



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

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In this Issue:

[Supreme Court WOTUS ruling a win for farmers](#)

by Betsy E. Huber

["You don't know how many people are in line waiting for you to lead"](#) by Pete Pompper

[Register for National Grange Convention](#)

[National Grange Convention reimagined – and better than ever!](#)

[In Post Pandemic America, Healthier Communities Are Within Our Reach](#) by Betsy E. Huber

[June Heirloom](#)

[Participate in a new Affordable Connectivity Program with your Grange](#)

[Grange Supply Store: New 4th Degree Pin](#)

[Grange Supply Store: Community Citizen Awards](#)

[Grange Member Benefit: Lenovo](#)

Supreme Court WOTUS ruling a win for farmers

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

Last week the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on the WOTUS (Waters of the U.S.) question based on the [Sackett v. EPA](#) case that has been working its way through the courts for many years. This is a big win for American agriculture.

The question has been about the definition of what bodies of water the government has oversight and control over. Previously the [EPA](#) has claimed control over any water - permanent or temporary - that has a "significant nexus" to a larger body of water. By using this test, they could exert control over land use on almost all agricultural land, even if the water on it was only temporary puddles after heavy rain. The goal was government control over where and when farming happened.

Through many different levels of court cases and EPA regulations and changes by Administrations, confusion reigned among farmers. Is it safe to plant that field that they have been farming for generations? Will the EPA take notice and sue them? Most farmers cannot afford the legal costs to defend themselves against the EPA. The uncertainty was stressful and prevented farmers from doing their jobs.

The new ruling by the Supreme Court is that the EPA can only control wetlands that are "as a practical matter indistinguishable from waters of the U.S." because they have a "continuous surface connection" with a larger body of water. This common-sense ruling will finally give farmers the clear direction that they need in making decisions. Farmers know their land better than EPA or any other government official. They want to preserve their land and water for the next generation. We applaud the Supreme Court for this clear ruling and urge the EPA to withdraw its WOTUS rule and rewrite a workable rule in compliance with the court's decision.

JUNE
NATIONAL GRANGE EVENTS
TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF
YOUR MEMBERSHIP

JUNE 2023 ALL TIMES EASTERN

9-11: GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL CONFERENCE
Inn of the Hills Hotel & Conference Center,
Kerrville, Texas

13: MEMBERSHIP MATTERS (ZOOM) 8:30 P.M.
Open to all!
Each month contains new, relevant information for
Grange leaders. Contact abrozana@nationalgrange.org
for more information.

16-18: MIDWESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
Camp Lutherdale, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

27: LECTURER'S FORUM (ZOOM) 8:30 P.M.
National Grange Lecturer Ann Bercher will lead a
discussion on contests, programming, and more in
the Lecturer's Department. Contact
lecturer@nationalgrange.org for more information.

JUNIOR GRANGE FOCUS AREA:
AGRICULTURAL AWARENESS
YOUTH PILLAR FOCUS AREA:
NETWORKING

“You don’t know how many people are in line waiting for you to lead”

By [Pete Pompper](#), National Grange Community Service Director



“You don’t know how many people are in line waiting for you to lead”

I heard this line a couple of days ago on a show where two disabled men were talking and one was helping the other younger man work through some issues. They had both become paralyzed from car accidents through no fault of their own. One man had been in a wheelchair for 10 years and was speaking with the younger man who had been in a wheelchair for just a couple of years.

The older gentleman was helping guide him through the different issues he was facing and could see the younger man had a lot to give back to others in their situation. Near the end of their conversation, the older man said the line I used at the top of this article. It is such a powerful message to hear and say at times.

To say this line struck me in a powerful way is an understatement. I started thinking about all that your Granges do in the community and probably don’t realize how much it means. Leading is just not being in the front of the line and moving everyone in the same direction (ok, except the cats... just can’t lead them).

