



THE CALIFORNIA GRANGER

The Official News Source for the California State Grange

CAN THE GRANGE SURVIVE THE CORONA VIRUS ?

BETSY HUBER

Exclusive Interview

Since the theme of this edition asks the pressing question "Can the Grange Survive the Coronavirus Pandemic?", we had to ask this of our National President, Betsy Huber. She was gracious enough to give an interview to Lanny Cotler via Zoom.

LC: Briefly, what are your general, personal feelings about the pressures experienced by you and the National offices during this pandemic?

BH: The hardest part about all this is the uncertainty. You don't really know whether to stay at home, whether you're overreacting, or go in to work. And since I'm responsible for keeping the office going, for a few weeks, we traded off, and one of us on the staff at a time went in. Now we're keeping it going mostly remotely....

LC: During these uncertain times, what is some of the specific work National can do to help Grangers get through the pandemic?

BH: The best we're doing is our daily Facebook Live programs.

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EDITORIAL

No Return to Normal

~by Lanny Cotler, Editor A lot has happened in the world since the last issue of the "California Granger". With COVID-19 as the catalyst, it is clear that we will not be returning to normal any time soon. Time to pause and reflect.

The pandemic looms. We fear for our health. Jobs and the economy have taken a huge hit. We know the climate, hence our environment, is in crisis. Global geopolitics confuses, frightens, and/or angers us all. The Doomsday Clock is but 100 seconds to midnight. Food—the original Gift of the Grangers—is uncertain, often absent in people's pantries and supermarket shelves. There is hoarding. There is fear.

Some predict that by 2025 this

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ACTION GRANGES

Is It Time To Renew?

~by Buzz Chernoff, Editor The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the shut-down of a good portion of the world, along with our halls. At the local level, this has resulted in the shutdown of all activities and events resulting in loss of income and contact with the community. On the National and Global levels, the pandemic has exposed how fragile our government, corporations and private organizations are to a major disruption. It is safe to say that the world will never be the same again, that this has been a cataclysmic event, a mark on the timeline of the planet. As Grangers we can choose to continue down the path of membership loss and irrelevancy to modern youth and the community, or we can let go of those ideas and actions that have not worked and enter a new era where the Grange reimagines its role in our communities, state, and nation.

Twenty-one ago, the leaders of the National Grange faced a similar dilemma. They recognized that the continued loss of membership would soon reach a critical point where the very

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The California Granger

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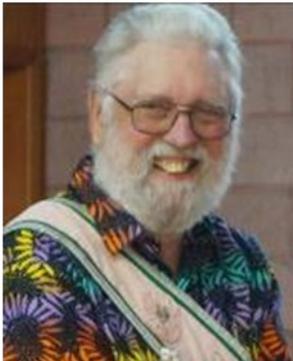
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President's Message

Kent Westwood, State President



We have entered a new era of human history with Covid-19 amidst us world-wide. The last time the world experienced anything like this was in 1918 with the Spanish flu. Back then most people lived on the farm so it had a different impact economically. Today not many people

live on the farm but run or work in a business. As you know the government is sending out trillions of dollars to corporations and individuals to help people stay afloat during this pandemic. The thing you need to know is there are no provisions to repay that money. It is just going be added to our debt and other countries are doing the same thing. This is a situation that can drive inflation as the value of our dollar drops due to our increased debt. Most halls are also experiencing financial problems because they don't currently have rentals, and are unable to have community breakfasts and other fund raising events. My own home Grange is experiencing this with bills to pay but no money coming in. We are hoping to have our next breakfast on Father's Day if it is safe to do so.

If you can garden, this is a year to concentrate on growing a portion of your own food to help with the inflation that is in our future. If you have members who can't garden, grow a little extra for them because as Grangers we will get through these bad times together. Stay safe and sane in these uncertain times.



Overseer's Station -

*Jan Saxton, Overseer
& Interim Acting President*



What a different world we are living in from just a few months ago! Grangers everywhere have worked hard to cooperate with "shelter in place" orders, and to find ways to help the many people who are being hit hard by them. Some folks are struggling with a sud-

den loss of income, due to the shutdown of their livelihood by the Governor's order, the closure or total loss of their business. Others are doing OK financially but are suffering from the loss of personal contact and emotional support as they find themselves isolated in their homes. Loneliness, hunger, and fear have been ameliorated by many creative Grange projects and I couldn't be prouder of our members, the solutions they have come up with, and the important contributions they are making in their communities.

One of the first projects that many Grangers took on was making cloth masks and distributing them where they were needed. That project is ongoing, and I encourage those who know how to sew to give it a try if they haven't already. The need for masks is going to become ever greater as we begin to open sections of the economy back up and people begin to interact with each other again. As some businesses are allowed to reopen many of them are requiring face masks, as are those stores that have remained open but are now taking more precautions to keep their customers and, especially their workers, safe.

Some other great ideas that Granges have come up with for these new and unusual times are holding "virtual open mics" to provide a musical outlet and fun entertainment for their members, streaming music concerts online, donating the use of their parking lots for schools

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That's mostly Amanda Brozana's work; she gets all the speakers and does the tech work. It gives Grangers a chance to stay connected through a range of topics, such as entertainment and education, and of course there's our weekly newsletter, "The Patron's Chain," which tries to be upbeat and yet careful. Amanda's very excited about our live Facebook Saturday night talent shows.

LC: What work do you see particularly appropriate for state Grange offices at this time?

BH: I think the states need to encourage their subordinates to meet, if not in person, then via virtual meetings—with conference calls, Zoom, or Skype—just to continue a very important "habit"—and that's being together! It might be two or three months or even longer till we can get back together. I've learned the word "entropy," which for us means "if we're not growing, we're dying." We need to continue to meet somehow, difficult though it may be.

LC: As you say, many of our generation. What can we do if many Granges might need some sites?

BH: We (National Grange) can help. All they have to do is call our IT Director. She's very helpful through setting up websites. Granges have purchased an enhanced Zoom subscription, which offers a number of good features. Pennsylvania a few years ago, and Connecticut just recently, purchased subscriptions, and seem to be making good use of them.

LC: Terrific. What are the best things Grangers can be doing now specifically with regard to the pandemic?

BH: It's amazing. Many Grangers are helping their communities to make masks or have come up with programs that provide food to those who are having trouble. Some have even provided pantries with food on their porches. I read of one that had a take-out chili dinner. Perhaps it's even time for some Granges to make take-out dinners for citizens to come in and pick them up.

LC: Here in California, we've had reports from a few of our more active Deputies that raise serious concern, such as that subordinate attendance is down, members' dues sometimes late or not forthcoming, and revenues from halls have fallen. This makes insurance costs for the Halls often difficult to meet—which in turn means that subordinate dues to the state are in some cases late or faltering. Your thoughts?

BH: I've been expecting this, but so far haven't seen or heard these reports. I know that a few states are extending the quarterly report deadline to their subordinates.

