

**Journal of Proceedings
of the
National Grange
of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry**

**146th Annual Convention
Boise, Idaho
November 13-17, 2012**

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THE GRANGE MISSION



The Grange provides opportunities for individuals and families to develop to their highest potential in order to build stronger communities and states, as well as a stronger nation.

The Grange will accomplish this mission through:

FELLOWSHIP

- We give our members the opportunity to meet with and get to know their neighbors in a safe, family-friendly atmosphere.
- We provide a place where children, youth, and adults can grow, develop their talents and social skills, and learn leadership techniques.

SERVICE

- We provide our members with the opportunity to discover and solve community needs.
- We give assistance to individuals in crisis.
- We provide a great place for community networking.

LEGISLATION

- We have a grassroots approach to local, state and federal legislative change.
- We give our members a voice in state and federal government forums.

NATIONAL OFFICERS - 2012

Master	Edward Luttrell	1616 H Street, NW Washington, DC 20006	202-628-3507
Overseer	Jimmy Gentry	1734 Wilkesboro Highway Statesville, NC 28625	704-878-0000
Lecturer	Pete Pompper	1608 Culbertson Ave. Myrtle Beach, SC 29577	609-820-6239
Steward	William "Chip" Narvel	911 S. Governors Ave. Dover, DE 19904	302-734-4653
Assistant Steward	Roger Bostwick	9578 110th Street Ozawkie, KS 66070	785-876-2751
Lady Assistant Steward	Beth Merrill	107 West Street Antrim, NH 03440	603-588-6615
Chaplain	Barbara Borderieux	3915 38th Ave. East Palmetto, FL 34221	941-729-8036
Treasurer	Dwight Baldwin	2606 Highway 224N Kellogg, IA 50135	641-526-3420
Secretary	Judy Sherrod	333 Crossfield Drive Knoxville, TN 37920	865-862-8211
Gatekeeper	Christopher Johnston	6241 Grand River Road Bancroft, MI 48414	989-666-6648
Ceres	Linda Chase	491 Hollis St. Dunstable, MA 01827	978-649-7184
Pomona	Christine Hamp	16418 N. Birdie Road Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026	509-953-3533
Flora	Patti Lee	11067 Beloit Road Belvidere, IL 61008	815-544-4811

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Betsy Huber (2014)	362 University Road Lincoln University, PA 19352	484-459-1957
Secretary	Phil Prelli (2013)	12 Alexandria Drive Barkhamsted, CT 06063	860-379-1017
	Duane Scott (2014)	N2552 Strunk Road, Ft. Atkinson, WI 53536	920-723-6660
	Joe Fryman (2013)	14512 County Rd. P16 Blair, NE 68008	402-426-5773

ASSEMBLY OF DEMETER

High Priest of Demeter	Bruce Croucher	2514 County Road 25 Clifton Springs, NY 14432	315-462-3067
Priest Archon	Daniel Bascom	123 Franklin St. Rochester, NH 03867	603-332-2164
Priest Annalist	James A. Owens	567 Main St. Madison, ME 04950	207-696-5338
High Priest Emeritus	Woodrow Tucker	1623 Ministerial Road Peace Dale, RI 02883	401-783-2070
High Priest Emeritus	John Valentine	7034 W. State Road Portland, IN 47371	260-726-2337

DEPARTMENT HEADS

National Grange Headquarters

(888)-447-2643

Controller

Amber Bell

Communications

Amanda Leigh Brozana

Executive Assistant/Meetings Planner

Jessie Cope

Information Technology

Stephanie Wilkins

Legislative Affairs

Grace Boatright

Sales, Benefits, & Programs

Samantha Johnson

Trademark Protection Manager

Leroy A. Watson

Junior Grange

Membership

Michael Martin

102 Coventry Drive
Carlisle, PA 17015

814-883-3465

Youth

Charlene Shupp

213 Black Swamp Road
Bainbridge, PA 17502

717-361-2844

Development

Espenshade

ELECTIONS

The Delegates elected the following National Officers on November 11, 2012:

Executive Committee	Betsy Huber, Pennsylvania Duane Scott, Wisconsin
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DELEGATES

AK	John and Kate Poirrier, 1001 Black Bear Turnaround, North Pole, AK 99705
CO	David and Kay McCord, 855 Newport St., Denver, CO 80220
CT	Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron, 115 Prospect St., Moosup, CT 06354
DE	William and Barbara Narvel, 4201 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808
FL	Barbara Borderieux, 3915 38th Ave. E., Palmetto, FL 34221
ID	Donald Heikkila, 12248 E. O’Gara Road, Harrison, ID 83833 Donald Billmire, 1574 E. Penbrook Dr., Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815
IL	Lyle and Patti Lee, 11067 Beloit Road, Belvidere, IL 61008
IN	John and Susan Plank, 7843 South US Highway 231, Brookston, IN 47923
IA	Dwight and Kathy Baldwin, 2606 Highway 224N, Kellogg, IA 50135
KS	Roger and Melanie Bostwick, 9578 110th St., Ozawkie, KS 66070
ME	Vicki Huff, 90 Linton St., South Portland, ME 04106 James Owens, 567 Main St., Madison, ME 04950
MD	Maurice and Donna Wiles, 5543 Buffalo Road, Mt. Airy, MD 21771
MA	Matthew Johnson, 22 Jordan St., Haverhill, MA 01830 Calvin C. Chase, 491 Hollis St., Dunstable, MA 01827
MI	Christopher and Connie Johnston, 1730 Chamberlain Way, Haslett, MI 48840
MN	Donna Champion, 4820 Pioneer Trail, Greenfield, MN 55357
MT	Scott and Marie Nicholson, 1445 Summerdale Road, Corvallis, MT 59828
NE	Ted Doane, 17705 Bluff Road, Waverly, NE 68462
NH	James Tetreault, 19 Parker St., Winchester, NH 03470 Arthur Merrill, 107 W. Elm St., Antrim, NH 05440
NJ	John M. Benedik, 1401 Cobblestone Court, Flemington, NJ 08822 Pete Pompper, 1608 Culbertson Ave., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
NY	Stephen Coye, 100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY 13045 Sharon Croucher, 2514 Country Road 25, Clifton Springs, NY 14432
NC	Jimmy and Anita Gentry, 1734 Wilkesboro Highway, Statesville, NC 28625

- OH Gary and Linda Brumbaugh, P.O. Box 121, Fredericktown, OH 43019-0121
OK Donna and Brad Keeton, Route 1, Box 106, South Coffeyville, OK 74072
OR Susan and Mark Noah, 1407 Modoc St., Springfield, OR 97477
PA Carl Meiss, 20 Erford Road, Suite 216, Lemoyne, PA 17043
Betsy Huber, 362 University Road, Lincoln University, PA 19352
RI Steve and Claire Logan, 26 Taber St., West Kensington, RI 02892
SC Jerry Martin, 2368 Freedom Blvd., Apt. B2, Florence, SC 29505
TN Judy Sherrod, 333 Crossfield Drive, Knoxville, TN 37920
TX Jack and Margaret Smithers, 7361 Parkett, San Antonio, TX 78223
VT Brenda Rousselle, 11 Abnaki Ave., Essex Junction, VT 05452
Lester Gibbs, 3 Ivy Pointe Way, Hanover, NH 03755
VA James Taylor, 12600 Bundle Road, Chesterfield, VA 23838
WA Duane and Christine Hamp, P.O. Box 1186, Olympia, WA 98507
WV Jim and Earlene Foster, Route 1 Box 105, New Milton, WV 26411
WI Duane Scott, N2552 Strunk Road, Ft. Atkinson, WI 53536

John Trimble Youth

Matt Clark, 358 Pond Road, Surry, NH 03431

Honorary Delegates

Joan Smith (Potomac Grange #1, D.C.), 715 6th St. NW #1202, Washington, DC 20001

Wade Schneiderman (Sandy Valley Grange #18, NV), HC 31 Box 183, Sandy Valley, NV 89019

2012 CONVENTION COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE

John Plank, IN **
Patti Lee, IL *
Maurice Wiles, MD
Jimmy Gentry, NC
Jack Smithers, TX
Jim Foster, WV
Joe Fryman, NE (H)
Phil Prelli, CT (H)
Linda Chase, MA (H)

AUDIT & BUDGET

Duane Hamp, WA **
Judy Sherrod, TN *
William "Chip" Narvel, DE
Dwight Baldwin, IA
James Owens, ME
John Benedik, NJ
Donna Keeton, OK
Beth Merrill, NH (H)

CITIZENSHIP

David McCord, CO **
Donna Champion, MN *
Barbara Borderieux, FL
Margaret Smithers, TX
Calvin Chase, MA
Anita Gentry, NC
Earlene Foster, WV
Tammy Fryman, NE (H)

CONSERVATION

Matt Johnson, MA **
Jimmy Taylor, VA *
Kay McCord, CO
Don Heikkila, ID
Vicki Huff, ME
Lester Gibbs, VT
Joan Smith, Potomac (H)
Kim Bascom, NH (H)

**EDUCATION &
HEALTH**

Claire Logan, RI **
Melanie Bostwick, KS (H) *
Chris Johnston, MI
Susan Plank, IN
Linda Brumbaugh, OH
Brenda Roussele, VT
Wade Schneiderman, NV (H)
Maureen Prelli, CT (H)

GRANGE GROWTH

Stephen Coye, NY **
Christine Hamp, WA *
Kathy Baldwin, IA
Donna Wiles, MD
Susan Noah, OR
Carl Meiss, PA
Stephen Logan, RI
Pete Pompper, NJ

GRANGE LAW

Jerry Martin, SC **
Betsy Huber, PA *
Jody Cameron, CT
Marie Nicholson, MT
Nathan Strawder, KS
Arthur Merrill, NH
Gary Brumbaugh, OH
Bruce Croucher, NY (H)
Dan Bascom, NH (H)

LABOR & JUDICIARY

Brad Keeton, OK **
Mark Noah, OR *
Kate Poirrier, AK
Don Billmire, ID
Connie Johnston, MI
Ted Doane, NE
Jim Tetreault, NH
Roger Bostwick, KS (H)

**TAXATION &
TRANSPORTATION**

Scott Nicholson, MT **
Sharon Croucher, NY *
Jodi Ann Cameron, CT
John Poirrier, AK
Lyle Lee, IL
Barbara Narvel, DE
Duane Scott, WI
Matthew Clark, NH,
Trimble Youth (H)

** *Chairperson*
* *Secretary*

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12

- 7 a.m. Freshman Delegates Breakfast
- 8 a.m. Delegate Legislative Workshop
- All day Committee Meetings
- Noon Legislative Luncheon
- 1 p.m. Hospitality Room Opens
- 3 p.m. Registration Opens
- Boise Centre Lobby
- 3:30 p.m. Delegate Workshop: "Building A Better Partnership"
- 7 p.m. Host Region Welcome Dinner

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- 8 a.m. Pre-Convention Tour for Delegates
World Center for Birds of Prey
- 1 - 3 p.m. Junior Grange Check in
- 2 p.m. Opening of the
146th Annual Convention
- 2:15 p.m. Admission of
Fourth Degree Members
- 2:30 p.m. National Master's Address
- 3:30 p.m. Junior Officers Degree Practice
- 7 p.m. Committee Meetings

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

- 8 a.m. Salute to Agriculture Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Junior Officers Degree Practice
- 10:30 a.m. Business Session opens
- 12:15 p.m. Membership Luncheon
- 1 p.m. Junior Grange practice
and Talent Show
- 2:30 p.m. Afternoon Session
- 4:30 p.m. Idea Fair
& Best of Show Preview
- 5:30 p.m. Distinguished Grange
Award Reception
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Check in/Orientation
- 7:30 p.m. Evening Session
with Youth Visiting
Junior Grange Degree Conferral
- 9:30 p.m. Youth – Get Acquainted Party
- 11 p.m. Youth Officers Practice

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- 8 a.m. Youth Tour
Amalgamated Sugar Company
BSU's Bronco Stadium
Volunteer at the Idaho Food Bank
- 8 a.m. General/ Non-Delegate Tour
Amalgamated Sugar Company
Ste Chapelle winery and lunch
Nunhem's Seed Co.
- 8:30 a.m. Business Session Opens
Election of Officers
- 9 a.m. Idea Fair & Best of Show
- 10 a.m. Junior Grange Activities
- 12:30 p.m. Past Delegate Luncheon
- 1 p.m. Junior Tour

- Discover Center of Idaho
Julia Davis Park/Zoo
- 2 p.m. Afternoon Session
- 3:30 p.m. Past Delegate Recognition
Memorial Service
- 5 p.m. Youth Membership Workshop
- 6:30 p.m. Youth and Junior Pizza Party
- 8 p.m. Youth Directors Conference
- 8:30 p.m. Assembly of Demeter Meeting
- 9:30 p.m. Youth Costume Party and Dance
- 11:15 p.m. Youth Officers Practice

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- 7 a.m. Chairs & Secretaries Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. Youth Officers Practice &
Pictures
- 8:30 a.m. Business Session Opens
by Youth Officers
- 9 a.m. Idea Fair & Best of Show
- 10 a.m. State Junior Directors/
Committee Workshop
- 10 a.m. Youth Workshop "Changing
Your Grange Paradigm"
- 11 a.m. Juniors and Directors
Workshop and Activities
- 11 a.m. 7th Degree rehearsal
- 1 p.m. Evening of Excellence
Rehearsal/Sound Check
- 1:30 p.m. Youth Workshop "Leadership
Next: Defying Gravity,
Lessons from a Veteran"
- 1:30 p.m. Communications Workshop
- 2 p.m. Session Reconvenes
Installation of Officers
- 3:30pm Member Benefits Workshop
- 5 p.m. GROW Club & Youth
A.O.L.E. Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. Evening of Excellence
- 10:30 p.m. Youth Program Hosted by the
Western Region Youth

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- 8 a.m. Idea Fair & Best of Show
- 8 a.m. Junior Grange Breakfast
& Super JG Awards Ceremony
- 8:30 a.m. Lecturer's Workshop
- 9:30 a.m. Dogs for the Deaf Workshop
- 9:30 a.m. Youth Workshop "Make the
Member Connection—Mission
Possible"
- 9:30 a.m. Junior Grange Activities
- 10 a.m. Sixth Degree Conferral
- 1 p.m. Seventh Degree Conferral
- 3:15 p.m. Convocation of the Assembly of
Demeter
- 7 p.m. Grange Celebration Banquet
- Following Banquet – Grange Dance

DAILY RESUME

146th ANNUAL NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION

The materials for National Session, sent by National's staff, arrived in Boise, Idaho on Friday, Nov. 9, 2012. Others arriving early on Thursday, Nov. 8, were Executive Assistant Jessie Cope, Communications Director Amanda Leigh Brozana, Legislative Director, Grace Boatright, Programs Assistant Austin Miller. National Master Ed and First Lady Celia Luttrell (OR) arrived on Friday to finalize plans and begin pre-convention activities. Sales, Benefits, and Programs Manager, Samantha Johnson; Marketing Coordinator, Beverly Mitchell; Controller, Amber Casey Bell, and Leadership/Membership Development Director, Michael Martin also arrived on Friday, Nov. 9. Trademark Protection Manager Leroy Watson and Youth Development Director Charlene Espenshade arrived on Saturday, Nov. 10. Members of the Host Committee also arrived early.

The members of the Board of Directors also arrived on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012. The Board of Directors, spouses, and staff met for dinner at 7 p.m. followed by the Executive Committee meeting.

PRE-CONVENTION
Sunday, November 11, 2012

New Delegates were welcomed to the 146th National Grange Convention on Sunday, Nov. 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a workshop. New delegates are Donald Heikkila (ID), Nathan Strawder (KS), Vicki Huff (ME), Ted Doane (NE), Susan Noah (OR), Brenda Roussele (VT), and Wade Schneiderman (NV). A noon luncheon was held for the Executive Committee and new delegates.

Beginning at 4 p.m., Grace Boatright, Legislative Director, conducted a workshop for Committee Chairs and Secretaries.

A reception welcoming the National officers, delegates and staff was held beginning at 6 p.m. At the reception new charters were given to State Masters for new organizations since June 30, 2012.

Beginning at 7 p.m., a convention overview for officers and delegates, Foundation annual meeting, and National Master's budget meeting was held. National Overseer, Jimmy Gentry (NC) outlined the events to be held during the session. National Master Ed Luttrell (OR) conducted the annual meeting of the Foundation in which he reported the amount of money in each of the funds in the Foundation. New State Masters were introduced as well as their mentors. Nathan Strawder (KS) and mentor John Benedik (NJ); Susan Noah (OR) and mentors John & Kate Poirrier (AK); Ted Doane (NE) and mentors Stephen & Claire Logan (RI); Wade Schneiderman (NV) and mentor Stephen Coye (NY); Vicki Huff (ME) and mentors John and Susan Plank (IN); Donald Heikkila (ID) and mentors Donna and Brad Keeton (OK); and Brenda Rouselle (VT) and mentors Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron (CT).

Copies of the budget were passed out and both Master Ed Luttrell and Chairwoman of the Board Betsy Huber (PA) gave updates regarding income and expenses.

Happy Birthday was sung to Jimmy Taylor (VA) who celebrated his 50th birthday on Nov. 11. The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Monday, November 12, 2012

Beginning at 7 a.m. the freshman delegates and their mentors met for breakfast.

Legislative Director Grace Boatright, held a workshop beginning at 8 a.m. discussing PACS and Super PACS, with those in attendance receiving handout material.

Committees met for work on resolutions beginning at 9 a.m. working until lunch time.

A Legislative Luncheon was held at noon with the speaker being Nona Bear, of PhRMA, and Executive Director of Citizens for Better Medicare. She spoke about Medicare Part D prescription plan.

Certificates were presented to Communication Fellows to this convention. They are members whose volunteer efforts was provided and paid for by PhRMA. The Fellows are Joseph Stefanoni (CA), Cody Stevens (NC), Deb and Lexi Gegare (WI), and Barbara Foster (WV).

Following lunch, committees again met for work on resolutions until approximately 5 p.m.

John and Peggy Fine (OR), Chairs of the Western Region Host Committee and the members of the Region – Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Montana and Idaho – welcomed the delegates for a delicious Host Dinner. A welcome was given by the Boise Mayor David Bieter. The invocation was led by Oregon State Grange Chaplain Peggy Fine.

Following the meal, John Fine introduced the entertainment for the evening, the Oinkari Basque Dancers, who were dressed in beautiful costumes and presented several dances, after which some Grange members were asked to participate in a dance.

National Master Ed Luttrell (OR) welcomed everyone to the West and recognized the National Officers and National Grange Staff.

Rehearsal of the National Grange Officers began at 9:30 p.m. Sessions committees met to continue working on the 2012 resolutions.

The hospitality room was hosted by the State of Oregon.

FIRST DAY
146th National Grange Convention
Tuesday, November 12, 2012

The day began at 8 a.m. as two busloads of delegates and officers traveled to the Lucky Peak Dam and the World Center for Birds of Prey, returning to the hotel before noon.

Bruce Croucher (NY), High Priest of Demeter called the 146th Annual Convention of the National Grange to order in the Seventh Degree at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2012. The session was held in the Hawk Ballroom at the Boise Centre in Boise, Idaho.

The National Officers marched in and formed an altar circle, before going to their stations. The singers for the opening was a quartet composed of Linda Brumbaugh (OH) Frank Thompson (ID), Mary Johnson (ID), and Stephen Coye (NY). Sharen Parker (ID) served as the pianist.

National Master Ed Luttrell (OR), opened the Grange in the Seventh Degree. High Priest Bruce Croucher (NY) led the salutation of the Seven Degrees. The American Flag was presented.

There being no further business to come before the Grange in the Seventh Degree, High Priest Bruce Croucher (NY) and Priest Annalist James Owens (ME) were escorted from the hall to make preparations for the conferral of the Seventh Degree. The Grange was then closed in the Seventh Degree and opened in the Fourth Degree and Fourth Degree members were admitted to the hall.

The Grange Flag was presented by a team of State Masters from the Western region, Susan Noah (OR), Duane Hamp (WA), Scott Nicholson (MT), John Poirrier (AK), and Donald Heikkila (ID).

The roll call of officers found all present, and the roll call of delegates showed all states represented. Also present were representatives from Potomac Grange #1, and the State of Nevada, as well as John Trimble Legislative Experience Representative Matt Clark (NH).

Chairman of Audit and Budget, Duane Hamp (WA) gave a partial Credentials report, which was adopted.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the order of business as printed. Motion carried.

Worthy Overseer, Jimmy Gentry (NC) assumed the Master's station as Worthy National Master, Ed Luttrell (OR) gave his annual address. The Master's address will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings.

Worthy Overseer Gentry (NC) assigned sections of National Master Luttrell's Address to the various committees.

Master Ed Luttrell gave his Internal Address. Jimmy Gentry, Overseer, assigned sections of this report to various committees. This report will also appear in the Journal of Proceedings.

Recess until 4:15 p.m.

Following recess, Jerry Martin (SC), Chairman of Grange Law read resolutions in discussion for second reading for Bylaws Change, requiring two-thirds majority.

Duane Hamp (WA), Chairman of Audit & Budget presented a partial report. Brother Duane Hamp moved that a time certain be set for the Budget (as presented to the delegate body on Sunday) to be considered on Thursday at 11:15 a.m.

Sister Barbara Borderieux (FL) recognized veterans in the hall.

Claire Logan (RI) of Education and Health gave a partial report

Jerry Martin (SC), Chairman of Grange Law committee gave a partial report.

Chip Narvel (DE) gave an announcement for the Communications Fellows regarding interviews they will be conducting during the convention.

Citizenship transferred resolutions 202 Postal Service, 203 Postal Service, 209 Postal Report to Taxation and Transportation.

Grange Growth transferred 603 and 613 to Grange Law.

Claire Logan (RI), Chairman of Health and Education, gave a partial report.

The first day of the 146th Annual Session of the National Grange closed in the Fourth Degree at 5:40 p.m. Closing Song – America the Beautiful.

Sheran Parker (WA) served as the pianist for the day.

The hospitality room was provided by the Idaho State Grange.

The committees met to work on the resolutions during the evening.

SECOND DAY

146th National Grange Convention

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

A Salute to Agriculture Breakfast was held at 8 a.m. The speaker for the breakfast was Hans-Henning Voss, Plant Breeder with Betaseed, Inc.

Master Ed Luttrell (OR) opened the second day of the 146th Annual Convention of the National Grange in the Fourth Degree at 10:45 a.m. following an entrance march by the National Officers.

Roll call of officers found all present and roll call of delegates found all states were represented as well as representatives from Potomac Grange #1 and the State of Nevada, as well as the John Trimble Youth Representative Matt Clark (NH).

Opening song was “It’s a Good Thing to Be a Granger.”

The pre-convention and first day minutes were adopted as corrected.

David McCord (CO), Chairman of the Citizenship committee transferred 207-NE to Labor & Judiciary and 711-VA was transferred from Labor & Judiciary to Citizenship.

Claire Logan (RI), Chairman of Education and Health, gave a partial report.

John Plank (IN), Chairman of Agriculture gave a partial report.

Lecturer Pete Pompper, asked trivia questions from the 1960’s, requesting answers from those in the hall.

John Plank (IN), Chairman of Agriculture presented the committee’s Policy Statement, which was adopted

Happy Birthday was sung to Mark Noah (OR).

The Agriculture Committee Index Page was presented and adopted, and the entire report of the Agriculture Committee was adopted.

Brad Keeton (OK), Chairman of the Labor and Judiciary, gave a partial report. Announcements:

Jimmy Gentry (NC) reminded those who plan to attend the tour tomorrow to please sign up today. Rehearsal for memorial service will take place this afternoon at close of session. Announcement by Chip Narvel (DE) regarding the scheduled times for Podcasts groups with the Communication Fellows. Chris Johnston, Gatekeeper (MI) reported the penalty for cells phone going off in session would be \$10, with the money going into the Foundation. The offending party may designate a specific fund in the Foundation for their donation.

Betsy Huber (PA) moved to release the Master’s External Report to media, which was adopted.

Recess until 2:30 p.m.

At 12:15 p.m. the Membership Luncheon was held. The theme was “Lessons for Growth”, and speakers were National Grange Special Deputies, Joseph Stefanoni (CA), Christopher Szkutak (MA), and Melanie Fitch (OH). Each told of their visits during the summer to different parts of the country to grow Grange.

The Grange was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

Brad Keeton (OK), Chairman of the Labor and Judiciary announced committee consent calendar.

David McCord (CO), Chairman of the Citizenship committee consent calendar.

Scott Nicholson (MT), Taxation and Transportation committee consent calendar.

Susan Noah (OR) asked if Master Ed Luttrell could give an update on the trademark protection activities associated with the casino in Oregon using the Grange name. National Master Ed Luttrell (OR) gave a report on activities over the past few months.

Matt Johnson (MA), chairman of the Conservation Committee, gave that committee’s final report. The Policy Statement was accepted, the Chairman’s “thank you” completed, and the index adopted. The final report of the Conservation committee was adopted in its entirety.

Scott Nicholson (MT), Chairman of Taxation and Transportation, gave a partial report.

Barbara Borderieux, Chaplain (FL) reported she will be sending cards around to be signed for Woody and Marjorie Tucker and for John and Nancy Valentine .

John Poirrier (AK) asked for a point of personal privilege, and spoke about reducing paperwork at convention. There is a greater efficiency in our proceedings this year with far fewer reprints.

Phil Prelli (CT) reported the Board’s minutes have been passed out, and requested if

there are any questions either he or Betsy Huber (PA) would be able to answer.

David McCord (CO), Chairman of Citizenship Committee, gave a partial report.

Brother Jon Benedik (NJ), filling in for Lecturer Pete Pompper, asked more trivia questions from the 1960's.

Announcement -- Youth department reminds those who want to order flowers, get the order envelope in the host committee room.

Recess until 7:30 p.m.

The delegates, National officers and guests previewed The Idea Fair and Best of Show displays from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Distinguished Grange Awards were presented following a make-your-own ice cream sundae event at 5:30 p.m. The 2012 Distinguished Grange Awards were presented to the following:

State Granges – Idaho, Illinois, Maryland**, New York**, North Carolina*, Pennsylvania and Washington. Subordinate Granges who received recognition were: Burns Grange #160 (MI)*, Cape Fear Grange #1296 (NC), Dunstable Grange #31 (MA), Ekonk Community Grange #89 (CT), Five Mile Prairie Grange #905 (WA) **, Grantham Grange #968 (NC), Gratoit Grange #1898 (MI), Holden Grange #78 (MA), Humptulips Grange #730 (WA) **, Kuna Grange #59 (ID)**, McIntosh Grange #1001 (WA)*, Mica Flats Grange #436 (ID)* North Cameroj Grange #355 (NY), Prairie Grange #1832 (IL)*, Redland Grange #796 (OR)**, Rowley Grange #204 (MA), Russellville Grange #91 (PA)**, San Poil Grange #684 (WA), St. Andrews Grange #832 (WA), Sandy Valley Grange #19 (NV), Sequim Prairie Grange #1108 (WA)*, Stanford Grange #808 (NY) ** and Uxbridge Grange #200 (MA)**. * Indicates 2nd year winners, ** Indicates 3rd year winners.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m. the roll call of states was called and Grangers representing their states were recognized.

Immediately following the roll call of states, a group of Junior Grangers from the Region marched into the hall with an excellent drill, opened the Grange with a flag presentation, presented the Junior Degree, and then closed the Grange, retired the flag, and left the hall with an exit drill.

The Grange was called back to order at 7:30 p.m. by Worthy Master Ed Luttrell.

Announcements – Meeting for trumpet girls after the session closes tonight. Flower orders are due now. There will be cookies and milk in the lobby following the closing of the Grange tonight.

Jerry Martin (SC), Chairman of the Grange Law committee, gave a partial report.

Bruce Croucher (NY), High Priest of Demeter, reported that the making of a video of the Degree should be discussed by the Assembly and will be discussed at the business meeting tomorrow.

Barbara Borderieux, Chaplain (FL), stated that two more cards will be passed around. These cards are for Stephanie Wilkins, National Grange staff, and for Peggy Fine.

Stephen Coye (NY), Chairman of the Grange Growth Committee, gave a partial report.

Duane Scott (WI) moved to release any work completed up through noon today to the media, which was adopted.

Pete Pompper, Lecturer, thanked those states that entered the quilt block contest. The top three winners will be receiving prize money from the New Jersey State Grange. If a Grange wants to sponsor prize money next year, let him know.

The second day of the 146th session was closed in due form at 9:05 p.m. Closing song was "Let There Be Peace On Earth".

The Junior Grange Officers' Degree practice was held earlier in the day, along with the Junior Grange talent show.

The Youth Orientation was conducted at 6:30 p.m. The youth enjoyed a get acquainted party in the evening, followed by vespers at 10:30 p.m. The Youth Officer corp. practiced beginning at 11 p.m.

Sheran Parker (WA) served as the pianist for the day.

Hosts in the hospitality room for Wednesday were California.

THIRD DAY
146th National Grange Convention
Thursday, November 15, 2012

The third day of the 146th Annual Convention of the National Grange opened in the Fourth Degree at 8:30 a.m. following an entrance march by the National officers.

Roll call of officers found all present. Roll call of delegates found all states represented, as well as representatives from Potomac #1, the State of Nevada, and the John Trimble Youth Representative, Matt Clark (NH). Opening Song was "This Old Grange".

Minutes from yesterday's session were adopted as amended.

Barbara Borderieux, Chaplain (FL), reported she will be sending around cards to be signed for Erroll Briggs and Margaret Richardson.

Steve Logan (RI) introduced Past National Secretary and Past National Flora, Shirley Lawson and husband Jack, as well as Past National Gatekeeper, Scott Sherman.

Trademark Protection Manager Leroy Watson gave a report of activities regarding trademark management.

Worthy Master Ed Luttrell (OR) called for the election of Executive Committee members for the National Grange for the next two years. Balloting proceeded in due form. Betsy Huber (PA) was re-elected as a member of the Executive Committee.

The report of National Grange Communications Director Amanda Leigh Brozana was given detailing activities and encouraging each State to have communications workshops during the year.

Balloting proceeded for an Executive Committee member.

The report of Sales, Benefits and Programs Director Samantha Johnson was given, outlining new benefits programs that are available for Grange members.

Reports of the Directors of National Grange continued with a report from Legislative Director Grace Boatright, outlining a new direction she would like to take concerning a partnership with local, state and regional school boards regarding Ag in the Classroom. She outlined a new program for Youth, targeting 14 to 24 year olds, with a focus on taking an interest in government and the privilege of voting, entitled "Apathy Not Allowed".

Duane Scott (WI) was re-elected as a member of the Executive Committee.

The report from Executive Assistant and Building Manager Jessie Cope was given. She encouraged all Granges to get bonding through National Grange beginning January 2013. She told of future convention sites and things we can expect.

Leadership/Membership Development Director Michael Martin outlining those states who had Granges that are newly organized or re-organized. He told of state's net gains, and also approximately 400 local Granges across the country that had net gains. All Director reports will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings.

Recess until 10:40 a.m.

Jerry Martin (SC), Chairman of Grange Law committee turned over the chairmanship to

committee member, Jody Cameron for the committee report.

Duane Hamp (WA) Chairman of the Audit & Budget Committee, presented the budget. Committee finds favorable as presented. Budget adopted.

Scott Nicholson (MT), Chairman of the Taxation and Transportation, gave a partial report.

Claire Logan (RI), Chairman of the Health and Education Committee gave a partial report.

Announcements – Everyone connected with Sixth Degree, please note that the practice time is 9:30 to 10:30 p.m. in this room. Rose drill practices are listed in the official program. This evening’s business meeting of Assembly of Demeter will be for Seventh Degree members. Seventh Degree walk-through at 11 a.m. Friday.

Recess until 2 p.m.

National Grange Flora, Patti Lee (IL) was emcee at the past delegates luncheon, at which past delegates were honored. Sister Mary Johnson (ID), past National Chaplain and past Idaho State Master was the speaker.

The session was called back to order at 2 p.m.

Following recess, Jody Cameron (CT) from the Grange Law Committee, gave a partial report.

The Assistants escorted the Lecturer Pete Pompper (NJ) and Jimmy Taylor (VA) to the Master’s Station. This is the “Week of Jimmy” as Jimmy Taylor turned 50 on Nov. 11. He was presented a wooden cane signed by officers and delegates.

Continue with Grange Law committee report by Jody Cameron (CT).

Brad Keeton (OK), Chairman of the Labor & Judiciary Committee, reported only one item of discussion on the consent calendar. On page 2, second paragraph in Wages, Employment, and Union dealing with child labor laws. Remove the word “proposed” since there are no longer proposed changes to child labor laws. Adopted. He then gave the remainder of his report including Policy Statement, Index, and Thank you, which report was adopted in its entirety.

Master Luttrell declared the Grange at ease to receive the past delegates of the National Grange.

Forty-six past delegates marched around the hall escorted by the Assistant and Lady Assistant, to the Station of the Overseer where each of the past delegates announced their offices and years of service.

A memorial service was held under the direction of National Chaplain Barbara Borderieux (FL). Several delegates along with State Masters representing the states of the deceased members assisted with the service. National Master Ed Luttrell (OR) placed the roses for past National Masters who passed during 2012.

Those deceased who were remembered were: Olof “Ole” Billquist (MT), Clifton Lampman, Sr. (TX), B. Franklin Hayes (NH), Rickie Valentine (IN), Ruby Mae Walton (WI), Kathleen Brewer (ME), Mercedes Kiles (TX), Lowder W. Mitchell, Jr. (DE), Constance Louise West (MA), Kenneth B. Skinner, Sr. (MA), Lloyd Massey (NC) as well as Past National Masters Kermit Richardson (VT) and John W. Scott (PA). Sister Earlene Foster (WV) gave the benediction. Pianist Sheran Parker (WA) provided the music for the memorial service, and the soloist was Donna Keeton (OK).

The Grange was called back to order at 4:00 p.m. Master Ed Luttrell thanked Chaplain for a beautiful memorial service.

David McCord (CO), Chairman of the Citizenship committee, reported he received one objection. Consent calendar adopted - except the objection.

Chairman of Taxation and Transportation, Scott Nicholson (MT), reported he did not receive objections to any portion of the consent calendar. It is adopted.

David McCord (CO), Chairman of the Citizenship Committee, continued with his report.

Scott Nicholson (MT), Chairman of the Taxation and Transportation committee, gave a final report including the Index, the thank you, which report was adopted in its entirety.

Nathan Strawder (KS) moved to reconsider the Education policy statement.

Lecturer, Pete Pompper, handed out some readings earlier, and asked now for those volunteers to read some of them.

Jim Tetreault (NH) moved to reconsider the Health Policy Statement.

Claire Logan (RI), Chairman of the Education and Health Committee, presented the Index and the thank you, which were adopted. The entire report of the Education and Health Committee is adopted in its entirety.

David McCord (CO), Chairman of the Citizenship, gave a partial report.

Announcements – There will be a meeting of Eastern Region Masters at close of today’s session. Copiers in the production room will be picked up at 4 p.m. Friday afternoon. High Priest Bruce Croucher (NY) invited everyone who is eligible to attend the business meeting of the Assembly at 8 p.m. for voting. Encouraged others who have made application to join the meeting, but cannot vote. Chip Narvel (DE) reminded about the silent auction in the Best of Show room by the Youth Department.

The third day session was closed in due form at 5 p.m. Closing Song was “Good Night Grangers.”

Pianist for the day was Sharen Parker (WA)

Hosts in the hospitality room today were Washington.

There was a Youth workshop held at 5 p.m. with guest speaker, Michael Martin, followed by a Youth and Junior Pizza Party at 6:30 p.m.

The business meeting of the Assembly of Demeter met at 8 p.m.

There was a Youth Costume Party and Dance beginning at 9:30 p.m. followed by vespers and Youth Officers practice.

FOURTH DAY
146th National Grange Convention
Friday, November 16, 2012

A Chair/Secretaries breakfast was held at 7 a.m.

The fourth day of the 146th Annual Convention of the National Grange opened in the Fourth Degree at 8:30 a.m. following an excellent entrance march by the Youth Officer Corp of the National Grange.

The following Youth served as officers: Master – Clyde Mooney (ID); Overseer – Breanna Hays (OR); Lecturer – Lynn Clark (NH); Steward - Brandon Parker (OR); Asst. Steward – Corey Spence (MA); Lady Asst. Steward – Missy Mueller (NC); Chaplain – Cole Wilson (OR); Treasurer – Brodi Olds (NC); Secretary – Jackie Turner (NY); Gatekeeper – Jacob Gwin (WA); Ceres – Janice Knott (WA); Pomona – Ashley Pederson (NC); Flora – Kennedy Gwin (WA); Exec. Comm – Lexi Gegare (WI); Exec. Comm – Cady Hunt (WA); Exec. Comm – Caelan Pitts (WA); Exec. Comm – Steven Burrell (MT); and Pianist – Ruth Newman (WA).

The Youth Secretary called the Roll of Youth Officers. The opening song was “It’s a Good Thing to be a Granger”.

Escorted to the Master’s Station were Youth Mentors, Junior Ambassadors, and National

Youth Development Director, Charlene Espenshade (PA). The Junior Grange Ambassador from Washington, Lexie Smith, was introduced and told a little about her Grange year. Youth Mentors Ana Mari Parker (NC) and Patrick Wadsworth (PA) each gave remarks. Charlene Espenshade (PA), National Youth Development Director gave the annual report for the Youth Department, which will appear in the Journal of Proceedings. Sister Espenshade asked this year's group of youth ambassadors to stand to be recognized. Remarks from Worthy Master, Ed Luttrell, challenging all of us to encourage Youth and Juniors in our Granges. He presented a hand-made gavel to the Youth Master Clyde Mooney (ID). The Youth Officer Corp then retired from the room with an excellent exit drill. Youth and Junior activities will be going on throughout the day.

Roll call of National officers found all present. The roll call of delegates found all states were represented. Also answering roll call were representatives from Potomac #1, the State of Nevada, and the John Trimble Legislative representative Matt Clark (NH).

Thomas McKern, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Grange Insurance Association (GIA), was escorted to the Master's station. He addressed the delegate body with information about the insurance company and their investments.

Chaplain Barbara Borderieux (FL) announced that two more cards will be passed to be signed for Ruth Gray, past delegate from Florida, and Bob and Jeannie Clouse past delegates from California.

Rusty Hunt was physically escorted to the station of Overseer stating that he failed to pay the full amount of his "phone call ringing" fine, which was doubled because he was a Past National Staff member. He dutifully paid the fine.

The minutes from yesterday's session were adopted as amended.

Happy Birthday was sung to Brad Keeton (OK) and Phil Prelli (CT).

Jimmy Gentry, Overseer (NC), was asked to assume the Master's office to resume work while Master Ed Luttrell meets with Junior Leaders from several states.

David McCord (CO), Chairman of the Citizenship Committee, presented the Index and the thank you, which were adopted. The entire report of the Citizenship Committee is adopted in its entirety.

Duane Hamp (WA), Chairman of the Audit and Budget Committee, presented the Policy Statement, which was adopted with editorial changes. A thank you from the chair was given and adopted. The entire report of the Audit & Budget Committee was adopted.

Steven Coye (NY), Chairman of the Growth & Development Committee, was presented.

Announcements – High Priest reminded cast and crew the hospitality room will have breakfast tomorrow morning at 6:30 a.m.

Recess until 11:10 a.m.

Following call to order, Jody Cameron (CT), member of Grange Law reported the 24 hour has expired for resolution 533, which resolution was adopted.

Betsy Huber (PA) moved to release all the work completed through yesterday to the media.

Lyle Lee (IL) gave greetings from Illinois past delegates, Henrietta and Norm Keller, and Al Henninger.

Announcements: James Owens, Priest Annalist (ME), asked for deputies to be here at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow. Carl Meiss (PA) received word that Mary Buffington's son died in his sleep. She had intended to be here. David McCord (CO) asked for cards for Jeannie Davies and Miles Davies. Reminder to pick up departure schedules from registration desk.

Recess until after the installation of officers at 2 p.m.

The Installation team consisted of: Installing Officer: Bruce Croucher (NY); Lady

Marshall: Kim Bascom (NH); Regalia Bearer and Implement Bearer: Sharon Croucher (NY); Installation Master: Dan Bascom (NH); Installation Chaplain: Barbara Borderieux (FL); Pianist: Sheran Parker (WA).

Following installation, the Grange was called to order by National Master, Ed Luttrell. A Proclamation was read from the office of the Mayor, City of Boise setting the week of Nov. 7-17 to be National Grange Week in the City of Boise.

It will be printed in the Journal.

Barbara Borderieux, Chaplain (FL), reported there are two more cards going around to be signed for Jeannie & Miles Davies and a sympathy card for Mary Buffington.

Jerry Martin (SC), Chairman of Grange Law, gave a committee report, presented the Policy Statement, which was adopted. A thank you from the chair was given and adopted. The entire report of the Grange Law Committee was adopted.

Joe Fryman (NE) asked for point of clarification. Wondering if we should not release things to the press until the final report is finalized. When going over the index, there is a chance a resolution may be recalled.

Jimmy Gentry (NC) moved that the staff be allowed to provide typographical and editorial corrections to the delegate work. Jack Smithers (TX) moved to allow the executive committee to be authorized to approve the Friday session minutes. Motion carried.

Sheran Parker, pianist for the convention, was escorted to the Master's station to receive a certificate for an outstanding job during the convention. A certificate will also be given to Ruth Newman (OR) for playing for the Junior work.

Master Ed Luttrell (OR) thanked all the volunteers from this region that helped in any way.

At the request of Lecturer Pete Pompper, several members read stories about how we got names of certain things.

Announcements: Shipping boxes are available in the host state room for those who need them. New delegates need to have their photos taken. Take empty binders to the production room.

Beth Merrill (NH) extended an invitation to everyone to attend the 147th Annual Convention next November in New Hampshire. It will be the 100th anniversary since National Grange last came to New Hampshire.

Ted Doane (NE) stated on behalf of all new delegates, we are thankful for the mentors assigned to us who guided us during the week.

Duane Scott (WI) reported the Grange has had a history of partnership with the National Junior Horticulture Association (NJHA) through brother Wib Justi from Ohio. Debi Gegare from Wisconsin is National Adviser to the Youth Officer Team for NJHA. Debi then spoke about the importance of the partnership with the Grange and NJHA in keeping children involved.

Barbara Borderieux, Chaplain (FL), gave a reading about remembering our values and helping each other.

John Fine, Convention Coordinator, thanked everyone for all the cooperation from the Western Region to host this convention. It was a success. A little was said about wife and co-chair Peggy, who was in the hospital, but doing better. John thanked everyone for their concern.

John Plank (IN) reported Nancy Valentine has had shingles all summer. Keep Nancy and John in your prayers.

Don Heikkela, Master of Idaho State Grange, thanked all who came to Idaho. A little trivia --- In 1933 the National Grange special train was met at the station by a stagecoach,

and so National Master Tabor was escorted to the hotel in a stagecoach. Special thanks to Idaho convention coordinators, Don and Mary Johnson.

Worthy Master Ed Luttrell (OR) gave the 2013 Annual Words to all State Masters and National officers. Secretary Judy Sherrod (TN) read the roll call of state Masters and National officers to receive the annual words.

National Gatekeeper Chris Johnston (MI) reported he has collected \$120 from the ringing of cell phones during session.

The 146th Session of the National Grange closed in the Fourth Degree. Everyone present formed a circle, joined hands and sang "God Be With You".

Hosts in the hospitality room today were Montana, Alaska, Nebraska and Wyoming.

Sheran Parker (WA) served as the pianist for the day.

At 7:30 p.m. the Evening of Excellence was held in the Eagle Ballroom. Lecturer Pete Pompper (SC) and Youth Mentors Ana Mari Parker (NC) and Patrick Wadsworth (PA) introduced the participants in the Talent, Public Speaking, Sign-a-Song and state ambassadors. The winners as Youth Mentors for 2013 were announced: Courtney Gray (NC) and Jimmy Smith (WA).

The following workshops were held throughout the day: Youth Workshops entitled "Changing your Grange Paradigm" presented by Charlene Espenshare, Ana Mari Parker, and Patrick Wadsworth. A Youth/Membership workshop was conducted at 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. presented by GySgt. Edward S. Finnegan, US Marine Corps entitled "Leadership Next." A member benefits workshop was held from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. presented by Samantha Johnson. The Grow Club dinner was held at 5 p.m.

A youth program was held at 10:30 p.m. hosted by the Western Region Youth, with vespers at 11:30 p.m.

POST-CONVENTION

Saturday, November 17, 2012

A Junior Grange breakfast was held beginning at 8 a.m. Pete Pompper, National Lecturer, led a workshop at 8:30 a.m. Ms. Robin Dickson presented a workshop for Dogs for the Deaf. The Youth Mentors and National Youth Director presented a workshop entitled "Make the Member Connection – Mission Possible" with special guest speaker Josh Twealt, Idaho Department of Corrections.

The Seventh Degree conferral began at 1 p.m.

From 3 p.m. to about 6 p.m. interviews and photos were taken from attendees at convention, all about "This is My Grange" by the Communications Fellows.

The Grange Celebration Banquet began at 7 p.m. All those present gave the pledge to the flag followed by the invocation by Chaplain Barbara Borderieux (FL). Those seated at the head table were John and Peggy Fine, 2012 host coordinators, Chaplain Barbara Borderieux, Beth and Arthur Merrill, 2013 host coordinators, Robin Dickson, representative from Dogs for the Deaf, and National Master Ed Luttrell and wife, Celia.

Following dinner, Brother Ed introduced the National Grange staff members, national officers and Assembly officers. He also introduced his children and grandchildren who were present. Samantha Johnson showed the quilt that was completed by Yvonne Merritt in Oklahoma to be given to the Foster Family organization to be auctioned off at their annual convention. A check was presented to a representative from the Kelley Farm for \$3,500. The National Grange community service awards were presented by Samantha as follows: tie for 4th Progressive Valley #2433 (OH) and Turkey Hill (IL), 3rd Clearlake

#692 (MN), 2nd Richmond #6 (RI), and 1st place was Ekonk Community #89 (CT).

Jimmy Gentry announced for Michael Martin, Membership/Leadership Director, net gains in membership. 21 Community Granges had net gains. There has been a map on the wall in the meeting room listing all of these Granges by State. The State Granges which had a net gain in membership were Idaho, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia.

The entertainment for the evening was the Idaho Junior Jammer Fiddlers. The Grange Truck went to the Montana State Grange, where it will begin its travels this year. An announcement was made regarding the winners in the Grow Club silent auction, which netted \$728.

Brother John Fine recognized everyone present at the banquet from the Host region states, and thanked the host region members who helped make this year's convention a success. A video for New Hampshire was shown and the convention coordinator for 2013 convention Beth Merrill welcomed everyone to Manchester in November 2013.

An auction was held for a crystal vase engraved with the Grange emblem. The proceeds from the auction went to the trademark protection fund.

A blooper reel was shown and the evening's events were concluded, followed by a dance. Youth vespers were at 11:30 p.m.

Fraternally Submitted,

Judy Sherrod (TN), National Grange Secretary

**ASSEMBLY OF DEMETER
BUSINESS MEETING
Boise, Idaho
November 15, 2012**

The Business Meeting of the Assembly of Demeter was held on the above date in the Hawk Ballroom of the Boise Centre at 8:00 P.M. with the High Priest of Demeter Bruce M. Croucher calling the meeting to order. The Worthy High Priest called on the Worthy Overseer of the National Grange, Priest Jimmy Gentry, to ascertain if all present were entitled to sit with us in the Seventh Degree. Being verified in the affirmative, the Worthy High Priest explained to all what we do in the business meeting of the Assembly. All joined in the salute to the Flag of the United States of America followed by the Salutation of the Seventh Degree.

The following officers were present: Priest Archon – Daniel Bascom, Priest Annalist – James Owens, Priest Treasurer – Dwight Baldwin, Priestess Hierophant – Barbara Borderieux, Priestess Ceres – Linda Chase, Priestess Pomona – Christine Hamp, Priestess Flora – Patti Lee and National Master – Edward Luttrell.

The minutes of the meeting held in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 2011 were read and adopted.

The High Priest talked about who has a vote in the Assembly, also which officers comprise the Assembly, elected, appointed and by virtue of their office in the National Grange.

It was noted that commemorative pins from the 2011 Seventh Degree conferral are still available.

A resolution was received which was passed by the delegate body of the National Grange:

“Resolved, that the National Grange produce live motion enactments, with narratives, of the ceremonies and rituals of the 1st through the 4th Degrees; and be it further Resolved, that the National Grange make available visual media such as training films to each

State, Pomona, and Subordinate Grange Master.”

Discussion ensued. The Worthy Master of the National Grange Priest Luttrell stated that it would not replace the degrees. The Worthy High Priest stated that it would only be made in a simple instructional manner. This video would not be put on the internet. The resolution was adopted.

The Worthy High Priest discussed code reading and the requirements to receive a card for proficiency. Several members expressed their opinions on changes they might like to see enacted in the requirements. The Assembly Officers will make a decision on any changes that will be made.

Priest Croucher introduced Jennifer and Scott Russell, Seventh Degree Directors and Harold “Bud” and Carolyn Hill who are behind the scenes.

The Priest Archon has the cipher and code through the Sixth Degree which State Masters may pick up this evening if they do not already have it.

Priestess Hierophant Barbara Borderieux gave the closing prayer. The High Priest thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

Fraternally,

James A. Owens, Priest Annalist

ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF DEMETER

Boise, Idaho

November 17, 2012

The Convocation of the Assembly of Demeter was held in the Eagle Ballroom of the Boise Centre on the above date at 3:15 P.M. following the conferral of the Seventh Degree.

Priest Herald Kevin Klenklen (Kansas) conducted to the stage the officers of the Assembly as follows: Priest Archon Daniel Bascom (New Hampshire), Priest Annalist James Owens (Maine), Priest Treasurer Dwight Baldwin (Iowa), Priest Interpreter Scott Sherman (Rhode Island), Priest Archivist Maurice Wiles (Maryland), Priestess Hierophant Barbara Borderieux (Florida), Priest Orator Christopher Johnston (Michigan), Priest First Mystagogue Calvin Chase (Massachusetts), Priest Second Mystagogue Stephen Coye (New York), Priest Conductor Arthur Merrill (New Hampshire), Priest Messenger James Taylor (Virginia), Priest Guardian Chip Narvel (Delaware), Priest Announcer Gary Brumbaugh (Ohio), Priestess Ceres Linda Chase (Massachusetts), Priestess Pomona Christine Hamp (Washington) and Priestess Flora Patti Lee (Illinois). The Priest Herald then conducted High Priest Bruce M. Croucher (New York) and National Grange Master Edward Luttrell (Oregon) to their stations.

The Worthy High Priest then opened the Convocation in full form. The Priestess Hierophant gave the ritualistic prayer. The High Priest exemplified the Salutation of each of the Seven Degrees followed by all joining in the Salutation of the Seventh Degree.

All were welcomed to the Convocation by the Worthy High Priest. Priest Croucher then introduced the officers.

The High Priest spoke about the beautiful station scarves and the esoteric writing on them. He also told of Past National Master, Priest Hershel Newsom visiting the Temple of Eleusis and obtaining from there the marble block and gavel.

The Worthy High Priest talked about the Patron’s Test and what the sign is as mentioned therein. He also read from the Sacred Record concerning the meaning of the Seventh Degree.

Remarks were given by the National Grange Master Priest Edward Luttrell. He stated that the lessons of the Grange are woven into the tapestry by ritualism. He encouraged all

to return to their Subordinate Granges and promote the beautiful ritualism and inspire other members to continue on, receiving the higher degrees.

The Priest Annalist announced that 166 Patrons received the Seventh Degree this afternoon.

The Priestess Hierophant gave the benediction and the High Priest closed the Convocation of the Assembly of Demeter in form.

Fraternally Submitted,
James A. Owens, Priest Annalist

**146th Annual Convention
Boise, Idaho
November 13, 2012**

Brothers and Sisters of the National Grange,

This week, the National Grange gathers in Boise, Idaho for the third time in our 145-year history for our National Session. Just as in 1933 and 1970, Idaho Grange members and the entire Western Region have made us welcome and we thank them for their effort.



This year has been one of economic disappointments and volatile weather. Unemployment has remained high and a record number of citizens have given up searching for jobs, at least officially through the government system. Spring came early to much of our country and neglected to arrive at all in other portions. Summer drought dramatically impacted corn production in many states with 1,584 counties, more than half of all counties in our

nation, being declared disaster areas.

A few days ago, citizens in every precinct across our country cast their ballots for elected local, state, and national officials. Those who were chosen to represent their fellow citizens must be continually reminded that they serve and represent the people, not a party; they are the voice not just for those who voted for them, but all the people they represent. Granges in the coming year will listen with respect, advocate in a civil fashion on issues for which we have policy, and hold officials accountable for their actions in a courteous manner. This is the responsibility of the Grange and every American citizen.

Fiscal Responsibility

Grange members know that the future of America requires us to accept our responsibility for the financial health of our great nation. It is time for Americans to put aside partisan politics and demand that government live within its means; just as every individual American must do.

During this past year, three California cities have sought bankruptcy protection. Since 2010, seven localities in our nation have entered the bankruptcy process. Most states have either a deficit in their budgets or massive unfunded liabilities from retirement or healthcare obligations. Forty cents out of every dollar spent by the federal government is borrowed money, resulting in an accumulated debt of more than 16 trillion dollars this year, while our gross domestic product was only just over 15 trillion dollars in 2011.

It is long past time for our elected officials to wake up, to realize their fiscal responsibility to every American, especially our children and grandchildren. History is littered with the remains of cultures and civilizations that have perished, and there is no case of a nation or people being successful while being fiscally irresponsible.

The Grange recognizes that there is no perfect system and calls on every elected official to recognize and follow these four fundamental truths.

First, we must live within our means. Just as the average American cannot spend more than we make for an extended time, neither can our government. While the Grange stands in favor of a balanced budget amendment, we shouldn't need it. This should be common sense.

Further, it is unacceptable that the U.S. Senate has not passed a budget in three years. It is time to put aside partisan politics and reduce the budget deficit now. Otherwise, our debt

will continue to skyrocket upwards.

Second, free markets work best. Picking technologies to develop, adapting to a rapidly changing world, providing services economically and efficiently, or even phasing out unneeded services are all difficult for private business and almost impossible for government. Let the American free market find solutions, develop new technologies, and provide high quality services to the consumer. Leave government bureaucracy out of those areas. Let each level of government perform those things that our U.S. Constitution, our State Constitutions, and our local laws require that government do. Government must stop its endless expansion and meddling with the economy.

Third, elected officials are people too. At the founding of our nation, the idea that Congress and state legislatures would be made up of professional politicians was unthinkable. Citizens were to step up and serve their country or state and then return home to their communities. Today, we have a system that encourages people to become career politicians thanks to publicly-funded pension programs for elected officials. It is time to remove that benefit. We should pay our elected officials for their hard work during their term in office, but just as many Americans must provide for their own retirement, politicians should take responsibility for theirs.

The Grange also calls for all levels of government to use generally accepted accounting principles just as private businesses are required to do. Just as businesses occasionally try to “cook the books,” so do government bodies. We require business to operate with fiscal rules, and put violators in prison. The government, at all levels, needs to do the same. The unfunded liabilities of federal, state and local governments need to be understood and dealt with, not hidden by sleight of hand.

Fourth, economic markets hate uncertainty. Owners and operators of businesses make decisions in hopes of making a profit. Regardless of whether a product is to be made or a service is to be provided, the business is dependent upon a person choosing to spend their hard-earned money. From farmers and small business people to corporate executives, all decisions are based upon the information available and the expectation of future cash flow. The more uncertainty that exists, the fewer risks will be taken by decision makers.

Taxes and regulation are major impediments to business and our economy when uncertainty is due to inaction by government. When business leaders don’t know what tax rates will be, when the tax burden seems fluid, or when new taxes are due to be implemented, decision making is difficult. Less consumer spending or higher tax rates will effect what businesses do, from the smallest operation in your hometown to large corporations that employ thousands. Our elected officials must ensure that uncertainty for business does not begin with government.

The Grange believes that when our elected officials follow these four simple truths, our nation will begin its journey back to fiscal health and prosperity.

Regulation

This past year, we’ve seen every department of the federal government continue to propose new regulations. These regulations cost billions of dollars to Americans and impact the lives and occupations of our citizens.

In the past four years we’ve seen an increase of an estimated \$488 billion worth of economically significant regulations. It would appear that many regulations are based upon one of two ideas: that business is out to get the consumer or that the consumer is irresponsible. We disagree with both views. The American consumer is intelligent and responsible. Most American businesses are concerned with meeting the needs of their

customers with a high standard of ethics.

This increase of economically significant regulations, on top of massive regulation already in place, is larger than the GDP of many countries. The high cost arising from these regulations is too often passed on to the states. However, it is ultimately the consumer who bears the burden of all costly regulations. Companies, large and small, either pass along increased costs or cease doing business. In today's economic climate, the American consumer cannot afford to take on these additional expenses.

The President and his administrative agencies continue to propose massive and intrusive regulations. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seems to want to end coal and natural gas use, prevent drilling for new oil resources, and even regulate the amount of allowable dust from the farms of America. The Department of Labor has tried twice to consider regulations to prevent our youth from working on farms. Similarly, the Department of Agriculture has imposed intrusive and unnecessary regulations on school lunches for those same youth.

The Grange supports necessary regulations needed to provide reasonable safety and peace of mind to American workers, families, and investors. However, we oppose any regulation that seeks a zero tolerance of risk. Our great nation was founded by men who took risks because they understood that without risk, there can never be great success. It is under this same principle that we should continue to conduct our businesses.

Agriculture

While regulatory agencies continue to move to sterilize our environment and lives, Congress has failed to ensure the health and well-being of American agriculture by allowing the September 30 deadline to come and go without the passage of a 2012 Farm Bill. Agriculture should never become a partisan football as every American depends on agriculture. While less than one percent of Americans claim farming as their occupation, one in twelve jobs are directly linked to agriculture. More importantly, every citizen regardless of where they live depends upon the food produced by American agriculture for life itself. It is unacceptable to ignore what may be the only segment of the economy in which America has maintained a positive international trade balance since 1959.

Many vital programs, such as the Milk Income Loss Contract, have been allowed to expire, causing great uncertainty within the agricultural community about the future. Just as with all business, uncertainty prohibits growth and prosperity. Agriculture, perhaps more than any other segment of the economy, cannot afford to stunt prosperity.

Less than 20 percent of the proposed Farm Bill actually deals with research, risk management, or other agricultural issues, leaving more than 80 percent of the funds being used for non-agricultural purposes. The Grange believes that the farm-related portion of the Farm Bill is a significant positive for the economy of our nation.

In the coming weeks, every Grange member should contact their Senators and Representative in order to encourage them to pass the 2012 Farm Bill during the lame duck session.

Of all the segments of agriculture, dairying in almost every region of the country is in serious danger. As milk prices remain low and costs continue to rise, many dairies are finding themselves unable to weather continued uncertainty. Banks are becoming reluctant to finance dairy operations and unless the dairy industry can find a few continuous years of profitability, many family operations will disappear.

The price we pay for milk, cheese, butter, and other dairy products is not what the dairyman receives. That price reflects the profit by the store, the shipper, and the processor,

while the family caring for the cows is often barely making ends meet. The Grange demands that the crisis facing dairying be addressed to ensure that the American dairyman not only survives, but prospers.

Cheap, plentiful, healthy, and safe foods are demanded and deserved by all. Many consumers are concerned about the methods by which their food is grown and whether or not those methods are responsible and safe. Thus consumers are now monitoring agricultural practices and making purchasing decisions on how animals were cared for or how crops were raised.

We call upon Congress, USDA and the agricultural community to support the research that our land grant colleges do to expand our knowledge of agricultural practices. Continued improvements in farm practices for both organic certified and standard product models are needed and the lessons learned from improvements will benefit all farmers.

The Grange believes strongly that American agriculture needs both small and large producers. Small producers fill important niches within our communities and provide desired choices for the American consumer. Large producers provide healthy and inexpensive food for consumers locally, across the nation, and the world. American agriculture is responsible for feeding much of the world. Both of these roles are admirable and deserve support. The Grange calls on all farmers and ranchers, from large to small, to learn from each other and support each other.

Different business plans, different markets, or different practices should never serve as points of conflict within agriculture. No segment of American agriculture should ever attack another segment. The vast majority of Americans do not hold an accurate and informed opinion of agriculture. They are often unaware of modern practices and the reasons for those methods. They are often more familiar with misinformation put out by organizations seeking to destroy segments of agriculture and some consumers have an idyllic view of agriculture that is more myth than fact. When farmers or organizations claim others are bad because they are not using their preferred practices, it may seem good for business today, but it creates a long-term negative view of agriculture as a whole.

In order to spread the truth of agriculture, the Grange continues to call for wide-scale basic agriculture education at the primary levels and in post-secondary education related to agriculture production, research and policy.

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's) are under attack in many areas across our nation. Mankind began selective breeding for crops and animals within species about 8,000 B.C. In the 1700's we began breeding between different species. In the 1920's we began breeding between different genera and causing mutations in crops in order to increase the genome. Today's technology allows mankind to exceed the limitations of natural transmission of DNA and genetic code and create opportunities for improvements in pharmaceuticals, chemicals, textiles, forestry, cosmetics, mining, energy, oil recovery, waste treatment, food processing, environmental management, and agriculture.

In agriculture, there are many transgenic crops. Transgenic refers to crops that contain a gene that has been transferred naturally or by any number of genetic engineering methods. Transgenic crops that have increased the insect, disease, or drought resistance of those crops allows increased production at reduced cost. Oversight of all U.S. testing of new varieties of crops is done by both the USDA and EPA and should be continued.

The world's top scientific authorities, including the American Medical Association have concluded that foods with biotech-derived ingredients pose no more risk to people than any other food. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's regulations state that requiring the labeling of foods that are indistinguishable from foods produced by other methods would

be misleading.

The Grange continues to support extensive testing to prove safety of all new GMO crops. However, until credible scientific studies indicate a real danger exists, Americans should oppose mandatory labeling of GMO products as such labeling falsely implies differences where none exist. Accordingly, we also ask Congress to address the issues of pollen drift and accidental animal breeding to protect those farmers who choose not to use GMO stock and the companies that own the patents on GMO stock.

Only with mutual respect can the different sectors of agriculture meet the growing demand for food, fiber, and fuel in the future. Setting aside our differences and working together is a must and the Grange will continue to set that example.

Education

Americans' understanding of agriculture and financial responsibility are not our only areas of concern. For many years, the education of our young people in America has been poorly ranked against much of the developed world. This is unacceptable.

We must remember that the point of education is to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to help them achieve their goals and dreams while simultaneously contributing to our local and national economy. We must teach financial literacy if we are to see productive, prepared, responsible citizens and future elected officials. We must educate them on the consequences of accumulating tens of thousands of debt, especially in the form of student loans. It is difficult for graduates to become contributing members of society while they are dragged down by a lifetime of financial struggle.

We must also reevaluate our assumptions about education. Too often parents and students, counselors and teachers believe a college degree is the only way to get ahead or only valid educational outcome. We forget the importance of individuals trained in trades and vocational programs; we also forget that the basic introduction to skills is a benefit to all.

Our economy is not currently creating jobs for many new graduates and we must assure students that a decision not to attend a traditional four-year college may be sensible and proper for them. For those students not choosing college, vocational programs become essential to help them learn what talents they want to build their life upon. Grange members stand in support of programs that teach basic skills in agriculture, metalwork, mechanics, construction, and technology in practical ways.

Every American must be encouraged to ask questions, as each inquiring mind will benefit our society far into the future. Parents must become partners with professors and teachers to ensure that their children are given every opportunity. Students must be taught that discipline and hard work in their studies is necessary to prepare them for a challenging future. Learning must become a way of life to every citizen.

Postal Reform

Congress has failed the United States Postal Service and every citizen it serves by allowing it to fall deeper and deeper into financial destruction. The USPS has twice defaulted on their required \$5.5 billion payments to the US Treasury and will certainly continue down the same path without dramatic reform.

The Grange opposes reductions of service to rural America, as its residents rely upon mail service for delivery of their prescriptions and other vital items. It is the mission of the National Grange to work for a strong rural America. A sustainable and prospering US Postal Service is a must for rural America.

The Grange calls on Congress to save the Postal Service by one of two methods. First we recommend eliminating the prepayment requirement for future employee retirement health benefits, saving the USPS \$5.5 billion annually. In the alternative, we ask Congress to release the USPS from congressional oversight and allow them to make their own decisions and respond to market conditions as they see fit while providing the last mile of service.

Broadband Expansion

While supporting traditional forms of access and communication, we also stress the need for rural America to see a substantial increase in access to the essential technology of broadband. Rural America achieved a great legislative victory this past year with the allowance of Universal Service Funds to be used for broadband expansion. Now it is our duty to ensure that these funds are properly utilized to bring high-speed internet to every rural household and business. This will help ensure that rural America can compete with its urban counterparts in today's global economy.

Conclusion

Some Americans are afflicted with a sense of discouragement and lack of faith in the future. Grange members understand that the future is uncertain, however, we have confidence that the citizens of America are up to the challenge. No matter how tough the times, we are stronger when we are unified.

“We propose meeting together, talking together, and in general acting together” is a key to our philosophy as Grange members. We invite every American to put aside their disagreements and partisanship and find common ground. Each and every American can do that within the Grange. Differing opinions are needed for our nation and within our organization. Expressions of these opinions must be encouraged if we truly seek to solve the problems of today.

The future of our nation will be our legacy to our children and grandchildren. Just as our grandparents left us a vital and prospering nation, so too will we will leave our children a better country with a bright and prosperous future.

Fraternally Submitted,
Edward L. Luttrell (OR), National Master

NATIONAL MASTER'S INTERNAL ADDRESS
146th Annual Convention
Boise, Idaho
November 13, 2012

National Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters,

Those gathered here at the 146th Session of the National Grange have the opportunity to set the tone for our entire organization for the coming year. As we begin work this week, I hope that each member will take time to reflect upon the successes and achievements of our organization over the past 145 years. The opportunities for even greater achievements are present for our Order.

It falls to these delegates and officers to ensure that the National Grange remains a part of the solution to growth within our Order. It is the responsibility of State Granges

to also step up and be a part of that solution. It is critical for every member to remember that the Community Grange is the place where that growth happens. Every Grange has the responsibility to ensure that they serve their members and their community. The future of our Order is vested locally and we must always be proud of our heritage, our organization, our activities, and work for the future of the entire Grange.