Granges can and do lead in their communities by showing how much they care and give back in so many ways. Most of the time, we silently lead without much fanfare about what we do or are going to do, which is a sign of a leader - just getting things done and people not knowing it was you who did it. That being said, it also doesn’t hurt to brag about yourself a little bit and let the community know what you do all year long.

One way that Granges have taken up the mantle of leadership is by holding/hosting rural mental health and suicide prevention programs. As you know, the National Grange and [Rural Minds](#) have been in a partnership for about two years. We are seeing more Granges holding some type of informational meeting on these very important topics. I will say that any time we discuss these topics is important because you don’t know who is listening at that time and needs to hear it.

It is not about the size of the meeting, it can just be information given at a meeting (**Marvel Grange (CO)** recently presented the signs of a person having mental health/ suicide issues) to a Grange holding a one-day informational meeting. **Pioneer Grange (NJ)** recently had an afternoon mental health/suicide prevention program, with several groups in the community who spoke. They invited the community and over half the crowd were not Grange members. **Creswell Grange (OR)** contacted the local schools about hosting a Teen Suicide Prevention program at the Grange. I personally thank **Patrick Dearth** for taking the lead on this and holding a very successful community program which has now started a lot of discussion at the meeting and is a topic that they will continue to talk about in the community.

These are all examples of how Granges can lead the way. There are so many more Granges who have done a community service program or are planning to and I thank you for that.

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](#).

National Grange Convention reimagined – and better than ever!

The National Convention Advisory Work Group has been charged with identifying how to make our National Grange Convention an amazing Grange experience that is the single most important event on every member's calendar.

We value your input and invite you to participate in this survey which should take no more than 5 minutes of your time.

Take the survey here: <http://www.grange.biz/conventionsurvey>



In Post Pandemic America, Healthier Communities Are Within Our Reach

By *Betsy E. Huber*, National Grange President

Originally Published by [RealClearHealth](#) on May 31, 2023

America is changing post pandemic and along with that change is the opportunity for our health care system, and the people served by it, to change as well. One great example of this is illustrated by life in rural America. According to a [study](#) recently published in *Rural Sociology*, for the first time in 50 years, the population growth in rural America actually exceeded growth in cities. This is good

news in the long term, but to sustain it requires looking objectively at the current advantages and limitations of rural living and addressing the challenges.

Although **97 percent** of US land is defined as rural, only about 19 percent of Americans live on it. Increased privacy, the absence of constant traffic, and beautiful views are among the many advantages, but it is also generally true that small communities have more limited resources and that over time, many decline in size. Those who stay are far more likely to be aging in place regardless of the impact the decline may have had on the availability of services.

Rural America has often found it hard to attract clinicians, struggled to keep hospitals open and must often come face to face with the three inescapable obstacles to quality health care: scarcity, distance and increased risks associated with aging. **According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture**, one in five rural Americans is age 65 or older, a number that will likely rise as more and more baby boomers reach Medicare eligibility age. The health vulnerabilities associated with aging are only compounded by the fact that rural Americans are also more likely to suffer from multiple chronic conditions and be uninsured or underinsured. As May is Older Americans Month, it is a good time to recognize not only the changing demographics of the rural population but also the urgent need for new solutions to address the health challenges facing all rural Americans, especially those of advanced age.