LC: National might be the last to learn. The revenue problems start at the grassroots level, the subordinates. If their cash flow slows, the states' in turn will slow. Finally, National feels it. That's the way the dues flow. There are Grange halls in California that may not survive. Some, with an average age of 60 or more, tell us they're plumb tuckered out. The Pandemic frightens them, particularly the oldest members.



members are of the older generation. Some subordinates or communities help with social media or websites.

help subordinates and state call in and speak with Stephanie. You know, a couple of state enhanced Zoom subscription, features. Pennsylvania a few years ago, and Connecticut just recently, purchased subscriptions, and seem to be making good use of them.

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Grangers are helping their communities to make masks or have come up with programs that provide food to those who are having trouble.

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BH: The whole economy is depressed what with the lockdown and businesses forced to close. We're all going to be struggling for a couple of years to recover. But hopefully soon we'll be able to get back with the rentals...with fundraisers, and if we switch to take-out—that's a possibility. We have to rethink how we raise money.

LC: By rethinking, you mean...?

BH: It'll take some time. But I think we're pretty resilient, and a lot of Granges are adapting with the Internet, with electronic means of meeting, and discussing what projects they're going undertake—even now when they can't get together. So I think we'll definitely survive. We just have to experiment with different methods of what we've been doing in meeting and fundraising. We are talking about what happens if state sessions are cancelled this Fall. Or even if National can't meet in November at Valley Forge. We don't know how long this is going to last.

LC: California State Grange revenues are down. Is this true for other State Granges?

BH: Sure, our budgets are always tight...and even here at National it's difficult. We've needed another staff person or two for years, but we haven't been able to hire. So, we just have to make do with who we have, and be creative about how we do our work.

LC: Some say that great crises bring opportunity. Change, especially for old and traditional organizations, doesn't come easy. Is this a time for the Grange to consider structural changes that may help us in the future?

BH: Well, we have e-membership now, for those who don't want to go to meetings but can have full access to our publications, legislative information, and website materials—especially, as we're now talking about, during this pandemic. And there are the Alternative Opening and Closing procedures in our 2013 Manual. Even in a virtual meeting without marching, these parts can be read to reassure members that they are in a Grange meeting. This is what sets us apart from all other organizations.

LC: Speaking more broadly, what has the sudden shock of the coronavirus pandemic revealed about our country? Or, more to our shared perspective, what have you learned about our country's cultural and political underpinnings that may affect the Grange?

BH: That's difficult to know yet, but I believe it will make people refocus their lives on what is really important to them

LC: How do you differentiate between partisan and political issues? Our Legislative Programs, our resolutions, deal with political issues all the time.

BH: We lobby on issues, on problems we see need fixing; not partisan arguments. We don't support candidates just because they support our position on something. On the other hand, we're very involved in teaching our youngsters to be more involved in government and civics, to be more interested in what's happening in our capitols.

LC: What can we do at all levels of jurisdiction to help in this effort, to show our youngsters how things work, how current events suggest to us what Grange traditions and values can do?

BH: Just listening to them (youth) at your meetings. They know what's happening with the pandemic. It affects them. Perhaps involve them in writing a resolution. If you have a meet-the-candidates night

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in your hall, let them help you plan it. At National, we have our fly-in. We took a bunch of youth and juniors to New Hampshire in February for the first-in-the-nation primary. I think there was about 25 attendees. And we had a Washington DC experience in March right before the “shutdown,” where thirty young people came to DC and met with their congressmen—we even had a course on how to meet with your congressman, and for the young ones how to shake hands properly—starting with the basics. They also had tours of DC.

LC: How can we gain a sense of what the youth were able to take away? Was it mostly traditional good vibes and patriotic clichés or did it get to the nitty gritty of what is really going on at ground zero for how decisions are made?

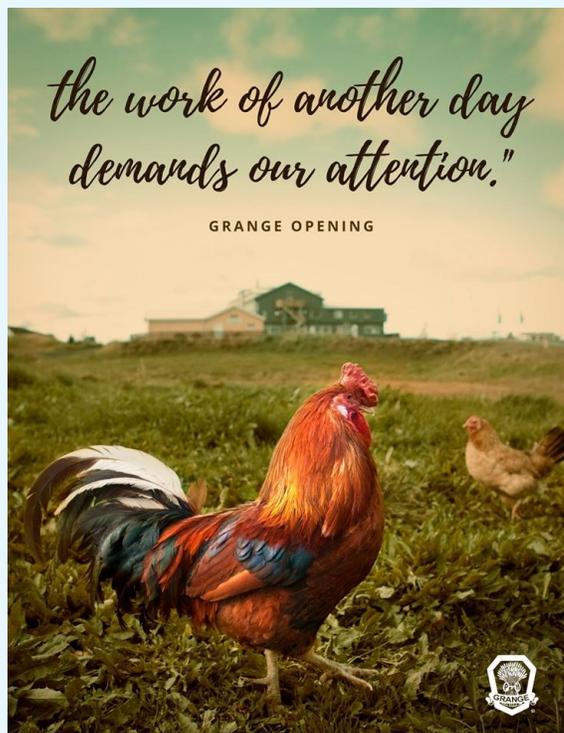
BH: In New Hampshire we had a reporter come in and talk about how they report the news. We actually took them to Reuters News Center in DC and see how the news is put together every day.

LC: Was there anything controversial that came up, or questions by the youth, that gave Reuters a little pause?

BH: Well, it was just the day before the “big shutdown”, so they saw a video of the big cruise ships coming in...and being quarantined.... So it was big current events!

LC: Well, thanks a lot for taking the time to help up with this newsletter, especially during this pandemic. Is there anything, any particular thoughts, you’d like to share further with us?

BH: It’s such an unusual time. While it’s good, after so many years, to get much of the legal problems settled in California, here we are in a pandemic. Never a dull moment, there are always new challenges! Thank you!





California Grange Family Heritage Conference Katie Squire, State Lecturer

What happens when you bring together members and non-member, Juniors, Youth, and Adults, add a dash of information, focus on hands-on activities, blend in a bit of Grange history, and borrow a few new ideas? You end up with the California Grange Family Heritage Conference. From age 6 months to nearly 80 years of age, they came to the State Grange office in Sacramento, California to spend President's Day weekend learning about the Grange.

We had participants from the coast, Wine Country, the Central Valley, Northern California, Sacramento area, and what some refer to as God's Country north eastern California. Some members brought family and friends to introduce them to the Grange (and it sounds like they were convinced to join local Granges). Registration was priced low to just cover conference meals and material expenses. Everyone pitched in when the dishes needed to be washed, tables moved, and of course cleaning up. Our meals included such Grange favorites as a pancake breakfast and a spaghetti dinner.

Saturday at 2 PM following a welcome Conference Director Katie Squire, discussions about what provides and how the Grange fosters the which we provide in our communities. Granges were challenged to become a Distinguished Central Union Grange #559 and it was not a requirement. Grange Bruce led a hands-on workshop dinner we participated in an Art Night program, led by Christina Webster, which featured a painting of a cherry tree bathed in the glow of a full moon, very appropriate so close to Washington's Birthday.



come and introductions by we began with small group sustenance in our daily life same things with the activities nities. Granges were challenged by the membership of was noted that having a hall Youth and State Officer Ellie making artisan felt. Following

Sunday was devoted to teams creating loaves of bread to provide part of the evening's dinner and some friendly competition; learning about the first Four Degrees and the Code with Deputy State Master Steven Hood; conquering the fear of speaking in public under tutelage of Josh Harper; finding out how easy it is to make fresh goat cheese; hearing about different opportunities to make quilt blocks for competition and Quilts of Valor; sharing information about how Granges with halls can promote Gardening at the Grange with input from Santa Cruz-Live Oak, Orangevale, and Rio Linda Grange members: and joining together to draft a resolution under the direction of Agriculture and Water Committee Chair Vince Scholten. Following dinner, the State Public Speaking contest was held with Analise Scholten receiving 1st place in 14-19 Prepared Speech and Erica Kroesen topping the 35+ Youth Alumni competition. Immediately after that we took a turn at Family Game Night and construction of quilt blocks.