This report is for the benefit of our members and represents my observations on the health and concerns of our Order. It should not be released to the public, but used to initiate discussion internally and to seek improvement to our organization.

Fiscal Condition

Your National Grange is faced with the reality that we cannot foresee continuing to serve our membership at the same level as we do today without additional revenue. The high cost of trademark litigation continues to plague the National Grange. The reputation and value of our Order seems to have made us an attractive target. Internal conflict with the unsanctioned leadership of the California State Grange will likely consume additional limited financial resources in the coming year.

Membership losses have slowed, but as a national organization, we have not yet shown a gain in membership. While I remain confident that a gain is likely in the near future, the declining revenues from that small contribution of our members are having a substantial impact on our budget.

We continue to seek and develop new revenue streams at the National level, but at this time they are not of sufficient size to overcome the loss of dues revenue. Our finances are rapidly approaching the point where some of the services of the National Grange will need to be cut, not just reduced. I believe that the elimination of any of our departments will negatively impact the Grange as a whole. However, we must live within our means, and the choice of what should be done belongs to the delegates. I ask that the Audit and Budget Committee work with the Grange Law and Grange Growth and Development Committees to propose solutions to our declining revenue.

Protecting our Assets

Our Declaration of Purposes states, “We shall strive to make our Order perpetual.” To accomplish this simple and direct purpose, our organization needs to use our assets to create growth opportunities.

The Grange has many assets. We can reasonably estimate that our organization owns millions of dollars of real property, has millions of dollars in invested funds, and we have a positive reputation that we have built over the past 145 years.

Real Property: Our Digest of Laws contains critical rules on the disposition of real property. Each State Grange Master and Executive Committee member must familiarize themselves with these sections to ensure that we protect our Order today and into the future.

The bulk of our properties are owned and maintained by our local Granges for the benefit of their communities and our Order. Most of these buildings are the legacy of multiple generations of Grange members who have contributed and worked to build these assets. Each member who has worked to raise money to build or maintain their hall, who has swung a hammer or pushed a broom deserves our appreciation and respect.

History has demonstrated that owning a hall or other property is normally a benefit to the community as well as the Grange and should be encouraged for long-term survival of the Community Grange. Each State Grange Executive Committee is required to consider whether disposal of real property is in the best interests of the Order, not just of the current

members of a Community Grange. This process is one of many crucial checks and balances that are built into our Grange structure to protect the organization from common human failings.

Every State Grange leader should choose revitalization of an existing Grange or reorganization of every failed Grange as their first choice when they find themselves with a proposal to sell a Grange hall. Most Grange halls need some work, yet are a valuable asset to the community and our organization. We should ask ourselves if a Community Grange with tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars in a property trust account is really healthy? Are they strengthening their community or our Order?

Our National headquarters building in Washington, D.C., is assessed at just over \$7.6 million. The income from this property contributes half of the annual budget for the National Grange and provides our organization with a prestigious home in our nation's capital. We have maximized the income from this property and unless the commercial market in Washington, D.C. improves, we may even see declining revenue in the coming years. This is one more reason that we need to find new ways to enhance our revenue streams.

Invested Funds: The invested funds of our Order are a valuable resource to ensure that our Order is perpetual. It should never be the goal to live off our investments, nor to spend these assets prior to disbanding. In most cases, these investments are the result of multiple generations working within their Grange, and it is our duty to ensure that our Grange continues far into the future.

Community Granges should be raising money to pay their organization costs and to invest in their communities. Having a rainy day fund is a good business practice, but for many Granges today, it isn't just raining, it's pouring. I urge every Community, Pomona, and State Grange to wisely spend some of their invested funds in membership growth efforts. New membership is far more important than adding to a savings account.

State Granges need to avoid becoming dependent upon reverted funds to manage their annual budgets. Fiscal responsibility means living within our means, not doing what we've always done. If we choose to live off the reverted funds of failed Community Granges, we end up cannibalizing ourselves rather than growing. New revenue streams are as important to your State Grange as to the National Grange.

Your National Grange has over \$209,000 in non-dedicated invested funds. Considering the value of our only property and the size of our budget, it isn't much of a buffer. Yet growth must remain our highest priority. I suggest that growth in the near future is far more important than retaining every dollar of our invested funds. We must invest in ourselves, and the growth of our Order, in logical and prudent ways that will drive significant membership gains.

Protection: Insurance and rules are needed to protect the property and investments of the Grange. Community, Pomona, and State Granges need to protect their Granges with solid business practices. We live in a world where we want to trust others to do the right thing, but only a foolish person doesn't get it in writing. Every Grange needs to make sure that they have protected their assets, their officers, members, and their organization with adequate insurance, up-to-date and compliant By-Laws and rules, and sound policies. We live in a litigious time and we must protect our Order and members. Each State Grange leader must impress upon your Granges the need to have current By-Laws, adequate insurance and bonding, and consistent management practices and policies.

Our Name: Our name and our reputation are the most valuable asset for our organization. Over the past 5 years, we've seen nearly 70 challenges to our name. While no one has

wanted to spend more than \$1,300,000 in that time, it has been money well spent in defense of our name and reputation.

The Grange name is respected by those who know us well. It is trusted by those who only know a little about us. Our reputation is one of good people who serve and benefit our communities. We have historical significance and retain modern relevance in today's world.

Our name is also a valuable and essential tool used by our Community Granges to fund-raise for the benefit of the communities in which they live and work. We estimate that our Community Granges raise at least \$6 to \$7 million each year through a wide variety of fund-raisers using our name. That money is then re-invested in their communities. Grange dinners, Grange craft shows, Grange raffles, Grange fairs, and Grange dances are just the tip of the iceberg when we look at fund-raising activities throughout our organization.

This year we faced a blatant infringement by a group proposing the development of a casino in Oregon. While we were able to successfully defend our name, the end result did not satisfy anyone. It boiled down to a question of fighting an expensive and likely protracted court battle or getting the best reasonable outcome for our organization while protecting our trademark. The settlement choice was the best for the Grange and added one more successful case to our portfolio.

The delegates will review the trademark report this week and while most of it is positive, we still have a number of challenges to overcome. It is not cheap or easy when we are forced to deal with attorneys, but it becomes a requirement when others refuse to acknowledge our ownership of our name.

I wish to thank every member who informed us about possible infringements, donated their time and knowledge to deal with cases, or donated dollars to aid in paying our mounting legal bills.

Grange Growth

While our name is our most valuable asset, our most powerful and priceless asset is our members and the people who will choose to become Grange members in the coming years.

Can you imagine a ten percent net gain in your Community Grange? How about in your State Grange? Imagine Nevada having voting delegates next year.

In reading our history, I believe that we often underestimate the effort that has been put into growing the Grange, both at the State and local level. Members have put a great deal into our organization, receiving much in return. Officers and deputies expended long hours in serving the needs of existing Granges and starting new Granges. It is important to remember that our forebearers suffered many setbacks while achieving success, but always continued to persevere to build our organization to even greater heights.

The 21st century is very different from the 19th or 20th in terms of communication and options. Yet we as people are no different than the people who saw what the Grange could do to educate every member of the family, influence legislation, and serve our neighbors through a social and fraternal organization. The real secret of the Grange is that we empower good people to be better while making our hometowns the best possible place to live.

America needs the Grange now more than ever. Young people need the social atmosphere of our Order as much as older people do. Everyone needs continuing education to keep up with our rapidly changing world. Our nation needs to be reminded that the strength of America is not in Washington, D.C., but in our American values lived everyday in our hometowns. Rural or urban, wealthy or poor, each community needs a Grange. A Grange that welcomes all of good character into a place of learning and growth for the entire family

where they will work together for the benefit of the entire community.

I ask each State Grange to develop marketing campaigns for both regular and e-membership. The National Grange will continue to partner with you to develop professional and quality materials that will allow you to grow the Grange. We cannot wait for people to discover the Grange of today, we must reach out to them.

This year, I also ask each State Grange Master to make a pledge on behalf of their state. I hope that each pledge is connected to growth and will require effort to achieve. Safe pledges do not encourage team building and growth, just as unrealistic pledges do not achieve results.

The National Grange pledges to continue improving our training and growth efforts throughout 2013. In addition, we pledge to continue our partnership with our State Granges to improve communication internally and increase external marketing.

Grange Philosophy

This past year has been full of challenges in how the Grange is viewed by outsiders as well as our own membership.

The philosophy, spirit, principles, and values of the Grange are found in the Declaration of Purposes, the manuals, and the Constitution, By-Laws and Code of the National Grange. It is exhibited by the actions of our Granges and the attitudes and behavior of our members.

The words in the governing documents of our organization have changed again and again over the years. Yet while we've adapted to a changing world, we have never changed the basic philosophy and principles of the Grange. Those early members of the 1870's might be surprised about some of our current activities, but they would be right at home within the Grange of today.

While those early members would be reassured by our spirit of family and community, and proud of our adherence to good moral values, I believe they would be appalled at the dissension and strife seen this year within our organization. The California State Grange has openly defied the authority of the National Grange and the rules we all pledge to live within. Due to their Executive Committees' actions, the Charter of the California State Grange was suspended in September. We have instituted litigation to preserve the integrity of the National Grange. At stake is nothing less than the future of the Grange. The fundamental belief that the rules apply to all equally is at risk.

Every Grange leader needs to emphasize the importance of our identity and structure to our membership. Our opening and closing ceremonies serve to remind each member that we have values and principles and that each Grange is a part of a greater organization. We are not a loose confederation of local groups, we are a national organization that understands everything is based on the local level. The National Grange provides leadership, training and structure that allows our State, Pomona, and Community Granges to achieve success. Our State Granges provide oversight and support to Pomona and Community Granges. Pomona Granges are charged with aiding their Community Granges. The Community Grange is empowered by this structure to initiate projects, policy, and change to serve their members, their community, and our organization as a whole.

Through Grange ritual and rules we have common ground while allowing great diversity. Grange ritual binds us together as one. People become Grange members through Degree conferral, the official obligation ceremony, and the welcoming ceremony. Today's world requires that we expedite the process of conferring membership, but in some states, few newer members have even seen the first four degrees. Not sharing the lessons contained within the degrees cheats these members and may create a future where the bulk of our

membership does not understand the basic philosophy and structure of the fraternal aspects of our Order.

Our ritual teaches that we seek a better and higher Brotherhood and Sisterhood. The need for each member to expand their knowledge through education by both learning and teaching is essential. We care about the health and welfare of each other, and provide help wherever possible. We use disagreement as a tool to learn from each other and seek common ground. We listen and consider other points of view, while avoiding the bitterness and intolerance that tears apart our family atmosphere. We hold our motto up as a proper way to live.

In essentials, Unity;
in non-essentials, Liberty;
and in all things, Charity.

We are finding members who haven't been taught these basic Grange lessons, and seem to believe that the ends justify the means or that their beliefs are the only correct beliefs for the organization. I believe a renewed commitment to Grange fundamentals will benefit our Order in the future.

The buildings and assets of our organization occasionally make us a target for other groups with a single purpose. There is nothing wrong with members and our Granges having a wide variety of interests. We can and should be involved in education efforts, community service projects, legislative advocacy, and social and recreational activities at the Community Grange level. The Pomona and State must also provide opportunity in these areas as well as training and support.

We are a diverse organization which meets the many needs of our members and communities. We are not a single purpose organization. When a Grange seeks only to recruit those who share a single passion and viewpoint, it is detrimental to their long-term survival. When members ostracize or demean those who have differing point of view, it violates the basic premises of our Order. When it becomes about a single person rather than the Order, we have lost our way.

I call upon every member to be united in welcoming all of good character to membership. Encourage every member to express their opinions and never let it become personal. Learn from each other and let the Grange continue to be that rare place where differences of opinion are considered to be a positive.

I call upon every Grange to put aside society's bad habit of intolerance of differing opinions and recommit to being the organization in your community that will discuss the tough issues and never let those discussions harm our friendship.

Let each Grange remember that we have a proud and successful heritage and our meeting process is effective, productive, and empowering to our members. Disregarding our Grange process cheapens our organization and if we don't hold it in value, who will?

Sesquicentennial

In November of 2016, we will meet outside of Washington, D.C. at the 150th Annual Session of the National Grange. The following year, we will return to the Western Region to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of our Order. Our Order has prospered and survived a multitude of claims of our imminent demise and we should not only celebrate this milestone, but do so with renewed commitment.

This year we've managed to format and publish the six Grange books that have an active copyright as e-books. In the coming year the plan is to add the older publications which have copyrights that have expired. I propose that the National Grange conduct at least one

essay contest on some aspect of our history that has not been extensively documented in order to publish a book to celebrate our 150th birthday.

I call upon every Grange to look for ways to involve your membership in celebrating Grange history in your community. As you find unique ways to share the Grange story, your ranks will swell with those looking for American values.

In Memoriam

In 145 years, we've had a host of dedicated members and officers. We mourn the loss of two past National Masters; John W. Scott and Kermit W. Richardson. Both of these men served our Order and impacted both history and individuals. A few words cannot effectively share the friendships, the service to their communities and their Grange, or the legacy of each of these Brothers.

John and Kermit both made a huge impression upon so many members, including me. Their example and commitment to the Grange has been passed to us. With God's help, we will honor their memories with successes in the coming year.

Many members have gone on to the "great Grange above" since last November. Each was a valuable member and important to their Grange family. Let the memory of each serve as inspiration to all who continue serving their fellow man.

Conclusion

We are facing great challenges from both within and outside our Order. The future holds more promise for success than for disaster, more moments for joy and sharing than grief, more opportunities for growth and change than for decline and despair.

Every member is critical in the coming year. Our older, experienced members will bring their knowledge of our proud heritage and join with younger, enthused members to find new ways to serve our communities. We will celebrate the wide diversity of our members, in knowledge, opinion, and passions.

Fiscal issues, local dissension within our membership, our Order's assets, the philosophy and spirit, and the need for growth are all serious issues facing us as Grange members. Yet these are but opportunities, the chance to test ourselves, to grow as leaders and people, and to show that the American spirit is alive and well in the Grange halls of our great nation.

Fraternally Submitted,
Edward L. Luttrell (OR), National Master

STATE MASTERS' REPORTS

Alaska

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates and members of the 146th Annual Session of the National Grange: Kate and I bring greetings from the State of Alaska.

This year, the Alaska State Grange was honored to have Amanda Leigh Brozana, National Grange Communications Director, participate in our ninth annual State convention held during May at the Alaska Plant Materials Center in Palmer Alaska and hosted by Northland Pioneer Grange # 1. Six of our seven Granges were represented. We opened the meeting in the Sixth Degree.

During the course of the weekend, Grange members had the opportunity to work together on matters of importance to the State Grange, as well as get to know each other in a friendly social setting. Meeting highlights included a video address from the National Grange President and an address by the City Manager of Palmer, Doug Griffin, about the Babb Arboretum cooperative project with Northland Pioneer Grange in Palmer. Two Rivers Grange #3 and North Pole Grange #6 were recognized for having a net membership increase. Amanda demonstrated the new Grange website, including a new format for local Grange websites. She also mentioned that the Alaska Grange Executive Committee might be able to reserve Team Speak time to conduct its monthly meetings. Officers were elected to fill each of the vacant positions for the next two years.



The current challenge for the Alaska State Grange Organization is to become effective as a statewide organization and implement the procedures for operation described in our own bylaws and the national digest. The Alaska State Grange tested itself by allowing each Community Grange to perform its duties without intervention by the State or National Grange. The test was successful, in that the Community Granges were able to maintain themselves and continue their individual projects.

The Alaska State Legislative session normally ends in April. With our State Grange meeting scheduled in May, it is difficult for us to get timely initiatives into the legislative process, which begins in January. By resolution, we adopted a major change in the way we conduct State Grange business. We changed the state meeting date from the first weekend in May to the last weekend in September. With this change, we expect to increase our influence in Alaska Legislative matters and improve our quarterly reporting habits to the National Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,
John E. Poirrier, Master

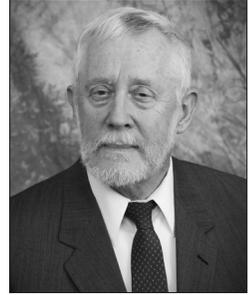
Colorado

National Lecturer Franklin “Pete” Pompper, State officers, Delegates and members, welcome to Durango for the 139th annual session of the Colorado State Grange.

This is the 4th time that we have met here in Durango. My thanks to the Masons for use of this fine building and I especially want to thank Sister Cindy Greer for her efforts in arranging for our meeting location. We were here three years ago and we are glad to be back. This is also an opportunity for all Grangers from other parts of Colorado to see how beautiful this part of our state is. The leaves are changing and the weather is dry.

We are especially privileged to have Pete Pompper with us. The National Grange budget is tight and we are honored with his presence. There may be a few of our quilters who wish to speak with him, in detail. He has a wonderful quilt program underway for the Grange and I am excited and I am not a quilter.

My special thank you to Cyndi Charbeneau for her assistance to her mom during this meeting. She takes vacation leave to be here with us.



National Grange

We were fortunate to host National Master Ed Luttrell last month to hear his reports on national issues. He met with Grangers at the Florissant and Maple Grove Granges and related the status of the National Grange, membership, income and expenditures and the continuing challenges from outsiders who attempt to use our good name. The following are comments from his presentations.

The national budget is \$1.9 million and we are \$130,000 in the black. A few years ago, we were losing money due to expenditures in protection of our Grange name. Dues and fees provide 39 percent of income, rental of space in the Grange owned headquarters provides 50 percent, GIA supportive membership provides 4 percent of income and 3 percent is from miscellaneous.

Expenses are 21 percent for building – most is for taxes – 37 percent is staff, 3 percent communication, 6 percent officer salary and expenses.

Total membership is the same as it was in 2008. Trends are positive with eight states showing a net gain.

Over the past several years, the battle to protect our name has cost legal fees of \$259,000 and none of that is recoverable. United States law says if you own a name, you have to protect it. Tyson Foods began the issue when they wanted to market “Grange” chicken. There are Granges that serve food and several New England Granges market “Grange” brand food products, as does a Wisconsin Grange with “Grange” bratwurst. Had we not won, Tyson would have owned our name for food products. Several wineries operate with the Grange name under license. A high-end cigar maker wants to use our name. So far, no evidence has been found of any Grange name on a tobacco product so they may get the name. A casino proponent in Oregon is using the Grange name in their promotions initially without an agreement, leading to a ballot decision in November.

Colorado State Grange

At the National Session in Tulsa, I committed to help establish a Junior Grange and re-energize a subordinate Grange. At this time, and without effort at my end, seven of the Girl Scouts that use the Grandview Grange have become Grange Members and their leader and more of the girls are considering joining.

The effort to re-energize a Subordinate Grange is focused on Liberty Hall Grange where, with the able assistance of Marlys and Don Halbeisen, we are making small steps to add members, largely from the Masons who use the building for their activities and meetings. Kay and I along with the Halbeisens, met with Brooke James who contacted the Grange to begin the process to re-energize Liberty Hall membership. We will resume the effort this fall.

Here in Colorado, the use of the Grange name by non-Grange parties has appeared at two residential developments where the Grange name is used on two private community

buildings that are not affiliated with the Grange. Leroy Watson, our attorney, sends out a cease and desist communication essentially saying, "Do not do that." Several years ago, the Colorado State Grange received \$5,000, per the agreement to allow our name on a private community center at a residential development west of Castle Rock, via license, and we have a right to use the building for meetings. This license needs renewal soon. Another is pending, again, a private community center named "The Grange" for a mountain residential development located not far from the Winter Park ski area.

An interesting off-shoot of all this is that the copyright court has told the Grange to manage our name, so all of our Grange held bodies, museums, scholarship funds, community grant funds and similar, (most hold IRS 501(c) 3 status) such as PICK, our Grange scholarship program and the Grange Museum, will need an internal license from the National Grange. If we fail to protect our name, it moves into the public domain.

Sister Marly's reports that Colorado State Grange has experienced a growth in membership. In particular, the Florissant Grange has grown exceptionally well. My congratulations! My activities through the year are these.

I represent the Grange on the Colorado Agriculture Council and participate in their meetings throughout the year.

I participated on CSU President Tony Frank's Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Kay and I attended the National Session in Tulsa, the National Masters Conference in Atlanta and the meeting with the Grange Insurance Association staff and executives in Seattle.

I attend Colorado Agriculture Water Association (CAWA) meetings – note that Colorado Governor Hickenlooper looks to this body for direction on water decisions. I appointed Duane R. Martin and Jim Cooksey to represent Colorado on the CAWA.

I attended Victory Grange's Cultural Heritage designation recognition by the City of Aurora, Crescent Grange's open house, and in the absence of Master Marlys, led Maple Grove's 5th degree ceremony where 6 Grangers received the 5th Degree.

We assisted in the National Grange's outreach to Wyoming. The Wardles provided a loaner car (saving the need to purchase a car) for Joe Stefenoni, who is not old enough to rent a car. Joe and his mother, California Grange Master, remained overnight in transit to and from his location in Wyoming where Joe did basic Grange outreach and development in follow-up with earlier efforts by National Master Ed Luttrell.

It is the policy of the CSG to allow use of funds received from sale of Grange real estate for local Grange community improvement projects – after the funds have completed the seven- year escrow period. The Executive Committee approved Capital improvement grants for the following:

Golden Gate Grange –made improvements and repairs to the building, 'going green', - replaced windows, added insulation and replaced doors to comply with disability access.

Florissant Grange – painting in the rehabilitation of their building.

I attended the recognition party for Grange member Jim Miller on his retirement from the Colorado Department of Agriculture, where he had been the Deputy Commissioner. Colorado State Grange recognized and honored Jim with a clock and a bottle of a Colorado produced adult beverage. Jim and his wife Amy moved to their farm in Akron.

Legislation

Proposed and pending initiatives 3 and 45. We are monitoring what would have been initiatives 3 and 45 for the next elections. The proponents did not gather enough signatures to be on the ballot this year, but they will try again in 2014.

The two measures would turn the Colorado water law on its head, moving the state from its long-held and historic system of prior appropriation to “public trust,” where a public aspect over-rides the historic system. Note that the descriptive text used by the proponents has a positive sound. Rivers and streams would become “public highways,” open for use and recreation (and remove private property rights of abutting land owners). Per Colorado Supreme Court Justice Hobbs, the measures “would prevent farmers, cities, families and businesses from making beneficial use of water rights that have vested in them over the past 150 years under Colorado’s statutes and constitution.” The Supreme Court reviews the titles of all proposed initiatives for compliance with statutes. The Colorado Farm Bureau is building a coalition of groups against the measures.

Agriculture

Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program. Funding from private sources is sought for this educational effort chaired by Representative Sonnenberg and vice chair, Commissioner of Agriculture, John Salazar. I would like all of us, as individuals or as Subordinate or Pomona Granges, to donate to this very well needed effort. Commissioner Salazar noted that when he was in the Congress, there were only four other representatives that had hands-on agricultural experience. The Colorado legislature is slightly better, with possibly 6 or 8 legislators with agricultural linkages, and we need to support leadership from citizens with an interest in or hands-on connection with our state’s agriculture.

All of Colorado’s crops are suffering from the drought. Hay has become quite expensive and has been the object of thieves. Corn is so dry that harvesters have encountered conditions where the kernels fall off the ears as the machine moves forward; plus there is lots of dust. Oddly, the wheat harvest is not bad but harvest has been earlier due to the dryness. Ranchers have to give up their brood animals due to the expense of feeding them through the remainder of the year.

Other

Dolly Parton Imagination Library. I am aware that Colorado Granges are supporting a book bag program where young people are provided a bag with a book inside and that they return, in exchange for a fresh book. Granges also support the 3rd grade dictionary program where 3rd graders are provided a free dictionary.

I would like to find ways to implement the Dolly Parton Imagination Library by the Colorado State Grange. Dolly’s program provides an age appropriate book each month for children at no cost to them beginning at one month with newborns and continuing for the five years of the program; 60 books total. Kay and I were exposed to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program at the Masters Conference earlier this year and National Lecturer Pete may have comments on this program. Dolly’s effort is to foster a love of reading among preschool children and their families by providing children with the book gifts and reading – including to newborns. The materials include instructions on getting parents to read to their children. I want to encourage Colorado Granges to consider participating in this program as individuals, through their local Granges or by partnering with another organization.

Dolly Parton launched her Imagination Library 16 years ago to benefit the children of her home county in East Tennessee by mailing high quality, age-appropriate books directly to their homes. She wants children to be excited about books and to feel the magic that books can create. Every child can have books, regardless of their family’s income. The cost per child is \$25 per year. This program became so popular that she made the program available for use in any community willing to partner to support it locally. In Colorado,

local chapters of the Rotary, including here in Durango, are program sponsors. The sponsoring group needs to have a 501(c) 3 non-profit tax status.

Facebook, Grange Websites, Social Media. How many of our Granges have a Facebook site? Twitter? If you do not, please set one up. It is free and easy and the more “good stuff” we can portray about Grange, the more exposure we will have before the public. How many have a web site of any kind? Blog site? In today’s world, if you do not have a Facebook site or Net site, you do not exist to anyone under age 30. If you Google your Grange’s name, you might be very surprised at the misinformation and outdated information found. You cannot normally remove misinformation, but if your “good” information is searchable, your Grange name and information should appear early in a Google search. Also, as a test, go on the National Grange Website and type in your ZIP code in the find a Grange box to find out if your nearest Grange will appear. If it doesn’t, the site provides an easy way to add in your Grange location.

My thanks to Larry Corman for his continued assistance with maintaining our State Grange website and Internet needs.

My thanks to the Grangers who have agreed to chair our several committees in review of the resolutions presented to this session. My thanks too to the Executive Committee, Gary Wardle, Marlys Halbeisen, and Alan Caldwell for their hard work this year managing the State Grange business. My special thanks go to Marge Sassman for her operation of the Grange office. She is the source of all knowledge and history about the Colorado State Grange and the person I look to continuously. My thanks, as well, to the Directors for their work, without which, we could not function. They are Jim Miller (Agriculture), Joan Hill and LaVerne Jessop (Women’s Activities Co-Directors), Lisa Cole (Women’s Resources) Renee and Alan Caldwell (Community Service), Marlys Halbeisen (Membership Development), Cindy Greer (Mandy Project), Helen Condren (Deaf Activities) and my thanks to all the Pomona Deputies.

For Smart Phone use, I encourage you to create a QR (quick read) code that can be added to any of your signs, front of your building, posters, advertising and similar where you can build in a link to your web site, etc. The QR code or box is the small square of smudgy looking “stuff” printed, usually, at the bottom of signs, newspaper ads, real estate signs and similar that is readable from an appropriate phone.

The National Grange added Amanda Brozana to their staff and she is a wonderful communicator when it comes to the Net, use of social media and communications. I hope to bring her to Colorado to assist in use of the Internet for Colorado Grange members.

Grange symbol and tag line. “American values. Hometown roots.” is available on line. I encourage you to use it in your publications, signs and communications. It needs to also include the circle “c” for copyright.

Prayers. Please say a prayer for Butch and Sharon and remember Jeanne and Miles Davies.

Fraternally Submitted,
David H. McCord, Master

Connecticut

Worthy Master and Patrons,

On behalf of all of the members of the Connecticut State Grange, it is with pleasure Sister Jodi Ann and I bring you greetings from the Nutmeg State.

This past Grange year has been one of many highs and some lows. In March, we re-orga-

nized Wolcott Grange #173. This was not a traditional re-organization, as I had suspended the charter in January of 2011. This was the first Grange organized or reorganized in CT since the 1950's. In late spring, working with the Master of a Grange (that had gone inactive due to lack of membership) and a concerned citizen, we revitalized Simsbury Grange # 197. The enthusiasm and energy the members of these two Granges are showing is to be held as an example of the hope every Grange should be feeling and experiencing.



The year 2012 brought many Grange milestones with several of our Community and Pomona Granges celebrating 125th anniversaries. This is a testimony to the continued influence the Grange has and its importance in the communities they serve.

At last year's National Session, I committed the Connecticut State Grange to organizing/reorganizing two Granges and organizing one new Junior Grange. We fell short on this goal. I have made a commitment to the members of the CT State Grange to organize/reorganize two new Community Grange and two new Junior Granges in the 2013 Grange year. To accomplish this, it will be necessary for us to partner with the Pomona Granges and develop trained Grange Growth teams. The Delegate Body at this past State Session gave the CT State Grange the biggest gift to date; they authorized the funding to bring a "scout" to help in breaking ground on organizing additional Granges throughout the state. I thank and applaud them for their foresight.

We again experienced a net gain of membership, in the quarter ending 6/30/12, of 28 members. Unfortunately, we had a net loss of 82 for the Grange year. We have much work to do and I am confident all members of this State Grange are up to the challenge. On September 30th 2012, we lost Brooklyn Grange #43. We closed the Grange year with 8 Pomona, 54 Community and 3 Junior Granges.

As we look to 2013 and beyond, I am excited by the possibilities and opportunities ahead. I know we have the systems and training in place to initiate sustainable growth. Two years ago, I set a goal of doubling our membership in four years; there is still time. I am committed to closing this two-year term in October of 2014 with a sustainable statewide membership of at least 5,500 members. I know this can be done because I believe in our traditions, ideals, members and possibilities.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve the members of the Connecticut State Grange these past two years and I thank them for the opportunity to continue the journey we have set upon in building a stronger Grange in every community.

Fraternally,
Jody A. Cameron, Master

Delaware

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates and Brothers and Sisters of the National Grange, it is with great pleasure that Barb and I bring greetings from the members of the Delaware State Grange, the State that started this great nation, to the 146th National Grange Session. We would like to thank all of the States of the Western Region for hosting this year. Barb and I know that it will be a fun and a very productive session.

Membership is a constant challenge but I believe that we are on the verge of growth in membership in our local Granges. We have had some minor setbacks, but we

are beginning to bring in new members since our State Fair. It is looking promising and I believe that, working with the 4H and the FFA, we have the ability to bring the youth into the Grange and help them fine tune what they have learned. We can also help them learn and develop into the future Grange leaders.

We continue to honor our Granger of the Year and Farm Family of the Year. We have started a Friend of the Grange Award for individuals or groups who have helped the Grange during the year and especially for helping with the food booth. We believe that this will give them a chance to learn about the Grange and bring in new members.



Grange Family Activities continues to make and donate faceless babies [dolls], Linus Blankets and pillows for cancer patients at local hospitals and hospice groups. They also donate lap robes, walker and wheel chair bags and shoulderetts to nursing homes. They also supply the lunches for the two work days prior to start of the State Fair. One of their projects is to ask for homemade cakes to sell at the fair and the Granges get paid for the cakes. In the spring, they have an activities day with a speaker, and in the fall, the Family Activities, along with the State Lecturer, have their yearly contests for judging, in preparation for the National Grange Session.

Each April during Grange Month, local Granges hold open houses to let the community see what Grange is all about, and to show that we are not a secret organization but very proud of our ritual work. We have a Scholarship Banquet during Grange Month where we present our annual contributions to the 4-H, FFA, and where we honor two recipients from Delaware State University and two from the University of Delaware, which the colleges choose and present their names to the State Grange. We also award a Grange scholarship to a Grange member in their second year of college.

Our only fundraiser is our food booth at the Delaware State Fair. The Delaware State Fair runs the last 10 days of July, which has some of the hottest days of the summer. We serve lunch and dinner platters, hamburgers and hotdogs. Our platters are comprised of chicken or ham, homemade potato salad, sliced tomatoes, fresh corn on the cob and a roll and butter. The Fair attendance was down this year but we still file like we had a fair year. We get great support from our members. Some come and spend the entire time with us and others come and work when they can. Barb and I are very grateful for all of the help and support. We also get tremendous help from the FFA and 4-H organizations. We couldn't have a successful fair without all of their help.

I will continue to strongly encourage all of our Community Granges to reach out into their communities, participate in local activities and invite the community into their hall for activities that they are having. Our Community Granges need to become more visible in their areas so that they generate interest in our organization. We are a grassroots organization that has helped build this country by promoting Agriculture and Family Values.

Fraternally Submitted,
William H. (Chip) Narvel Jr., Master

Florida

I bring you greetings from Florida. This year we celebrated our 50th state session. It was also exciting and an honor to have a National Officer elected from our state. It has been many, many years since having one.

National Lecturer Pete Pompper was the National Rep. to our state session. He shared some program ideas and upcoming National contest, as well as information from National. This was an election year and Pete installed our officers.



Diane Szkutak, National Junior Director, also attended our session and presented the National awards earned by our Juniors. While with us, she took part in our first Junior leadership weekend. Seven Juniors from Manatee Junior Grange #4 shared Kum Ba Yah in sign language for the session on Friday night and then they went and worked on team building. On Saturday, Diane eight Juniors and their parents went on a scavenger hunt at Disney's Epcot park. To end the weekend, more team building and leadership games were held Sunday morning.

The Florida State Grange is holding on by a shoestring with six Granges. We welcomed Michael Martin, National Membership Director, in March. With a couple Zephyrhills Grange members, we participated in their founder's day parade. Many Grange flyers were passed out and we were able to talk to people along the parade route about the local Grange. Two days later, Michael and I shared lunch with Grange members across the state. Our Granges are so far apart. This is one of our challenges. We welcome visiting Grangers to our Granges while visiting our state.

It was exciting to have ten members, from Juniors to adults, attend the Southeastern leadership/ youth/ junior conference in South Carolina. Two youth and one Junior took part in the contest and all did well.

Our National Master Ed Luttrell came home to Florida with us from the conference. He had breakfast with members of Indian Mound Grange and then crossed the state and had dinner with members of three other Granges. While here, he shared the progress that the National Grange has made and also the concerns. We were all better informed and enjoyed his visit.

We head towards 2013 with hope that growth will take place, both in existing Granges and in starting new ones. There is much work to be done. I know we will have bumps in the road but we are striving for the best.

Fraternally Submitted,
Barbara Borderieux Master

Idaho

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates and Members:

It is with great pleasure that Don Billmire and I welcome you to Idaho for the 146th Annual Session of the National Grange and bring you greetings from the Idaho State Grange. This is the third time we have had the privilege of hosting the National Grange Convention in Boise-1933-70 and now in 2012. We were not able to meet the National Grange Special Train with a stagecoach as they did in 1933, but hope that the Grove Hotel bus at the airport was an acceptable substitute. If we can do anything to make your visit more pleasant, please feel free to ask any of the Western States hosts.

The Idaho State Grange just finished its 104th Annual session for the first time in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. We learned about the



history of the area, which is in North Idaho less than an hour from British Columbia. Delegates addressed issues of Highway Safety, Local Option Sales Tax, Grange Internal Fiscal Matters and National Grange Bylaw Amendments. State Agriculture Director Gordon Moir invited Ed Atkins who presented a power point program about Elk Mountain Farm at Bonners Ferry, which is the world's largest hop farm at 1800 acres.

Our honored guests were: National Grange Pomona and Washington State Grange First Lady Chris Hamp, Washington State Grange President Duane Hamp, Montana State Grange President Scott Nicholson, Montana First Lady Marie Nicholson and President of the Board of Directors of Grange Insurance Group Tom McKern and wife, Carolyn. Chris Hamp impressed the delegates with the exemplification of the 6th degree.

We held district conferences at Blanchard Grange in North Idaho and Portneuf Grange in Pocatello. It was an honor to have National Master Ed Luttrell as the guest speaker. The conferences were successful and enjoyed by all who attended. State Master Don Johnson and wife, Mary, as well as many state and local members, attended the 100th Anniversary of Medicine Mountain Grange #84 at Medimont, Idaho and the 70th Anniversary of Harrison Grange #422 in Harrison, Idaho. The histories and accomplishments of both were recorded in several local newspapers.

Idaho State Grange was able to record a net gain at the end of the June quarter. The Distinguished Grange Program had more participation this year. Mica Flats, for the second year, and Kuna Grange, for the third year, qualified for the award. Bob Thomas, a member of Mica Flats Grange for 81 years, allowed us to use a photo he took of the Cataldo Mission near Cataldo, Idaho, for Idaho's Christmas card for 2012, custom printed by Jeannie Billmire. It is Idaho's Oldest Standing Building. Don Johnson received original music from Grange Pianist Ruth Farrar from Twin Falls. She played an original composition of a Grange march that was played at the Idaho State Grange Session in Twin Falls in 1948. It was later published in the Grange songbook for the National Grange March.

We are proud that Clyde Mooney, from Mica Flats Grange, opened the Idaho State Grange on Saturday this year on the Youth Team and will also serve as Master with the National Grange Youth Officer Team, who will open the National Grange on Friday. Clyde will assume the part of Steward in the Fourth Degree, presented in 1870's style at the Oliver Hudson Kelly Farm next summer. Idaho is proud to have a contestant, Ken Thruston, in the talent Contest. Martha Cook, Clyde's Mother and State Overseer, will also serve as Lecturer in the 6th Degree.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the Grangers and residents of the Northeast who have endured the devastating weather events of the last several weeks and are happy that you are here.

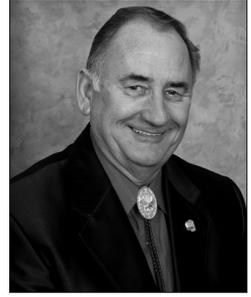
Fraternally submitted,
Donald N. Heikkila, Master

Illinois

Worthy National Master Ed, First Lady Celia, National Officers and Delegates of the 146th National Session, greetings from Illinois.

We just had our 141st State Session in Fairview Heights hosted by St. Clair County. It was a great session. There was some good discussion regarding resolutions that were submitted. Also, we went around and asked a delegate from each Grange to speak about what they do for community service & fundraisers. A lot of good ideas were exchanged.

Ed and Celia were our National Reps and what a great job they did. Ed thoroughly enlightened us with some history of our past Grangers and the dedication they had to this wonderful organization to make it what it is today. One thing that stood out to me is that when they had a State Session, think about the amount of time that it took them just to get there and back considering their mode of transportation at that time.



We are very proud of the fact that we re-organized Hopewell Jr. Grange with thirteen new members. I would really like to thank Trisha Renken for her efforts in making that happen. We are also honored that we have some youth participating in the degree work that is going to happen at the Kelley Farm Experience next July 13th.

In January, myself and a few other Grangers attended the Ag Legislative round tables in Bloomington, Il. at the Farm Bureau Building where we were kept abreast of concerns in agriculture today.

Then in March, a few of us attended Legislative Day in Springfield where we visited by three of our local Legislators.

We are proud to say that Ken and Mary Ann Joseph were our Farm Family of the Year. They were awarded a plaque presented by Orion Samuelson at the Illinois State Fair on Ag Day.

I'm looking forward to this session in Boise, Idaho where we know we can be with our Grange family again. I also would like to congratulate and welcome all the new State Masters and Patti and I look forward to meeting them at session.

Fraternally Submitted,
Lyle Lee, Master

Iowa

Brothers and Sisters,

It is with pleasure that Kathy and I bring greetings from the members of the Iowa State Grange at this 146th Annual Convention in Boise, Idaho. We thank the Western Region Granges for hosting this National Session.



The 143rd Annual Session of the Iowa State Grange was held at the Rock Creek Camp with the Poweshiek County Granges as the hosts. I wish to thank the Officers and Delegates for their dedication to making our session a productive one. Our National Representatives were National Executive Board member Joe Fryman and his wife Tammy from Nebraska. It was nice to get to know our neighbors in the next state and they were helpful during our session. I attended the Great Lakes Leadership Conference, which was hosted by Iowa. Michael Martin, the Membership and Leadership Director, presented workshops on membership. We came away with many new ideas on membership.

Our Junior Department and Camp Director had a great Junior camp with 50 campers and counselors in attendance. Kathy Baldwin was the cook for the camp. The Youth and Juniors served two breakfasts at the camp this summer to support their activities. We had five Youth and Juniors attend Midwest Youth Conference in Wisconsin this year.

I urge all our members to practice the ritual as previous generations did. Remember if we vary from the original ritual, it loses much of the dignity of the degrees. Let us not forget the old saying “What is worth doing at all is worth doing well.” In your initiatory work, see that you have all the Implements required for the work. Their cost is but little and they are a great help. The worst grumblers we have in the Grange are the very ones who never do anything themselves to make it interesting. Take hold everybody and make the Grange amount to something. You can do it if you just try.

Again, let us endeavor to treat all alike. Help one another instead of finding fault. None of us are always right. Life is not so long that we can afford to waste it in fault finding. Be faithful in all things. Be charitable to all. Let us not forget that one of our greatest objectives is to develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood among ourselves. Let us extend it to all with whom we may come in contact.

Let us attend to every duty promptly and keep before our minds the important fact that the great and grand object and crowning glory of our organization is to educate and elevate the American way.

In closing, I want to extend our thanks to the Western Region for hosting the 146th annual convention of the Nation Grange. We appreciate the work that goes into hosting the session.

Fraternally submitted
Dwight Baldwin, Master

Indiana

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates and Members of the 146th National Grange Convention:

It is with honor and great privilege for Susan and I to bring you greetings from the State of Indiana. We recently held our 142st Annual Session of our Indiana State Grange in October. As I look back on my first year as State Master, it has been an experience that I wouldn't trade for anything. Last year at National Session in Oklahoma, I would have to say that I was a little overwhelmed at first, but thanks to Brother Jack and Sister Margret Smithers, that soon went away. We soon started making new friends and got reacquainted with some old ones.



I think we had a productive State Session this year we made a couple of changes and are looking at other changes for next year. We had an increased number of resolutions brought before the delegate body this year. There was a nice turnout of exhibits in all the departments, including the quilt block contest. I'm glad I have people smarter than me running these departments. If I made a quilt block, it would have had a log cabin stitched on it. Would I've been embarrassed!

Indiana was honored in having Joe and Tammy Fryman as our National Grange Representatives this year at our convention. They shared some of their experiences with us and how Indiana is similar to Nebraska in Grange size.

Last year, the Indiana State Grange started our own web page. We were doing pretty well until we got hacked and it was taken over with some Arabic propaganda. I learned a very important lesson; make sure you have a very strong password. We are going to move over to the National web site to rebuild and start over but we will keep our original web

domain, www.IndianaStateGrange.org. I still think every Grange needs their own web site even through there may be some learning pains. This is the way of the future.

In July, we have one of our money making project for our State Grange Committees, making Elephant Ears at the Cass County Fair. Unfortunately, this coming year is the historical reenactment of the Grange degrees at the Kelly Farm, which is at the same time. I know we have some member that would like to see the degrees put on, including me. Unfortunately, some of us will not make the trip.

I'm disappointed in myself in not being able to fulfill my pledges that I made last year at National Convention. I was hoping we would get things going in the right direction but it is going to take more work from others and myself. At this time, I'm working on putting together a training session for our community Granges on how to grow membership. We need to make a change and it needs to happen soon.

I would like to thank the Western Region for hosting the 146th National Grange Convention in Boise, Idaho. May all Granges "CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN" and have a successful year and Happy Holidays!

Fraternally submitted,
John Plank, Master

Kansas

Worthy President, First Lady, Officers, Delegates, Members and Guest of the 146th Annual Convention of the National Grange:

As I have only been in office since mid September, former President Roger Bostwick was kind enough to write a report to cover the past year of the Kansas State Grange. Below is the report in his words, followed by a look into the future(?) as I settle into my first term in office.

"Officers, Delegates, Members, and Guests, of the 146th Annual Convention of the National Grange, greetings from Kansas:

Kansas Grangers had a busy schedule this past year beginning with the 145th National Grange Convention. The Great Plains Region had the place rocking with a Party on the Prairie. Of course, the earthquakes might have had something to do with it. Several earthquakes and a tornado or two welcomed Grangers to the National Grange convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Several Kansans served as officers in the Sixth Degree Conferral. The 2011 John Trimble Legislative Youth recipient was Nathan Strawder, also from Kansas. There were 99 candidates who were conferred in the "Tom Severance Class," of the Seventh Degree. Several were from Kansas.

On March 28, National Master Ed Luttrell traveled to Kansas. While here, he assisted me in presenting special recognition certificates to Granges for their membership gains. We had members from seven Subordinate Granges in attendance, four of which received certificates for their membership gains. Two other Granges in Kansas also had a net gain in membership last year.

Combining the Lecturer's, Membership, Youth and Junior weekend, seems to be working well for our Region. This was the second year that the conferences have been combined. There were nearly 70 in attendance. The Great Plains Regional Conference occurred June 15-17 in Lawrence, Kansas. Five representatives from the National Grange were



in attendance to lead workshops. Michael Martin, National Membership Director; Pete Pompper, National Lecturer; Diane Szkutak, National Junior Director; Charlene Espenshade, National Youth Director; and Amanda Leigh Brozanna, National Communications Director presented programs in their respective departments. Several people traveled to the Agriculture Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs, Kansas for a tour Saturday afternoon. In the evening, at the banquet, we were able to watch the Speech and Sign-a-Song contestants perform. While at the conference, I met with State Masters from Texas, Nebraska and Oklahoma to begin work on preliminary plans for the 149th National Grange Session in Lincoln, Nebraska in November of 2015.

The Kansas State Grange held its 2nd Annual Grange Picnic on July 15th, 2012. This year had nearly the same number of attendees, however, there were some new faces from last year. Once again, we braved the over 100-degree heat, but with a breeze off of the lake and lower humidity, it didn't seem quite as hot.

This will be my last report as Master of the Kansas State Grange. On September 21, at the 141st Annual Convention of the Kansas State Grange Nathan Strawder was elected the 26th Master of the Kansas State Grange. I look forward to continuing to serve the Grange in every station to which I am called and wish Nathan the best of luck in his new position. I wish him all the enjoyment I experienced during my time in office.

Fraternally submitted,
Roger Bostwick, Past Master

As I move into the first few months in office, I can't help but to look into the Kansas State Grange's future with an optimistic mindset. I feel that, during this past State Convention, the Delegate body made actions to insure a bright future for the Granges throughout Kansas. After elections were completed, nearly half of the State Officers are within the Youth and Young Adult age group. The Delegates also voted to increase the budgets in both the Membership and Legislative Departments. My hope is that we'll be able to apply this progressive movement towards membership growth and advocating efforts.



I would like to give a big thanks to the members of the 141st Kansas State Grange Delegate Body for showing faith in me by electing me to serve as President. I'd like to also thank the many Grangers I have met over this past year and to the National Grange for giving me opportunities to grow as both a Grange leader and person. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank Roger and Melanie Bostwick for their support. I look forward to what may come of my involvement with this great organization.

Fraternally submitted,
Nathan Strawder, President

Maine

What does one write after the past year that I have had? My wife Kathleen Brewer, Flora of the Maine State Grange, had been battling a very rare and aggressive form of ovarian cancer since November 12, 2010. Sadly, on May 9, 2012, she passed on to that great Grange above. The outpouring of get well cards, sympathy cards and flowers from grang-

ers and Granges alike, has been overwhelming and heartwarming. A lot of State Granges were senders and I give them heartfelt thanks. Special thanks to Jim Gentry, Overseer of the National Grange and Master of North Carolina State Grange, for representing the National Grange to show respects for Kathy at the funeral home in Gardiner, Maine. Her passing on affected my duties as Master of the Maine State Grange, but the strong support of my State officers, helped me when it was needed.



At our 139th State session in Rockland, Maine, I was unsure if I would be able to carry on as State Master. The memorial service by our State Chaplain, Clyde Berry, and the annual Master's address that I had written to say to our members, was an emotional hurdle for me. I did not know it at that time, but I needed to get these 2 events, along with conducting the state session for my very first time, before a huge weight would be lifted off my shoulders. I now know that I can pursue life in and out of the Grange and do the job that Kathy would want me to do for the good of the Grange.

Before the 138th session of the Maine State Grange in October 2011, my wife Kathleen Brewer, was told her cancer had returned. Despite this disturbing news, we agreed to be the leaders for Maine State Grange. Not knowing when her next treatment would be, we opted out of National session in 2011 and had confidence in our replacements to represent Maine.

Sister Kathy and I attended as many Grange functions as her health would allow. The Leadership conference in Connecticut, the Agricultural trade show at the Augusta Civic Center, and the Legislative Luncheon at our State Grange Headquarters to name a few.

At the end of February, I attended State Masters conference in Atlanta without my wife. It was difficult for me to be somewhere like that without her, especially seeing the spouses of other State Masters at that conference. It was also a weekend when I began to realize the state of some of our Granges here in Maine. Sister Kathy called me while I was in Atlanta about a subordinate Master who was ousted by his own members, illegally. Some, not all, Granges think they are exempt from State and National Grange by-laws. Running meetings any way they see fit.

I realize this may sound negative to other Granges and members around this country of ours, but this is the cold hard truth from my perspective. We have 130 plus subordinate Granges in our state. The economy has been bad for several years now. That is a negative impact on people to begin with. People take too many things for granted. On top of that, some members' personal issues in this organization are driving the good members out of the Grange. Members from the subordinate level all the way up to some of our National members, expect positions, whether as officers or committee heads, for their own personal gains. The only personal thing we should get from the Grange, is satisfaction. That is our bonus for being a member. Personal gain is a distraction, personal satisfaction is a gain.

There is a saying somewhere in our Grange words, that the office should seek the man, not the man the office. I have been in this organization for over 30 years, and never sought, much less expected, a State Office. Anything I did in the Grange, I did because I wanted to and it made me feel good to do so.

Don't get me wrong, there are a lot of GOOD Granges and Grangers in our state. If there wasn't, I wouldn't be the State Master. My message is this. We need to get back to the basics. Read up and abide by the National and State Grange by-laws. They are there for a reason to help us obtain goals to better our community state and nation. Let's strive towards a more unified Organization, from the Subordinate level all the way to the top.

Fraternally Submitted,
Patrick J. Brewer, Master

Maryland

Brothers and Sisters, National Grange Officers and Delegates to this National Session in Boise, Idaho,

Sister Donna and I bring you greetings from the Great State of Maryland. This past year has been a challenge; not only did we fail to have a gain in membership, but some in our ranks have lost some of the “Good Grange spirit.” We do, however, continue to search for that spark that will ignite and motivate the desire to move forward. We continue to be involved in fairs, community shows and community service. These events provide us with a great opportunity to put Grange on display.

I am happy to report that a Scholarship has been set up under the direction of Sister Donna Wiles, to honor three brothers who were very active in the Grange at all levels. The “Burall Brothers Scholarship” will have its first recipient in the Spring of 2013.

Our scheduled “Leadership Conference,” to be held in early December 2012, will be focused on gaining and retaining members. We have had several membership meetings this past year with lots of discussion on how and why. Now it is “crunch time.”

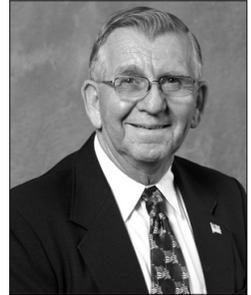
We were honored to have Brother Jimmy Gentry, National Grange Overseer, and Sister Anita Gentry, First Lady of the North Carolina State Grange, as our National Reps during our State Session. They both contributed greatly with their wisdom and talents.

We finally have a Junior Grange that has received its Charter and is still in the growing process. To have a successful Junior Grange you have to have dedicated leaders. It is a joy to see the enthusiasm and excitement as the Junior members begin what I hope will be a great and pleasant journey in their Grange lives.

We continue to support 4-H and FFA - “Words for Thirds” is a never-ending success story for many Subordinate Granges.

“American Values and Hometown Roots” is a very appropriate byline for the greatest organization in the world, the “Grange,” and I am happy to be a part of it.

Fraternally Submitted,
Maurice L. Wiles, Master



Massachusetts

Greetings from the Massachusetts State Grange!



What an amazing year it has been and we are preparing for a grand 140th annual session! We are honored to have Worthy National Secretary, Judy Sherrod, as our National Representative this year. This year’s session will be held at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough, MA from October 25-28. This is a new location for us; a change of scenery. We have not stopped at just the change of locale. We have made changes to our session program. We have invited speakers from the FFA and the 4-H to join with us at our youth night. We have 26 resolutions to review compared to 11 last year. and we are having our youth members confer the first degree. Our session theme for this year is “A New Chapter”. Last year, I challenged the members of Massachusetts to become “tailors” in their Granges. I am happy to say that the members of Massachusetts have

taken on that challenge. Many Granges have tailored their programs and thinking and from that change in thinking, we have harvested many successes in this past year.

We have re-organized a Grange that closed in 2005. We have organized two new Junior Granges. We have revitalized our Youth Program. From November 2011 to June 30, 2012, we had a net gain of 38 members. We haven't seen a gain that substantial since the 1950's. We have Granges in the state that were on the verge of turning in their charters or closing their Grange halls. With the hard work of dedicated members, we have seen these Granges taking in new members and growing in their communities. Our largest membership gain for the Grange year was New Braintree Grange #170 with a net gain of 17 members! The successes we have had this past year are simply amazing and they show no signs of stopping in the foreseeable future. Last year, we had 1 Distinguished Grange. This year we have 4! I know that next year we will have more. Every month in our State Grange News, I was able to focus on the accomplishments we had. Not one to be content, I challenged the Granges to set larger goals and most of them took on the challenge with vigor and zeal.

Our "New Chapter" is destined to become a best-seller.

We continue to partner with the Department of Children and Families. We have also discovered a hidden gem in our partnership with the 4-H. We continue to help fund their ambassador program. This past year, they were able to train 103 ambassadors. They provided programs at Grange meetings, they partnered with area Granges at an area fair, and they are interested in helping to start a new Junior Grange. This is exactly the response and partnership that I had hoped for. I am excited about this partnership and I see it continuing to grow in the future.

This is truly a wonderful and exciting time to be a Grange member in Massachusetts. Granges are growing. Junior and Subordinate Granges are popping up. Programs have new participation. We have youth ambassadors this year for the first time in many years. We "traded in" our State Dinner Dance for a Family Fun Day and had 81 members sign up for our first time. I look forward to rolling my sleeves up again and getting to work with the members of the Massachusetts State Grange as we continue to grow, rejoice in our successes and continue to add to our "New Chapter".

Fraternally,
Matthew Johnson, Master

Michigan

Worthy Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to the 139th annual session of the Michigan State Grange. I would like to take an opportunity to say Welcome to Sister Grace to her first State Session as the New Legislative Director of the National Grange. It is an honor to have you here with us, as we deliberate on resolutions that could possibly impact the direction your job takes you as you work for the Grange as a whole on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.

Here we are again, to set our policy and to put it into action. Just a reminder that one main purpose of the annual convention, is to set the policy of the State Grange for the ensuing year. However, given the lack in resolutions we've had submitted this year, I am led to believe that we are living in a perfect world and there is nothing more the Grange can do to or offer towards the betterment of rural Michigan and rural America. Is this the case? Of course it isn't! So for those committees that have no resolutions or may have very few resolutions, I would like to have a lot of good discussion and a thorough review of the current legislative policy booklet. See what could be removed, added, changed or updated to make



sure that the policy we set forth from this convention, is the policy we want to see acted upon for the betterment of rural America.

Also, before us will be a review of our financial status and to pass a budget put forth to us from the executive committee. Each year, the executive committee makes some hard decisions where to cut expenses when income is not there. Last year's annual convention is hopefully the last that the Michigan State Grange will have to cover. This year we have a host covering the expenses and starting next year we will start the regional hosting. It is our hope that this will help our future financial status, where we no longer are

dipping into the invested funds, to cover the conventions. I commend the members of the Executive Committee for their diligent labor in producing a proposed budget.

In my first three years in this position, I have been charged with the duties of collecting items from Granges that have surrendered their Charters. Let me tell you, this is not the job that any State Master ever wants to do. Now on the brighter side of things, this year has been different. I have not collected the Charter from any Grange that has closed their doors entirely. By that I mean, we have not closed a Grange this last year, but we have had one Grange merge with another. The benefit is that there is a better chance for retention of members by merging the two, than there is by closing. The members are then able to work together for the betterment of the organization as it will bring fresh ideas into the surviving Grange.

Some of you may have heard about the pledge I made to the National Grange for my Goal for the Michigan State Grange. If not, my Big Hairy Audacious Goal is to increase the membership of the Michigan State Grange by 25 percent. I said it last year and I am going to say it again, this is not a huge task to accomplish but one that I cannot do alone. I have no doubt in my mind that the members of this great state are willing and able to accomplish this goal. I realize you are thinking that I said I made the goal and now I am asking you to do all the work, well you are mostly right. I need the help of every Grange in the state to work towards this accomplishment. It is not something that any one person is going to be able to do on their own. If I haven't had a chance to talk to you yet, I will make time to talk to each and every one of you to hear your plans for the Grange and how you are going to help grow the Grange in the upcoming year. We are in this together and we need all your help to raise the membership of the Michigan State Grange.

I am looking forward to this being a successful and warmer session then last year's. We do not have a lot of resolutions this year, so I am hopeful we will be able to get everything accomplished in a timely manner. With that having been said, let's get to work planning and growing our Grange for the next 139 years of the Michigan State Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,
Christopher D. Johnston, Master

Minnesota

2012 was a good year, but it was not without its challenges. Minnesota was honored at last year's National Convention for an increase in membership. There were only 5 states that achieved this last year and we were one of them. Thank you to all the Granges that increased their membership. Let's keep working on it. I look forward to having a Distinguished Grange be honored at National Convention in the near future.

Membership has been my main focus for the year. In April, Oak Leaf and Zumbro Valley both hosted a meeting with Michael Martin, National Grange Leadership/Membership Director. They were great meetings and I think everyone went home being more comfortable talking about the Grange. We came up with a couple good elevator speeches (30 second descriptions of the Grange) that we can use when someone asks “What is the Grange?”

We had a big scare in June, as Lake Hubert notified me that they could not continue as a Grange. This would have put us under the requirement to have a minimum of six Granges to be a State Grange. The State Grange Executive Committee met and decided to do what we could to try to help them out. Some of us made a trip up to talk to them in July and talked them into waiting a couple of weeks to make a decision.



At the same time, we had a very enthusiastic group of young adults that were interested in starting a new Grange. This group was mostly formed by using electronic media. We have not gotten the Charter Application sent off yet, but I think it will be soon. They are going to be the Oliver Hudson Kelley Grange. Some of them are interpreters at the Kelley Farm, so they can appreciate the importance of Grange to the Farm, and Community.

While Michael Martin was here in September, we had a chance to go to Lake Hubert and they were all willing to continue as a Grange. They had gotten financial help with their hall taxes and electric bill. Now they have begun fundraising to raise the money for next year. They also gave the Welcome Ceremony to a couple new members that evening.

We have two events that we are hosting in 2013, the Great Lakes Leaders Conference on April 12-14 and the National Grange Youth event on July 12 at the Kelley Farm. We are planning a great program for the GLLC conference, so hope the attendance will be good. There will also be volunteer needs for the July Youth event.

I want to continue to work on giving all the Minnesota members the tools to increase their membership in their Granges this next year. If we can get more members and do more activities in our Communities, we should be able to build on the great organization that is the Grange.

Fraternally Submitted
Donna Champion, Master

Montana

My report for 2012 is a real mixed bag for this year. First, I can report with pleasure that we did show a moderate growth in membership, with most Granges gaining at least one new member. We had two Granges that have taken major steps in revitalizing and we are currently focusing on 2 other Granges that have asked for help with revitalizing in their communities. Unfortunately, we had one Subordinate

Grange turn in their charter in September with their remaining 10 members demitting. We have adopted a new state project called “Operation Little Red Wagon” to put wagons in our grange halls to collect donations for their local food bank.



Fraternally,
Scott Nicholson, Master

North Carolina

A lot of good things happened within the NC State Grange during the year. We were pleased that the State Grange was named a Distinguished Grange at the National Convention in Oklahoma. In addition, Caroline Tart and Crystal Allen were named as Heroes of the Grange. Ana Mari Parker was named as a National Youth Mentor. We are proud of the national level achievements gained by our NC Grange members.

The youth program continues to be an important part of our efforts. The youth/junior camp, winter conference and caravan are key elements of leadership development among our young people. At the Winter Youth Conference, the new Youth Team and Ambassadors were announced. The Ambassadors are Eli Bright from Troutman Grange and Courtney Gray from Southern Wake Grange. They will represent NC at the National Convention in Boise in the Ambassador program. The new Youth Team is composed of Callie Hennis, Justin Leonard, Missy Mueller, Austin Muench, Garrett Williams and Montana Wrigley.



The State Grange received a Community Service Award from the Cooperative Council of North Carolina as part of a food drive. Grange Youth collected canned goods to contribute to the Co-op Council, which was ultimately given to the Early Harvest Food Bank.

Because of the success of your youth program, we are now well positioned to re-establish a Young Adult program in the state. As our youth age out of this program, an avenue is being provided for them to remain active within the State Grange. Under the leadership of David and Crystal Allen, this program is off to a good start. A committee of dedicated young adults has assisted the Allen's in planning activities. The first event was an overnight conference held in Greensboro, NC that was well attended. A second weekend campout was held and another campout is also planned. For the first time in many years, NC will have a Young Couple to represent our state at the National Convention in Boise.

The State Grange is heavily involved in legislation at both the state and national level. The following are some of the more significant efforts in which the State Grange has become involved:

1. Provided comments to the US Department of Labor, opposing new rules that would have greatly inhibited work that minors could perform on farms. Ultimately, the Department of Labor discontinued this effort to add more stringent regulations.
2. Opposed HR 2164, the Legal Workforce Act. This is an E Verify bill to ensure that all foreign workers are legal. The State Grange recognizes that while E Verification can be a good measure, it must be combined with accommodating programs for agricultural workers. Without such programs, shortages will occur with farm labor in North Carolina. We suggested that HR 2164 be amended by exempting farm labor and dealing with agricultural labor reform in a separate bill.
3. Opposed a proposal to discontinue Saturday delivery of mail
4. Provided comments to the EPA, which was conducting a review of Atrazine to determine if it should be banned. The comments supported the continued use of Atrazine as a viable option for use by farms.
5. Supported the National Cooperative Development Act, which would establish a National Cooperative Development Center, as well as provide resources to foster Cooperative development.
6. The State Grange weighed in on the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). There is

an effort underway to modify the language of the agreement that could lead to tobacco being excluded from this important trade program. TPP is a multilateral free trade agreement between the US, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

7. Supported HR 3158, the Farmers Undertake Environmental Land Stewardship Act. This legislation would direct the EPA to raise exemption levels for a single fuel storage container from 1320 gallons to 10,000 gallons. The law would also allow for self-certification of storage capacity levels greater than 10,000 gallons up to 42,000 gallons, providing that no spills have occurred.

In other activities not related to legislation, the State Grange designated 15 members to participate in a survey being conducted by NC State University. The survey will identify the most pressing issues facing those that participate. The results will help to tailor Extension programs in the state to the needs that are expressed.

Based on a request by the NC Rural Center, the State Grange provided a letter of support for the Ed Miniati Company and Chipotle to move into North Carolina. These firms are food providers and would have provided new market opportunities for farmers in the state. It appears that this move is not going to occur, but we appreciate the efforts of the NC Rural Center to encourage the establishment of new markets for agriculture.

A new program called the ACT Supplemental Preparation in Rural Education (ASPIRE) is being developed at NC State University. The ACT is a college admissions exam that has replaced the SAT in many school districts. The program is designed to improve the test scores of students through training conducted as part of the 4-H program. The State Grange Foundation has provided financial support.

In an effort to update our Dairy policy, a meeting was conducted in connection with the Board of Directors of the NC Dairy Producer's Association to collect their input on changes that may need to occur. Tom Ellis and Allison Fowler coordinated the session with assistance from Norman Jordan, President of NCDPA. Suggestions collected, were taken to Capitol Grange, where the suggestions were developed into resolutions. These resolutions were presented to the Agriculture Committee at the State Grange Convention for consideration.

We are extremely proud of a new partnership with the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Association. The State Grange is serving as sponsor of the Conservation Farm Family Program, through a five-year commitment. This program recognizes an outstanding NC farm each year that demonstrates exemplary conservation practices

We were extremely excited to be honored by the NC Cooperative Extension Service for serving as a supporter of Extension and 4-H for many years. During a series of five district meetings held by Extension, the State Grange was recognized at each of the meetings by the Director of Cooperative Extension, Dr. Joe Zublena. Grange representatives were present at each meeting to receive the plaque. Following the final meeting, we actually kept the plaque!

A great program conducted by the Family Living Department was the Special Olympics Scarf Project. Through this effort, 129 crocheted and knitted scarves were made by Grangers and delivered to the Special Olympics office in Charlotte. The scarves were presented to athletes and coaches at a state-wide swimming event. Arcadia Grange produced a total of 47 scarves, which was the highest of any Grange in the state.

One of the newest Granges in the state, Cape Fear, was recognized by the Fayetteville City Council for their efforts in community service. Mayor Tony Chavonne read a list of accomplishments and Mayor Pro Tem Jim Arp presented a certificate to the Grange. We are

proud of Cape Fear Grange for their accomplishments.

We are fortunate to have organized a new Grange in Charlotte, N.C., called Queen City Grange. The power of social media and email was utilized in the development of this new organization. Made up primarily of young adults, this Grange has hit the ground running with community service projects. This Grange is proving that young adults will become involved if they see their participation as valuable.

In 2009, Taylors Bridge Grange closed after being inactive for a long time. Even though it had been closed for approximately 3 years, a former member, Doug Arndt, contacted the State Office about the possibility of re-opening this Grange. To keep this story short, Jessica Horton worked with Mr. Arndt, which led to a newly revitalized Grange at Taylors Bridge. It is now a healthy, active Grange with members of all ages. We are looking forward to seeing this Grange continue to develop into a strong community partner.

Three individuals were named to new positions within the State Grange. Kelli Rapp, from Arcadia Grange, was named the new Junior Director. Jessica Horton, who was already serving as Director of Membership and Event Planning, is taking on the additional role of Community Service Director. In addition, Caroline Tart served as a Summer Intern. While she worked on a variety of tasks, her primary mission was the development of a Grange historical exhibit to be placed at the Tobacco Farm Life Museum in Kenly, NC. Each of these three individuals has been vital to the State Grange and we very much appreciate their interest in fulfilling these duties.

Fifteen students received scholarships from the State Grange this year. This is an annual program that awards financial assistance in the amount of \$1000.00, and is renewable. Five of these students were first time recipients and ten received renewal scholarships.

As evidenced by this report, we continue to be extremely busy and we are blessed with an outstanding staff. The State Grange is an important and viable entity in this state and our efforts are to keep the organization positioned to serve our members well and provide an effective voice.

Fraternally Submitted,
Jimmy Gentry, President

Nebraska

Greetings to all Grangers, and friends of the Grange, from the Cornhusker State. The Nebraska State Grange thanks the Western Region for hosting the 146th National Grange Convention held in Boise, Idaho.

