



The Official News Source for the California State Grange

In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.

THE CALIFORNIA



CHARTER MEMBERS OF TURLOCK GRANGE #29

GROWING THE GRANGE

Steven L. Hood, CSG Deputy

One of the things I like most about being a Deputy is getting to organize and reorganize Granges and then work with them to get started up as a new Grange. Over the last few months I have enjoyed working with two new Granges and am excited to report I am starting to work with a couple of others. It's really exciting to get to be a part of getting Granges going again here in California.

Turlock Grange #29

Turlock Grange #29 was originally organized on July 1, 1873. While being a Grange of the future, the new Grange members chose to honor the history of the Turlock Grange by taking its original number. This is a group our CSG Membership Director, Martha Stefenoni, and CSG Secretary, Lillian Booth, connected with at the

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The California Granger

The California Granger is the Official Publication of the California State Grange, a chartered division of the National Grange. This electronic newsletter is published quarterly, in February, May, August and November.

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Articles and other submissions may be mailed to California Granger, 3830 U St, Sacramento, CA 95817 or online at www.castategrange.org/ navigate to Forms & More, then to Online Forms.

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Officers, directors and deputies can be contacted through the website. Navigate to the **Contact Us Form** under **About Us**

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SHARE THE NEWS

Print a copy of this newsletter and put it in your Grange for others to look through and enjoy.

President's Message

Kent Westwood, State President

Now that we have legally and globally settled with the Guild it is time to solidify our unity once again as the multi-faceted fraternal organization that we are. We have halls that



Kent Westwood
State President

serve as *de facto* community centers. We serve breakfasts to our communities, run food banks, and participate in county fair programs, especially for the kids showing animals.

We have our hallmark Legislative Program that comes to fruition at our state convention every year. Today, we have a proactive Legislative Director, Michael Evenson of

Mattole Grange, who is working with our experienced Legislative Lobbyist, Michael Greene, to express the voice of Grange in the chambers of Sacramento. Those resolutions that seek action at the National level we take to the national convention, and if passed there, we have a national lobbyist to take it to Congress.

We have all this great infrastructure and the ability to create positive change for the future—but we are aging out. We really need to bring in a lot of generation X,Y (millennials) , and Z to rejuvenate the Grange. The Grange has functioned for 153 years but it now needs the younger generations to rejuvenate it, bring it into the digital age and move forward with more good works.

I'm on the mend. I'm so grateful to Jan Saxton, our Overseer, for stepping up in my absence. She has my full confidence, and I hope yours, too. Thanks to all my brothers and sisters who called or sent those beautiful "Get well" messages. They mean a lot to me. Onward!



Overseer's Station

Jan Saxton, Overseer
& Interim Acting President

First, I want to reassure everyone that Kent, our beloved State Grange President, is healing well. He seems to be taking the doctor's orders seriously and avoiding over-



Jan Saxton
Overseer

work and stress. He calls me about once a week to chat and in the early weeks we studiously avoided talking about Grange business. But in the last few calls we have more and more touched on what's happening around the state.

Over the months since our convention in October more Granges have contacted the California State Grange

about coming back into good standing. Some Guild groups have agreed to return the halls that they have been using back over to newly reorganized Grange groups; some have simply turned their properties over to the CSG. That has meant a lot of work for our Secretary, Lillian Booth, and the hardworking volunteers who come in every week to scan the mail and search through the old files for deeds, title information, and other documentation needed to manage these halls and their transition back to Grange status. Linda MacCracken and her mom deserve our heartfelt thanks and a Grange Service award! By coming in every Tuesday, opening and scanning the mail, and sending all pertinent documents to Lillian via email, they are saving her from having to drive to Sacramento on a regular basis.

The situation where charters have been revoked and new Granges organized has created some real challenges in those communities. In several cases where we have a reorganized Grange group that has been promised the use of a Hall, there is also a Guild or 'community center' group that has been maintaining the Hall and the property for years, now, as well as continuing all the typical Grange activities like Holiday Art Fairs, classes and community events. Whatever the legality of the situation, as Acting State President I find myself in a position where there are two groups that both feel they have a legitimate claim to the Hall. I feel like Solomon, being

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The First Degree: Rites of Spring - The Wisdom of Flora

Annie Waters, Little Lake Grange # 670

The ritualism of the degrees is a central element of the Grange. It is the way by which the lessons and knowledge of the Order are learned and passed down from generation to generation. Each degree is unique, having its own meaning and ceremony. The first four represent one of the seasons, with the cycle lesson: seed bears the sprout, the sprout becomes the flower, the flower bears the seed again. This is the wisdom of the Grange Patronesses, Ceres, Pomona, Flora, so that you may live in harmony with the Earth, with Nature, with the cycles of time and your own life's wisdom. The messages that you hear in the degrees have many layers of meaning, in your own life as you grow your families and talents, and in our Grange as we grow together in our work.

