



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE



March 17, 2023

In this Issue:

[Junior Grangers visit National Headquarters](#)

by Betsy E. Huber

[Let us prepare for Quarter 2](#) by Samantha Wilkins

[Share your talent at "Date Night In"](#)

[Farmers: Share your thoughts on cover crops in the National Cover Crop Survey!](#)

[Volunteers needed for Security Industry Standards Council](#)

[Advocacy Playbook: Put whole milk back in public schools!](#)

[Register for the Legislative Fly-In](#)

[Grange Month Materials](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Grange Supply Store Notice](#)

[Grange Supply Store: Junior Supplies](#)

[Grange Supply Store: Raised Right Here Stickers](#)

[Grange Member Benefit: Rx Pharmacy Card](#)

Junior Grangers visit National Headquarters

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

National Grange Headquarters staff were privileged this week to host a group of Florida Junior Grangers for their 5-day tour of the Nation's Capital.

Junior Leader Charlotte Bethany of Manatee Junior Grange, along with three other adults, chaperoned the group of ten middle schoolers on their whirlwind tour of Washington. After a Sunday afternoon tour of the Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Museum, they started Monday morning with a tour of the Grange building and a governmental

lesson from Legislative Assistant Sean O'Neil. Sean reviewed the three branches of government and the responsibilities of each, then described the different types of bills that Congress passes – omnibus, single-issue, and "secret" Congress.

He taught the students that they can be lobbyists here in the U.S. Capitol, in their state or local government, or even influence their local school board for policies they would like to see changed. They all enjoyed lunch sponsored by Grange Advocacy before the group set out for a tour of the Holocaust Museum.



Their plans for the rest of the week are to visit their U.S. Senators and Representative and see most of the monuments and Smithsonian Museums in town, ending with a visit to Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday before heading home to Florida. Thanks for visiting us, we really enjoyed hosting you all!

Let us prepare for Quarter 2

By [Samantha Wilkins](#), National Junior Grange and Youth Development Director



If you haven't heard by now the Junior Grange program book, which is a resource utilized by Junior leaders and those interested in Junior Programming, has been broken down into quarterly focus points.

Each focus point is set up to help Juniors focus on some foundational points of the Grange. Each focus point is filled with contests and potential activities a Junior could be doing.

QUARTER 1

Our first quarter's focus was on Grange Advocacy and how we can create young advocates through the work of the Grange. As March comes to an end and a new quarter is preparing to start, we are excited to bring our Youth and Junior leadership teams to Washington, DC to learn about the legislative side of the Grange.

Our leadership team will arrive in DC this Sunday, March 19, and will depart on March 22. Over those few days in DC, they will be briefed by the National Grange Legislative Director on important issues in the Grange, they will attend a briefing to hear from speakers focused on Rural Mental Health, we will tour some DC staples, participate in National Ag Day events, and then, most importantly, they will each be meeting with their representatives to discuss policies Grangers have set in place. These young leaders will be hard at work in DC and we have to give a large shout-out **to Potomac Grange #1(DC)** and **Grange Advocacy** for their sponsorship of the event.

QUARTER 2

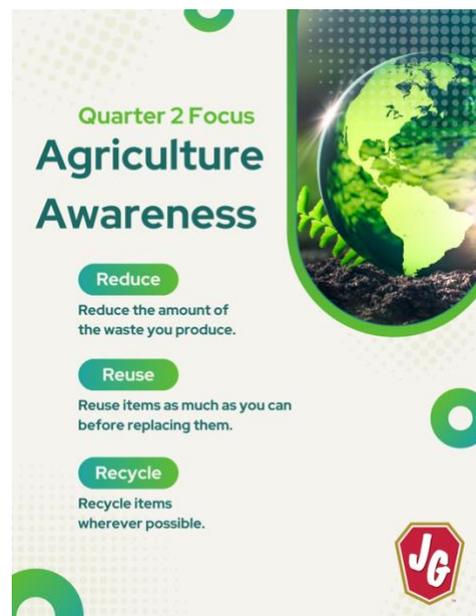
As Quarter 1 wraps up and April brings in a new focus area, we are excited to have Juniors across the country begin their Agricultural Awareness Projects focused around "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle". Quarter 2 is our **Ag Awareness** focus. This year, like every year, brings a new Agriculture project for our Juniors to focus on. While the thought of **reducing, reusing, recycling** seems pretty simple, our goal is to have Juniors dig deeper into what that really means - how will practicing the 3 "R's" better our environment? What careers are available in this content area? (Hint: this is more than a garbage man)

Within this focus area, Juniors can participate in the 2023 Ag Awareness Project, which we discussed above, and this is a great time for our Juniors to start working on their creative writing for our National Creative Writing Contests. The topic for the creative writing contest is as follows:

TOPIC: Using the Agricultural Awareness theme of **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**, tell us how doing those three things can make an impact in the community and world around you.