Nebraska Grangers elected Ted Doane as the Nebraska State Grange Master at our state session last September in Grand Island, Nebraska. Ted is a retired University of Nebraska Animal Science Professor and still enjoys raising sheep on his farm near Waverly, Nebraska. He and his wife Alice are world travelers and have lived in several countries. Ted has been a subordinate master for many years and has been serving on the executive committee of the Nebraska State Grange. I congratulate Ted on his election and wish him well his new office.

As immediate past state master, Ted asked me, Joe Fryman, to write this years master's report.

Grange membership in the Nebraska State Grange has remained at about the same level for the past several years. This could mean our glass is half-empty or half full. I prefer the latter. We are celebrating the first birthday of our newest Grange, Carver Grange of

Omaha. Edgar Hicks is the Master and is gathering input from the members to determine where they want to focus their efforts. We look forward to another new Grange in Nebraska in the not too distant future.



The Nebraska State Grange continues to be involved in legislation on many levels. From personal contacts and local issues, to involvement in our unicameral, the Grange is providing input to our elected officials on our policies and concerns. Some of the areas of concern are animal rights, pipeline location and construction, the farm bill, taxes, postal issues and dealing with government regulations. As demonstrated in our last presidential election, there are many opinions as to how to solve our problems and move this country forward. Political partisanship is well entrenched. Common ground seems elusive. We would all be better served if we would take heed to the Grange motto, "In essentials unity, in nonessentials liberty, and in all things charity". The Grange, with its non-partisan foundation, is in a unique position in being able to work with many groups and political parties.

The Nebraska State Grange continues to air its weekly radio reports on the stations of the Nebraska Rural Radio Association.

The Nebraska State Grange again set up and staffed a booth at our State Fair in Grand Island, Nebraska. We get a good deal of exposure at this fair and make contact with many folks who stop by to visit.

As one of the states in the Great Plains Region, we assisted in hosting the 145th National Grange Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We are looking forward to hosting the National Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska in 2015.

Several of our Grangers attended the Great Plains Leadership, Membership, Youth and Junior Conference held in Lawrence, Kansas last summer.

We thank National Grange Treasurer Dwight Baldwin for serving as National Grange Representative to our State Convention in Grand Island last September.

During my eight years as Master of the Nebraska State Grange, I have had the opportunity to work with a terrific group of officers and committees. I want to thank all of them publicly for their cooperation, support and hard work over the years. We can be so much more productive when we work and pull together.

Tammy and I were excited and honored to serve as National Grange Representatives at the Washington, Iowa and Indiana State Grange Conventions this year. What a wonderful opportunity this is to meet and visit with Brothers and Sisters from around the nation. It is one of the nicest benefits in serving on the National Grange Executive Committee.

The Grange has accomplished much over the years but, as always, the work of another day demands our attention. Opportunities abound for fun, fellowship and constructive effort in the Grange. Hope and persevere!

Fraternally,
Joe Fryman, Past Master

New Hampshire

Greeting from the Officers and Members of the New Hampshire State Grange:

The year that we will shortly be closing out has been a year of many opportunities!

Our members continue to focus on Grange growth. We were very pleased to have had

nineteen Subordinate and one Pomona Grange achieve a net gain in membership this year. Our State Grange achieved a net gain during the second and third quarter of the calendar year. Next year, we will strive for an overall net gain for the year! We were also pleased to have organized Hinsdale Grange #358 in Hinsdale, N.H.

The New Hampshire State Grange, at the end of October, closed out a very successful State Grange session. I want to take a moment to recognize two key officers who retired this year after many years, and multiple opportunities, of serving the State Grange. They are Carolyn Ross, who retired as our State Secretary, and Gail Turcotte who retired as State Treasurer. Thank you for your many years of hard work! I am truly excited to work with new State Secretary Gerald Leclerc, and State Treasurer Dan Bascom.

Again having received the confidence of the delegate body of the New Hampshire State Grange to lead our organization for the next two years, I look forward to leading the Grange in New Hampshire towards growth. In my Master's Address, I proposed to the Delegates, the creation of a Grange Growth Fund. We can no longer afford to take advantage of the continued generosity of our current members to grow the Grange. They also created a Grange Growth Team that will focus on organizing new Granges and assisting Granges in the revitalization process. Our Outreach Deputy continues making new contacts in potential Grange communities. The Membership Department of the New Hampshire State Grange will no longer be a generic Membership Department charged with responsibility of gaining new members. They now will be a Membership Promotions Department charged with promoting the Grange at events and with other organizations. The biggest challenge facing our membership is confidence. Having the confidence to ask your family and friends to join the Grange.

I ask every Grange member in New Hampshire to remember why he or she joined the Grange. Don't our friends and neighbor deserve the same opportunities to gain the same benefits that we have all received from our Grange membership?

The Officers and Members of the New Hampshire State Grange, along with all of the other Northeast States, look forward to hosting you next year for the first time since 1913 in Manchester, NH for the 147th Annual Session of the National Grange.

I wish you all a prosperous new year.

Fraternally,
Jim Tetreault, Master

New Jersey

Greetings from the Garden State!



2012 was another great year for the New Jersey State Grange.

One year ago, my goal for the New Jersey State Grange was to MULTIPLY. There are many ways to take this and, as word leaked out after the last National Grange session, there was much speculation around the state on what I meant.

I continued to visit our Subordinate and Pomona Granges this year. The majority of our Granges are active with community service activities, such as collecting manufacturer's coupons, which are sent to the military basis overseas, the Dictionary Project, collecting plastic caps for cancer research, Community Citizen, Police



Officer and EMT recognition, annual Easter Egg Hunts, support of local food pantries, working as 4-H leaders, volunteering for the Red Cross, AARP, Quilts of Valor and the list goes on and on!

Two of our success stories this year were the reactivation of Cologne Junior Grange in Atlantic County (outside of Atlantic City) and a membership explosion in Montague Grange, located at the very top of New Jersey.

Cologne Junior Grange had fallen on hard times and had stopped meeting several years ago. There was interest in reactivating the Junior Grange and in June, twelve new members were initiated and, within a couple of weeks, they had taken in several more new members. They are now busy with community service projects and we hope that this new Junior Grange will “rub off” on several of our other Granges.

Montague Grange is located in Stokes State Park in Sussex County. The Grange sits on state park property. The members came up with the idea to create a community garden on property behind the Grange. They approached the Park Service for their permission and were told that anybody that wished to contribute to the garden had to be a Grange member. In March, 21 new members were initiated and the community garden is just one of the community service projects that Montague Grange has started.

At least seven of our Subordinate Granges had a net gain in membership this year.

Attendance at our recently held 140th State Grange session was higher than the past several years and at least three Granges that had not had delegates at state session in the past couple of years were represented.

While I did not set numeric goals for growth in the Granges in New Jersey for 2012, I continue to be amazed by the great things I see happening in our Granges. I see the energy created by our Granges multiplying and I see more good things happening in New Jersey in 2013!

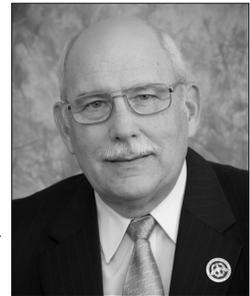
Fraternally,
John M. Benedik III, Master

New York

Worthy Master, National Officers, and Delegates:

This past year has been an exciting and challenging one. We made a determined effort early on to take advantage of as many opportunities as possible to increase our visibility around the State. We had manned displays at the NYS Agricultural Society Annual Meeting, the Western and Central New York Farm Shows, Empire Farm Days, NYS FFA Convention, State Fair and the Yorktown Grange Fair. As a member organization of the Empire State Conference of Agricultural Organizations, we participated in their annual lobby day at the State Capitol in Albany. We were also pleased to be able to go to Washington twice, once in connection with the annual Legislative Fly-in and the other for the Farm Bill rally. Staff contacts made during those visits, provided valuable links for subsequent communication.

We have initiated a program to develop closer ties with the FFA. A survey was circulated asking for the names of present and former FFA members in our Granges, from which we had a good number of responses. Our manned display, at their state convention, generated quite a bit of interest and appreciation from the State FFA Leadership that we took



the opportunity to participate in their convention. The next step will be to set up contacts between local FFA Chapters and nearby Granges to assist each other. The FFA has a speaking contest, for example, and speakers need audiences, and sometimes judges, and Grange Lecturers need programs. It is our hope that these young people, many of which will be pursuing a career related to agriculture, will learn more about us and how their membership could benefit them personally, the community in which they live, and further the interests of their chosen career.

We were delighted with the reorganization of a Grange that had been dormant for a number of years and the organization of new Grange in Niagara County, where we have not had a Grange presence in over a decade. Our Pomona Masters have been asked to survey their respective jurisdictions for areas of possible reorganizations or new plants.

A highlight of the year was the National Master's Tour. The three day five meeting 1,077 mile trip reached 150 Grangers with his positive message. A significant number of folks turned out for these meetings that as a general rule don't attend such events, for which we are grateful to local leaders for their efforts to encourage.

The 140th Annual Session of the New York State Grange was a very eventful one. A high percentage of the available representation was present and the spirit was good. Over 70 resolutions were considered, some with spirited debate, but none generating any ill will. As part of the State Master's Address, questionnaires were circulated asking for their candid responses to our various programs, the Ritual and their perception of their importance. The 97 percent response will help us a great deal in formulating our next round of programming. We were very pleased that the Delegates took their job seriously, taking on issues relating to the future of the State Grange, some of which may not be all that popular back home, but are none the less necessary and appropriate. We were pleased to welcome Sister Beth Merrill to our Session, as our National Representative, and appreciated her words of wisdom and input throughout the convention. We reran our "Idea Fair," that we tried last year, and it was, again, a great success. A very high percentage of the delegates and members checked out the displays and talked to our Department and Committee Leaders about how these programs/projects could be of use in their individual Granges. It has already been placed on the schedule for next year.

Membership wise, we were not successful in bringing our statewide losses to a halt. However, percentage wise, they were smaller this past year than in previous years. We tried a new approach membership training this year, which we intend to continue again. Instead of holding a state or regional workshop, we put together a small target area, this year consisting of eighteen Granges, and conducted a one-day Seminar with Dr. Martin to reacquaint them with the value of the Grange and work on the fine art of asking folks to join. As the idea was to get regular members to attend because it was close by, letters were sent into every household in the target area asking for their time and support. Sixty Seven percent of the invited Granges participated, many with several in attendance. Follow-up is now underway to encourage them to practice and use the skills they learned, as well as devising a workable outreach plan for their individual Granges.

In the coming year, we hope to find more opportunities to expand our visibility, both physically and legislatively. At our State Session, members assembled were challenged to recognize and embrace the value of our Grange and capture the vision and enthusiasm to project it.

Fraternally submitted,
Stephen C. Coye, Master

Ohio

Linda and I bring you greetings from the Ohio State Grange, where we just completed our 140th annual session. Things went well there. This was the second year of our shortened, revised schedule and the first one that included the bi-annual election of officers. With the great work of our delegates and the cooperation of our directors, officers, deputies, committees, youth, juniors and visitors, we had another great session and I am very much appreciative of all of them.



I want to extend my sincere gratitude to National Grange Executive Board Chair and past Pennsylvania State Grange Master Betsy Huber, for serving as the National Grange's representative to our annual session in Columbus. She shared well her views from the National Grange perspective, not only as the keynote speaker at our annual Grange banquet, but also during other areas of our session. We also enjoyed a few moments of some good Big Ten football rivalry, topped off with a Buckeye win just as our Sixth Degree ended – sorry Betsy!

In March, we had the pleasure of holding meetings in three different locations around the state for presentations by National Grange Master Ed Luttrell. This was a great opportunity for local Grangers to meet and interact with our National Grange Master.

We continue to be a part of the annual Farm Science Review and in two areas at the Ohio State Fair. A recent change in the Ohio State Fair format in the 'Land and Living Building' has allowed us to have more of a one on one contact with children and their parents and gets the Grange name to four to five thousand youngsters and their families each year. Likewise, our presence in the 'Youth Discovery Center' maintains the opportunity for Grange Youth and Junior Granges to display their exhibits to state fair attendees along with other youth groups.

Our Friendly Hills Grange Camp continues to function while being operated the past six and half years by the Ohio Grange Charitable Foundation. The foundation board continues to make improvements to keep the camp a modern facility serving the Zanesville area, as well as hosting the larger Ohio State Grange events.

Some nice donations to the 'Dogs for the Deaf' project in Ohio allowed our Deaf Activities Director, Judy Carrick, the opportunity to present Dogs for Deaf director, Robin Dickson, a check for \$5,000 this past spring. This goal was reached in just a little over a year.

After serving Ohio as youth directors for the past 23 years, Mike and Debbie Russell have stepped down from that position. I am in the process of selecting new directors for Ohio's youth.

I am looking forward to another great session, working with my fellow delegates in Boise. I appreciate all the work by the states of the Western Region in hosting this session.

Fraternally Submitted,
Gary Brumbaugh, Master

Oklahoma

Brad and I send greetings from the Oklahoma Sooner State Grange. It has been a great year with the hosting of the 145th National Grange Convention, in Tulsa, Ok. Our members enjoyed hosting everyone in our State and showing our State off. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

In January we were able to start a brand new Grange, Vinita Grange #360. I received the

charter at the Master's Conference in February.

In June, our Membership Director helped start a new grange, Grand Lake Grange #361. Both of the new Granges are growing and active.

This year, we had an increase of membership 272 members. Thanks to our Membership Directors and the Sub-Ordinate Granges.

We lost eight members by death.

In March, the National Master Ed Luttrell came and gave a talk about what was happening at the National Grange and about the Name Protection. We had a chicken and noodle dinner with 40 members coming to meet the National Master.

In April, Clear Creek Grange #84 hosted Degree Day for the State Grange. The State Grange Officers exemplified the first four degrees to eight members from the surrounding Sub-Ordinate Granges.

In June, thirty Juniors, Youth and Young at heart attended the Great Plains Leadership Conference hosted by Kansas State Grange at Lawrence Kansas, where the National Grange Lecturer, Membership Director, Youth Director, Junior Director and Communications Director gave informative workshops. Thank you for an educational weekend. During the conference, we had four youth give speeches they did a fantastic job.

There was a State Officer meeting in September where we practiced an opening drill, opening and closing of the Grange and the sixth degree. Everyone had a terrific time with food, fellowship and fun.

Brad and I attended two other State Sessions. The first State Session was Texas and the second State Session was Kansas. Thank you for having us.

I would like to thank National Chaplain Barbara Borderieux for being our National Representative this year at our State Session. I also would like to thank National Assistant Steward Roger Bostwick for helping with the Fifth and Sixth Degrees. There were several visitors to our State Session this year, new Kansas State Master Nathan Strawder and past State Kansas Master Paul and Mary Martin. It was a joy to have them all here.

We had seven members receive the Fifth and Sixth Degrees on Saturday evening at our State Session. The youth exemplified the Fifth Degree and they also did a drill for us at the beginning of the Fifth Degree.

Once again we gave out six scholarships; plus four more scholarships were given by the Grange Mutual Insurance. They were the following: Cherryvale Grange #221 Camille Krehbiel, Mitchel Nutter, Sharen Smith, Thompson Grange #352 Landon Volz, Tanner Volz, Kyle Volz, Ketchum Grange Colton Evans, Adair Grange Taylor Monroe, Cabin Creek Grange Sheyian Borgstrom, Vinita Grange Ronnie Bowers.

Our Granger of the Year was given to a couple, Billy and Lena Shufeldt, for all their dedication throughout the years. Billy Shufeldt has been State Steward since 1993 and Lena Shufeldt has been a director or an officer since 1993.

I would like to wish everyone a successful Grange year in 2013.

Fraternally Submitted
Donna Keeton, President

Oregon

Worthy Master, National Officers, Delegates and Brothers and Sisters,

What an honor it is for Mark and I to bring you greetings from the great state of Oregon. Being one of the hosting states has been a pleasure and we especially want to thank our



neighbors in this effort. Working together has been a delightful experience and we hope you all are pleased with the result.

We have had a challenging year in the state of Oregon. This past December, Brother Larry Rea made the decision to step down as our State Master which meant that our Overseer, Mark Noah stepped up to take over the responsibilities as State Master. So for the first six months of 2012, Mark worked hard to keep the Oregon State Grange not just functioning but also growing. During that period, two Granges were reorganized, so I believe his efforts have certainly paid off. At our June State Session, I was elected and he changed into his Hawaiian shirt and officially retired on the afternoon of June 15.

Our 139th State Session was held in Seaside, Oregon on June 11 to 15. Granges in the counties of Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill hosted this year and we could not have asked for a nicer place to host our session. The Oregon coast really showed off, the weather was great, the convention center was very accommodating and the fellowship was outstanding. We were honored to have Amanda Brozana, Communications Director, visit as our official National Representative. Amanda certainly added to our program and to our fun and fellowship. Along with several workshops on communications, she made many new friends and generally got to know our membership. We didn't know



then just how quickly she would be coming back to the State of Oregon. The delegates deliberated on over 50 resolutions, setting policy for our State for the coming year. Some of the most inspiring moments at this session came from our Youth and Juniors. Our Juniors presented their degree on Wednesday of State Session for the entire delegate body. This has been our custom for many years and each year seems better than the last. On Thursday morning, the 2012 Youth Officers opened the session and, as usual, made everyone present proud just to be associated with such a great team of officers and young people.

Our election this year saw the change of 10 officers and several new program directors were appointed. So going forward, we have many new faces in our leadership team. Our program directors have had two meetings since our state session and are already engaged in setting plans for next year and deciding the best way to work together to benefit our membership.

We welcomed the Western States in August to the 'Family Reunion', otherwise known as the Western States Youth Conference. This was chaired by Cat Thomas, Sarah Kingsborough and Melissa High. We met at Eagle Crest Resort in Central Oregon and found our weekend filled with interesting workshops, great public speeches, and, of course, good food and good fellowship. The three ladies did an outstanding job of reminding us of what a great family we are all part of.

As many of you may know, we had another 'small' challenge in the State of Oregon this last year. Developers from a Canadian firm came into Oregon with a proposal to start a casino that they called "The Grange." As soon as their ads hit the airwaves, we contacted the National Grange to alert them to this infringement of our trademark. The National Grange soon settled this case and our trademark was protected but unfortunately had to allow the name use to go on through the general election, with a disclaimer admitting that they had used the name without authorization and that we did not endorse their cause. While our members were understanding of this process, we still did not like seeing our name associated with a group of developers with so little regard for our laws, and for our organization. So on a state level, we took a position against the ballot measure and worked to stop this

casino from coming into Oregon. As I write this, I do not know if our efforts to stop them will be successful but our members have risen to the occasion and have really been getting the word out. With the help of Amanda Brozana, we have designed banners for many of the Granges saying "We are the Real Grange." Whether or not the casino goes forward, we will always be "The Real Grange," so we are using this as our membership theme for the coming year. I want to personally thank our Worthy National Master for all his support and help through this and also a big thanks to Amanda for her quick return to Oregon to help us sort this out.

Going forward, I believe this year will be a good one for the Oregon State Grange. We are already planning and working toward goals for next year. Some people say that two heads are better than one, but with our leadership team of officers, directors, district chairmen and deputies, we have over 100 people who are all working to make a difference in our communities and to the lives of those around us. Mark and I wish you all a profitable and enjoyable 2013 and the best of holiday seasons.

Fraternally Submitted,
Susan Noah, Master

Pennsylvania

Brothers and Sisters,

It is my privilege to present my third annual report to the National Grange as the Master of the Pennsylvania State Grange, having just been re-elected to a second two-year term at our recent State Session, October 20 to 22, 2012.



As I write this, we, in central Pennsylvania (as well as most of the East Coast), are just beginning to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Sandy. We continue to reach out to our members to offer assistance as needed and keep everyone effected by this historic storm in our thoughts and prayers.

Unfortunately, we lost Brother John Scott, past National Grange Master and Pennsylvania State Grange Master, this past year. Brother John was originally from Unionville Grange #1971 in Butler County but was also an Affiliate Member of my home Grange, Valley Grange #1360 in York County. I attended his funeral services in Mechanicsburg, as well as a special dinner held in his honor at Unionville Grange #1971, where they unveiled a beautiful memorial sign to Brother John in front of their Grange Hall.

I always feel that there is some positive aspect even in negative numbers. Specifically, although we had a net loss of members for the fiscal year 2011-2012, we reduced our quarterly losses for the 2nd quarter of 2012 to only 28! This is in very large part to the hard work and innovative ideas of our PA Stage Grange Membership/Public Relations Director, Stacy Bruker.

I had hoped to increase the number of our Subordinate Distinguished Granges this year but one Grange submitted their paperwork late, dropping us to only one, Russellville Grange #91...BUT...this is the first year that the PA State Grange will be recognized as a Distinguished Grange, a goal of mine for the past two years!

As I mentioned, we just held our State Grange Session in Butler, PA October 20-22, 2012. I was very happy to have Sister Chris Hamp, National Pomona, and her husband Duane, Master of Washington State Grange, as our National Grange Representatives. It

was also a pleasure to have Amanda Leigh Brozana, National Grange Communications Director, attend our entire Session, even presenting a workshop on Sunday on the National Grange Website and how to set up a website for your Subordinate Grange. Thank you to Chris, Duane and Amanda for your support throughout our Session.

This year, we had 34 Candidates for the 6th Degree Conferral at our 140th Annual State Session.

I was honored to present my first Charter as State Master to the new Elizabethtown Area Junior Grange!

Although it was in the third quarter of 2012, I also had the honor to present the first Charter to a newly organized Subordinate/Community Grange, New Freedom Grange #2108 in Greene County. I presented the Charter at our first annual "Night of Honors," Sunday evening at our State Session.

Following last year's National Grange Convention, the PA State Grange participated in the PA Farm Show, our largest Ag Show in the Commonwealth, running 8 days in January, with nearly 1,000,000 visitors. Under the supervision of Membership Director Stacy Bruker, we set up an informational booth and take advantage of the opportunity to talk to as many people as possible to let them know that the Grange is alive and growing in Pennsylvania.

The last weekend in January we held our annual Planning Meeting in State College. This is an opportunity for all of our State Officers, Directors and Committees to come together to plan our major events for the year including Youth Camp, Junior Camp and Family Festival, a four day camping weekend for Grangers, families and friends.

Betsy Huber (Legislative Director), Stacy Bruker and I personally delivered our 2012 Legislative Policy handbook to all of our Senators' and Representatives' offices prior to the annual "Cornucopia" held in the capitol. This is an opportunity for our Agricultural Organizations to spotlight themselves before our legislators in a relaxed setting.

Except for my trips home, I always look forward to attending the annual Masters' Conferences. This year was no exception, heading to Atlanta, Georgia at the end of February for a great weekend of interaction with other Masters from across this great nation as well as National Officers and staff.

I had the unique opportunity in March to speak about the Grange at our Pennsylvania FFA Annual Conference held in State College. I was able to "get the Grange word out" to more than 1,300 FFA attendees at the conference.

We all had a fun and educational long weekend in Ohio at the Eastern Regional Youth Conference in April. This was closely followed by our annual PA State Grange "Grange Day," which includes a luncheon with speakers and a trip to visit our legislators in the capitol.

Our Youth (Director Anna May Nauss) and Juniors (Director Karen Mohn) held two "Junior/Youth Lock-Ins" this year, one in the center of the state and one in the west. These are great weekends for our Juniors to meet our Youth so they may feel more comfortable with their transition into our Youth ranks.

I took advantage of the opportunity to not only attend but also present a workshop at the Mid-Atlantic Lecturers' Conference, hosted by our own State Lecturer Lorena Baughman and her committee.

Valley Grange #1360 was privileged to host one of National Membership Development Director Michael Martin's Grange Outreach for Active Leadership (G.O.A.L.) seminars.

A fun and educational event that we host every year, is our "Royalty Tour." This is an opportunity for our Junior Princess and Prince, Youth Ambassadors and Young Married couple to come to the PA State Grange Office in the morning and then head to our capital

city of Harrisburg. This year, they again took a tour of the Capitol Building and were introduced on the floors of both the House and Senate. They closed out the day with an afternoon at Hershey park.

Grange members from Pennsylvania participated in two legislative outings to Washington, D.C. this year; the National Grange Fly-In held in the spring and the "Farm Bill Now" rally held at the Capitol Reflecting Pool in the summer.

National Master Ed Luttrell came to our beautiful Pennsylvania in June. He spent three days crossing the Commonwealth, speaking at three different Grange venues and even had the opportunity to attend a Pomona Picnic.

Our State Grange Youth Camp (Friday through Sunday) closed out the month of June and kicked off July, immediately followed by our week long State Grange Junior Camp. We then took one week off before heading to the Centre County Grange Fairgrounds for our annual Family Festival, which saw nearly 200 attendees again this year.

Our final large agricultural event of the year is always Pennsylvania State University's College of Agricultural Sciences' Ag Progress Days. The PA State Grange again had an informational booth for all three days of the event where we took the opportunity to speak to as many of the 30,000 plus attendees as possible.

I am looking forward to the next two years of my present term. I hope to re-organize our State Deputy Master force to make them more active and efficient. We will continue to improve our communications with both members and potential members through our web site, social media outlets (including Facebook, Twitter and Blogs) and the USPS.

Having been involved in Chartering six new Subordinate/Community Granges in the past seven years, it is very evident that the Grange continues to be an important and relevant organization in Pennsylvania. After 140 years, we continue to charge through this 21st century to enhance the Grange and continue its growth as the preeminent organization it has always been!

Fraternally submitted,
Carl H. Meiss, Master

Potomac Grange #1, D.C.

This was an exciting year for the Grange of the Founders. We took in a few new members, funded projects and participated in community service events.



Potomac Grange #1 sponsored three Grange members to come and participate in the 2012 National Grange Legislative Fly-In. We held an essay contest for Grangers across the country, asking them how attending the 2012 National Grange Legislative Fly-In will help their local Grange. The winners were awarded scholarships to help pay for their travel.

We helped the Maryland State Grange with collecting bras for their program, "Bras for a Cause," which helped breast cancer research and women's shelters.

Potomac Grange #1 distributed dictionaries to Kimball Elementary School's third graders and their after school program.

We are excited to be helping out at the Washington Youth Garden in Washington, DC. A director from the Youth Garden, came and spoke at our Christmas party and told us all about the program and its involvement with the National Arboretum. After her visit, we

spent time researching ways we could help and decided on donating \$3,500 to install a Solar Demonstration Kiosk on the Youth Garden site. The kiosk is set to open in 2013 and members can't wait to attend the opening.

Potomac Grange also sent two resolutions to the 2012 National Grange Convention. The news we are most happy to share, is our progress with starting a Junior Grange in Washington, DC. We have been working hard to make this Junior Grange reality and hope to have it up and running in the New Year.

Fraternally Submitted,
Joan Smith, Master

Rhode Island



Worthy Master, National Officers, Brothers and Sisters, on behalf of the Officer Team and all the members of the Rhode Island State Grange, Claire and I bring greetings and I am delighted to make this report to you.

It has been two years since we began our journey to promote Grange Growth throughout our great State. The plan was to train a team of Officers and Directors to work together with all the Pomona and Subordinate Granges and bring all members into a unified team effort to promote the activities of our State Grange and to grow the membership by 25 percent. What I thought would add the most to this effort would be to bring everyone together, something one would think to be an easy process, as the Grange motto is "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, Liberty; in all things, charity." It is essential that we grow in membership so that our Grange will be perpetual! Well, I am sad to report we failed to bring a complete unity, but happy to say some of our Granges are growing! I can say there is a definite "spark" in that several Officers and members of Granges have approached me and said such things as "we took in a new member at our last meeting" or "we elected a full slate of Officers – a first in a long time". These are all encouraging to me to show that the Granges are beginning to make a difference and realize the importance of promoting their Granges through active community service and going out telling others what a great organization we have and inviting them to join us. This year, our Junior Grange members increased by 10 percent (as of June 30th) and I know they have taken in even more members since then. Congratulations to our Junior Department and everyone that continues to support this extremely valuable program. You all have heard over and over that the juniors are the future of the Grange. Well here in Rhode Island, we are extremely proud and pleased that the future appears to be bright.

This has been a celebration year, as we are 125 years old on Nov. 10. As a Senate Resolution that was introduced and adopted on the floor of the RI General Session in January reads, "Members of the Rhode Island Grange have a passionate commitment to the Grange and their communities. Their myriad altruistic endeavors have distinguished the Grange as an organization worthy of our utmost admiration and gratitude". Wow, what a tribute to the accomplishments of the Rhode Island State Granges!

April was full of Celebrations – Grange and Granger recognition Awards, Community Service Awards and open houses – all to promote the Grange and recognize all that serve so faithfully. We had our 125th Celebration Banquet on April 29 and were honored to have our Worthy National Master Ed Luttrell attend. It was truly a great afternoon of fellowship,

celebration and enjoyment of many pictures and artifacts from the past. We all look forward to building our future with the satisfaction of remembering and celebrating our past.

The rest of the year was full of community service, attendance and participation at Fairs and other local and state functions and expositions. We closed our year with our 126th Annual Session in October and were honored to have National Chaplain, Sister Barbara Borderieux, as our National Representative. We were very pleased to have 17 take the Sixth Degree and, hopefully, they will move to the Seventh at National in New Hampshire next year.

In closing, it was a great year for us and we are looking forward to a better and brighter future in Grange Growth to shine on us for many more years to come.

Fraternally Submitted,
Stephen Logan, Master

South Carolina

Ever since the birth of the Grange, certain South Carolinians joined believing that partisan, denominational, philosophical, geopolitical and inter-personal divides could be beaten by rising above those divides and joining with other Grangers. This year, we joined with other Granges of the Southeastern Region to celebrate the historic trip through the southern area, where the following statement foreshadowing the rise of the Grange was written:

“Politicians would never restore peace in the country; if it came at all, it must be through fraternity. The people of the North and South must know each other as members of the same great family, and all sectionalism be abolished.” O. Kelley, 1866



This story received excellent news coverage, using tactics very stylistic of the ancient Grange. Grange information passed fluidly between every level, primarily through email and the end result, was a small state Grange, with meager resources, having a news story hit the AP newswire, bringing nationwide coverage to the Grange, which was positive.

Though the news release was successful, talks were found ineffective. Talks from local political figures have been effective in the past, but Grange leaders, including Kelley, are best known for effectively corresponding through letters, not for making talks. The best-known talk in the South Carolina Grange was catastrophic, in that it started the still violent Clemson-Carolina rivalry.

The South Carolina Grange is pulling a reverse position. The State Session has been pared back and ineffectual committees have been disbanded to get our State operating financially in the black. The old records have been donated to the Strom Thurmond institute in Clemson, to be stored alongside the records from the original State Grange. New bylaws, adapted for younger Grangers using the latest computer technology, are in place at the subordinate level, with new ones nearing completion for Pomona. Our State Secretary, along with all the community Grange Secretaries, did great work to vastly improve the fidelity of the current State's records. The State Session has been moved to a location more conducive to Grange work involved in pushing a reorganized Grange across the chasm.

Fraternally Submitted in Hope for Greater Unity
Jerry Martin, Master

Tennessee

Greetings from the Volunteer State of Tennessee.

This year has been both productive and challenging and has been a time for serious reflection, as we determine what steps to take to grow membership. We are proud that, in this membership year, two Granges had a net gain in membership and we are back in the gain column, having missed that mark last year. Challenges we faced during the year, were met by members working together in a local Grange to take necessary steps for change, and this Grange has added more than a dozen new members and has come out the situation wiser and stronger. Another challenge for Tennesseans, as well as states across the country, was the devastating drought covering 56 percent of the continental United States, with 27 states seeing record-breaking heat for weeks. It was an unusual year weather wise.



National President Ed Luttrell visited Tennessee in March 2012, meeting in Lebanon with people interested in forming a Grange. He was able to answer questions from them, so cautious hope is there, for the addition of a new Grange. With six Granges in our state, we are one of the smallest Grange states in the country. Although eight states touch Tennessee's borders, only two of them have State Granges – North Carolina and Virginia. There are some Granges in Arkansas and Missouri, but at the present time, those states have not attained State Grange levels.

Our 104th annual State convention was held in East Tennessee in October 2012, hosted by Volunteer Grange in Knoxville. Our National representatives were High Priest Bruce Croucher and his wife, Sharon. All meetings were held at the Grange hall, with all meals being served there as well. This was an election year for all officers, and Brother Bruce installed our newly elected officers. Both Bruce and Sharon were tremendous assets and extremely helpful during the weekend of activities, taking an active part in our convention.

We again had 100 percent participation in the Community Service contest. In Tennessee Granges, some of the greatest efforts seem to be in service to our communities. Every Grange has their favorite annual projects but are always looking for new ways to help in their communities and are working with a great deal of enthusiasm. Their notebooks supported the tremendous amount of hours of work throughout the year. We also had excellent participation in the contests sponsored by the various departments.

In the Spring of 2013, Tennessee will be host to the Mid-Atlantic Lecturer's Conference, in upper East Tennessee in Greeneville. Meetings and meals will be held at the Wesley's Chapel Grange Hall and guests from several states are expected to attend.

Although our state is small, in both the number of Granges and members, we have strong leaders in all of them and continue to press toward the mark. Our goal is to make a difference in the lives of those around us and leave those communities better than we found them.

We are looking forward to another great year of activities, achievements, service projects and will work toward another net increase in membership.

Fraternally Submitted,
Judy Sherrod, Master

Texas

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates and members of the 146th National Grange Session, Greetings from all our great members of the Texas State Grange. We were honored to

have Brother Roger and Sister Melanie Bostwick as our National Representatives at our Annual Session in July. We were also honored to have our good friends, Brother Brad and Sister Keeton from Oklahoma, attend our Session. With the assistance of the Bostwicks and Keetons, we had a very successful State Session. It was certainly a pleasure to have them in attendance.

We enjoyed another good year with our community service programs – continuation of the rabies clinic in four Granges resulted in over 700 animals receiving rabies vaccination. Some of our Granges are also involved in food banks and “clothes closets” for needy families. Four of our Granges also participate in the “Words for Thirds” program.

Texas had an increase in membership for the third consecutive year and we are on the way to doing the same for a fourth consecutive year.

Texas youth are getting energized and will exemplify the 5th Degree at our annual session in 2013. As we move forward, I plan to get our youth more involved.

In June, Margaret and I attended the Great Plains Conference in Lawrence, Kansas. “Job well done, Roger.”

We continue having our annual fundraisers in preparation for the 2015 National Session in 2015. Texas will be one of the hosting states.

A first for Texas – in 2011 we held a Degree Day and two Granges exemplified the First and Second Degrees. In 2012, two other Granges exemplified the Third and Fourth Degrees. In 2013, we will have a Degree Day to exemplify all four Degrees.

We continue to publish our state newsletter quarterly and furnish it to members via e-mail and the postal service for those without e-mail. Our goal is to improve its quality and make more information available to our members.

May we have a very successful National Session. God Bless the Grange. God Bless the USA.

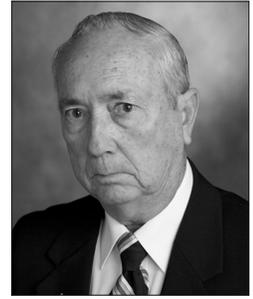
Fraternally submitted,
Jack Smithers, Master

Vermont

Worthy Master, National Officers, Brothers and Sisters, on behalf of Vermont Grangers, I extend greetings from the Green Mountain State, as we begin our 142nd year.



My goals for this past year, pledged at the National Convention in Tulsa, were to reduce losses to zero, to organize three new Junior Granges in the state and to host a G.O.A.L. Seminar. However, even with renewed emphasis on recruiting, retention and public outreach, membership continues to slip, albeit at a significantly reduced rate. Our net loss last year was 64, down from 74 the year before and continuing a promising trend begun a couple years ago. I believe that, with added effort, we can show a membership increase in the coming years. Work continues with efforts to organize new Junior Granges and prospects are promising at a few community Granges. Our G.O.A.L. Seminar was held in May in Lyndon, ably presented by National Leadership/ Membership Director Michael Martin. Brother Michael returned to Vermont in October to represent National Grange at our annual session.



Also in May, we were pleased to host National Master Ed Luttrell and give him a grand tour of the Connecticut River Valley from Brattleboro to the Northeast Kingdom.

Once again, Grangers assembled at the State Capitol for Legislative Day in April. This event is well attended and, as in years past, the Governor signed and presented proclamation of appreciation to the Grange. Legislative Director James Ballard planned an interesting program that included a briefing by Brother Gordon Gibson, Legislative Grange Liaison from Connecticut. This event is a great opportunity for Grangers to see their government in action, to meet with legislators and make our voices heard.

The Vermont Farm Show, which for over 60 years has been held in Barre, moved to the much larger venue at the Champlain Valley Exposition near Burlington this year. The Grange has been involved with the Farm Show from its earliest years – one of the pioneer organizers back in 1932 was Orlando Martin, past State Master and National Lecturer. This year, we had a generally positive response and, although too many people still ask “Is the Grange still around?” or mention thinking that their grandparents once belonged, we had some who asked, to our delight, “How do I join the Grange?”

Granges across Vermont planned fund raising events during the year for the Vermont Farm Disaster Relief Fund, set up to assist farms hard hit by Tropical Storm Irene last year. Buildings, livestock, equipment and crops were lost, and in many case the land itself was destroyed. The range of fund raising events was impressive and included raffles, silent auctions, bingo proceeds, rest area coffee breaks, breakfasts and suppers, entertainments and screening of films. Thousands of dollars were raised and contributed. Even now, over a year after the storm, anyone driving through many parts of Vermont can attest to the scope of the catastrophe and because many farmers are still in need, we intend to continue raising funds through 2013.

For the past six years, we have taken the Sixth Degree “on the road, conferring it in various parts of the state. This year, I am pleased to report we had the largest candidate class in over a decade and with National Grange coming to New Hampshire in 2013, we envision an even larger group next year.

We were saddened last January when Past Master Kermit W. Richardson died after 68 years laboring in the Grange. And what labors they were. Brother Kermit held offices at every level of the Grange, including several at the National level and was current Chairman of our state Executive Committee. Over the years, I came to know him as not just a fellow Patron, but as a friend and mentor. In my current role, I was able to call on him for guidance on many issues and was always met with helpfulness and understanding. I was honored bring his “Hero of the Grange” Award back from Tulsa and to be able to present it to him at his home in Orange.

I wish to thank all the officers and members for their hard work and dedication during the past year. I believe that the trends we have established during the past few years, will lead to a promising future for our Order in Vermont.

Fraternally submitted,
Errol Briggs, Master

Washington

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates and members of the National Grange, it is my honor to bring greetings from the Washington State Grange.

It’s been another year of growth for the Grange in Washington. We’ve seen new Ju-

nior Granges form and we have several more in the works. New Granges have sprung up across the state and several additional communities have expressed interest in forming a new Grange or revitalizing an existing Grange.

This resurgence of interest in the Grange is due in large part to the efforts of existing Grange members, our focus on Youth and Juniors and the hard work of our state membership director, Brother Rusty Hunt. Brother Rusty covers the state from one end to the other and is always willing to do what it takes to strengthen existing Granges and form new Granges.



As we continue to focus on developing our Grange Youth, we are planning on having a legislative weekend in March. This event will be open to any and all Grange members, but will be tailored to allow Grange Youth to meet with their legislators and find out how they can get more involved in the legislative process through their membership in the Grange. State Legislative Director Sister Holli Johnson is coordinating this program, in concert with our Department Directors. This is just one of the many Youth- and Junior-specific activities under consideration as we continue to strengthen the foundation of the Grange as a whole through the recruitment of young people.

We have a new Junior Grange Director, Sister Codi Titus. While we have had a lot of success with creating new Junior Granges across the state, I believe Sister Codi will aggressively strive toward not only creating more Junior Granges but also in finding ways to keep the kids interested in the Grange through the ranks of the Youth and into Subordinate membership. I want to thank Sister Carol Evans for her many years of work as Junior Director. She has set the bar pretty high!

This past summer, we had six Junior Grange camps. These camps offer parents a safe, wholesome and fun option for their kids. Great food, great people and tons of activities keep the kids happy and our camp directors do a great job of keeping it fun while getting kids interested in the Grange.

Another major focus in my second year as State Master, is strengthening the Grange at the Pomona level. The Pomona Granges play a critical role in the Grange structure and I have discovered many of them need some guidance as to what exactly their Pomona is supposed to do for the Granges in their area. To this end, I will be visiting every Pomona Grange in Washington State over the next several months to observe their meetings and offer my vision for their purpose.

We were honored to welcome National Grange Executive Committeeman Joe Fryman and his wife Tammy to our 123rd annual convention in Spokane this past June. We were also happy to have Brother Don and Sister Mary Johnson, Master and first lady of the Idaho State Grange and Brother Scott and Sister Marie Nicholson, Master and first lady of the Montana State Grange as our guests. Delegates and members, in addition to the work on resolutions, heard a presentation by Washington State Department of Transportation Secretary Paula Hammond, raised money for the departments during the annual live auction, admired more than a thousand amazing display items created by members and enjoyed 17 acts in our annual talent contest. In addition, those in attendance were treated to the Youth opening in the 4th Degree and the Juniors presenting their floor work as well. We also had 94 members receive the Sixth Degree.

This winter, I will lead four leadership conferences across the state. These conferences will feature remarks from me and presentations by the Membership, Youth, Young Adult, Junior, Lecturer and Family Living department heads. The Lecturer and Family Living de-

partments will also be heading up their own meetings throughout the winter, giving members details on the upcoming year's contests and activities and discussing how members can use the wide assortment of contests we offer to recruit new members.

On the legislative front, we have been aggressive in our education of elected officials on Grange policy. We continue to have a solid relationship with state government and will work hard this coming legislative session to strengthen that relationship, through multiple events such as the aforementioned legislative weekend.

The importance of the Grange in state politics has never been greater. The focus in recent years on the budget, and only the budget, has made it easy for legislators to justify cuts and add regulations and taxes that the Grange sees as unfair when it comes to our farmers, ranchers and rural residents. Sister Holli's vigilance on the hill has kept our State Grange visible and respected and, as a result, we have been able to remind our elected officials how important agriculture and rural communities are to the economy of our state.

I look forward to continue working, along with the other states in the Western Region, on keeping the lines of communication with the Grange Insurance Association (GIA) open and active for the benefit of the State Granges and GIA.

As part of the host region, the members of the Washington State Grange have been working hard to prepare for this 146th annual convention of the National Grange in Boise. It is exciting to see so many of our members get involved with just about every aspect of convention. It also looks like we'll have a couple of buses of 7th Degree candidates come down for the Friday night and Saturday activities.

Sister Chris and I wish you all the best in the coming year.

Fraternally yours,
Duane J. Hamp, Master

Wisconsin

Worthy Master, National Officers, Delegates, and members attending the 146th annual convention of the National Grange in Boise, Idaho,



It is with great pleasure that I am again permitted to attend this 146th annual National convention as Wisconsin's delegate and member of the National Executive Committee.

The continued story of the Grange in Wisconsin is not good. The local Granges do seem to sense the urgency that not having a membership gain means to them and our future. Although they continue to be active in their communities and are involved in many worthwhile community activities, they have not utilized that positive momentum to attract new members to join with them.

With that said, this past year Wisconsin hosted the mid-west youth conference at Pine Lake Camp in Westfield, WI. Both National Youth Director, Charlene Espanshade, and Junior Grange director, Diane Szkutak, were able to attend. The weekend included many workshops, a drill demonstration and plenty of time for other activities.

The Legislative Fly-in in May was held during Law Enforcement Memorial Week this year and my daughter, Amber, and I came out early and volunteered with the Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), to assist them in getting their annual convention ready. We worked in unpacking their equipment, setting up their store and registering the attendees. It was a very emotional time for me. As a member of the Law Enforcement family, I under-

stood why we were there. But unlike the Grange, the other volunteers do not join of their own free will; they become a member of this organization by having a loved one killed in the line of duty. Although I know officers who have been killed, and whose names are now carved on that wall, it is a lot different than having to say, “my husband was killed by a drunk driver, my son was killed in a motor vehicle accident, my daughter was killed by a domestic abuse suspect”, as each of the volunteers I worked with related their story to me. This time spent made me appreciate my Grange family more.

This summer, working with Membership Director Michael Martin and Master Luttrell, Wisconsin partnered to bring an organizing intern to Wisconsin. Melanie Fitch, from Ohio, came and spent 10 weeks talking to various people around the state and looking to organize Granges. This was a great opportunity and learning experience. And though the results were not what was hoped, I believe a lot was learned to make this effort more successful in the future.

The National Junior Horticultural Association annual convention was held in the Wisconsin Dells and Wisconsin Granges helped with judging and provided a workshop on the Grange. Debbie Gegare, Advisor to the Officer team, and her daughter, Lexi, joined the Grange in 2011 and have become very involved. With their knowledge of how the Grange, NJHA, FFA and 4-H are related, they bring a new and refreshing enthusiasm to our state. Being personal friends with Brother Wib Justi, they understand what, “I’d be delighted!” truly means. Partnerships between our organizations need to be reestablished.

I look forward to big changes in Wisconsin in the coming year.

Fraternally Submitted,
Duane Scott, Master

West Virginia

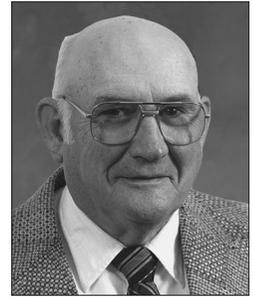
I will not try to present an upbeat report on the condition of the West Va. State Grange. We have some Granges that are thriving, while others just exist and some are on the verge of closing. Although we are taking in new members, they are not enough to off set the decline.

As I look back over the years, I see a slow, but steady decline in membership and enthusiasm with in the Grange. Some of the factors are related to the election process with in the Grange at all levels. We have not elected strong leaders who are willing to move up and take charge. We never know what may happen that will result in an elected officer being forced to move up and take charge. Have we chosen leaders who are capable of meeting the challenge?

The West Virginia State Grange constantly strives to obtain new benefits that will serve our members. At this time, the West Va. State Grange and the National Grange jointly offer membership benefits that are superior to other Organizations, yet this does not entice new members. Our very active Granges that participate in numerous community service projects are recognized as a very important organization in our community. However, these endeavors continue to have little effect in obtaining new members. How do we turn this around?

The West Virginia State Grange has served our State and Community for one hundred and forty years. Hopeful we will be able to survive for many more years.

Fraternally,
Jim Foster, Master



**NATIONAL GRANGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT
2011-12**

**National Grange Board of Directors
February 23, 2012
Country Inn & Suites
Atlanta, GA**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 6:30 p.m. February 23, 2012 by Chairperson Huber at the Country Inn & Suites Atlanta, GA.

Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman and Phil Prelli.

We were led in opening prayer by Betsy Huber expressing our thanks for the fine weather and getting us all here safely, asking for his help in assuring that all others coming for the Master's Conference arrive safely and seeking guidance for us all in our meeting.

The minutes of the Nov. 5, 2011 and Nov. 11, 2011 board meetings were approved on a motion from Joe Fryman, second from Duane Scott and vote of the Board.

Ed Luttrell made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session. It was seconded by Joe Fryman and adopted.

It was moved by Ed Luttrell and seconded by Phil Prelli and approved by vote of the Board that we adjourn the Executive Session.

Department Reports

Communications

It was reported that the Grange Month Mailing will be expanded to include information from all the departments. We also have an intern who is studying historical preservation working on organizing and restructuring our historical files for better access and ease of finding information.

Information & Technology

The Board was brought up to date on the status of the new Website. It was also reported that some income is coming in from the Amazon link.

Junior

The title for the Junior Program for 2012 is "Plant A Seed and Watch Us Grow". The Department is working with the Youth Department on upcoming Regional Conferences.

Legislative

Discussion was held on the Legislative Fly-In scheduled for May 14 to 16. It was reported that the National Grange provided comments to the US Department of Labor in opposition to the proposed regulations on employing youths for Farm Labor. Happy to report the proposed regs were revoked.

Executive Assistant

All appears to be going well with the 2012 Convention in Boise, Id. Jessie is planning to visit the site on March 6-8 for further follow-up.

Financial

Yearend figures were discussed with the figures showing a net profit of \$132,341. Dis-

cussion was held on the cash flow numbers as well as the ability to move some funds to long term investments.

Leadership/ Membership

Director Martin is planning on going to Wyoming in the spring to reestablish contacts and work on forming new Granges. The Board was also provided with a schedule of upcoming conferences.

Sales, Benefits & Programs

Sales figures were discussed as well as the proceeds from the Benefit Packages. Discussion was also held on a change in vendor policy for the National Convention.

Youth

Discussion was held on the progress of the program to perform the 1873 Degrees at the Kelley Farm. Degree Captains have been appointed and the date will be July 13, 2013. The Kelley Farm is enthusiastic about the plans. Director is also working on Regional Conferences.

Building

The building is currently at 100 percent occupancy. UV lights have been purchased and installed in the sub-basement to address the mold problem. Employees have also been instructed in the need to use the provided face masks when working in the area.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Meeting reconvened at 8:40 am on 02/24/12.

Trademark Protection

Leroy Watson joined the meeting via a conference call.

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board, the Board went into executive session with invited guest Leroy Watson to discuss issues on trademark protection.

Phil Prelli moved that we adjourn the Executive Session. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and adopted.

The conference call with Mr. Watson was terminated.

Unfinished Business

A motion was made by Ed Luttrell to adopt the revised National Grange Convention Fund and Host Region Responsibilities as presented. It was seconded by Duane Scott and approved.

Phil Prelli moved that we accept the proposed budget for the host region expenses for the 2012 convention as presented. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry. Ed Luttrell then moved an amendment to strike the tour section and the tour under the Junior and Youth sections. After a second from Jimmy Gentry it was approved by a vote of the Board. After some discussion a Motion was made by Ed Luttrell, seconded by Joe Fryman to postpone action on the amended motion until a future Teamspeak Meeting. It was approved by vote of the Board.

Discussion was held on the resolutions adopted at the last National Convention that needed further action.

Meeting recessed at non.

Meeting reconvened at 1:30 pm.

New Business

Ed Luttrell moved that Chairperson Huber be empowered to draft recommendations on Retention/ Discard Records policy for local Grange records and ritual items for our next meeting. Jimmy Gentry seconded the motion and it was approved.

Phil Prelli made a motion to accept the Compensation Agreement with State Granges as presented with the technical correction of updating the dates. It was seconded by Joe Fryman and adopted.

Jimmy Gentry moved that National Grange charge \$100 for the Grange start up kit if asked for by a Reorganized Grange. The motion was seconded by Duane Scott and approved.

Phil Prelli moved that we approve the proposed benefit program for Local Hospitality with the revenue stream only. Ed Luttrell seconded the motion and it was approved.

On a motion from Jimmy Gentry, second from Ed Luttrell and vote the Board approved the proposed benefit package for the Guard Complete program.

Ed Luttrell moved to approve the new credit card program through Card Partner, Phil Prelli seconded it and it was approved.

Phil Prelli moved to approve the Comfort Keepers benefit program, Duane Scott seconded the motion and it was approved.

Ed Luttrell moved that the Board authorize the research for a book on the history of the Economic Impact of the Grange to coincide with the 150th Anniversary of the Order. Jimmy Gentry seconded the motion and it was approved by vote of the Board.

The next meeting of the Board was set for May 15, 2012 at 5 p.m. to run through 4 p.m. on May 16, 2012.

On a motion from Ed Luttrell, second from Joe Fryman and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

**National Grange Board of Directors
May 15, 2012
National Grange Headquarters
Washington, DC**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 8 p.m. May 15, 2012 by Chairperson Huber at the National Grange Headquarters Washington, DC.

Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, and Phil Prelli.

We were led in opening prayer by Betsy Huber expressing our thanks for the beautiful day and asking that we be given wisdom and strength to make the right decisions in our upcoming meeting.

The minutes of the Feb. 23, 2012 Board meeting were approved on a motion from Jimmy Gentry, second from Duane Scott and vote of the Board.

Master's Report

Master Luttrell brought the Board up to date on current attorney actions dealing with leases in the building as well as our attorney, Fran Vitt, sending letters to a tenant who is behind payments on their rent. Master Luttrell will also be addressing the issue with the tenant.

Discussion was held on plans for Membership Deputies for the summer in three states. Melanie Fitch from Ohio will be working in Wisconsin for the summer starting on May 21, 2012. Her expenses are being paid for by the Wisconsin State Grange. Joe Stefanoni from California will be part-time in Wyoming and he proposed that Chris Szkutak from

Massachusetts would be part time in Arkansas.

On a motion from Jimmy Gentry, with a second from Phil Prelli, the Board voted that Chris Szkutak be hired to work as a summer intern acting as a Membership Deputy for the State of Arkansas for approximately \$5,000.

Unfinished Business

The Board was presented with an example of a possible site for the 2016 session in the Washington, D.C., area. This was for information only and not as a recommendation and required no action at this meeting.

Phil Prelli moved that we adopt the “Preservation of Grange Records” policy as amended. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved by vote of the Board.

Meeting recessed at 10:05 p.m. on May 15, 2012.

Meeting reconvened at 11:15 a.m. on May 16, 2012 with all above members present.

Discussion was held concerning the resolution passed at the 2011 National Session to have a commemorative stamp to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the National Grange and the information the National Grange staff has obtained on the process and rules established by the Postal Service. The major constraints are that there is a 50 year waiting period between organizations having a new stamp and we would not be able to supply the artwork.

A motion was made by Phil Prelli that due to the time constraints established by the USPS that we cannot produce a 150 year commemorative stamp. The motion was seconded by Ed Luttrell and adopted by the Board.

Jimmy Gentry moved that we approve the \$30,000 budget for the 2012 host committee convention expenses, seconded by Joe Fryman and approved.

Recessed at 12:15 p.m.

Reconvened at 1 p.m.

The Board was joined by attorneys Bikoff and Watson to discuss trademark protection issues. Atty Bikoff distributed a report of the status of Licenses, Applicant Registration, Active Cases, Closed Cases, and Domain Development. Discussion was held on the report as well as outstanding issues. Attorneys Bikoff and Watson left the meeting.

Unfinished Business continued

Phil Prelli moved that the National Master be authorized to obtain a “group blanket tax exemption” to cover any State Grange not covered as well as any Grange not under State Grange jurisdiction. The motion was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and adopted by the Board.

Jimmy Gentry moved that all spectators for the 7th Degree must be registered for the National Convention. It was seconded by Betsy Huber and approved by vote of the Board.

Department Reports

All Department reports were reviewed.

Joe Fryman made a motion that the audit report be accepted and placed on file. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved.

New Business

Discussion was held on the concept of digitization of our historical collection as well as other historical information. The thought being that this would be done in conjunction with a university.

The next meeting of the Board was set for Aug. 18, 2012 at 5 p.m. to run through 4 p.m. on Aug. 19, 2012.

On a motion from Jimmy Gentry, second from Duane Scott and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

**National Grange Board of Directors
June 11, 2012
Teamspeak Meeting**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 10:07 p.m. June 11, 2012 by Chairperson Huber via Teamspeak.

Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Joe Fryman, and Phil Prelli. Duane Scott was absent.

Ed Luttrell moved that we rescind the motion to charge the \$25 registration fee to anyone just viewing the Seventh degree and not participating in any other activities of the National Session. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and adopted by vote of the Board.

Discussion was held on the draft contract distributed for Trademark Protection concerning Grange Associations and the need for their licensing. The major point discussed was the need for Insurance coverage.

On a motion from Joe Fryman, second from Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

**National Grange Board of Directors
August 17, 2012
National Grange Headquarters
Washington, DC**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 6:20 pm August 17, 2012 by Chairperson Huber at the National Grange Headquarters Washington, DC.

Present were Betsy Huber Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, and Phil Prelli.

We were led in opening prayer by Betsy Huber expressing our thanks for all arriving safely and asking for guidance in our decision making process.

The minutes of the May 15, 2012 Board meeting and June 11, 2012 Teamspeak Meeting were approved on a motion from Duane Scott, second from Jimmy Gentry and vote of the Board.

Department Reports

Communications

Working with the South Carolina State Grange a successful press release was issued concerning the celebration of the Anniversary of Oliver Kelley's trip through the Palmetto State. The Communication Director is planning Communication Boot Camp Workshops throughout the country in 2013.

Information Technology

A question was raised on the need for a plan concerning purchasing of computer hardware.

Junior

The Committee looking into changes for the Junior Program is continuing to hold meetings. They will be submitting recommendations to be acted upon at the next annual session.

Legislative

Plans are moving forward for the resolution process and sponsorships at National Session. The Director has also started a new blog to dispense information.

Finance

Time was spent reviewing the Finance Report. The Board would also like to see projections for where we will be at year end as part of the budget process.

Membership /Leadership

Discussion was held on the interns work in the three states (Wisconsin, Wyoming and Arkansas) over the summer. Part of the discussion focused on what needs to be done to follow-up on their work to facilitate stronger results.

Building

We are currently fully occupied. Discussion held on upcoming leases and possible changes in tenants and space used.

Master's Report

Discussion was held on the status of Trademark Protection cases as well as the proposed contract for the Closely Held entities such as Foundations, Fairs and Service Companies. Much of the discussion was on the insurance section. Discussion also held on the continuing cost and whether there is a point that a decision would be made to no longer defend the mark.

On a motion by Ed Luttrell, second from Jimmy Gentry and vote the Board went into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Ed Luttrell to adjourn the Executive Session. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved by vote of the board.

Meeting recessed at 9:40 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9 a.m. on Aug. 18, 2012.

Unfinished Business

Discussion was held on the payment from the convention fund to the Western Region. There was concern on the part of the region that certain trumpet girl expenses were not covered by the approved budget amount. The Board emphasized that the amount allotted was a blanket sum and the region needed to set priorities.

The Board was presented a proposal for the 2016 convention for the Washington, DC area. Jimmy Gentry moved that we approve the proposal for the Hilton Hotel at Dulles Airport for the 2016 National Convention. It was seconded by Phil Prelli and approved by vote of the Board.

Ed Luttrell moved that Brothers Gentry and Prelli check into the need for and what limits are needed for the insurance section of the proposed contract for closely held corporations and report to the Board as soon as possible. It was seconded by Joe Fryman and approved.

On a motion by Jimmy Gentry with a second by Ed Luttrell the Board voted to approve the "State Grange License Agreement" proposal contingent on item 13 "Insurance Coverage" being addressed.

New Business

Discussion was held concerning GIA's concern with the Grange Benefit with Met Life being offered in the Western States. It has been pointed out to them that this was an error as it was not supposed to be offered in those states and the issue has been addressed. Phil Prelli moved that we reaffirm our agreement with GIA and the Board informs management that no competing insurance products are to be offered in the six Western States that GIA covers. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved.

On a motion by Ed Luttrell, seconded by Jimmy Gentry and vote of the Board the proposed benefit packages for "Connection Plus" and "MoneyAide" were approved.

Meeting recessed at 12:20 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

Ed Luttrell moved that the Board go into Executive Session. It was seconded by Phil Prelli and approved.

The Board came out of Executive session after a motion made by Phil Prelli and seconded by Duane Scott was approved.

The next meeting of the Board was set for Nov. 10, 2012 to be held at the site of National Convention in Boise, ID

On a motion from Ed Luttrell, second from Betsy Huber and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

**National Grange Board of Directors
September 16, 2012
Teamspeak Meeting**

The Teamspeak meeting of the Board was called to order at 9:05 p.m. Sept. 16, 2012 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Betsy Huber Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Duane Scott, and Phil Prelli. Joe Fryman was absent.

Phil Prelli made a motion that the Board go into executive session. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved by vote of the Board.

On a motion from Jimmy Gentry, second from Phil Prelli and vote of the Board the Executive Session was adjourned.

Phil Prelli moved that due to the non filing of quarterly reports for seven quarters including non payment of dues and the failure of the Wyoming State Grange to function as a State Grange, that the Wyoming State Grange Charter be suspended for six months or until they can be returned to proper working order. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved by vote of the Board.

Betsy Huber moved that for failing to abide by the By-Laws of the National Grange and failure to enforce the rules of the Order, that the California State Grange Charter be suspended for six months or until they can be returned to proper working order. It was seconded by Phil Prelli and adopted by vote of the Board.

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Jimmy Gentry and vote of the Board the Teamspeak meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

**National Grange Board of Directors
November 10, 2012
Grove Hotel
Boise, ID**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 5:05 p.m. MST Nov. 10, 2012 by Chairperson Huber at the Grove Hotel in Boise, ID.

Present were Betsy Huber Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, and Phil Prelli.

We were led in opening prayer by Betsy Huber expressing our thanks for all arriving safely and asking for wisdom and guidance in our decision making process as well as the safe arrival for all attending our Annual Session.

Discussion was held on the proposed budget introduced by the National Master. This included line by line modifications.

Meeting recessed at 7 p.m. MST to have dinner with the National Grange staff.

Meeting reconvened at 9 p.m. MST.

Discussion continued on the Budget.

Meeting recessed at 11:05 p.m. MST.

Meeting reconvened at 9:20 a.m. MST on Nov. 11, 2012.

The minutes of the Aug. 17, 2012 Board meeting and Sept. 16, 2012 Teamspeak Meeting were approved on a motion from Jimmy Gentry, second from Duane Scott and vote of the Board.

Discussion continued on the modified budget.

Joe Fryman made a motion to present the modified budget as discussed to the Delegates at the Annual Session. It was seconded by Phil Prelli and adopted by vote of the Board.

Department Reports

The National Master gave a synopsis to the Board of the department reports which all Board Members had copies. The written reports will also be distributed to all the Delegates.

Unfinished Business

USDA has again contacted Brother Leroy Watson concerning the Saunder's Collection. They have again shown interest in purchasing it. National Master will be following up with them after the National Session has ended.

The Grange Store is currently out of Fourth Degree Manuals. The staff is planning on going to print on the new manual by the second week of December. Master will keep the board informed on the status.

Recessed at 11:55 a.m. MST for lunch with the new Masters.

Reconvened at 1:35 p.m. MST.

Master's Report and New Business

A motion was made by Phil Prelli that the GIA money due to the California State Grange be held in trust until their Charter is reinstated. The motion was seconded by Duane Scott and adopted by vote of the Board.

Discussion was held on the Insurance section of the proposed licensing agreement for closely held companies using the Grange name. It was explained that three levels of insurance would be required depending on the size of the organization and their commercial activities. As the agreement was previously adopted no further Board action was required.

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Joe Fryman and vote of the Board, the Board went into Executive Session.

Jimmy Gentry moved that we come out of Executive Session. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved by vote of the Board.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held in conjunction with the Master's Meeting to be held in February.

On a motion from Jimmy Gentry, second from Duane Scott and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m. MST.

**National Grange Board of Directors
November 16, 2012
Convention Center
Boise, ID**

The annual organization meeting of the Board was called to order at 3:40 p.m. MST November 16, 2012 by Chairperson Huber at the Convention Center in Boise, Id.

Present were Betsy Huber Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, and Phil Prelli.

Ed Luttrell made a motion that Betsy Huber be reelected Chairperson and Phil Prelli be reelected Secretary. It was seconded by Duane Scott and approved by vote of the Board.

We will have a TeamSpeak meeting Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012 at 8 p.m. EST.

On a motion from Ed Luttrell, second from Phil Prelli and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m MST.

**National Grange Board of Directors
November 20, 2012
TeamSpeak Meeting**

The TeamSpeak meeting of the Board was called to order at 8:07 p.m. EST November 20, 2012 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Betsy Huber Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, and Phil Prelli.

Master Luttrell reported that he had received a request for the Consolidation of two California Granges, East Palo Alto Grange #409 and Cupertino Grange #739 with Cupertino Grange being the surviving entity.

Jimmy Gentry made a motion to approve the consolidation and Duane Scott seconded it.

After some discussion on the vote of the Granges and the Boards insurance that the rules had been followed the motion was rejected. The Master will work with the appointed Deputy to make sure proper votes are taken.

Discussion was held on the plans for revitalizing the Wyoming State Grange including the need to revoke the charters of some long dormant Subordinate Granges.

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Joe Fryman and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

This page is dedicated

to

Kermit Richardson

Former Master of the National Grange



Kermit Richardson was called home by the Master of the great Grange above on Jan. 7, 2012.

He was born Oct. 20, 1929 in East Orange., Vt. On Feb. 10, 1951, he married Margaret Grace Goulette in Orange, Vt.

He worked at the Vermont State Tax Department in earlier years. Then he and his wife opened the Richardson Insurance agency and the Richardson Associates Real Estate office. From 1951 to 1953, he served in the Army as a medic and had been stationed in Germany. He was an avid gardener, rose grower, reader and enjoyed attending his grandchildren's sporting activities.

At the age of 14, he joined the Riverside Grange No. 455 in West Topsham and served several terms as Master. He had been a member for 69 years. He was Master of the Vermont State Grange from 1970-74. As a member of the National Grange, he served as Chaplain from 1971-75, Lecturer from 1975-85, Overseer from 1985-95 and National Master from 1995-2003.

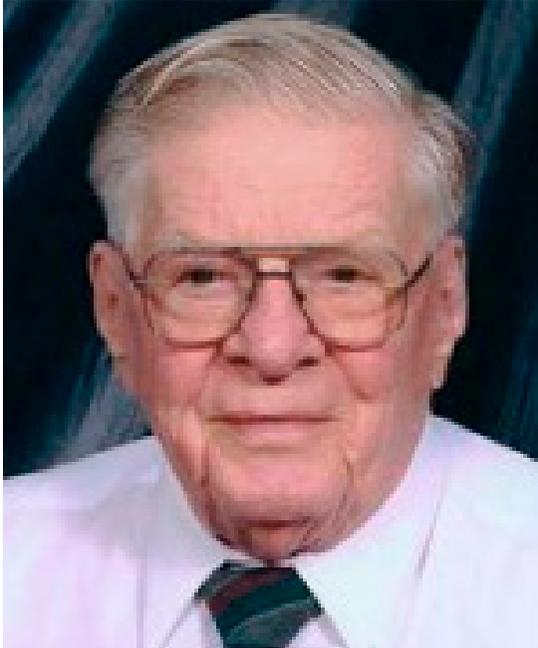
"Well done, good and faithful servant."

This page is dedicated

to

John W. Scott

Former Master of the National Grange



John W. Scott 94, of Mechanicsburg, Pa. passed away Feb. 10, 2012.

He was born in Robinson Township, Allegheny County on Dec. 8, 1917. John was married to Dorothy McCandless in 1939 until her death in 1994 and to Helen Paden from 2001 until her death in 2010.