The First Degree is the entry way into Grange, the beginning initiation for anyone wishing to join. It is intended to give Grangers a glimpse of the elements of springtime on the farm and the symbolic significance of the implements as they relate to soil preparation and planting of seeds. Flora is the Patroness of spring and represents new beginnings, innocence, brightness, and happiness with the strength of youthful possibility. Her symbols are the seed and the blossom.

Candidates for the First Degree are represented as Laborers and Maids seeking employment, "who desire to assist in our work." One of the ancient customs represented here is that of hospitality to the stranger. The Grange welcomes newcomers, and we are particularly eager to acknowledge the interest in farming and gardening among our members.

In the First Degree ceremony, the candidates are blindfolded and cloaked as they enter the hall. The darkness symbolizes lack of knowledge and the blind **FAITH** that the lesson of the degree will lead to their enlightenment. Being cloaked teaches "that we are not deceived by display in dress". As indeed, "a noble mind and generous heart are often concealed beneath the garments of poverty." Hos-

pitality to all, no matter their outward appearance.

The candidates are also shown the symbolic implements of the degree: The Ax, the Plow, the Harrow, and the Spade. Useful tools to prepare the ground for planting in Springtime, each with a deeper symbolic meaning I will share in a future article.

The Graces close the ceremony, furnishing the initiates "with advice essential to aid you in your duties". These Ancient Ones: Flora, the goddess of Spring; Pomona, the goddess of the fruiting tree; Ceres, the goddess of grain and the harvest, represent the cycle. Seeds planted with Faith becoming the Harvest and Charity of fruits from our labors.

As the seasonal cycle begins, "the wildflowers are making the woods and the hills glorious with their beauty; orchards are in bloom and the air is filled with their perfume. Plowing the fields has begun and soon seeds will be sown." The planting of seeds represents the act of **FAITH**,

as we Laborers in the season of planting must have **FAITH** that our labors will bring us a good harvest.

We as a Grange movement are planting the seeds of community and the seeds of new relationships, just as we plant in our gardens and fields. We must nurture and water the seeds as they are very vulnerable. The wrong amount of sun or water can kill them. The First Degree relates to each of us in our life path and to us as a Grange. We must have **Faith**, trust and be patient. You can't dig up the seeds to see how they are doing, allow them the growth to happen. Listen and learn.

How to use this springtime lesson of Faith and planting? Spring is a time to sow seeds in the garden, and in yourself, to create new things in your life. As you plant a seed, in **FAITH**, in earnest and trustful confidence, you also have an opportunity. Ask that the goodness of this seed may come to full development as the fruit



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The Saratoga WarHorse—A Life Changing Experience

Buzz Chernoff with Paul Hyland

Paul Hyland is an 85-year-old Korean war veteran who with his partner Darlene Wingfield is a member of Rosedale Grange 565. A few years back he had a life-changing experience he wants to share with all Grangers. Here is his story.

It began with an article in the American Legion Magazine on Saratoga WarHorse, a nonprofit foundation started by Vietnam War veteran Bill Nevins in 2011. It described the Saratoga WarHorse program, a 3-day experience that provides a peer-to-peer, action-based, equine-assisted experience for veterans with post-traumatic stress. The program is held in Saratoga Springs, New York and Akins, South Carolina, and is open to all veterans who would like assistance dealing with the trauma they've experienced. All costs, including transportation, lodging, food, and classroom materials are covered by donations to the WarHorse Foundation.



Paul Hyland

Paul called the phone number in the article and the next thing he knew he was headed to Akins, South Carolina to join five other veterans in the three-day program. When he first thought about the trip, "It was a veteran's nightmare.



Three different airplanes, and crowds of people. But it's a good thing I decided to do it. I showed myself I could do it." After dinner with the group he retired to his room for the evening but "I didn't sleep at all that first night," he said.

The next day Paul and the other veterans went to the facility where approximately 70 rescued and retired thoroughbred racehorses are housed. There they received classroom and hands-on training on the Connection Process, the center piece of the program which creates an environment of mutual trust between man and horse. After preparation each veteran was put in a round pen with a horse and the magic of

connection began.

"A lot of veterans have trust issues, and the racehorses do too," Paul said. "A lot of the horses have also had bad experiences at the track. I don't know how to explain it, but being in that pen with the horse, you make a connection, and it changes things. I don't know how to tell you, but there is something different in me now."

"That night, I went to bed around 9 p.m., woke up around midnight for a few minutes, then slept until 7:20 the next morning. It was the best night's sleep I've had for I don't know how long."

Paul was not the only veteran in the group who felt a profound change after making connection with their horse. Keith was a member of the group Paul met the first night, and he was obviously unhappy and going through emotional pain. "After we all went through the pen, we met as a group to talk about the experience," Paul said. "You could see Keith's demeanor was completely changed, that he felt peaceful." Paul added that while everyone is affected in a unique way, it's a positive experience for all. Describing his experience Paul said, "It changed something in me. I talk to people more now, and I'd like to see more veterans go through the program."