On Monday morning certificates of participation were handed out and everyone helped load the supplies, clean the facility, heading home to share what they had learned, and shouting vows to return next year.





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pandemic crisis will be the cause of:

- 100,000s of deaths
- Many family-owned retail stores, restaurants and other small businesses closing...forever
- The online share of all retail sales will be going from 15% to 25%
- Big getting bigger—Amazon, Walmart, Target, Costco....
- Big getting bigger—Google, Facebook, Twitter...exhibiting as much power over people's lives as the government
- Cooling our Instagram-fueled love affair with travel and shopping
- The hoarding of personal protective equipment
- Loss of faith in governments to assist us, much less protect us.
- Less hugging and handshaking and other Interpersonal intimacies
- Mass surveillance and face recognition becoming the ubiquitous norm

The good news is that we are about to learn:

- a lot more about community resilience
- that there is more to a healthy economy and community than price and convenience
- that the Grange can find renewed purpose and passion in teaching resilience

that traditional values and activities of the Grange translated into modern terms means the support of those who grow healthy food from healthy soil

Indeed, the Pandemic is teaching us that there is much to learn about how our biosphere works. We believe that if Oliver H. Kelley were alive today, he would see this as the core of the Grange's teachings.

Even before the pandemic hit, three things were falling: Grange membership, dues, and meeting/events. The California State Grange believes there is much that can be done to turn this around. It will take inspired leadership to guide us in turning strong values into action.

In the following pages, we'll talk to National Grange President, Betsy Huber, and others to discuss what can be done at all three levels of Grange jurisdiction—National, State, and Local—in order to survive the pandemic and continue our Work.

The Grange is a SOCIAL NETWORK—only limited by the technology of the times. Via Social Media today, new, powerful, and global networking is changing the way culture changes. It's more horizontal than vertical. Given our own history of reinforcing positive change, the Grange may have an important place among the players.

This Pandemic has taught us that through social media, virtual meetings, and horizontal networking, we have the potential of becoming more inclusive, immediate, proactive...more democratic.

That is what makes community so important, and that's why we as Grangers care for our collective potential. This is a critical moment to address the needs of people who are being hammered by both the pandemic and the economy.

The U.S. unemployment rate is now over 14.7%, the worst it's been since the Great Depression Era. This makes it imperative today to teach that our own health and welfare depend on the security of the whole. We know from Grange history and general late 19th century US history that the Grange

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was born in order to help the American farmers fight collectively against the predations of the rising tide of corporate and industrial monopolies.

The railroads—each company of which was a monopoly in the huge geographical area it served—were perhaps the biggest threat to the farmers who were forced to pay exorbitant fees to ferry their produce to urban markets. However, so successful were many of the Grange's efforts that laws were passed which helped others; they are known today as the "Granger Laws".

Today, small farmers and other independent businesses are similarly threatened by what has come to be ominously called "disaster capitalism". David Sirota, a well-known populist journalist, defines disaster capitalism as "what often happens after a disaster or catastrophe strikes, when powerful corporate interests and the government come together to use the crisis as a justification to do radical things that perhaps they couldn't have done during normal political circumstances."

Sirota is asking: "What does this actually mean for democracy?" Democracy is a slippery term. Everyone knows what it means, but it's a shape-shifter and can mean different things to different people. Does it mean "one person one vote?"

In order to survive the Pandemic we are going to have to change. There is no going back to normal, to the good ol' days. Habits, comforts, and conveniences are going to have to change. The Pandemic itself is the Earth's message to us. I hope we listen.

A political system that is structurally incapable of acting for the common good, even when millions of lives are at stake, is not just failing to solve our problems: the political System that runs our country AND the world...IS the problem. The Grange isn't going to change this tragic happenstance, but we can do something at our communities' level to create better local RESILIENCY. Again, what is RESILIENCY? The ability to deal better with adverse circumstances. Resiliency must be created, developed, and engaged!

With each passing day, we're seeing the death-tolls rise, job losses soar, and more people left to fend for themselves. Yet, trillions of dollars continue to flow to corporations while we, as individuals and families, struggle to meet some of our most basic needs. The need for the Grange in 1867, when it was founded, is just as strong today, when communities and those who support growing healthy food from healthy soil find it difficult to survive.

True communication in a democratic society is duplex: it has to be a two-way dynamic. In general, however, in the Grange, communication usually flows from the top down. For the Grange to grow in this era of burgeoning social media, communication needs to be a network so that you can connect any point to any other point instantly. It's a relational database, a living network. The Grange, with its community service halls all across America, is uniquely situated to help make that living network more vital and more effective.

Not only will "we *not* be returning to normal any time soon," but we must work to create a new normal, a better normal. We must turn crisis into opportunity.

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When Opportunity Knocks...