John grew up on farms and operated a farm with his father. He was also a leader in his community. He was named the “Butler County Man of the Year” in 1937. John also was employed during the 1980’s by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

John was a member of Unionville Grange No. 1971. The Grange was the focus of much of his adult life. He held every office in the local and Pomona Grange and served on the State Executive Committee. John was elected Pennsylvania State Master, and later, in 1968, John was elected Master of the National Grange. He served for the next 12 years. He traveled abroad as an ambassador for American agriculture and provided counsel to Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter. While John was National Master, a commemorative postage stamp honoring the Grange was issued and the Grange satisfied the mortgage on our National headquarters.

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

This page dedicated

to late Past Officers of the National Grange

Olof “Ole” Billquist

Past National Grange Executive Committee Member
Past Montana State Grange Master

B. Franklin Hayes

Past National Grange Secretary
Past New Hampshire State Grange Master

Lloyd Massey

Past Priest Archon of the Assembly of Demeter
Past National Grange Chaplain
Past North Carolina State Grange Master

Ruby Mae Walton

Past National Grange Flora
Past First Lady of the Wisconsin State Grange
Represented, with her husband, National Grange in India

This page dedicated

to late Past Delegates of the National Grange

Clifton Lampman Sr.

Past Texas State Grange Master

Rickie Valentine

Past First Lady and Delegate
for the Indiana State Grange

Lowder W. Mitchell Jr.

Past First Husband and Delegate
for the Delaware State Grange

Mercedes Kiles

Past First Lady and Delegate
for the Texas State Grange

Constance Louise West

Past First Lady and Delegate
for the Massachusetts State Grange

Kenneth B. Skinner Sr.

Past Massachusetts State Grange Master

Kathleen Brewer

Past First Lady of the
Maine State Grange

**REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY
(PREPARED BY THE NATIONAL MASTER'S OFFICE)
RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
1/1/12 to 12/31/12**

Sixth Degree Fees-\$655.00

Golden Sheaf Certificate Fees-\$4,930.00

**Membership Recognition
1/1/12 to 12/31/12**

Sixth Degree Certificates: 262

Golden Sheaf Certificates: 493

40 year seals: 197

55 year seals: 358

60 year seals: 320

65 year seals: 260

70 year seals: 165

75 year certificates: 95

80 year letter: 28

85 year letter: 0

90 year letter: 0

**Organization and Reorganization
7/1/11-6/30/12**

Subordinate Granges

State	Organized	Reorganized
California	5	2
Maine	1	0
Massachusetts	0	1
Nebraska	1	0
Nevada	2	0
New Hampshire	1	0
New York	1	0
North Carolina	1	1
Oklahoma	2	0
Oregon	0	2
Washington	0	2
TOTAL	14	8

Junior Granges

State	Organized	Reorganized
California	1	0
Massachusetts	1	0
New York	1	0
Pennsylvania	1	1
Washington	1	0
West Virginia	1	0
TOTAL	6	1

Pomona Granges

State	Organized	Reorganized
California	1	0
TOTAL	1	0

State	Quarters	Subordinate Charter Fees	Junior Charter Fees	6 th Degree Certificate	Golden Sheaf
CA	1 st thru 4 th	\$175.00	\$10.00	0	4
CO	1 st thru 4 th			8	2
CT	1 st thru 4 th			13	29
DE	1 st thru 4 th			3	1
FL	1 st thru 4 th			1	0
ID	1 st thru 4 th			9	10
IL	1 st thru 4 th		\$10.00	13	20
IN	1 st thru 4 th			2	3
IA	1 st thru 4 th			3	1
KS	1 st thru 4 th			2	0
ME	1 st thru 4 th	\$25.00		21	15
MD	1 st thru 4 th			3	4
MA	1 st thru 4 th	\$25.00	\$10.00	9	5
MI	1 st thru 4 th			9	4
MN	1 st thru 4 th			0	1
MO	1 st thru 4 th			0	0
MT	1 st thru 4 th			8	0
NE	1 st thru 4 th	\$25.00		0	0
NV	1 st thru 4 th	\$50.00		0	0
NH	1 st thru 4 th	\$25.00		19	14
NJ	1 st thru 4 th			0	10
NY	1 st thru 4 th	\$25.00	\$10.00	15	57
NC	1 st thru 4 th	\$50.00		19	0
OH	1 st thru 4 th		\$10.00	9	41
OK	1 st thru 4 th	\$50.00		4	4
OR	1 st thru 4 th	\$50.00		4	18
PA	1 st thru 4 th		\$10.00	34	73
RI	1 st thru 4 th			17	4
SC	1 st thru 4 th			0	0
TN	1 st thru 4 th			0	0
TX	1 st thru 4 th			2	0
VT	1 st thru 4 th			16	21
VA	1 st thru 4 th			0	0
WA	1 st thru 4 th	\$50.00	\$10.00	10	117
WV	1 st thru 4 th		\$10.00	3	0
WI	1 st thru 4 th			6	0
WY	1 st thru 4 th			0	0
AK	1 st thru 4 th			0	0
Potomac	1 st thru 4 th				69
TOTAL		\$550.00	\$80.00	262	493

No Junior or Subordinate Dues were collected in any state.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

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ERIC BOLIN CPA P.C.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry
Washington, DC

I have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry (a non-profit corporation) as of December 31, 2011, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Grange's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry as of December 31, 2011, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Eric Bolin CPA, P.C.

March 05, 2012

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2011

	GRANGE OPERATING ACCOUNT	GRANGE BUILDING ACCOUNT	TOTAL NATIONAL GRANGE
ASSETS			
Cash on hand and on deposit (Sch. I)	\$ 445,755	\$ -	\$ 445,755
Investments (Note 4)	498,631	-	498,631
Accounts receivable (Sch. II)	21,877	-	21,877
Prepaid expenses and Deposits	5,356	-	5,356
Inventory - sales (Note 2)	116,769	-	116,769
Building (at cost)	-	1,174,014	1,174,014
Accumulated depreciation - Building	-	(1,174,014)	(1,174,014)
Equipment and Improvement	56,112	812,516	868,628
Accum. Depr.- Equip & Improvements	(56,112)	(699,484)	(755,596)
Land	-	255,238	255,238
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,088,388	\$ 368,270	\$ 1,456,658
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	\$ 113,938	\$ -	\$ 113,938
Convention Assessment	255,383	-	255,383
Grange bonding	376	-	376
Tom Severance Fund	2,644	-	2,644
Security deposits - tenants	-	30,371	30,371
Due to (from) building account	7,544,234	(7,544,234)	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	7,916,575	(7,513,863)	402,712
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted - building	0	7,882,133	7,882,133
Unrestricted - operating	(6,828,187)	-	(6,828,187)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	(6,828,187)	7,882,133	1,053,946
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 1,088,388	\$ 368,270	\$ 1,456,658

See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2011

Schedule I - Cash on Hand and on Deposit

Operating account	\$ 344,424
Payroll account	46,833
National Convention Bank	26,121
Petty cash	350
Building Reserve - Money Market Fund	25,027
Imprest	3,000
<hr/>	
Total Cash on Hand and on Deposit	\$ 445,755

Schedule II - Accounts Receivable

Foundation, Deaf	\$ 1,807
Youth Leadership	7,074
National Convention	6,307
Potomac Grange	658
Sales	3,801
Junior Foundation	208
Other	2,022
<hr/>	
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 21,877

See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statements of Activities - Operating Account

For the Year Ended December 31, 2011

REVENUE	
Dues and Fees	
Subordinate Grange Dues	\$ 817,580
Subordinate Grange Charter Fees	320
Junior Grange Charter Fees	40
E-Membership	180
Sixth Degree Fees	933
Seventh Degree Fees	3,115
GIA	93,750
Sponsors, Grants	53,000
Sales Income	78,014
Interest, Dividend Income	
Fund Raising Donations	6,886
Other Income	6,181
Bonding Commission	5,727
TOTAL REVENUE	1,065,726
EXPENSES	
General and Administrative	326,016
Gen & Admin - Professional Services	258,667
National Master	93,260
National Secretary and Lecturer	1,000
Board of Directors	6,409
Communication Publication	144,533
Youth Activities	16,180
Junior Grange	20,017
High Priest	1,682
Membership, Leadership	85,612
Legislative	121,397
IT/ Systems	87,795
National Convention	145,286
Marketing/Sales	180,451
Representatives to State Conventions	11,507
Pres Mtg	7,181
Simple IRA	8,571
Depreciation	0
Interest	6,524
TOTAL	1,522,088
DECREASE IN NET ASSETS - OPERATING	(456,362)
Unrealized Gain—Investment	0
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - January 31,	(6,371,825)
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - December 31,	\$ (6,828,187)

See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statements of Activity - Building Operations

For the Year Ended December 31, 2011

INCOME	
Rent	\$ 968,930
NG Building – Expense Allocation	92,916
Storage, Other	5,343
<hr/>	
TOTAL INCOME	1,067,189
<hr/>	
EXPENSES	
Salaries and Payroll Taxes	72,632
Real Estate Taxes	114,127
Electricity, Gas and Water	91,671
Building Supplies	2,497
Service Contracts, Inspection	160,225
Repairs and Maintenance	16,541
Employee Insurance	1,125
Insurance	12,916
Miscellaneous, Commissions	2,979
<hr/>	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	474,713
<hr/>	
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS	592,476
Provision for Depreciation	29,860
<hr/>	
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS - Building	562,616
NET ASSETS - Building Operations – January 1,	7,319,517
<hr/>	
NET ASSETS - Building Operations - December 31,	\$ 7,882,133

See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2011

CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Decrease in Net Assets - Operating	\$	(456,362)
Increase in Net Assets - Building		562,616
Total		106,254
Adjustments to Reconcile Decrease in Net Assets to Cash (Used) by Operations		
Depreciation		29,860
Decrease (Increase) in Accounts Receivable		12,999
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expenses, Supplies		(549)
Decrease (Increase) in Inventory		(2,968)
Increase (Decrease) in Grange Bonding		167
(Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable		25,361
Increase in Tenant Security Deposits		2,760
Increase in Convention Assessment		88,006

NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES 261,890

CASH USED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES

(Increase) in Tom Severance Fund		2,644
(Increase) in Investment Account		(135,544)

NET CASH (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES (132,900)

CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES 0

NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH 128,990

CASH - January 1, 316,765

CASH - December 31, \$ 445,755

See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION

The National Grange is a non-profit organization comprised of four distinct divisions. The mission of the National Grange is to improve the quality of life in America's families and communities. The National Grange provides representation for its members on agriculture and rural/urban issues, encourages and supports grassroots community and organizational leadership.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

Basis of Accounting - The financial statements of the Organization have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and accordingly reflect all significant receivables, payables and other liabilities.

The accounts of the Organization are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Under fund accounting, resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purpose. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund; however, in the accompanying financial statements, funds have been combined and presented for the Organization as a whole in accordance with the provisions of Accounting Standards Codification Section 958, *Not for Profit Entities* (Formerly Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 117, "*Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations*").

Cash and Cash Equivalents - For purposes of the statements of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents are considered to be unrestricted highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less at the time of acquisition.

Inventories - Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market, with cost determined on a first-in, first-out basis and market based on the lower of replacement cost or realizable value.

Investments - Items that may be included in this category are equity securities, debt instruments, including certificates of deposit with maturities greater than three months, bonds, notes and mortgages, limited partnerships, land and buildings not used in the operations of the Organization, cash value of annuity and life insurance contracts and coins and bullion.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (Continued)

It is the Organization's policy to hold bonds and notes to maturity. Accordingly, interim declines in market value which are not considered permanent are not recognized.

Property Assets and Depreciation - Property assets are those assets used in the operations of the Organization. They are recorded at cost or, if donated, at the estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

Depreciation is recorded using the straight-line method at various rates calculated to allocate the cost of the respective items over their estimated useful lives.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions. This will affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Income Tax Status - The Organization is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). However, income from certain activities not directly related to the Organization's tax-exempt purpose is subject to taxation as unrelated business income.

Net Assets - Net assets of the Organization consist of the following:

Unrestricted: Property—These net assets reflect the total carrying value after accumulated depreciation of all land, buildings and equipment used in the building.

Unrestricted: Undesignated—available for general activities—These net assets are available for general obligations of The National Grange.

Temporarily Restricted: Specific purposes—These net assets are restricted by donors to be used for some specific purpose.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

NOTE 3 - INVESTMENTS

Investments include equity securities, mutual funds and certificates of deposit with maturities greater than three months. Investments are recorded at cost or, if donated, at the estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

Investments are shown at fair market value in these financial statements. This carrying amount is equivalent to their fair market value at December 31, 2011.

Investments include:

Money Funds	\$ <u>498,631</u>
-------------	-------------------

NOTE 4 - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property, equipment and accumulated depreciation are as follows at December 31:

	<u>2011</u>
Depreciable Assets	
Equipment	\$ 56,112
Building	1,174,014
Building Improvements	<u>812,516</u>
	2,042,642
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,929,610)</u>
	<u>\$ 113,032</u>

NOTE 5 – UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS- BUILDING

Building unrestricted net assets is comprised of:

	<u>2011</u>
December 31	
From Operations	\$6,910,903
Contributions	260,745
Provided from Exchange of	
Former Building	396,936
Bicentennial Cookbook	<u>313,549</u>
	<u>\$7,882,133</u>

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2010

NOTE 6 - PENSION PLAN/SIMPLE IRA

In March 2002, The National Grange established a SIMPLE IRA employee benefit plan covering substantially all employees who have completed one year of service and met minimum age requirements. Employees are allowed to defer up to 15% of annual salary with a 3% match by The National Grange. As of December 31, 2011, the matching portion was \$8,571.

NOTE 7 - CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

The National Grange maintains its operating cash in a financial institution insured up to \$250,000 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). At times the funds in this institution exceed the insured limit. At December 31, 2011, this excess was \$195,755. The Organization maintains its capital reserve and investment accounts in non-FDIC insured accounts with reputable firms. The balance in these accounts at December 31, 2011 totaled \$498,631.

NOTE 8 - LEASE COMMITMENT

The National Grange has entered into an operating lease for a copier. The lease for the copier was signed on December 28, 2007 for 60 months starting in January 2008. The monthly payment for the copier is \$757.

Minimum lease payments for the year ending December 31, 2012 are \$9,084.

NOTE 9 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In preparing these financial statements, the Organization has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through March 18, 2011, the date the financial statements were available for use.

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION



Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

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Board of Directors
The Grange Foundation
1616 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

I have reviewed the accompanying Statement of Financial Position of The Grange Foundation (a nonprofit corporation) as of December 31, 2011 and the related Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets and Cash Flows for the year then ended, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. All information included in these financial statements is the representation of the management of The Grange Foundation.

A review consists principally of inquiries of Company personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, I do not express such an opinion.

Based on my review, I am not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

April 10, 2012

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2011

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash – Operating	\$ 18,510
CD Investments	65,000
Total Current Assets	83,510
Other Assets	
Endowment Fund (Restricted)	206,021
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 289,531
LIABILITY	
Accounts Payable- Due to National Grange	\$ 9,089
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	39,001
Temporarily Restricted	35,420
Permanently Restricted – Endowment	206,021
TOTAL NET ASSETS	280,442
TOTAL LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS	\$ 289,531

See Accompanying Accountant's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2011

	TOTAL
CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:	
Revenues:	
Contributions	\$ 15,100
Candle Sales	1,448
Interest and Dividend Income	219
Total unrestricted revenues	16,767
Expenses:	
Candle Expense	3,624
Donations, Other	1,725
Total unrestricted expenses	5,349
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	11,418
CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS :	
Contributions, Interest, Grants	16,048
Expenses	15,030
(DECREASE) IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	1,018
CHANGES IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:	
(Decrease) in FMV	(326)
Interest Earned	
INCREASE IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:	(326)
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	12,110
NET ASSETS – JANUARY 1,	268,332
NET ASSETS - DECEMBER 31,	\$ 280,442

See Accompanying Accountant's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2011

Schedule I – Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

	OH Kelley Historical Prog. Fund	Junior Leadership Program	Youth Leadership Fund	Program For the Deaf	G.R.O.W. Club
Balance- January 1	\$ 4,079	\$ 5,853	\$ 2,559	\$ 19,369	\$ 2,540
Contributions	2,863	1,643	9,264	50	1,353
Interest Income	219	219	219	219	-
Expenses	(3,515)	(1,108)	(8,624)	(782)	(1,000)
Balance- December 31	\$ 3,646	\$ 6,607	\$ 3,418	\$ 18,856	\$ 2,893

See Accompanying Accountant's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2011

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Increase in Net Assets	\$	12,110
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase in Net Assets to Cash flow from operating activities:		
(Decrease) Increase in Due to The National Grange		(2,703)

NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES 9,407

CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

(Increase) in CD	(5,000)
Change in FMV of Investment	326

NET CASH (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES (4,674)

CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES 0

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH 4,733

CASH – January 1, 13,777

CASH - December 31, \$ 18,510

See Accompanying Accountant's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION

The Grange Foundation is a non-profit organization affiliated with The National Grange through common officers and management. The National Grange acts as trustee for funds received on behalf of The Grange Foundation.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting - The financial statements of the Organization have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and accordingly reflect all significant receivables, payables and other liabilities.

The accounts of the Organization are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Under fund accounting, resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purpose. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund; however, in the accompanying financial statements, funds have been combined and presented for the Organization as a whole in accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 117, "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations".

Cash and Cash Equivalents - For purposes of the statements of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents are considered to be unrestricted highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less at the time of acquisition.

Inventories - Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market, with cost determined on a first-in, first-out basis and market based on the lower of replacement cost or realizable value.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions. This will affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Net Assets - Net assets of the Organization consist of the following:

Unrestricted: Undesignated—available for general activities—These net assets are available for general obligations of the Foundation.

Temporarily Restricted: Specific purposes—These net assets are restricted by donors to be used for some specific purpose.

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION**Notes to Financial Statements****December 31, 2011**

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Permanently Restricted: Endowments—These net assets are permanently restricted by donors and cannot be used by the Organization. Income and capital gains may or may not be used depending on the endowment agreement.

Contributions - Contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted or permanently restricted support, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor restrictions.

Gifts of cash and other assets are reported as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or a purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Donations of property and equipment are recorded as support at their estimated fair value at the date of donation. Such donations are reported as unrestricted support unless the donor has restricted the donated asset to a specific purpose. Assets donated with explicit restrictions regarding their use and contributions of cash that must be used to acquire property and equipment are reported as restricted support. Absent donor stipulations regarding how long those donated assets must be maintained, the Organization reports expirations of donor restrictions when the donated or acquired assets are placed in service as instructed by the donor. The Organization reclassifies temporarily restricted net assets to unrestricted net assets at that time.

Donated marketable securities and other non-cash donations are recorded as contributions at their estimated fair values at the date of donation.

No amounts have been reflected in the financial statements for donated services. The Foundation pays for most services requiring specific expertise.

Unconditional promises to give are recognized as revenues or gains in the period received as assets, decreases in liabilities or expenses depending on the form of the benefits received. Conditional promises to give are recognized when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met. The Foundation has not received any promises to give.

Income Tax Status - The Foundation is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). However, income from certain activities not directly related to the Organization's tax-exempt purpose is subject to taxation as unrelated business income.

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

The Foundation is also a public charity under the IRC Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi). This allows for donations to the Foundation to be deductible as charitable contributions on income tax returns.

**ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE DIRECTORS
OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE**
Presented at the 146th Annual National Grange Session
Boise, Idaho
Nov. 16, 2012

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT'S REPORT

Dear Patrons

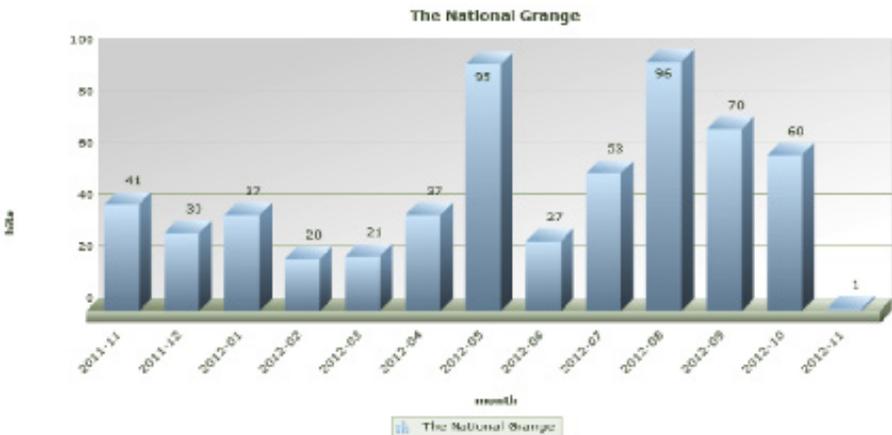
This has been an exciting and exhausting year at the National Grange. Several major projects were started, and many were completed, throughout the year. The department served as a resource for State, Pomona and Subordinate Granges by offering many benefits, programs, materials and training opportunities. We have added expertise and worked quite well with other departments and have used interns for many projects to benefit the entire organization. Further, a 12-month plan for December 2012 through November 2013 is in place for many new projects on the horizon, including the help of National Grange officers and delegates as well as other departments.

Public Relations, Media Coverage and Advertising

It has been the goal of the department to increase the visibility and improve the brand image of the National Grange in 2012. This requires continued vigilance in the coverage we receive both through our own prompts, such as press releases, and through independent media interest. This year, the department was very happy with the overall tenor and breadth of coverage. Further, the department dedicated some funds, mainly through donated money obtained by the Legislative Department that was available for advertising, to a single large-scale ad campaign. All of these efforts improve the Grange's position, potentially lead to membership gains and strengthen our messaging.

Press Relations and Media Coverage

From Nov. 1, 2011 through Nov. 1, 2012, the National Grange has received a total of 588 unique press hits as represented in the graph below. These mentions of the National



Grange come from a variety of media, including television, radio, newspaper, online news service and other outlets. Most of these hits are due to information provided by the National Grange through press releases, editorials and other outreach to the media. However, some were driven by trademark protection and trademark infringement cases, while others came because of local Grange activities that included mentions of the larger parent organization.

While the graph captures the number of unique hits, it does not indicate the number of times an article was “reprinted” in full or in part by other media outlets. For example, in early 2012, an article that was distributed by Reuters news service was reprinted in part or whole by more than 300 media outlets and on countless secondary websites. Overall, our media presence is growing and we hope that trend will continue as we focus our mission, grow our membership, strengthen our message and branding and prepare for our milestone 150th year in 2017 with projects leading up to that celebration.

Data was compiled using our media monitoring and press list service Meltwater News. This service is also used to highlight “news of interest” on our National Grange website daily. A further breakdown of the topics and number of press releases issued, along with editorials, interviews by National Grange officers and staff, and other information is exhaustive and can be requested from the department.

During the trademark infringement issue related to the proposed Grange Casino, the department saw two reports on the issue appear on the Associated Press wire. Because of this, we had exposure in most major media all across the country, including major publications such as Business Week, New York Times and reprints of the articles in publications around the globe, including in countries such as Canada, Spain, Australia and New Zealand. Full details of the coverage of the article printed after our press conference in September can be found in Addendum A of this report. Also, more details about this particular issue and the department’s involvement can be found later in this report.

The department has also worked hard to promote our convention as a news-worthy event. We expect at least two journalists to visit the convention and report on it, interview members and show interest in policy creation and debate. This is an excellent opportunity for our organization, but requires a bit of planning, especially related to concerns unique to this annual session.

Advertising: New York City Time’s Square Commercial

In early July, thanks to a contact made through one of our members with the department, we were offered the opportunity to produce and place a 15-second commercial on the “CBS Superscreen” in New York City’s Times Square. This commercial began airing July 16 and ran every day through Oct. 1 at least once per hour each hour from 6 a.m. to midnight.

Boatright made a connection with AT&T, who had promised \$30,000 for “convention-related activities” and requested the use of most of those funds to pay for this commercial. The request was approved if the word convention was used in the advertisement – which we included in the last frame of the commercial – and we moved forward with the purchase of ad space.

The commercial was also posted to our YouTube site in late July and on our National Grange website in early August. Miller added sound to the commercial and reposted that version to YouTube and to the National Grange website. The commercial is available for download on YouTube or available on disk or by digital file transfer to any Grange for use at fairs, open houses and other events.

Major Projects

The department has taken on and completed several major projects in 2012, many of

which were in conjunction with other departments across the organization. It is important to take a moment to thank each member of the National Grange Staff and Officer corps that has worked closely with the department to successfully advance our Order through the implementation of many programs, adoption of services and completion of components to larger projects.

Grange Communication Handbook and Workbook

The National Grange PR Manual and the Grange Graphic Standards Manual were both in need of update. In the process, the Department drafted and presented to the National Grange Executive Committee a copy of the Grange Communication Handbook that includes the PR Manual, Graphic Standards Manual, Grange Style Guide and some basic introduction to public relations, social media, website and other communication tools available to Grange members for their approval.

The entire handbook is 168 pages and was included on the 2012 Grange Month Resource CD, placed on the members side of the National Grange website and is available in hard copy for purchase through the Grange Store for \$7. Two copies were provided to every State Grange office. This should be the reference followed by all Granges in order to maintain standards expected to strengthen our trademark and enhance our brand.

National Grange Member's Website and Local Grange Websites & Emails

Early in 2012, the department completed work on a database used to create free websites for each Subordinate and Pomona Grange. We also offered each State Grange the ability to create or move their existing websites to a grange.org page.

This was a moderately successful endeavor that required quite a bit of work between the department and State Granges. Unfortunately, several State Granges did not provide information in a timely fashion or information that was provided was inaccurate.

Also, the system was built to include a zip code for each Grange, however, as many Granges no longer have halls of their own and several Granges do not have standard meeting places, this made the creation and linking of sites to a "Find A Grange" locator based on the zip codes more difficult. The department worked with State Granges to identify the zip code of the community that the Grange serves and requested that each State Grange work with their local Granges to identify an acceptable address where we can say the Grange is "located" for our map.

Currently, the department is working with the IT Department to identify ways in which the soon-to-be developed electronic membership database can be used and linked to our "Find a Grange" and website developer applications to resolve issues. Until a time in which all Granges are reporting using the electronic membership database, it is imperative that State Grange officers or staff be responsive to inquiries by the department and/or be proactive, making sure the current database includes all of their Granges and links them to the correct location.

As part of this program, the IT Department and Communications Department worked to establish an e-mail address at a very minimal cost that is available free for every Grange. This was an important step in adding legitimacy to our Granges, specifically as many members were giving personal email addresses to potential members and media outlets that often were not professional in tone. Further, it standardized the system by which a potential member or media outlet, or State and National Grange can expect to contact a Grange.

Emails to these accounts may be forwarded to any other account, a step that should improve use of the account by allowing members to check only one rather than multiple email accounts. Also, passwords can be reset by contacting the National Grange IT department.

While many Granges have not yet adopted the use of the e-mail created for them, this email will be especially helpful as we move forward with the electronic membership database as it can serve as the primary contact email in the system and we can require the use of it to verify submission of reports, pushing Granges to check their email regularly and by doing so, making it a more often used address so that it is an effective method of communication for those inside and outside the Grange to contact members. We are also working on better ways to integrate logging into the email address into the local Grange websites and will work with State Masters to promote the use of the e-mail address for communications from State and National Grange that should be shared with all members.

Finally, the department strongly recommends that State Masters follow through with the request by National Master Ed Luttrell to create a Communications Director position in the State Grange structure, and provide to National Grange the name and contact information for that director. That director should be tasked in 2013 with working with state deputies and Granges to ensure that all Granges in their state have at least updated their websites to include correct meeting date, time and location as well as contact information for someone in the local Grange. These directors should also work with the Grange to promote the use of the free e-mail address and later assist them with the electronic membership database reporting system.

Redesigned Brochures

The department completed the design, update and rebranding of all National Grange brochures earlier this month. Seven brochures are available: Adult/Family membership; Grange Youth; Junior Grange; E-Membership; Four-Step Recruiting Guide; Declaration of Purposes and Member Benefits. The department ordered the brochures and has begun fulfilling sales orders for them along with the Sales Department.

Each brochure includes the new tagline and features images that support the new branding as well as theme colors. The brochures are full-color and specific sizes and folds were chosen in order to distinguish from each other.

Initially, we ordered a total of 100,000 brochures, 20,000 E-Member, 12,500 Declaration of Purposes, 10,000 Four-Step Recruiting, 12,500 Grange Youth, 12,500 Junior Grange, 12,500 adult Membership and 20,000 Member Benefits. In late October, we ordered another 30,000 adult Membership brochures as we were nearly out of all of that kind in the Grange Store.

Local, Pomona and State Granges may purchase brochures from the National Grange, may print their own using the copy of each new brochure included in the Grange Month mailing or from the PDF included on the Grange Month Resource CD. The department is also working with printers to finalize a program that will allow Granges to personalize these brochures with their name, address and contact information, as well as details about their local Grange activities and initiatives. With this program, personalization would be free and the printing will be at a reduced cost. This program will allow for greater consistency and strengthened branding across the organization.

Until that program is in place, however, we ran one personalized brochure sale that we successful. A total of 21 different brochures were created for 13 different Granges, including two states and 11 Subordinate Granges for a total of 15,500 personalized brochures sold at 10-cents each.

Revised Grange Radio podcasts

At last year's convention, we worked to revive National Grange podcasting. Termed "Grange Radio," the audio news reports are formatted like morning or afternoon talk radio segments, which focus on specific issues and include a moderator and several guests to the program.

Throughout the year more than a dozen podcasts were produced and directly added to

nationalgrange.org. Topics of these podcasts include: preparing for national convention, back-to-school programs and services Granges provide, registering to vote via Facebook, New Year's resolutions for Granges and members, trademark protection efforts, the "gift" of the Grange in our lives, the importance of teen labor on farms, Yankee Candle fundraiser, FCC and Rural Broadband, the 2012 Junior Grange program; along with five podcasts from last year's convention.

The IT Department also worked diligently to reconnect our podcasts to the National Grange podcast channel through iTunes. Listeners can automatically download and listen to new podcasts using iTunes.

The department has planned to create a podcast schedule for 2013 that will include at least one new addition to Grange Radio every month, with additional podcasts to be determined as legislative, trademark, programming, benefits and general updates are needed. These will be distributed both through the National Grange website and on iTunes.

Videos and Commercials

The department has been busy adding material to our YouTube channel, especially after the hire of new Programs Assistant Austin Miller. Miller comes to the Grange with a great background in video production. This allows us the ability to create a greater number of videos with better quality.

In the past few months, we have added videos on the Grange Declaration of Purposes with the assistance of Grange member Chris Szkutak. Other videos include one examining the Grange Foundation, the importance of voting, our participation in the Farm Bill Now rally in Washington, D.C., National Grange e-Books, videos introducing Miller and new Legislative Director Grace Boatright, a youth service trip in North Carolina as an example of what our Grange Youth do and the values they learn and two videos specific for North Carolina State Grange that requested the department's assistance at their annual session.

The department hopes to work with other State Granges in 2013 to capture footage that can be used to promote different State Granges and the organization as a whole. Requests for assistance should come to the National Master and the Communications Department and must include assistance by the State Grange for travel and/or lodging unless otherwise exempt by the National Master.

Each State Grange should receive a DVD copy of the newly finished short documentary, meant to appear as a web-documentary, on the Grange and Rural Free Delivery as well as access issues in rural America, produced by Graphic Design Consultant Jennifer Dugent Wolff. This video will also appear on the 2013 Grange Resource CD that will be part of the 2013 Grange Month mailing.

This documentary is the first in a series we expect to continue in the coming months and years leading up to the 150th Anniversary of the Grange in 2017. Other topics to be featured include: women in the Grange, the Grange and police services in rural areas, the Grange's deaf and hard of hearing focus, spreading American values through Grange international programs, school meals and the Grange, Grange founders, ritual in the Grange, the Grange and school integration/civil rights, and others.

We also hope to take advantage of Miller's skill by producing at least one new 30-second commercial for Grange Youth; a 30-second Junior Grange commercial; a 60-second and a 30-second (adult) Grange commercial, a video in conjunction with the Membership/Leadership Department, a video of the Kelley Farm 1873 Degree Conferral if it should occur, monthly messages by National Grange President Ed Luttrell, a video related to the Legislative Department's Apathy Not Allowed program and several others.

Personalized Grange Merchandise Sales

The department created several 3' wide x 5' long vinyl banners for local and State Granges after being informed of a banner sale with FedEx Office. Nearly a dozen Granges took advantage of this sale and now have modern banners to hang in their halls and at events to publicize the Grange.

Also, a dozen Granges – including State, Pomona and Subordinate Granges – took advantage of a pop up banner sale, ordering 31" wide x 80" tall retractable banners with cases to use as display pieces at local fairs, events and in their halls. These banners are attractive, modern visual devises that allow for easy recognition and message transmission about the Grange. We look forward to having sales on both of these items again in the early part of 2013.

The department also worked with the vendor for our business cards to provide business cards to any member who requested 250 or 500 for half the normal price. More than 50 members took advantage of this program. We plan to run this or a similar sale bi-annually in late February and late August starting in 2013.

Membership and Pledge Rip Cards

After an excellent suggestion in late 2011 by now Kansas State Master Nathan Strawder, the Communications Department designed and ordered "membership rip cards" to promote our organization and gather information from potential members. These 3" x 6.5" cardstock, full-color pieces that allow Granges to collect information quickly from prospective members, who can rip off a business card-size piece that will remind them of the Grange website address and basic information.

After the 2012 Master's Conference, the department produced a second kind of "rip card" called the "pledge rip card," for use within our Order to encourage members to ask others to join the Grange.

These are the same size, with full color, and provide a business card size rip-off piece that reminds the member of who they pledged to ask to join the Grange, as well as information on the back about their own elevator speech for the Grange. The larger area becomes a ready-to-mail post card where members can tell their State Grange (or National Grange Membership Director) that they did ask the person and what response they got. This will allow us to better understand what approaches work and what reasons people give for not joining.

These cards are available for use by Granges throughout the country. They will be sold through the Grange Store in sets of 25 for \$2.50, which will allow the Communications Department to recoup the printing cost. They will also be available for National Staff to use for specific events through the Membership Department.

Cards may also be personalized for State, Pomona or Local Granges. States may contact the Communications Department to learn more about ordering rip cards to promote their Grange and gather potential member information at their coming events or at their community centers.

Weekly E-Newsletter

In August, the department launched a new weekly e-Newsletter available to all Grange members by email. The newsletter was not printed after late September as the department prepared for National Convention; however, the first publication of the newsletter will appear again after Thanksgiving and will continue weekly with a break for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

The newsletter was sent to our entire email mailing list, containing about 8,500 members. Unfortunately, this leaves many members still “in the dark” about issues on the National level and without information about successful programs and services offered on the State and Local Grange levels. Again, it is imperative that Granges collect information for their members, including mailing addresses and email addresses, and provide them to National Grange. This may become much easier after the implementation of a National Electronic Membership Database, but until such time as that is launched and sees wide success, State Masters are highly encouraged to stress the importance of submitting information for members or at least one contact member for each Grange so information can flow freely between the levels of the Subordinate, Pomona, State and National Grange.

E-Books

The department has been working with National Master Ed Luttrell to digitize and produce e-Books from our out-of-print texts and other books to which the National Grange holds copyright. We have successfully added six e-Books to the Amazon Kindle Store: *Friend of the Farmer*; *Legal and Economic Influence of the Grange*; *Notes and Quotes*; *Proud Heritage*; *First Century of Service and Evolution*; and *People, Pride and Progress*. Five of these texts have exclusivity contracts for 90-days from publishing, and one e-Book (*Friend of the Farmer*) has been added to the Nook store. The remaining five books will become available to the Nook store when the exclusivity contracts expire.

We look forward to adding several more titles, including an unpublished thesis by a Grange member, that we have permission to digitize and release. We are also working to produce the best plan for releasing materials such as *Journal of Proceedings* as e-Books.

We hope to work with State Granges in the coming year to add to our collection many texts currently unavailable to many interested in Grange history and culture. Specifically, we hope to make agreements with State Granges that will allow us to have the digital rights to make State Grange texts into e-Books and sell them through the digital marketplaces, so that we can offer a large collection of texts about our Order as we prepare for our 150th Anniversary.

State-authorized Press Releases

In mid-July, I was contacted by South Carolina State Grange Master Jerry Martin regarding assistance with producing a press release for their upcoming celebration of National Grange founder Oliver H. Kelley’s trip through the Palmetto State. This served as an appropriate test for the state-authorized press release program the department hoped to initiate. At that time, I worked with Martin and National Grange Lecturer Pete Pompper to gather information, and then used our Meltwater Press Service to identify publications in South Carolina that would reprint or produce their own stories about the event. We were able to identify 29 unique media outlets that covered the event or reprinted our press release. This was seen as a tremendous success for the South Carolina State Grange.

This service was also used by North Carolina State Grange while at their annual session in September. Two press releases, one about the State Agricultural Commissioner’s speech to the NC State Grange delegates and one about the convention itself, were issued. Several media outlets ran one or both of the press releases.

PhRMA Communication Fellows program

In July, the department approached PhRMA about sponsorship of a program called the Communication Fellows that would allow up to five individuals to attend convention and

learn more about communications while serving as communication specialists throughout the week's events. Funds were secured for the program that also allowed for the purchase of six iPads, iRig microphones and LogiTech keyboard/iPad covers for each, as well as photo card readers and several USB plug adapters that would be used during convention by the Fellows, and could be used throughout the year by Grange Staff as needed.

Five Fellows were selected for the 2012 convention: Barbara Foster, West Virginia; Cody Stevens, North Carolina; Deb and Lexi Gegare, Wisconsin; and Joseph Stefenoni, California. The fellows will learn and practice writing press releases, taking photos for publication in print and web and videos that can be used to promote our programs and services. They will prepare podcasts, post to social media, assist members in connecting to the same and much more.

General Department Functions and Information

We have seen great success in the adoption of the "American Values. Hometown Roots." tagline introduced at last year's annual convention. Many local Granges have used it as part of advertising, on their social media pages and in other visible places. Several have also themed programs around it, reinforcing our ties with our communities and our overarching values.

The department is also promoting the tagline and overall branding message by including it on all printed material and assisting with new designs for Sales material as opportunities become available. We encourage every member to find a way to use the American Values. Hometown Roots. tagline as part of your Grange identity, your events, programs, service activities, letters to officials, and more.

Grange Month

To reinforce the new "American Values. Hometown Roots." Tagline, we chose to use it for the 2012 Grange Month theme and as the theme for several years forward. From December 2011 through February 2012, the department managed the creation and mailing of the Grange Month packets. These packets were delayed due to issues with the off-site mailing house contracted for the job. Because of this, we are looking for a new mailing house for the 2013 Grange Month packets and will move the deadline for all materials to be complete that will be included in the 2013 version to Jan. 15, 2013 and packing and shipping deadline to Feb. 15, 2013.

This year the Grange Month mailing will include information from almost all departments of the National Grange after review of previous feedback forms and questions by members and delegates regarding information from National to local Granges. There were a total of 38 pieces in this mailing, significantly larger than any other Grange Month mailing in memory.

Traditional pieces, such as a color poster, sample press release and media alert, proclamation and letter from the National Master, are also included. Along with these items, the envelope will include a resource CD with the correct, updated Grange logo, PDF samples of all brochures, the National Grange Builder Kit v. 1.5, a video of the National Master's Internal Address from the 145th Annual Session, a Grange Month message from the National Master and more. Several printed products have also been included, such as information on the Grange Yankee Candle fundraiser, a letter from the Trademark and Legislative directors, the Youth and Junior Grange appeal letter, a letter from the National Lecturer, including guidelines, introducing the upcoming Quilt Block contest and Photo Contest, reminding Grange Members of Grange Gathering Day and more.

New Grange – Printed Edition

The only printed issue of the New Grange for 2012 was delivered to members in July. It was a 40-page issue with a special convention section and an additional special section focused on Membership/Leadership.

Of our 160,000 members, we only have about 8,500 on the print edition mailing list. We have about the same number of members on our email mailing list, some of which are the same individuals across both lists. Because of this, we estimated that only about 15,000, or less than 10 percent of our members receive publications and press releases from our office.

This lack of contact through a printed or email edition of the New Grange and our electronic news editions helps to fuel the concept that National Grange provides little benefit for State, Pomona and Local Granges. Further, it undermines our organization by allowing mass amounts of our members to remain uninformed on key issues such as correct logo use, new programs and services available from National Grange to members, benefit changes, legislative programs, policy adopted by National Grange, changes in staff and much more. I remain hopeful that the delegates approved resolution requiring all Granges to report their membership information to National Grange can be used to assist us in this process.

Membership Support

In the past year, the department has provided services to the membership department, including making two updates to the Grange Builder Kit greater access to promotional materials and the use of the U.S. Postal Service's new Every Door Direct Mail service.

During April and May, the department worked with Membership/Leadership Director Michael Martin and Nevada Deputies Randy and Linda Lewis to prepare materials that would be sent to every mailbox in the Armagosa Valley area of Nevada. Taking advantage of the Every Door Direct Mail program, the department prepared a single-sheet flyer that was sent to 600 residents announcing an organizational meeting. The department also worked with the deputies to create a Junior Grange flyer that will be sent home with students to every parent of the Hafen Elementary School in Pahrum, NV, announcing an informational meeting about the Junior Grange.

From this, we have noted success and discussed with several state masters the possibility of using this program in their states. We anticipate creation of EDDM materials for New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. as well as Arkansas in the coming months.

Legislative Support

The department created a design reflective of this year's Legislative Fly-In priority that was used on the Congressional Directories for 2012. The directories were distributed to many State Masters and Legislative Directors as well as Fly-In attendees. These congressional directories are excellent resources and should be requested early from the Legislative Department by any member who wants one.

The department also assisted the Legislative Department in planning and preparing our role in the 90-plus organization Farm Bill Now Rally on Capitol Hill in September. The department contacted several State Masters and National Officers within driving distance of D.C. and worked with them and the organizers of the rally to have a presence and cohesive message regarding the necessity of passage of a 2012 Farm Bill by Congress.

The Legislative Department provided content for this year's Legislative Policy Book in late June and the Communications Department immediately prepared the material

for publication. The policy book was distributed to members of Congress and to several targeted members of the media by the Communications Department, along with a letter stating some of the policy National Grange has adopted related to “hot issues” of the day.

From this mailing, we were able to gain attention by at least two media outlets that called regarding issues mentioned in our policy book. Unfortunately, neither quote was used in the final stories, but we are hopeful that an earlier delivery of such a text to journalists in the coming years will yield better results. We also will follow up with these journalists to see if there are opportunities for editorial boards or other interactions that could lead to coverage for our organization.

The departments also worked together to outline the Youth Legislative Program that Programs Assistant Austin Miller suggested be named “Apathy Not Allowed.” This program will focus primarily on informing young adults, as well as all members and non-members, about their rights as citizens and the need for civic engagement. The departments created a booklet that will serve as a resource, guiding people to action related to voting and civic projects. This book, along with a design for a T-shirt and stickers, was produced and will be distributed at this convention.

Looking ahead, the departments anticipate many opportunities to use this program to encourage civic participation, move members and non-members alike to action and use our legislative and advocacy component of the organization as a draw for membership. Further, we anticipate this program will have stand-alone components such as events and a website/portal as discussed further below.

The departments also worked to secure a grant and produce a DVD, sponsored by PhRMA, that examines Medicare Part D, 10 years after its inception, and the benefits of it to rural Americans. The department secured an interview with a Part D user and worked with the Legislative Director to interview an expert on Part D. This material was produced in less than a month and copies of the DVD will be available for all Granges as part of the 2013 Grange Month mailing. The DVD will be shown during the Legislative Luncheon on Monday at the 146th Annual Convention and attendees will receive a copy to take home at that time.

Trademark Support

The department has worked over the past year with the Trademark Manager to ensure necessary steps are taken to update our logo to include the correct registered ® symbol, moving entirely away from materials with the outdated TM as has appeared on many products. We have also worked together to ensure correct messaging is in place related to trademark disputes and licensees.

We have also worked quite closely regarding press inquiries related to trademark infringement in at least three cases. One of those cases is ongoing while two have closed.

In late August and September, the department worked closely with the National Master, National Grange Executive Committee and Trademark Protection Manager Leroy Watson in relation to the trademark infringement by a corporation who had chose “Grange Casino” as the name for a proposed gaming site in Oregon. As part of this work, the department fielded questions from the press in Oregon, monitored coverage of the proposed Casino as well as their communications such as their website, their advertisements, their social media messages and video and more.

It was imperative that as soon as we learned of the infringement, we carefully craft the message from the National Grange that we stood against the infringement, not necessarily against the concept of the casino. Instead, we worked with the Oregon State Grange to

understand that it was up to the State and Local Granges to determine if they were for or against the two proposed ballot measures that would have to pass in order for the casino project come to fruition in their state. National Grange argued against the use of the term Grange for the project strictly based on trademark issues.

The department worked steadily to create materials and build an overall campaign in relation to the proposed Grange Casino in Oregon. In September, I traveled to Oregon to be on site when National Grange Master Ed Luttrell held a press conference at Tigard Grange on Sept. 5. This conference drew five television stations, three radio stations, a local newspaper and an Associated Press reporter. More than two-dozen other publications throughout the state that did not attend the conference ran information about it in their next edition. Luttrell also did several other radio and television interviews prior to the event.

I cannot thank the Grange members of Oregon, and especially those of Tigard Grange and Granges around that area, enough for their support in the effort to host this news conference. They worked quickly and seamlessly to bring members to the press conference, held early on a Wednesday morning. They organized to bring school supplies – cementing the image of the “real Grange” as a consummate supporter of education in the face of the Grange Casino’s claim that their project would positively impact education through funding – and identified individuals who would clearly talk to press about their Grange experience.

Grange Conflict Management

This year has been challenging in regards to internal strife within the Grange, as discussed by National Grange Master Ed Luttrell. It has been an area of focus for the department, specifically related to monitoring of traditional and social media, websites and other communications. Further, the department has worked with the National Master to ensure appropriate and cohesive messaging. It is expected that this will remain a challenge into 2013.

During this time, it was observed that the current Grange Website and Electronic Social Media Code of Conduct (See Addendum A) does not fully cover some of the issues we have run into while dealing with the current strife within the organization. Because of this, I hope the Grange Law Committee will examine the document during the 146th Annual Convention and later or alternatively, that the department may work with the Board of Directors and National Master to discuss ways that this code of conduct may be strengthened. Specifically, the committee and board should consider issues of monitoring, enforcement and penalty for actions that go against this code of conduct. Also, the committee and/or board should consider if “employees” (State/National Grange Masters or staff, specifically) of the Grange should be held to a different standard than members and if Granges themselves should fall into a different category than individuals regardless of membership status.

This is especially pressing as we begin to more aggressively try to draw large state, regional and national press attention to our organization while we gear up to the 150th Anniversary. If we do not work to control our message from within, we cannot expect to have outside media portray our organization in a positive and beneficial manner.

The department is committed to the continued high level of service to all Granges and all Grange members, even in states or areas with high levels of discord. We encourage all members to assess the positive and negative consequences of their public actions, such as Facebook messages, blog posts and website content creation, on the Grange as a whole and encourage any member with questions or concerns to turn to the department for advise.

Grange Youth Support

Throughout the year the department supported the Youth department through design of many materials including the Youth and Junior Appeal letter and other communications. The department also assisted by overseeing updates to the Youth website when requested and offering feedback and assistance with programs, contests and more.

In October, the department updated the Youth and Junior Guidebooks for 2013 and provided new contest and program ideas to the Youth Department that have been included in the 2013 Program Guide. Specifically, the Department worked with the director to craft contests that would encourage pride and interest in the 150th anniversary of the National Grange.

The department has worked with the Youth Director to create a ready-to-use mentoring system for Grange Youth to connect to other Grange members that will enable them to learn more about fields of interest, education necessary to compete in those areas, and much more. After examining options and budget constraints, the department chose to create a Grange Youth Mentoring group using the already-established social media site specifically designed for networking, LinkedIn.

The department has also redesigned the Youth Achievement Award Certificates and worked with a printer to provide seals for the certificates at the director's request. This should allow for a much more distinct display and ease in awarding levels of achievement for many of the programs listed in the Youth Program Guide.

Comic Book Sales and Related Material

The Sales Department reports that more than 27,000 "The Grange Story" comic books have been sold to Grange members and a few non-Grange members. Most members are using the comic book as part of their Words for Thirds program to remind students who gave them the dictionary and how the Grange can be an exciting place for those of all ages.

In 2013, we hope to provide with all comic books a complementary sheet that Granges can give to teachers that will identify words from different pages of the comic book that students can use their dictionaries to define. Also because of this success, we will likely order more comic books in 2013 and use the characters in the comic to introduce civic engagement as a children's version of the Apathy Not Allowed Program as discussed below in the Looking Ahead section of this report.

Junior Grange Support

Based on the new puzzle piece program introduced in 2012, the department created several pin designs for those who finish puzzles. The department also worked with the Sales Department to design a Junior Grange lanyard.

In October, the department completed the layout and printing of the 2013 Junior Program Guide upon receipt of materials. These books will be available starting at this convention and delivered to State Junior Directors upon request of the Junior Grange Director.

Other Publications

The department also prepared the annual Journal of Proceedings and made changes to the By-Laws. Both of these texts were complete later than anticipated, and a new schedule has been worked out with the Legislative Department and National Master to have these changes in place and publications complete by the end of the first quarter of 2013.

This year, due to changes with the Legislative Department, only one print issue of the newsletter View from the Hill was issued and sent to members of Congress. We are

examining the print schedule, need for publication and overall strategy and will likely print several issues in 2013.

Pre-convention 2012 Support

As always, the department produced many pieces of designed material and worked with multiple departments to prepare information for the annual convention. As part of this, we produced four programs and an updated songbook cover, a sample resource CD for the National Lecturer, several legislative materials including pieces for the PhRMA packet and the DVD, tickets and invitations, name badge templates, membership materials and the blooper reel.

The department also worked with several members and officers to gather material prior to convention that could be included in the daily newsletter that will appear at session. This newsletter banner was printed in-house and layout of the editions started in September. The department has created a schedule of coverage for events during the convention and will include, with the pre-written material, news articles about happenings at session.

The department also planned to capture many stories of Grange members that can be used in different mediums. We also worked with the National Master to plan the taping of the internal and external addresses and other events of interest that can be included on our website.

Finally, the department designed and ordered several poster and display boards, banners and printed material for the convention. Included in this were 10 trading cards that will be available at session. These cards focus on the first 10 State Granges organized. The State Masters of each of these State Granges that still exist was contacted to provide a photo for the front of the card. Some did provide the material, but we hope that as we do this each year from 2013 through 2016 we will see better response from the states so the trading cards will look very professional.

Training, Travel and Other Projects

During the past 12 months, the department has provided training to many Local, Pomona and State Granges. We have also produced several communication materials including videos and press releases for State Granges and prepared information that State and Local Granges could use as part of their newsletters and web content.

Fundraising Training

Boatright and I attended four free classes related to grant writing, budgeting and management Aug. 1 and 2 at the Foundation Center. These courses were incredibly interesting and valuable. From these, we learned quite a bit about resources that are available free to us just a few blocks away, including a large grant/foundation database that categorizes the types of grants available, the programs funded, funding levels, information about boards and much more. I believe this will be incredibly helpful for us as we attempt to develop a much larger grant writing and acquisition program for the Grange Foundation.

During these courses, however, we also learned that we might struggle to get grants given the structure of our two distinctly different nonprofits. It may be useful for the Board of Directors of the Foundation and the Board of Directors of the National Grange to discuss structures that would appear more typical of 501(c)3 nonprofits, such as having the Programs Director and/or Communications Director be “employed” by the Foundation rather than National Grange so there appears to be some staff that is part of the Foundation. It may also be appropriate to make the National Grange Lecturer’s position an employee of the Foundation. At the time, we also suggested the Grange Foundation Board of Directors

meet with a highly successful Grant Manager and/or a nonprofit/foundation attorney who can direct the Foundation board to excellent resources and give advise. Further, we noted that it may also be useful to discuss issues that have previously staggered our progress in the grant funding and acquisition process with former Legislative Director Leroy Watson.

Also, we suggested that it would be useful for the Foundation to add some less-specific streams of funding/grants in order to apply for money that can be applied in ways such as member leadership training, community development and funds to support the upcoming quilt contest and exhibit.

In August, the Foundation's board approved adding two additional funding streams based on the recommendations. These streams are the "American Arts and Heritage" and the "Community and Leadership Development" streams. The Community and Leadership Development stream will allow us to better capture grants that would support programs such as the G.O.A.L. workshops, the proposed Communication Weekend Boot Camps, the Legislative Fly-In and much more. The American Arts and Culture stream will allow us to capture money for things such as the Kelley Farm/1873 Degrees and the quilt program and display as discussed further in the Looking Ahead section of this report.

The creation of these streams will better enable us to target more conservative donors that need additional layers of proof regarding use of funds due to the current complete division of staffing from our National Grange organization to the Foundation. This may also allow our members to choose other areas of our organization to which they have more dedication to bequeath money to at the time of their passing.

TeamSpeak

In 2013, the department expects to offer monthly communication TeamSpeak conferences that will cover topics such as "Getting the Press to Your Event;" "Selecting a Message;" "Using Social Media to Drive Engagement and Membership;" and more. These conferences should allow members at all levels of the Grange to gather ideas, get suggestions and generally have a greater interaction with expertise from the department.

Travel

The department has been very active with State and Local Granges throughout the past year. Presentations have been delivered or department representatives have been present at six State Grange Conventions, at two regional events, two state-sponsored events, the Master's Conference and seven Subordinate or Pomona Grange meetings.

Presentations by the department focus on publicity, website development and general communication practices and have been well received. In 2013, the department expects to have numerous opportunities for travel and training. Further, the department will seek partnerships with State Granges to enhance all Grange communications by capturing Granges in action.

Personnel

There have been and will continue to be transitions related to personnel within and surrounding the Communications Department. It is important to stress that the team in place at this time is versatile, works well together and is quick to respond to concerns and tasks as they arise.

Programs Assistant Transition

Prior to being named Legislative Director in July, Grace Boatright served as the

Programs Assistant, working for Communications about 30 percent of her time. In August, Austin Miller, a graduate of the University of Memphis, was hired as the new Programs Assistant. He will work about 60 percent of the time for Communications.

Austin has already completed several video projects, assessed our needs related to equipment and general direction in order to make our department more successful in creating materials that our members need and those outside our Order can use to better understand the Grange.

Printing Transition

In January, long-time Grange printer Leon “Quess” Wilkins announced that he might have a change in his full-time job as a government printer and felt it was appropriate to train a replacement if necessary for Grange printing. He began to train Andra King, who is expected to take over the majority of in-house printing services in January 2013 as Wilkins will be transferring to a different location for his government job and unable to work at the Grange building with much frequency.

Quess’s knowledge and experience has been a true asset to our organization. Further, he has been extremely helpful in transitions between communication directors over the past several years.

Interns

Mark Schuessler served as an intern for 10 months with the National Grange through a partner internship program with Retire Safe. Mark completed several projects for us including the database for the “Find a Grange” and websites for Local and Pomona Granges. He also helped design banners and other personalized Grange merchandise and provided much-needed support during the time when Grace Boatright was serving as interim Legislative Director while Nicole Palya Wood was on maternity leave.

Rebecca White, a student studying International Public Policy at St. Mary’s College of Maryland, worked with us from May through August. Becky wrote articles for the New Grange, produced material for the legislative department and worked closely on a project for National Grange Lecturer Pete Pompper.

Rahima Schwenkbeck, a doctoral student at George Washington University, worked as an unpaid intern for four months with the National Grange. During her time, Rahima worked specifically with historical preservation and presentation. She has also identified several grants the Grange can seek to digitize and preserve documents. She also produced several entries for our website focusing on historical documents, initiatives and artifacts in the National Grange collection to celebrate Grange Month. Unfortunately, Rahima’s mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer and she was unable to continue her internship. We keep her and her family in our thoughts.

Serge Riddell, the grandson of past National Grange Legislative Director Robert Frederick, is a fall intern at the National Grange. Serge, a political science student at American University has been focused specifically on assisting the Legislative Department by formatting and researching resolutions and working with the Communication Department on background material for member-publication articles and outside press opportunities.

Grant Writer

Grange member and doctoral student Corinna Stiles requested the opportunity to work on grant writing for the National Grange as part of her doctoral work. Her adviser approved

this and we are happy to have her working to identify potential funding sources, specifically for historical preservation.

She initially identified potential funding available from the National Foundation for the Arts and Humanities, National Endowment for the Humanities. The NEH is an independent federal agency created in 1965. It is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States. Typically NEH grants are awarded to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations and to individual scholars. However, after Corinna reviewed past proposals that have been funded, she noted that NEH has awarded funding to other organizations similarly situated to the National Grange who are pursuing historical preservation efforts.

The funding cycle begins in January, allowing Corinna to gather materials necessary to begin drafting an application through the end of the year. Grants of up to \$6,000 are awarded for a period up to 18 months and there is no cost-sharing requirement. She plans to develop a Master Preservation Plan and hopes to secure a grant from the NEH to conduct the assessment of the preservation efforts, which would lend legitimacy and credibility to the project for future proposals.

Looking Ahead

Many major projects have continuing phases into 2013 as mentioned in the previous section. However, the department expects to be involved in several large-scale projects in 2013. Some require outside funding or approval by delegate or board action but should be mentioned. Many others will require coordination between departments and the National Grange with State, Pomona and Subordinate Granges.

Recipes for Success in the Grange

In 2013, the department will begin to compile anecdotes and ideas about membership recruitment, well-organized events, well received programs, successful fundraisers and more that Granges across the country are employing to strengthen their local chapters. We hope to create a “cookbook” for Grange success that will continually be updated for all Granges to have as a resource in their halls and homes.

Specifically, this book will come in the form of a three-ring binder, allowing members to add new pages as they become available through the Grange Member site and take pages out as they become obsolete. This text will allow members to identify what will work best for them and use the pages like recipe cards, learning how many members, what type of commitment, what supplies and tactics they will need in order to successfully prepare for the event, fundraiser, membership drive or program.

The department, working in conjunction with the Membership/Leadership Department and the National Lecturer will begin collecting ideas and writing them as “recipes” in April 2013. We will work with local, Pomona and State Granges, as well as Junior Grange directors, to gather a broad sample for use. We hope to unveil this guide at the 147th Annual Convention.

150th Anniversary Preparations

Over the next several years, we will be making many large and small plans for the celebration of our Order’s 150th anniversary. One such plan is a book including personal anecdotes and historical examinations of the Grange influence on lives and in communities around the country.

The yet-to-be-finalized 1873 Degrees in 2013 and the planned restoration of the

National Grange marker on the National Mall are also events that will require attention by the department and may allow for press coverage potential. There are also several ideas that have merit and may come to pass as we get closer to the actual event, and a large event and interactive identity building campaign that has already begun taking shape. This will be discussed below. Finally, we will work in the next year on a symbol or logo for the 150th anniversary and expect to have that prepared by the 147th Annual Session.

“Grange: The thread that binds us as Brothers and Sisters in the quilt that is America”

Anyone who has tried to talk about the Grange to non-members knows it’s often difficult to quickly explain our organization and convey the wonderful elements of our Order. Specifically, it’s hard to tell someone who has no Grange or fraternal experience about the bonds created by joining the organization and the positive things Granges can do for communities in which there is none. Further, as we always stress, the Grange Foundation is in need of significant donations that can support our programs at the local, State and National Grange levels. In order to do this, a capital campaign in Grange fashion should take place.

For that reason, the idea for a contest, event, fundraiser and rhetorical tool was born. This year, the National Lecturer kicked this off by asking State Granges to submit a log cabin quilt block. The entries will be included in a National Quilt. In the coming years, National Grange will begin asking each Grange to submit blocks and finished quilts of all sizes and varieties for inclusion in a Quilt Show in 2017. These quilts and blocks should all come with the name of the quilter who submitted them and a story about their Grange experience, their hometown or themselves. These stories will help us to show the face of America.

This show will allow us to display the talents of our Grangers, raise funds through sales and entry to the show and tell the story of the Grange: the organization that for 150 years has sewn together individuals and communities – the quilt blocks of America – as brothers and sisters. Quilts and blocks donated should be sold at the event and major media should be sought to cover the event and our organization. The department believes such an event with this clever message will draw significant attention from long-form media, such as NPR radio programming, magazines, Sunday editions of newspapers and news magazine television.

As part of this, Granges should be encouraged to host quilt nights where members can share the craft with those in their community, passing on an American handy craft that so many people find beautiful but difficult to learn. We should also reach out to other organizations and groups that quilt and ask them to submit entries, showing that the Grange works across groups to create a better place.

Quilts and blocks that are not sold should be donated to organizations such as children’s and women’s shelters, veterans groups and the like. Capital raised through the show and program should be used to strengthen our Foundation’s support of large-scale National programming that local Granges participate in as well as small but highly remarkable projects that local Granges undertake.

In the coming months, the department will examine costs for an associated website for the project that will allow us to tell the story of the Grange, show photos of the blocks, let visitors identify what communities have submitted blocks and read the stories about those hometowns, gaining a sense of understanding that America is like a quilt, rather than a melting pot, where our stories are similar, and complimentary, but still uniquely American. The department will also create a standard entry form that should be attached with every

quilt and block as well as a release where donors will designate that the quilt can be sold and the amount of money spent on elements for the quilt so we can provide from the Foundation a tax-deductible receipt.

We will also work with large companies such as Jo-Ann Fabric and others to secure funding to assist with project costs and the cost of convention center rental for the 2017 show. We will also work with the Junior director and Youth director to identify ways youth can become involved and present their own crafts for the show. Finally, the department will work with the Foundation Board and the Programs department, as well as the National Lecturer, to remain on track with funding, program requirements and much more to get this fully underway.

Kelley Farm 1873 Degree Conferral

Should the 1873 Degree Conferral by Grange Youth teams be performed at the Kelley Farm in July 2013 as expected, the department will spend copious amounts of time preparing for the event, planning a media campaign, working with outlets to secure coverage and internally addressing how to provide members who are unable to attend the chance to “relive” the experience by video.

Civics Activity Book – Linking Comic Characters and Apathy Not Allowed

The department hopes to work with the Legislative and Junior Directors in the early months of 2013 to prepare information and produce an activity book geared to our Junior Grange members and children of Junior Grange age that promotes civic engagement, understanding of government and community service. This book can serve as a workbook in Junior Granges who choose to adopt it or can be used by schools or other programs both to introduce the principles of civics and community with the backdrop of the Grange.

The book will use the central characters from the previously released Grange Story comic book as illustrations and “narrators” who prompt children with questions and challenges such as Participate in the Election Process where children can write about going to vote with their parents or work to organize or take part in a mock election; learn about the presidents (an activity already part of the Junior Program Guide) and more.

These should be of little or no cost to Junior Granges and made readily available at low cost to schools and other organizations/groups. The book will include a quick history or basic information about the Grange and introduction to Junior Grange. It will include contact information to learn more about becoming a Junior Grange member or starting a Junior Grange in your community. Also, packages with the activity book and comic books will be available so most children will receive both at the same time.

WWII Project with National Lecturer

In conjunction with a WWII Veteran’s Recognition Program, that must be approved by the delegates at the 146th Annual National Grange Session, the department expects to create a Lecturer’s Resource CD and a standard WWII Veteran Certificate of Honor for all Granges to use. The CD is expected to include a video tour of the WWII Monument in Washington, D.C., information about women in WWII, about the home-front and victory gardens during WWII, the role of rural America in the military from WWII through today, Grange policies and projects during and because of WWII, such as the Grange Germany-USA program, and much more. This can be used as both a learning tool about a specific time in American history that we are rapidly losing memory of and the Grange of the past, as well as a way to lead veterans who are willing to present their stories into their discussions.

The CD will also include sample press releases that can be used to inform the public

about upcoming events at the Grange related to this project and a sample release that can be used when honoring a veteran. It will also include a sample resolution that Granges can adopt when honoring a specific veteran.

Further, the program should allow the Grange to capitalize with positive press in local areas and a larger national market as we make concerted effort to recognize the WWII veterans, which estimates say are dying at the rate of about 1,000 per day. This department will work to structure the story for national media of the Grange as an organization that cares about our veterans, connects with the values of this “Greatest Generation” and is working to preserve their stories in the old-fashioned way of oral histories told to audiences within the Grange halls.

Electronic Membership Database

As approved by delegate action at the 145th Annual National Grange Convention, the search for an adequate, yet reasonably priced Electronic Membership Database service is underway. IT Manager Stephanie Wilkins and I discussed issues related to the database throughout the year and Wilkins contacted a number of providers regarding services and quotes. We have identified one provider who we believe could handle our needs, build a program to suit that would be easy enough for most Grange members familiar with computers and forms to complete and would be within reason for our budget.

As we move forward on this project, it will be important for all State Masters to get Local and Pomona Granges on board, and until Granges have in place a person who accepts the responsibility for reporting and is technically savvy enough to complete the task, State Granges will have to work with National Grange to assist in training. States will also have to ensure that all Granges are reporting, either on their own or with State assistance.

The organization cannot continue to function properly without this system in place, yet we understand hesitance and general constraints. Still, the fact remains that this is an important step forward and benefits from such interaction and flow of information between local, Pomona, State and National Grange will overwhelmingly improve the entire experience of members and the efficacy of the organization as a whole. We look forward to this becoming a reality and hope to have your support as we implement this program.

Mobile Application

The department, along with Legislative Director Grace Boatright, Programs Assistant Austin Miller and partner group DCI, has worked together to create a concept and proposal for a mobile application that would work on Android smartphones and iPhones. This app would include tools such as locating Granges nearby, “pushing” alerts of news and information from National Grange, searching our policy, and much more.

We are currently working with DCI to secure a potential app developer as well as grant funding to create the app. I believe this is a very logical and necessary next move in taking the Grange into the 21st Century with our technological reach.

Communications Advisory Board

In the coming months, the department plans to work with the National Master to identify at least seven individuals who can become a part of a newly established Communications Advisory Board. These individuals will be members of the Grange, that have some communication background or expertise, and will be able to serve as a roundtable to give quick opinions, monitor our branding and much more. This will be helpful to the department by making sure that we are “in touch” with our members while striving to provide the best

services and products possible for use. We will also be able to have more instantaneous feedback and have built-in product testers and advisors using this panel.

2013 Communications Weekend Boot Camps

During 2013, I hope to hold at least three Communication Boot Camps in different areas of the country. During convention I will speak with several State Masters and attempt to identify potential locations for these camps. These, much like the Membership/Leadership Department's G.O.A.L. seminars, would ideally be located at a small hotel or in a Grange hall. They would be publicized in advance; individuals would register for the event and spend two nights and two-and-a-half days learning about communications for the Grange. The department seeks to include Programs Assistant Austin Miller and some additional speakers and trainers. Attendees should then be able to go back to their Granges and provide necessary communications assistance so they can better publicize their Grange in their hometown, region and state.