He pointed out that in the U.S., there are 27 veterans who commit suicide every day, and this program could possibly help reduce that number.

For more information about the Saratoga WarHorse Program, call 1-518-886-8131 or visit www.SaratogaWarHorse.com



**SARATOGA
WarHorse**

Helping Veterans. Helping Horses.

Legislative Directors Report

The 2020 Legislation is getting underway and your California State Grange is weighing in on positions that you've approved at the state conventions.

Here's how the process starts: Members think about how to best conduct the public's business in Sacramento and write a Grange Resolution to accomplish just that. They bring it to their Grange meeting for adopting.



Michael Evenson,

Then it goes to the State Convention where all the delegates from throughout California consider it. Often it gets better and better as more people voice their opinions and improve the Resolution which the majority of the Convention supports. Then the Resolution is published in the Journal of Proceedings and makes it into the Policy Handbook which directs the State Grange's legislative agenda.

So far this year we've been contacted by members to support a bill (AB 1945) which would classify 911 operators and dispatchers to be reclassified by the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to the same protective first-responder occupation status as police officers and firefighters. This recognizes the important work these individuals do in providing for public safety. This has been Grange policy since 2018.

We're also getting involved promoting organic farm and small farm legislation to even the playing field with corporate farms by providing support and expertise to the small family farm (AB 838).

There will be more legislation proposed which will have Grange support (or opposition) and we'll be there in the Capitol letting the Legislators know where we stand.

Are you watching legislation that falls within the Grange Policy? We can't be everywhere, but you members are living throughout this great State. You are the eyes and ears of the Grange and you can magnify your voice in how the State is run by following the doings in Sacramento and

bringing issues that are Grange issues to our attention. In that way, legislators and the Governor will know how you and your Grange Fraternal Organization feels about what they are doing.

As the season progresses, we will reach out to you for letters of support for particular bills and let you know where and when to send them. To make this work, please send your zip code and email to me at mike@lost-coast-ranch.com. That way I'll be able to direct your efforts to the right legislators. The voice of the Grange shall be heard in the Halls of Sacramento.

You can find the Grange Policy handbook online. Take some time and think about how you can use the legislative process to make your community and state safer, better and more just. Drop me a line and we'll do it together. Grangers are community minded citizens who exercise their rights.



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Are you looking for the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes? For many years the approved minutes were published in the California State Grange News, edited by Jay Hartz. Then in 2004 the delegate body approved a resolution that reaffirmed the requirement to publish a summary of the approved minutes in the Grange News, as well as in the members only section of the Grange website. This was modified by a resolution passed in 2011, stating that the Executive Committee meeting minutes be posted only on the website and no longer in the Grange News. So, if you are interested in knowing what the EC is doing between annual sessions, you should be able to find the approved minutes on the members page of the Grange website.

Martha Stefanoni – new Priestess Annalist of the Assembly of Demeter

Sister Martha Stefanoni was honored at the National Grange Convention this past November 2019 when she was elected the Priestess Annalist in the Assembly of Demeter, the Grange's highest Order. "It is a great honor to be chosen by the voting members of the Assembly of Demeter to serve as Priestess Annalist" Martha said about being elected, "And I will endeavor to share the lessons taught by our Degrees and how they can relate to our daily lives."

Martha is a long time Granger who has been an integral part of the California State Grange for many years. Martha has served the California State Grange well in a multitude of positions from Musician to First Lady, as well as supervising the CSG 5th and 6th Degree work for the last several years.

The Assembly of Demeter originally conferred the 6th and 7th degrees. The officers of the Assembly are called Priests and Priestess, and three, the High Priest, the Priest Archon and Priest Annalist are elected by the voting delegates to the National Convention every two years. The remaining officers are appointed by the High Priest. It is a tremendous honor to be elected to this, one of the highest offices in National Grange, and a trust for our ceremonial work at all levels. Congratulations, Martha! As Priestess Annalist, Martha will write the annals (*the records and history*) and keep other secretarial duties.

The holders of the seventh degree comprise the Assembly of Demeter which also acts as a court for the Grange. The Assembly Demeter was introduced to the Grange by Francis McDowell, one of the seven founders. He was charged with creating the 7th Degree work based on his background as a Priest of Demeter in the ancient Order of Demeter, an Italian society of devotees to Demeter or Ceres, the goddess of grain, abundance, and fertility. He had an important part in the writing of the sev-

enth degree and the Grange ritual.

While on a business trip in Italy he became friends with the Duc d'Ascoli, the Chamberlain of the King of Naples who invited him to become a member of the Order of Demeter. These society members carried out the rites of the Eleusinian Mysteries which go back to ancient prehistory, in Eleusis, Greece. These rites of fertility and resurrection had begun in Greece and also observed in Rome for millennia. Sicily was one place it flourished in more recent times, so it is not surprising that a court official of the King of Naples should have been a member of the "Knights of Demeter." McDowell was introduced to the Society about 1857 and then during a subsequent trip to Italy in 1859 he was made a priest. McDowell was given instructions about the rituals and gifted some of the sacred vestments of the Order by the duke.