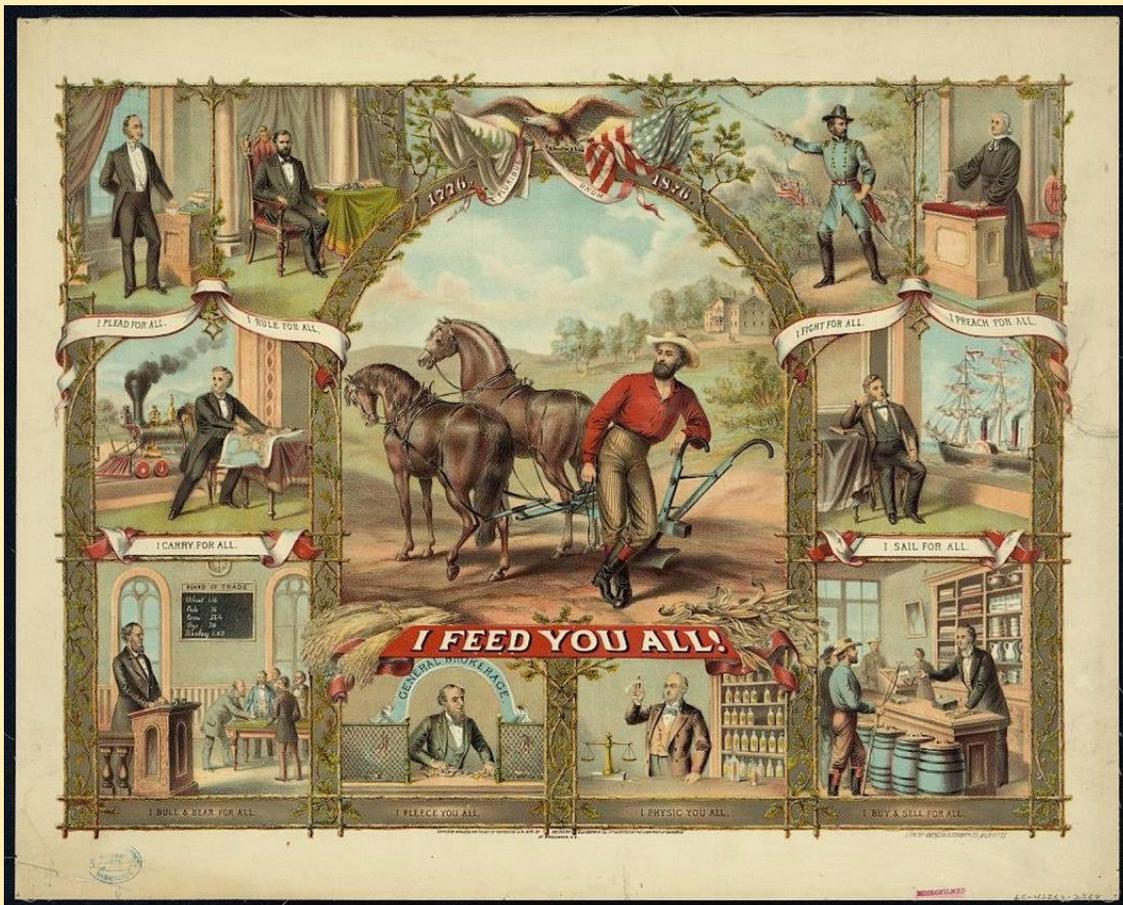
危机

Wei Chi

crisis = danger + opportunity

In the Chinese language, the word for “crisis” is Wei Chi. Let’s look a little closer. Wei means “danger”. Chi has multiple meanings, one of which is “opportunity”. From this perspective, the Pandemic may be presenting us with an opportunity.

This Earth is a history of cataclysmic events. Some would say that right now human-kind is the cataclysmic event on the Planet. For those who understand this, what can be done? What can the Grange, as a network across the country, do about it? We suggest there is much that can be done.





Who is YOUR Deputy?

Acting Master Sister Jan Saxton has announced the assignment and appointment of Grange Deputy State Masters throughout the state. Deputy State Masters are appointed to help the local Granges in their District to grow, thrive, and be recognized as an integral part of the community.

Deputies work directly with the State Grange Master to nurture new Granges and help existing Granges become strong in the communities they serve. Many Granges are restarting pretty much from scratch, and the Deputies will be instrumental in the mentoring of these new groups with wisdom and patience; teaching them what it means to be a Granger.

Sister Jan has also requested the Deputies to reach out to each Grange in their District to see how they are doing in this time of COVID 19. With all events and fundraising halted, many Granges are experiencing difficult financial times. The Deputies are there to hear the creative ways your Grange is getting through these tough times so they can share the information, help us learn from each other, and grow in new directions.

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DeputyDistrict2@CAStateGrange.org

District 3: Unassigned

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District 6: Steven Hood

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District 7: Unassigned

District 8: Reg Corella

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District 8: Kevin Bennett

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District 9: Unassigned

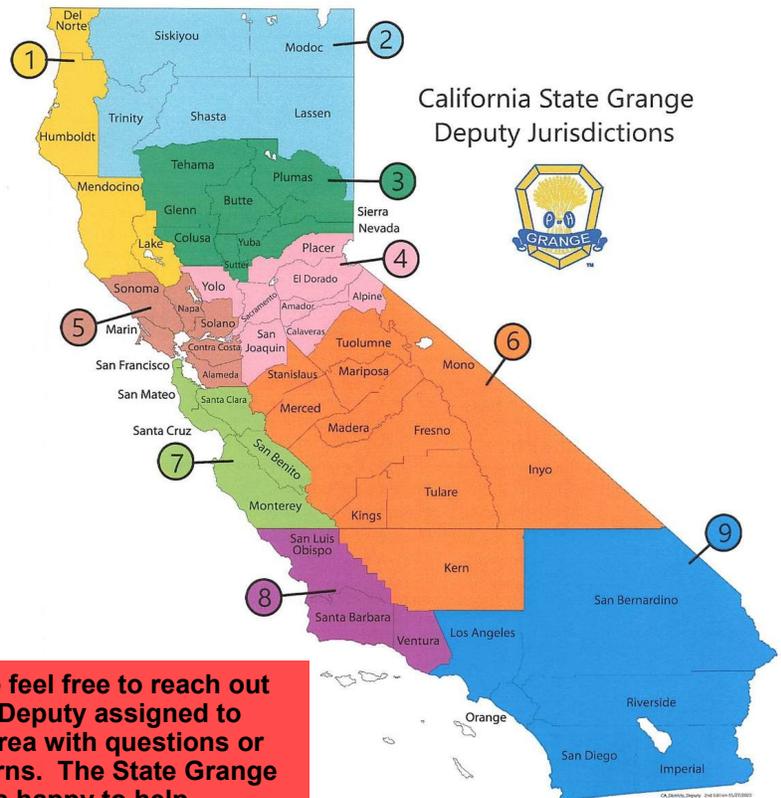
For Districts without an assigned Deputy, please contact :

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Lillian Booth

LBooth@CAStateGrange.org for assistance



California State Grange Deputy Jurisdictions



Please feel free to reach out to the Deputy assigned to your area with questions or concerns. The State Grange team is happy to help.



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survival of the organization

would be in question. Choosing to take a path to the future, the Grange leadership under the direction of National Master Kermit Richardson formed a strategic task force to develop a preliminary strategy for re-newing the Grange.

The task force produced a report, *"A Strategy for Renewing the National Grange - The Rationale and Importance of the Action Grange Program, November 2000"* which described the then current reality of the Grange as:

- A steady loss of membership lasting four decades
- Untrained, inconsistent leadership
- Lack of relevance in the community
- Unappealing to younger members
- Poor organizational structure
- Secretive and ritualistic
- Missing important communication's technology
- Halls in poor shape or disrepair
- Unable to attract new members
- Missing tools that could help
- Dues so low they could not cover expenses
- No plans and few ideas
- No optimism and little help available
- Resistance to change

Five strategies were identified and developed to address the current reality:

- stem the losses of recent or future members;
- create more effective leadership;
- increase appeal and relevance;
- improve organization and financial structure
- and reduce resistance to change.

To refine and implement these strategies, the task force recommended a maximum of two hundred currently active and successful Subordinate Granges be selected to be part of a 5-year pilot program, which was named the Action Grange. The idea behind this was that putting re-sources into those Granges most likely to succeed would provide infor-mation and programs that could be transferred to all Granges. One hundred and sixteen Subordinate Granges from around the country be-came Action Granges.

The program actively ran from 2001 through 2003 during which time the National Grange supplied a plethora of pamphlets, workbooks, and worksheets for the participating Granges, as well as Regional work-shops lead by a professional consultant/facilitator. Although National

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There is no doubt that the Action Grange process and the freedom to make changes, has had a significant positive impact on our community Grange. There is a feeling of revitalization and growth among the members, and a sense of opportunity for members to play an important and critical role in the future of their Grange. From our perspective, the program is a success.