Ideally, these camps would be well attended and have a very hands-on component. We would introduce attendees to the Grange websites, social media, best practices in writing, photography and videography, public relations strategies and much more.

The department has begun and will continue to seek several grants and in-kind donations of materials, speakers and take-aways that will assist the public information directors in the Grange to prepare quality materials that will enhance press coverage, overall image and membership interest in our Order.

In the coming months, the department will prepare a tentative schedule, meet with potential funding sources and work with the events coordinator to determine the best locations for such a summit. The department hopes you will approve this endeavor and support it by promoting it to members and attending one of the events.

President's Proposed Speaking Tour

The department expects to work closely with National Master Ed Luttrell to find and secure speaking engagements in 2013. Specifically, the department must reach out to institutions of higher education, similarly situated groups and other organizations or forums. The National Master must work with the department to define a message of interest to a non-Grange audience that is compelling and timely. The department hopes to secure at least three different speaking opportunities.

Membership DVD

The department hopes to work with the Leadership/Membership Director in the early part of 2013 to create a "storyboard" for a DVD that presents in chapters information that can be used by people seeking to learn more about the Grange and how to start a Grange in their hometown. We believe the DVD should introduce the Grange and its benefits as the first chapter and then introduce what is needed to start a Grange, information about the ritual and practice of Grange meetings and more. The DVD can be multiple use, allowing those organizing Granges to both learn about the Grange and what it takes to start a Grange, but also something they can show prospective members to explain the Grange.

Apathy Not Allowed Portal/Website

The Communications and Legislative departments will be working closely in early 2013 to create a site structure and overall design for an Apathy Not Allowed webpage. This page will encourage Grange Youth and non-Grange members to engage in the civic process, will include links to outside resources and Grange documents and will encourage Grange membership. We believe this page will be a significant entryway for those civic-

minded individuals looking for an outlet or organization to which they can belong and through which they can better themselves.

Legislative Director's Handbook

I hope to work next year with the Legislative Director to create a handbook similar to the Communications Handbook and Workbook for legislative directors on the State, Pomona and Subordinate Grange levels. The Legislative Director has already discussed this idea as a revamped version of the Grassroots Training Manual and Action Guide. This guide would include information about precepts of the Grange, such as our nonpartisan value and the way you can advocate for specific issues. It would cover information such as how to successfully petition and mobilize support, how to identify community needs and use those as rallying points for your Grange membership and community, how to capitalize on issue support when looking to recruit new members and much more.

Ag-Ed Initiative

After meeting with several representatives from the National Agriculture In the Classroom Association, the department, along with the Legislative and Programs departments became increasingly interested in an initiative to advocate for and assist in the expansion of agriculture education in schools and/or lobby for a national standard for minimum agriculture education standards.

This project will require a strong partnership with the Ag in the Classroom group and educational materials, often that are state-specific, about education standards and requirements, common core curriculum and other legislative or regulatory issues related to education. The department also anticipates such a program will require significant focus on positive media attention to the issue and several well-placed op-eds in major publications.

Subordinate Manuals

No Subordinate Manuals remain in stock at the Grange Store, save 10 borrowed manuals from Colorado. We must print manuals early in 2013; therefore we have digitized the contents of the Subordinate Manual and the Subordinate Alternative Manual and combined them into one file that will be reviewed by a committee selected by National Master Ed Luttrell. That committee will prepare the material for publication and I will edit and layout the material and work with printers to get the best possible rate. Further, the 2013 edition should include the traditional subordinate text as edited by the committee after review of changes made by resolutions in the past decade-plus since the previous edition was issued, as well as the Subordinate Alternative Manual and materials written since the last edition that warrant inclusion.

Quotes for the manuals received by several companies in early 2012 indicate that the most practical option would be to print the 2013 manual as a softcover book rather than the traditional hardcover because of the exorbitant price difference. Because of the expansion of the text, I expect this will include a greater number of pages, increasing the price. Further, several requests have been made that the manual appear with larger type. If this is recommended by the Committee or National Master, this will also increase the number of pages and ultimate price.

National Grange Facebook Page vs. Group

The department has established a National Grange Facebook Page that will replace the National Grange Facebook Group in 2013. For several reasons, we believe the page will be more effective than the group. We also strengthen our look as a brand rather than a loose configuration of like-minded individuals with the move to a page.

The page format on Facebook also has built in analytics that can be used to track the number of views a comment or post has, the number of clicks, likes or other interactions users have with content and generally tell us the number of people involved with our brand through Facebook. This is a far superior method and we believe it will be useful to show what content is working, where we should spend more time and what is not reaching our audience or causing interest.

At this convention, we will begin to ask users to “Like” our page and dual-stream content to both our Group and Page through 2012. In early 2013, we will warn Group users several times that we will move exclusively to using the page by Grange Month and we will shut down the group as of April 1. We hope we will not lose any members in the process, but we have devised methods to remind as well as encourage members to make the switch and will make note of those we have “lost” in transition to send them personal invites to “Like” our page.

Redesigning Youth, Junior Grange and Grange Store websites

To align the Junior Grange, Grange Youth and Grange Store with our brand, it is important to redesign the webpages of each in the coming year. Sales Director Samantha Johnson and IT Manager Stephanie Wilkins are already working to determine a new structure for the Grange Store, while Graphic Design Consultant Jennifer Dugent Wolff is working to prepare a brand-conscious design for review and approval to the Youth and Junior departments in Spring 2013.

National Officer’s Pages

Each National Officer will have a page on the Members side of the website that they will be able to add content to through the Communications department. We are currently gathering information and setting up these pages. We hope that each officer gives a summary, uses the page to impart knowledge or encourage State, Pomona and Local Grange members who hold the same office.

Delegate and National Officer Biographies

Several of our biographies of National Officers and Delegates are incomplete or out of date. In order to remedy this, the department will contact each appropriate officer or delegate in the coming months to get updated information and construct more lengthy biographies that include Grange information, education and work information, family information and much more. We will also identify any delegates or officers for whom we do not have headshots and make sure to let them know to have one taken during this convention.

Director’s Note

I would like to thank the board, National Master Ed Luttrell, National Grange staff and Grange members across the country for their overwhelming support in late March when my aunt, Sandy Brozana, died unexpectedly from a heart attack and again in September when my grandmother, Iris Gray, died of a massive stroke. Both losses were very hard on my family and I.

The comfort I found in the outreach from my Grange Brothers and Sisters across the U.S. was completely reaffirming as to the character of our Order. My local Grange Chaplain, Rachel Konkus, served as an impromptu speaker, offering prayers and words of faith and healing at my aunt’s memorial and graveside services. National Overseer Jimmy Gentry and his wife, Anita, took time to come to the visitation for my grandmother, something that impressed my family and my grandmother’s friends in such a way that I know their

impression of our organization is forever positive. Further, the ability to take the time needed to deal with these losses and assist with finalizing their affairs without question was nothing short of amazing. I can't tell you what such response means to me as an employee and member of the Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,
 Amanda Leigh Brozana
 National Grange Communications Director

ADDENDUM A

Search

Number of hits

82

Outlet/Publication	Country	Circulation: Potential Viewership	Date	Headline
NewsRegister.com	United States	13634	09/28/12 18:35	Oregon, again, should reject private casino developments
The World Link (AP)	United States	30223	09/28/12 16:37	Go! Calendar of Events, Sept. 28
The Oregonian - OregonLive.com	United States	2388790	09/28/12 09:13	On The Grange, sarcasm and slot machines: 200 wiseguys words Would Measures 82 and 83 authorize just one new casino? PolitiFact Oregon
OregonLive.com	United States	15527135	09/28/12 09:00	Grange Group could help with law enforcement
Statesman Journal (AP)	United States	305990	09/28/12 01:38	Planned casino's name disrespects Grange members
Statesman Journal (AP)	United States	305990	09/28/12 01:33	Editorial: Just say no to non-Indian gaming proposal in Oregon
Indianz.Com	United States	696	09/24/12 18:45	COMMUNITY CALENDAR: Sept. 24-Oct. 1, 2012
East Oregonian	United States	82488	09/24/12 12:32	ENDORSEMENT: Measures 82 and 83 — No
The Register-Guard	United States	1158808	09/24/12 02:42	In our view: Cheers & Jeers
The Columbian	United States	63494	09/22/12 09:04	Was Grange investor part of NY casino deal called 'corrupt,' 'rigged'? PolitiFact Oregon
OregonLive.com	United States	15527135	09/22/12 09:00	LETTERS IN THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG: Saturday's Opinion Page
The Register-Guard	United States	1158808	09/22/12 03:00	Today's menu
The Spokesman-Review	United States	189951	09/21/12 03:27	Occupy movement anniversary march; plea in armored car heist case: Portland/Gresham Roundup
OregonLive.com	United States	15527135	09/18/12 11:30	COMMUNITY CALENDAR: Sept. 17-24, 2012
East Oregonian	United States	82488	09/17/12 11:28	Opinion: Vote no on non-Indian gaming proposal in Oregon
Indianz.Com	United States	696	09/17/12 09:42	Casino developers see jackpot in Portland
KCBY CBS 11	United States	13391	09/16/12 01:13	Casino developers see jackpot in Portland
Corvallis Gazette-Times	United States	93218	09/15/12 21:37	Casino developers see jackpot in Portland
OregonLive.com	United States	15527135	09/15/12 17:32	Casino developers see jackpot in Portland
CanadianBusiness.com	Canada	3018	09/15/12 17:11	Casino developers see jackpot in Portland
The Register-Guard	United States	1158808	09/15/12 16:55	Casino developers see jackpot in Portland
KPIC.com	United States	28397	09/16/12 01:13	Casino developers see jackpot in Portland After 7 years of false starts, casino developers bet big on Portland gambling center
Pendleton Times-Post	United States	530	09/15/12 16:31	After 7 years of false starts, casino developers bet big on Portland gambling center
Daily Reporter	United States	72014	09/15/12 16:31	After 7 years of false starts, casino developers bet big on Portland gambling center
The Republic (AP)	United States	502718	09/15/12 16:31	After 7 years of false starts, casino developers bet big on Portland gambling center
Daily Journal	United States		09/15/12 16:31	After 7 years of false starts, casino developers bet big on Portland gambling center
BendBulletin.com (AP)	United States	194802	09/15/12 16:00	Casino investors bet heavily on yes votes Ron Wyden tells Chinese consulate to back off, casinos and liquor and more: Oregon Politics Roundup
OregonLive.com	United States	15527135	09/14/12 14:58	Oregon casino opponents launch TV ad, attacks 'The Grunge' and Canadians
OregonLive.com	United States	15527135	09/13/12 20:23	Oregon casino opponents launch first TV ad, attack 'The Grunge'
OregonLive.com	United States	15527135	09/13/12 14:27	Letters to the editor on the casino: Sept. 14
Portland Tribune	United States	292272	09/13/12 14:27	Crapping Out
Willamette Week	United States	38714	09/12/12 10:31	Would private casino in Wood Village be the country's largest? PolitiFact Oregon
OregonLive.com	United States	15527135	09/12/12 09:00	The Grange gambles that viewers won't notice the casino: 200 wiseguys words
The Oregonian - OregonLive.com	United States	2388790	09/12/12 08:31	Letters to the editor for Sept. 12
Portland Tribune	United States	292272	09/11/12 04:28	Casino Insider
Gaming Today	United States	2859	09/10/12 21:19	Grant High junior launches startup: Reynolds principals swap places: local bike culture makes national news: Portland/Gresham Roundup
OregonLive.com	United States	15527135	09/10/12 20:41	COMMUNITY CALENDAR: Sept. 10-17, 2012
East Oregonian	United States	82488	09/10/12 11:26	LETTERS IN THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG
The Register-Guard	United States	1158808	09/08/12 03:00	LETTERS IN THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG: Saturday's paper
The Register-Guard	United States	1158808	09/08/12 03:00	Oregon casino developers can use 'Grange' for now
Corvallis Gazette-Times	United States	93218	09/06/12 02:30	Oregon casino developers can use 'Grange' for now
Yahoo! New Zealand (Business)	New Zealand	1644	09/05/12 23:04	Oregon casino developers can use 'Grange' for now
Yahoo! Finance	Australia	352618	09/05/12 17:40	Oregon casino developers can use 'Grange' for now
Yahoo! Finance US	United States	17179145	09/05/12 17:03	Oregon casino developers can use 'Grange' for now
Bloomberg Businessweek	United States	2824990	09/05/12 16:53	Oregon casino developers can use 'Grange' for now
INO.com News	United States	2625	09/05/12 16:51	Oregon casino developers can use 'Grange' for now
Deseret News	United States	596699	09/05/12 16:35	Oregon casino developers can use 'Grange' for now
NewsTalkRadioWHIO.com	United States	12193	09/05/12 16:34	Oregon casino developers can use 'Grange' for now
East Oregonian	United States	82488	09/05/12 16:34	Oregon casino developers can use 'Grange' for now

The Register-Guard	United States	1158808	09/05/12	15:57	Oregon casino developers can use 'Grange' for now
Topix	United States	3808411	09/07/12	19:14	Oregon casino developers can use 'Grange' for now
Mailtribune.com (AP)	United States	141314	09/07/12	02:00	Cheers and jeers
BendBulletin.com (AP)	United States	194802	09/06/12	16:00	Out of town
The Register-Guard	United States	1158808	09/06/12	03:00	Casino developers, Grange call truce
KPTV - FOX 12	United States	408655	09/05/12	21:55	Proposed casino name causes concern for one group
Portland Tribune	United States	292272	09/05/12	21:14	Grange reaches agreement with casino developers
					Oregon casino ads play up jobs, schools, but tread lightly on gambling
OregonLive.com	United States	15527135	09/05/12	21:09	'Grange' casino sides reach temporary name deal
Portland Business Journal	United States	3970152	09/05/12	20:08	Tigard-Tualatin daily roundup: Governor addresses Metzger students, Oregon 99W crash causes delays
OregonLive.com	United States	15527135	09/05/12	19:38	Casino planners, Grange reach deal
Capital Press	United States	5020	09/05/12	17:29	plans bank statements4
MedicaBlogs - Diario Médico	Spain	31127	09/05/12	17:14	Casino developers, Grange reach truce on project name
BendBulletin.com (AP)	United States	194802	09/05/12	16:00	Oregon casino backers, National Grange, settle dispute over name -- for now
OregonLive.com	United States	15527135	09/05/12	15:56	Fraternal group National Grange allows Oregon casino developers to use 'Grange' name for now
Daily Reporter	United States	72014	09/05/12	15:22	Fraternal group National Grange allows Oregon casino developers to use 'Grange' name for now
Pendleton Times-Post	United States	530	09/05/12	15:22	Fraternal group National Grange allows Oregon casino developers to use 'Grange' name for now
Daily Journal	United States		09/05/12	15:22	Fraternal group National Grange allows Oregon casino developers to use 'Grange' name for now
The Republic (AP)	United States	502718	09/05/12	15:23	Nat'l Grange drops lawsuit over casino name
Kgw.com (AP)	United States	1012664	09/05/12	14:53	National Grange Settles With 'The Grange' Over Name
East Oregonian	United States	82488	09/05/12	11:37	He Enthusiastically Endorsed the Tea Party
PubliCola	United States	4147	09/05/12	11:04	National Grange suing developers of Portland-area casino
Kgw.com (AP)	United States	1012664	09/05/12	08:21	Wind, fluoride and HOV lanes: Oregon opinion roundup
OregonLive.com	United States	15527135	09/05/12	07:38	'Grange' proposal unrelated to plants, gardens
Mailtribune.com (AP)	United States	141314	09/05/12	02:00	Casino developers can keep Grange name temporarily
Portland Tribune	United States	292272	09/04/12	18:21	Letters to the editor
Portland Tribune	United States	292272	09/04/12	12:14	'Grange' casino proposal name could face challenge
Portland Business Journal	United States	3970152	09/04/12	03:34	COMMUNITY CALENDAR: Sept. 3-10, 2012
East Oregonian	United States	82488	09/03/12	16:34	Grange group to take legal action against casino developers
Portland Tribune	United States	292272	09/03/12	15:30	'The Grange' targets voters for casino
Koinlocal6.com (AP)	United States	105784	09/03/12	13:50	'The Grange' targets voters in casino campaign
Koinlocal6.com (AP)	United States	105784	09/03/12	13:50	National Grange says legal action planned over Oregon casino development called 'The Grange'
Daily Reporter	United States	72014	08/31/12	21:19	National Grange says legal action planned over Oregon casino development called 'The Grange'
Daily Journal	United States		08/31/12	21:19	National Grange says legal action planned over Oregon casino development called 'The Grange'
The Republic (AP)	United States	502718	08/31/12	21:19	National Grange says legal action planned over Oregon casino development called 'The Grange'
Pendleton Times-Post	United States	530	08/31/12	21:19	National Grange challenges proposed casino over its name
Capital Press	United States	5020	08/31/12	19:25	National Grange suing proposed casino developers
Kgw.com (AP)	United States	1012664	08/31/12	18:24	Community calendar
BendBulletin.com (AP)	United States	259736	08/31/12	16:00	CALENDAR
The Register-Guard	United States	662176	08/31/12	03:00	Lms ideas yahoo answersms ideas
MedicaBlogs - Diario Médico	Spain	31127	08/30/12	04:57	COMMUNITY CALENDAR: Aug. 27-Sept. 3, 2012
East Oregonian	United States	54992	08/27/12	13:44	Vous lisez quoi en ce moment ?
Mon Blog de Fille	France	27897	08/26/12	14:27	Casino proponents launch ad, don't mention casino
BendBulletin.com (AP)	United States	259736	08/24/12	20:27	Casino proponents launch ad, don't mention casino
NewsTalkRadioWHIO.com	United States	12193	08/24/12	19:24	Casino proponents launch ad, don't mention casino
WOKV	United States	27335	08/24/12	19:24	Casino proponents launch ad, don't mention casino
Herald and News	United States	28742	08/24/12	19:24	Casino proponents launch ad, don't mention casino
Wsoctv.com	United States	309776	08/24/12	19:24	Casino proponents launch ad, don't mention casino
The Providence Journal (AP)	United States	187567	08/24/12	19:21	Casino proponents launch ad, don't mention casino
OregonLive.com	United States	4777580	08/24/12	19:09	Casino proponents launch ad, don't mention casino
NewsRegister.com	United States	13634	08/24/12	15:25	Casino proponents launch ad, don't mention casino
WLSL 10	United States	139318	08/24/12	06:54	Casino proponents launch ad, don't mention casino
Corvallis Gazette-Times	United States	93218	08/24/12	21:44	Casino proponents launch ad, don't mention casino
OregonLive.com	United States	4777580	08/24/12	20:47	Portland-area casino proposal panned by citizen panel
BendBulletin.com (AP)	United States	259736	08/24/12	16:00	Ad for casino ballot measures leaves out mention of gambling
Gambling911.com	United States	17738	08/24/12	11:18	Gambling Expansion Referendums on Ballots in Both Rhode Island and Oregon
INO.com News	United States	5250	08/24/12	08:33	Oregon casino plans unveiled ahead of vote
Yahoo! Finance US	United States	34358290	08/24/12	08:32	Oregon casino plans unveiled ahead of vote
Corvallis Gazette-Times	United States	93218	08/24/12	00:00	Oregon casino plans unveiled ahead of vote
The Columbian	United States	63494	08/23/12	22:27	Oregon casino plans unveiled ahead of vote
My San Antonio (AP)	United States	411532	08/23/12	21:03	Oregon casino plans unveiled ahead of vote
Beumont Enterprise (AP)	United States	98228	08/23/12	21:03	Oregon casino plans unveiled ahead of vote
Herald and News	United States	28742	08/23/12	21:00	Oregon casino plans unveiled ahead of vote
Yahoo! New Zealand (Business)	New Zealand	1644	08/23/12	20:08	Oregon casino plans unveiled ahead of vote
Ventura County Star (AP)	United States	209468	08/23/12	17:37	Oregon casino plans unveiled ahead of vote
HeraldNet.com	United States	299714	08/23/12	17:34	Oregon casino plans unveiled ahead of vote
The Register-Guard	United States	662176	08/23/12	17:34	Oregon casino plans unveiled ahead of vote
NOLA.com	United States	631471	08/23/12	17:23	Oregon casino plans unveiled ahead of vote
WLSL 10	United States	139318	08/23/12	05:33	Oregon casino plans unveiled ahead of vote
Syracuse.com	United States	407089	08/23/12	02:15	Oregon casino plans unveiled ahead of vote
Bloomberg Businessweek	United States	2824990	08/24/12	10:21	Oregon casino plans unveiled ahead of vote
KCBY CBS 11	United States	13391	08/24/12	09:55	Casino proponents launch ad: citizen panel says reject M82
KVAL CBS 13	United States	274460	08/24/12	09:55	Casino proponents launch ad: citizen panel says reject M82
KPIC.com	United States	28397	08/24/12	09:55	Casino proponents launch ad: citizen panel says reject M82
The Spokesman-Review	United States	189951	08/24/12	03:33	Portland-area casino plans unveiled
The Register-Guard	United States	662176	08/24/12	02:41	Nontribal casino plan unveiled
KPTV - FOX 12	United States	408655	08/23/12	21:46	Proposed casino planned if two ballot measures pass

OregonLive.com	United States	4777580	08/23/12	20:57	Wood Village casino backers show off plans for 'uniquely Oregon' development
Kgw.com (AP)	United States	1012664	08/23/12	18:24	Wood Village casino proponents unveil plans
INO.com News	United States	5250	08/23/12	16:58	Oregon casino proponents show off plans
Yahoo! Finance US	United States	34358290	08/23/12	16:53	Oregon casino proponents show off plans
La Grande Observer (AP)	United States	10698	08/23/12	16:39	Oregon casino proponents show off plans
The Register-Guard	United States	662176	08/23/12	17:03	Oregon casino proponents show off plans
					Oregon casino proponents promise entertainment venue.
The Republic (AP)	United States	502718	08/23/12	16:39	downplay gambling
					Oregon casino proponents promise entertainment venue.
Daily Journal	United States		08/23/12	16:39	downplay gambling
					Oregon casino proponents promise entertainment venue.
Daily Reporter	United States	72014	08/23/12	16:39	downplay gambling
					Oregon casino proponents promise entertainment venue.
Pendleton Times-Post	United States	530	08/23/12	16:39	downplay gambling
BendBulletin.com (AP)	United States	259736	08/23/12	16:00	Casino complex plans unveiled
Portland Tribune	United States	48712	08/23/12	14:18	Casino project gets a name: The Grange
					Casino in Wood Village would become community gathering spot.
OregonLive.com	United States	4777580	08/23/12	13:02	developers say
KEPR-TV	United States	23102	08/23/12	04:13	Design unveiled for proposed casino that will go to public vote
KVAL CBS 13	United States	274460	08/23/12	02:49	Design unveiled for proposed Wood Village casino
Portland Business Journal	United States	1985076	08/23/12	00:53	Casino backers unveil Wood Village plans
The World Link (AP)	United States	60446	08/21/12	14:00	On purpose for a purpose
East Oregonian	United States	54992	08/20/12	11:22	COMMUNITY CALENDAR: Aug. 20-27, 2012
The World Link (AP)	United States	60446	08/18/12	12:02	Go! Calendar of Events, Aug. 18
East Oregonian	United States	54992	08/13/12	11:45	COMMUNITY CALENDAR: Aug. 13-20, 2012
East Oregonian	United States	54992	08/06/12	10:28	COMMUNITY CALENDAR: Aug. 6-13, 2012
					Gloria Glyer's fundraising events: Folsom Lake College Foundation and more
The Sacramento Bee	United States	1096165	08/01/12	03:00	

ADDENDUM B

Grange Website and Electronic Social Media Code of Conduct

All websites, Facebook groups or pages, and all other internet based social media platforms representing the Grange must be under the jurisdiction of a Subordinate/Community, Pomona, or State Grange.

Each website must be clearly identified as being a Grange website and must have contact information on or within one easily identifiable click from the home or index page.

Each Facebook or other social media platform must be clearly identified as being a Grange sponsored page or group and have a Grange contact person easily identified on the page.

No partisan or sectarian comments, opinions, statements, or endorsements may be posted on the website or page.

No negative or inflammatory (designed to insult or belittle) comments, opinions, or statements toward any Grange or level of the Grange or toward any member of any Grange may be posted on the website or page.

No inflammatory (designed to insult or belittle) statements, comments, or opinions toward any non-member, including public officials may be posted on the website or page.

All policies of the Grange posted on the website or page must be clearly labeled as to which Grange or level of the Grange that has adopted the policies.

All content, including advertisements, must be within the guidelines of the Digest, By-Laws of the State Grange with jurisdiction, and By-Laws of the Grange operating the website or page.

Adopted February 25, 2011 by the National Grange Executive Committee

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/MEETING PLANNER'S REPORT

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates and Patrons:

I have served in the position of Executive Assistant and Meeting Planner at the National Grange Office for the past three years and nine months. I report to you my activities in the following areas:

Bonding

Currently, Granges from 22 states participate in the National Grange's bonding program. The bond is issued through the National Grange Mutual Insurance Company of Keene, New Hampshire. In the year 2012, 735 individual Granges were covered by the policy. With the exception of Granges in Alaska, California and Minnesota, all Subordinate, Pomona and State Granges are eligible to participate. The bond coverage extends beyond the officers of any given Grange, and includes all members of the Grange and all volunteers at Grange functions. Information about the bonding program is available for download from the National Grange website and all State Masters are encouraged to share this information with their Granges. This program provides an inexpensive and convenient way for Granges to obtain the bonding coverage required by the Digest of Laws.

Convention

The 147th Annual National Grange Convention will be held November 12-16, 2013 in Manchester, New Hampshire at the Radisson Hotel Manchester. I completed the pre-convention site visit in early August and preparations are underway for what is sure to be another successful event. The 7th Degree conferral will be held at the Convention hotel.

The 148th Annual National Grange Convention will take place November 11-15, 2014 at the Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, Ohio. There is so much to offer at this location that everyone will want to bring their entire families. Discount room rates will be offered for single through quadruple occupancy as well as small and large family suites. Free tickets to the onsite indoor water park are included with every hotel room stay.

The 149th Annual National Grange Convention will be held at The Cornhusker hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska. Upon the announcement of the 2015 Big Ten college football schedule, the exact dates of our event have been finalized. The convention will take place November 3-7, 2015.

A location for the milestone 150th Annual National Grange Convention has been chosen in the Washington, DC area. The event will be held November 15-19, 2016 at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport hotel in Herndon, Virginia. A room rate of \$105 has been secured and the hotel includes free parking and free airport shuttle transportation. With a larger attendance expected at this convention, an off-site location for the 7th Degree Conferral will be necessary.

Meetings and Events

Meeting and event tasks include preparing meeting materials, planning hotel and meal logistics, and handling registration processes. I provided support for the following meetings and events in the past year: the 2011 and 2012 National Grange Conventions; three Executive Committee Meetings; the 2012 Master's Conference in Atlanta, Georgia (attendance of 54); and three GOAL Seminars for the Membership Department (Vermont in May- attendance of 9, Pennsylvania in June- attendance of 12, and New York in September- attendance of 35).

Grange Building

The National Grange Building at 1616 H Street, NW in Washington, DC requires daily management to run smoothly. My Executive Assistant responsibilities as part of the management team include responding to tenant issues and concerns, overseeing the contract cleaners, coordinating with the building engineer and security, managing the schedule for the Goss Conference Room, and coordinating some building maintenance projects. I also provide Notary Public services for the tenants of the building. In addition to daily management of the building, I also work with the National Master and the Grange's Legal Counsel to negotiate lease renewals or extensions. Currently in the Grange Building, there are 17 separate leases for office space housing over 25 companies and organizations. As of the writing of this report, the office space in the National Grange Building is 100 percent occupied. Two full floors will be vacated in April 2013. Plans are underway to search for new tenants for these planned openings.

Fraternally submitted,
Jessie Cope
Executive Assistant/ Meeting Planner

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT'S REPORT

Security System

The National Grange has maintained a complete inventory of all front door pass cards that access the National Grange building. This inventory confirms the names of individuals that enter the building, their access level as well as the company they are associated with. It is pertinent that this information remain current so that there is accurate information in the database that can be retrieved in the unfortunate event of foul play. As of 11/01/12 the National Grange has a total of 257 pass cards assigned to a combination of National Grange employees, building tenants, subtenants, vendors, etc.

Computer Hardware/Software

The National Grange has renewed its ACE Certificate with Identrust. This certificate is used to file the National Grange Lobbying Reports every quarter.

The necessary paperwork for adding the new Legislative Director, Grace Boatright, as a registered lobbyist for the National Grange has been completed with the Office of the Clerk.

The National Grange server license for TeamSpeak 2 was eligible for an upgrade to TeamSpeak 3 with no addition expense. TeamSpeak, a free online communication tool, that has allowed the Grange to facilitate meetings ranging from leadership, membership, convention planning, youth sessions, deputy discussions and state grange regional sessions all with no expense to the National Grange or any of those participating. TeamSpeak 3 offers additional features such as clearer communication as well as the ability to share files and provide hands on material for participants to follow along with the meeting facilitator. Initial set up, installation and instructions on using the new version of TeamSpeak 3 was distributed to grange members to assist in greater participation for these meetings. Assistance is given in a way that is most convenient for the member including email instruction or assistance over the phone during and after scheduled work hours.

The National Grange renewed its license and support agreement with Symantec. Renewal of this license ensures virus protection for all office computers and automatic live

updates to Antivirus and Antispyware Protection, Proactive Threat Protection and Network Threat Protection. Current version is 11.0.6300.803.

The National Grange purchased the Mac version of Microsoft Office 2011 for the Communications Department. This dual license software will be used for the two Macs currently owned by the National Grange. Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Outlook are included in this software package. The software will allow editing, formatting and creating Microsoft documents in a Mac environment.

The IT Department recently upgraded to Creative Suite 5.5 in order to stay compatible with majority of off-site printers and graphic artists that the Communications Department regularly collaborate with. This software was upgraded on both Mac desktop computers of the National Grange Office.

A new HP Officejet 7000 printer was purchased for the Marketing Coordinator Beverly Mitchell.

A 21.5 inch Apple iMac was purchased for the new Program Assistant, Austin Miller. All the necessary software packages were loaded onto this Mac so that its capabilities are parallel to that of the Communications Director.

The IT Department has installed 3 wireless routers onto the National Grange network. These password protected routers located on the 1st, 10th and 11th floor of the National Grange headquarters will offer access to a wireless data connection for staff, guest and visitors.

The National Grange purchases an additional 2-year hosting service with Siteground. Siteground provides hosting service for 2,115 email accounts created for local granges.

A new Dell Inspiron 14z Ultrabook, operating with Windows 7 Home Premium as well as Microsoft Office Professional 2010, was purchased for Michael Martin, Leadership/Membership Director, to replace a dying laptop adopted by the previous Director. An addition AC adapter was also obtained to assist with transitioning between multiple workstations.

A VuPoint Magic Wand Portable Scanner, compatible with both Windows and Mac systems, was purchased for the Communications department for the purpose of scanning book-bound pages and creating e-books for Amazon Kindle.

The IT Department is planning to upgrade six desktop computers to the XP 8500 desktop computer. This upgrade will bring the remaining workstations (not including Mac) up to date with the latest operating system, Windows 7 Professional, and latest software, Microsoft Office 2010, for all National Grange workstation.

Email notices and announcements

The following email notices and announcements are being formatted for distribution:

- “View from the Hill” Newsletter
- “New Grange” Newsletter
- Memorial Notices
- Fraternal Concerns
- Promotional Sale Items
- Member Benefit Alerts
- Press Releases
- Membership Tips of the Month
- Leadership Tips of the Month
- Leadership TeamSpeak Announcements
- Youth TeamSpeak Announcements
- View from the Hill Legislative Updates
- Important Grange Announcements, etc.

The National Grange distributes notices and announcements via “Constant Contact”. Sending emails via Constant Contact allows the National Grange to easily track sent emails as well as those that have been opened and any links that are being clicked on. Members also have the ability join our mailings as well as easily and safely unsubscribe. From Jan. 2012 – Nov. 2012, the National Grange has distributed over 190 email notices to more than 5,800 recipients ranging from Grange Members to Emembers to Media Relations.

For 15 years, Constant Contact’s email marketing, online survey and event marketing tools help all types of small businesses and organizations create professional-looking email newsletters and insightful online surveys.

The 2013 National Grange Roster will be compiled, formatted and distributed to all National Grange and State Grange Officers by January 2013. This yearly publication provides contact information such as mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of National Officers, Assembly of Demeter, Past National Presidents, Staff Directory as well as officers from each individual State Grange. We anticipate this guide to be an effective communication tool among State Grange Directors.

Grange Websites

The National Grange uses Godaddy as its primary provider for web hosting. Godaddy not only provides hosting but also maintains a total of 47 domains for the National Grange. Taking into consideration, the number of domains to be renewed, the National Grange is enrolled in the Domain Discount Club offered by Godaddy. This club will allow all domain names registered to the National Grange to be renewed at a discounted price.

.com	35% savings	.net	56% savings	.org	51% savings
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www.nationalgrange.org

The National Grange website currently running via an online web content management system, receives constant updates to various sections including Podcasts, Breaking News, Press Releases, and more. The website runs on a Virtual Dedicated Server.

The website features two sections. One section is designed for non-members/visitors who are looking to learn about the Grange and its values. The other section is designed for registered Grange members who can log-in and access benefits, downloadable files, promotional material and an assortment of important Grange information. The member section also includes social networking where members can communicate with other grange members online. There are approximately 365 registered users.

The National Grange has created 1,877 website for a number of state and local granges across the country. Each local Grange has its own webpage in which they can access online and make updates with information about that Grange. With widgets and add-ons, each Grange will have the power to enhance their designated page with ease. We are assisting local granges daily on gaining access to their respective webpages as well as providing instructions on making edits to their site.

Visitors wishing to find out information about a grange in their area will have that capability by accessing the “Find A Grange” tool which will access a database of all local Granges. Email accounts have been created for each local Subordinate Grange through SiteGround (an email hosting company) so that visitors may contact a local Grange when and if needed.

Successful online registrations for events and accepting online payments via PayPal will continue this year.

The National Grange will regularly update various sections of its website with news and upcoming information keeping it fresh and offering valuable information to our members and encouraging our visitors to join.

The following Grange domains have been obtained with Godaddy:

grange.org – 02/04/2014

The following Grange domains have been renewed with Network Solutions:

nationalgrange.org – 10/10/13 nationalgrange.net – 12/07/13

The following Grange domains are set to automatic renew with Bulk Register/Enom:

nationalgrange.com – 01/11/13 nationalgrange.info – 01/14/13

nationalgrange.biz – 01/13/13 nationalgrange.us – 01/13/13

<http://www.grangestore.org>

The online Grange Store is functioning and accepting orders. The Grange Store website features a thumbnail image of each item for sale. An enlarged picture of these items is also available as well a detail description. The grange store features a shopping cart and checkout section where visitors can purchase items with a major credit card. Purchases can also be made by calling the National Grange Sales Department or submitting their order through the mail. New items for sale are added to the Grange Store when available.

The Grange Store showcases a total of 348 in 48 categories for sale.

The following Grange domains have been renewed with GoDaddy:

grangestore.com – 02/08/13 grangestore.net – 02/08/13

grangestore.org – 02/08/13 nationalgrangestore.com – 02/08/13

nationalgrangestore.net – 02/08/13 nationalgrangestore.org – 02/08/13

<http://www.nationaljuniorgrange.org>

Updates to the National Junior Grange website are ongoing. This website includes activities, reports and forms, Junior Grange brochures, merit badges, current programs, community service information, and more. The 2012 Program Book “Plant a Seed and Watch it Grow” is available online and will soon be updated to the 2013 Program Book.

The following Grange domains have been renewed with GoDaddy:

juniorgrange.com – 03/24/13 juniorgrange.net – 03/24/13

juniorgrange.org – 03/24/13 nationaljuniorgrange.com – 03/24/13

nationaljuniorgrange.net – 03/24/13 nationaljuniorgrange.org – 03/24/13

<http://www.nationalgrangeyouth.org>

Updates to the National Grange Youth website are ongoing. This site features various important information for Grange Youth. It offers a list of programs and contest (regional and national), youth awards, regional youth conference information for Midwest, Northeastern, Western, Eastern, Great Plains and National Convention. It also offers Youth videos, program updates and changes, a full year calendar as well as the monthly newsletter, “Grange2.0”, from Youth and Young Adults Director, Charlene Espenshade, and more. The Youth website will soon unveil the 2013 Youth Program Guide.

The following Grange domains have been renewed with GoDaddy:

grangeyouth.com – 03/24/13 grangeyouth.net – 03/24/13

grangeyouth.org – 03/24/13 nationalgrangeyouth.com – 03/24/13

nationalgrangeyouth.net – 03/24/13 nationalgrangeyouth.org – 03/24/13

<http://www.grangefoundation.org>

Updates to the Grange Foundation website are ongoing. This website features history, projects, current support as well the ability to donate to a number of dedicated funds. The income and principal for these funds may be spent for the dedicated purpose only. The

funds featured on this website are Deaf Awareness Fund, Kelley Farm Fund, Trademark Protection Fund, Youth Leadership Fund, Junior Grange Fund as well as two new funds, Community & Leadership fund and the American Arts & Culture Fund. Visitors have the ability to make an online donation to a fund or two via PayPal.

The National Grange has joined and is now an affiliate of the Amazon Associates Program. With Amazon's leadership status in Internet e-commerce, as an Amazon Associates the National Grange has the ability to earn money on the sale of books, music, toys, electronics, kitchen, apparel, jewelry, DVDs and more. Money earned from this program will benefit the Grange Foundation. Grange members can purchase everyday items while contributing to a valuable foundation.

Earnings Report Total: Jan. 1 to Nov. 2, 2012

	Items Shipped	Revenue	Advertising Fees
Total Amazon.com Items Shipped	62	\$834.43	\$50.92
Total Third Party Items Shipped	77	\$855.73	\$46.69
Total Items Shipped	139	\$1,690.16	\$97.61
Total Items Returned	-2	-\$23.94	-\$0.96
Total Refunds	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL ADVERTISING FEES	137	\$1,666.22	\$96.65

The following Grange domains have been renewed with GoDaddy:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| grangefoundation.com – 04/20/13 | grangefoundation.net – 04/20/13 |
| grangefoundation.org – 05/21/13 | thegrangefoundation.com – 05/02/13 |
| thegrangefoundation.net – 05/02/13 | thegrangefoundation.org – 05/02/13 |

Domain Registrations

The following domain names were assumed as a result of the National Grange Trademark Protection settlement.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| brooklyngrange.com – 05/26/13 | brooklyngrange.net – 12/06/2012 |
| brooklyngrange.org – 12/06/2012 | nycgrange.com – 12/06/2012 |
| nygrange.com – 12/06/2012 | newyorkcitygrange.com – 12/07/2012 |
| newyorkgrange.com – 12/07/2012 | longislandcitygrange.com – 12/07/2012 |
| longislandgrange.com – 12/07/2012 | grangefood.com – 05/21/13 |
| grangefood.info – 05/21/13 | grangefood.net – 05/21/13 |
| grangefood.org – 05/21/13 | grangefoodco.com – 05/21/13 |
| grangefoodco.net – 05/21/13 | grangefoodco.org – 05/21/13 |
| thegrangefoodco.com – 05/21/13 | thegrangefoodco.net – 05/21/13 |
| thegrangefoodco.org – 05/21/13 | thegrangefoodcompany.com – 05/21/13 |
| thegrangefoodcompany.net – 05/21/13 | thegrangefoodcompany.org – 05/21/13 |

E-Membership

E-Membership is a connection to individuals who are interested in Grange and offers access to many of the quality financial benefits that Grange members have traditionally enjoyed for years. It informs members of legislative work from a non-partisan point of view as well as reports the latest achievements of the Grange with the added benefit of being a part of America's oldest family-based organization.

E-Members can sign up online and pay for a one year subscription. Upon membership sign-up each individual will log in using their username and password to access Grange Benefits discount information, upcoming events, blogs, polls, Grange news, and more. E-Members will

also receive the quarterly newsletter “The New Grange,” and the highly-respected quarterly legislative newsletter “View from the Hill” delivered directly to them via email.

Information captured by these E-Members of all demographics will be used to determine how the Grange can better serve them. At the completion of their one year subscription, an email notice will be sent to the E-Member giving them an option to renew their subscription.

E-Membership Report

	New Memberships	State Grange @ \$7.50	Nat'l Grange @ \$4.50
Year 2011	11	\$240.00	\$144.00
January 2012	2	\$15.00	\$9.00
February 2012	2	\$15.00	\$9.00
February 2012	3	\$22.50	\$13.50
March 2012	2	\$15.00	\$9.00
April 2012	3	\$22.50	\$13.50
May 2012	6	\$45.00	\$27.00
June 2012	2	\$15.00	\$9.00
July 2012	8	\$60.00	\$36.00
August 2012	3	\$22.50	\$13.50
September 2012	5	\$37.50	\$22.50
October 2012	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	47	\$352.50	\$211.50
Contributions			

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

National Database

National Grange is interested in a powerful, online, easy-to-use system that will consolidate data from our member database and officer database. Each state grange will be assigned as a user on this system which will allow them the ability to upload/preview/add/update their respective member/officer information and in exchange have the ability to run counts (on their own state data and the National Grange on all data), create segments, filter data by numerous categories, get quick profile reports, extract files and more. We anticipate that this simple and powerful online database management system will provide the necessary up-to-date information of all its members and officers across America. This solution meets the current requirements of the National Grange and also has the ability to support future growth in functionality and usage.

The online site will be customized for the National Grange with the following key capabilities included:

- Web-based membership database that includes all available and relevant information about each member.
- Restricted login: each state grange can access only their own information; national staff can access all information.
- Assignment of Unique Member IDs.
- Easy-to-use facility for 36 State Granges to upload/retrieve/add/change information via internet.
- Ability for State Granges to update membership records individually or upload a list of members in bulk.
- Ability for National Grange to search/filter database, get counts and output lists/data based on various attributes.
- Ability for state granges to login to their respective section and complete

quarterly membership reporting to the National Grange (states will continue to have autonomy on how they gather information, determine dues structure etc – they will merely report the total dues and total members to national level).

- Additional report templates can be included as an enhancement.
- Basic functionality that can be enhanced and/or expanded over time based on needs and requirements.

Fraternally Submitted,
Stephanie Wilkins
National Grange Information Technology Manager

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT

Director Overview

It's an honor to attend my first annual Session as Legislative Director of the National Grange. My promotion from Programs Assistant in July was much appreciated and I am honored to be representing the National Grange in this capacity. I have already enjoyed my time with the Grange and I look forward to many more good and productive years in the future.

The Legislative Department has been hard at work preparing for annual Session, constructing several new and revitalized programs, maintaining and developing strategic partnerships and of course continuing our lobbying efforts on Capital Hill.

Legislatively, the Grange has kept abreast of all relevant issues impacting rural America; including the drought, new Medicare premiums, postal reform, reform and oversight of commodity markets and of course, Farm Bill 2012. The Senate passed their version of the 2012 Farm Bill in June, as did the House Agriculture Committee in July. Unfortunately, despite our efforts and the efforts of our fellow agricultural groups in Washington, the 2012 Farm Bill has still yet to be heard on the House floor for debate and a full vote. Upon their return from August recess, Congress stayed in town for less than two weeks, failing to address the Farm Bill and several other important issues. Nonetheless, it is our hope to see the 2012 Farm Bill taken up during the lame duck session. The National Grange Legislative Department will continue to closely monitor these and other issues.

Internally, the Legislative Department has worked hand-in-hand with its fellow departments in ways that are mutually beneficial, especially the Communications Department. Being a small organization of limited resources, it is essential to the success of our Order that all National Grange departments assist and cooperate with each other, and I believe the Legislative and Communications Departments have especially mastered this principle. We have collaborated on several different projects; including developing a single cohesive organizational mission for the Grange, writing and airing a commercial for Times Square, researching the prospects of a Grange mobile app, getting press releases out in a timely manner, planning and preparing materials for Convention, establishing a new grant-writing team and numerous others. Amanda Leigh Brozana is an incredible asset to the National Grange and I look forward to continuing our work together.

Before being promoted to Director, I planned and executed the 2012 National Grange Legislative Fly-In in May. In attendance were 40 Grange members from 12 states that visited their nation's capital to advocate for a stronger rural America. The National Grange was represented in over 50 legislative offices, fairly split between the House and Senate. Fly-In

attendees met with legislators to discuss relevant legislative issues such as the expansion of rural broadband, Farm Bill 2012, reform of the United States Postal Service, Medicare and Medicaid fraud and various other issues affecting rural America, their hometowns and local Granges. Overall, the Fly-In was a great success and I have already deliberated on how to make the 2013 Fly-In even better.

In preparation for Convention, the Legislative Department has reviewed, edited, formatted and assigned to a Grange committee all 141 resolutions received this year. I have returned the resolution-numbering system back to the way it was during Leroy Watson's tenure, as this was the desire of our Grange Delegates. The Legislative Department's Idea Fair Project will present the details and purpose of the new Youth Legislative Program, entitled Apathy Not Allowed. In addition, Nona Bear, an accomplished D.C. healthcare liaison, has agreed to be the speaker at this Session's Legislative Luncheon.

At the wishes of our AT&T sponsors, the Legislative Department has also arranged a dinner for AT&T officials and select Grange Delegates. AT&T has also provided Convention with two "Don't Text and Drive" simulators for the Youth to enjoy during their activities on Thursday and Friday. I will also be hosting a legislative workshop on Monday, November 12th for anyone wishing to attend. Last, together with the help of Leroy, I have started the project of condensing our National Grange policy and preparing it to present to Delegates for their approval. It is my prediction that this large and complex project will span several conventions. It has been a long and hard journey for all of National's Departments, but I know we will enjoy a fun and productive annual Session.

I have only served in my current position for four months now, but I am already very confident about the continued success of the Legislative Department and our Order as a whole. Director Brozana and I have developed several new ideas that we believe will revive the Grange, help increase membership and benefit the communities our Order seeks to serve. Incidentally, it would be ill mannered of me not to thank National Grange Trademark Attorney and former Legislative Director Leroy Watson for periodically checking in and offering advice and guidance. Both have been greatly appreciated.

Program Development and Rejuvenation

Apathy Not Allowed

The National Grange Legislative Department has developed a new Youth Legislative Program, entitled Apathy Not Allowed. The program is intended to teach teens and young adults about the importance of advocacy and civic participation. I must give credit to naming the new program to our Programs Assistant, Austin Miller, but I felt the name was well suited for its purpose of informing young adults about the value of staying politically informed and engaged.

Even before receiving my promotion in July, I felt there needed to be a dedicated effort to invigorate our youth program and get them involved with the Legislative Department. As the age of the average farmer continues to rise, so does the age of the average Grange member. We must quickly realize that our Grange Youth represent the future of the National Grange. It is imperative that we provide them with the necessary training and education they require to carry our Order far into the future, and that education must begin with a renewed sense of obligation to one's community.

Summarizing the key principles of Apathy Not Allowed, the Legislative Department has written a 26-page booklet outlining the reasons we as Americans should take an interest in our government. These reasons are broken down into three sections: It's your right, It's your problem, and It's your voice. While writing this material, I made an effort to tailor

its contents to things that young adults, ages 15 through 25, can understand and enjoy. The book will first be distributed to the Grange Youth attending National Session where I will welcome their feedback and opinions about how to improve the program. In addition, we've made t-shirts and large stickers, both bearing the Apathy Not Allowed brand, to distribute to the youth as well. Many thanks go out to Jennifer Dugent for designing the Apathy Not Allowed logo.

Grange Youth participating in the program will engage in a monthly teleconference with National's Legislative Department, where we will discuss current events and how they impact the daily lives of citizens across the country. Similarly, participants will be provided materials to distribute and discuss at their local and state Grange meetings. Participants will also complete activities as outlined in the 2013 Youth Guide.

It is by no means final, but I also hope to host a National Grange Legislative Fly-In for the Youth in the coming 2013 year. In order to achieve this goal, I will have to find outside funding for the event and will begin that endeavor shortly after Convention. I believe the most effective way to get youth interested in legislation and inspired to become active citizens in their communities is to bring them to Washington for a front row seat to American politics and government. As they will undoubtedly require more attention and help than their adult counterparts, I also believe it is beneficial to keep their fly-in separate from the annual May fly-in. I will continue to vigorously research this topic and seek ways to finance it.

Medicare Part D

Under the sponsorship of PhRMA, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, the National Grange has once again developed a program to promote the incredible program that is Medicare Part D.

Medicare Part D is the component of Medicare that provides affordable prescription coverage to its users. Since its implementation in 2006, the program has been an amazing success, with a patient approval rating of 88%. Just as impressive, the overall cost of Part D has been 43%, or \$435 billion, below initial projections.

As advocates of rural America, the National Grange has a vested interest in ensuring affordable healthcare and prescription coverage for all of its members, as well as rural Americans in general. The Grange has been a supporter of Medicare Part D since its earliest stages and worked closely with PhRMA and other healthcare groups to assure its inclusion in the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003. The Grange had previously developed a Part D program following its implementation in 2006. However, we felt the program deserved some updating to reflect the incredible success it has enjoyed in recent years.

With tremendous help from our new Programs Assistant, Austin Miller, we have developed a DVD teaching viewers what Medicare Part D does, why it's been successful, and how one enrolls in the program. After brainstorming what information the disc should contain, we reached out to our friends at the Healthcare Leadership Council and were fortunate to have HLC President, Mary Greal, interviewed for the film. Dick Weiss, a Grange member and Medicare Part D participant, was also interviewed for the film and did an amazing job explaining the benefits of being enrolled in the program.

To supplement the disc, the Medicare Part D program includes substantial educational material, including how to introduce members to the program and walking them through the steps to enroll.

Nona Bear, a consultant from PhRMA and long-time friend of the National Grange, has agreed to be our speaker for this Session's Legislative Luncheon. She will speak on the

success of Medicare Part D and the state of American healthcare in the 21st century.

The National Grange Legislative Department would like to extend its most sincere thanks to Ms. Bear for all of her help and hard work, as well as PhRMA, the Health Leadership Council, and Mr. Dick Weiss for all of their help in creating this program.

Coalition Building/Partnership Development

Farm Bill Now Rally

In September, the Grange was honored to be one of the first organizations in town to join a new coalition called Farm Bill Now. The coalition, comprising of 90 organizations with a stake in agriculture, was formed to help bring public awareness to the 2012 Farm Bill and the lack of action to pass it. On September 12th, Farm Bill Now held a rally on Capitol Hill with the National Grange represented front and center by eight of our Grangers.

Despite the 2012 Farm Bill not being considered for a vote, the rally itself was a great success, with about 500 people in attendance and plenty of news coverage to go around. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) was one of many legislators who arrived to speak to the crowd, saying the Senate got their job done, passing a Farm Bill, and it was time for Congress to do the same.

This rare non-partisan effort on behalf of the 90 organizations involved was an incredible experience and I believe that the agricultural community here in Washington set an amazing example for our members in Congress by putting aside our own agendas and coming together for the betterment of agriculture as a whole. The National Grange was pleased to work with our fellow ag-advocates on this project and looks forward to continuing our bi-partisan efforts with the upcoming 113th Congress.

Myth of Average Event

The National Grange has agreed to co-sponsor an event on November 30th called The Myth of Average: Why Individual Patient Differences Matter. The conference will focus on a series of panels to further understand the value and limitations of individualized care in American healthcare. The Grange will be representing rural healthcare and their specific needs and challenges.

New Partnerships Developed

The Legislative Department has recently made contact with all of the following groups/people/companies:

- Johnson & Johnson
- Kent Schescke with FFA
- Farm Credit
- Pharmacy Choice and Access Now
- Highway Users Alliance

Most of these are relations not previously enjoyed by the National Grange Legislative Department. Our new relationship with Johnson & Johnson is sure to be a fruitful one, and I anticipate receiving financial sponsorship from them in the future. Farm Credit has already contributed \$7,000 to our general operating fund and the Grange looks forward to working with them in the future. Pharmacy Choice and access now, known as PCAN, has allowed me to be a guest blogger on their website and we continue our collaborative effort to maintain pharmacy access in rural areas. Finally, the Grange and the FFA are enjoying a mutual working relationship and will be engaging in several collaborative efforts in 2013. We have already assisted them by providing congressional handbooks to their youth for a local DC event.

Last, I have rejoined the Ag Roundtable Group, as well as OCRE, Organizations Concerned about Rural Education. I will continue meeting with these groups as events are scheduled.

Coalition Letters and Op-Eds

The Legislative Department signed onto letters with all of the following groups: TracFone, Commodity Markets Oversight Coalition, National Milk Producers Federation and U.S. Dairy Export Council, PhRMA, the Coalition to Promote U.S. Agricultural Exports, NTCA, the Farm Bureau and the Farmers Union.

The Legislative Department also drafted a letter encouraging lawmakers to seriously address postal reform legislation upon their arrival from August recess. In addition, I drafted an op-ed from the Grange on Medicare Part B, encouraging the government to maintain Part B reimbursement rates.

Strategic Partner	Amount	Use Guide	Allocation
AT&T	\$30,000	Convention expenses, advertising, preparation, printing, etc.	Convention
Pfizer	\$29,800	Compensation of intern Mark Schuessler	Internship
Potomac Grange	\$2,500	Legislative Fly-In Scholarships	Fly-In
Verify Public Affairs/TracFone	\$5,000	Fly-In	Lunch/Speaker Briefing
PhRMA	\$13,000	Development of Medicare Part D Program and general support	Program Development
Farm Credit Corp	\$7,000	Support for non-partisan, grassroots education and outreach on a variety of issues	General Activities
Total	\$87,300		

Communication Outreach/Advertising

View From the Hill Blog

The Legislative Department has updated and improved its View From the Hill blog, giving it new backgrounds, graphics and devoted attention. I have thus far written and posted 30 blogs to the updated View From the Hill blog site, averaging two a week. Topics of interest usually include current agricultural issues, political issues and news relevant to our mission at the National Grange. Of course, I have done my best to present all arguments in a nonpartisan, unbiased manner.

Journal of Proceedings/Legislative Policy Book

The 2011 Journal of Proceedings was finalized and printed; undergoing all of its necessary updates. In an effort to remain timely, it is my intention to have the 2012 Journal of Proceedings edited and ready for print by January of 2013.

Similarly, the 2012 Legislative Policy Book was finalized and printed; undergoing all of its necessary updates and revisions. I also wrote Ed’s introductory letter for the Legislative Policy Book and condensed his President’s Message to fit on one page. A copy of the LPB was sent to every member of both the House and Senate.

National Grange President Edward Luttrell and I, have discussed a new approach to printing and distributing the Legislative Policy Book. In the future, the Legislative Policy

Book will be divided into three separate booklets: the Legislative Policy Book, Blueprint for Rural America and the Grassroots Training Manual and Action Guide. I am especially excited about the latter and have already begun the initial writing project of drafting a handbook that seeks to inform its users on grassroots mobilization and support, successful petitioning techniques, how to identify the needs of one's community, how to best capitalize on issue support from local and state advocates and numerous other subjects. The Communications Director and I have discussed this in-depth and will be working in a collaborative effort to draft and print the Grassroots Training Manual and Action Guide in a way that is beneficial to both departments.

Importance of Voting Video

With the help of Programs Assistant Austin Miller and Sales, Benefits and Programs Director Samantha Johnson, we filmed an educational video entitled The Importance of Voting. The video explained in detail the importance of civic participation in American politics and offered assistance in getting registered to vote, voting absentee and voting from overseas.

Grange Commercial in Times Square

In July, the National Grange Communications Director informed me of an opportunity to advertise in Times Square in New York City, N.Y. We quickly developed a message and wrote a commercial for the Grange, 15 seconds in length, directed at promoting our "American Values. Hometown Roots." identity campaign. The commercial aired on the CBS Super Screen from July 16th to October 1st, once per hour each hour from 6 a.m. to midnight. Fortunately, we were able to utilize funding from AT&T to finance this unique opportunity.

Action Alert System

It still remains a high priority for the National Grange Legislative Department to develop a better and more efficient communication channel from National to the local and State Granges. While researching the best way to accomplish this task, I discovered Soft Edge, a government-focused software company. They offer an amazing product called Congress Plus that would allow us to send action alerts to Grange members easily and instantaneously, as well as contact legislative aides on the Hill, track bills, track votes on those bills and many other things that would allow for shift and efficient advocacy on behalf of the Grange. That said, it is quite expensive and I am in the process of determining exactly what we need. In addition, the program requires an extensive email list for members, which the National Grange still lacks. I encourage each and every Granger to submit their email to the Legislative Department to receive these instantaneous legislative updates.

Various Writing Activities

- Wrote 4 pieces for weekly Grange newsletter
- Made crossword puzzle for Grange Convention newspaper
- Wrote press releases regarding EPA renewable fuel standard, Medicare premiums, the May Fly-In, the Farm Bill Now rally, funding to improve rural electric service and several others
- Wrote four pieces for the Convention issue of the New Grange
- Helped edit and finalize material for the New Grange

Internal Activities

Internships/New Hires

The Communications, Legislative and Programs/Sales Departments worked together to hire our new Programs Assistant Austin Miller. Miller has already become a tremendous asset to the National Grange and has fit in wonderfully with the staff. His experience with video processing and editing has contributed to several new projects undertaken by both the Communications and Legislative Departments. I hope he will remain with us for some time.

Also new to our National Grange staff is our intern, Sergei Riddell. Sergei is a Political Science major at American University and is also the grandson of former National Grange Legislative Director Bob Fredrick. He has been of great assistance to the Legislative Department, mostly editing and formatting resolutions in preparation for Convention. In addition, he has written and updated several of our issue briefs for the website, to be reviewed and posted shortly after Convention.

Oregon Veterans Committee

Communications Director Amanda Leigh Brozana and I have extended our assistance to the Oregon State Grange Veterans Committee, which we are helping to identify new ways that the Grange can recognize and help our veterans in need. Both Brozana and myself look forward to continuing this work into 2013.

National Representative for the Michigan State Grange Session

I recently had the pleasure of being the National Rep for the Michigan State Grange Session. Although I hate to admit it, this was my first State Grange Session and I was pleased to attend and learn more about the Grange on the state level. Michigan Grange President, Chris Johnston, had me very involved with Session activities and I would like to thank both him and his wife Connie for their generous hospitality.

Misc. Activities to Date

- Registered as a federal lobbyist
- Filed 2nd and 3rd quarter lobbying reports
- Organized Government Affairs file on server
- Drafted a “transition guide” for the new Programs Assistant
- Reviewed and edited a cease and desist letter for Trademark/Branding Manager Leroy Watson
- Solicited Oregon state legislators to attend Grange Casino press conference
- Worked with DCI to get a Kindle Fire donated for Convention
- Helped National Master Ed Luttrell draft his Internal Address

Vision for the Future

For some time now, the Communications and Legislative Departments have given serious consideration to the development of one cohesive message and purpose for the Grange to represent. Our Grange policy is vast and diverse and although this expands our opportunities for alliance development, it does not help us communicate our mission to potential members or partners. Therefore, together with the Communications Department, the National Grange Legislative Department has decided that our goal for the future will be to concentrate our efforts on youth development and bringing agricultural education back into public schools.

This mission is not simply a business decision, but represents a higher calling necessary

to the sustainment of an efficient and abundant food supply. The world population has doubled since 1960 and is expected to double again by 2050. Meanwhile, the number of people employed in agriculture has been cut in half since 1946 and now less than 1% of the population can claim farming as their occupation. In other words, the demand for food is rising at an alarming rate, and our ability to meet that demand has fallen by just as much. This absolutely cannot continue if we expect to enjoy the same safe and competent food supply we do now. Just as our country has recognized the need for renewable and sustained energy, it must also recognize the dire need for improved and sustained food production.

Therefore, it is an absolute must that we educate our youth and inspire them to become the next generation of growers and producers. The average farmer is now over the age of 57, a slight increase from an average of 55-years-old just a few years ago. That average continues to increase every year. We are no longer able to fill the void being left by the current generation of farmers, as more and more youth move to urban areas and away from rural farms and ranches.

The curriculum designated for most public schools is currently void of any agricultural education or gardening programs. We are raising a generation of children who have no concept of where their food comes from or the methods by which it is grown. This has led to a general public that is easily swayed by anti-agricultural groups and the untruths they spread. Educating them at a young age, showing them all of the ways in which agriculture and rural America impacts their lives is the only way to ensure that our youth will come to value agriculture and the resources it produces.

It is my belief that the Grange is in a very unique position to initiate this effort. It's an endeavor that has yet to be taken seriously by our fellow agricultural organizations, including the Farm Bureau and the Farmer's Union. Taking the lead on this most important issue will not only serve a vital purpose within society, but will also help to once again make the Grange prominent in DC and in communities across the nation.

We have already taken steps in the direction of implementing this new goal. Amanda Brozana, Samantha Johnson and myself recently met with the staff from Ag in the Classroom, an organization already working to bring agricultural education back into schools. They offered much guidance and advice regarding our new ambition and we look forward to working closely with them in the near future.

In Conclusion

I would like to thank National Grange President Edward Luttrell, and the National Grange Board of Directors for giving me the incredible opportunity to serve the Grange as Legislative Director. This is a responsibility I have not taken lightly and will devote my time and attention to growing the Grange and making us a prominent player in Washington once more.

I would also like to thank my fellow Directors and National Grange staffers for all of their help and cooperation in making our organization a success. The joy and camaraderie felt in our office makes the National Grange a wonderful place to work and sets us apart from so many offices in D.C. I have always looked forward to going into the office and am sure that sentiment will continue throughout my tenure as Director.

Fraternally Submitted,
Grace Boatright
National Grange Legislative Director

LEADERSHIP MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT'S REPORT

To the Officers, Delegates, Directors and Staff of the National Grange of the order of the Patrons of Husbandry:

I have fully enjoyed my first year as your Leadership/Membership Development Director. I have been able to work with Grangers from nearly every state during the past year and I look forward to working with each of you as we continue to move forward.

This past year I traveled to Maryland for their State Leaders' Conference, Connecticut for "Leading Leaders" the Northeast Leaders' Conference, to Georgia for the State Masters' Conference, co-facilitated Grange growth conference in Washington with my predecessor, Rusty Hunt, presented multiple sessions at the Great Lakes and Great Plains Leadership Conferences, conducted G.O.A.L. (Grange Outreach for Active Leadership) Seminars in Vermont, Pennsylvania, Maryland and New York, presented at the Northeast Region Youth Conference, Pennsylvania Family Festival, and participated in Grange Day at the Eastern States Exposition in Massachusetts.

I also consulted in Connecticut, Florida and Rhode Island, joined National Grange Deputies, Randy and Linda Lewis for Grange growth work in Nevada (resulting in the organization of Amargosa Valley Grange #20 on June 6, 2012), visited most of the Minnesota Granges with State Master Champion and returned to assist in the organization of Oliver Hudson Kelley Grange and the rejuvenation of Lake Hubert Grange, participated in the Pennsylvania State Grange Legislative Day and National Grange Fly-in, and did ground work to revitalize Zion Oak Grange in Springdale, Arkansas.

In cooperation with National Grange Communications Director, Amanda Brozana, we revised all of the membership brochures and other publications; they now share a common brand and the American Values. Hometown Roots. tag line. We also greatly expanded the materials provided on the resource CD included in the Grange Month mailing.

I am excited to report that sixteen states experienced growth activity through new and/or reorganized Granges. During the past year to the present, for example, California organized five new Community Granges, reorganized one Community Grange, a new Junior Grange and a new Pomona Grange. Washington has one new Community Grange, three reorganized Community Granges and a new Junior Grange.

All told, we gained sixteen new Community Granges, reorganized eight dormant Community Granges, started seven new Junior Granges and reorganized three Junior Granges. And, as I just reported we gained one new Pomona Grange.

I applaud the steady work of State Masters and Membership Directors. As a result of your efforts, nine states realized net gains in membership this year! Oklahoma tops the list with a net gain of 272 new members and a percentage growth of 15.9%. Our host state, Idaho also had an impressive gain of 73 members and 7.4% net increase. Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia also had net gains in membership.

We have 2,048 local Granges as of the 2nd quarter of 2011. Of that total, 461 local Granges realized net gains in membership. Another 489 Granges held steady; that is, they neither gained nor lost members last year. Forty-six percent of our local Granges are steady or growing.

We have 75,320 Fraternal Members, 86,135 Supportive Members, 2,193 Associate Members and 45 E-members for a total membership of 163,693 as of the 2nd quarter of 2012.

At the local level, kudos to Feather River #440 in California with the highest net gain in the nation of 85 new members. Their Grange grew from 48 to 133 members in the past year. Springfield Grange #523 in California had the highest percentage gain at 222%. They grew from 37-119 members. Chester Royal Grange #2181 in Iowa had a 218% percentage gain. They grew from 11-35 members. Nationally, 461 Granges had net gains in membership totaling 2,979 net new members, and we know many more members joined our 2,048 Community Granges.

Congratulations to this year's Distinguished Granges. These Granges documented their activities and accomplishments of the past year and their applications demonstrate a level of vitality to which I encourage and challenge your Grange to achieve. If you think it is too difficult a distinction to attain, just ask the members of Sandy Valley Grange # 19 in Nevada. They became a distinguished Grange during the very first year! Again, congratulations to our seven Distinguished State Granges (including our host state of Idaho), and our 23 Distinguished Subordinate Granges.

I am happy to report that over the summer, we actually had a National Grange Deputy Force. In addition to Randy and Linda Lewis working in Nevada, we were fortunate to have Melanie Fitch, and Ohio Granger, working in Wisconsin. Joseph Stefenoni, a California Granger, worked in Wyoming. And, Christopher Szkutak, a Massachusetts Granger, supported our efforts in Arkansas. Many thanks to Henrietta Keller for her support of our initiatives in Missouri. I especially thank the Wisconsin State Grange for initially proposing that we hire a deputy to assist with Grange growth. Melanie Fitch was supported entirely by funds from the Wisconsin State Grange. The Wyoming State Grange devoted some of their Grange Insurance Association funds to enable Joseph's work. I thank the National Grange Executive Committee for identifying the funds to make it possible for Chris to work in Arkansas. You will hear from these outstanding Grange youth during the luncheon on Wednesday at this session.