When McDowell and the other founding fathers came together in Washington, D.C. to form the Patrons of Husbandry in January 1868, one of the many tasks before them was to set up a structure for the organization. In the Patrons of Husbandry there were to be ceremonial orders and McDowell was charged to write a ritual for the highest or 7th order. This Order of Demeter was to be based on McDowell's experience as a priest in the Order of Demeter.

The first six degrees were based on the ancient and accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, with features taken from the agricultural cycles and symbolism of the Eleusinian Mysteries.

The esoteric and secret work is now left in the hands of the Priests to manage.



Wilderness is a Reservoir

Ellen Taylor - Mattole Grange # 569

Reverence for the Earth and recognition of our dependence on it have been at the wellsprings of the Grange's 150-year-long history. The themes of both featured speakers at our 2019 convention addressed these core values. Our rituals honoring Earth are thought to derive from the Stone Age when humans were beginning to farm, to increase the food supply beyond that afforded by hunting and gathering. These mysteries were already ancient when Homer, followed by Plato and Aristotle, described them in their Greek form.

The Grange honors its Graces, who are manifestations of the Earth and its bounty. At meetings, we open a Bible, in which the Earth's nurturing and supportive response to human actions is recorded time after time.

But the Earth is in trouble. One million species are on the brink of extinction, forests are decimated, oceans are acidifying, arable lands are becoming deserts. Death rates for defenders of wildlife and wilderness have doubled in the past 15 years, currently with four murders week.

Indigenous people of the world have always been on the forefront of the defense of the earth. Standing Rock was headline news and stopped the Dakota Access pipeline briefly. In California, indigenous tribal members defend wetlands, rivers and wildlife. In the words of the Dineh and Dakota elder, Tom Goldtooth, director of the Indigenous Environmental Network, who received the Gandhi Peace Prize:

"Spiritual values tie us to the importance of protecting the Mother Earth, the plants and animals and all inanimate things. When we lose that understanding, industry, develop-

ment and globalization can do whatever they want to do, because there is no value behind their structures."

The scientific regard for wilderness is consonant with the spiritual. Non-industry-funded scientists insist that intact forests and wilderness take thousands of years to develop, and, if plundered, will take thousands more to recover from even one assault by extractive industries.

Wilderness has been likened by physiologists to a patch of intact skin on a severely burned patient. Such patches are greeted with hope and relief by attending physicians, as skin can regenerate from these remaining fragments.

Our remaining intact forests and ecosystems are just such a reservoir on our Earth. It is part

of the Grange's mission to protect them. We may well find the need to appeal to this reservoir for regeneration of the biosphere, as we face the uncertain future we've created.

The environmental organization 350.org derives its name from a scientific determination that if CO2 concentrations rises above that number of parts per million, the ecosystems of life on earth will unravel for good.

We're already at 415 ppm, as our gas emissions continue to grow yearly. Fossil fuel extraction- coal, oil and natural gas- continues its annual dramatic increase.

And we are gradually—too gradually—becoming aware of what we are bringing down upon ourselves.

Do you have wildernesses areas near you? What can the Grange do to protect them?



asked to cut the baby in half, and the solutions aren't obvious. Ideally, the two groups would come back together but often there are long-standing and bitter conflicts—not uncommon in property disputes.

I'm also running up against serious misunderstandings on the part of many Guild members about the illegality of taking possession of Grange properties and bank accounts. For some reason they feel entitled to keep them and I suspect they are still receiving that message from the Guild leadership and attorneys. In those cases, we have had no choice but to file suit against their officers or lose those Grange halls. That tends to increase the animosity toward the CSG, which is the last thing we want to do.

It's going to take all of us raising ourselves to a higher standard of Grangerliness to help resolve these conflicts. And it's going to take time and a willingness to forgive and move on. I'm asking for everyone to do what you can to ease these transitions. Talk to your friends in the Grange. Despite the current difficulties, many of the Guild folks have been deliberately misinformed about the legal situation—it is really not their fault. We need to welcome them back wherever we can. And please reach out to any friends you might still have contact within the Guild or other groups that have drifted away during the last seven years. Let's support our Brothers and Sisters during this often-painful transition with both prayer and practical action wherever we can. It's going to take all of us working together to put the CSG back on course toward a brighter future.



it is meant to feed your life and health .

"The farmer at this season must be earnest in his labors, knowing full well that if he neglects to sow, he cannot reap." So, while occupied in the work of preparing your lands for the seed, have **FAITH** in Nature's promise that seedtime and harvest shall never fail. Behold these inanimate kernels of grain! But the germ has life, the future plant is there. We loosen the soil; we bury the seed in **FAITH**.

"Our desire and search for knowledge necessarily begins in the darkness of ignorance. The buried seed wakes to life in darkness, and then sends up its germ, seeking Heaven's sunlight." So too, we come to each lesson with innocence and ignorance, beginning anew the cycle from **FAITH** into knowledge and wisdom.