The process of developing a Vision Statement and list of Goals has been very successful in getting the membership to focus on what they want the Grange to be in the next few years.

Before the Action Grange Program, our Grange didn't do any short or long-range planning and budg-eting. It pretty much went on from month to month. At our first meeting as an Action Grange, the idea of long-range planning was readily accepted and all the members wanted to participate in the process.



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support for the program

ended by 2004, many of those Granges that were in the program continued to operate as they had under the Action Grange program.

In 2008, then National Master Ed Luttrell discussed the contribution of the Action Grange program to Community Granges in an article published by the Connecticut State Grange (June 2008). Those included:

- allowing the Executive Committee to be called the Board of Directors;
- allowing Subordinate Granges to be referred to as Community Granges;
- letting the Annual Word be optional for Community and Pomona Granges;
- approval of an Alternative Manual for conducting meetings;
- the use of alternative titles for officers;
- adoption of a Welcoming Ceremony:

While these contributions are all true, they are relatively trivial compared to the real lessons learned from the Action Grange Program.

The Action Grange Program provided a framework for Community Granges to learn how to bring folks into their halls, become visible in the community and grow their membership. This was done by having each participating Grange develop a FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN using educational materials and workbooks supplied by the National Grange.

It began with brainstorming sessions where the Grange members as a body reached consensus on what they wanted their Grange to be 3 to 5 years down the road. This visioning process took the focus off of the immediate needs that dominate so many Granges and provided a framework for the future that the members built together and believed in. From the vision came goals for bringing the vision to light and the specific projects needed for meeting the goals. Long range planning (3–5 yrs) was a revelation in that it laid out the trail by which we could become what we wanted to be. For example, to get people into the halls you need to put on events. But before you can put on events, you need to make the hall safe and inviting. So while you are doing that, you can participate in community events, go to community meetings to listen and learn the needs of the community, and talk

Changing meeting formats and titles can help newcomers feel more comfortable at meetings, but those changes alone do not make the Grange more visible in the community, or get folks wanting to join. Working together toward fulfilling the vision of a future did. The Action Grange program taught how to do this using a well thought out method of Strategic Planning. This was the real lesson learned from the Action Grange program. Is it a lesson applicable today if we choose to reimagine the role of the Grange in the community, state and nation?

about what role the Grange might play in meeting these needs.

We are at a crossroads, a unique time in the history of the planet. Our way of living is changing, and our communities will reflect this change. If we are to survive as an organization, the Grange is going to have to adapt to the community changes³. The Strategic Planning centerpiece of the Action Grange Program, with materials already developed by the National Grange, can serve as the tool for Community Granges to reimagine and

redefine their role in these new times.





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to distribute free lunches to kids, organizing drive-through food giveaways in partnership with their local food banks, creating a self-service food pantry where people can leave food for others and pick up food if they need it. Some people have created little “free libraries”, with bookshelves on a porch where people can donate books they are done with and pick up new ones. Especially helpful are children’s books, as so many kids are home with not much to do. Exchanging puzzles can help keep boredom at bay as well. You just need a drop off place so people can come and go without having to interact. One thing I have done to give my son and daughter-in-law an hour of peace is read to my granddaughter over Zoom—she’s six, an only child, and really missing all her friends from school. As Granges develop their skills with streaming programs over the internet, creating story times for kids would be wonderful.

We know that Grangers are shopping for folks who are older or have health conditions that put them in the high-risk category. Some have created phone trees or “check-in buddies” so people who are

isolated at home don’t feel so alone. As the weather is warming, young people are volunteering to help their elders with gardening chores and yard clean up—with school out, it’s a super opportunity to give them something useful to do that gets them out of the house. Many folks who might never before have thought about growing their own food are starting seeds and buying or



trading plant starts, inspired by the combination of being stuck at home and the lovely spring weather. Some Granges are holding online classes in gardening to help these new gardeners be successful. Once those gardens begin to produce, I just know that folks will set up informal fruit and veggie stands to trade, share or sell their bounty by leaving an honor box on the table. It’s likely we will continue to see disruptions in the food supply chains, whatever we can grow at home will take some of the pressure off the situation.

Responding to the request that they not meet in person, many Granges have moved to meeting online using video conferencing programs like GoToMeeting and Zoom. It works! It may be a bit clunky at first, but we just completed our second State Grange board meeting via video and we’re finding that we can get through the agenda, make motions, take votes and discuss issues just as well—although I admit it isn’t nearly as much fun as meeting with real people and getting big Granger hugs. The lack of really good internet connections in rural areas can be a hindrance, though, so some groups have simply suspended meetings or are using phone conference calls or handling necessary business via email, using “unanimous written consent”. Be assured that Burton Eller, our National Grange Legislative Director, is lobbying hard for better rural broadband services!

One of the questions that was asked of the board was, “how and when can we start meeting again?” It’s a great question, because the Grange is a social order and meeting monthly is an important part of our bylaws, structure, and traditions. One of the most important things we do is connect neighbors

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GETTING IT BACK!

Vince Scholten - Hessel Grange President

The Hessel Grange has got its hall back. Not as quick as we had thought, but 5 months later, with tireless effort, we finally did get it back. With official paperwork to boot! It was not an easygoing process, trying not to step on toes, or have the community get upset with us. Our goal was to do it all with Grangerly intent.

To start from the beginning, we began by holding our meetings at my house, more specifically in my greenhouse.



Our first night brought together 17 of us, mostly farmers like me, with interest in agricultural legislation. We applied to re-charter the Hessel Grange, getting National approval a month later. As we waited for the Grange Hall to come back into our hands, our membership grew to almost fifty. Most of us are local farmers, with about an equal number of sisters and brothers and some families and kids. Younger folks, interested in getting into the legislative area of promoting small farmers.

We were quickly running out of parking spots at my property, so it was a relief to finally get the Hessel Grange Hall back. We had our first Grange meeting in the hall in March and I was flabbergasted to be in the hall after such a long wait. It was like coming home. Then two weeks after the meeting, COVID 19 hit and here we are, holding all meetings and activities virtually until we can again meet up in our hall. You can bet that when that does happen, there's going to be a major celebration – and it will involve using the 6 barbeques behind the hall!



Taking Care of Grange History Laura Shafer -Sebastopol Grange

Sebastopol Grange #306 had a chance to dovetail with their local historical society to have over 40 years of Records of Meetings from 1903 to 1945 digitized through a California Revealed grant from the California State Library. While serving as steward and vice president of our grange, I knew our record books could be subject to decay and damage from fires, floods and rodents.

I also volunteer as a docent at our West County Museum and brought in some of the older books to look for references of the Grange's position supporting women's right to vote for an exhibit the museum was mounting for the 2020 centennial of the 19th amendment. We didn't find anything specific, but Mary Dodgion, archivist of the Western Sonoma County Historical Society saw our books were of historical value. She proposed to add them into the grant with other oral history tapes. The grant proposal, written by her was submitted in late October.