Plans for 2013 include assisting with the State Masters' Conference, Regional Leadership Conferences and G.O.A.L. (Grange Outreach for Active Leadership) Seminars in Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Virginia. Other sessions will be scheduled in cooperation with State Masters and Membership Directors. I encourage you to visit with me during this National Grange Session to schedule additional training opportunities for your Granges. I especially encourage you to collaborate with your neighboring states to create multi-state or regional opportunities. I will also continue monthly TeamSpeak conferences on topics of Leadership/Membership Development.

I also plan to work with the Communications department to develop a membership program using social media. Members will be asked to post a status expressing some personal feeling, memory or anecdote, or reason they're in the Grange and tell people to ask them more about our organization. This campaign will start in December 2012 and run through December 2013 and be called the "13 Second Campaign."

Many thanks for the leadership provided by Randy and Linda Lewis targeting Grange growth in Nevada. They have organized three new community Granges, thus far, and are working with several additional communities to create local Granges. The ultimate goal is to charter the Nevada State Grange. I also thank Henrietta and Norm Keller for their efforts in Missouri.

Our goal is to reorganize or charter new Granges in every state that has ever had a Grange presence. If you are interested in joining our team to expand our Grange footprint, I would like to speak with you about the potential for becoming a National Grange Deputy.

As I embark upon a new year in our Grange journey, I thank National Master Ed Luttrell, and the members of the Executive Committee for supporting me in my role on the National

Grange staff. Many thanks to the staff at 1616 H Street NW for everything they have done to support the Leadership/Membership Development department. I thank my wife, Wendy, for her understanding and support, and congratulate her for being elected to the office of Pomona in our Subordinate Grange, her first elected position in the Grange.

Fraternally yours,
Michael J. Martin
Leadership/Membership Development Director

SALES, BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT'S REPORT

Programs

The National Grange has continued to promote current programs, as well as develop new programs, for local Granges. Current Programs include: Dictionary Project, Meth Labs, the Kelley Farm, the Building DVD - "The National Building: 50 Years of Service," Dogs for the Deaf, Deaf Materials and The National Grange Building Rededication Ceremony: The Essentials DVD. Granges in 31 Grange States participated in the Dictionary Project and provided 73,273 dictionaries for the 2011-12 school year. The National Grange received \$2,687.60 in donations for the Kelley Farm as of October 2012.

Harrisville Designs

I have been working with Louisa Walker of Harrisville Designs in New Hampshire about how our two organizations can work together. Harrisville Designs produces a book called Wool Works which can be used as a guide for 3-8th Graders. The book gives lessons on the history of wool, how products are made and allows students to participate in creating the items they are learning about. I bought four copies; one went to our National Lecturer and the other three to State Lecturers. They will look over the books and help me design a program that will work for Grangers. This will be a topic of discussion at the Lecturer's Workshop on Saturday.

I continue to believe this would be a good match for our Junior program as well as our Grangers who work with their local schools. Lecturers can buy kits and teach Grange members and their community how to spin wool, dye fabric, braid, the various types of weaving and knitting. This would be a good way to involve the community and allow our Grangers to teach what many of them have been doing their entire lives. Grangers can also buy wool yarn and fleece directly from Harrisville for their own projects. All the wool and kits are made in the USA and they spin and dye everything in Harrisville, New Hampshire.

I am working on including in them in the 2013 National Grange Convention, as a tour stop and/or coming to do a workshop in Manchester.

Community Service

The Community Service program continues to be supported by the National Grange. The National Grange awards certificates to all 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place winners as well as participants in all states. New rules were put in place this year for the prize money. States were required to have 25% of the Subordinate Granges in the State submit reports to qualify. This year, the National Grange recognized 87 Granges in 28 States. The Community Service Program continued with the National Community Service Program which is based on all first-place winners from each state. The Community Service Books will be judged at the

National Grange Convention. The winners will be announced at the Celebration Banquet and the prize money for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place winners will be awarded as well.

Dogs for the Deaf

I am pleased to say that National Master Ed Luttrell was part of the 21st Annual Dog Walk in Medford, Oregon. This walk coincided with other walks around the country in support of Dogs for the Deaf. Dogs for the Deaf is celebrating their 35th anniversary and the Programs Department will work with them to see how we can help them commemorate this special year. Also, I am happy to say that Robin Dickson is here again at the National Grange Convention to hold a workshop and represent Dogs for the Deaf at the Idea Fair.

Distinguished Grange

This was the third year for the Distinguished Grange Program and we saw an increase in participation with States and Subordinate Granges. There were seven states that applied and qualified. The Maryland State Grange and the New York State Grange both won for the third consecutive year. This is the second consecutive year that the North Carolina State Grange has won the award. The first time recipients are the Idaho, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Washington State Granges. Of the 26 Subordinate Granges that applied only 23 qualified. They are as follow: Burns Grange #160 (MI-2nd Year), Cape Fear Grange #1296 (NC), Dunstable Grange #31 (MA), Ekonk Community Grange #89 (CT), Five Mile Prairie Grange #905 (WA-3rd Year), Grantham Grange #968 (NC), Gratoit Grange #1898 (MI), Holden Grange #78 (MA) Humptulips Grange #730 (WA-3rd Year), Kuna Grange #59 (ID-3rd Year), McIntosh Grange #1001 (WA-2nd Year), Mica Flats Grange #436 (ID-2nd Year), North Cameron Grange #355 (NY), Prairie Grange #1832 (IL-2nd Year), Redland Grange #796 (OR-3rd Year), Rowley Grange #204 (MA), Russellville Grange #91 (PA-3rd Year), San Poil Grange #684 (WA), St. Andrews Grange #832 (WA), Sandy Valley Grange #19 (NV), Sequim Prairie Grange #1108 (WA-2nd Year), Stanford Grange #808 (NY-3rd Year) and Uxbridge Grange #200 (MA-3rd Year). Ribbons and certificates will be given to the recipients during the Distinguished Grange Ice Cream Reception. The Distinguished Grange Program will continue and the 2012-2013 applications were put in Delegate packets and are available at the Idea Fair. They can also be downloaded from the National Grange website.

Birthplace Marker

In preparation for the 150th Anniversary, I was asked to find out the process for cleaning up and/or replacing the Birthplace Marker on the National Mall. This situation requires us to go through the National Park Service since the marker is located on 4th and Madison Avenue. I spoke with Paul Batlan, at the NPS, and he informed me that we need to send in a proposal to him and his colleague Jennifer Talken-Spaulding. This proposal should include a recent photo of the marker, its current condition, description of what we propose be done to the marker, when we would like this to happen as well as any other key dates. I have been researching the marker and working on gathering information so we can get a quote for either replacing or fixing the marker. The marker was placed there due to a joint resolution in Congress passed in 1950. I have included the proposal for the National Park Service at the end of this report and will get updated photos to include when we submit the proposal to Mr. Batlan.

Deaf Foundation

Deaf Awareness Grant

Three applications were received for the Deaf Awareness Grant. In 2012, three grants were

awarded in the amount of \$300 to Idaho State Grange, \$250 to Pennsylvania State Grange and \$100 to New Jersey State Grange. The following are the three projects that won for 2012:

- **Idaho – Headphone for the Hard of Hearing Grange Members**
Idaho State Grange wants to buy one wireless headphone for each Grange within in their state. They currently have 30 Granges in Idaho and would purchase 30 headphones to start, which will allow 30 Grange members to be more active in meetings. “We believe the wireless headphones will assist hard of hearing members to more easily hear conversations, committee reports, lectures and general business being presented,” said State Master Don Johnson. The wireless reception works from any electrical device with audio output such as a microphone, computer or iPod.

- **Pennsylvania – Community Pancake Breakfast**
Plumsteadville Grange #1738 held a community pancake breakfast in aid of Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 on June 9th. This is a yearly event held in partnership with the Danboro 4H members. The money raised helps several students attend Summer School and occasionally allows the Unit to purchase equipment that detects hearing defects sooner. Plumsteadville applied for this grant because, in the past few years, the money raised at the pancake breakfast has decreased and they would like to conduct a study to discover the cause of the decrease and to find new ideas to promo the event. They already have many ideas they would like try out.

- **New Jersey – K-9 Wounded Warrior Military Team**
New Jersey State Grange Hearing Impaired Service and Education Department is working with their State Lecturer to raise funds for the K-9 Wounded Warrior. This project is intended to aid a wounded individual from our military who has suffered hearing loss. Currently, the State Lecturer is raffling off a quilt to raise funds. The money made from the raffle will go for the sponsorship of a K-9 Wounded Warrior Team. The goal for NJ is to raise \$5,000. There are 41 Community Granges and 11 Pomona Granges involved in raising these funds. They also want to educate the public on the K-9 Program. They are raising awareness of the number of dogs (as well as their handlers) that have served their country. A member of the four branches of the Armed Services and the Coast Guard will directly benefit from this project.

The application process for 2013 will be announced in January.

Gallaudet University

The Deaf Foundation endows an internship fund with Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. Gallaudet University was founded in 1864 and is one of the only universities specifically designed for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. This fund is intended to assist interns with living expenses, including transportation, housing and meals. The internship is strictly used for career-related work activities. Some examples of the internships that students have participated in with our help include: the Library of Congress, the White House and Booz Allen Hamilton. To learn more about Gallaudet University go to www.gallaudet.edu.

Digital Grange Cookbook

The Bicentennial Cookbook, The Family Cookbook, and The Glory of Cooking are three of the out of print National Grange cookbooks that have been digitized and put on

a CD-Rom to make the Digital National Grange Cookbook. The digital cookbook allows users to look through all three cookbooks and use the search function to find recipes. The Digital National Grange Cookbook is available for \$12.00 each or \$10.00 each in lots of 25, plus \$2.50 shipping for Granges to use as a fundraiser. For 2012, we have sold 72 Digital Grange Cookbooks, which has helped us raise \$864.00 for Trademark.

Text4Baby

I am currently working with Sarah Ingersoll from text4baby to determine how the Grange can be more involved with this program. The National Grange began supporting text4baby more than a year ago by including it on our website and introducing to Grange members in the New Grange.

Text4baby was created to give expectant families and new mothers health and nutritional information through the first year of the baby's life. Anyone can sign up completely free of charge using only their cell phone. Pregnant women, new moms, family members or any interested party can enroll by texting BABY to 511411. Subscribers will receive up to three free text messages each week, timed to their due date or baby's date of birth, which will provide them with information on how to improve their health and the health of their baby. The only information interested parties need provide is their due date or their child's birth date and their zip code. Text4baby is backed by community health organizations, cell phone providers, health care providers, government health agencies, businesses and various community organizations. Text4baby material is available at the Idea Fair, so your Grange can start getting the word out to your community. In addition, the National Grange is now an official partner of text4baby and you can visit their website, www.text4baby.org, to see a list of how easy the program is for people to use.

Member Benefit Workshop

I will be holding a workshop on Friday to discuss current member benefits and some of our current partners will be there as well. We will talk about all the new benefits this year as well as potential new benefits. This workshop is open to all.

Christmas Trees

The National Grange, in coordination with the Western Region Hosting Committee, is decorating 10 Christmas trees at this year's National Session. Seven representing the region, one for National, one for Juniors and one for Youth. The trees will be decorated with handmade ornaments donated by Grange members across the country. The Christmas trees will be donated to local charities and hospitals in the area.

Idea Fair and Best of Show

The National Grange is pleased to continue the Idea Fair and the Best of Show. This year, the exhibits will showcase local Grange program ideas, National Grange department information, Junior Grange projects, community service state winners and various craft products from around the Grange. Also, on display are the photos and quilts from this year's current Lecturer's contest, along with the quilt for the National Foster Parent Association. This year's Idea Fair will feature over 20 different displays and program ideas.

National Lecturer's Photo Contest

Last year, I worked with Pete Pompper, the National Grange Lecturer, to organize the National Lecturer's Photo Contest. I am very happy to say we had over 25 entries last year and hope to exceed that number this year. The rules for this year's contest were included in

the Grange Month Packet and were e-mailed to all State Lecturers. The deadline for entry is November 13th and each entry is on display at the Best of Show. Prize money is awarded to first, second and third place winners.

Quilt Block Contest

In celebration of the 150th Anniversary, it was decided to create various quilts. This contest is being worked on by my department and the National Grange Lecturer. We will have a quilt block contest for the next four years with a new theme each year pertaining to the seasons of the year. Cheryl Neruda, of the Boise Basin Quilt Guild, judged this year's quilt blocks at the National Grange Convention in Boise, Idaho. The pattern for 2012 is "log cabin" with fall colors. Each block is currently on display at the Best of Show. I continue to work with JoAnn Fabrics and Hancock Fabrics in hopes of gaining support from these companies for the Quilt Block Contest.

Sales

The Sales Department reordered Red Junior Grange T-Shirts, Coin Purses, Grange Medallions, Got Grange t-shirts, white and navy Polos, khaki and navy hats, a redesigned Youth Sports Bottle, a redesigned Messenger Bag, a redesigned Youth Achievement Button, redesigned Boat Bag, redesigned navy drawstring backpack and redesigned Grange Hooded Sweatshirt. Also, the Sales Department worked with the Junior Grange and Communications Department to develop three puzzle pins to represent the completion of the puzzles for JG Merit Badges. New items this year include: Grange tagline button, Grange patch, Grange greeting cards, long-sleeve khaki Shirt, Apathy Not Allowed T-shirt, Junior Grange lanyard, and Grange cookie cutter set.

A new Grange Store catalog was designed and printed for Fall 2012/Spring 2013 and was distributed to members in the Convention packet. They will also be sent with Grange Month material. The Grange Store website continues to be updated throughout the year as items become available and go out of stock. As of the end of October, the Grange Store is out of Subordinate Manuals and an e-mail asking States to send any extra to the office has gone out. I have received 10 from Colorado. The Grange Store is working with the National Master to produce a 2013 Subordinate Manual, which I hope to have available in January 2013.

Total Sales	2012*	2011*	2010*	2009*
January	\$4,140.26	\$2,289.65	\$3,362.98	\$4,430.98
February	\$5,860.17	\$5,077.83	\$2,425.75	\$4,663.87
March	\$3,560.90	\$6,662.53	\$6,071.71	\$4,602.03
April	\$3,614.06	\$4,771.86	\$6,655.16	\$5,666.86
May	\$3,980.20	\$4,648.80	\$4,883.93	\$4,456.75
June	\$4,595.25	\$3,788.97	\$8,029.12	\$4,499.63
July	\$2,577.41	\$3,619.91	\$3,080.44	\$4,027.20
August	\$2,473.06	\$2,889.42	\$2,678.67	\$3,802.33
September	\$4,201.26	\$4,926.20	\$4,879.21	\$3,430.34
October	\$5,013.65	\$4,632.44	\$4,327.57	\$3,046.46
November		\$10,704.48**	\$12,251.15**	\$4,657.36
December		\$3,225.22	\$2,613.27	\$11,380.32**
Total:	\$40,016.22*	\$57,337.31*	\$61,258.94*	\$47,283.81*

**Includes National Convention Sales

*Includes freight charges

Sales figures do not include membership seals and certificate fees.

Future Conventions

The 2013 Convention logo has been approved. I am currently working with the 2014 Host Committee on their logo.

Membership

Membership Recognition

Membership Recognition, including seals and certificates, are handled by Beverly Mitchell, our Marketing Coordinator. The following certificates and seals have been prepared and sent this year:

- Silver Star Certificates – 589
- 40-Year Seals – 205
- Golden Sheaf Certificates – 475
- 55-Year Seals – 301
- 60-Year Seals – 286
- 65-Year Seals – 311
- 70-Year Seals – 114
- 75-Year Letters – 84
- 80-Year Letters – 25
- 85-Year Letters – 0
- Non-Consecutive Certificates - 12

Grange Recognition

The National Grange honors Granges that have existed for 100 years and 125 years. The following recognitions were issued this year:

- Centennial Year Plaques: 7
- 125-Year Plaques: 5

Charters

The National Grange issues charters to newly organized Granges and reorganized Granges. The numbers for Granges organized and reorganized this year is:

- Junior Granges: 10
- Subordinate Granges: 24
- Pomona Granges: 2

Sixth and Seventh Degree Certificates

More than 600 Sixth Degree Certificates were sent to state secretaries. 99 Seventh Degree Certificates were printed and mailed from the National Office to the 2011 Seventh Degree Candidates.

Benefits

New Benefits

All changes in Member Benefits have been reflected with a drop-in to the Member Benefits Brochure. American Income Life and Allied Moving are no longer a National Grange member benefit. We have added two new benefits: Money Aisle and Connection Plus, both are online benefits only. Money Aisle was launched in October thru an e-mail blast and the cobranded website is up and running. I continue to work with AMG to get Connection Plus up and available to members.

National Affinity Services (NAS)

This partnership with NAS includes a prescription plan with CVS/CareMark (RxSavingsPlus) and TruHearing. Both programs are available on the National Grange website and the Member Benefits Brochure. From January to September 2012, 149 cards have been used by members.

Affinity Marketing Group (AMG)

I have been working with Affinity Marketing Group for the past few years in getting our benefit package with them visible to Grange members. This package now include: Metlife, Constellation Energy (CEG), Wirefly (cell phone service), Beltone, the National Grange Travel Center, Office Depot, National Grange Credit Card and VPI Pet Insurance. All of these benefits have their own co-branded website which Grange members can access through the National Grange Benefits page. Royalties from AMG for 2012 include 1st and 2nd quarter: \$327.45. We have had 6 cards printed and 28 visits to credit card site over the past two months. Royalties from the credit card from April to August 2012 total, \$410.67.

Choice Hotels

The non-dues revenue we receive from Choice Hotels and consumption of rooms saw another increase in 2012.

	Rooms consumed	Commission
2006	177	\$610.93
2007	198	\$752.00
2008	431	\$1,886.29
2009	749	\$2,748.60
2010	759	\$2,747.14
2011	878	\$3,303.81
2012	793	\$3,549.24

2012	Nights Consumed	Commission
January	65	\$248.86
February	78	\$374.86
March	99	\$421.69
April	98	\$415.98
May	88	\$424.78
June	136	\$605.25
July	96	\$484.64
August	91	\$398.20
September	42	\$174.98
October	0	\$0.00
November	0	\$0.00
December	0	\$0.00
Total	793	\$3,549.24

2011	Nights Consumed	Commission
January	38	\$129.48
February	67	\$223.89
March	68	\$240.06
April	85	\$295.02
May	87	\$326.75
June	79	\$249.11
July	74	\$277.04
August	137	\$642.75
September	83	\$297.20
October	43	\$167.80
November	61	\$215.06
December	56	\$239.65
Total	878	\$3,303.81

Other benefits offered to Grange members include: Comfort Keepers, U.S. Pharmacy Card, LTC Financial, Local Hospitality (Worldwide Hotel Discounts), Safeguard Complete, Bio Script, MASA, and Hertz.

Other Projects

Other projects this department is currently working on include:

- Convention 2013
- Convention 2014 Logo
- Fresh Start/ Ag in the Classroom
- 150th Anniversary Project
- Updating Grange Store Website
- Member Benefits DVD
- Community Service
- Distinguished Grange Program 2012-2013
- New Benefit Programs
- New and Reordered Sales Items
- Kits for Subordinate and Junior Granges
- Ideas for New Programs: Women in the Grange, Know Your Food Campaign
- Fundraising for the Kelley Farm Foundation

Fraternally Submitted,
Samantha Johnson
Sales, Benefits, and Programs Director

TRADEMARK PROTECTION & BRAND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT'S REPORT

Executive Summary

Number of trademark management cases resolved since 12/31/07- 74 (49)

Number of open trademark management cases as of 11/01/12- 41 (17)

Number of new licenses-4

Number of old licenses abandoned-1

Number of cases in current litigation-1

Number of cases before the U.S Trademark Trial and Appeal Board-4

Number of new Grange trademark registrations finalized in 2012-3 (7)

Donations from local Granges and Grange members supporting trademark protection activities-\$1540.00

Commentary

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters:

This is the fourth annual report on activities to protect our Grange trademarks. This year we saw a marked increase in the number of trademark protection cases we needed to address. Instead of defending against attempts by major corporations to gain control of our general trademarks, we have primarily had to respond to attempts by many smaller and medium sized companies to register or infringe on our general trademarks for limited or specific commercial purposes.

Financially, this year we were again required to use resources for our trademark program that could have been used for other pressing priorities. We continued to control costs control by keeping a greater portion of the responsibilities for trademark protection and brand management "in house", in consultation with our trademark attorney. However, the sheer number of additional cases as well as the complexity of many of these cases

overwhelmed our attempts at cost control.

Our results, however, are impressive for any trademark management program, non-profit or corporate. This past year we cleared and won more than 25 trademark infringement cases and brought our total number of closed cases to more than 74. This is a staggering number considering the basic number of legal notices we have had to prepare and distribute, legal responses we have had to review and negotiations that had to take place, not to mention the legal complexity of several of our major cases. The composition of our cases, has been shifting back toward corporate trademark registrations cases, which tend to be more expensive for us pursue. However, small and medium sized business infringements on our trademarks still make up the majority of our cases.

Several on-going infringement cases in general commerce have had no progress toward resolution and have no effective lines of communication for time periods of more than one year.

Unless we can find ways to establish dialogue with these parties our next course of action in each case is to send notice of intent to file a federal trademark infringement complaint. Litigation is always our last and least preferred course of action but the complete lack of dialogue we have encountered in these cases is not encouraging. We are also exploring alternative remedies we may be able to pursue even without open lines of communication.

Fundraising Activities

This year we sent an appeal letter for the Grange Foundation Trademark Protection Educational Program with the 2012 Grange Month packet. In this letter we reported back to Grange members across the nation the successes of our trademark management program and the challenges that we face. We also outline an incentive program for timely donations that included receipt of valuable thank you gifts for donations in excess of \$25 as well as donations in excess of \$100. We have received 8 donations so far in 2012 totaling \$1540. I want to thank each Grange and Grange member who donated to the Grange Foundation Trademark Protection Educational Program appeal and urge all Granges and Grange members to respond generously when the 2013 appeal letter is sent out.

Grange Casino

This year, the National Grange Trademark Protection Program faced its greatest challenge since Tyson Foods, nearly five years ago. An Oregon-based entertainment and gaming company, PDX Enterprises, backed by wealthy Canadian investors, launched a political campaign to convince the voters of Oregon to adopt two ballot measures that would amend Oregon law and allow them to build a new resort and casino complex that they named "The Grange."

PDX blanketed the Oregon media market and national Internet websites with more than \$1 million in advertisements for their proposed \$300 million development during the first week of their campaign. Complaints flowed in from Grange members in Oregon and across the country regarding this blatant trademark infringement.

National Master Ed Luttrell and the National Grange Executive Committee reacted swiftly to the challenge. They directed a line of communications to be opened with PDX and their legal counsel related to their infringement of our trademark in order to forcefully communicate our firm resolve to defend our trademark. Master Luttrell also met with the leadership of the Oregon State Grange to assess the State Grange's policy on OR Ballot Measures 82 and 83.

An initial attempt at negotiated settlement fell apart when PDX and their Canadian backers refused to publicly admit that they had infringed on the GRANGE trademark and

opposed any release of the details about the settlement to the public. Soon after, the Oregon State Grange Executive Committee met in executive session to adopt a resolution opposing the casino ballot measures. Master Luttrell authorized National Grange Trademark Protection Manager Leroy Watson to begin drafting a complaint to be filed in Federal Court seeking a temporary restraining order to immediately stop PDX from using the trademark GRANGE in their campaign and commercial advertising.

Grange member and public opposition to the casino and the advertising barrage began to coalesce. Visitors to the Oregon State Grange's Log Cabin Pavilion during the Oregon State Fair unanimously expressed opposition to the casino proposal. National Grange Communications Director Amanda Leigh Brozana began collecting e-mail and social media comments critical of the blatant misuse of our trademark. Grange members from as far away as Pennsylvania reported receiving questions about why the Grange was supporting a casino development. National Master Ed Luttrell and State Grange Master Susan Noah reached out to the Oregon media to express the strong public and Grange member opposition to PDX's hijacking of the trademark GRANGE for their casino.

With public opinion turning against them and a federal lawsuit for trademark infringement imminent, PDX and their Canadian financial backers asked for a face to face meeting with Worthy Master Ed Luttrell to discuss their project and ask for National Grange support. In a tense two hour discussion, PDX and their corporate lawyers desperately tried to convince the National Master that their project would be so beneficial to the State of Oregon for jobs and economic development that the National Grange had no moral, and shaky legal, ground to oppose their use of the trademark GRANGE. Master Luttrell firmly responded that the only appropriate use of the National Grange's GRANGE trademark is determined by Grange members and their elected delegates and officers and not by casino developers and their foreign investors looking to unduly profit from the 145 year public reputation of the National Grange. He also noted that a fair and impartial federal judge, and not high priced corporate lawyers, would eventually determine if the National Grange's trademark infringement suit was on "shaky" legal ground.

Faced with a press conference announcing the filing of the National Grange's trademark infringement suit, PDX returned to the negotiating table. As with any negotiated conclusion of a civil complaint, no party gets everything they would like out of the settlement. However the National Grange was able to secure important concessions in the final settlement with PDX and their Canadian financial backers that protected our trademark rights.

1. PDX admitted publicly in press releases and in advertisements in Oregon newspapers that they infringed on the National Grange's trademark and that they had no legal or moral right to do so. This admission is a form of relief that even a federal judge could not have given us.
2. PDX Enterprises, its officers, directors and stockholders all agreed that none of them, either collectively or independently, will ever use the trademark GRANGE in any other venture they may be associated with. Again this is a relief that even a federal judge could not have granted us.
3. PDX ran disclaimers on their advertisements stating that the National Grange owns the trademark GRANGE and that the National Grange did not endorse their project and did not support OR Ballot Measures 82 and 83. We had some issues with PDX related to the timing and presentation of these disclaimers. However, getting PDX to agree to include and pay for any disclaimer on their advertising was a result that even a federal judge could not have granted us.
4. PDX agreed that they would cease the use of the trademark GRANGE in all

communications related to their Casino project by the last day of November 2012, regardless of the results of the election. Due to the strong resolve of National Master Ed Luttrell and Oregon State Grange Master Susan Noah NO ONE WILL EVER SET FOOT IN A CASINO WITH THE NAME GRANGE IN THE STATE OF OREGON.

The National Grange presented a forceful, aggressive, unified and innovative defense of our trademark against the Grange Casino developers that gave us final and legally enforceable results. We achieved relief in the agreement with PDX and their Canadian financial backers that even a federal judge could not have granted us. We achieved these results within a timeframe that a federal court could not have matched. We achieved these results despite the fact that we faced limitations of time, financial resources and anticipated challenges of pursuing litigation. We achieved these results without having to bleed the National Grange treasury dry while waiting for the wheels of justice to turn. In large part because of the strict conditions demanded by Master Luttrell, Oregon State Grange Master Susan Noah and their respective Executive Committees during the final settlement negotiations, PDX was eventually forced to abandoned their campaign to secure voter approval in Oregon for their casino project, despite spending more than \$6 million on advertising, because they could never distance themselves from the fact that they had blatantly and illegally infringed on the National Grange's Trademark GRANGE, in the minds of Oregon's voters.

One of our long term cost control strategies is to give greater notice to the general public of our intention to vigorously defend our trademarks by increasing our trademark registrations to include sub-registrations for various areas of commerce where we have clear and convincing evidence of both historical and contemporary use of the name GRANGE and our GRANGE LOGO in promoting goods and services sold to the public. This year our applications for trademark sub-registration of GRANGE and the GRANGE LOGO under the categories for cookbooks, farmers markets, catering and food-related services, fairs and exhibition facilities, community meeting and social function facilities, and wine making and vineculture services were all approved by the U.S. Trademark Office. These new sub-registrations were added to our existing inventory of trademark sub-registrations for affinity credit cards and restaurants as well as posters, publications, newsletters, brochures, pamphlets and other publications. Our sub-registrations for clothing and for jewelry are still pending before the U.S. Trademark Office. We will continue to aggressively explore filing additional sub-registrations to put potential infringers on notice that the general trademark word GRANGE and our GRANGE LOGO are widely used in numerous areas of commerce in the United States.

We have continued to set aside the pursuit of federal legislation to give us enhanced enforcement authority to protect our core trademarks against corporate encroachment. Legislation to provide us with enhanced enforcement rights would require a significant commitment of time and financial resources for each individual instance of infringement. Suspending our trademark legislation goals was also one way to continue to control our monthly legal expenses. Fortunately this decision has not precluded us from pursuing this legislation in the future if the situation warrants it and the prospects for success improve.

Crowned Heads and Headly Grange Cigars

Artisanal cigar company Crown Heads, LLC, of Nashville, TN filed for permission to obtain a registered trademark for the phrase HEADLEY GRANGE, for new brand of up-scale cigars to be marketed across the United States and worldwide. National Grange filed opposition with US Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, citing potential conflict with

our existing trademarks for cultural social educational and civic programming with our nearly 25000 local, county and state Grange chapters. We also objected to the potential reputational damage that such a trademark might have in areas of the nation where the Grange has demonstrated a “disinterested, honest broker” leadership role in representing the interests of tobacco farmers with corporate interests and government. National Grange contacted Crowned Heads to negotiate a license agreement that would protect our trademark and reputation while allowing Crowned Heads to market their cigar product a license. In response, on October 16, 2012 Crowned Heads suspended their trademark registration proceedings and filed a complaint with Federal District Court in Nashville, TN challenging the legal validity of the National Grange’s trademark GRANGE.

We are in the early stages of this litigation. We are developing our legal strategy for our response. Our initial response is due to the court by December 13, 2012. We believe that Crowned Heads’ strategy may an attempt to use the threat of prolonged litigation to extract concessions from the National Grange related to our opposition to their trademark registration. While it is too early to make any firm predictions about how this case will resolve itself, Grange members can remain confident that your National Grange leadership will remain vigilant, aggressive and innovative in our response to this challenge.

Conclusions and Looking Ahead

As we move forward, the most exciting and encouraging area of this work is what I like to call “brand management.” This year we have had many positive discussions about licenses and joint marketing agreements with potential licensees. We are seeing good, viable commercial ideas to market goods and services to the public under the brand name GRANGE by entrepreneurs across the nation who want to work with us to build a brand for their products and services. Some of these entrepreneurs have broad ambitions to reach regional, statewide and even national markets while others are focused on providing goods or services to a specific community. Our responsibility in this environment should be to facilitate these entrepreneurial activities as much as possible while maintaining ownership and control of our intellectual property. Prudent promotion and management of the brand name GRANGE will not only eventually provide additional sources of revenue to the Grange at all levels but will increase the recognition of our volunteer community service and non-partisan legislative activities as well.

I have updated material on our National Grange website related to a FAQ section providing common questions and answers to the general public on how we manage and enforce our trademark rights. I am working on another FAQ section specifically directed toward local and State Grange officers on their rights and responsibilities in using our trademarks in their normal activities.

Additional policy is needed to address trademark licensing for closely associated or closely held Grange affiliated entities that are not legacy companies. These entities would include Grange Foundations, associations, cooperatives, service companies and Friends of the Grange non-profits. A draft license contract for closely associated or closely held entities is currently before the National Grange Executive Committee for comment.

One future goal that I have is to reach out to surviving independent legacy Grange companies to try to bring them into the discussion about how to best manage our trademark so as to improve their chances of survival in these tough economic times. One of our long term licensees, Pamola Grange Center in ME, a community civic center and performing arts venue, ceased operations and abandoned their license this year due to financial problems. We should seek to provide assistance and guidance to both new, entrepreneurial companies

as well as the established companies that have been operating under the brand Grange for some time.

I want to thank Worthy Master Ed Lutell and the members of the Executive Committee for their advice, counsel and support this year. My colleagues in the National Grange office, as well as our field directors, have been equally supportive. I also want to thank our State Masters, State Grange officers and diligent Grange members who have provided us with invaluable leads and information regarding possible infringement cases. They have all given me the benefit of their advice, counsel and talent, as we strive to create an effective program to manage the most valuable asset of the Order, our good name. I believe that the lessons we continue to learn from our experiences in trademark management will promote the growth and development of our Order.

Fraternally Submitted,
Leroy Watson
Trademark Protection Manager

Overview of the cases, trademark office sub-registrations and specific activities, year-to-date

Information Presentation Key for OVERVIEW OF CASES:

Infringing party, INFRINGING LANGUAGE, action taken or pending

Overview of cases concluded/trademark office

1. Tyson Foods, GRANGE AND GRASSLAND, US Trademark office decision against Tyson foods.
2. Hickman Egg Ranch,, POLO LA GRANJA, US Trademark decision against Hickman
3. Bialetti, SA, GRANGRILL, letter of assurance executed
4. Prairie Farms Dairy, DE LA GRANJA, voluntary withdraw of registration
5. Arden Grange International, ARDEN GRANGE, voluntary withdraw of registration
6. Aldi, Inc., GRANGER, voluntary withdraw of registration and current use
7. Chateau Lagrange, CHATEAU LAGRANGE WINE, no further action by National Grange due to preexisting geographic place name.
8. Winery at LaGrange, WINERY AT LAGRANGE, no further action by National Grange due to preexisting geographic place name.
9. New Grange Wind Farm, GRANGE, voluntary withdraw of registration.
10. Leisure Electronics Technology Co., G-RANG, letter of assurance executed.
11. Lidl Stiftung & Co, GRANGEDALE, voluntary withdraw of registration
12. Nikland Entertainment, LLC., LAGRANGE GOOD FOR ALL NIGHT, letter of assurance executed.
13. Grangers International, GRANGERS, letter of assurance executed due to preexisting business use of name in England and geographic place name.
14. Olivet Grange, OLIVET GRANGE, letter of assurance executed limiting registration to CA, to the Olivet Company (no licenses) and to a specific geographic location.
15. Paloma Grange Center, PALOMA GRANGE CENTER, ownership of trademark registration turned over to National Grange. Business licensed to use our trademark. In 2011, business registration abandoned. No current use in

commerce. Mark will be abandoned if not in current use by April 1, 2014

16. La Granja Franchising LA GRANGA RESTAURANT, letter of assurance limits use of newly registered trademark to Hispanic style restaurants and beverages.
17. Queensway Ltd., LA GRANJA WINE, new trademark registration for wine completed by Queensway then transferred to National Grange. National Grange licenses use of LA GRANJA WINE trademark back to Queensway for ten years.
18. James Lanzillo, GRANGA PRIMAVERA, brand name registration for dairy products and hispanic style sausages. Grange opposed registration and demanded that Mr Lanzillo drop his application. Mr. Lanzillo complied and dropped his application.
19. Wing Hing Lung, Ltd., GRANGE AND MCCAUL, formal trademark application by Canadian company for oriental sauces filed with US Trademark office. Application withdrawn by Wing Hing Lung 2/6/12
20. Willowsford, LLC, (VA) THE GRANGE housing development. Trademark registration dropped.

Overview of cases concluded/general infringement in commerce

1. Grassland Grange Ranch (OH), GRASSLAND GRANGE, letter of assurance executed, name phased out.
2. Sweetwater Grange Development, (ID) GRANGE, letter of assurance executed, name removed.
3. Gran-Jer Apparel on line clothing sales, GRAN-JER, letter of assurance executed limiting further use of name,
4. Grange Public House (GA), GRANGE PUBLIC HOUSE, letter of assurance executed, name changed.
5. Grange Food Company (NY), GRANGE FOOD COMPANY, letter of assurance executed, domain names transferred to National Grange, name changed.
6. Grange Restaurant (CA), GRANGE RESTAURANT, license executed.
7. Monroe Classics (CA) GRANGE and GRANGE LOGO, re-license agreement executed
8. Best Fraternal Supply, (OR) GRANGE and GRANGE LOGO License agreement not renewed, business apparently terminated
9. City Grange Restaurant (PA), CITY GRANGE, letter of assurance executed, name changed.
10. Old Grange Restaurant (NJ), OLD GRANGE, license executed. License renewed for three years, under new management
11. Grange Café (WA), GRANGE CAFÉ, license executed.
12. Home on the Grange Child Care (CT), HOME ON THE GRANGE, license executed.
13. Grange Kitchen and Bar, GRANGE KITCHEN AND BAR, license executed.
14. Grange Party (WA), GRANGE PARTY, attempt to register potential candidates for public office under the “Grange Party”. Grange Party “disbanded” after intervention by WA State Grange.
15. Southcorp Wines, Ltd. GRANGE, preexisting use, incontestable.
16. Columbia Granger’s World of Poetry (NY), COLUMBIA GRANGER’S WORLD OF POETRY, preexisting use based on an individual’s name, incontestable.

17. Granger Art on Demand on-line art sales business, GRANGER ART ON DEMAND, on-line extension of preexisting use based on an individual's name, incontestable
18. La Salamandra, GRANJA, matter dropped, no future intention to sell in US
19. Grange Sonoma Restaurant and Country Store (CA), GRANGE SONOMA, letter of assurance executed, name changed, domain name scheduled to expire 3/11.
20. Bill Granger (FL), GRANGERS BAR AND GRILL, matter dropped after it became apparent it was a personal name.
21. Village Soup Website, GRANGE, letter of assurance executed, name dropped.
22. High Country News Blog, GRANGE, letter of assurance executed name dropped.
23. George Anagnos, GRANGE1.COM, letter of assurance to cease use, no agreement to abandon or transfer domain name.
24. Nutmark-Gesto de Direitos, LAGRANJA, letter of assurance to not use name in US.
25. Esty Resellers Webstore, GRANGE, letter of assurance executed to remove use of name Grange from client clothing retailer "breadandroses" portion of the Esty webstore.
26. "Breadandroses" online clothing retailer, GRANGE, no answer to repeated contacts but no recent evidence of online sales activity either.
27. Alaska Broadcasting Co- KTVA Channel 11 (AK), VIEW FROM THE HILL, letter of assurance executed to change the name of their public affairs broadcast.
28. Maine Grange Store, MAINE GRANGE STORE, license executed. License being renewed for 5 years.
29. Zynga, Inc. "Frontierville" on line game, CRUSTY OLD GRANGER, Zynga has agreed to cease all use of the term GRANGER in their game and replace it with the term RANGER.
30. Grange Disc Golf (VA), GRANGE DISC GOLF, Owners have agreed to change the name of their business.
31. Frederic Lardinois (OR) NEWSGRANGE.COM, web based newsletter business supported through advertising proceeds for internet related technology issues. Owner has changed name.
32. Old Grange Craft Business (VT) OLD GRANGE and GRANGE LOGO. C&D letter sent. Reply received. Name change proceeding
33. Thicketty Mountain Grange Farm (SC) THICKETTY MOUNTAIN GRANGE. C&D letter sent. No reply. Name changed to Thicketty Mountain Farm.
34. Grange Properties, LLC, (NC), GRANGE PROPERTIES and other business registrations in the State of North Carolina. New business registrations with the State of North Carolina forwarded by the NC State Grange. Investigation shows that all of these registrations are for businesses where the owner/founders had the personal name Grange. No further enforcement action is planned.
35. Two new business registrations in the State of Nevada forwarded by National Grange Deputy Organizing Master Randy Lewis. Investigation shows that both of these registrations are for businesses where the owner/founders had the personal name "Grange". No further enforcement action is planned.
36. Fairfield Winter Farmers Market (MA) GRENFIELD HILL GRANGE. Local Farmers market holds their weekly sales at rented space from a local Grange

Hall in MA under the name “Fairfield Winter Farmers Market at Greenfield Hill Grange”. Research shows the phrase “. . .at Greenfield Hill Grange” is not part of the official registered business name of the farmers market association, and, therefore, not a trademark violation because the term GRANGE is used only for customer reference

37. Monmouth Theatre Group (ME) MONMOUTH GRANGE. Former Grange owned property is now used as a performance venue by a local theatre company under the name Monmouth Grange. C&D letter sent. Response received. Theatre will abandon use of term GRANGE.
38. Fleishmann Maple Festival (NY) POP-UP GRANGE. Organizers for a new Maple Festival in Fleishmann, NY called one of the exhibits/booths a POP-UP GRANGE. After speaking with the Executive Director for the MARK Project, the local community development association, the name of the exhibit/booth was changed to “Maple Café”.
39. Honeysuckle Grange Farm (IN) HONEYSUCKLE GRANGE FARM. C&D letter sent. Reply sent from their attorney claiming that GRANGE can not be trademarked and there is no intention to infringe. Agreement to change name for \$100 processing fee.
40. Neighborhood Grange Network (NC) NEIGHBORHOOD GRANGE NETWORK. On line “meet up” site focusing on agriculture issues for the Fayetteville, NC area. Contacted by NC State Grange to inquire about forming a Grange chapter. Site owner decided to drop the name “GRANGE from the site instead.
41. Tuberville video series, GRANGE, GRANGE LOGO. Use of GRANGE and GRABGE LOGO in acknowledgements for an internet video series promoting the production of potatoes as a home gardening project. Acknowledgement will be for assistance given by local Grange chapters in the production of the video and the hands on training for individuals who are learning to grow potatoes. Permission e-mail sent allowing use of GRANGE and GRANGE LOGO in the credits of the video production to acknowledge the support of local Granges for this project.
42. Portage Bay Grange Urban Chicken Feed Supply Store, PORTAGE BAY GRANGE. C&D letter sent. Licensee signed
43. Grange Hall Burger Bar (IL) GRANGE HALL BURGER BAR. License signed
44. Saco River Grange Hall Performance Center (ME), SOCCO RIVER GRANGE HALL, Agreement to change name of non-profit company.
45. Malibu Grange (CA) MALIBU GRANGE BLOG. Negotiations with blog author. C&D letter sent. Response received. New community Grange organized.
46. Willowsford, LLC, (VA) THE GRANGE housing development. License signed with supplemental donation to Grange Foundation.
47. Bow Lake Community Association (NH) BOW LAKE GRANGE HALL. Community association owns a former Grange property and continues to use the name Bow Lake Grange for the facility. Deed granted permission to use trademark GRANGE in exchange for right of first refusal upon sale and occasional use of the hall by a Grange chapter. Effectively we treat this as a joint marketing agreement between the Bow Lake Community Association and the NH State Grange.
48. PDX Entertainment Services (OR) THE GRANGE CASINO Oregon based

gaming company proposed building a gambling casino/resort called The Grange. Permission to build the resort depended on approval of two ballot measures presented to Oregon voters on election day. PDX spent more than \$6 million on advertising to support the ballot measures and casino resort development but ultimately concluded that public reaction to bad press from infringing on the National Grange trademark was too difficult to overcome.

49. Ossipee Mt Grange Hall (NH) OSSIPPEE MT GRANGE HALL. Former Grange owned property purchased and being renovated by new owner as community meeting space, theatrical/musical performance venue and business offices. C & D letter sent. Owner agrees to cease using the term GRANGE to market musical performances
50. Sunbeam Grange Hall, (MN) SUNBEAM GRANGE HALL DISPLAY. Former Grange owned facility was torn down years ago. Community historical preservation group wanted to obtain a grant to rebuild the former Sunbeam Grange Hall in its old location and display the name Sunbeam Grange on the reconstructed building. Financing could not be obtained and the project has been frozen.
51. Grange Realty (OR), GRANGE REALTY, trademark registered under state law as business name. The LLC has been dissolved. No further evidence of use has been found.

Overview of concluded joint marketing or other authorized businesses or product sales agreements with chartered Granges

1. Grange Hall Bratwursts (WI). Joint marketing agreement signed with local Grange. Proceeds support preservation of local Grange building
2. CT State Grange fundraising committee. Authorized by CT State Grange. Sales of preserves, jams, relishes, etc. Proceeds support the CT State Grange.
3. New England Grange Building Store. Authorized by CT, ME, MA, NH, RI and VT State Granges. Sales of preserves jams relishes etc. Proceeds support New England Grange Building At Eastern States Exposition Fair Grounds in Springfield, MA

Overview of pending cases in litigation in federal court

Crown Heads LLC, (TN) HEADLEY GRANGE, registration filed for trademark for new brand of artisanal cigars. National Grange filed opposition with US Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. National Grange contacted Crowned heads to obtain a license. Crowned Heads suspended registration proceedings and filed a complaint with Federal District Court in Nashville, TN challenging the legal validity of the National Grange's trademark GRANGE

Overview of Pending cases/trademark office

1. Casa Ithalat Ithracat, GRANJA WINE, Registration formally denied 9/12. Six months time period to file appeal.
2. S Coop. Vitvinicola de Longares, LAGRANJA 360 WINE. Registration formally denied 10/12. Six month time period to file appeal.
3. Bill Granger, GRANGER & CO, Australian celebrity chef has filed to register GRANGER as a US trademark for his food products restaurant services, cook books, etc. marketed in the US. Seeking letter of assurance limiting use of the

trademark to products directly associated and endorsed by Mr. Granger.

4. Pollo Granjero Restaurant, (FL) POLLO GRANJERO, formal trademark application for a latin style restaurant in FL. Opposition will be filed by La Granja Franchising Corporation, owner of the LA GRANJA POLLO LA BRASA, with whom we have an agreement as of April 2011.

Overview of pending cases/general infringements in commerce

1. Urban Flower Grange Hall, (TX) GRANGE HALL, Fashion boutique in Dallas, TX. On going infringement case for more than three years. Dismissal of prior attorney representing Urban Flowers has opened a possibility for direct negotiations with business owner. Owners have refused to discuss infringement settlement or name change.
2. Grange Capital (OR), GRANGE CAPITAL, Two informal letters sent in 2010 related to infringement. No response. Jim Bikoff will send C&D letter on his firm letterhead. National Grange will probably have to produce evidence of actual use of name Grange by us (not legacy companies) associated with financial services and/or financial education services in order to pursue further action.
3. Free Grange Music Productions (ME) FREE GRANGE PRODUCTIONS. C&D letter sent. Reply received. License negotiations proceeding.
4. Stone Craft Inn (CT), GRANGE BUILDING. C&D letter sent. No Reply. Second C&D letter sent, returned unopened. Jim Bikoff sent C&D letter on his form letterhead sent e-mails and made phone calls. Reply received from real estate agent who is working to sell property. Agent claims that her client has to remove references to GRANGE in its advertising but references remain on website.
5. Rochdale Grange Housing Development (CA) ROCHDALE GRANGE. C&D letter sent. License negotiations proceeding
6. Brooklyn Grange Farm, LLC (NY), BROOKLYN GRANGE, HOME ON THE GRANGE. Litigation dropped. License obtained. Adequate insurance coverage has been secured.
7. Town of Durham, NH, redevelopment of former Grange property in the business district. Negotiations pending on a license to use the name GRANGE on the building.
8. Sol Vista Housing Development and Ski Resort (CO) GRANGE HALL. Housing development community building is called The Grange Hall. C&D letters sent. Returned unopened. .
9. Grange Antiques, LLC (MA) GRANGE ANTIQUES. Former Grange property has been converted to an antiques shop in Sheffield MA. Additional C&D letter sent and returned unopened.
10. Heidelberg Shed, a Modern Grange, (CA) A MODERN GRANGE. New general store/small farmers and gardeners cooperative in northern CA (near Santa Rosa). Contract pending.
11. Digital Grange (CA) DIGITAL GRANGE. Artistic services business in northern CA. C&D letter sent, reply received, negotiations on going for a license. .
12. Ossipee Mt Grange Hall (NH) OSSIPPEE MT GRANGE HALL. Former Grange owned property purchased and being renovated by new owner as community meeting space, theatrical/musical performance venue and business offices. C& D letter sent. Owner agrees to cease using the term GRANGE to

market musical performances

13. Debbie Mumm Inc. (WA) FIVE MILE GRANGE. Current Grange member has produced an artistic representation of a Grange Hall that is offered for sale on various tapestries, linens and now a jigsaw puzzle. Negotiations proceeding with Washington State Grange for either Joint Marketing Agreement or license from National Grange that will allow Washington State Grange to sell products with this artwork.
14. Town of Greensboro (VT) OLD GRANGE HALL. Town government purchased former Caspian Lake Grange property with intention to use as a community/recreation center. Initiating discussions with town officials on future plans for the property.
15. Grangeville Rose Tea Room & Emporium, LLC (OK) GRANGEVILLE. Food service, retail food sales and facility rental business in Shawnee, OK. C&D letter pending.
16. Grange Table Lamp, Arteriors, LLC (CA), GRANGE. High end lamp and furniture manufacturer markets several furniture and accessory items under the name GRANGE. C&D letter pending
17. Grange Restaurant (CA) GRANGE. Proposed new bistro style restaurant in San Francisco, CA announced in press release. Conducting further research to determine project status. C&D letter to be sent pending confirmation
18. Sugar Grove vineyards and Gathering Place, (IA) SUGAR GROVE GRANGE. Iowa winery purchased a former Grange Hall, applied to have the building listed under the name Sugar Grove Grange as a “historic building” by a third party non-profit historic preservation group and then moved the building to the commercial location of the winery. C&D letter pending, awaiting an opinion from Jim Bikoff related to our rights when a third party historic preservation group, government or non-profit, designates a formerly owned Grange building as historic under the name GRANGE.
19. Tom Douglas, THE GRANGE HALL RESTAURANT (WA) Proposed new restaurant in Seattle. Strong objection from existing licensee in Duval, WA. C&D letter sent.
20. Hodge Badge Company, GRANGE LOGO, GRANGE. Agreements to use Grange trademarks on items sold to the public need to be updated to reflect current trademark protection practices.
21. Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture,(NY) GRANGE HALL, Inquiry to obtain a license to use GRANGE HALL in conjunction with non-profit, beginning farmers educational initiative. Proposed license sent.
22. Varysburg Grange, GRANGE, (NY) Clothing and leather goods business operating out of formerly owned Grange property. C&D letter pending.
23. Bohemian Grange, GRANGE, (MT) Social hall rental business operating from a formerly owned Grange property. C&D letter pending.

Overview of pending joint marketing or otherwise authorized joint enterprise agreements for businesses, nonprofit or product sales with chartered Granges

1. National Grange Foundation GRANGE, GRANGE LOGO, GRANGE FOUNDATION, No record of license or joint enterprise agreement.
2. Albany-Schenectady-Greene County Fair (NY) GRANGE, GRANGE LOGO DISPLAYS. Tri-county fair organized and run by local Grange members in NY state use the name GRANGE and the GRANGE LOGO for advertising and

promotion. Fair has been existence for more than 80 years. No evidence of license or joint enterprise agreement.

3. N.H Grange Foundation (NH) GRANGE, GRANGE FOUNDATION,. No evidence of license or joint enterprise agreement
4. Rhode Island State Grange Foundation (RI) GRANGE, GRANGE FOUNDATION. No record of license or joint enterprise agreement.
5. Ohio State Grange Service Corporation (OH) GRANGE,. No record of license or joint enterprise agreement.
6. Boone County Grange Fair (IL) GRANGE, GRANGE LOGO. No record of license or joint enterprise agreement.
7. Oregon State Grange Foundation (OR) GRANGE, GRANGE FOUNDATION. No record of license or joint enterprise agreement
8. North Carolina State Grange foundation (NC) GRANGE, GRANGE FOUNDATION. No record of license or joint enterprise agreement
9. California Grange Foundation (CA) GRANGE, GRANGE FOUNDATION. No record of license or joint enterprise agreement
10. Michigan State Grange Foundation (MI) GRANGE, GRANGE FOUNDATION. No record of license or joint enterprise agreement
11. PA State Grange Foundation (PA) GRANGE, GRANGE FOUNDATION. No record of license or joint enterprise agreement
12. Colorado State Grange Leadership/Scholarship Foundation (CO) GRANGE, GRANGE FOUNDATION. No record of license or joint enterprise agreement
13. Ohio Grange Charitable Foundation (OH) GRANGE, GRANGE FOUNDATION. No record of license or joint enterprise agreement
14. Morning Grange #227 Scholarship Fund/ Greater Kansas City Community Foundation (KS). No record of license or joint enterprise agreement
15. WA State Grange Foundation (WA) GRANGE, GRANGE FOUNDATION No record of license or joint enterprise agreement
16. ME Grange Foundation (ME) GRANGE, GRANGE FOUNDATION, No record of license or joint enterprise agreement.

Overview of existing, supplemental subregistrations for new registrations as well as additional uses in commerce for the trademarks "GRANGE," "NATIONAL GRANGE," "NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY" and the seven-sided logo

1. Registered 5/10-Restaurant services
2. Registered 5/10-Restaurant name THE OLD GRANGE RESTAURANT
3. Registered 4/08- facility retail marketplace and workshop rental services for artists and craftspersons, PALOMA GRANGE CENTER Mark will expire 4/14 without renewal.
4. Registered 7/93- foundation name THE GRANGE FOUNDATION for general philanthropic services
5. Registered 7/93-legislative newsletter name VIEW FROM THE HILL
6. Registered 1/94, 3/94, 1/95, Member Services and educational material related to:
 - a. Affinity Credit cards
 - b. posters, publications, newsletters, brochures, pamphlets related to
 - i. family life in farm, rural and suburban communities
 - ii. legislative and public policy education

- iii. educational, medical, charitable and recreational programs for deaf and hard of hearing individuals
- iv. song books demonstrating sign language
7. Registered 6/11, food sales, food production, products and services and banquet facilities including;
 - a. Cookbooks
 - b. Farmers markets
 - c. Catering services
 - d. Community meeting or social function facilities with food service
 - e. Fair or exhibition facilities that serve food
8. Registered 7/11, LA GRANJA for wine and viniculture services
9. Registered 11/29/11, GRANGE LOGO for jewelry and clothing
10. Registered 11/19/11, GRANGE for jewelry
11. Published for public comment 10/16/12 GRANGE for clothing, except footwear. No comments registered. Final registration expected 1/13.

Three additional US Trademark office category subregistrations obtained this year.

- a. Jewelry (LOGO)
- b. Jewelry (GRANGE)
- c. Clothing (LOGO)

YOUTH DEPARTMENT'S REPORT

Worthy Master, National Officers, Delegates and fellow Grangers:

This year, as I started to draft a youth director handbook, I came across a resolution. It was proposed at the 1934 session and set forth to challenge the membership as it worked with its Junior Grangers and youth. The resolution, proposed by Ray W. Gill of Oregon, is as follows.

Resolution No. 43, Young People's Committees, Ray W. Gill of Oregon.

"WHEREAS, the future success of the Grange depends largely upon how we interest young people in the Grange work,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Grange recommend the appointment of a young people's committee in each Subordinate, Pomona and State Grange, whose duty should be to study the problem of interesting young people in Grange work; to encourage organization and support of (Junior) Granges; to encourage a greater recognition of young people in degree work, lecturer program, to the end that greater interest may be created among the young so that the Grange will truly be a place for the whole family and encouraging such interest that the future stability of Grange growth may be secure."

(National Grange Journal of Proceedings, 1934, page 138)

While this resolution was written more than 70 years ago, I am amazed at the relevancy of this resolution today.

Across our organization, state youth directors and their committees, along with our Pomona and subordinate counterparts, work tirelessly to encourage Grange Youth and Young Adults to achieve remarkable things within our organization. Their efforts are a testament to the continued growth in National Youth Department programs.

This year, Grange youth and young adults earned 1,009 achievement seals, 200 more than last year. Several items are attributed to this new record. Several states –

Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Washington State – submitted formal requests, with several states asking for more than 100 seals. At the regional conferences, two regions, Eastern and Western, brought back Drill programs. The Northeastern Region had an outstanding Drill competition with five state teams, the highest they have had in several years. Congratulations to these regions.

Leadership and achievement pins are down this year. The Leadership Award was changed last year with more requirements to achieve the award.

Regional Conferences

At the regional conferences, this year's focus was on the ritual side of the Grange, tying in the points of the degree into today's society. We hosted the sign a song and speech contests at each regional conference. We also continued the Leader's conference format for the Southeastern, Great Plains and Western Region.

Attendance estimates for each of the conferences included as follows:

- Eastern Regionals: 70
- Northeastern: 100
- Midwestern: 25
- Great Plains: 90
- Western: 60
- Southeastern: 35

At the Eastern Regional conference, we hosted a Drill exhibition where youth from Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York displayed a drill entry. A blended drill of all of youth attending the Western Regional Leaders Conference was presented. A drill competition was hosted at Northeastern Regionals with teams from New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New York participating.

At each of the conferences, we hosted a public speaking and sign a song contest. We had 61 contestants in the regional public speaking contest. A total of nine entries participated in the sign a song contest.

I want to thank all of the host states from the 2012 conference in Ohio, Kansas, Connecticut, South Carolina and Oregon for hosting a regional conference. I would also like to formally invite everyone to attend a 2013 conference in Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Minnesota, Vermont, Florida and Nevada. I would encourage everyone to attend a regional conference.

Youth Program Changes

For 2013, I am excited to announce several collaborative projects with several National Grange departments. As I am sure you have heard from Grace Boatright, the legislative department and the youth department have partnered to develop a new youth/young adult legislative program called "No Apathy Allowed." This program is designed to engage our youth in the grassroots legislative process. In addition to the legislative seals, there is also an advocacy recognition contest.

With the Communications Department, the youth department is excited to roll out a new essay and photo essay program. The contests are designed to begin celebrating our 150th anniversary.

Another new program is the rollout of our Grange Jeopardy contest. The new trivia contest is a creative way to encourage youth and young adults to learn Grange history and trivia. Encourage your youth to study their manuals, Grange history books and other resources and qualify to represent your state at the regional qualifier for the chance to compete in the 2013 national contest.

In the speech contests, a radio spot contest was added to allow for more creativity.

For State, Pomona and Subordinate youth directors, we have added a Distinguished

Youth Program award. This program is designed to recognize the great work our youth directors and their committee do at each level of our organization.

As you can tell, we have a lot of new items in this year's book. A digital copy was emailed out in October to state masters and youth directors. The book is also available online. Printed copies are available by request.

Youth Contests and Recognition Programs

For this year's National Session, the youth recognition program participants are as follows:

Serving as the youth mentors for 2012 are Ana Mari Parker of North Carolina and Patrick Wadsworth of Pennsylvania.

This year, I am pleased to announce that we have three state young couples and six youth ambassadors. They are:

Young Couple

Justin and Nicole Swingart, Ohio
Matt and Miranda Irons, Pennsylvania
John and Emily Hartsell, North Carolina

Ambassadors:

Courtney Gray, North Carolina
Eli Bright, North Carolina
Adam Hinshaw, Ohio
Jennifer Lanstrum, Ohio
Jimmy Smith, Washington State
Brittney Oliver, Washington State

The National Grange Youth Officer Team is as follows:

Master Clyde Mooney, Idaho
Overseer: Breanna Hays, Oregon.
Lecturer: Lynn Clark, New Hampshire
Steward: Brandon Parker, Oregon
Assistant Steward: Corey Spence, Massachusetts
Lady Assistant Steward: Missy Mueller, North Carolina
Chaplain: Cole Wilson, Oregon
Treasurer: Brodi Olds, North Carolina
Secretary: Jackie Turner, New Hampshire
Gatekeeper: Jacob Gwin, Washington State
Ceres: Janice Knott, Washington State
Flora: Kennedy Gwin Washington State
Pomona: Ashley Pedersen, North Carolina

Youth Leadership Fund

Each year, the Grange Youth Leadership Fund is used to support Grange youth and young adults in attending national session. This comes at a cost of about \$300 per youth for a Horizon Leadership or National Youth Officer Team member. It is slightly higher for the National Mentors and Legislative Experience. The youth department received a memorial donation for \$5,000. In addition, the Grange Youth Foundation has received \$_____ for 2012 in response to our annual appeal letter. Thank you to the subordinate and Pomona Granges for your continued support of the program.

While the youth department continues to look for additional revenue streams, it is important to note, without increased support, the National Grange department may have to cut some of its support for youth to attend national session.

Grow Club

The GROW Club board includes Doug Baldwin, Midwest; Jennie Gentry, Eastern; Rick Ferguson, Western; Callie (Stiles) Ballinger, Great Plains and Matthew Clark, Northeast. The club continues to sponsor a \$500 scholarship and this year's winner was Joseph Stefanoni of California. We had three additional applicants this year.

Grange Youth: The Leadership Difference

I would like to say it has been my honor and privilege to work with the Grange youth and young adults across this country, and I look forward to another year of service.

This program has been built on the success of the countless youth directors, committees, state leadership and supporters who believe in our youth program. I would like to take a moment to recognize retiring state youth directors Mike and Debbie Russell from Ohio. This year, they completed 23 years of service as director or assistant director to their state youth program. They have often told me how their kids have impacted their lives as much as they did of the youth and young adults they worked with. Their experience is replicated in each of our State Grange Youth and Young Adult programs.

Our youth continue to strive and exceed our expectations. Each year, as we raise the bar to what it takes to succeed, our young people continue to achieve. This is because of the efforts of so many people, that I cannot even begin to list everyone in this report.

This year our Horizon Leadership program numbers have held steady. I would like to encourage all of our states to continue to recruit youth to serve a year as a youth ambassador and to revitalize their young couple programs. These programs showcase the best and brightest of our department and provide a team of people ready and willing to advocate for our organization.

The final item I would like to touch upon is the Kelley Farm program. Three of the four degree teams are in place. There is excitement in the air as we continue to start framing out details for this event in July. I would like to thank team captains Celia Luttrell, Winnie Taggart, Anna May Nauss and Art Merrill for stepping up to the challenge. The youth are excited and I would like to invite everyone to join us at the Kelley Farm this July.

Thank you

This word seems so small to express my sincere thanks to everyone that has assisted me in this past year. To my National Ambassador team, Ana Mari Parker and Patrick Wadsworth, thanks for the donated hours to helping develop several new activities at this year's national session and your passion for this organization. To worthy Master Ed, thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue to work with such an outstanding group of youth and young adults. To my husband Matt and my parents, Dale and Judy Shupp, thanks for holding down the home farm, watching the kids and supporting me on this Grange journey. To the countless Grangers who have given of your time to help on a project, your support has led to the continued success of our Grange youth and young adults.