The seed is the beginning. It also holds the promise and **HOPE** of things to come.

Fruit blossoms are an emblem of **HOPE**. Let us remember that no trees bear fruit in Autumn which do not blossom in the early spring. "That life may be profitable, laden with good fruits, let the endeavors of youth be replete with the blossoms of observation and study; the promise of future wisdom and usefulness." Blossoms are also a symbol of **CHARITY**, which like flowers cover many a rough place in nature.

Now you have been present to the mysteries of the seasonal cycle of planting. The Springtime requires **FAITH**, diligence, labor and perseverance and **HOPE** in our search for truth. **CHARITY** is present in the beauty given freely.

Take the lessons of the First Degree and apply them to the fields of your life, your community, to the world.

~~~Authors' note: The words above held "within quotes" are taken directly from the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Language of the Manual of Subordinate Granges



California State FFA Convention in April 2019. On October 6, 2019, CSG Youth Fair Director, Tacy Currey, Martha Stefenoni, and I met in Turlock and chartered their new Grange.



**OFFICERS OF THE TURLOCK GRANGE #29**

This group of excited new Grangers elected their main officers and they were installed at this meeting. Over the next few months, I met with their leadership team to put together Bylaws to present to the membership. The full set of officers was elected at a subsequent meeting, and they have already had fund raising events to work on building their treasury. Welcome to the Grange family, Turlock Grange #29!

## Coalinga Grange #779

On November 9, 2019, I met with a group at the Coalinga Grange Hall. This group is a church that has been taking care of the Grange Hall for the past several years, as there has not been an active Grange in Coalinga for many, many years.



**CHARTER MEMBERS OF COALINGA GRANGE #779**

This is a Spanish-speaking church, so we organized our first bilingual Grange, the newly reorganized Coalinga Grange #779, with 15 charter members. California Grange members have been working with

Amanda Brozana-Rios, National Grange Communications Director, on developing Spanish-language Grange materials. We currently have the opening and closing ceremonies, along with the order of business, translated into Spanish.

The new members have elected a full slate of officers and Jan Saxton, CSG Acting Master, along with a few members of Central Union Grange #559, attended the meeting of Coalinga Grange on Saturday, February 1, 2020, and Jan and I presented them with their charter.



**CSG ACTING MASTER, JAN SAXTON, AND CSG DEPUTY, STEVEN HOOD, PRESENT TO COALINGA GRANGE MASTER, LUPE MENDEZ, THE NEW CHARTER FOR COALINGA GRANGE #779.**

Central Union Grange members helped fill in for absent officers at this meeting and the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, along with the business of the Grange, was conducted in a beautiful mix of Spanish and English. It was a fun and educational experience for both the newer and the long-time members of the Grange. It was commented by many of the long-time Grange members that it was wonderful to hear the words of the opening and closing ceremonies we have heard so many times in English, being spoken in Spanish. After the meeting, many of the members and guests

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# Achieving Renewal through Innovation Action Projects.

*Brian Weller, Little Lake Grange # 670*

When Jan Saxton, our interim State Master, invited me to follow up my September 23<sup>rd</sup> workshop and convention keynote address with a workshop on 'turning our ideas into reality' I readily agreed. My theme was inspired from the Grange Manual and this slide expressed the spirit of the workshop.

## renewal and the promise of Spring



"I exhibit to you now a memorandum book, a knife and a pencil. Note down the new and useful ideas that come to you that they be not lost; for new ideas are the material with which progress is made".

from page 18, Manual Subordinate  
Grange - First Degree Preparation



The lesson - Faith  
Symbols - Spring, Childhood, the Seed

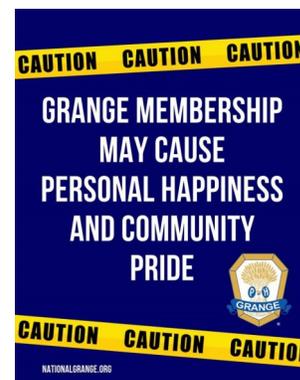
Although the four degrees are for initiating members into the mysteries of the seasons, it occurred to me that maybe we could take the Grange itself through the four degrees. As we read from page 18 of the Manual, "for new ideas are the material with which progress is made"; the Grange movement can now prepare for its own Spring. From this, the topic of Innovation emerged. Over the years, my work with community groups, government and international business, have shown me that the most productive and lasting innovations come not from philosophical musings, but through action projects that carry the change that is being desired. In this light, I set our agenda as:

- 1. Defining the nature of renewal and its imperative for the Grange**
- 2. Innovative change - the art of successful renewal**
- 3. Exploring the Grange culture & its potential for success**
- 4. Activating our Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Strategic Planning workshop sessions.**
- 5. Creating new projects using an action plan templates.**

Enrolling our existing and future Grange members in innovation is a process and it has everything to

do with valuing people and changing hearts and minds. By experimenting with and prototyping innovative ideas at the community level we can tap the creativity and passions of our membership to super charge renewal. The key question to answer when launching an innovation is - "In what ways will my innovation action project help my Grange to build our recruitment, grow our revenues, renew our role in society and become more relevant to the needs of our time and successive generations. Looking to the future, the following innovation project examples might serve and inspire us to kick-start our creativity.