We decided to limit our request to about half the books, the oldest covering 1903-05 up to World War II, over 600 handwritten pages in 13 volumes. When we were evacuated for the fires in late October, I was in

the middle of preparing the books and spreadsheet for the grant and took the books in the back of our car over other items, knowing that while they were in my possession, I couldn't leave them behind. The grant was accepted in December. Delivery of items was finalized in

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and build friendships, and we need to get back to that good work. People are impatient and I understand. It is also important, however, that we follow the rules and guidance of the state Governor and local counties and cities about gathering, and I encourage everyone to do so. Some industries are being allowed to start up again as our state takes the first steps toward reopening the economy. If we can do that while continuing to keep each other safe, so that infection and death rates don't spike again, we may soon have the restrictions on meeting lifted.

With the coming of nice weather, it may be possible to meet in person while still keeping everyone safe from exposure to the corona virus. Meeting outside, in the fresh air and sunshine, using masks and keeping a good distance apart is one solution. If your Grange has outside tables with enough room to keep people separated that's great. If not, some other ideas are to use

the parking lot the way many churches are doing. People can come and stay in their cars with the windows open so they can hear each other. You can vote by raising your hand out the window. If most of your folks have pickup trucks, have a tailgate party—just keep an adequate distance, and I'm sorry to have to say this, but no hugging please, not yet.



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mid-March with a boxful of hardbound books delivered to Sacramento the day the State shut down for the Corona virus. Talk about eventful times for these books!

So, while we are attempting to preserve our Grange history for future generations to read about the events and discussions back in the day, we are living history, having the first video meetings in our Hall's history. The significance of our minutes of meetings really hit home as they reflect the times. Thanks to all the secretaries who preserve history for the Grange.

If your hall has original record books, contact the California Revealed program at team@californiarevealed.org to find out how they may be able to help in the preservation process. All the items will be returned with a USB drive of the digitization. The records will be available to search through the State Library, the Historical Society, and when we are able to, through a link on our website at www.Sebastopolgrange.org. We plan to get the next 40 years submitted in another grant cycle. The real challenge of perusing these books is to get into the flow of the old penmanship, but it gives a surprising view of the world as it was in the use of language and what comes up for discussion. Source document history in our hands.



IN MEMORY

Edwina Louis (Wheat-Hood) Woolard

Our long-time Grange Sister, Edwina Lois (Wheat – Hood) Woolard passed away at 76 years of age on May 9, 2020. She was an active member of the Grange at all levels for over 50 years, having served as Junior Grange Director and Director of Youth Activities for the California State Grange at different times. She is survived by her three children, Steven, Shawn, and Erin Hood, three granddaughters, ShyAnne, Amanda, and Samantha Hood, and her sister, Ann Larson. She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Woolard. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the California State Grange Foundation, 3830 U Street, Sacramento CA 95817.



The Second Degree: The Cultivation of HOPE Annie Waters – Little Lake Grange

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 Patron—so that you may live in harmony with the Earth, with Nature and your own life's wisdom you hear in the degrees have your own life as you grow and in our Grange as we

The First Degree, which I the newsletter, is the entry beginning initiation and a less-planting of early seeds, and ers. The Second Degree re-planting of our spring plantings seeds continues, diligence Harvest.

Candidates for the Second Cultivators and Shepherdess—faithful and diligent. They with their soil, flocks and ideals represented here is in all things. The Grange encourage active members of the community to cultivate good relationships with others, and we are particularly eager to help our fellow Grangers, as we together share abiding HOPE for our work.



dom of the Grange Patron—so that you may live in harmony with the cycles of Nature. The messages that many layers of meaning, in your families and talents, grow together in our work.

covered in the last issue of way into Grange. It is the son in FAITH, with the the bounty of spring flowers—represents the summer cultivation and as the planting of offers us HOPE for the

Degree are represented as es who have been honest, have already shown care fields. One of the ancient that of cultivating the good encourages members to be community, to earnestly cultivate

The candidates are shown the symbolic implements of the degree: the Hoe and Pruning Knife. These are useful tools to prepare the ground for cultivation of the soil, reducing weeds, and cutting away that which does not serve, each with a deeper symbolic meaning I will share later.

One deeply emblematic theme is the importance of the seed. *"When Ceres furnished them with corn she enjoined them to save a portion of the best for seed; and her admonition has been heeded."* Ceres is asking us to consider – what is the "BEST" seed to save?

From guardian of the ancient wild grasses to our plump field grains, Ceres is our Grange guide to the seed and sheaf of harvest. I believe that if She could speak, Ceres would ask us - are we caring for Her grains? Are we saving good seed to pass on, to plant again? In the cycle of time, this will feed us all. The miracle of the seed, and its cultivation in the fields offers this lesson to the diligent cultivator.

The Master teaches: *"We are now to teach you how to plant the seed. Behold these inanimate kernels of corn! But the germ has life—the future plant is there. We loosen the soil—we bury the*

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CENTERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Brothers and Sisters, we are uniquely ready for the next chapter in our history.

Our Grange Movement was founded after the Civil War and flourished in the Great Depression. We have been practicing our ability to build community for 150 years. There will be a lot of neighbors looking for guidance during the coming months. Our Communities, our Counties, and our Country will benefit from a resurgence of Grange values across our land. These are the values we Grangers have turned to as we have been navigating the first half of 2020 and will need in the second half even more.

Our Declaration of Purposes was written at a time just a time like this. The words written in the 1874 Declaration are a call to action for right now. Here are a few of our Declared Purposes:

To enhance the comforts and attractions of our homes, and strengthen our attachments to our pursuits; to foster mutual understanding and cooperation;to hasten the good time coming; to reduce our expenses, both individual and corporate; to buy less and produce more, in order to make our farms self-sustaining;..... and calculate intelligently on probabilities; to discountenance the credit system, the mortgage system, the fashion system, and every other system tending to prodigality and bankruptcy.



Here in Sebastopol, we have used the traditions of the Grange and the Grange Hall to in-

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seed; and in so doing impress upon our minds the truth of the immortality of the soul. There is no object in which, to appearance, life and death border so closely together as in the grains of seed buried in the earth; but when life seems extinct a fuller and richer existence begins anew. From this little seed we have, first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear. So with the mind, when duly nourished with Faith and HOPE. But be not deceived! Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Another lesson of the 2nd Degree is that of being a good Shepherd - caring for those in your charge, keeping them safe and well fed, to reclaim the wandering. The Grange is a good shepherd for our members; we HOPE to bring community solidarity to those in need, to keep our members in touch.

The final instruction is symbolic of life, the Master closes the ceremony, furnishing the initiates with this advice: *"Cultivate with HOPE the seed thus planted, that it may yield an hundredfold. The tools used by us in this degree are the Hoe and the Pruning Knife. The Hoe, with which we cut up weeds and stir the soil, is emblematic of that cultivation of the mind, which keeps our thoughts quickened and ready to receive and apply new facts as they appear, thus promoting the growth of knowledge and wisdom. The Pruning Knife, used to remove useless and injurious growths from our trees, plants and vines, should remind you to prune idle thoughts...Bear in mind that moral and mental worth rank before worldly wealth or honors, and that, as a worthy Cultivator or Shepherdess in our glorious fraternity, you can justly claim to belong to the true nobility of the land."*

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 cultivate and care for the plantings as they are very vulnerable. The wrong amount of sun or water can kill them.

