



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

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September 22, 2023

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

Last week, my hometown suffered a huge, devastating fire, right in the center of town. Three or four large buildings were destroyed, the homes of several businesses and 90 residents. This happened overnight, so all the homeless were taken to the local school for shelter and Red Cross aid. When day dawned, the buildings were gone, there was a big hole in the center of town, and 90 people had lost everything. These were generally lower-income people, many immigrants, who had no resources to fall back on.



The community immediately jumped in with help. Businesses brought food and drinks, residents brought blankets, clothing, and many other items, so much so that within two days the message went out, "Stop giving! We have so much we don't have anywhere to put it all!" It was heartwarming to see.

Why do I tell you this story? This outpouring of generosity proves to me that there are hundreds of people in my town who should be Grangers! Isn't this what Grangers do? People want to give, to serve, and Grange is the perfect vehicle to enable them to do so, and where their efforts are multiplied.

As you go about your daily lives in your hometowns, keep your eyes open for those servants - those who want to make their lives more meaningful by helping others - and tell them about the opportunities in your Grange. If we would all do that, I'm sure our numbers would multiply!

SHIPmates set sail on maiden voyage

By [Amanda Brozana Rios](#), National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director



The inaugural cohort of the National Grange MemberSHIP and LeaderSHIP FellowSHIP participants (SHIPmates) has begun their work.



The six-person group was selected from a pool of well-qualified and enthusiastic applicants.

The cohort is made up of Scott Lyle of Washington, representing the Western Region; John Neff of Indiana, representing the Midwest Region; Kelly Riley of Rhode Island, representing the Northeast Region; Richard Stonebraker of Maryland, representing the Eastern Region; Nathan Strawder of Kansas, representing the Great Plains Region and Dave Roberts of Connecticut, an at-large representative focusing on associate and e-membership. The syllabus and curriculum was created by program director Amanda Brozana Rios, who serves as the National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director. Brozana Rios also launched the Communication Fellows program in 2012, which has fallen into excellent hands with Communications Director Philip Vonada at the helm.

The SHIPmates have begun their voyage, reviewing recent and past membership figures and the membership reporting process; reading the National Grange Digest of Laws as well as finding and examining their own State and Community Grange bylaws and taking part in discussions about the various ways the Grange functions across the country with different traditions and standards.

"This isn't a 'talk about what you know and go no further' program. The seven of us, along with some well-selected mentors, are co-creating a challenging program that includes data and documents essential to understanding the rules, climate, culture and positioning of the organization today," Brozana Rios said. "It includes a detailed look at information from various texts – things like the seminal text, *Bowling Alone*, by Robert Putnam, several books by modern membership guru Sarah Sladek and additional texts and TEDtalks by experts in leadership and organizational development and change. It also introduces a framework for identifying areas where we can improve, suggesting solutions, putting them into practice and learning from the process and results."

Brozana Rios said each SHIPmate will identify one area of need they are most interested in becoming an expert in, then imagine and initiate a creative solution in that area. Their work will be collaborative and include input from other members, and will be presented to their region and the larger Grange audience in 2024.

"While the program today has six participants, it's designed to have a much broader reach. You may find yourself invited to become part of the process or attend a session to learn how you can take an active role or implement an improvement plan from one of these SHIPmates."

Several guest speakers have been invited to join the group for Zoom meetings prior to the 157th Annual Convention, where the group will gather to learn more, discuss project ideas and get further insight from a variety of mentors. The SHIPmates will also meet with State Presidents from their respective regions to discuss their individual state concerns, leadership goals and areas of focus during their term in office, while Roberts will lay a course to talk to individuals who helped launch the e-member program and leaders of States with significant or interesting associate member programs.

The program is sponsored by Potomac Grange #1, Washington, D.C.

Mark Gibbons, President of Potomac Grange, said "Potomac Grange is very excited to participate in the inaugural year of SHIPmates. During our upcoming Potomac Grange meetings, we will have the opportunity to receive presentations from our SHIPmates. I feel that the collaborative exchange of ideas and leadership models can only benefit not only the SHIPmate, but the individual chapters. The benefit we hope to achieve will help us in retention and recruitment."

Brozana Rios said she does not take the investment Potomac Grange has made in the program lightly.

"This program will live up to its price tag, and I truly believe this first cohort of SHIPmates will be assets to their local, Pomona, and State Granges, in addition to the National Grange. As they become familiar with the ins-and-outs of Grange law, Grange processes, and Grange traditions and rituals, they can become resources immediately. With luck, they will be embraced by leaders in their local Granges and States and empowered to help create processes, programs and teams that can continue this work and build on it in future years."



A note from Pete Pompper

Congratulations to Charles Dimmick from Cheshire Grange #23 (CT), who recognized the charge from the Chaplain in the 6th Degree in Pete's article two weeks ago.

"Teach us to so order our lives that each day's experiences shall unfold new glories of living and increase the usefulness of every worthy Patron of Husbandry."

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 ngfb@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.



*Voting is open for the **National Grange Youth Officer Team** T-Shirt! Five designs were submitted for this year's contest, and the winning design will be worn by the Youth Officer Team at the opening of session on Friday. Please take a moment to vote here: <https://forms.gle/m59wtqRCDXWedGwi6>. Voting closes September 28th.*

Register for National Grange Convention



We are just **seven 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



Convention Feature: Community Service reaches Community Missions of Niagara Frontier



The Host Committee for this year's National Grange Convention has chosen [Community Missions of Niagara Frontier](#) as the recipient of this year's community service collection.