Given the ever-present danger of fires in California, we could hold seminars on Creating Safer Communities through Emergency Preparedness and invite local groups, businesses and public agencies to participate. We could contact local cause-based groups and invite them to attend a special public forum on The Grange's Legislative Initiatives - featured and agreed at the 2019 State Convention. (remember the Millennials and Gen. Z). Organizing Grange renewal meetings to explore the why and how of renewal and get them enrolled in practical projects to build recruitment by outreaching to their local communities. Finally, as in previous years, in what creative ways might our community Granges showcase their community role in civic engagement during this year's local State and National elections. I believe that our Founders, in their time, were courageous innovators facing enormous challenges. We, in our time, can bring that same courage and innovation to renew our Granges remembering that California is the epicenter of creativity.



# The Blackout Breakfast at the Grange!

## *Annie Waters - Little Lake Grange# 670*

On Oct 27, at 5 PM, PG&E cut power for four days to most of Mendocino county. Willits, the home of Little Lake Grange #670, was without restaurants or gas stations. And yet there was a Grange breakfast scheduled for Sunday. With the help of two Honda generators, LLG fed 242 people using less than 4000 watts of electricity. Call it resilience!

The all-volunteer crew of 20 Grangers pulled it off, minimizing the use of resources such as using compostable paper plates and cups, hand washing all flatware, kitchen tools and utensils. Scrambled Eggs, bacon, sourdough, buttermilk or gluten-free pancakes...were lovingly made from scratch as usual. Orange Juice, coffee or tea, and a fruit bowl accompanied the hot plate of food.



The community responded by coming out in the highest numbers we have ever seen, and everyone had a wonderful morning, all the hot food was deeply appreciated, and especially the coffee service.

The communal energy and camaraderie was heightened by being together eating and visiting during this emergency with all the uncertainties and difficulties. We put aside our concerns and ate with friends—both old and new—and shared the news of the day.



# What's Your Granges Social Media I.Q?

## A Social Media Strategic Planning Project

### **Buzz Chernoff, Editorial Board**

Last fall the California State Grange formed a Strategic Planning Committee to guide the growth and direction of our organization over the next several years. One of the findings of the committee was the need to improve our communications by upgrading our website and establishing a presence in social media. This is particularly important if we want to attract Generation X, millennials and Generation Z, something all agree is needed if the Grange is to thrive into the future and fulfill its perennial vision.



The digital revolution has dramatically changed the way we communicate, and for the younger generations social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, Snap Chat, Tik Tok etc. are the telephone and email of the past. In order for the Grange to start communicating with this population, we need to become literate in the social media platforms they are using. We need a way for Grangers to help Grangers become comfortable using these new communication methods.



To do this, the California State Grange will be sending out a survey to the Master, Secretary and Lecturer of each Community Grange. The survey will ask if your Grange has a website and if so, if it is kept up to date. It will also ask questions to assess the knowledge and use of the different social media platforms by each Grange. The results of the survey will be used to determine which Granges are successfully using the different platforms, and which are in need of tutoring. The goal is to set up regional programs where those Granges that have folks who are literate in social media mentor those folks who



are not.

The mentors, who will be called 'Grange Social Media Champions', will teach how to set-up and maintain the various social media platforms for your Grange. If you are a Granger who is well versed in social media and likes to



**SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE  
BECOME A SOCIAL MEDIA CHAMPION**  
[lbooth@castategrange.org](mailto:lbooth@castategrange.org)

share your knowledge with others, then we want you to become part of the team of Champions. For more information and to sign up for this team, please contact Lillian Booth at [lbooth@castategrange.org](mailto:lbooth@castategrange.org).



***Bridging the Divide - Continued from Page 9***

<https://www.better-angels.org>.

The Grange has traditionally been such a place and continues to be. Reminders and discovering successful methods that others use are essential to building healthy communities.

Steps that Grangers can take include inviting former Guilders into leadership and officer positions, actively exploring mutual issues and community service that everyone can get behind, seeing if there is a lecture piece that they want to bring to your meeting, have a meal outside the Grange or go for a hike...just be a sincere Grange friend who listens and cares. Take interest in their family especially kids. If there is a former Guilder that you didn't like....that's the one that might bridge the divide in the most meaningful way.

Also, cook and make music together with many doses of laughter and frequently.



### **Buzz Chernoff - Editorial Board**

A newsletter is only as interesting as its content. And, its content is only as interesting as the stories being told. We want to make this newsletter so interesting that you can't wait to read it. But we can't do that without your help. Here are some of the ways:

