



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

## In this Issue:

September 8, 2023

### [Lancaster County showcases farm-to-table](#)

by Betsy E. Huber

### [Grange fair booths inspire and inform](#)

by Pete Pompper

### [Grange Foundation seeks Board of Directors](#)

[candidates](#) by Joan C. Smith

### [Huber selected as Chair of DC institution](#)

### [September Heirloom](#)

### [Register for National Grange Convention](#)

[Convention Feature: NY Assemblyman to speak at Advocacy Luncheon](#)

### [Participate in a National Grange service project](#)

### [Join Membership Matters](#)

### [Participate in Multigenerational Panel Discussion on Rural Mental Health](#)

### [Rural Minds presents suicide awareness webinar](#)

### [R2S2 - Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors Contract](#)

### [Grange Supply Store: New Junior Grange pin](#)

### [Grange Supply Store offerings](#)

### [Grange Member Benefit: RxSavings Plus Card](#)

## Lancaster County showcases farm-to-table

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

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to tour some agriculture in Lancaster County, PA, the neighboring county to my home. Lancaster County has some of the most fertile non-irrigated soils in the U.S. and it is the home of many small farms including a large Amish population. This makes it a huge tourist attraction.

The tour was presented by the [Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture](#), one of the oldest agricultural societies in the country, organized in 1785 to explore and promote best practices in agriculture. The Society is a non-profit, non-partisan organization. Its mission is to promote a productive dialogue among its members, the agriculture and food industries and the general public on issues critical to maintaining a well-fed nation and world. It is the Society's belief that if America is to remain the world leader in food production and technology, well-informed opinions within the general populace and related industries are as important as those formed within the agricultural community--certainly a belief in line with Grange principles. I am one of over 160 members from all aspects of the ag community.

The purpose of the tour was to demonstrate the full scope of the food chain, from seed to table. The beginning stop is [Rohrer Seeds](#), a 104-year-old distributor of garden and farm seeds for the Mid-Atlantic region and now worldwide through the web, [rohrerseeds.com](#).

After the seeds grow, the next stop is the [Leola Produce Auction](#), where many small farmers offer their products for sale. Leola was the first produce auction of its kind in PA in 1986. Today, 16 other produce auctions in PA (and many across the country) follow Leola's model. It had an amazing array of beautiful fresh vegetables and flowers for sale in wholesale lots to the highest bidder. This process makes it possible for the Amish to have a larger market for their crops nearby, eliminating the transportation problem.

Next stop was [Oregon Dairy](#), where their milk is bottled and turned into various dairy products that are sold in the market and restaurant. They have a methane digester for manure



and food waste, use no-till and cover crops, stream bank fencing and riparian buffers for environmental benefits. They have recently begun an agri-tainment venture with ag education for urban and suburban visitors and school tours.

The tour ended with lunch at [Shady Maple Smorgasbord](#), the largest buffet selection you've ever seen! Demonstrating the bounty of agriculture in this rich area of the country. I recommend you visit!

## Grange fair booths inspire and inform

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



**“Imbue us ever with the spirit of service and teach us the responsibilities of leadership. Remind us always that a great host of earnest Patrons follow our example and rely upon our integrity. Make us worthy of their confidence and fit custodians of the great trust that is laid upon us.”**

I was searching for a theme for this article when I came across a Facebook post from a Granger who had taken a different role at their county fair. He usually works in the kitchen at Grange events but decided this year to see what happens in J Barn at the Washington State Fair.

Vic posted (okay, I edited it because of space) ***“Loved ear hustling (my new favorite term) people’s conversations about their fond memories of Granges especially the dances and the impact left on them. What Granges like Waller Road Grange are doing in their communities. The sparkle in kids’ eyes to watch Collins Grange skeleton pop out of the rafter and the fact that the Junior Grange booth was built by kids like them.”***

This post got me thinking about all the Grange fair booths I have seen pictures of this year and how different each one is. But a common theme I see, even if unintentional, is they show what the Grange is doing in the community. Granges use these booths as an opportunity to brag on themselves to a large number of community members who don’t know what we do.

In some cases, Granges have an opportunity to introduce themselves to people who have never heard of the Grange! What a great way to show what you do, mostly unknown to the community, because that is what we do. Grange booths are great conversation starters and lead to better visibility for the Grange; they can increase community support at fundraising dinners for your community service projects; they can help get greater community involvement for projects or attendance at programs. For Granges revitalizing their Grange Halls, booths are a wonderful way to tell the attendees why it is important to save your Hall to serve the community.

I know when the Granges in Salem County (NJ) each had a fair booth, it was a “fun” competition each year that led to “friendly” rivalries. To me, the important part was the Grange booths were meeting points for some people - and there were usually Grange members at them throughout the fair talking “Grange.” Interacting with non-members is so important to talk about all the community service work Granges do.

I thank all the Granges who included either references about our partnership with [Rural Minds](#) or had some type of rural mental health/suicide awareness materials on or at their displays. Fairs are an excellent way to get this or any type of information on partnerships the Grange has with other groups. Even though Grange booths are silent they can speak volumes. Thank you again.

