



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

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National Grange brings vaccines to the Big E

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

Today is opening day of the [Big E – the Eastern States Exposition](#), New England's multi-state fair in West Springfield, Massachusetts. The Grange will be there in a big way!

The Northeast Grange region has for many years had a building that they own on the fairgrounds where they exhibit and sell handicrafts, jams, jellies and sauces, and Grange information. Also, each state owns a building on the grounds and several State Granges participate in those with food or displays.

This year the National Grange will have a large tent on the lawn of the Grange Building where we are partnering with the [American Society of Consultant Pharmacists](#) to administer vaccines to all fairgoers who want them—flu, COVID, pneumonia, RSV, and possibly others. Free to those with insurance, and if you don't have insurance come talk to us, **we can take care of you too**. Our goal is to achieve 5,000 shots in arms over the 17-day fair. With an anticipated attendance of over 1.6 million, this should be easily achievable!

The Big E is a huge event with something for everyone—from crafts and quilts competitions to animals, 4-H and FFA projects, amusement rides, all types of commercial exhibits, and of course food, food, food. If you live in New England you should plan a day to visit, or two days because you can't see it all in one day! Bring a carload of friends along. And be sure to stop in at the Grange Building to say hello and get your vaccine protection for the year in one stop.

Hope to see you there!



Ambassador encourages Juniors to grow and flourish

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

Hey Junior Grangers,

National Junior Grange Ambassador Nettie Hartley here! Well, let me tell you, over the last year, I have had the best time getting to meet you all!

Over the summer I was able to go to two different Grange camps. The first one was Pennsylvania State Junior Grange camp where I had an absolute blast! I loved it! Everyone there was so nice and welcoming!



From there I headed to North Carolina for North Carolina Camp. Because I'm 15, I was with the youth with whom I had a lot of fun! They were all so funny and also very welcoming!

Those camps were the first week-long Grange camps I had ever been to, but they were absolutely perfect! If any of you Juniors have Grange camps that you could attend, I would highly recommend it. It's a great chance to make new friends and step out of your comfort zone! I know that I made lifelong Grange friendships at the camps, and I still talk to several people from NC and PA on a daily basis.

With all the traveling I have been able to do, I have met and seen all the great things that you Juniors are doing across the country! It is so inspiring to see that kids have such an impact on their communities and state.

I know everyone says that Juniors are the future, but I want to remind you that you are the present too! You are leading our wonderful organization in the right direction. Our leaders and role models are going to be asking you what you want to do soon! I hope that Juniors aren't seen as just the kids in the back of the room but as members who have a voice and opinion!

There are so many opportunities today for Juniors that I couldn't recommend enough to take advantage of. From National contests and awards to honing leadership skills and learning the fundamentals of advocating for a better community.

With the opportunity I was given as Junior Ambassador, I got to travel the country, attending regional conferences, and camps. While I was there I got to meet so many great people and saw how strong the Grange is.

As my term as Ambassador is coming to an end, I look forward to seeing you Juniors grow and continue to watch the Junior Grange flourish. I also look forward to seeing everyone at National Session in Niagara, New York! Personally, I hope we have a record number of Juniors at the convention this year!

Sincerely,

Nettie

Advocacy Playbook: Don't have Broadband yet? Try fixed wireless.

By [Burton Eller](#), National Grange Legislative Director



As Grange members are well aware, the top public policy priority of the National Grange for many years has been to get high speed broadband connectivity down the last mile of country road in rural America. We're closing in on that goal.

If you have cell phone service at home or at the farm, ranch, or business, you may be able to get a good internet connection. It's called **fixed wireless broadband**. The service is available over the provider's cellular network, using available network capacity in areas that are less densely populated while still providing a strong connection.

Fixed wireless is currently available from AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon with good user reviews. It's reportedly fast and easy to self-install. Prices range from \$20 to \$55 per month and fixed wireless is eligible for the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) (ACP) subsidy of up to \$30 per month for eligible families. Fixed wireless service has expanded dramatically since 2021 following the growth of 5G networks. The wireless industry reports that fixed wireless internet is now available to over 100 million homes and businesses largely in rural and suburban areas.