- Photographs! Everyone likes looking at photos especially when you are in them. If you take them, we'll try to get them in the newsletter, especially those of your Grange activities. .
- Write a short article that shines the light on your Grange about a successful program or activity that other Granges could copy. The Little Lake Blackout Breakfast is a good example.
- Write a short article about special folks in your Grange who have made an outstanding achievement that others would be interested in reading. Paul Hylands story in this issue.
- Write a short article about some project or activity that you have done and would like to share with other Grangers. Share your special gardening tips, kitchen composting methods, worm farming or whatever you think might be interesting or helpful.
- Write a feature article on a topic which would be of interest to other Grangers. We welcome features on any topic but are especially interested in publishing articles that

address the climate crisis, preparation for wildfires, and small and urban farming.

- Send in a letter to the editor. Let your voice be heard.

There is no maximum word limit for articles, but those less than 500 words will have a better chance for publication given the size limitation of the newsletter. **Photographs** in digital format may be submitted to [CWebster@CAStateGrange.org](mailto:CWebster@CAStateGrange.org). **Articles** may be submitted to [toohighranch@gmail.com](mailto:toohighranch@gmail.com) or [lan-ny@lcotler.com](mailto:lan-ny@lcotler.com). Time sensitive articles will have priority for the next publication. Others will be on a space available basis.

If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact any of the editors. We look forward to working together with you to make this an informative and interesting newsletter.



# Internship Program Available at Green Uprising Farm

**Lanny Cotler, Editorial**

A great opportunity is upon us!—for Grangers who want to learn a lot more about organic farming and food/herb gardening: For the 2020 farming season, Green Uprising Farm in Willits, CA, is offering a 6-month internship (April to September) which includes housing, lots of farm fresh food, free educational workshops at the nearby and exciting School of Adaptive Agriculture, and a \$300/month stipend.

Both were started by Michael Foley, a two-term past president of Little Lake Grange #670. He, his family, and colleagues are committed to shrinking our ecological footprint, healing the land, and improving its productivity, and facing the truth of our Climate Crisis.

Mornings may start with a skills-building session: such as sharpening knives

and farm tool maintenance, cheese-making, preserving fruit or harvesting and drying medicinal herbs...building and hanging a gate. Interns will learn these and other farm skills, from milking the goats to starting seedlings to prepping for your local farmers market.

While some experience is desirable, an eagerness to learn and immerse yourself is indispensable!

Green Uprising Farm is a three generation family seriously working a 5-acre farm in a small valley nestled in the beautiful mountains of the northern California coastal range, just an hour from the spectacular Mendocino coast. The Farm has been in Willits thirteen years working to resuscitate a charming old farm with orchards of apples, pears, plums, and walnut trees, a couple of small vineyards, and lots of wild and robust blackberries. They have developed several gardens and built three greenhouses. They grow fruit and

vegetables using no-till organic methods—for farmers market, restaurants and their famous roadside stand.

They have a small herd of goats, whose rich milk gives provides cheese, kefir and yogurt. They've recently started raising pigs to consume the abundant whey from cheese production and leftovers from garden and orchard. They raise winter vegetables in a large production high tunnel and under row cover. And they grow and prepare a variety of medicinal herbs for salves, medicines, and teas.

Interns will also learn about the Native American Cornucopia, which includes an array of amazing, high-caloric plants developed in the Americas by indigenous farmers—from potatoes and quinoa in the Andes to maize, beans and squash in Middle and North America. Those crops can produce a reliable subsistence in times of stress.

Interns will be inspired by the School of Adaptive Agriculture located at the beautiful 5,500 acre Ridgewood Ranch, the final home of the famous racehorse Seabiscuit. There they will meet young farmers and aspiring farmers, participate in workshops and farm tours, and make new friends. They will find plenty of good local music and beer, along with a vibrant art and theater community in town.

Interns may or may not have some farming experience, but if you love plants, animals, children, good food, hard work, getting dirty, sunshine, a refreshing dip in a cold creek, and a robust conscious community—you won't soon forget your experience.

For more information or to request an application: email [homesteadingsara@gmail.com](mailto:homesteadingsara@gmail.com) or call 707 216-5549.



had a delicious lunch at a local Mexican restaurant. It was an awesome day in Coalinga!



**COALINGA GRANGE OFFICERS ALONG WITH JAN SAXTON, CSG ACTING MASTER, AND SUBSTITUTE OFFICERS FROM CENTRAL UNION GRANGE.**

Coalinga Grange members are already planning their first fund raiser, a chicken dinner, and are well on their way to becoming an active part of the Coalinga community and members of the California State Grange family! Welcome to the Grange, Coalinga Grange #779!

## Chaplain's Corner



Central Union Grange #559 and Central California Pomona Grange #28 are sad to report the passing of our long-time member, Sharon Austin. Sharon was a past First Lady of the California State Grange and has