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voke a forward-looking vision of the Grange. It is time for all Granges to reach out and partner with other groups and individuals in the community. These partnerships should be based on our Grange mission of local food and rural community resilience—those old Grange precepts in modern dress.

We need to bring the community to our Halls for both high value, low cost education and fun as well as forums where groups of concerned community members can come together to work on political issues of relevance to them. Equally important, the Grange must partner with other grass-roots farm organizations such as the Farmers Guild.

We must strive to make the Grange relevant and active in our communities, not as community centers but as centers of the community. By doing this we are honoring the traditions and Grange Halls left to us in trust. We are about the connection to the food system and the fertility of the land and the productivity of the people in our community. It is our history, our traditions, and our ability to come together and educate, inform, and entertain that make us continuously relevant in our community.

As the 1874 Declaration of Purpose states: *"It shall be an abiding principle with us to relieve any of our oppressed and suffering brotherhood by any means at our command."*

With Unity, Liberty, and Charity - Lawrence Jaffe
– Steward, Sebastopol Grange #306



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The Second Degree offers a lesson to each of us in our life and to the Grange. We must have HOPE, let no fear deter you from doing what is right, and patiently trust your work towards the harvest...cultivate yet allow the growth to happen. HOPE, listen and learn.

How to use this 2nd Degree summer lesson of HOPE and cultivation? You will sow seeds in the garden, and in yourself, to grow new things. The seed is the beginning. It holds the promise and HOPE of things to come.

Now you have been present to the mysteries of the seasonal cycle of cultivation. The Summer plantings and cultivation require FAITH, diligence, labor, perseverance and HOPE for a good harvest.

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

Authors' note: The words above "within quotes" are taken directly from the 2nd^d Degree Language of the Manual of Subordinate Granges





Lecturer's Desk

Katie Squire, State Lecturer

Did you know that the California State Grange Lecturer has a Facebook page? Please visit and like <https://www.facebook.com/CAlecturer/>. This page is not just for Lecturers it is for members and non-members alike. Many different types of information is being posted at this location. Sometimes it might be a fun activity to share with your membership or family. Links and announcements for the daily web series "National Grange Cultivating Connections in the Time of COVID". Community service ideas are shared here. We also celebrate achievements of our membership and provide articles to inspire discussions at your Grange and in your Community.



We are looking for ideas. Several states and the National Grange are joining forces to produce a continuing series of Grange video presentations. Do you have an idea for a great short YouTube video? Hoof care for horses; Planning and starting a compost pile; how to make lemon curd; or anything else that could be presented in about 15 minutes. We are also considering segments for activities that take a bit longer, for example: Bread Baking - Mixing your Dough (Part 1), The Rise and Knead (Part 2), Baking and Cooling (Part 3). We are also looking for authentic presenters who will be willing to film the segments. If you have experience making and editing YouTube, Tic Toc, Vine or any other video format we would love to talk with you too.

Hey Lecturers, the National Grange Lecturer, Chris Hamp, not only has a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/National-Grange-Lecturer-153324378069864/> but has also developed a new quarterly newsletter called A Quarter's Worth. The six page newsletter includes a wide variety of program ideas, contest details, and tips from other Lecturers across the nation. Please provide me with your email address to be added to the mailing list. Here is a link to the First Quarter 2020 issue. Second Quarter 2020 will be out soon. https://www.pagrang.org/uploads/6/8/1/3/68133151/a_quarters_worth_-_q1_2020.pdf

EXPO: The 2020 Expo Handbook is ready for release. PDF copies of the book will be/or have been posted to the California State Grange Website. We have added a new Division called COVID Creations, featuring classes for Masks of any type, creative writing about your experiences, samples of new things you tried, and even videos that you might have made. The Photography division has also been expanded. This year in addition to accepting entries by mail and electronic copies, we are adding a new online entry portal. This should be active on June 1st. Watch the California State Grange webpage and the California State Grange Lecturer Facebook page for announcements. Please don't forget that our contests are open to non-members as Guest Exhibitors. This is an excellent opportunity to invite your community to enter and meet your Grange. In the event that Shelter-In-Place extends into the fall, a plan is in place to have a Virtual Expo, so there is no reason not to participate.

CONTACT ME: I can be contacted via email at Lecturer@castategrange.org, by using Messenger from the California State Grange Lecturer Facebook page, or at (559) 961-7257.





THE HAND THAT HOLDS THE BREAD

Ellen Taylor - Mattole Grange # 569

*Brothers of the plow, The power is with you;
The world in expectation waits For action prompt and true,
Oppression stalks abroad, Monopolies abound;
Their giant hands already clutch The tillers of the ground.*

(Chorus)

*Awake, then, awake! The great world must be fed,
And heaven gives the power to the hand that holds the Bread.*

-Geo. F. Root, "The Hand That Holds the Bread" Grange Melodies (Philadelphia, 1905)

This once-popular Grange hymn celebrates the exhortation which brought the Grange into existence, in response to the desperate plight of farmers and agricultural workers after the ravages of the Civil War. Today, we find ourselves facing another scourge, equally menacing, and like the war, offering an opportunity to our now-venerable fellowship, to contemplate our nation's health, and spring into action.

Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it." — Arundhati Roy

As Roy observes, some of our nation's socioeconomic features which worried the Grange founders, are even more prominent today. When the Grange was formed in the mid-19th century, it instantly found itself in a struggle against monopolies and speculators, who were swiftly, often illegally, buying up farms abandoned or lost in the wreckage following the Civil War. In addition, they were accumulating vast tracts of the as-yet-unsettled lands further west. Oliver Kelley had been charged by the Department of Agriculture with developing a plan for postwar recovery of farmlands. He toured the south, interviewing the widows of fallen soldiers, and men whose stock and barns were gone, who faced the lonely drudgery of reconstruction, with no money in their pockets, and hearts burdened with despair. Seeing this, Kelley wrote in a letter:

"I long to see the great army of producers in our country, turn their eyes up from their work; stir up those brains, now mere machines ... set them to think,—let them feel that they are human beings, and the strength of the nation, their labor honorable, and farming the highest calling on earth."

Kelley came back to Washington determined to start an organization which would help these farmers. He described the environment which he had seen, so hostile to the survival and restoration of small farms and communities, and persuaded his fellow Grange founders to include a pledge in their "Declaration of Purposes of 1874":

"We are opposed to such spirit and management of any corporation or enterprise as tends to oppress the people and rob them of their just profits. We are not enemies to capital, but we oppose the

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tyranny of monopolies. We long to see the antagonism between capital and labor removed by common consent, and by an enlightened statesmanship worthy of the nineteenth century. It shall be an abiding principle with us to relieve any of our oppressed and suffering brotherhood by any means at our command."

If the Grange had been more successful, we might have found ourselves today in a nation comprised of small farms, worked by families, communities, and cooperatives, who prospered in sufficient numbers to satisfy the nation's food needs and desires, in harmony with the health of the environment.

Instead, the "power", proclaimed in George Root's hymn, fell into the hands of the Grange's foremost adversaries: the speculators and monopolists. As a result, in today's globalized world, ten monster conglomerates control the vast majority of the world's food supply. Theirs are the "hands that hold the bread". Food, taking leave of its domestic ancestry, has transmogrified into an unpredictable, often weaponized international commodity, traded by hedge funds and speculators.

