.com/life/holidays/june-holidays-and-observances-rcna76138>



## [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**.

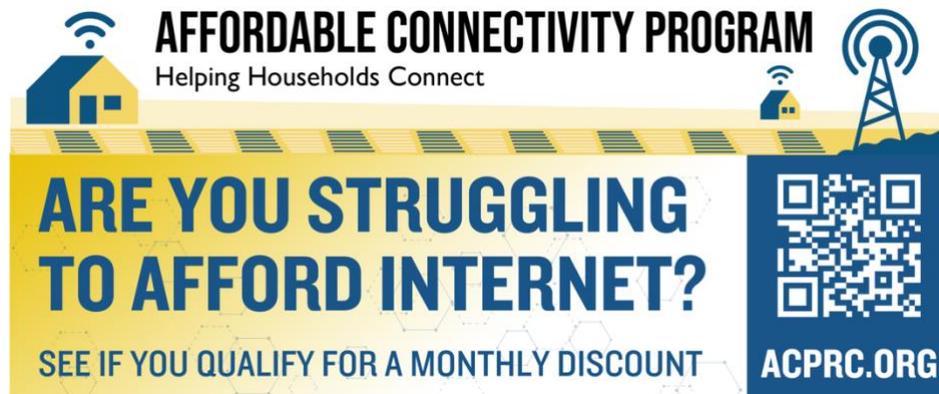
Certainly, we want all Grange members to know about the benefit and sign up if they are eligible, but this cannot stop within our doors. Just like giving nonperishable items to the food bank is important, so is taking the information about ACP to the director of the food bank and asking for it to be 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 [grange.biz/signupgrange](https://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.



## [Register for 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



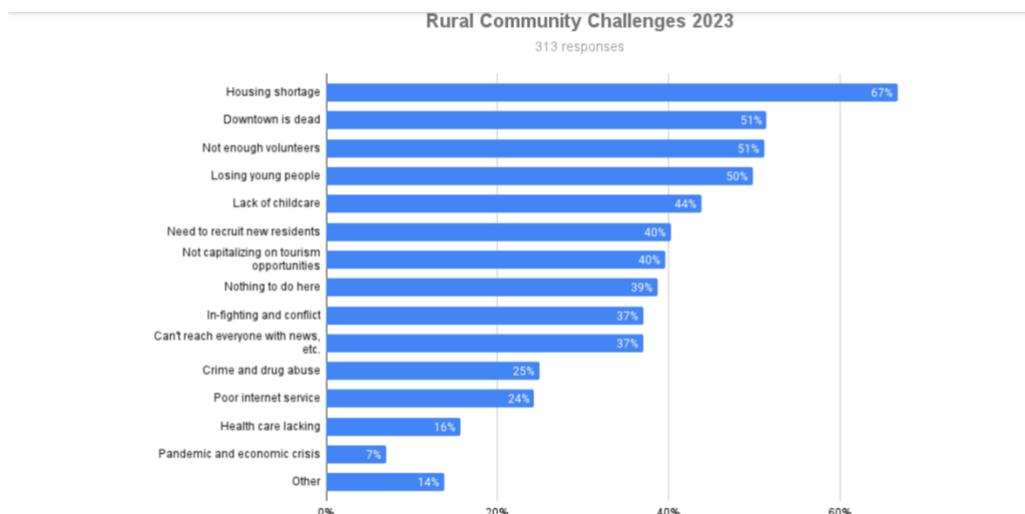
<https://business.landsend.com/store/grange/> and use the dropdown options (MEN – WOMEN – PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS) at the top to see what items our Grange logos can be applied to!

**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.*

## Rural Communities Are Upbeat About the Future Despite Persisting Issues

*A new online survey asked respondents about their rural lifestyles and challenges like housing crisis and hollowed-out downtowns.*

By Kristi Eaton  
 Courtesy of the Daily Yonder



A shortage of quality housing and struggling downtowns were among the top challenges rural community members face, according to consultants who help small towns identify and solve problems.

Save Your Towns is an Oklahoma and Mississippi-based group co-founded by Becky McCray and Deb Brown. They work to educate people on low- or no-cost solutions to problems in small towns across the U.S. and elsewhere.

Since 2015, the women have been surveying residents about their towns. Survey participation is voluntary and self-selected, not based on scientific polling methods, but the online survey does offer a range of responses from people who identify as rural.

This year's survey found that in addition to housing and downtowns, other challenges were not enough volunteers, losing young people, and a lack of childcare. Brown said the top community assets are natural resources, outdoor recreation, tourism, committed people in a good workforce, effective leaders, and arts, culture, and events.

"Having said all of that, there are some big disconnects," she told the Daily Yonder. "We uncovered that between what rural people want and what services and assistance are commonly offered to them."

Brown said business owners and leaders said usable buildings are harder to find than loans, and they showed little interest in needing support with business plans or pitch competitions.

The survey was open from November 11, 2022, to January 31, 2023. A total of 315 responses were collected online from subscribers and visitors to SaveYour.Town and SmallBizSurvival.com, from media coverage and cooperating groups that publicized the survey.

Respondents self-identified themselves as rural, and 206 identified themselves as business owners. Participants included 295 from the United States, 11 from Canada, and six from Australia.

The self-selected participants were more optimistic about the economy than people who participated in the Daily Yonder's 2022 scientific, randomized poll of rural voters.

In the Daily Yonder's survey in October, nearly three quarters of rural respondents said the economy was not working well for them, and half said they expected their financial situation would get worse in the next year.

Poll director Celinda Lake said at the time that she was stunned by the depth of pessimism in the responses.

In the SaveYour.Town survey, nearly 40% of participants responded positively to the question, "Do you think your community will be better off in 10 years?"

"Rural people were twice as likely to say they were optimistic about their community's future, as were negative about their community's future," she added. About half of respondents were neutral on the question.

"I was very happy to see how optimistic people were. And I think the thing that really surprised me, I was really pleased and surprised to see that events and arts and culture and education, and tourism were listed as one of the top community assets."

McCray said the pair love to hear that people are using the survey results for educational purposes.

"We know it gets global attention," McCray said. "Because what rural people say they need doesn't always match the things that they're offered, or the stories that we read, or the things that we hear on TV, or the reports, for example."



**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.

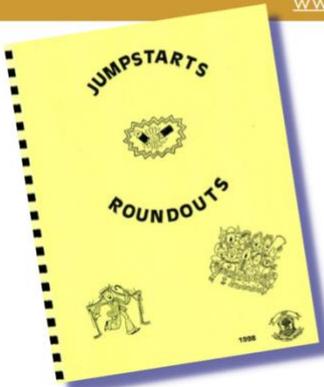
**\$10.00**  
PLUS SHIPPING



**SUPPLY STORE**

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

### JUMPSTARTS & ROUNDABOUTS



*Written & compiled by Mary Buffington, National Grange Lecturer 1987-1997*

This book is designed for Grange Lecturers with ideas to fill little gaps in programs and information on what to include in & how to build a successful program.

**\$3.00 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.

## Grange Member Benefit: Avis Car Rentals

**AVIS**<sup>®</sup> Grange members always receive up to 25% off your rental when you use AWD# B291044, plus enjoy additional offers like dollars off, a complimentary upgrade, or a free weekend day. With a complimentary membership in Avis Preferred<sup>®</sup>, you'll travel better, save time and gain access to exclusive offers. Skip the counter and paperwork at many locations and go straight to your car.

Visit [avis.com/en/association/B291044](http://avis.com/en/association/B291044) or call 1-800-331-1212 to make a reservation.



**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.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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