Community Missions of Niagara Frontier has provided a unique blend of services to address the needs of the Niagara community since its

founding in 1925.

The initial population served was homeless individuals and families. Since its founding, CMI programs have evolved to meet the needs of its community. The agency now provides 21 programs between its four divisions: Crisis & Community Services, Mental Health Housing Services, Mental Health Recovery Services, and Youth Services.

The agency serves a diverse set of populations including youth, adults, families, homeless, juvenile justice involved youth, youth and adults with psychiatric challenges, persons living with HIV/AIDS, trafficked youth and adults, and ex-offender parole individuals. In general, CMI serves a vulnerable population of individuals who, through a variety of circumstances, have been marginalized, overlooked, or challenging in their presentations and behaviors.

Granges and attendees are encouraged to send or bring socks, hats, or mittens for men or women to this year's Convention.

Through a partnership with [Franklin Morrow](#), the National Grange has already made the first donation to this important endeavor. Franklin Morrow is the manufacturer of the new Grange Socks in the Supply Store – through their efforts, for every pair of socks sold, a pair of socks is donated to a good cause. Earlier this week, Alex Goodman, owner of Franklin Morrow, delivered 300 pairs of socks to the Community Missions, with 100 pairs being donated by the National Grange and an additional 100 pairs donated by the company.

If you would rather make a financial contribution, please contact [Paula Turner](#).

Convention attendees who go on the Youth Tour will also be visiting Community Missions to participate in an in-person service project.



Alex Goodman, owner of Franklin Morrow, delivered 300 pairs of socks to Community Missions of Niagara Frontier earlier this week.

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.

Consumer voices needed! Join an AHRI Standards Development Committee

By Cleo Stamatos, American National Standards Institute

The Air-conditioning, Heating, & Refrigeration Institute (AHRI), an ANSI-accredited developer of standards, is seeking additional participants for its activity of developing and approving standards for the HVACR industry. Opportunities exist for both the development of standards by Standards Technical Committees (STCs) and in final approval of standards by Consensus Bodies (CBs).

AHRI—the trade association representing manufacturers of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, commercial refrigeration (HVACR), and water heating equipment—is a Standards-Developing Organization whose standards offer performance ratings for HVACR products. Development of these standards relies on consumer participation to guide what qualities users seek; once published, the standards can help consumers understand the specifications and performance of products, which in turn can help them select the items that best meet their needs.

Help Wanted: Consumers in the Standards Process

AHRI is currently offering interested individuals the opportunity to assist with the development and approval of standards by joining an AHRI Standards Technical Committee (STC) or Consensus Body. Participation in the AHRI standards activity is open to all interested parties; AHRI membership is not required, though technical expertise and interest in the field of HVACR products is expected.

AHRI STCs perform technical work to develop standards and are responsible for their long-term maintenance. Members of the STC attend regular virtual meetings, provide input to the content of the standard, address comments received during the public review period, and approve advancing the standard towards publication.

After the development of the standard, a final step before submission to ANSI for approval as an American National Standard is the review and approval of the standard by a Consensus Body, which is a group of individuals representing a balanced set of interests including manufacturers, testers, regulators, and users of the standard. Members of the Consensus Body have no meetings, and participate by reviewing and approving standards.

Get Involved!

If you're interested in joining either an STC or a Consensus Body, please contact AHRI at AHRI_Standards@ahrinet.org. Learn more about consumer participation in standards development on ANSI's website, or contact me at cstamatos@ansi.org.

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.

R2S2 - Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors

By Joan C. Smith, Program Manager

The Pre-Surgery Tip Sheet and Post-Surgery Guide will be suitable for an older rural audience, and “beta tested” in our 5 Grange Regions to reflect the input of Grangers and rural citizens.

The dissemination campaign is designed, and the Tip Sheets and videos will be introduced at the National Convention and then to regional Grange meetings and through communication between the Program Team and State and local Grange leaders.

The Tip Sheets will be posted on the Grange's website, on the www.seniorsurgeryguides.com website, and can be distributed digitally or as printed copies at local Grange meetings, provided to senior centers, provided to other organizations/churches, at special events and community events such as fairs and festivals to reach all 140,000 Grange members and others in rural communities.

Grange Apparel Flash Sale!

Order by September 30



grange.biz/grangeapparel

Available for a limited time - Grange-branded apparel! Have you ever wanted the Grange emblem embroidered on a polo, dress shirt, vest, or bag? Now's your chance! Items will be delivered to the National Grange Convention in Niagara in November. If you cannot attend, we will arrange to have your items delivered. Order through September 30th at <http://grange.biz/grangeapparel>

SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.org

GRANGE SONGBOOK PACKAGE



This new package of Grange Songbooks is available at a discount through the Grange Supply Store. The package includes:

*Grange Pianist Songbook
Junior Grange Songbook
Grange Conference Songbook
Grange Collection of Songs*

Individually, it would cost **\$15.50**
NOW ON SALE for \$6.00 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: Budget Rental Cars



Grange members always save up to 25% off Budget base rates with offer code (BCD) **R198144**, plus they get other great offers like dollars off, a complimentary upgrade, or a free weekend day. With

a complimentary membership in Budget Fastbreak, enjoy our fastest, easiest rental experience! Visit budget.com/en/association/R198144 or call 1-800-527-0700 to make a reservation.

GRANGE JEWELRY

SUPPLY STORE

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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