Thanks to those Grange members who have shared their use of and satisfaction with these fixed wireless internet services. For those Grangers who are without high-speed internet right now, a trip to your cell phone store just might change that.

Introducing the National Grange Youth Officer Team, 2023 Horizon Leadership Class, and Junior Ambassador Candidates



ACCEPTING BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS



The Grange Foundation will accept nominations for members of the Board of Directors from September 2nd through October 15th.

Submit names and bios to ngrfb@grange.org or betsy@nationalgrange.org, or by mail to the National Grange office.

Election will occur at the National Grange Session on November 13.

Learn about participating in consumer standards

Courtesy of Cleo Stamatos, American National Standards Institute

Consumers are critical to improving the safety of products—from toys to household appliances—that we all rely on, every day! Find out how consumers like you can make a difference in standards development in the American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) free Consumer Safety Central Webinar on **Tuesday, October 17, 2023**, at 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET.

Discussion topics will include the basic procedures involved in standards development, the need for consumer participants, and ways for consumers to get involved. American Sign Language interpretation will be provided by ANSI. For more information or to register, click here: <https://www.ansi.org/standards-news/all-news/2023/09/9-1-23-how-can-consumers-contribute-to-standards-development-october-consumer-webinar>

Register for National Grange Convention



We are just **eight weeks** away from when we “Flow into the Future” in Niagara Falls, New York as we celebrate the 157th Annual Session of the National Grange. **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 that will also house the hospitality room, while the convention itself including the Showcase 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.

For guests who would prefer to call, as opposed to making their reservations online, please call **(716) 285-3361 x2295** to reach Reservation Coordinator Cierra Duck. She is typically in the office Monday through Friday 8am – 4pm Eastern). **NOTE:** October 20th is the cutoff to GUARANTEE your room rate!

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

Stay tuned over the coming weeks 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!
Standard Registration - \$37 – September 5th - October 20th

Late Registration - \$42 – October 20th – November 8th

Registration on Site - will be available at the late registration cost, however, you will not be able to obtain tickets to any meals

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.



Convention Feature: Dr. Daniel Pinti presents “Leadership Dialogue” workshop for youth



At 9:00am on Saturday, November 18, Rev. Dr. Daniel Pinti from Niagara University will present a workshop entitled “Leadership Dialogue.” This workshop will be about leadership development in a fun, interactive, and “comical” way.

Although geared toward Youth members, this workshop will be open to all attending this year’s National Grange Convention.

Dr. Pinti has been a Professor of English at Niagara University since 2001, when he and his family moved from New Mexico. In addition to his work at NU, he is also a priest at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Eggertsville, New York.

Dr. Pinti holds an MA and Ph.D. in English from The Ohio State University and an M.Div. from Christ the King Seminary, and previously taught at New Mexico State University. His favorite topics include the literature of the American West, Old English, Dante, the Bible as Literature, and Comics/Graphic Novels.

Dr. Pinti’s current research is in two areas: nonfiction writing about New Mexico and the desert Southwest, and the Grateful Dead as a musical and cultural phenomenon.

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 <https://forms.office.com/r/EQs2KhLMGN> 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.

Participate 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 representing several generations. If you will be attending the convention on Thursday, November 16 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET and are interested in being considered as a panelist, please complete [this form](#).

This panel is co-presented by the National Grange, [Rural Minds](#), and [NY FarmNet](#).

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.

Rural Minds presents suicide awareness webinar

The next webinar in Rural Minds' Rural Mental Health Connections Webinar Series

Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training

[Rural Minds](#), the National Grange, and the [National Association of Wheat Growers](#) are pleased to present another *Rural Mental Health Connections Webinar* – the third FREE webinar in the 2023 series.