**“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.”**

The first 10 members who [email me](#) to identify where this quote is from and what officer speaks it, I will put your name in a hat and one lucky winner will receive a pair of the [new Grange socks](#) available in the [Grange Store](#).

## Grange Foundation seeks Board of Directors candidates

By [Joan C. Smith](#), Grange Foundation Board of Directors Chairperson

The Grange Foundation Board of Directors is seeking candidates for National Grange Delegate election on November 13<sup>th</sup> during the Convention. This two-year term runs from November 2023 through November 2025. The Grange Foundation Mission Statement is as follows: ***The Grange Foundation supports youth development, promotes agriculture education and research, improves communities, and fosters culture, heritage, citizenship, and charitable activities.***

Your GF accomplishments in 2023 are in the image at the right.

Come join your Grange Foundation Board, be part of the programming of the Grange at the National level.

Please provide an email to:

[ngfb@grange.org](mailto:ngfb@grange.org) or

[betsy@nationalgrange.org](mailto:betsy@nationalgrange.org) listing why you would like to be part of this Board and a short biography. ] Looking forward to hearing from many of you.

- **NOVEMBER 19, 2022** - GGT – Grange Giving Tuesday
- **JANUARY 2023**- Review of Investment Portfolio, Investment Policy and Financial Policy
  - Industry/Corporate person added to the Board of Directors
  - GF Scholarship Committee established
- **FEBRUARY 2023** - 1-in-1000 Club Annual Zoom Meeting – Challenge all Club members to bring in 2 new members by Nov 2023
  - Grange Youth and Junior Programs funded
- **FEBRUARY 25, 2023** – Applications for the GF and the National Agriculture-in-the-Classroom "Partnership in Ag Literacy" due for evaluation - Open to all Granges and Grangers
- **APRIL** – Krispy Kreme Donut Fundraiser during Grange Month – success
  - FB & YouTube Presentation on "Long-Term Care and Estate Planning"
- **MAY 1, 2023** – GF Deaf Awareness Grant Applications Due
  - Many fund-raising ideas were discussed: raffles, auctions, hand-made guitar
- **JUNE** – Grange Foundation Presentation of the PAL Award at the National Agriculture-in-the-Classroom Conference. Winner from Pennsylvania
  - Deaf Awareness Awardee Announced, Connecticut
- **JULY 25-29** – Grange Revival, Upper Peninsula, MI
  - KAHOOT for Grange developed - to be demonstrated at National Convention
- **AUGUST** – Gallaudet University Deaf Endowment Awardees announced
- **SEPTEMBER** – Gallaudet University Garden Project funding
- **ALL YEAR** - \$23 IN 2023 – CONTRIBUTIONS

**2023 GF HAPPENINGS**

11/14/2022

1



**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](mailto:ngfb@grange.org) or [betsy@nationalgrange.org](mailto:betsy@nationalgrange.org), or by mail to the National Grange office.

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

## Huber selected as Chair of DC institution



[Betsy Huber](#), President of the National Grange, has been selected to serve as the Chairperson of the Washington Agricultural Roundtable, a decades-old institution designed to connect leaders in the food & agricultural sphere in and around Washington, DC.

This thinktank includes embassy and government officials, international and domestic trade leaders, and commodity groups, and meets regularly to increase awareness of what's happening in the world of agriculture, connecting businesses directly to leaders and policymakers.

The National Grange has been a member of the Roundtable, but this is the first time a National Grange President has served as Chair.

## September Heirloom



*Cultivate the habit of looking for better and brighter days, instead of mourning over the past.*

- Vice President, Third Degree

Use the Heirloom Program to encourage your Grange members (and friends who aren't Grange members) to continue learning about the core tenets of the Grange, and what we stand for. These "digestible" bits of Grange ritual help our members grow in the Grange.

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

## Register for National Grange Convention



We are just **two** months away from when we "Flow into the Future" in Niagara Falls, New York as we celebrate the 157<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> - October 20<sup>th</sup>

**Late Registration** - \$42 – October 20<sup>th</sup> – November 8<sup>th</sup>

**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: NY Assemblyman to speak at Advocacy Luncheon



On Tuesday, November 14, New York State Assemblyman Brian Manktelow will be the featured speaker at the Advocacy Luncheon. Tickets are available to purchase for all attendees for the luncheon (bbq chicken) and to hear Mr. Manktelow speak.

[Brian Manktelow](#) was elected to the New York State Assembly on November 6, 2018. The district includes all of Wayne County and the Town of Webster in Monroe County.

Brian served in the U.S Army, attaining the rank of sergeant after graduating from Williamson High School. He then completed classes at the University of Chicago and Finger Lakes Community College, where he pursued a degree in political science. He has been the Lyons town supervisor since 2009 and has served as vice chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors. He was chairman of the board's Finance Committee and also served on the Government Operations and Human Services committees. Brian was instrumental in initializing the Wayne County Land Bank in 2017 to rejuvenate derelict properties, get them back on the tax rolls, and reduce blight.

He has owned and operated Manktelow Farms in Lyons for more than 30 years, and has been an active member of the Wayne County Farm Bureau. Brian's background gives him a unique perspective on the challenges faced by everyday New Yorkers. He plans to work diligently with colleagues to create solutions to the state's economic struggles by creating opportunities for businesses to thrive.