Fraternally Submitted,

Charlene M. Shupp Espenshade
National Grange Youth Director

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION INDEX

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
001	Lean Finely Textured Beef	CO	Adopted
004	Dairy	NC	Adopted
101	Covered Expenses for Officers & Delegates		Adopted
102	Authorized Travel Reimbursement		Adopted
218	Drug and Pill Disposal	MI	Adopted
405	Banning of BPA in Children's Products and Food Packaging	PA	Adopted
409	Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act	MI	Adopted
412	Telemedicine and Telehealth	NY	Adopted
419	Dental Care	CT	Adopted
524	Resolution for the Good of the Order	VT	Adopted
533	Organization of Junior Granges	GL	Adopted
509	Judicial Code Revisions	PA	Adopted
617	Memorial to Brother Kermit W. Richardson		Adopted
618	Memorial to Brother John W. Scott		Adopted
619	Documenting Our History		Adopted
705	Human Trafficking	NC	Adopted
714	Regulation of Compounding Pharmacies	MI	Adopted
003	SNAP	NE	Adopted as Amended
006	USDA Dairy Genetic Evaluation	PA	Adopted as Amended
007	Protecting Farm Equipment	OH	Adopted as Amended
230	Nutritional Diet	WV	Adopted as Amended
210	Federal Debt	OR	Adopted as Amended
213	Transparency in Federal Elections	WA	Adopted as Amended
406	Early Childhood Education	PA	Adopted as Amended
407	Eliminate Prescription "Donut Hole"	PA	Adopted as Amended

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
413	Lyme Disease Research	NY	Adopted as Amended
616	WWII Veterans	Potomac	Adopted as Amended
704	Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screenings	NJ	Adopted as Amended
706	Shepherd Visa	OR	Adopted as Amended
809	Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act of 2011	OH	Adopted as Amended
603	Grange Degree Training	TX	Adopted as Amended- 1st reading
522	Affiliate Members Proof of Good Standing	RI	Adopted- 1st reading
531	Junior Leaders	GL	Adopted- 1st reading
525	Sale of Real Property	GL	Adopted- 2nd reading
526	Elimination of Term Limits for National Grange Executive Committee	GL	Adopted- 2nd reading
527	Family Definition	GL	Adopted- 2nd reading
528	Granges in U.S. Territories or DC	GL	Adopted- 2nd reading
516	Pomona and Subordinate Granges Entering into Contracts	NH	Adopted-1st reading
530	Removal of Grange Signs	GL	Adopted-1st reading
532	Appointment of Junior Leader	GL	Adopted-1st reading
534	Junior Grange Individual Membership	GL	Adopted-1st reading
228	National First Responder Appreciation Day	NY	Adverse
229	Political Campaigns	CT	Adverse
304	Spraying to Eliminate Mosquitoes	MI	Adverse
501	Changes to Digest Chapter 6.2.4	FL	Adverse
502	Term Limits for Officers	FL	Adverse
504	Junior Pledge	KS	Adverse
505	U.S. Flag Presentation at Grange Meetings	NE	Adverse

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
506	Junior Grange Amendment	NJ	Adverse
507	Voting Rights for Potomac Grange #1	NJ	Adverse
512	Alternate Installation	MA	Adverse
513	Junior Grange Membership	MA	Adverse
515	Affiliate Membership Dues	MA	Adverse
518	National Grange By-Laws- Chapter 6.2.4	NY	Adverse
523	Installation of Officers at National Grange Session	RI	Adverse
529	24 Hour Delay for National By-laws	WV	Adverse
604	Burial and Funeral Services	MI	Adverse
605	Female Youth Ambassadors	MI	Adverse
606	Grange Wedding Service	MI	Adverse
607	National Grange Quilt Square Project	OH	Adverse
608	Grange Month Promotional Packets	OH	Adverse
517	Changing Grange Month	ME	Adverse
707	Oppose Passage of Enemy Expatriation Act	OR	Adverse
708	Oppose Passage of the National Defense Authorization Act	OR	Adverse
715	Opposition to Law of the Sea Treaty	OH	Adverse
717	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea	NH	Adverse
723	Futures Traders	MD	Adverse
803	School Bus Inspection	IA	Adverse
804	School Bus Safety Features	IA	Adverse
202	Five Day USPS Service	FL	Adverse
203	US Postal Service	FL	Adverse
215	Individual Rights Under the U.S. Constitution	WA	Combined with 230-WV
415	School Lunch Portions	MD	Covered in 409-MI
206	Congressional Retirement Funds	NE	Covered under Citizenship-233
009	The Dairy Security Act of 2011	NY	Included in Policy Statement
005	Farm Bill	OK	Policy Statement

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
223	Procurement of Military Supplies	ME	Policy Statement
711	Peoples Rights Amendment	VA	Policy Statement
613	Pomona Grange Names	CT	Policy Statement
601	Internet Mailings	FL	Policy Statement
615	Continued Examination of Junior Grange Program	Potomac	Policy Statement
702	Erin's Law	IN	Policy Statement
712	TPP Negotiations	WI	Policy Statement
722	Reverse Mortgages	NY	Policy Statement
207	Licensing Laws and Government Regulations (Transferred from Citizenship)	NE	Policy Statement
204	Equal Standards for Congressional Members	IN	Present Policy
224	United States Flag Code	NY	Present Policy
225	Social Security Earning Limits	NY	Present Policy
226	Recorded Telephone Messages from Political Candidates	NY	Present Policy
231	Election Projections	RI	Present Policy
232	Banning Radio Sirens	VT	Present Policy
307	Energy Policy	MD	Present Policy
401	Physical Education in Schools	CO	Present Policy
402	Free College Tuition for Undocumented Students	IN	Present Policy
403	National Health Care System	NE	Present Policy
408	Medicare Part B Drugs Reimbursement	PA	Present Policy
410	No Child Left Behind	MI	Present Policy
411	Control of So-Called "Bath Salt" Compounds	NY	Present Policy
414	Healthcare Flexible Spending Accounts	NY	Present Policy
417	Removal of Milk from School Lunch	MD	Present Policy
602	Buy 'Made in America'	FL	Present Policy

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
701	United Nations Laws	CO	Present Policy
709	Maintaining Traditional Farm Duties for Children	OR	Present Policy
713	Child Labor Laws	PA	Present Policy
716	Protecting our 2nd Amendment Rights	OH	Present Policy
719	Jail Sentences for Leakers	ME	Present Policy
721	Hand Gun Reciprocity	NY	Present Policy
802	Bicycle Warning Flags	IA	Present Policy
209	Postal Reform	OR	Present Policy
Master's Address	Paragraphs 4 & 5 of the section titled "Regulation"		Present Policy & Policy Statement
305	Clean Water Act Draft Guidance Proposal	NY	Present Policy
303	Invasive Asian Carp	WI	Present Policy
301	Oppose Expansion of the Wild Rogue River Wilderness Area	OR	Present Policy
222	Awarding of Electoral College Votes in Presidential Elections	MA	Rejected
233	Committee Resolution		Rejected
201	National Defense Preparedness	CO	Rejected
212	Truth in Pricing	OR	Rejected
810	Funding for Social Security and Medicare	ME	Rejected by Delegates
508	U.S. Flag Display at Grange Meetings	WA	Rejected by Delegates
521	Yearly Assessment Fees for National Grange Annual Meetings/National Dues	WV	Rejected by Delegates
503	Inactive Grange Re-Organization Time	ID	Rejected by Delegates
535	Annual Licensing Charter Fee	GL	Rejected by Delegates
302	Enforce the O&C Act on all O&C Lands	OR	State Issue
519	Optional Procedure for Election of Officers	CT	State Issue
710	Firearms Open Carry (Federal)	TX	State Issue
718	Smoke Detectors	ME	State Issue
720	Carbon Monoxide Detectors	ME	State Issue

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
724	Child Abuse, Domestic Violence & Animal Abuse Cross Reporting	RI	State Issue
711	People's Rights Amendment	VA	Transferred to Citizenship
603	Grange Degree Training	TX	Transferred to Grange Law
613	Pomona Grange Names	CT	Transferred to Grange Law
517	Changing Grange Month	ME	Transferred to Growth & Development
207	Licensing Laws and Government Regulations	NE	Transferred to Labor & Judiciary
202	Five-Day USPS Service	FL	Transferred to Taxation & Transportation
203	US Postal Service	FL	Transferred to Taxation & Transportation
209	Postal Reform	OR	Transferred to Taxation & Transportation
002	Neonicotinoid Pesticides	CO	Withdrawn
008	Support the Labeling of Genetically Modified Organisms	OH	Withdrawn
010	Industrial Hemp	VT	Withdrawn
205	Removal of Same Sex Marriage Policy	KS	Withdrawn
217	Disability for Agent Orange Exposure	PA	Withdrawn
208	National Student Government Day	OR	Withdrawn
214	Lobbyists/Lobbying	WA	Withdrawn
216	Government Budget	WI	Withdrawn
211	Veterans Preference for Low-Income Housing	OR	Withdrawn
219	Campaign Fundraising Limits	OH	Withdrawn
220	Limiting the Influence of Corporations and Unions in Elections	MA	Withdrawn
221	Same Sex Marriage	MA	Withdrawn
227	P.A.C. Funds	NY	Withdrawn
306	Japan Tsunami Debris	NY	Withdrawn

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
404	Obamacare	TX	Withdrawn
416	School Lunch Milk	MD	Withdrawn
418	Flavored Milk	MD	Withdrawn
510	Gender Requirements	MA	Withdrawn
511	Flag Presentation Ceremony	MA	Withdrawn
514	Waiver of Charter Membership Requirement for Subordinate Granges	MA	Withdrawn
520	Substitute for Secretary's Charges in the 5th Degree	CT	Withdrawn
609	Encouraging Subordinate Grange Consolidation	OH	Withdrawn
610	7th Degree Conferral Venue	ME	Withdrawn
611	Photography of Minors Distribution Guidelines	ME	Withdrawn
612	U.S. Made Grange Items	NY	Withdrawn
614	Grange Insurance Agency	WV	Withdrawn
703	Real-Time Check Verification	KS	Withdrawn
801	Red Light Cameras/Yellow Light Timing	IL	Withdrawn
805	Electronic Billboards	TX	Withdrawn
806	Additional Child Tax Credit	WA	Withdrawn
807	Estate Tax	WI	Withdrawn
808	Safety Barriers	PA	Withdrawn
811	Medical Equipment Deduction	NY	Withdrawn

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
001	Lean Finely Textured Beef	CO	Adopted
002	Neonicotinoid Pesticides	CO	Withdrawn
003	SNAP	NE	Adopted as Amended
004	Dairy	NC	Adopted
005	Farm Bill	OK	Policy Statement
006	USDA Dairy Genetic Evaluation	PA	Adopted as Amended
007	Protecting Farm Equipment	OH	Adopted as Amended
008	Support the Labeling of Genetically Modified Organisms	OH	Withdrawn
009	The Dairy Security Act of 2011	NY	Policy Statement
010	Industrial Hemp	VT	Withdrawn

POLICY STATEMENT

For 146 years, the National Grange has been working to improve agriculture in America, as agriculture continues to be the backbone of America. The Grange supports the American farmer and rancher with policies that will help to protect and encourage the agriculture industry. We are working with legislators in choosing the best course of action for agriculture growth in America. We do this so our farmers and ranchers can continue supplying an abundant, safe and efficient food supply for America and the world.

All in agriculture must find common ground and recognize that there are different business plans and practices that protect the environment while providing people with the food, fiber and fuel they need. We must continue to educate our fellow citizens about agriculture.

The National Grange urges the adoption of a Farm Bill that continues to support a strong agricultural economy. Some of the areas that should be addressed are:

- 1) We must ensure that credit is available to farmers regardless of size.
- 2) Rural development issues must continue to be a priority in order to provide the necessary infrastructure to get our product from field to table.
- 3) Research and funding of the Extension Program must be continued if we wish to ensure the availability of innovative practices and new tools beneficial to agricultural societies.
- 4) The creation, improvement and implementation of both primary and secondary sources of energy through agriculture must remain a priority to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.
- 5) Crop insurance and disaster relief must be adequately funded in order to serve as a primary way of helping farmers deal with unforeseen weather and market fluctuations.

In the past several years, many proposals have been put forward to control the volatility of milk prices. The National Grange should be actively involved to ensure that the best possible method of milk pricing is adopted. Any legislation proposing to revamp the dairy program should include adequate safety nets that will help to keep the dairy industry strong in the United States.

Free trade agreements are not always fair when some segments of the economy are sacrificed. Free trade agreements have been negotiated on a bilateral and regional basis, which have the potential to be harmful to farmers and the economy. We need to be aware of and educate ourselves on this major issue. The National Grange advocates for the creation of trade agreements that will be beneficial and flexible while protecting not only agriculture but also the American dream. The movement of agricultural products across our country, as well as exports to foreign countries, is vital to the economy of the nation.

We understand the need to provide safe and healthy food for ourselves and the rest of the world. However, we must ensure that there is not an overreaction by the government in developing rules and regulations that make it more difficult or impossible for farmers to operate efficiently.

The Grange continues to support extensive testing to prove safety of all new genetically modified crops. However, until credible scientific studies indicate a real danger exists, Americans should oppose mandatory labeling of genetically modified products as such labeling falsely implies differences where none exist.

One of the major issues facing animal agriculture in our country is the effort for certain “animal rights” groups to define “humane treatment” of animals. The National Grange should work together with other like groups to ensure that sound science is used in determining humane treatment of animals.

The National Grange strongly supports agriculture education at all levels, including agriculture science as well as cooperative Extension Service and encourages the partnership between 4-H, FFA and cooperative extensions to draw on and develop leadership abilities.

The National Grange believes in our democratic process. Our answer must be to join with all interested parties to educate the public about the realities of agriculture and the principles of nature. Legislators, judges, and our citizens need to understand how and why certain methods are used and how agriculture is an essential component in protecting and improving the environment.

The Grange continues to pledge its support for rural America and family-owned and operated farms and ranches, both small and large. We support farmers’ markets and community supported agriculture producing and selling homegrown agricultural products. We call upon Congress to support programs and policies that will help sustain and enhance family farms by increasing the net farm income, providing economic and tax incentives, and tax credits for soil and water conservation – without escalating the advantages to non-farm investors.

Only with mutual respect can the different sectors of agriculture meet the growing demand for food, fiber and fuel in the future. Setting aside our differences and working together is essential for a successful understanding of what is needed to carry agriculture forward to a promising future.

The policy statement includes resolutions: 005-OK, 009-NY and portions of the Master’s Address.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Lean Finely Textured Beef

WHEREAS, lean finely textured beef (LFTB) has received highly negative and unfounded criticism in the media; and

WHEREAS, the technology created by Beef Products, Inc., developer of LFTB, speaks to innovative processes for providing healthy, safe and nutritious food, and prevents waste of beef protein; and

WHEREAS, Beef Products, Inc. dates from 1976 and has been a producer of lean ground beef since 1993; and

WHEREAS, lean finely textured beef was given a negative image in being labeled as “pink slime” through the news media; and

WHEREAS, lean finely textured beef is healthy, safe, and nutritious; and

WHEREAS, a growing human population is in need of all food stuffs; and

WHEREAS, new technology in food production must be given latitude to bring new food products to the dinner table and prevent waste; and

WHEREAS, technology-generated food products have long been available to our diets such as chicken nuggets, fish cakes, tofu, imitation crab, white sugar, and white flour; and

WHEREAS, food technology at our universities and in private food research centers must be encouraged to face future food issues, including shortages and increased costs; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports the use of lean fine textured beef in any beef products.

This covers 001-CO.

SNAP

WHEREAS, the cost of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which now provides food stamps to one out of every seven Americans and costs four of every five dollars in the Farm Bill, roughly eighty billion dollars per year; and

WHEREAS, we now spend as much on food stamps as we do to fix our roads and bridges; and

WHEREAS, many newspapers suggest the title “Farm Bill” is a misnomer as most of the 1,000 page bill no longer deals with farmers or ranchers; and

WHEREAS, concerning the SNAP program, even though we spend 80 billion dollars per year on food stamps, we have no idea where or how the money is spent. The amount of money spent on food stamps has more than doubled in recent years and government statistics show that the amount of food stamps laundered into cash has increased dramatically; and

WHEREAS, USDA administers the SNAP program in conjunction with the states and contends that disclosing how much each store that is authorized to accept benefits receives in taxpayer funds would amount to revealing trade secrets. As a result, fraud is hard to track; and

WHEREAS, the USDA is notoriously secretive about who receives its money; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the United States Department of Agriculture increase the oversight in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to decrease fraud and ensure that SNAP is only used for its defined purposes.

This covers 003-NE.

Dairy

WHEREAS, the World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations; and

WHEREAS, the goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, WTO member governments agreed to improve market access and reduce trade-distorting subsidies in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the Agriculture Committee oversees the agreement's implementation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the dairy industry be adequately represented in World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations.

This covers 004-NC.

USDA Dairy Genetic Evaluation

WHEREAS, the United States Dairy Genetic Evaluation program is the best in the world due to its unbiased nature; and

WHEREAS, the cost to continue the program at USDA is less than 1% of the current USDA budget; and

WHEREAS, the current system is beneficial to the United States dairy farmers and to consumers alike; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange encourages the continued performance of dairy genetic evaluations for the dairy industry.

This covers 006-PA.

Protecting Farm Equipment

WHEREAS, theft of expensive agricultural/farm equipment is on the rise; and

WHEREAS, many of the stolen pieces of farming equipment are quickly sold to others or sold for scrap; and

WHEREAS, GPS tracking devices on equipment in inconspicuous places would greatly assist to recover stolen items more quickly; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of GPS tracking devices would be beneficial if added to equipment as a part of manufacturing or available for sale for installation on older equipment; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports the market availability of GPS tracking devices to monitor the locations of agricultural/farm equipment.

This covers 007-OH.

PRESENT POLICY

Family Farm Policies and Farm Preservation Programs

1. The National Grange believes that policies that promote a viable family farm structure in America's agricultural sector are in the best interests of all citizens. We reaffirm our support for farm commodity programs that serve the best interests of producers and consumers. The purpose of the Federal Farm Program is to ensure Americans an adequate supply of safe and wholesome food, provide some income protection to the food producers and protect our environment by providing incentives for soil and water conservation. The National Grange supports programs

that will stimulate interest and appreciation for an expanding agriculture industry that provides an abundant supply of reasonably priced food and fiber to meet our domestic needs and still export the products of one out of every three acres into the world markets.

2. The National Grange continues to strongly support family farms as an integral and important contributor to stable agricultural production and rural communities. We call upon the President and Congress to support programs and policies that will help sustain and enhance family farms by increasing the net farm income, providing economic and tax incentives, and credit and/or tax credits for soil and water conservation - without escalating the advantages to non-farm investors.
3. The National Grange believes that a family farm is a business or enterprise involved in the production of food, fiber and related products or services that is owned and operated by the members of a family who make the management and financial decisions and supply at least part of the labor.
4. The National Grange will continue to support the use of lands for the production of food and fiber as long as the enterprises are operated under best management practices as established by the Farm Program Division and the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
5. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture to maintain the Agriculture Cooperative Service (ACS) as an agency in order to enhance its critical roles in supporting farmer - owned cooperatives and the rural communities they serve.
6. Federal, state, and local agencies should work for efficient economic development policies that treat the agriculture industry on equal terms with other businesses and industries such as small business loans, tax incentives, marketing practices, and other programs that would help small farmers. The National Grange supports government rural development programs that provide local off-farm employment for rural people and that provide an improved income for small and medium-sized farms.
7. The National Grange supports public relation programs that disseminate accurate information on the efficiency and productivity of American agriculture as well as the contributions it has made in providing an adequate supply of food and fiber, and the important role the food and agricultural industry plays in the nation's economy. A coalition of farm and commodity organizations working together on common problems is in the best interest of agriculture and rural communities. Such a coalition will strengthen and preserve the economic wellbeing of the family farm. The National Grange will continue to support and take an active role in maintaining an effective national farm coalition. We support efforts to organize farm-city meetings, farm-city visits, as well as efforts to enlist the cooperation of the news media in presenting agricultural news. We endorse the efforts of the Agriculture Council of America, Livestock and Meat Board, Animal Industry Foundation, National Milk Producers Federation, and other agricultural organizations in a united program to tell agriculture's story to the American public. We will cooperate with and support the efforts of other agricultural organizations in their educational programs pertaining to false, unproven, and misleading statements about the production and safety of agricultural commodities in order to present a true picture of environmentally safe farm and ranch best-management practices.
8. The National Grange urges state and federal governments to strengthen, expand,

and enforce farmland protection programs to save our farmland for food and fiber production by designing tax laws to enable farm families to pass their land on to future generations. The National Grange supports a reduction in capital gains for retiring farmers who are willing to sell to beginning farmers. The National Grange will also work with Congress to find additional ways to contain urban sprawl through the use of purchasing development rights and conservation easements on agricultural land. However, we oppose the development of agricultural land trusts by financial institutions. We further oppose land purchase programs that involve the federal government as the purchaser and leaser of farmland.

9. The National Grange supports farmers' markets, family farms and community supported agriculture (CSA's) producing and selling homegrown agricultural products. Grange policy also supports the creation of pilot programs that endorse the buying of local fruits, vegetables and produce.
10. The National Grange urges the USDA to strictly enforce the Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act. We further oppose the use of public funds and/or the services of government agencies in the development of U.S.-based, foreign-owned agricultural enterprises.
11. The National Grange urges that a high-level staff position with appropriate resources, targeting the prevention and minimization of agro-terrorism be appointed as part of the Department of Homeland Security.
12. The National Grange encourages federal, state and local governments to protect agriculture against bio-terrorism.
13. The National Grange supports the return to former Farm Bill regulations allowing farm parcels with less than the new 10-acre minimum, but which have a previous history in the federal farm program, to continue to receive federal farm program payments.

Federal Programs, Commodity Loans, Target Prices, & Farm Storage Programs

1. The National Grange supports legislative and administrative actions that will obtain an economic return for the farmer on his investment of capital, labor, and management that is equal to that of the other segments of the economy. We support permanent programs for cotton, tobacco, peanuts, rice, corn silage, wool and mohair. Farm programs should be based on units of production, not acreage, and provide the individual farmer with maximum flexibility in their planting and production decisions. Target prices for major commodities should be based on economic need; set in relationship to the national average cost of production; and set at a level that will not encourage over-production. Marketing loan programs for major commodities, including soybeans and minor oilseeds, wheat, feed grains, cotton, rice, and other government-supported commodities should provide for a loan rate that is set at the national average cost of production and that redeems the loan at the lesser of the original loan or the state's monthly, weekly, or daily average market price as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. The difference between the regular loan rate and the marketing loan is to be retained by the farmer, provided the loan differential is subject to the \$50,000 payment limit. In the absence of a marketing loan, the traditional loan rate should be set at or near the cost of production.
2. The National Grange supports re-instituting the Farm Storage Facility Loans Program and a farmer-owned reserve program that will place limits on the total

amount of a specific commodity that is to be held in reserve as well as place limits on the amount of a commodity that any one farmer can place in the reserve. Storage rates should commensurate with the cost of on-farm storage to enable farmers to be in a better position to take advantage of storage payments. The Secretary of Agriculture should have discretionary authority to waive the interest charges on reserve loans. We further urge that there be a strict monitoring of grain stored under loan contracts by county, state and national USDA officers, and State Departments of Agriculture.

3. The National Grange supports port terminals and storage facilities for feed grains.
4. The National Grange encourages Congress to develop new farm programs that take into consideration the cross sector effect of such programs. We urge that competitive sectors be consulted in an effort to lessen the cross sector impact. We will continue to study the concept of the "Revenue Assurance Plan" as an alternative to present farm programs as a means of assisting family farmers.
5. The National Grange continues its long-standing support of the County and Community Committee System as the proper means of supervising and administering all farm programs. We pledge our full support for the federal government in investigating incidences of discrimination and in implementing action that will bring about changes to end racial discrimination in USDA policies. We urge stricter monitoring and enforcement of the Farm Service Agency's farm programs in order to eliminate any abuse of farm program regulations. The Grange supports funding and staffing of the Farm Services Agency at levels that are consistent with congressional mandates. In meeting these mandates, we will support co-location and cross-agency use of personnel from various agricultural agencies within counties where offices now exist.
6. The National Grange encourages the United States Department of Agriculture to enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act.
7. The National Grange supports immediate legislation by Congress, enacting the "Constructive Receipt" exemption in the 2002 Farm Bill, and in all future Farm Bills, to exempt advance program payments from taxable income for the year they are received and, instead, treat those payments as potentially taxable income for the year they were intended to cover.

Production Management Programs

1. The National Grange supports voluntary production control programs as a way of balancing supply with demand. Production control programs should be based on controlling the number of bushels (amount of product) allowed to qualify for price supports and by the requirements to set aside a specific percentage of a farm's crop production. We support eliminating any offsetting compliance requirements between farms related to production control programs but support maintaining cross compliance requirements for crops grown on the same farm. We support paid production diversion, with payments made in cash or in-kind, if farmers first comply with set-aside and other non-paid production control programs. We further recommend that any land diverted from agricultural production under farm programs remain eligible for conservation cost-share practices. Program benefits, i.e., loans, deficiency payments, etc. should be set at a level that is sufficient to accomplish the program's objectives and should be made available only to producers who comply with the program's requirements.

2. Production yields should be based on the proven yield of the land on that farm. We support allowing farmers to re-establish their proven yields but we further support requiring all crop production bases to be established using a soil suitability criteria rating rather than past crop history and changing farm programs so that a farmer will not lose their farm base from under-planting.
3. The National Grange supports allowing small farmers to have more than 1 plot of less than five acres per farm enrolled in set-aside programs.
4. The National Grange supports the concept of a Cover Crop Program that is voluntary and incentive-based for all farm programs that involve government funding.
5. Surplus food purchased by the Government should in no way be sold at reduced prices to be in competition with ongoing farm prices. Instead, we encourage surplus foods to be given to charitable organizations. The National Grange encourages increased USDA purchases of surplus agriculture products to be given away through various food assistance programs.
6. The National Grange supports the planting of Roundup Ready Sugar Beet Seed contingent on approval by the USDA.

Conservation Reserve and Agriculture Conservation Programs

1. The National Grange supports a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that will provide long-term solutions to natural resource concerns on our nation's farms. We believe that CRP programs should be integrated with other environmental protection programs and should have a high environmental benefit to the cost-ratio by accepting only highly erodible land for 10 years at a rental rate that is in relationship to its productive value. We believe that the commodity base acres in CRP land should remain as a production reserve and only be transferred to other production acres to meet increased export demand. However, we favor eliminating the offsetting and cross compliance provisions as they relate to the Conservation Reserve Program.
2. The National Grange recommends that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) enforce the inspection of CRP land for noxious weed control. CRP payments should be withheld from the owners of the CRP tracts that are infested with noxious weeds until the FCA or NRCS certifies that the noxious weed control program is being carried out by the landowner. To assist landowners in their responsibility to control noxious weeds, we further urge the USDA to change the date, when mowing to control noxious weeds is allowed on CRP lands from July 15 to at least as early as June
3. The National Grange supports federal funding for soil conservation, including sufficient funding to retain technical assistance for conservation. Annual Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) appropriations should be maintained at a level that will significantly help meet the conservation needs of America's farmland. Federal ACP guidelines should provide authority to the local committees so they can best meet conservation needs. Conservation contracts should follow land ownership with penalties assessed for destruction of said practices before the final contract date. In the event any federal conservation cost-share funds are granted to states, all such funds should be made available to farmers for cost-share payments. ACP funds should be used for the cost-sharing program for which they have been appropriated and none of these funds should be diverted for administrative costs of the states' delivery systems. The Farm Service Agency

should update its State ACP funds distribution formulas to help address the most serious long-term conservation needs.

4. The National Grange urges each State Grange work with their respective Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agencies in the development of proposed changes to Nutrient Management plans proposed in NRCS Code 590.

Dairy Policy, Milk Marketing Orders, Dairy Prices, and Inspections

1. The National Grange supports a milk supply management program that recognizes regional differences based upon the cost and amount of production, availability of markets, percentage of production that is allocated to CCC stocks, and the percentage of Class I use.
2. The National Grange supports the Northeast Dairy Compact, and the proposed Southern Dairy Compact, and other regional compacts that may be advantageous to producers and ultimately, the consumers.
3. The National Grange supports the use of Basic Formula Price (BFP) in determining the base price for dairy products, as well as multiple-component pricing for all classes of milk.
4. We support the continued payment of Class I differentials and oppose any effort to form a national pool of Class I milk differentials.
5. The National Grange opposes any change in the classification of reconstituted milk and the depooling of Class III milk.
6. The National Grange requests of all appropriate agencies, associations, and boards that milk prices received by dairy farmers be quoted in terms to which consumers can relate, such as price per gallon rather than price per hundredweight.
7. The National Grange urges Congress to pressure the USDA to raise the support price of milk to a level for the benefit of both the producer and the consumer. The National Grange supports legislation that is geared toward controlling volatility of month-to-month milk prices.
8. The National Grange also supports efforts that assist struggling dairy farmers by revising the national milk pricing system. We believe that a federal order system for milk pricing should include such concepts as: (1) supply side controls, (2) using the Chicago Mercantile Exchange cheese price as a replacement for Class III milk price rather than the Minnesota/Wisconsin cheese price, (3) charging Class I processors an assessment to fund the cost of cooperatives that balance the pool of milk in their areas, (4) keeping multiple component pricing, (5) declassifying Class I prices from other classes, (6) revamps the Dairy Product Price Support and Milk Income Loss Contract programs (7) creates a new dairy producer income insurance program (8) replaces the Cooperatives Working Together program with a mechanism to more quickly respond to changing market conditions and reduce price volatility. This would include a growth management program that is flexible and responsive to market conditions while providing producers with the ability to grow; (9) provides that any Growth Management Program must contain a minimum time period of 5 years before a total buy-out of a dairy operation can be restarted or if a partial buy-out of a herd, before an increase in production from the operation will be allowed.
9. The National Grange supports the implementation of a forward contracting pilot program for all classes of milk other than Class I. We support close monitoring of this program to assure that forward contracting does not adversely affect dairy

farmer profitability. However, any monitoring or review of the forward contracting policy program must be sensitive to, and protect the privacy of, individual dairy farmers participating in the pilot program.

10. The Grange continues to seek an increase in exports of milk and milk products. We support funding of the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) to the full limit permitted by WTO agreements. We urge milk cooperatives and other associations to become actively involved in the development of export markets for dairy products. We support additional funding for USDA to provide technical assistance to private sector dairy export trading entities.
11. The National Grange opposes the importation of caseinates and urges the adoption of tariff rate quotes on Milk Protein Concentrates entering the country. The National Grange supports having milk used to produce Milk Protein Concentrate (MPC) included in the total milk produced in the area Federal Milk Marketing order and urge the adoption of standards on how MPC is used and inspected to ensure compliance.
12. The National Grange continues to support the National Dairy Product Promotion Program as a means to promote and increase the consumption of dairy products. We urge the USDA to periodically account to the public for any monies that have been collected from dairy farmers under any assessment programs.
13. The Extension Service, nutrition educators, farm organizations, processors, and vendors should promote the nutritional value of “Real” dairy products and should promote use of the “Real Seal” merchandising program.
14. The National Grange continues to support government purchases of dairy for domestic programs.
15. The National Grange opposes the Food and Drug Administration’s proposal to allow products with the “nutritional equivalency” of a food to be labeled “substitute.” We suggest that any “imitation” or “substitute” product which resembles a dairy product, whether or not nutritionally equivalent, yet includes substitute dairy ingredients, may not in any manner be allowed to bear the name of the dairy product which it is purported to resemble. This also includes imported “imitation” or “substitute” products. The National Grange supports Federal Government oversight to enforce strict labeling regulations concerning organic milk, ensuring that all milk labeled organic comes from certified organic farms only.
16. The National Grange opposes legislation that requires the labeling of milk/milk products as it relates to rbST.
17. The National Grange supports legislation that would extend the present pay and trust provision of the Packers and Stockyards Act to the dairy industry. We further support a national security fund, funded by processors or secured by bonding, to protect against processor bankruptcy if the fund does not preempt a stronger state program.
18. We recognize the need for dairy farm and dairy plant inspections to help insure the highest quality of dairy products, but insist that duplication of inspections by the several government entities (city, county, state and federal) be discontinued, where possible. The several levels of government should agree to accept uniform and reciprocal dairy farm and dairy plant inspections.
19. The National Grange encourages the continued performance of dairy genetic evaluations for the dairy industry.
20. The National Grange supports passage of the National Dairy Equity Act.

21. The federal government should extend past September 2005 cut off and refine the MILC program with the intent of supporting dairy farmers during these times of low prices without encouraging increased production.
22. The National Grange at all levels encourages the Dairy Co-ops to voluntarily initiate a program that allows membership of the Co-op to vote on any program that takes money out of the farmer's pocket with a yes vote for approval
23. The National Grange urges the Food and Drug Administration to keep dairy as a separate food group, and assure a place on the Food Pyramid or daily recommendations for dairy and meat products.
24. The National Grange supports efforts to convince the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to finalize the rule that would exempt dairy farmers from the oil spill intervention requirement.
25. The National Grange should actively participate in educational activities that are focused on informing the public of the value and protection provided by the pasteurization process.

Tobacco Policy

1. The Grange continues to support a quota system and price support program for flue-cured and burley tobacco as well as research on methods to make tobacco marketing more efficient. The Secretary of Agriculture should adjust the tobacco price support program annually. The price support formula should be amended to include carry over tobacco in determining the next year's effective quota. We recommend that CCC tobacco loans be repaid on the same basis that other commodity groups pay loans. We further support programs for flue-cured and burley tobacco that are no-net-cost to the federal government and provided assessments that are charged to growers and manufacturers to covers the entire cost of tobacco programs. We support efforts within the tobacco industry to reduce the no net cost assessments paid by producers and purchasers in the future.
2. The National Grange supports continuing the lease and transfer program. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture should establish rules to permit the combining of allotments of one farm where a tract of land is owned in a contiguous operation in adjoining counties. We further support an amendment to the existing tobacco law that will provide for emergency lease and transfer in the fall season to address natural disasters when these disasters result in a 10% or greater loss of their quota being produced. Such emergency transfer should provide that growers could lease no more than 110 percent of quota.
3. The National Grange recommends that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture use simple regulations in requiring cigarette manufacturers to report only the total use of domestically-grown and imported tobacco by class or kind of tobacco, thus leaving manufacturers the flexibility to adjust blends for their various brands of cigarettes to meet their customer demand.
4. The National Grange supports programs at the federal level to help tobacco farmers diversify their farming operation by raising and marketing of alternative crops and will support new research programs to discover new uses for tobacco, such as a new source of protein.
5. The National Grange supports negotiations, regulations, or legislation to control the importation of low grade, inferior quality tobacco.
6. The National Grange supports steps to make U.S. tobacco more competitive in the

world market. We urge that all tobacco that is exported as U.S. tobacco must be certified as 100 percent U.S. tobacco.

7. The National Grange continues to support the Tobacco Auction System, and support necessary improvements to modernize the Auction System to meet new packaging ideas and technology in order to facilitate the movement of tobacco through the Auction System.

Horticulture, Beekeeping and Honey

1. The National Grange recommends continuing research to improve the development of more freeze-resistant nursery stock and methods of frost control.
2. The National Grange recommends that a realistic tariff be placed on imported honey to protect the financial position of the U.S. bee industry that is necessary for the pollination of U.S. agricultural crops. We support the enactment of federal laws that will provide for the inspection of honeybees and honeybee hives that are transported across state lines in an effort to better control the spread of honeybee diseases and parasites. We urge Congress to set up a “bee zone” and appropriate the necessary funds to stop or at least slow down the northward invasion of the killer bees. We further recommend that the USDA promote a program to educate the general public on the importance of bees, and on the destructive Africanized bees now invading the southern United States.
3. The National Grange supports increased research through the states in growing mushroom spawn.
4. The National Grange supports expansion of Federal Crop Insurance and Multi-Peril Insurance Programs to include horticultural crops.
5. The National Grange calls upon the Department of Agriculture, Land Grant universities, and industries to continue research efforts to determine expanded uses for surplus fruits and vegetables.
6. The National Grange supports research efforts aimed toward solving the problem occurring with Honey Bee Colony Collapse. A particular cause for this syndrome has not been identified, but research suggests that colony collapse may be caused by a combination of many factors, one of which is the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in agriculture production. If a definite link is established between the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and the death of honeybees, immediate action should be taken to curtail or eliminate the use of these pesticides where bees are used for pollination.

Cotton, Soybeans, and Peanut Policies

1. The National Grange supports continuing the peanut program with no further reductions in price supports. We recommend closer communication between the USDA and the peanut growers associations.
2. The National Grange urges the President of the United States to allow foreign grown peanuts and peanut by-products to enter this country only if severe growing conditions in the United States have depleted the peanut supply such that the system cannot supply the peanut and processed peanut market over a six month time-frame and that the peanuts and peanut by-products imported meet the same quality standards as U.S. peanuts.
3. The Grange will support a cotton program that provides for a marketing loan at a level that will encourage the continued exportation of cotton, as well as research

into the eradication of detrimental insects.

4. The National Grange supports the use and promotion of soybeans.

Livestock Production and Animal Care

1. The National Grange supports effective regulations to require interstate transporters of livestock to maintain transport vehicles in a sanitary condition in order to prevent the spread of the disease.
2. The National Grange seeks a federal indemnification standby program for livestock and poultry diseases that are not presently covered. Such a program would apply only in cases that require condemnation and slaughter to eradicate or control the given diseases. We further support federal indemnity programs to indemnify farmers against loss through no fault of theirs in cases such as radioactive fallout, chemical contamination, and bio-terrorism.
3. The National Grange opposes any effort of the federal government to require individual identification of farm animals sold for processing.
4. The National Grange supports legislation and rulings that will strengthen the Packers and Stockyards Act to ensure producers have adequate price discovery, price transparency, and fairness in the marketing of U.S. livestock.
5. The National Grange supports exotic animal farming provided it does not create a health hazard for the domestic livestock industry.
6. The National Grange continues to support the beef promotion programs. We urge State Beef Councils to join in cooperative efforts to target Beef Check-off Funds to larger consumer audiences. However, the National Grange recommends that the National Beef Promotion Board consider eliminating the \$1 “Beef Check-off” on any animal that, when sold, the farmer would receive \$20 or less.
7. The National Grange strongly supports the livestock, poultry and dairy industries as suppliers of food and fiber that are so necessary for today’s standard of living. We will continue to inform the public of the economics and importance of the livestock industry and their contributions to a balanced nutritional diet. We will continue to cooperate with the Animal Welfare Coalition to combat misleading statements made by animal rights organizations regarding animal agriculture.
8. The National Grange believes that the regulation of livestock and poultry care should be a state issue and does not support the establishment of federal standards.
9. The National Grange supports the use of lean fine textured beef in any beef products.
10. The National Grange supports using animals in animal agricultural research in order to advance the science of animal husbandry in the most humane and economic fashion. The National Grange opposes efforts to declare animals to be “sentient beings,” and all efforts to give animals the legal protections to which humans are entitled. We support the development of educational programs that demonstrate the advantages and humanness of modern animal husbandry. We oppose any legislation and/or regulations that would hinder good animal husbandry practices. Instead, we support developing a code of “best management practices” for the care and maintenance of agricultural animals and other animals that are under human control. We also support efforts to severely punish any individuals and organizations that commit illegal actions against animal agricultural producers and animal agricultural and biomedical researchers and facilities. We support the voluntary efforts of farmers in reducing the number of injured or downer animals. We encourage livestock auction markets to continue their programs of not

accepting animals that are injured or are too weak to stand. We support the efforts of commercial processing facilities to continue the humane disposal of unwanted agricultural animals.

11. The National Grange strongly opposes legislation calling for the severe curtailment of the veal industry by such measures as eliminating confinement stalls and crates. However, the Grange will work with the National Veal Association to correct or remove the veal production practices that are not within the guidelines of best veal management. We further recommend that a USDA grader be assigned to all veal calf slaughtering plants so that a farmer or seller receives a fair price from the packing plant for their veal based on the grade that was determined by the inspector and not the plant manager.
12. The National Grange supports rodeos, the use of animals in rodeos, and the great heritage rodeos represent.
13. The National Grange supports efforts to deal with concentrated animal feeding operations issues emphasizing sensible control and enforcement, the development of nutrient management plans, developing cost efficient odor reduction technology, and the zoning of agricultural districts. We recommend the development and use of “the best management practices” for the handling of animal and poultry wastes. We support liability protection for farmers who follow the appropriate regulations and “best management practices.” We also support strict laws that regulate large livestock enterprises so that they apply nutrients according to an approved nutrient management plan to assure that excess nutrients will not contaminate the waters of the United States. We also recommend strict construction standards to new earthen manure lagoons and set a phase-in period after which existing lagoons would have to meet appropriate standards. We support prohibiting indefinite storage of animal waste by requiring treatment according to federal wastewater standards if the waste is not applied to land or used in another environmentally sound matter. We further support regulations or other provisions to prevent animal owners from using contracts or similar arrangements to avoid responsibilities for animal waste management. We support imposing tough new penalties on the worst polluters. However, we believe that the implementation of any rules and regulations forcing compliance with the Clean Water Act for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations should not become mandatory until all technical expertise and funding is secured and available for the timely compliance with these directives.
14. The National Grange believes the Environmental Protection Agency should not be empowered or allowed to levy fines, fees, or any other monetary pressure based on natural emissions of livestock that may ultimately affect greenhouse gases.
15. The National Grange encourages Congress to restore the original cost-share funding of three million dollars for manure pits.
16. The National Grange at all levels seeks legislation to accomplish a national identification for livestock and poultry. The program should include safeguards to protect the privacy of the farmers and the Grange will work at all levels to have farmer privacy provisions included in the national identification for livestock program legislation.
17. The National Grange encourages all livestock operations to follow the goals of the Beef Quality Assurance Program and the Pork Quality Assurance Program. These actions will help manage their herds with respect to the following:
 - a. Proper use of pharmaceuticals;

- b. Management of their feed sources;
- c. Low stress animal handling techniques;
- d. Proper housing and living standards;
- e. Proper transportation techniques and transport space requirements;
- f. Culling strategies to maintain optimum herd health; and
- g. Numerous other management tools that help to make the animals healthier, more comfortable and as a result, more productive.

Livestock and Poultry Disease Control

1. The National Grange supports continued efforts to eradicate Brucellosis, Johne's Disease, Hoof and Mouth disease, Bovine Leukemia virus, tuberculosis, and screw worms, as well as the continued monitoring of our nation's borders against re-infestation of these and other infectious livestock diseases.
2. The National Grange supports funding of increased research to control and eradicate poultry diseases and parasites, the National Grange also urges the USDA to work with State Departments of Agriculture on a cooperative effort to enforce and inspect egg production, including egg grading and egg safety.
3. The National Grange supports blood testing for Johne's disease in cattle. We further support the development of a test that can isolate the causal organism of Johne's disease in a shorter time frame.
4. The National Grange requests that health charts show freedom from TB and Brucellosis when dairy cattle are either sold or shown.
5. The National Grange opposes any ban on the use of antibiotics in livestock and poultry feed unless the Food and Drug Administration or other agencies have scientifically established and determined that the use of these antibiotics are detrimental to human health. We oppose any proposals to reclassify over-the-counter animal drugs as prescription-only drugs unless scientifically based information suggests drugs should be reclassified on a drug-by-drug basis. We strongly recommend that all producers who use antibiotics, growth stimulants and other feed additives abide by the directions for the use of, and withdrawal provisions for, such products
6. The National Grange supports the establishment of firm guidelines for the management of bison and elk in the National Parks to control the spread of brucellosis and the high risk of undulant fever in humans.

Food and Meat Inspection Programs

1. The National Grange urges an increase in inspection regulations on all livestock, feed, meats, dairy products and all by-products being imported from all countries to the United States for the protection of our animal industry. We support extending mandatory inspection regulations to seafood. We support legislation to implement pathogen detection and reduction strategies based on sound science that targets micro bio-contamination by pathogens that may be harmful to consumers. We request the USDA to strengthen the inspection process for meat and poultry that is being imported into the United States. However, we will oppose adopting "user fees" to pay for inspection services and or any changes in the system that will result in less than continuous inspection during processing of meat and poultry for human consumption.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to eliminate the unfair prohibition against

the interstate shipment of state inspected meat and poultry products if the state meat and poultry inspection service is equal to or better than the federal meat and poultry inspection service system.

3. The National Grange urges Congress to fund, and the USDA to develop and disseminate, educational programs relative to safe handling of foods.
4. The National Grange will seek legislation to have the uniform expiration date stamped, not coded, on all processed food.
5. The National Grange strongly urges that the USDA work with State Departments of Agriculture on a cooperative effort to enforce and inspect egg production including egg grading and egg safety. Furthermore, the National Grange supports the effort where USDA and FDA work more closely together on food safety issues and that the two agencies should be given more power to order food recalls and close down firms with records of serial contamination violations.
6. The National Grange supports legislation requiring more open notice to the consumer on products containing M.R.M (machine removed meat).
7. The National Grange opposes federal legislation that would presume that all food, including food produced for local market sale and consumption, should be treated as potentially hazardous and would require family farmers to produce and maintain onerous amounts of paperwork indicating what production inputs were purchased and when food produced on an individual farm will be consumed, in order to reach an unattainable goal of total traceability of all food produced in the United States, all the way through the food system. Additionally, the National Grange opposes federal legislation that would add an unwelcome layer of national bureaucratic paperwork to the business of producing food to meet local demand without demonstrating any commensurate food safety benefits to consumers, or cost reductions that benefit family farmers or their local customers.
8. The National Grange supports the establishment of additional mobile slaughterhouses meeting USDA standards.

Farmer Credit Programs and the Farm Credit System

1. The primary function of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) should be a lender of last resort for farmers who are unable to acquire needed capital from conventional lending sources. Caution must be exercised to avoid granting undue advantage to large operations at the expense of family-sized farming units. The Grange urges the FSA to strengthen farm loan programs and assist borrowers in “graduating” to conventional credit sources. Loan programs should provide needed short and long-term low interest credit for soil and water conservation. We believe that the local committees should have the legal authority to act upon all farmer loans. We support providing emergency loans and management assistance during times of natural disasters, commodity embargoes, or economic setbacks to expedite the application, review and granting process for these loans. During situations of economic stress facing FSA farm borrowers, we support maintaining the right of mediation on farm loan foreclosures. We further believe that the present owner/operator or beginning farmer should be given the first consideration of sale or lease in disposing of foreclosed farms.
2. The National Grange supports the separation of the truly agricultural production and farm ownership lending programs from lending programs generally associated with rural development such as the Business and Industry Loan Program, water

and sewer loans, and non-farm family homes, to free Farm Service Agency county office staff to better supervise agricultural production loans. Business and Industrial Loan Guarantee Programs should be administered so they do not interfere with providing credit to family farmers.

3. The National Grange supports Farm Credit System programs that will service the needs of farmers who are actively and directly engaged in the production of agricultural commodities. We support retaining the present tax exemptions that apply to the Farm Credit System, and we specifically recommend that the Farm Credit System create policies and programs that will assist young and beginning farmers. We oppose efforts by the Farm Credit System to increase its activities regarding insurance coverage for its farm borrowers.
4. The National Grange recommends that the lending authority of the Farm Credit System be expanded to address the total needs of rural communities, including rural economic development. We support the financing of on-farm and off-farm facilities that add value to agricultural commodities or provide services to agricultural production and marketing as well as financing for agricultural exports to all foreign markets. We further support FCS financing directed toward the development of rural enterprises engaged in the development of alternative uses for agricultural commodities and the development of rural infrastructures, such as water and sewer systems and the creation of state of the art telecommunication systems for rural areas.
5. The National Grange supports requiring all agricultural lending institutions, including those under the Federal Reserve System, to consider the security and payment history of the applicant rather than relying entirely upon his/her cash flow.

Agriculture Trade Policy

1. The National Grange continues to support legislation, trade agreements and other measures that will lead to the freeing of world trade between nations on a mutually beneficial basis. We support "fast track" trade legislation to provide the President with sufficient legal authority to negotiate effectively for a reduction in trade barriers, both tariff and non-tariff. We continue to favor the principles set forth by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and will support amendments to the WTO that will call for swifter remedies to trade disputes. The Grange must continue to work for sound trade agreements for agriculture by encouraging the Administration and Congress to aggressively ensure that American farmers achieve access to all markets covered by trade agreements.
2. The National Grange supports the dairy industry being adequately represented in World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations.
3. The National Grange supports the permanent appointment of a Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. We support the strong representation of U.S. agricultural interests in all negotiations regarding U.S. trade relations, and to ensure that the cost of research and development is not born solely by the American farmer.
4. The National Grange continues to work for an adequate food supply for the entire world. We encourage increased food production in developing countries. To that end, we support an international food program that provides for the support of all nations in a cooperative endeavor to meet current and projected food needs in deficient areas and ensures that food will be available and efficiently distributed.

All nations should give more support for research, education and development of programs designed to improve the capability of farmers in food deficient areas to meet more of the food needs of their people.

5. The National Grange supports the development of a consistent policy on the use of sanctions by the U.S. government. The Grange opposes trade embargoes as a first choice of action, but should all choices fail, short of military action, and a trade embargo becomes the only alternative, the Grange urges the federal government to embargo all products- agricultural, industrial and technical- instead of specific agricultural commodities. If sanctions become necessary as a tool of foreign policy, then sanctions should be used only as a consequence of multilateral sanctions.
6. In any new trade negotiations or discussions in re-opening any existing trade pacts, the National Grange strongly supports the inclusion of policy to protect state laws, including defense of such laws by the proper authorities in any trade court.
7. The Granges at all levels pressure our Federal Legislators, both the House and Senate, to vote No on FTAA. We believe it will only lower the standard of living in the U.S. by forcing the job market to move to other countries.
8. The National Grange insists that representatives of USDA and the Dept. of Homeland Security be present at all Free Trade negotiations to insure that an adequate supply of domestically produced dairy products be maintained. Congress should diligently scrutinize all Free Trade Agreements to protect agriculture production in the event of serious food shortages caused by natural disaster, disease or terrorism before voting the Trade Agreement “up or down.”

Agriculture Imports

1. The National Grange supports strict enforcement of laws regulating the importation of harmful species of plants and animals. We further support measures which will require tighter oversight and control at port of entry and market outlets in an effort to control the importation of exotic fowl, pet birds, and the establishment of procedures for the treatment of imported cargoes to prevent the importation of plant or animal insects or diseases.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would require the USDA to certify that food products coming into the USA for human consumption have not been grown or treated with products that are not currently registered for use on food products in the United States.
3. The National Grange does not approve of using inspections, grading, health, and sanitary or labeling standards as non-tariff barriers to trade. We do support placing import quotas and/or import tariffs on agricultural commodities as a means of protecting domestic markets from seasonal and over trend market penetration surges. We urge Congress and the President to investigate dumping of food products from other countries to the US market that affect the agriculture industry in the United States. We insist that all imported agricultural products, including value-added commodities, meet the same strict inspection, unapproved pesticide residues, grading, and labeling standards as domestically-produced products and that these standards be strictly enforced, and the country of origin supply certification that the imported product is free of harmful diseases and pests. We specifically recommend that all imported products be labeled with the name of the country of origin until the consumer purchases it. We further support the elimination of all export subsidies on agricultural products imported into the United States or the

imposition of countervailing duties to offset the subsidy value.

4. The National Grange supports strict enforcement of existing countervailing duties to offset the subsidy value on certain agricultural and timber products being imported from Canada to protect the agriculture and timber industries in states along the Canadian border.
5. Imports of animals, meat, meat products and bone meal into the United States from any country having Mad Cow Disease should be stopped until scientific data shows otherwise.

Agriculture Exports & Embargoes

1. The National Grange encourages its members to work through their commodity export promotion organizations on increasing the producers' participation in export market development. We strongly support retaining the present system of private enterprise and cooperatives in export sales. We continue to support government export credit programs, including blended credit, and propose the establishment of a revolving export credit fund. We further support the formation of a national marketing federation of regional marketing cooperatives to cover all agricultural export commodities and better serve the world's markets. We encourage all segments of the agricultural community to increase their private investment in export market development for American agricultural commodities
2. The National Grange supports legislation or administrative action that will continue to maintain and increase the exporting of agricultural commodities. We recommend new emphasis on cash sales for agricultural products along with aggressive exportation of high value-added products. The USDA should take a larger role in the administration and distribution of United States' food-aid programs.
3. The National Grange urges the Grain Inspection Service of the USDA to take all necessary steps to insure that only grain of the quality specified in the purchase be moved into the export markets.
4. The National Grange supports increasing market development programs conducted through the USDA and AID with emphasis on financing and development of the infrastructure of recipient countries to facilitate the receiving and distribution of U.S. agricultural products.
5. The National Grange will oppose restrictions being placed on imports into the United States that could result in retaliatory action being taken against U.S. agricultural exports by the exporting country. We recommend that further legislative and/or administrative actions be taken to enhance the exportation of U.S. agricultural commodities. We strongly support keeping the authority to determine national agricultural export policy in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We support all efforts to maintain the sanctity of export contracts. We support monitoring and full public disclosure of information concerning sales to foreign countries. We support negotiations to eliminate all tariff and non-tariff trade restrictions against United States' agricultural exports.
6. The National Grange will oppose any attempt to embargo, restrict or otherwise burden the export of logs or any other privately grown agricultural commodity by a complete or partial ban, quota, or tax of any nature.
7. The National Grange supports swift implementation of the Taft-Hartley Act's provisions against workers who refuse to load agricultural commodities for export.
8. The National Grange supports developing agricultural trade with Cuba. We seek

means whereby Cuba might be extended loans and/or credit to purchase U.S. agricultural products.

Marketing and Cooperatives

1. The National Grange opposes any repeal of the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922, and strongly supports agricultural cooperatives and the special legal status granted to agricultural cooperatives under this Act.
2. Agricultural cooperatives should be owned and controlled by farmers. We support tax law changes that would allow cooperatives to raise additional equity capital to expand cooperative operations as long as such equity does not undermine farmer ownership and control of their cooperative. We support allowing grain-marketing cooperatives to receive commodity loans.
3. The National Grange supports purchasing, processing, and marketing rural electric and telephone cooperatives that are providing high quality products and services to their members.
4. The National Grange urges the USDA and other appropriate agencies to continue their educational programs for farmers on the use of the futures market through hedging and other marketing options to increase farm profitability.
5. The National Grange continues to support the efforts of commodity organizations to improve the promotional activities for their products.
6. The National Grange endorses federal and state legislation to protect the bargaining status of cooperatives. Purchasers should be required to recognize and negotiate in good faith with the designated representatives of their producers. The right of producers to control by democratic means the selection of bargaining cooperatives to represent them should be guaranteed by law. Processors of agricultural products should be prohibited from intimidating growers or withholding growers' contracts because of membership in a bargaining association.
7. The National Grange supports extending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1937 to include all agricultural commodities. Following the marketing order approval by a referendum of respective producers, regulations covering allocating aggregate market supply among markets in time, space, and form; trading practices; grading standards; container and other terms of sale should be issued under the order. The USDA should have the administrative responsibility to implement Federal Marketing Orders.
8. The National Grange urges the USDA to cooperate fully with the states in developing direct farmer to consumer marketing programs.
9. The National Grange recommends that the provisions of any check-off be approved by a majority of the producers of that commodity in a national referendum. Following producer approval, the programs shall be mandatory, without refunds, and that no more than 5% of the check-off funds can be used for administrative costs. The funds shall be under the control of the promotion board with oversight responsibility in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
10. The National Grange supports a study to determine the feasibility of a check-off program for wheat to fund a research, educational and promotional program on the nutritional benefits of wheat flour products.
11. The National Grange supports increased research by government and industry to discover and develop new uses and markets for agricultural commodities, including the development of value-added products with the aid of non-farm groups. We

further support a national agricultural marketing policy which would encourage farmers to retain important production and marketing decisions in their own hands and that would encourage domestic regional marketing cooperatives to develop a cooperative marketing federation that is capable of entering into the international market for selling farm commodities.

12. The National Grange supports integrating and coordinating existing state and federal governments' export marketing programs, such as the Market Access Program, the Market Promotion Program, and other similar programs that are designed to develop and expand foreign markets for U.S. farm products. We believe that these programs should be limited to domestic firms and targeted to new exporting companies, small businesses and individual farmers who sell directly into export markets. We urge Congress and the USDA to reinstate the Export Enhancement Program in order to meet the price competition in world markets. New efforts should be made in the development of marketing programs to expand agricultural exports that encourage the participation of new export marketing groups, such as farm cooperatives and export trading companies. Farmers selling commodities directly into the export market should be subject to all of the protections and restrictions that apply to corporations and other commercial ventures that are selling into the export market.
13. The National Grange supports retaining present state standards for maple syrup, and opposes any mandatory federal regulations that would be less stringent than present state regulations.
14. The Grange vigorously opposes any effort that would abolish the current practice of carcass quality pricing of beef and swine in favor of one-value fits all price concepts.

Chemicals for Agriculture: Weed, Pest and Predator Control

1. The National Grange urges the EPA to consult with state, industry, and user groups when developing policy and regulations that relate to pesticide industries. The National Grange also urges the EPA to use a reasonable approach in carrying out the provisions and requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. We recommend relying on impartial scientific research data that is based on the normal human consumption patterns of a product before suspending or canceling the use of a particular chemical. We urge more review and study of a chemical before the public is advised that an agricultural chemical may be harmful to their health. We support increased research and education being done by the USDA and EPA to improve integrated pest management. To that end, we support the reinstatement and full funding of the USDA's Pesticide Data Program. We further recommend that Congress provide additional funds for Land Grant Colleges and Universities to be more actively involved with biological pest control research.
2. The National Grange supports efforts to provide information to growers and farmers on actions that can be taken when adverse public statements are made questioning their use of agricultural chemicals that are legally registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We support legislation that would allow producers and handlers to seek criminal and punitive damages from people or organizations that disseminate false or unsubstantiated information that causes punitive harm to a grower or handler of an agricultural product, including seeking equal media time. We further seek legislation that would protect a farmer from criminal or civil

- liability regarding that farmer's use or disposal of an EPA-registered and approved herbicide or pesticide in accordance with the manufacturer's printed instructions.
3. The National Grange supports the reasonable and practical use of agricultural chemicals as well as reasonable and practical standards for reentry to fields or areas treated with agricultural chemicals. We urge the USDA to establish a certification program that encourages herbicide applicators to use best management practices to prevent damage to adjacent property. We further support adequate funding for increased research by all appropriate government agencies to develop, improve, and disseminate information on alternative or sustainable agriculture. We support developing educational programs for farmers on the safe use and disposal of agricultural chemicals, including their containers, in an environmentally safe way.
 4. The National Grange supports certification and re-certification programs for all restricted use pesticides. All applicators of restricted-use pesticides should be certified in the application of restricted-use pesticides.
 5. The National Grange supports allowing the continued and appropriate use of the following farm chemicals: 2-4-D for weed control; triazines as a crop protectant; Elgetol for thinning apples; Compound 1080 for predator control; Methyl bromide for controlling insect infestations in stored commodities and any chemicals found to be effective in controlling fire ants. We further encourage the EPA to reevaluate their restrictions on certain pesticides that are used for grasshopper control so that a more effective environmental control program may be offered to farmers and ranchers.
 6. The National Grange supports legislation that provides increased and continuous funding for the IR-4 minor use pesticides program. We recommend streamlining the approval process for minor use pesticides by reducing the cost and time necessary for registration or re-registration.
 7. The National Grange supports a federal Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) that updates standards pertaining to pesticide and chemical residue in food be revisited, utilizing new technologies for determining food safety based on the negligible risk standard. We specifically urge the Environmental Protection Agency to implement the FQPA by using sound scientific data based on actual use of pesticides and agricultural chemicals and by providing a transition period for agriculture to adjust to the withdrawal of an approved pesticide.
 8. The Cooperative Extension Service and the State Departments of Agriculture, in cooperation with retail and wholesale dealers of lawn and garden pesticides, should conduct special pesticide application classes for homeowners to ensure the proper use and disposal of unused chemicals and their containers. The sale of lawn and garden pesticides should be monitored closely by local and state authorities to ensure that restricted-use pesticides are not sold to uncertified applicators.
 9. The National Grange opposes the EPA classifying plants as a pesticide based upon genetic engineering.
 10. All fertilizer manufacturers using toxic, heavy metal, chemical or radioactive wastes should be required to list those components on the package label.
 11. The National Grange will support a high priority program for the control of noxious weeds on all lands including Witchweed, Tartanian Honeysuckle, Russian or Autumn Olive and Multiflora Rose.
 12. The National Grange urges the USDA to continue funding for the control of the

Asian Gypsy Moth; Pine Beetle; Tussock Moth; and the Asian Long Horned Beetle. We support additional funding and legal authority to restrict the importation of foreign pests into the US. We urge USDA to alert the general public to the potential threat that foreign insects pose to our native species.

13. The National Grange supports legislation allowing farmers, ranchers and others to protect their property from predators, including endangered species.
14. The National Grange urges Congress to prohibit all sales of any form (live, dried, seeds) of any plant that has been placed on a state, regional or national noxious weed list.

Research and Extension

1. The National Grange strongly supports the cooperative Extension Service (ES), as well as the land grant universities in their effort to maintain a quality extension program in their respective states. The ES should continue to provide leadership to the agricultural and rural sectors with programs directed primarily to improving the quality of rural life. We recommend renewed federal funding for the State Farm Safety Specialist position and farm safety programs, establishing a job retraining program for displaced, disabled, or injured farmers and ranchers, maintaining a viable 4-H Program, and increased funding by all government entities so that the ES can provide information on alternative and sustainable agricultural practices and marketing methods.
2. The National Grange continues to strongly support adequate funding for basic and applied agricultural research from federal, state and private sources. We specifically recommend full funding of the federal share of agricultural research, especially in cases of emergencies when increased research is required. We strongly support additional research to provide the technology that is pertinent to small-scale agriculture, including more emphasis on research in the areas of marketing, insect control, disease control, energy use, improved product quality, and soil and water management.
3. The National Grange supports increased funding for the National Seed Storage Laboratory in an effort to preserve plant material and seed germplasm.
4. The National Grange will support the goals of sustainable agriculture research and education programs that will promote the most efficient and effective Best Management Practices (BMT) to reduce soil loss due to erosion protect water quality from degradation by substance discharge from agricultural operations, and to identify methodologies that will result in higher profitability from production through market development.
5. The National Grange supports expansion of precision agriculture practices to include poultry and livestock production to make animal nutrition more effective, reduce the amount of waste, and reduce the nutrient levels in the waste.
6. The National Grange endorses existing organic farming research and education.
7. The National Grange urges the USDA to grant the New England Agriculture Innovation Center \$1,000,000 the first year and \$1,000,000 the second year.

Biotechnology Policy, Research and Application to Agriculture

1. The National Grange supports a federal policy to allow the use of biotechnology in agriculture. We recognize that genetic engineering of plants and animals has already had a positive impact on increasing the availability of food; decreasing

the environmental impact of agriculture and creating foods that are safer, longer-lasting, more nutritious and better tasting. We further support continued research on biotechnology and genetic engineering, including further scientific research into non-human cloning. We support an approval process for genetically modified plants and animals that utilizes science-based decision making to assure the safety of agricultural products. To that end, the National Grange philosophically supports the efforts of National Science Foundation (NSF) concerning their Plant Genome Initiative.

2. The National Grange supports legislation that provides that patented plants and livestock that have been developed through biotechnology (gene-splitting, cloning, genetic engineering, etc.) will be made available to farmers by provisions that will not result in a concentration of the patented livestock in the hands of a few large firms and will not interfere with their availability to all farmers.
3. The Grange urges the FDA, EPA, USDA, and other national farm organizations to publicize the safety of GMO's to help reduce the resistance to the use of this technology providing correct and scientifically verified information on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) to news media and other outlets to enhance the availability of truthful information and ultimately provide more information to the world community.

Anti-Trust Issues

1. The National Grange recommends that Congress investigate the possibility that very large corporations that own and operate livestock/poultry slaughtering plants as well as very large livestock/poultry feeding facilities are violating anti-trust laws. We question whether or not those firms are engaged in price manipulation resulting from their control of an extremely large portion of the market; their lack of competitive bidding because of the regionally specific location of the slaughtering plants that are owned by these corporations and their access to their own large numbers of fed animals or poultry in their own feeding facilities. If any firms are found to be in violation of anti-trust laws, the Department of Justice or the Federal Trade Commission should take the necessary action to uphold the laws.
2. The National Grange calls on the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the agricultural supply, agricultural transportation, grain handling, pricing policies and the potential anti-competitive marketing practices of all large corporations in the food processing and food marketing industries. We oppose the concentrated growing, marketing and distribution of agricultural production by large corporations other than farm co-operatives in the US. We call upon the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the pricing policy of the food industry and anti-competitive marketing practices, such as the purchasing of shelf space and product location that places new and less expensive generic brands at a marketing disadvantage. We express deep anti-trust concerns regarding the control of the U.S. seed supply to both Congress and the Department of Justice and urge both to conduct a close review of recent acquisitions and mergers.
3. The National Grange urges the Secretary of Agriculture to appoint a study committee composed of representatives from farm organizations, commodity groups, and integrators to study the terms of grower contracts to determine fairness to both parties and their acceptance by lending institutions. We further support better nationwide reporting of price and contract information, including forward contract prices, and on-going studies of the relationship between farm gate prices and retail prices. We urge the USDA to fully fund these efforts.

4. The National Grange urges continued awareness of the address issues related to the Internet trading of grain and other agricultural production. We urge the imposition of necessary regulations on Internet trading of grain where appropriate to protect the farmer.

USDA Responsibilities, Authorities & Organization

1. The National Grange strongly supports the U.S. Department of Agriculture remaining as an independent agency with the Secretary of Agriculture as a member of the President's Cabinet.
2. The National Grange supports the repeal of the USDA's personnel regulations that forbid USDA employees from actively participating in the meetings and other activities of farm organizations, from holding office in farm organizations, from participating in membership recruitment campaigns, or from acting as a volunteer financial or business agent of a farm organization. This should not change or alter the USDA's other regulations concerning general employee conduct.
3. The National Grange strongly urges the USDA to devise plans to reduce the paperwork for farmers to participate in federal farm programs. We urge the USDA and its agencies to format all reports, applications and paperwork that are to be filed by farmers, so that they may be filled out via computer media using commonly accepted word processing programs, and returned to the agency for processing.
4. The National Grange urges the USDA to increase oversight of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to decrease fraud and ensure that SNAP is only used for its defined purposes.
5. The National Grange supports legislation to simplify the business application of the current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) so that businesses may more easily become participants.

Disaster Assistance and Risk Management

1. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation of the multi-peril federal crop insurance program (FCI) that provides coverage on all program, non-program and specialty crops on a nationwide basis. We support changes in the FCI program that would include multi-peril insurance for all crops. We recommend that federal crop insurance coverage be updated annually to reflect the cost of production. We further believe that area coverage should be dropped and a realistic production base should be established for each tract of land.
2. The National Grange urges the USDA Risk Management Division to take steps to accelerate the processing and payment of claims. We support using uniform standards for grading fruits for market, hail and other damage payments.
3. The USDA Risk Management Division should discontinue providing insurance coverage on a percentage basis. Coverage should be changed to insure crops on a dollar amount of loss per acre (or unit). The National Grange recommends removing any percent cut on estimated yields if weather conditions prevent timely planting. In addition, the USDA Risk Management Division should delete all of the current footnotes and should clearly state all exceptions, limitations and other provisions concerning crop coverage in the insurance policy.
4. The National Grange supports disaster aid relief that is based on individual rather than countywide losses. We urge the federal government to distribute surplus stored grain, at no cost and on a need basis, to limited resource farmers in disaster stricken areas as

well as make available a recourse loan on a need basis for damaged commodities.

5. The National Grange urges the USDA Risk Management Division to allow an option that will permit wheat producers covered by the USDA Risk Management Division's crop insurance to obtain a replant payment if replanting is required.
6. The National Grange urges the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to streamline procedures that will expedite implementation of the disaster and market loss program payments. Funding for these payments must be "emergency" and not otherwise reduce any other farm bill program spending.
7. The National Grange supports the Farm and Ranch Risk Management (FARRM) account program allowing farmers and ranchers to deposit a set-aside amount of pre-tax dollars into an interest-bearing account to average income fluctuations.
8. A farm yield or county average yield history for any government farm programs shall not be influenced when a yield is less than 50% of the normal yield of a given crop and is caused by any God-given weather related disaster (drought-heat, flood, wind, hail, etc.) that is out of a farmer's control.

Farm Labor

1. In the organization of farm laborers on the West Coast and other farm labor-intensive areas, it is evident that the consolidation of production units may lead to increased costs to the consumers and the producer because of possible disruptions caused by labor disputes. Therefore, while we continue to support the rights of individuals to organize, we call for sound approaches when dealing with labor problems in the agricultural industry. Labor and management in the food and agricultural industries should seek solutions to labor problems without striking. To further this goal, we recommend establishing procedures for negotiating labor disputes that will minimize disruptive labor strikes, especially during critical growing and harvesting periods. We also support a prohibition on the exclusive use of hiring halls for supplying agricultural labor and a prohibition on the use of secondary boycotts.
2. The National Grange supports a youth differential minimum wage rate for youth under the age of 18 so agricultural employers will be willing to employ such persons.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that will reduce federal funding of the Legal Service Corporation (LSC), a federal agency that provides legal services to the poor, including migrant farm workers. The LSC legal services should be limited to representing the poor in the courts, not an advocacy group for farm employees that investigate perceived violations of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act.
4. The Workman's Compensation Insurance Program should be the exclusive remedy for work-related injuries under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act.

Farm Safety

1. The National Grange supports a comprehensive farm-safety training program for operation of farm machinery, use of chemicals, and animal management to be funded through the Cooperative Extension Service at land grant universities.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would require manufacturers of tractors and self-propelled farm equipment that may be used on public highways be equipped with signal lights and reflectors that would be visible from all sides.

Machinery and wagons should be equipped with reflector tape. Farmers should be encouraged to use lights and reflectors or a reflective material on all sides of tractors and machinery that is traveling on public highways.

3. The National Grange strongly opposes any attempt by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to require that farmers, farm workers or ranchers have commercial drivers licenses (CDLs) to transport their crops and/or their landlord's crops on the public highways.

Miscellaneous

1. The National Grange supports the agricultural weather forecasting service.
2. The National Grange continues to support the development of aquaculture. We urge aquaculture farmers to use care and caution in the placement of rearing pens in public waterways so as not to interfere with other waterway uses.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would ensure a producer the "right to harvest" any legally planted crop in spite of any environmental or regulatory action arising between planting and harvest time.
4. The National Grange opposes production, processing, and marketing of Cannabis sativa L. subsp. Sativa var. sativa, industrial hemp products until technology exists which can extract all amounts of the psychoactive chemical tetrahydrocannabinol, thus reducing the potential misuse of industrial hemp for illegal activities.
5. The National Grange opposes EPA regulations that concern unsubstantiated dust blowing attributed to agricultural operation.
6. The National Grange actively supports revising the standards, so that all meats in the national school lunch program are required to meet the new standards used by the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service.
7. The Grange at all levels support initiatives to encourage the use of farm structures as a base for communication antennas.
8. The National Grange seeks a more aggressive position on the issue of irrigation water shared by the U.S. and Mexico on behalf of the U.S. interest and that the period of payback for the excess usage of irrigation water be limited to two years rather than five years.
9. The Grange supports legislation that offers a form of reimbursement of student loans for large animal veterinarians committing to work in private practice.
10. The National Grange supports the market availability of GPS tracking devices to monitor the locations of agricultural/farm equipment.