Contest entries are due to National Junior Grange Director, Samantha Wilkins, by September 1, 2023! This is a fun and easy way to get involved with National Grange. Those individuals who participate in the Ag Awareness projects will receive special recognition at the National Grange Convention in 2023.

For questions, please reach out to Samantha Wilkins, junior@nationalgrange.org.



Share your talent at “Date Night In”



We are planning for [Grange Month 2023](#)! One of our special events is a one-night-only return of "Date Night In," a favorite event from 2020!

Do you have a special talent? Do you sing? Dance? Play an instrument? Are you crafty? Or do you have a hobby you'd love to share?

We are seeking 3-5 minute submissions from Grange members around the country to be a part of our Date Night In virtual talent show on April 14th.

Send your submissions to [Ann Bercher, National Grange Lecturer](#) by March 31 for consideration.

Date Night In will be live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook on April 14th!

Farmers: Share your thoughts on cover crops in the National Cover Crop Survey!

Farmers are invited to share their thoughts on cover crops in an online survey at bit.ly/CoverCrop23. Why do you plant cover crops... or why don't you? What do you want to know? Your insight will help guide research, communications, seed development, and more.

This National Cover Crop Survey is the seventh since 2012 conducted by the [USDA-NIFA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education](#) (SARE) program, [Conservation Technology Information Center](#) (CTIC) and the [American Seed Trade Association](#) (ASTA), with the help of Informa/Farm Progress.

"Since 2012, the National Cover Crop Survey has been extremely valuable in helping guide research priorities, direct communications and education efforts, provide data to researchers, and illustrate the effects of policy on cover crop use and adoption," says Dr. Rob Myers, regional director of extension programs for North Central SARE and director of the University of Missouri Center for Regenerative Agriculture. "Data from previous surveys have been used in scientific papers, business planning, extension efforts, media coverage of cover crops, and even included in testimony to Congress."

Please take a few minutes to contribute your voice at bit.ly/CoverCrop23. After completing the questionnaire, you may enter a drawing for one of three \$100 Visa gift cards.

Volunteers needed for Security Industry Standards Council

The [Security Industry Association](#) (SIA) and [The Monitoring Association](#) (TMA) are seeking "user" (consumer) volunteers to participate as voting members on the [Security Industry Standards Council](#) (SISC).

SISC is tasked with reviewing and approving industry standards on home security systems; examples of previous standards from SISC include the Control Panel Standard - Features for False Alarm Reduction and the Alarm Confirmation, Verification and Notification Procedures Standard.

Consumer input is needed! As a consumer "voting member," you will have an opportunity to vote and provide comments on new or proposed revisions to the portfolio of security industry standards. The "user" category is defined as "An individual or organizational representative, purchases, utilizes or receives the materials, products, systems, or services covered in the scope of

technical documents developed. Examples of this interest category would include government agencies, security personnel, building owners and operators, etc.”

More information about the SISC is available from the webpage link:

<https://www.securityindustry.org/industry-standards/sia-standards-committee/security-industry-standards-council/>

If interested in participating, please contact the SISC secretary at eshen@securityindustry.org or Cleo Stamatatos at ANSI cstamatos@ansi.org. The first meeting will be on March 29 in Las Vegas; virtual participation can be arranged.

Interested in learning more about how to participate as a standards volunteer? Register for a free “Consumer Safety Central” webinar here: <https://www.ansi.org/events/standards-events/04-11-23-consumer-safety-webinar#.ZBCIUnbMKEA>.

Advocacy Playbook: Put whole milk back in public schools!

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

The Issue:

The [Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023](#) is a bipartisan bill sponsored by Representatives GT Thompson (R-PA) and Kim Schrier (D-WA) which would allow unflavored and flavored whole milk to be offered again in public schools. Specifically, the bill would correct changes made in the *Healthy, Hunger Free-Kids Act of 2021* which removed whole milk options from public school lunches across the country. The bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives and is currently before the Agriculture Committee which is chaired by Representative Thompson.

Why it matters:

Reintroducing whole milk to school lunches would create significant nutritional benefits for school children. Medical research has found consistent health benefits from a diet that includes whole milk, particularly for children. Whole milk can help strengthen bone density, reduce cardiovascular risk, lower blood pressure, reduce risks of type 2 diabetes, and increase sleep quality. Additionally, whole milk offers a healthier alternative to more unhealthy drink options which remain permitted for school lunch programs. Whole milk is 97% fat-free and contains 13 essential nutrients for healthy growth and development.

The removal of whole milk from school lunches in 2010 has also had serious negative effects on America’s dairy farmers. Since 2010, the dairy industry has seen significant declines in fluid milk consumption, which has caused serious decreases in dairy producers’ income. The dairy industry is an integral part of the rural economy throughout the country and it is essential that we allow our dairy producers to sell their products through school lunch programs.

What you can do about it:

If you want to get involved and make sure the *Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023* becomes law, you can advocate for the bill 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 *Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023* by cosponsoring the bill and later voting for it.