Brian currently resides in Lyons with his wife, Crystal, with whom he shares five children. He is dedicated to family life and community. As supervisor of the Town of Lyons, he worked to protect the interests of his fellow residents during the dissolution of the village of Lyons in 2015, ensuring a positive impact on the municipality's future.

## [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.

## Join Membership Matters!

Mark your calendar for next Tuesday, September 12, at 8:30pm Eastern!

Join Amanda Brozana Rios on Zoom to discuss how to design a project that encourages or relies on non-member action and engagement, and how to put individuals to work based on their motivation to volunteer.

[Connect Here!](#)

**MEMBERSHIP  
MATTERS**

*with Amanda Brozana Rios*

**MONTHLY  
ON ZOOM**  
*Second Tuesdays*

SEPTEMBER 12TH  
@ 8:30PM (ET)  
[bit.ly/mm1867](https://bit.ly/mm1867)  
Meeting ID: 525 965 930  
Passcode: 981892

PH  
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](#)**

This webinar will provide suicide awareness and prevention training from NY FarmNet Family Consultant [Jennifer Schwyzter, LMSW](#), a mental health professional with an approach that's relevant to people living in rural communities.

Learn about:

- What causes people to consider suicide
- Warning signs that someone may be considering suicide
- Strategies for managing one's own mental health
- 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 Contract

*By Joan C. Smith, Program Manager*

**Background:** Rural America is underserved by the nation's healthcare system. There are fewer doctors, especially specialists, per capita; many rural hospitals are in danger of closing; incomes are lower and employers are less likely to provide health insurance; distances to care are greater; and there is less broadband access to medical information and virtual office visits. The rural population is older, maybe less healthy, engages in more unhealthy behavior (e.g., smoking), and is less informed about healthcare issues. Older rural residents requiring surgery have less access to care and may be less informed on how to participate in their care and about treatment choices.

This National Grange Program is designed to help with the above problem by disseminating pre- and post-surgical information and help with planning your lifespan. Come learn about it in November at the National Convention and help us roll out this program across the country.



## SUPPLY STORE

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

### \*NEW\* JUNIOR GRANGE PINS



**\$5.00**  
PLUS SHIPPING

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!

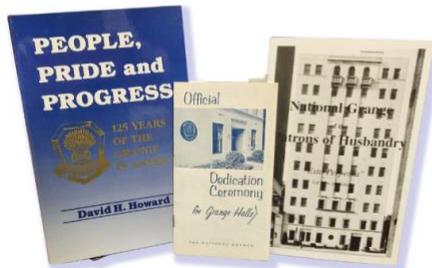
Order at [www.grangestore.org](http://www.grangestore.org) or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.



## SUPPLY STORE

[www.grangestore.org](http://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 [www.grangestore.org](http://www.grangestore.org) or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.



## SUPPLY STORE

[www.grangestore.org](http://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 [www.grangestore.org](http://www.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 Member Benefit: RxSavings Plus Card



The **RxSavings Plus Card** is provided by CVS Caremark – *it's also for pet prescriptions!* This card is a **NO-FEE** exclusive benefit to National Grange members that is not offered to the public.

The RxSavings Plus Card allows members to go to almost any pharmacy. Unlike other savings plans, the CVS-Caremark program applies to 99% of prescription drugs, including Lipitor, Plavix, blood pressure medications and thousands more - even pet medications! For the RxSavings Plus Card, please visit <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 participating pharmacies. During your pet's examination and 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](http://grangestore.org) or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

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

## NATIONAL GRANGE

HEADQUARTERS: 1616 H ST. NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20006 | (202) 628-3507

**Publisher** Betsy Huber, National Grange President. Available to members at [betsy@nationalgrange.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:abrozana@nationalgrange.org) or call/text (301) 943-1090

**Legislative and Policy Issues** Burton Eller, Legislative Director. *National HQ*, ext. 114 or email [beller@nationalgrange.org](mailto:beller@nationalgrange.org)

**Membership Recognition, Grange Supply Sales, Grange Programs and Member Benefits** Loretta Washington, *National HQ*, ext. 109 or email [sales@nationalgrange.org](mailto:sales@nationalgrange.org)

**Free Grange Websites, Emails, *Good Day!* subscription questions and Membership Database**  
Stephanie Wilkins, IT Director. *National HQ*, ext. 101 or email [swilkins@nationalgrange.org](mailto:swilkins@nationalgrange.org)

**Junior and Youth Programming** Samantha Wilkins, [samantha@nationalgrange.org](mailto:samantha@nationalgrange.org) or (210) 838-7892

**Lecturer** Ann Bercher, [lecturer@nationalgrange.org](mailto:lecturer@nationalgrange.org) or (612) 501-1231

**Community Service** Pete Pompper, [communityservice@nationalgrange.org](mailto:communityservice@nationalgrange.org) or (609) 820-6239

**Grange Foundation** Joan C. Smith, Chairperson. [ngfb@grange.org](mailto:ngfb@grange.org) or (571) 662-7220