been active in the Grange at all levels for many, many years. We are going to miss her great smile, enthusiasm, and all the great work she has done for and with the Grange over the years. Well done, good and faithful servant!



Eugene Fletcher, MI, the man behind the \$20 for '20 Promise idea, shows off his donation

Be part of the In Crowd by making the \$20 for '20 promise to support Grange Youth

Grange Youth programming forges lifelong friendships, builds skills and offers many opportunities that boost the resumes and self-esteem of members. Our founders expected the Grange "to develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood" and it starts here, but not without your generous support. Please be part of the \$20 for '20 Promise - keeping alive the promise those who came before you in Grange made by investing in your Grange journey for a new generation of members. Pose with your \$20 donation before sending it off to Grange Foundation

([www.grangefoundation.org/20for20](http://www.grangefoundation.org/20for20))

#grangestory

# Editors Desk - As Above So Below

**Lanny Cotler, Editorial Board**

## **As Above So Below**

Grange renewal, revisioning, revitalization, renaissance...whatever great R-word you use, we're all concerned with the need to GROW THE GRANGE.

Here we are with the second issue of our Reborn newsletter, the California Granger.

As Grangers, we have a vision, goals, a Mission Statement (MS), and now a developing Strategic Planning Path to achieve them.

- Years ago, there was a program called the Action Grange. (An innovative but short-lived project that Buzz and others can tell you about.) OR (More on that in our next issue.)
- During McFarland's early years as CSG President, there were many valiant efforts by forward-looking Grangers who wanted to inspire a Grange Renaissance.
- More recently, about six months ago in Sebastopol, a small group of Grangers got together to test the waters for a Strategic Planning Workshop.
- This eventuated, at the end of September, into an all-day Strategic Planning Workshop in Sacramento, facilitated by Brian Weller, a professional strategic planning facilitator and member of Little Lake Grange #670 of Willits.
- A month later, during our October Annual Convention at Rincon Grange, Brian returned and gave an overview of the September Strategic Planning Workshop to our delegates. Susan and Mark Noah—Susan the current and Mark a past president of the Oregon State Grange—were in attendance.
- Finally, at our January Board meeting, Brian returned, and we discussed how to turn our Plans into actions.

Today, I'd like to turn the binoculars around. How can we at the community Grange level do this for ourselves? Last year, as Lecturer of Little Lake Grange, I presented a Program that might help us continuously renew our commitment to and focus upon putting our ideas and projects into action.

This particular night the Lecturer's Program was 15 minutes long. I asked the members present (34) to listen to our state's Mission Statement (MS) and then, off the top of their heads, to cascade ideas of how to manifest our MS in action—in projects for our members as well as the community at large. As facilitator of the discus-

sion, I kept the focus on any proposed idea until we all had a clear notion of the possible, potential action.

***Since 1873 the mission of the California State Grange has been to serve, steward and teach the virtues of the land to our children and community. We maintain our commitment to grassroots advocacy, supporting farmland preservation, farm development, community service, sustainable and regenerative agriculture, and the consumer's role in the food production system.***

The discussion was lively, extemporaneous, creative, and revealing. When our time was up, everyone had smiles on their faces. Our Secretary had taken notes. So, here for your perusal and further discussion, are the suggestions cascaded that night.

### Grassroots advocacy

- \* Support, link up with Young Farmers Coalition. And National Farmers Coalition and other advocacy groups.
- \* Resolutions.
- \* Need a state lobbyist. Or we all need to act as lobbyists, at City Council, Board of Supervisors and at state.
- \* Training in advocacy
- \* Grange Film series

### Farmland preservation

- \* Locally owned farmland
- \* Hook up with young farmers w/o land.
- \* Extend Williamson Act to properties under 40 acres

### Farm development

- \* Wind farming
- \* Water resources development (Charlie advocated for more dams)
- \* Hemp (not necessarily in Mendocino, where terrain is not ideal)
- \* Support Farm School
- \* Good Farm Trust, non-profit, small grants to farmers

***Continued on Page 19***

Community Service

- \* State Grange used to pick a project each year for all Granges in the state to support - i.e. Adopt a retirement or Dogs for Deaf
- \* Mentor High school senior project on farming
- \* Food donation to Senior Center
- \* Keep hall available for community service events
- \* Classes on nutrition
- \* Disaster preparedness

Sustainable and regenerative agriculture

- \* Support and promote School of Adaptive Agriculture
- \* State Grange policies must be strengthened for organic sustainable - and educate those members promoting chemical agriculture and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

Consumers' role in food production system

- \* Educate public on sustainable meat production
- \* Canning classes
- \* 100% local pancake breakfast one month/year

Lecturers at every level—Subordinate, Pomona, State, National—can do this. As you can see, this is an exercise in community resilience. I fancy that if Oliver H. Kelley were alive and promoting the Grange today his banner would read: "COMMUNITY RESILIENCY". That is, in effect, what the Grange was born to do: support American farmers to be more resilient and to grow healthy food from healthy soil. After the Civil War, it was hard times for American farmers. Today, we all know there are hard times ahead. There is much the Grange can do.