**Tuesday, September 19
2:00 pm ET | 1:00 pm CT | 12:00 pm MT | 11:00 am PT**

Click here for more webinar information and free registration

To help confront the rural mental health emergency, this webinar will provide suicide awareness and prevention training from [Becky Wiseman, LCSW-R](#), a mental health professional with an approach that's relevant to people living in rural communities.

Learn about:

- What causes people to consider suicide, as well as health, historical and environmental factors that put individuals at risk
- Protective factors that lower suicide risk, and strategies for managing mental health and being proactive about self-care
- Guidance on warning signs and behaviors to look for, and how to get help for someone in a suicidal crisis



The webinar will be moderated by Rural Minds Vice President of Communications Julie Lux and presented live via Zoom with the option to hear audio as listen-only.

To honor the confidentiality and privacy of those attending this webinar, attendees will only be able to see the webinar presenters and no one watching the webinar will be able to see the name or image of any other person who is watching the webinar.

[Register Now!](#)

R2S2 - Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors

By Joan C. Smith, Program Manager

Objectives: Dissemination of the Pre-Surgery and Post-Surgical Tip Sheet (Guides), videos, website should:

- 1) Empower rural surgery patients to become more engaged in their own care and to obtain care in line with their personal values and preferences.
- 2) Inform patients about what to expect after surgery, allowing more advance planning.
- 3) Inform family members and other caretakers about “best practices” aftercare.
- 4) This should lead to more satisfied patients, better aftercare, and possibly better medical outcomes.
- 5) It is also hoped patient and family stress will be reduced.
- 6) Clinicians will more effectively obtain and provide necessary information
- 7) The Grange will improve its ability to conduct public health campaigns.

 SUPPLY STORE
www.grangestore.org

***NEW* JUNIOR GRANGE PINS**



Show off your Junior Grange pride with this new 1" soft enamel Junior Grange clutch-back pin!

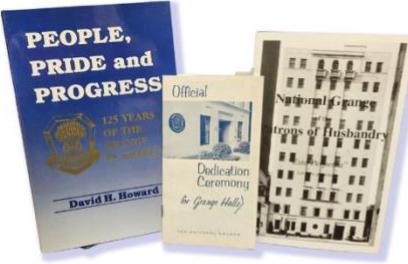
The seven-sided JG emblem will be sure to stand out, whether you're wearing it at a fair, at a meeting, or just to show off how proud you are to be a Junior member or supporter!

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

\$5.00
PLUS SHIPPING

 SUPPLY STORE
www.grangestore.org

PEOPLE, PRIDE & PROGRESS BUNDLE



When you purchase *People, Pride and Progress* by David H. Howard, you will also receive the **Official Dedication Ceremony for the Grange Halls** along with **National Grange - Let it be Perpetual** historical booklet compiled by the National Grange Historical Committee

Total Value - \$20.00
ON SALE for
\$5.00 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.

 **SUPPLY STORE**
www.grangestore.org

***NEW* GRANGE SOCKS**

Limited quantity available!

Show and wear your Grange Pride at various events and activities, especially at State Session!

These Grange socks feature the Grange emblem on a navy blue sock.

They are 80% combined cotton, 15% nylon and 5% elastane.
One size fits most

For each pair purchased, National Grange will donate a pair of socks to the National Grange Community Service Project - Community Missions of Niagara

\$16.00 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.

NOTE: Grange Supply Store orders received by October 30th will be processed before the National Grange Convention in November. Any order received after October 30th through the month of November will be processed during the week of November 27th, 2023.

GRANGE STORE NOTE: The cost for duplicate Charters has been set at \$20.00, including shipping. For more information, please reach out to Loretta at lwashington@nationalgrange.org.

Grange Member Benefit: Choice Hotels



Members save 20% at over 4,000 Comfort Inns, Comfort Suites, Quality, Sleep Inns, Clarion, MainStay Suites, EconoLodge, and Rodeway Inn hotels worldwide.

Receive **Choice Privileges** membership please call 1-800-258-2847 or visit www.choicehotels.com and provide the National Grange ID code #00211660.

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

www.grangestore.org

NATIONAL GRANGE

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