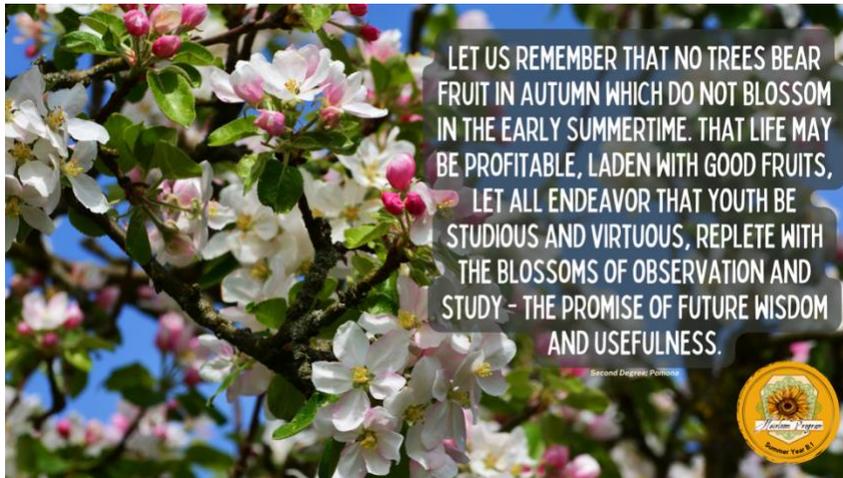
The Grange is the only national organization that has, over its 156 years in existence, focused upon all aspects of rural life. In recent decades, access to quality healthcare and the technology, economic resources and scientific expertise and commitment to innovation needed to deliver it have become a vital part of the work we do in communities throughout the country. It is essential for continued public policy support for educational outreach, strengthening and expansion of health care facilities and services, and rural access to technology to protect young and old against serious illness.

As the COVID-19 public health emergency is ending and we transition away from some of the emergency protocols which may no longer be necessary, we must continue to provide support and protection for those most vulnerable, both young and old, in our communities. One way to do this is to leverage every tool that helps to prevent common illnesses more likely to result in serious complications for older adults and those with heightened health risks due to chronic illness. Certainly COVID-19 remains a serious threat, but it is important to remember that even before the pandemic, **1.5 million Americans** were diagnosed annually with pneumonia, and in the most recent flu season, the **CDC estimates** that upwards of 600,000 Americans were hospitalized due to the flu. And these illnesses are even more concerning for rural Americans as the **death rate** for flu and pneumonia is higher in rural areas.

While the dangers of the fall respiratory season will likely continue to be heightened, there are ways to protect ourselves through vaccines, some of which like the pneumonia vaccine can be taken anytime during the year. The last three years have shown us how simple prevention can help strengthen our defenses, especially for those in rural America who may not be able to seek immediate care.

Time will tell if the call to rural life will continue to help build back communities through the countryside and in small towns. In the meantime, the Grange will continue to advocate for positive change that allows for growth and expansion, while also ensuring the promise of a healthy, quality life is still attainable for the millions of men and women and children who have sacrificed so much to sustain our rural communities.

June Heirloom



Let us remember that no trees bear fruit in Autumn which do not blossom in the early summertime. That life may be profitable, laden with good fruits, let all endeavor that youth be studious and virtuous, replete with the blossoms of observation and study – the promise of future wisdom and usefulness. – Pomona, Second Degree

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

Participate in a new Affordable Connectivity Program with your Grange

Would your Grange like to take part in a grant-funded outreach program to provide information to your community about the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program? If so, please [fill out this short form](#) to receive an invitation to an upcoming meeting (by Zoom or phone) introducing the program, our wide range of ways you can take part for free, and potential financial incentives your Grange may receive from participating.



SUPPLY STORE

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

\$10.00
PLUS SHIPPING



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.org

COMMUNITY CITIZEN AWARD



This Award is perfect to be presented to those who make a difference in your community. Presented in a vinyl navy folder with the Grange emblem on the front.

Wording: "In recognition of outstanding service to this community and mankind. Your dedication and personal involvement are gratefully and sincerely acknowledged by the members of..."

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

\$12.00
PLUS SHIPPING

Order with paperweight for just \$8 more!

Grange Member Benefit: Lenovo



Memorial Day Sale Ends on June 4th!

Bold and vibrant devices up to 68% off!

This Memorial Day, save on inspiring brands like Premium ThinkPad, YOGA convertibles, and Legion Gaming, as well as accessories!

Not a MyLenovo Rewards Member?

Sign up and earn rewards for future purchases. Plus, you'll receive expedited delivery at no extra cost!

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

www.grangestore.org

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