According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), global trade in food commodities has more than tripled during this century, and the competition this intrusion imposes worldwide on simple preexisting local food systems has stunted or destroyed them. As they restructure and merge, these chains have pressured their suppliers to higher yields, charged higher rents, fixed prices, and consolidated their control over both their suppliers and their customers. Both have become dependents, losing therewith the power of making decisions which affect their lives.

This would have been Oliver Kelley's worst nightmare.

However, the vulnerability and fragility of our corporate-dominated food system is being dragged into the harsh light of reality, as, during the last months, pandemic waves of the corona virus sweep around the globe. While the numbers of people who have sickened, died, or been forced into quarantine, increase exponentially, the media shows us farmers, with tears in their eyes, plowing vast fields of lettuce back into the soil. We watch dairymen dump thousands of gallons of milk into rivers. Store shelves are empty, and people stand in lines for hours. When transportation bottlenecks occur due to illness or quarantines, and shipments of staples do not arrive in the many countries which subsist on them, whole populations of chronically hungry people are brought to the brink of starvation.

Hunger dogs the footsteps of the virus. The headlong traffic of normal commerce has come to a near standstill. But, as we absorb the shock we are able, as the early Grangers did after the Civil War, to contemplate a shift in our socioeconomic paradigm, and recognize the importance of the working people upon which civilization depends.

At the very base of our country's gigantic marketing system which feeds the world are three million farmworkers. These families work long hours sowing the nation's grain fields, planting vegetables, cultivating our hundreds of millions of acres, picking the fruit, laboring in the slaughterhouses, packing the meat and performing the multiple tasks involved in sending food on its way to the table. One third of them work in California. At least one half lack legal status. Average wages are just above poverty level. They must travel long distances from job to job, usually at

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their own expense. The average educational level is 7th grade. Many live in their cars, or flimsy shacks, frequently without sanitary facilities or running water. Only 10% are unionized.

Some, from other countries, enter this country under strictly prescribed conditions allowing temporary employment. These H2A workers are literally indentured to their employers.

Many of these workers once owned farms which their families had held for centuries. But they were lost to corporate competition, the most recent when NAFTA (1995) and CAFTA (2006) allowed US-subsidized grains to flood Mexican and Central American markets. US support of repressive regimes, demand for drugs, and weapons sales, also contributed to a toxic environment, which precipitated the great exodus to the north in recent years.¹

The current plight of our farmworkers highlights the precarious state of the world's entire food system. Their living conditions - packed living quarters and travel needs, terrible sanitation, no masks, language barriers - provide easy hosts for the virus. Most have no sick leave benefits and their poverty wages dictate that they must work.

As supply-chain expert Karan Girotra drily forecast in the New York Times, "Labor is going to be the biggest link that can break. If large numbers of people start getting sick in rural America, all bets are off."²

Farmworkers have long petitioned for the dignity that the responsibility they bear ought to guarantee them. The Grange must be active in supporting their demand for social and economic justice. It must demand that they be provided with the personal protective equipment that all essential workers must have, to prevent disease spread, and death. Because the US is the world's main food exporter, the price of failure here is world famine.

As Arundhati Roy observed above, a pandemic is a portal. The Grange must re-energize the vision of its founders, of world communities stabilized by food sovereignty, and remove food from the frail structures of global supply based on the narrow motivation of profit. Granges must unite on a local level, to encourage local farmers, make sure local workers are protected, and guarantee everyone's right to healthy food from healthy soil. We must demand that our state set a standard of respect for the workers serving giant agribusinesses, enforcing rules for housing and working conditions which protect their well-being.

On a national and international level, our mission is with the relationship of the human species to the earth itself. Our nation's policies must respect, rather than exploit, all of our human fellow travelers, and the natural resources of the planet. We must work for an atmosphere in which all species can survive.

The air, the waters are clearing. We should say, even as the speculators do, "Never let a good crisis go to waste."

1. "A Century of US Intervention Created the Immigration Crisis", Mark Tseng Puttrman, 2018.

<https://medium.com/s/story/timeline-us-intervention-central-america-a9bea9ebc148>

2. "U.S. Food Supply Chain Is Strained as Virus Spreads". Michael Corkery and David Yaffe-Bellany, 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/13/business/coronavirus-food-supply.html?searchResultPosition=6>





THE FINAL WORD



As we were going to publication with this issue of the Granger, a killing in Minneapolis unleashed a tide of emotions that has resulted in a worldwide protest movement against inequality and injustice. I knew I had to write an editorial on this, but I couldn't find the words to express my feelings. An e-mail from musician friends Sam Meisner and Megan Smith, the folk duo Meisner and Smith, was just what was needed. Their message, like their songs, brought words to the feelings I was having. It read in part:

"Like so many people here at home and abroad we have been deeply shaken by the recent events in our country, and felt a whole range of emotions surrounding both what is happening and what to do about it. We won't pretend to have the answer, or some hot take, or a prescription of what needs to be done, though our guts say that what is most needed is listening. Empathy starts with listening. The world is in upheaval in so many ways, and calling it a perfect storm may be an apt description of what is going on. The truth is that the inequality, injustice and deep pain which precipitated the present protests and turmoil have for far too long been ignored at best, and at worst have been obscenely thrown in the faces of those in our society who are most vulnerable to violence, prejudice and systemic discrimination and mistreatment.

We are witnessing a world trying to right itself through amplified voices and silent protest, contemplation, reflection and action. There is pain, there is justified outrage, there is fear, there is doubt, and there is confusion. Life and the process of change is messy. It always has been and always will be. And we are living in a time of great uncertainty, there's no doubt about it. One person's struggle, one people's struggle, is all of our struggle whether we are the ones leading the march or the ones who fill its ranks in solidarity. We all have an oar in this boat, and the question is do we use our oar to paddle forward and add to the momentum of needed change, to pull a little harder for those who can't paddle?"

As Sam and Megan so aptly said, "We all have an oar in this boat". The question to Grangers is: which direction do we paddle?

We are living in a time of change, from both the public outcry for justice and equality, and the Corona Virus Pandemic. In this issue of the Granger, our President and Overseer address this change, and it's impact on the State and Community Granges. The National perspective is offered in the exclusive interview with National President Betsy Huber. The article by Ellen Taylor and editorial by Lanny Colter discuss how the Pandemic can be viewed as an opportunity for major change, including equality and justice for farm workers. Ways to implement this change are provided in the article on the Action Grange, describing a program by which Community Granges can reimagine and revitalize their Grange. Lawrence Jaffe gets directly to the point discussing how we must be relevant to the community not as a community centers, but as Centers of the Community and finally with boots on the ground, Vince Scholten relates bringing the Hessel Grange back to the fold.

Also in this issue is a report on The Grange Family Heritage Conference Grange by Katie Squire, who also has a message from the Lecturer's Desk; an article by Laura Shafer on the value and preservation of Grange documents; and Annie Water's discussion of the degrees, with the 2nd Degree and "The Cultivation of Hope" being the topic for this issue.

We hope you enjoy the articles in this issue, but more important, we hope we have sparked your interest in matters of importance to our Grange. ~ Buzz Chernoff, Editor