As well, 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 *Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023*, together we can push Congress to continue to move the bill forward and reintroduce whole milk in our schools.



Click the banner to register for the Fly-In!

Grange Month Materials



Grange Month is just around the corner – April will be here before we know it!

Over the next few weeks, keep checking the [Grange Month 2023](#) page on the National Grange website as more things will be added!

We are in year two of our “Raised Right Here,” theme. This year, we encourage our Granges to use the theme to celebrate building strong communities – of all sorts! The network of the Grange community is strong, and we work to make the communities where our Granges function strong, too!

During Grange Month, there will be online forums and events with many of the National Grange officers and Directors – please encourage your Grange members to attend!

[**Check out the calendar here!**](#)



Upcoming Events

JUNIOR JIBBER-JABBER

WHEN:
Third Sunday of odd-numbered months (January/March/May... etc.)
at 9 p.m. Eastern

WHO:
Junior Directors or anyone else interested in Junior Grange programming!

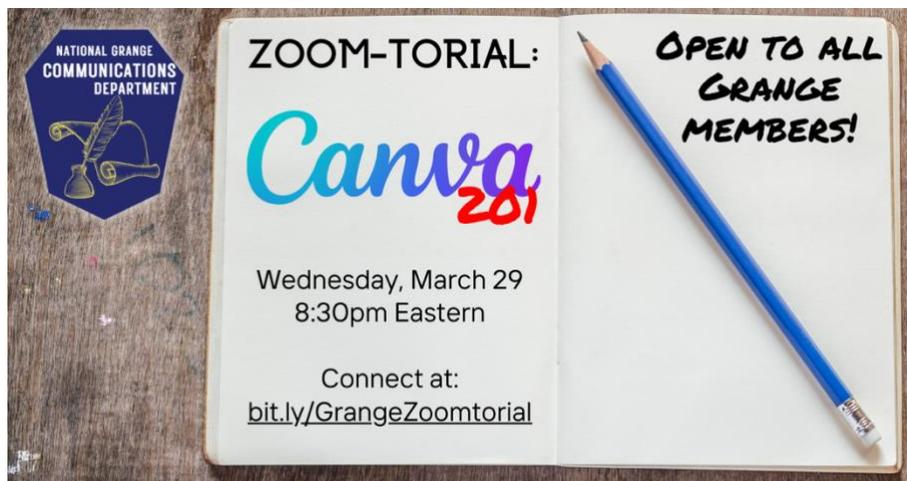
WHERE:
On Zoom!
Login: 833 7712 0738
Passcode: 969128
or bit.ly/JibberJabberZoom



Mark your calendar!
On March 29 at 8:30pm Eastern, the Communications Department will present a **Zoom-torial** on "Canva 201."

This will include some best practices when designing for social media, creating videos/gifs through Canva, starting from scratch, and more. If you have questions you

would like answered, please email Communications Director [Philip Vonada](#). *See you there!*



Grange Supply Store Notice

Effective May 1 – the price of all “Years of Service” Seals will increase to \$5 (with \$3 shipping) and Golden Sheaf pins will increase to \$25.

To save money now, place your orders with [Loretta Washington](#) by midnight Eastern on May 1st (postmarked or in email inbox).


SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.org

JUNIOR GRANGE SUPPLIES



Junior Grange Manual
\$5.00 plus shipping



Past Master Jewelry
Gavel Pin - \$7.50 plus shipping
Tie Tack - \$3.00 plus shipping
discounts for larger quantities



Junior Grange Songbook
\$1.50 plus shipping
final markdown!

Order online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.org 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: Rx Pharmacy Card



This program offers the RxSavings Plus Card, a NO-FEE exclusive benefit to National Grange members that is not offered to the public.

The RXSavings Card allows members to go to almost any pharmacy. Unlike other savings plans, the CVS Caremark program applies to 99% of prescription

drugs. Save on Lipitor, Plavix, high blood pressure medications, and thousands more - **even pet medications!** For the Rx Card Program, go to <http://nationalgrange.rxsavingsplus.com>.

If your pet has been prescribed a medication, you may get a discount with the RxSavings Plus Prescription Discount Card at a participating pharmacy. During your pet's examination ask if the treatment plan they are recommending includes medications that are also used to treat human conditions. If so, you can request a written prescription from your veterinarian instead of the veterinarian clinic providing the medications.



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

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 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 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

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

Membership Recognition, Grange Supply Sales, Grange Programs and Member Benefits Loretta Washington, *National HQ*, ext. 109 or email 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

Lecturer Ann Bercher, lecturer@nationalgrange.org or (612) 501-1231

Junior and Youth Programming Samantha Wilkins, samantha@nationalgrange.org or (210) 838-7892

Community Service Pete Pompper communityservice@nationalgrange.org or (609) 820-6239

Grange Foundation Chairperson Joan C. Smith ngfb@grange.org or (571) 662-7220