I want to say thank you to my agriculture committee for all of their help:

Maurice Wiles, MD

Jimmy Gentry, NC

Jack Smithers, TX

Jim Foster, WV

Joe Fryman, NE

Phil Prelli, CT

Linda Chase, MA

And a special thanks to Patti Lee, IL, for being the secretary.

Fraternally,

John Plank, IN, Chair

AUDIT & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
AB-101	Covered Expenses for Officers & Delegates	Adopted
AB-102	Authorized Travel Reimbursement	Adopted

POLICY STATEMENT

The members of the Audit and Budget Committee commend the National Master, Executive Committee and National Grange staff for presenting us with a realistic budget while still offering value to our membership.

Dues on all levels of the Grange are the lifeblood of our Order and it is imperative that Granges on all levels and in all states make a sincere serious effort to attract new members while working to retain our existing members. Continued decreases in membership will result in difficult decisions in the future to eliminate programs, departments or personnel in the National Grange.

The Audit and Budget Committee encourages all State Masters to publicize our e-membership program. This program will provide the National and State Granges with much needed income for our Order.

Our National headquarters is a real asset to the Order. The income generated by the renting of offices provides us with much needed funds to support our many programs. If you are going to be in the greater Washington, D.C. area, please contact the National Grange staff to arrange for a tour of YOUR National headquarters.

Please remember that all donations to the Grange Foundation are tax deductible as the Foundation has 501(c)(3) tax status. We encourage members and non-members to continue their financial support of the Youth Leadership Fund, Junior Fund, the Kelley Farm, the General Foundation Funds, Name Protection Fund, Community & Leadership Fund, American Arts & Culture Fund and the National Grange Endowment Fund. Members and non-members alike may wish to consider the Foundation for memorials and/or estate planning. We also encourage Granges to utilize the National Grange Foundation to be able to receive charitable contributions and those funds to be disbursed back to their respective subordinate and/or State Granges.

We commend the National Grange Sales, Benefits and Programs Department for their work in securing member benefits to help increase our membership and generate additional revenue streams for the National Grange. We encourage all members to continually monitor the many member benefits that are listed on the National Grange website. At the present time, the programs through Choice Hotels and the National Grange Travel Center provide a small revenue stream to the National Grange. The new Amazon.com program will provide income to the National Grange Foundation Youth Fund.

History has demonstrated that owning a hall or other property is normally a benefit to the community as well as the Grange and should be encouraged for long-term survival of our community Granges.

We encourage each State Grange leader to impress upon their Granges the need to have current bylaws, adequate insurance and bonding.

Includes part of the Master's Internal Address.

CREDENTIAL REPORT

This is the report of the Committee on Audit and Budget that deals with the credentials of the delegate body. The Secretary's records show the following states have 15 or more Granges, have their dues paid for the current year, and the following duly elected delegates are entitled to be seated as representatives of these states at the 146th annual Convention of the National Grange.

California		
Colorado	David McCord	Kay McCord
Connecticut	Jody Cameron	Jodi Ann Cameron
Delaware	William Narvel	Barbara Narvel
Idaho	Don Heikkila	Don Billmire
Illinois	Lyle Lee	Patti Lee
Maine	James Owens	Vicki Huff
Maryland	Maurice Wiles	Donna Wiles
Massachusetts	Matthew Johnson	Calvin Chase
Michigan	Christopher Johnston	Connie Johnston
New Hampshire	Jim Tetreault	Arthur Merrill
New Jersey	John Benedik	Pete Pompper
New York	Stephen Coye	Sharon Croucher
North Carolina	Jimmy Gentry	Anita Gentry
Ohio	Gary Brumbaugh	Linda Brumbaugh
Oklahoma	Donna Keeton	Brad Keeton
Oregon	Susan Noah	Mark Noah
Pennsylvania	Carl Meiss	Betsy Huber
Rhode Island	Steve Logan	Claire Logan
Vermont	Lester Gibbs	Brenda Rousselle
Washington	Duane Hamp	Chris Hamp

The Secretary's records show the following states have the required six to 14 Granges, have their dues paid for the current year, and the following duly elected delegates are entitled to one vote and are entitled to be seated as representatives of these states at the 146th annual Convention of the National Grange:

Alaska	John Poirrier	Kate Poirrier
Florida	Barbara Borderieux	
Indiana	John Plank	Susan Plank
Iowa	Dwight Baldwin	Kathy Baldwin
Kansas	Nathan Strawder	Melanie Bostwick
Minnesota	Donna Champion	
Montana	Scott Nicholson	Marie Nicholson
Nebraska	Ted Doane	
South Carolina	Jerry Martin	
Tennessee	Judy Sherrod	
Texas	Jack Smithers	Margaret Smithers
Virginia	Jimmy Taylor	
West Virginia	Jim Foster	Earlene Foster
Wisconsin	Duane Scott	

Wyoming

Potomac Grange #1 is represented by Joan Smith.

Nevada is represented by Wade Schneiderman.

Matthew Clark (NH) has been selected as the John Trimble Youth Legislative Experience participant for the 146th annual Convention, and is entitled to be seated as the Youth Representative.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Covered Expenses for Officers and Delegates

RESOLVED, that the National Grange pay room costs for the required days at the National Grange Convention for delegates, officers and approved non-delegates for the 2013 National Grange Convention.

This covers resolution AB-101.

Authorized Travel Reimbursement

RESOLVED, that the National Grange reimburse 30 cents per mile per car to those authorized who travel by car from their home to the 2013 convention site, round trip mileage as shown by the AAA, or other reliable source, up to the amount it would be for the lowest available airfare; and be it further

RESOLVED, that those authorized to travel to the 2013 National Grange Convention by air or other public transportation be reimbursed for the actual fare provided that is not first class or business class. Those authorized to travel shall be reimbursed for the first piece of luggage, but will not be reimbursed for oversized or overweight charges.

This covers resolution AB-102.

NATIONAL GRANGE 2013 PROPOSED BUDGET

Income	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Budget
<u>Dues and Fees Income</u>					
Subordinate dues	779,266	814,007	817,580	821,055	755,005
E-membership	0	0	180	255	100
Subordinate & Pomona charter fees	255	380	320	935	350
Junior Grange charter fees	105	95	40	90	50
6th degree fees	1,150	988	933	967	1,000
7th degree fees	2,200	1,040	3,115	3,080	2,500
<u>Dues and Fees Subtotal:</u>	782,976	816,510	822,167	826,382	759,005
<u>Sales Income</u>					
Products	51,110	56,097	51,556	52,949	60,000
Member benefits	14,710	14,479	12,701	5,870	7,000
Certificate sales	9,983	9,239	8,114	8,706	8,000
Shipping and handling fees	5,067	5,699	5,498	5,120	5,000
<u>Sales Subtotal:</u>	80,871	85,515	77,869	72,645	80,000
<u>Other Income</u>					
Building Income	909,105	1,013,005	1,067,189	1,033,789	1,031,410
Supportive Memberships	122,500	112,500	93,750	75,000	75,000
Fundraising and donations	67,418	30,376	8,571	5,410	2,000
License Agreement	5,260	1,450	2,300	7,080	5,000
Legislative Sponsorships (Grants)	87,400	74,000	53,000	73,000	65,000
Communications Income (Comic Books, Brochures)	0	0	153	12,888	12,000
Electronic Media Income		1,150	0	0	500
Advertising	0	0	0	0	500
Foundation Management Fee	0	0	0	100	100
Bonding Commission	0	0	5,727	8,847	8,800
Interest, dividends	1,174	9,828	(6,524)	7,106	15,000
Miscellaneous	4,863	5,353	2,188	100,989	2,000
<u>Other Subtotal:</u>	1,197,720	1,247,662	1,226,356	1,324,209	1,217,310
<u>Total Income:</u>	2,061,567	2,149,687	2,126,392	2,223,236	2,056,315
<u>Cash Forward:</u>	249,646	144,254	237,996	374,111	370,353
<u>Total Income and Cash Forward:</u>	2,311,213	2,293,942	2,364,388	2,597,347	2,426,668

Expense	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Budget
Personnel					
Board of Directors	10,126	6,407	6,409	7,018	7,500
National Master Expense	25,901	32,888	35,163	26,721	30,800
National Master Salary	51,500	54,000	54,000	57,500	57,500
National Lecturer	0	500	500	500	500
National Secretary	500	500	500	500	500
Staff Salaries, taxes, benefits	684,260	717,921	732,407	731,685	757,846
High Priest	3,563	2,099	1,682	2,370	3,770
Subtotal:	775,849	814,315	830,661	826,294	858,416
Departments					
Building expense	483,566	477,244	400,956	425,295	450,374
General Administration	536,027	436,745	358,071	499,083	280,000
Communications/ Publications	73,606	36,445	64,296	76,011	58,000
IT Systems	17,539	16,129	34,067	35,199	34,000
Junior Grange	27,704	22,341	20,017	15,417	18,880
Legislative	25,704	13,919	11,203	55,782	101,750
Marketing & Sales	46,644	59,098	53,715	52,720	64,500
Membership/Leadership	17,885	19,939	31,803	29,997	40,800
Youth Development	15,434	15,449	16,180	15,591	18,880
Events, Services, Training					
National Convention	110,816	124,379	145,286	109,040	140,000
Presidents Meeting	17,111	14,481	7,181	6,919	8,000
Reps. to State Conventions	17,456	3,313	11,508	14,848	0
Subtotal:	1,389,490	1,239,483	1,154,282	1,335,902	1,215,184
Other Expenses					
Building Reserve Fund	0	0	0	20,000	0
Contributions	0	0	3,023	0	0
Furniture and equipment	0	0	0	0	0
Special Fundraising/Special Event	0	0	0	0	10,000
Miscellaneous	1,620	2,148	2,311	6,500	2,000
Subtotal:	1,620	2,148	5,334	26,500	12,000
Total Expenses:	<u>2,166,959</u>	<u>2,055,946</u>	<u>1,990,277</u>	<u>2,188,696</u>	<u>2,085,601</u>
Budget Contingency:	(105,392)	93,742	136,115	34,541	(29,285)
Gross Contingency:	144,254	237,996	374,111	408,652	341,068

CITIZENSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
201	National Defense Preparedness	CO	Rejected
202	Five-Day USPS Service	FL	Transferred to Taxation & Transportation
203	U.S. Postal Service	FL	Transferred to Taxation & Transportation
204	Equal Standards for Congressional Members	IN	Present Policy
205	Removal of Same Sex Marriage Policy	KS	Withdrawn
206	Congressional Retirement Funds	NE	Covered under Citizenship-233
207	Licensing Laws and Government Regulations	NE	Transferred to Labor & Judiciary
208	National Student Government Day	OR	Withdrawn
209	Postal Reform	OR	Transferred to Taxation & Transportation
210	Federal Debt	OR	Adopted as Amended
211	Veterans Preference for Low-Income Housing	OR	Withdrawn
212	Truth in Pricing	OR	Rejected
213	Transparency in Federal Elections	WA	Adopted as Amended
214	Lobbyists/Lobbying	WA	Withdrawn
215	Individual Rights Under the U.S. Constitution	WA	Combined with 230-WV
216	Government Budget	WI	Withdrawn
217	Disability for Agent Orange Exposure	PA	Withdrawn
218	Drug and Pill Disposal	MI	Adopted
219	Campaign Fundraising Limits	OH	Withdrawn
220	Limiting the Influence of Corporations and Unions in Elections	MA	Withdrawn
221	Same Sex Marriage	MA	Withdrawn

222	Awarding of Electoral College Votes in Presidential Elections	MA	Rejected
223	Procurement of Military Supplies	ME	Policy Statement
224	United States Flag Code	NY	Present Policy
225	Social Security Earning Limits	NY	Present Policy
226	Recorded Telephone Messages from Political Candidates	NY	Present Policy
227	P.A.C. Funds	NY	Withdrawn
228	National First Responder Appreciation Day	NY	Adverse
229	Political Campaigns	CT	Adverse
230	Nutritional Diet	WV	Adopted as Amended
231	Election Projections	RI	Present Policy
232	Banning Radio Sirens	VT	Present Policy
233	Committee Resolution		Rejected
711	Peoples Rights Amendment	VA	Policy Statement

POLICY STATEMENT

We the citizens of the United State of America live in a democracy that is the model of freedom for the world. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights guarantee each citizen the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Free speech is an essential part of our democracy. The National Grange opposes the People’s Rights Amendment and any other legislation that restricts or eliminates the right of Americans to speak individually or collectively on any issue.

Our way of life has been challenged many times throughout history. In every case, our American service men and women have answered the call for the defense of our country. We should make every opportunity to provide good jobs, good homes, and honored recognition for those who have answered these challenges. As citizens, we have the authority to fly the America flag, the symbol of our nation, with honor, dignity, and proper respect. We believe the Pledge of Allegiance should be continued to be taught in our schools and should be the opening for all meetings, both public and private.

We are currently in an economy where the potential of this nation is being mortgaged for short term economic solutions. We believe that the future of America requires us to accept our responsibility for the financial health of our great nation. It is time to demand that the government live within its means, just as every individual American must do. The Grange also calls for all levels of government to use generally accepted accounting principles just as private businesses are required to do. We require business to operate with fiscal rules, and be accountable for their decisions. The government, at all levels, needs to do the same.

The National Grange believes that a free market system works best. We feel it is imperative that the government, military, and private citizens buy American-made products

whenever possible. Let the American free market find solutions, develop new technologies, and provide high-quality services to the consumer. Leave government bureaucracy out of those areas. Government must stop its endless expansion and meddling with the economy.

Our future as Americans requires everyone to accept their responsibility in their homes, communities, and government. The Grange as a community service organization is a perfect venue for the work that needs to be done in our country, serving in whatever capacity as needed. We must meet, make decisions, and participate in our local, state, and federal government.

The greatness of America has always been rooted in private enterprise. Burdensome taxes and regulations strangle the ability of citizens to develop and grow small businesses. The National Grange advocates lower taxes and less regulation to encourage entrepreneurs. Our elected officials must be ethical and accountable. They must ensure that uncertainty for business does not begin with government.

We continue to advocate a strong Social Security system that maintains solvency, provides adequate support to recipients to maintain a decent living existence, and completes the intent of “social security.”

America is a nation of communities. The things that directly benefit most citizens are based in our local communities. Schools, healthcare, jobs, charity and daily recreation are provided not by the federal or state government, but by local people working together. When people focus on working together within our local communities, our quality of life is elevated. The Grange believes that community is the essential building block of our great nation. It is to us that falls the task of building our community. Our challenges are ever changing. Grange members must respond with faith, hope, and charity to bring people together.

This policy statement includes 223-ME, 711-VA, and portions of the Masters Address.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Federal Debt

WHEREAS, the United States of America has accumulated nearly 16 trillion dollars in debt and continues to run a deficit of over 4 billion dollars every day, which adds to the debt; and

WHEREAS, regular Americans understand that the country cannot spend at the current rate without negative repercussions that will impact every American; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange call upon our Senators and Representatives to put aside partisan politics and find ways to reduce federal spending to equal revenue from taxation.

This covers 210-OR.

Transparency in Federal Elections

WHEREAS, the Citizens United v. FEC US Supreme Court ruling of 2010 removed speech restrictions on federal electioneering; and

WHEREAS, disclosure on election ads refer to groups with innocuous names; and

WHEREAS, the public interest benefits when citizens know who the actual individual donors are that fund electioneering; and

WHEREAS, Washington State campaign disclosure rules require electioneering in

independent expenditures to disclose the name, city and state of the top five individual donors; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Grange supports federal campaign law that requires public disclosure of the names of persons who contribute \$1,000.00 or more and anyone who contributes \$100,000.00 or more to be posted on the Super PAC website within 24 hours and must stay on the website until the completion of the campaign.

This covers 213-WA.

Drug and Pills Disposal

WHEREAS, most people in Michigan use some form of pills or prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, we are warned not to dispose of outdated or unused medicines down the drains so as not to contaminate the water or in the trash where someone or some animal might gain access to them; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, more Americans currently abuse prescription drugs than those who use cocaine, hallucinogens and heroin combined, and studies indicate that a majority of abused prescription drugs come from family and friends; and

WHEREAS, it has been made easier for residents to dispose of hazardous wastes by providing several collection dates per year, and to recycle other items at community sites or by curbside pick-up; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports having well-advertised places in our communities/counties where residents can safely dispose of outdated or unused medicines more than the twice-a-year National Prescription Drug Take Back Days sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Agency and local law enforcement.

This covers 218-MI.

Nutritional Diet

WHEREAS, the government continues to regulate our lives by overreaching and infringing on our civil liberties by dictating our nutritional diet; and

WHEREAS, examples can be found in the ban of more than 16 oz. soft drinks in major cities and strict regulations of calories by the USDA in school meals; and

WHEREAS, our founding fathers believed in personal civil liberties above government regulations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange opposes government regulations that infringe upon personal nutritional choices within our homes and diets.

This covers 230-WV.

PRESENT POLICY

Social Welfare Programs

1. The National Grange urges enforcement of current food stamp regulations and encourages related social agencies to assist food stamp recipients with information about foods that meet their basic needs. The National Grange asks the food stamp program to allow essential non-food personal articles such as laundry soap and toilet paper to be purchased using food stamps and opposes replacing food stamps with cash distributions.
2. The National Grange supports requiring additional means to facilitate the identification of each child's father for purposes of welfare recovery.

3. The National Grange supports the continuation of the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program.
4. The National Grange supports legislation that would require drug testing to be included in the eligibility requirements for welfare recipients.
5. The National Grange supports having well-advertised places in our communities/counties where residents can safely dispose of outdated or unused medicines more than the twice-a-year National Prescription Drug Take Back Days sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Agency and local law enforcement.

Native Americans

1. The National Grange supports Native Americans in their reservation treaty rights to retain their mineral deposits.
2. The National Grange believes that Native Americans should be subject to the same laws as other citizens.
3. The National Grange supports the continuation of all rights and privileges enjoyed by Native Americans as U.S. citizens, including fulfilling all responsibilities associated with such citizenship.
4. The National Grange supports laws to prevent the robbery or desecration of Native American graves and burial sites and to require newly discovered human remains, grave artifacts and/or sacred items of Native American origin to be returned to the tribes or areas of their origin.

Elections

1. We believe that projections and/or final results of national elections should not be reported or broadcast by the news media until the polls have closed in all western states.
2. The National Grange urges all of its members to exercise their right to vote. We further recommend that all ballots and pertinent instructions for all elections be printed in the English language only and that proof of citizenship be required at the time of voter registration. We oppose same day registration voting laws.
3. The National Grange supports the current Electoral College system for presidential and vice-presidential elections.
4. The National Grange supports a change in the qualifications for appointment as a United States Supreme Court Justice requiring the candidate to be a citizen of the United States of America.
5. The National Grange supports federal campaign law that requires public disclosure of the names of persons who contribute \$1,000.00 or more and anyone who contributes \$100,000.00 or more to be posted on the Super PAC website within 24 hours and must stay on the website until the completion of the campaign.

Elected Officials

1. The Grange favors changing the term of office of Congressional Representatives from two to four years. We also favor a maximum of 12 years consecutive service for Senators and Representatives.
2. The National Grange supports a ban on automatic salary increases for elected officials and members of Congress, separate from those of judges and other federal government employees. All Congressional pay raises should be considered by

Congress during normal business hours and on their own merits as a separate entity to be discussed in open committee hearings and voted on by roll call with a three-fourths majority voting in the affirmative, as opposed to being attached to an unrelated piece of legislation. Any approved Congressional pay increases should take effect at the next session of Congress. The National Grange further favors strengthening the law limiting the amount of gifts and money that members of Congress can accept.

3. The National Grange urges members of Congress to participate in both Social Security and the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS). We further recommend that all laws, including employment laws, apply to Congressional members.
4. The National Grange supports legislation requiring any elected or appointed government official who is convicted of a felony to forfeit their taxpayer-funded pension.
5. The National Grange opposes rules that permit members of the United States Senate to block other members bills from being placed on the floor. However, should this practice be permitted, the dissenter should be required to disclose his/her identity and reason for dissent.

Government and Legislative Affairs

1. The National Grange believes: a) that all government-mandated programs and agencies must contain “sunset” provisions, including a target termination date; b) that systematic and continuous reviews of all mandated programs be made periodically by an appropriate board of review; c) that all mandated programs must be funded and financed by the government of origin; d) and that at any point funding is not provided, the mandate will be removed.
2. The National Grange strongly opposes the use of any commission, council, or other consortium of non-elected appointees to create legislative mandates that Congress must adhere to, that are not subject to judicial review or the American system of Checks and Balances.
3. The National Grange supports the present status of Washington, D.C. as both a “federal city” and the nation’s capitol, that is not affiliated with any state government and not a separate state in and of itself. We further favor restricting the Congressional delegates from non-tax paying territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico to being non-voting members of Congressional committees.
4. The National Grange supports legislation that would specifically make protection of private property rights and compensating private property owners for property that is taken for public use as a part of the federal statutes. The National Grange supports strengthening the Constitution’s guarantee that a person owning property has the right to control such property, including restricting trespassers, and excluding liability for injuries to a trespasser.
5. The National Grange supports a constitutional amendment that allows the President to exercise a line item veto for budget appropriations and authorization bills.
6. The National Grange opposes all legislation limiting the individual’s ability to lobby and communicate with our elected officials either directly or through organizations such as the Grange.
7. The National Grange will work toward the issuance of a United States postage stamp celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, to be made available in the year 2017, and be it

further that the National Grange sponsor an art contest for this stamp.

8. The National Grange will lobby for Congress to return the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to an independent agency free from the direction of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Government Service

1. The National Grange supports efforts to improve the collection and dissemination of accurate and timely statistical data by all federal agencies. The National Grange opposes the decision of the Department of Commerce Census Bureau to cease including farm families in the yearly survey report as a separate category.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would make compliance with regulatory requirements regarding equipment and services for volunteer fire departments contingent upon providing financial assistance to those volunteer fire departments.
3. The National Grange encourages the federal government to provide assistance within 24 hours following the successful request by a State Governor for a declaration of a national disaster in the United States.
4. The National Grange urges Congress to pass legislation that would require any special presidential advisors appointed by the President to be confirmed by the United States Senate.

Government Spending

1. The National Grange strongly advocates for Congress to pass a balanced budget in a timely manner as to prevent federal government shutdowns. Should a federal government shutdown occur, we believe that the issuance of Social Security and other critical social service monetary supplements should not be affected, delayed or reduced, nor the salary, benefits or expenses of our military.
2. During any federal government shutdown, members and their staff should not receive salary, expenses or benefits until a budget agreement has been reached and passed. Furthermore, these government employees shall not receive any of this compensation retroactively.
3. The National Grange supports a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget as a permanent solution to our deficit problems.
4. The National Grange calls upon our Senators and Representatives to put aside partisan politics and find ways to reduce federal spending to equal revenue from taxation.
5. We support efforts at all levels of government to reduce costs and excessive paperwork, to review regulations, and to generally reduce any undue influence of government on the private sector. We favor the review of all tax-supported federal incentive programs for possible reduction or elimination. We encourage all levels of government to downsize or eliminate jobs where possible.
6. The National Grange supports the enforcement of regulations to assure that government programs abide by the bidding process when appropriate.
7. The National Grange supports measures like the Earmark Transparency Act and its mandate for a public, searchable database of all earmark requests. We additionally oppose sitting members of Congress from directing monies toward projects with their names attached.

Social Security

1. The National Grange encourages Congress to positively reform the Social Security

System to ensure its future solvency. The National Grange urges the continuing investigation of all Social Security programs ensuring that only those who are eligible are receiving benefits. The National Grange supports using Social Security funds for Social Security programs only. We oppose the utilization of any funds from the Social Security Trust Fund to achieve a balanced federal budget or for any purpose other than Social Security benefits.

2. We ask Congress to proceed with caution when proposing changes to Social Security and we request that the public be provided with explicit and concise information concerning any major changes in the Social Security system. We further believe that any increase in retirement age must be on a gradual basis during a preset determined amount of time.
3. The National Grange urges Congress to revise Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and other programs for the elderly and handicapped so that an individual's benefits will not decrease if they decide to marry.
4. The National Grange supports legislation that would remove all Social Security "Earning Limits" for individuals.
5. The National Grange supports any and all federal bills that would eliminate the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provisions, therefore restoring full Social Security benefits to public employees and surviving spouses.
6. The National Grange supports reform that would expedite the application for, and processing of, Social Security disability benefits for all clients. We further urge that terminally ill persons be permitted to apply for Social Security disability benefits upon diagnosis of the terminal illness and the application process be completed within four months of the initial application.
7. The National Grange lobbies to amend the Social Security Act to assure that a beneficiary is paid for the month of his or her death.

Veterans Affairs

1. The National Grange supports the continued operation of all Veterans' Hospitals and veterans' eligibility for medical care and benefits. We further support continuation of the current Disabled Veterans' Compensation Schedule, maintaining the current benefits and the criteria for qualifying. The National Grange encourages additional federal funds to be appropriated for the Veterans' Administration for the purpose of improving the service and care of servicemen in the Veterans' Administration hospitals.
2. The National Grange believes disabled veterans should remain eligible to receive all their service-related retirements benefits and any other benefits to which they are entitled without offsets or reductions. Also, the National Grange supports legislation requiring the U.S. Veterans Administration to pay all benefits to veterans, effective the first day of the month that the veteran was diagnosed with the service-connected presumptive condition.
3. The National Grange urges all levels of government to protect the parental rights of military personnel, such as custody or visitation rights, while serving in combat on active duty.
4. The National Grange supports allowing all veterans registered in the Veterans Administration health care system and residing in nursing facilities, both private and state owned, to receive their drugs through the VA pharmacies at the patient's co-pay price prior to admission.
5. Tinnitus is a condition caused by inner ear damage from exposure to hazardous noise levels

causing constant ringing or roaring in the ear. The National Grange supports legislation allowing for a separate 10 percent disability rating by the Veterans Administration for each ear when veterans suffer from Tinnitus as a result of military service.

Telecommunications

1. The National Grange supports legislation to promote an integrated telecommunications network to assure widely available, high quality telecommunications to all of the nation's users at a reasonable cost, as was originally intended by the Communications Acts of 1934 and 1996. We further believe that access to affordable and reliable broadband Internet service is vital to preserving the quality of life in rural America. The National Grange supports the modernization of the Universal Service Fund (USF) to secure last mile (wireline or wireless) connectivity for rural Americans to broadband, thereby creating jobs, enhancing the economy, and boosting local businesses. The National Grange supports a national broadband policy that will:
 - a. Create a nationwide fiber optic network.
 - b. Remove the regulatory uncertainty that has deterred broadband investment in rural America.
 - c. Provide the incentive for private businesses, government agencies, and private citizens to invest in rural broadband deployment and stimulate broadband competition.
 - d. Spark the creation of new service providers and new innovations that will assist a host of new technologies becoming more affordable, including cutting-edge wireless technologies that promise to deliver broadband to even the most remote parts of our country.
 - e. Allow Public Utility Districts (PUDs), or other public utilities to get involved in establishing the wireless communication systems.
2. The National Grange supports continued strict enforcement of the Federal Communications Commission's national "Do Not Call List." The National Grange supports expansion of the Do Not Call List to include computer dialed political telemarketing, including but not limited to charities and political groups. No one calling a household for commercial or charitable request reasons may use a restricted number or call a phone with a restricted number. Telemarketers, as well as computer or "robocalls" should be prohibited from calling cell phones as well.
3. The National Grange recognizes the importance of the Universal Service Fund (USF) to the American public, especially in rural communities. The National Grange urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to approve any petitions by wireless telephone companies that demonstrate their ability to meet the obligations of Lifeline service, especially in rural areas, so they can serve low-income consumers with wireless Lifeline telephone service through the federal Universal Service Fund.
4. The National Grange will work with telecommunications coalitions to encourage an increase in the number of cellular phone towers in a large portion of rural America.
5. The National Grange urges U.S. Congress to expedite funding for a resilient, mobile, wireless, data network between local and state first responders and emergency personnel with federal emergency agencies, such as FEMA, Homeland Security and the National Guard.

Broadcasting

1. The National Grange supports the concept of public broadcasting and urges

- improved service for our rural communities. The National Grange supports continuing the present level of federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting through self-supporting sources of financing.
2. The National Grange supports the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in its efforts to help rural areas receive satellite TV reception. The National Grange supports legislation to ensure that satellite dish owners in rural areas pay no more for their service than cable TV subscribers in the cities do. The Grange supports regulations requiring satellite television companies to provide rural customers access to more than one predetermined set of local channels including local public access channels in the customer's region.
 3. The National Grange believes that the FCC should prohibit the scrambling of the 24-hour weather information. The National Grange encourages the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to issue instructions to all radio stations to include weather alerts, covering the city and state from which they are broadcasting.
 4. The National Grange supports the continuation of religious broadcasts on radio and television.
 5. The National Grange urges Congress to maintain the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as a watchdog agency to protect the public from unfair practices and monopolies. We oppose media mergers where one company can control all forms of media. We encourage the FCC to provide ample opportunity for new media companies and medium-sized media companies to be able to compete.
 6. The National Grange supports elimination of foul language, obscenities, and vulgar images used on TV, radio, or public places and fully supports the increased penalties for violations imposed by the FCC. The National Grange supports legislation to prohibit advertising the use of the "900" number during children's shows.
 7. The National Grange lobbies the FCC to ban the use of emergency vehicle sirens in all radio advertisements to prevent hazards and confusion on the roadway.
 8. The National Grange urges Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to require broadcast media to maintain a constant volume level during an entire broadcast, including commercials.
 9. The National Grange supports the current financial assistance to support quality, commercial-free educational children's programs.

Patriotism, Prayer, and Religious Observances

1. The National Grange strongly supports maintaining The Star Spangled Banner as our National Anthem. The National Grange supports legislation to maintain the wording of the current Pledge of Allegiance, including the words "Liberty," and "under God." The National Grange believes that the Pledge of Allegiance should be recited in every U.S. school classroom and by members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives during their opening session each day.
2. The National Grange favors making new national cemetery facilities available.
3. The National Grange supports laws prohibiting the desecration of the American flag. Flag desecration should be classified as a felony and the penalty be strictly enforced with no exception. We urge Congress to pass a constitutional amendment that will ban the desecration of the American flag. The National Grange supports legislation mandating all United States flags to be made in the United States from domestically manufactured materials.
4. The National Grange opposes any attempts by any federal, state or local government

- agency to dictate membership qualifications for any social or fraternal organizations.
5. The National Grange joins with the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and other Veteran Service organizations, along with churches and individuals to protect our religious freedoms and the First Amendment. Additionally, the National Grange supports the adoption of a Religious Freedom Amendment to the United States Constitution. We support the right to practice the religion of our choice without fear of prejudice or persecution. Until then, the National Grange supports an interpretation of the U.S. Constitution that allows schools, or any other governmental authority, to permit religious prayer, such as invocations and benedictions, as part of any function, especially at graduation ceremonies. The National Grange further supports the right of children to voluntarily participate in prayer in public schools. We support the words "In God We Trust" remaining on our currency and as our national motto. The National Grange supports all public Christmas functions, displays, and/or songs. We believe that all crosses on city emblems or municipal property should remain intact. We further do not believe that courts of law should have final jurisdiction to consider lawsuits to remove religious displays from city or municipal property. Instead, the majority of the voters in that jurisdiction should determine the final decision.

Miscellaneous

1. The National Grange supports programs that strengthen families and advocates educational programs that emphasize the importance of families and the prevention of family dysfunction. The consequences of policies and laws should be carefully examined as to their impact on the family unit.
2. The National Grange supports all rights that are granted in the United States Constitution or Bill of Rights and urges Congress not to consider legislation eliminating or repealing these rights.
3. The National Grange opposes the creation of a National Identification Card.
4. The National Grange favors a Constitutional amendment to make English the official national language. The National Grange supports legislation to require that English be used on all forms throughout the United States.
5. The National Grange favors the establishment of a new branch of the Smithsonian dedicated to the nation's food and farm heritage.
6. The National Grange opposes government regulations that infringe upon personal nutritional choices within our homes and diets.

My sincere thanks to these wonderful, thoughtful, and careful Grangers who served on the Citizenship Committee:

Donna Champion, MN (Secretary)

Calvin Chase, MA

Margaret Smithers, TX

Tammy Fryman, NE (H)

Barbara Borderieux, FL

Anita Gentry, NC

Earline Foster, WV

A special thank you to Grace Boatright and David Lin from AT&T for their help with our resolutions. I am in their debt; we are in their debt.

David H. McCord, CO (Chair)

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
301	Oppose Expansion of the Wild Rogue River Wilderness Area	OR	Present Policy
302	Enforce the O&C Act on all O&C Lands	OR	State Issue
303	Invasive Asian Carp	WI	Present Policy
304	Spraying to Eliminate Mosquitoes	MI	Adverse
305	Clean Water Act Draft Guidance Proposal	NY	Present Policy
306	Japan Tsunami Debris	NY	Withdrawn
307	Energy Policy	MD	Present policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Since the birth of the Grange in 1867, our organization has advocated and taught that we are the stewards of the land and should leave the Earth in a better condition than we found it. The National Grange recognizes that the protection of the environment and the conservation of our natural resources are vital national priorities. To protect our most vital resources – water and farmland – we encourage increased efforts to educate the public.

We believe that Americans must not sacrifice their property or surrender their constitutional rights in order to preserve our environment. Adequate and full compensation should be paid in all cases of eminent domain, including, but not limited to, government grazing permits, water easements and areas designated as critical habitat for endangered species. The National Grange must continue to work closely with the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition to obtain passage reforms.

The National Grange advocates a national energy policy that will encourage the development of all forms of domestic energy, traditional and alternative, in an environmentally sound manner. We recognize U.S. agriculture is part of the solution to the energy crisis.

The Grange recognizes the importance of and protection of all watersheds and understands that major watersheds do not adhere to boundaries of private and public lands. The National Grange opposes any mandate that suggests all watersheds are to meet the same water quality standards and the “locking up” of watersheds or portions thereof for a single use by any person or agency.

We encourage the responsible stewardship of our natural resources from all who own or use them. We recognize responsible stewardship is a balance between use and preservation. The National Grange supports coordination among federal, state and local governments when developing land use management plans. We urge Congress to include voluntary incentive-based assistance for conservation practices by farmers, ranchers, foresters and landowners in the proposed Farm Bill, which will maintain a commitment to conservation.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

There were no resolutions adopted by the Conservation Committee during the 2012 National Grange Convention.

PRESENT POLICY

Water Projects

1. The National Grange recommends that federal, state, and local governments work closely with each other and local landowners in the development and construction of watershed projects, dams, and reservoirs for multiple uses, such as flood control, storing and releasing surplus flood water, replenishing underground water, hydroelectric power generation, irrigation, industrial and municipal use, and recreation. Once a project has been authorized, we believe that it should be constructed, even if a moratorium has later been imposed. We urge both Congress and the President to make the necessary funds available in order to complete all planned and feasible federal water development projects and provide cost-share assistance for the rehabilitation of dams and other flood control structures that were previously constructed with federal assistance. The National Grange supports efforts to provide state and federal funds to pay the recreational share of impoundment facilities on small water development projects.
2. The National Grange believes that the federal government should compensate any loss or diminution of water rights resulting from the exercise of a federally reserved right.
3. The National Grange supports legislation to consolidate the activities of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior to eliminate duplication.
4. The National Grange supports local control over state water projects.
5. The National Grange supports a national water policy requiring all alternate sources of water, including full development of desalination plants for urban uses, must be considered before approval of any water diversion project.
6. The National Grange supports the use of existing multi-purpose dams, creating possible draw downs or transfers of water from productive agricultural lands to waters that could possibly assist in flushing young salmon to the ocean, and urge the development of alternative methods of enhancing the fish population including salmon.
7. The National Grange requests the U.S. Corps of Engineers and all environmental agencies to facilitate restorative dredging of rivers prone to flooding.
8. The National Grange supports the accurate monitoring of water drawn from the Great Lakes Water Basin by industrial and agricultural entities and we believe that agricultural water usage should be exempt from any permits and/or fees resulting from the monitoring of the Great Lakes.

Irrigation and Reclamation Act Rules and Regulations

1. The National Grange supports irrigation rules and regulations that prohibit abuse of the Reclamation Reform Act and assure the fullest measure of benefits from federal irrigation projects for family farmers. The National Grange supports the continued

development and widespread utilization of more efficient irrigation systems in addition to legislation outlawing the practice of using trusts, partnerships, corporations, and estates to circumvent the 960-acre irrigation subsidy qualification that favors small farmers.

Klamath Basin Aid

1. The National Grange will actively work to reverse the actions of the Ninth Circuit Court and permanently restore the flow of life-giving and life-sustaining water from Klamath Lake to the farmers and farm communities served by the irrigation systems.
2. The National Grange urges Congress to investigate the closure of irrigation facilities for the benefit of suckerfish in the Klamath Falls Basin and determine the consequences of the loss of irrigation water in the Klamath Falls Basin in Oregon and California.
3. The National Grange urges Congress to convene hearings to produce and fund a Klamath Basin Restoration Plan utilizing a stakeholder working group.
4. The National Grange will work to preserve the way of life of the Klamath Basin farming community, as agriculture is the number one industry in the basin.
5. The National Grange will actively work to ensure that the flow of life-giving and life-sustaining water from the Klamath Lake and watershed is restored to the farmers and farm communities served by the irrigation systems.
6. The National Grange opposes the removal of water storage and electrical generation dams in the Klamath Basin for environmental and agricultural reasons.

State Authority for Water Rights

1. The National Grange vigorously supports state control of water rights. We oppose any federal plan that infringes on states' water rights. In particular, any water resource planning that is conducted by state or federal agencies must respect both the states' sovereignties and the agricultural sector in establishing priorities for water allocations. The National Grange firmly opposes the inter-basin transfer of water that would diminish the flow of water into downstream states unless such transfer is in accordance with an approved river basin compact.
2. The National Grange supports maintaining minimum water levels along the Great Lakes in order to continue the current amounts of commerce, hydroelectric production and tourism. We support only allowing those states and provinces that belong to the International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes to remove and use of the waters of the Great Lakes.
3. The National Grange supports a nationwide grassroots effort to stop federal government agencies' taking of individual water and water rights.

Clean Water

1. The National Grange supports federal clean water laws and regulations that are based upon realistic and obtainable goals and are enforced uniformly between the states. We regard a zero pollution standard as being totally unrealistic and unobtainable.
2. The National Grange recommends that adequate state and federal funds be provided for any soil or water conservation program required by the Clean Water Act, including at least 75 percent of the federal cost share on agricultural best

management practices for non-point source pollution abatement administered through local conservation districts. The National Grange urges Congress and the President to clarify Clean Water Act Section 303 (d) so that the Total Maximum Daily Load will be reasonable and attainable without extreme hardships placed on agriculture and other industries. Furthermore, the National Grange urges state and federal governments to fund conservation programs that will help farmers and municipalities to meet the goals of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) with regard to the Chesapeake Bay cleanup.

3. The National Grange supports legislation to provide funds to study water quality regarding groundwater contamination. We further support the creation of groundwater protection and management plans that will limit the amount of toxic chemicals in groundwater realizing that a policy of no degradation is unobtainable. We support local control of groundwater management and management plans and support the enforcement of penalties to cities and towns that improperly dump waste in our streams and waterways.
4. The National Grange supports an organized effort to prevent reauthorization of the Clean Water Act that will exclude provisions requiring a state to designate any water with a population of a threatened or endangered species as an Outstanding Resource Water.
5. The National Grange urges the passage of federal legislation that would amend the regulations of the Clean Water Act, to limit the powers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency over inland waters and wetland, thus preserving States and individuals rights. The National Grange supports keeping the words “navigable waters” in the Clean Water Act or any other laws or regulations pertaining to clean water.
6. The National Grange urges the U.S. Government to engage in diplomatic negotiations on the environmental impacts that contribute to air and water pollution before permitting the transfer of electricity across the borders into the United States.

Wetlands

1. The National Grange supports legislation to improve the wetlands regulatory programs by federal, state or local governments to streamline the permitting process; delineate wetlands by categories based on readily identifiable natural characteristics, environmental value, function, and abundance; refine the wetland mitigation system; improve the system of compensation for private landowners; and increase the role of the states in the wetland permitting process. We further support exempting wetland designations from areas that are artificially created by irrigation, stock water ponds, fire protection ponds or have been cropped for one of the last five years.
2. The National Grange requests Congress to put a moratorium on the funding and design of new wetlands to aid in the control of mosquitoes carrying the West Nile virus.

Soil Conservation and Non-Point Source Pollution

1. The National Grange supports voluntary programs to control specific known point sources of pollution, as well as non-point sources of agricultural pollution. We support the concept of conservation tillage practices and other types of sediment

control. We encourage broad participation in the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act studies in order to assure that quality, locally designed and controlled conservation programs are developed in order to meet the needs of family farmers. We specifically support the continuation of cost-sharing programs to establish grass strips along the boundaries of cropland, fields and waterways to control soil erosion and runoff. We also support programs offering at least 50 percent cost-share assistance to correct agricultural pollution and free technical assistance prior to non-income producing practices that require major expenditures.

2. The National Grange supports the privately financed National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation, the creation of an American Conservation Corps as well as vocational programs to educate and train youths to help in the conservation of our woodlands and other natural resources, using presently established facilities. We believe that all citizens should share in soil conservation costs through tax dollars that support state and federal programs focusing on technical assistance, research, education, loans and cost sharing programs.
3. The USDA should redefine water conservation in the national soil and water conservation programs to include both irrigation and drainage.
4. The National Grange supports locally developed storm water management programs administered through local conservation districts.

Toxic and Hazardous Wastes

1. We urge the Environmental Protection Agency to work in conjunction with local government entities to determine when and if superfund cleanup is necessary in any specified parcel of land or body of water. Funding should come from an assessment on companies that produce such wastes and from fines resulting from non-compliance. We further support efforts to overhaul the Superfund program so it will expedite clean-ups and prioritize the sites deemed necessary for clean up.
2. The National Grange supports a program to educate consumers on the proper handling and disposal of hazardous household waste, such as energy saver light bulbs and any other items containing mercury.
3. The National Grange supports levying a fine against any company that is found to be responsible for an oil spill that is equal to the costs that the government incurs in cleaning up the oil spill, including the wages of the government and military personnel, and should not be deductible from federal, state or local corporate income taxes.
4. The National Grange supports realistic insurance coverage plans being made available by the federal government at a reasonable cost for existing and future storage tanks and other causes of toxic and hazardous waste pollution.
5. The National Grange supports legislation that would require urban sewer sludge disposal to be strictly regulated, i.e. knifing or ground injection as used in agriculture. We only support burning if such burning meets EPA air quality standards.
6. The National Grange supports federal legislation prohibiting the dumping of waste material or raw sewage from foreign countries in landfills located in the United States.
7. The National Grange requests the Federal Trade Commission place a warning label on CCA copper pressure treated wood and to continue research on non-toxic materials in preparing wood for building materials.
8. The National Grange supports public education of the dangers of sodium azide and

legislation to set guidelines for the proper storage or disposal of all unused airbags.

9. The National Grange supports agricultural exemptions from the Environmental Protection Agency's Spill Prevention Containment and Control ruling.

Mining

1. The National Grange urges federal agencies to work with the states to develop surface mining guidelines, giving the states the flexibility to control and supervise the surface mining of coal, gravel, and similar materials. To ensure against the destruction of surface mined areas, a performance and a completion bond should be required of the mining companies that would assure the completion of reclamation plans as they are developed. Such plans should require the return of the land where strip mine operations occur to a reasonable topography and fertility level and should be enforced by law. The deposits that are required under Section 402(a) of the Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 should be returned to the states for strip mine reclamation. The National Grange further supports any regulation or law that holds the coal company liable for subsidence damage to structures caused by underground mining.
2. The National Grange supports changes in the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act that recognize the special conditions of small independent mine operations and provides for greater forbearance in correcting violations.
3. The National Grange supports exempting counties from Federal Mining Standards as pertaining to road building materials and maintenance.

Bottle Bills and Recycling

1. The National Grange supports legislation that would require a deposit on non-biodegradable beverage containers and urges manufacturers to use recycled materials whenever feasible.
2. The National Grange supports requiring all government agencies to initiate a recycling program for paper, metal, glass, etc. Government agencies should also be required to use recycled paper whenever feasible. The National Grange supports a review of recycling agricultural plastic wastes, such as Cornell University's Recycling Agricultural Plastics Project (RAPP), and encourages funding from the USDA for this type of research in order to help all American farmers with this concern.
3. The National Grange supports legislation encouraging an economical, biodegradable, and resource-efficient approach to product packaging and disposable diapers. We support the use of biodegradable plastic containers, diapers, and packing materials that are made of cornstarch and petroleum and urge all manufacturers to reduce their use of packaging material, while still retaining the quality and safety of their products.
4. The National Grange supports restricting the disposal of tires in landfills in addition to supporting all efforts to recycle all used tires. We also urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to utilize recycled materials containing polymers and other man-made materials to build and repair roads.
5. The National Grange supports the elimination of non-compostable plastic bags by retailers, and promotes the use of compostable plastic, recyclable paper and/or reusable bags.

Energy Conservation

1. The National Grange supports voluntary and economically viable energy conservation for agriculture, industry, commerce, and the home, but opposes the use of tax credits and incentives to support energy conservation.
2. The National Grange opposes any increase in taxes and/or any decrease in tax credits (i.e. depletion allowance) on natural gas and oil production.
3. The National Grange supports economic assistance to low-income persons and those who are on small, fixed incomes to assist them in paying for the high cost of energy.
4. The National Grange supports all oil and gas price decontrol as a positive step in reducing our need for foreign oil and gas. The National Grange believes that all companies, including farm cooperatives, should be allowed to sell gasoline at both the wholesale and retail levels without divesting. However, we also support standby petroleum allocation measures that would ensure a timely and reasonably priced supply of petroleum products to agricultural producers, transporters, processors, farm cooperatives, and independent refiners in the event of a nationwide or regional shortage.
5. The National Grange supports the following practices to guard against supply uncertainty and unreasonable high prices: 1) retain one billion barrels of U.S. oil reserve while supplies are adequate; and 2) encourage greater use of natural resources, especially those that are renewable and non-polluting. The National Grange only supports further releases from the U.S. Strategic Oil Reserves in the event of war or interruption of delivery of foreign supplies of petroleum into the U.S.
6. The National Grange supports establishing realistic new fuel economy standards. We support legislation to direct the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to set fuel economy standards at their maximum feasible level, taking into account technical feasibility, safety, and the economic impact to the public. The National Grange urges increased research and development of more fuel efficient, internal combustion engines. We further favor legislation that would prohibit any person or corporation from purchasing a patent with the intent of hindering any inventions that would conserve gasoline and other fuels.

Energy Development

1. The National Grange urges the repeal of laws and regulations that have discouraged United States' energy production by private enterprise. We support a national energy policy that will encourage the development of all forms of domestic energy, traditional and alternative, including solar, wind, geothermal, ethanol, surf/tidal, shale, tar sands, hydroelectric, agricultural products, wastes, peat, wood, coal, coal gasification, oil, natural gas, compressed natural gas, nuclear, hydrogen, bio diesel and methanol in an environmentally sound manner without exploiting our parks and wildernesses in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. The National Grange believes domestic hydroelectric power should be considered renewable green energy. We also promote the use of renewable energy from livestock methane emissions to help reduce the United States' dependence on oil and to help increase the farmers' net income.
2. The National Grange favors the complete utilization of petroleum and the other mineral resources, including the exploration and production of oil reserves on the

coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and from any outer continental shelf lease sales in accordance with the terms of an environmentally sound development plan.

3. The National Grange supports the building of the Keystone Pipeline system as long as it is built to acceptable appropriate engineering and environmental standards.
4. The National Grange supports the adoption of alternative fuels such as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).
5. The National Grange supports legislation requiring the nation's motor fuels to contain a renewable component (Biodiesel and/or Ethanol). We support increased development and use of ethanol and ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE) in gasoline blends with adequate income tax incentives to make the production and use of ethanol and ETBE economically feasible. We further support the goal of at least a 10% blend of ethanol to be used in at least 50% of all gasoline sold for motor fuel to be made available in all states.
6. The National Grange supports regulated oil and gas production in the United States that protects landowners and allows adequate compensation while allowing production to continue.
7. The National Grange supports an examination and reform of environmental laws so that new oil refineries can be built to supply our fuel needs. New oil refineries should be built, if feasible, in areas other than the Gulf Coast. We further support a study of the need for different mandated formulations for gasoline, and if possible, a reduction in the number of gasoline blends to make it easier and less expensive to refine and transport the finished product.
8. The National Grange endorses the goal of generating at least 25% of domestic energy needs from domestic renewable resources while continuing to produce safe, abundant and affordable food, feed, and fiber by January 1, 2025.
9. The National Grange urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, and any other pertinent federal agencies to develop and strengthen regulations regarding the siting of liquefied natural gas terminals, and consideration should be given to the overall economic impact on the region before any site is approved.

Rural Electric Cooperatives, Public Power and Rural Electricity Consumers

1. The National Grange supports the continued application of the existing preference concept of the Federal Power Act being granted to public power utilities in the licensing and re-licensing of federal hydroelectric facilities. We further support granting co-preference in the licensing and re-licensing of federal hydroelectric facilities to rural electric cooperatives.
2. In order to assure adequate electric and telephone service to rural areas, the National Grange actively supports continuation and expansion of the existing USDA Rural Utility Service low interest revolving loan fund to assure the financial stability of rural electric and telephone cooperatives.
3. The National Grange supports continuing electric service to urban areas that are within a rural electric cooperative's service area. However, rural electric cooperatives that provide electric service to predominantly rural areas should continue to have first priority for low interest federal financing. In addition, we urge the electricity industry to charge rates for farmers and small businessmen that are competitive with their large wholesale customers.

4. The National Grange supports legislation to establish solid waste-to-energy plants that will produce power in an environmentally safe manner that can be accessed by public utility districts, rural electric cooperatives, and municipal utilities.
5. We support maintaining the current structure of rural electric systems without forced deregulation of publicly owned plants or any other action that would be detrimental to rural electric consumers. The National Grange supports reform to the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act, so that non-utility generating stations operate to sell their output to competitive market rates and eliminate the oppressive rates being passed on to the consumer.
6. The National Grange supports requirements for increased accountability and responsibility on the part of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and power companies in the operation of any nuclear power plant. The National Grange supports the careful selection by the Department of Energy of sites for the disposal of low-level nuclear wastes, excluding prime agricultural, forest, and parkland. The National Grange supports efforts to open the Yucca Mountain site in 2020 for the storage of nuclear waste and opposes actions to delay the project. We urge that the public be involved in the decision to conduct additional research on the long-term consequences to the environment of the disposal of nuclear wastes. The National Grange further urges the Department of Energy to conduct an extensive educational program to inform citizens of the safeguards and hazards that are involved in the disposal of these wastes.
7. The National Grange opposes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's imposition of a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) and Standard Market Design (SMD) on the Northwest Region of the U.S. We support the present cost-based rate system, as determined in the 1937 Congressional Bonneville Power Administration repayment agreement; requiring Bonneville Power Administration to adopt for pricing electricity, instead of a market based repayment pricing system. We support the present federal Power Marketing Administrations. We further recommend the establishment of Power Marketing Administrations in areas of the United States where desired and feasible. We vigorously oppose selling the Western Area Power Administration and Bonneville Power Administration to private power companies. The National Grange also supports the allowance of the Northwest Region to develop an alternate approach to strengthening the transmission system.

Public Lands Management Practices

1. The National Grange believes that multiple use of non-reserved land should be the cornerstone of the United States' public land policy in order to achieve the following objectives: energy exploration and development; sustained yield management for food and forest production; recreational uses for all citizens; responsible wildlife management; soil conservation and watershed protection. Since it is important for rural economies to keep public land in food and fiber production, we support any regulation pertaining to water rights, lease improvements and contamination remediation that allows for agricultural production.
2. The National Grange supports the maintenance of appropriate conservation practices on all public lands leased to private individuals yet will continue to support placing a moratorium on the acquisition of private land by the U.S. Forest Service. The National Grange recommends that a user fee be implemented for all commercial and recreational use of federal land requiring a permit.

3. The National Grange urges federal agencies to intensify prescribed burning on national public lands as a forest management technique. We support adoption of forest management programs in national parks that specifically exclude the use of natural uncontrolled forest fires, such as those that are caused by lightning, as a forest management technique. All local, state and federal agencies should promptly conduct an economic impact study once a forest fire is declared controlled and move expeditiously to reforest and restore the catastrophically burned landscapes. The National Grange supports the establishment of a maximum two year administrative deadline during which the Department of Agriculture Forest Service must formulate a recovery plan and complete all recovery appeals. We support the efforts of “Communities for Healthy Forests” in mandating immediate restorative action. We further support federal legislation to accelerate the salvage harvest of dead and dying timber on public lands while that timber still has a commercial economic value.
4. The National Grange supports appropriations for the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service to adequately carry out an expanded silviculture program, wildlife management, water and soil protection, weed control, recreational needs, protection of natural, historic and cultural resources, to develop additional forest campgrounds and increase the available spaces in existing campgrounds to keep them open year round where economically feasible. We also urge that U.S. Forest Service campground fees be raised to more nearly cover the costs of operating these campgrounds.
5. The National Grange favors the increased planting of lumber-producing trees on both national and state forest lands, including increased funding for federal and state tree nurseries, to produce additional seedlings for lumber. We urge the U.S. Forest Service to permit selected timber stands to reach old growth and be harvested on a sustained yield basis. Furthermore, we support prohibiting states from exercising authority to restrict the sale or export of logs that are harvested from state-owned land.
6. The National Grange recognizes the states’ rights to own and/or manage Bureau of Land Management (BLM) unreserved lands, not including national forest lands, revenues that are now received by counties should be protected when control of any federal land is assigned to state governments.
7. The National Grange supports legislation to require federal and state governments to pay a proportionate share of monies, in lieu of taxes, to those counties, cities, and communities that provide public services to the parks and recreational areas within their boundaries in addition to supporting federal legislation allowing national parks to keep a major portion of entrance fees to be used for the development and maintenance of recreational facilities.
8. The National Grange calls on federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute incidents of tree and trail spiking and the destruction of logging equipment on federal and state lands.
9. The National Grange supports amending the National Antiquities Act to include public comment.
10. The National Grange encourages the U.S. Forest Service to amend the National Forest plan to remove the 21-inch Diameter at Breast Height rule (DBH) for any National Forest.
11. The National Grange supports that any responding agency to a fire, whether it

is local, state or federal, be required to notify adjacent landowners and other authorities with jurisdiction, for their own safety, of all wild and grass fires in the area

12. The National Grange supports the use of state and/or federal funds for the mitigation of loss of land value due to state and federal logging restrictions on riparian land be available only to small landowners and not be available to large corporations, landowners, or trusts.

Federal Grazing

1. The National Grange supports basing all decisions on federal grazing regulations, including grazing fee-pricing formulas, upon solid economic principles, current livestock market prices, and good conservation practices. We favor legislation that would further limit any overall reduction in grazing to 10 percent or less on any given allotment except in the case of emergencies such as drought. We strongly believe that federal grazing permittees should be consulted as grazing plans are developed.
2. The National Grange strongly supports considering the economic impact that restrictions on grazing in riparian areas (areas between the stream banks) may have on farmers before legislation is passed.
3. The National Grange encourages the Bureau of Land Management and National Forest Service to carry out an aggressive program to fill all grazing allotments on Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service lands. However, we support restricting the selling of federal grazing permits to anyone other than someone using the permit for grazing purposes.

Land Withdrawals and Wilderness

1. The National Grange supports releasing all public lands not currently designated as wilderness or wilderness study areas to multiple uses. The establishment of any additional national forest wilderness preserves or any large-scale government land acquisition should be prohibited. All land that is capable of producing commercial timber, farm and grazing lands or commercially-valuable minerals should be prohibited from inclusion into any established park or wilderness area that would erode a county's tax base. The National Grange recommends that in national recreational areas classified other than primitive, the broadest possible range of activities compatible with a forested area be permitted, subject to user fees. The National Grange supports legislation to significantly restrict acreage set aside for parks, wilderness, and wildlife preserves in Alaska in addition to providing access through federal lands.
2. The National Grange supports regulations governing the management of federal wilderness areas should allow for controlled access roads for emergency use as well as the salvage of timber, using modern harvesting techniques where natural disasters such as blow-downs or insect infestations have occurred. We oppose the destruction or obliteration of any Forest Service roads and further oppose designating any roadless areas of the National Forest System as permanently off limits to logging, mining or other development.
3. The National Grange believes any extension of the federal Wild and Scenic River System should not include private property. Should there be a proposed change in the designation of rivers and streams, we favor a vote by the citizens of the jurisdiction.

4. The National Grange supports the property rights of all farmers and ranchers and demands that the owner's consent be given before any action is taken by the Federal Government to acquire private land.
5. The National Grange supports legislation directing mitigation of identified losses of public and private lands from the state tax base due to federal acquisition through transfer of an equivalent acreage from federal land to public or private ownership, or by providing an annual payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT), based on an independent economic impact analysis to be adjusted annually for inflation.
6. The National Grange supports maintaining the management of all federal facilities, like the National Bison Range, by the United States federal government and not by any other sovereign nation or international entity.
7. The National Grange encourages utilization of timber killed by insect infestations as bio-mass fuel to the extent practicable, and supports forest management plans that create conditions unfavorable to future insect infestations.

Wildlife Management

1. The National Grange encourages Congress to amend the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to restore proper perspective by requiring public hearings and economic impact statements on the impacts to the affected areas before a species may be listed. We support changes to the ESA to require that only a pure biological and numerical definition of an endangered species be used without being based on sub species, distinct populations, or hybridization. We believe that only those species actually threatened with extinction should be listed in the ESA, taking into consideration total populations, available habitats, and recovery areas on the North American continent. We further support a review of the ESA with the following guidelines: focus on keystone species (organisms critical to the stable functions of entire habitats and ecosystems), not minor or reduced species; rely on public lands for preservation; encourage voluntary protection by individuals and corporations; curtail taking of private lands for ESA; balance human costs with ecological benefits; compensation for private property owners for loss of usage of their property due to the ESA. The National Grange supports legislation legally allowing people to defend themselves or their property from an attack by any animal listed as an endangered species without concern of retribution from government authorities.
2. The National Grange supports legislative and regulatory measures to prohibit further implementation of any Wolf Recovery Plan. We further support the passage of legislation to outlaw the propagation of wolves or wolf hybrids.
3. The National Grange believes it is the responsibility of the federal government to control the expanding populations of legally protected plants and animals where those plants or animals pose a threat to human life or health, or where those plants or animals pose a threat to established economic activity. We encourage state and federal wildlife conservation agencies to assist farmers in all cases of crop and property damage by wild game.
4. The National Grange is opposed to any Grizzly Bear recovery plan. We support legislation requiring government agencies to notify property owners when they relocate park bears or other potentially dangerous animals. The property owners to be notified are those who are within the normal range of the animals that are being released.

5. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation of licensed hunting and trapping of game animals, waterfowl, and game birds. However, we favor the levying of stiff penalties for poaching of wildlife. We further support the continued usage of steel jaw traps.
6. The National Grange believes that wildlife management areas should not be used for recreation or any other development that diminishes the value of the lands for wildlife management purposes.
7. The National Grange supports legislation to expand the hunting season of Canadian and Snow geese from November 1st - April 1st. We also support increasing the daily bag limit for Canadian and Snow geese.
8. The National Grange supports any prairie dog management plan that allows people to control the prairie dog population through shooting and toxicants, without the need for a special license.
9. The National Grange opposes the listing of the eastern oyster on the endangered species list.

Preservation of Fishing Resources

1. The National Grange urges the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission to support the designation of only those marine sanctuaries that guarantee fishery usage and recognize the fishery management authority of the current sanctuary boundaries.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to reauthorize the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation Management Act. We urge all appropriate federal agencies to work closely with all state wildlife agencies to maintain sustained fishing yields by regulating sport and subsistence fisheries in order to allow for the adequate recovery of fish and aquatic species into many areas where they have declined. We support the United States working with all countries to regulate commercial fishing to allow for the adequate return of fish into many areas where fish yields have declined. We further support an extension of the U.S. territorial sea to not less than 50 miles where foreign commercial fishing may not be performed to aid in salmon recovery.
3. The National Grange favors all reasonable measures to save the Pacific Salmon in the Columbia and Snake Rivers as long as the first priorities for these river systems is power generation, water use, and navigation. We support securing the passage of a treaty between Canada and the United States to govern the operation of the salmon industries in each respective nation. We support uniform regulation of all net fishing in the Columbia River, Puget Sound, and the Pacific Ocean before drastic economic measures to reestablish wild runs of Pacific Salmon are enacted. The National Grange recommends that fish ladders be included in the planning of any future dam construction on streams or rivers where fish migration may be affected. We favor the transport of juvenile fish, the hatchery propagation of salmon stocks, flow control, and control of the salmon harvest until a final Pacific Salmon recovery plan is in place. We support the establishment of a program to audit the harvest of salmon on the lower Columbia River. We further believe that all salmon fishing on the Columbia and Snake Rivers should be restricted to hook and line methods only. We recommend to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that spawned out salmon carcasses be planted near remote site incubators for smolt releases as a food source for the young fish.
4. The National Grange urges the federal government to continue funding the

National Marine Fisheries Service at the current levels to enable them to continue the biological studies that will lead to the elimination of drift net fishing by all nations.

5. The National Grange supports adequate funding of the Marine Mammal Protection Act for use by the various states in developing appropriate marine mammal management plans and policies. In addition, we urge Congress to exclude Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions from the Marine Mammal Protection Act and place them under the control and protection of the states, including a controlled harvest season for Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions, until the yearly run of the Pacific Salmon increases to the point where the salmon will no longer be considered for protection under the Endangered Species Act. We further support efforts to utilize harvested Harbor Seal and California Sea Lion carcasses to avoid waste.
6. The National Grange supports research and long term solutions to prevent the introduction and the spread of invasive and/or destructive aquatic organisms as well as the necessary destruction of established populations of these species such as, but not limited to, Asian Carp and Pfiesteria.
7. The National Grange favors the regulated harvesting of fresh water clams and mussels.
8. We support legislation requiring all shipping lines to change their ballast water in the open ocean to curtail the further introduction of foreign species, such as the Zebra Mussel, into our domestic waterways.
9. The National Grange supports legislative and regulatory measures to prohibit the National Marine Fisheries Service from taking control of private lands, breaching of dams, and killing of hatchery salmon under the authority of its 4 (d) Rules. The National Grange urges Congress to order the National Marine Fisheries Service to reconsider the proposed setbacks on private property along all bodies of water or to pay for the taking of the property. We urge Congress to intervene and formulate a true scientific basis for establishment of buffers/setbacks and buffer/setback restrictions along all bodies of water. We encourage the National Marine Fisheries Service do more to start identifying corrective measures beyond licensing and regulation to save the fish off our nation's coasts that include avoiding by catch, single-species management, ocean sanctuaries, eco-friendly gear, and consumer alertness. We further believe that alternative sources of fish production i.e. aquaculture, should be encouraged where appropriate.

Private Timber Land Management

1. The National Grange supports the voluntary use of good conservation practices and sustained yield management practices on private forestlands.
2. The National Grange believes that in return for public benefits resulting from improved forest management on individually owned forest lands, a portion of the expenses that are involved in management should be borne by the public through assistance programs and cost-sharing incentive payments. Any forest management assistance programs should recognize the multiple use aspects of private forest lands, including timber production, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, recreation, and scenic values.
3. The National Grange supports efforts to establish forests or pastures on appropriate marginal farmland.
4. The National Grange requests Congress to control arbitrary appeals of U.S. Forest

Service timber sales assessing penalties to the appellant to cover the costs of failed appeals.

5. The National Grange supports legislation to require each appeal of timber sale to post a security bond.

Environmental Regulations and Controls

1. The National Grange supports requiring instigators of court actions brought against properly approved and financed federal, state, or municipal construction projects to post an adequate bond with the court that is sufficient to pay all costs that are incurred due to the delay caused by such action if the action fails.
2. The National Grange seeks legislation to clarify that national environmental impact statements must equitably weigh economic, social, and environmental impacts to reduce the delay these statements impose on many worthwhile and needed projects. Such studies should include the full economic impact on the local, state or national economy.
3. The National Grange supports the EPA's standards on the use of dangerous trace metals. We further support continued EPA programs to monitor the industrial and farm uses of materials that contain dangerous trace metals.
4. The National Grange supports new "Right to Farm" laws at the local, state and federal levels to further protect them against charges of civil or criminal violation of environmental regulations when those charges apply to normal activities that are essential to a farm operation.
5. The National Grange urges Congress to keep the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at its current status as an independent federal agency, and not elevate the agency to a Cabinet level.

Private Land Use, Planning, Zoning, Farmland Protection, and Eminent Domain

1. The National Grange urges the USDA, in conjunction with land grant universities, to provide assistance to local governments and citizen groups in educating the public on the importance of keeping land in agricultural production and in developing farmland retention programs which protect the rights of landowners and the prerogatives of local governments. The National Grange supports land use planning and zoning remaining a function of local and state governments.
2. The National Grange urges that the transfer of development rights be used to protect family farms. Whenever land is designated for permanent agricultural use, farmers should receive adequate compensation for the loss in land value. We call for the immediate enactment of regulations or legislation that will require and facilitate the timely payment of fair compensation to private property owners for property losses they have sustained as a result of oil and/or gas explorations on their property so they are not forced to obtain such compensation through costly litigation and support legislation prohibiting any implementation of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative that would infringe upon private property rights.
3. The National Grange urges the Farm Service Agency or any other agency not to relinquish the use of any farmlands, wetlands, or other lands to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or any other government agency.
4. The National Grange will continue to work to improve locally controlled site-specific resource and environmental management in the Columbia Basin.
5. The National Grange supports legislation reaffirming congressional power over

international agreements concerning disposal, management and use of lands owned by the United States and also protects state powers, from federal actions designating lands to international agreements. The National Grange further supports legislation protecting private interests in real property from any federal actions designating lands to international agreements.

6. The National Grange seeks legislation specifying when property is acquired by a federal agency through condemnation or negotiated price for a specific public purpose yet not used for that purpose, the original owner shall have first right of repurchase at the original price or at a lesser price if the value of the property has been decreased. We support legislation that eminent domain be used only for public purposes, such as rights of way for transportation and utilities.
7. The National Grange urges the federal government to replace, whenever possible, condemned private land with public land of equal value/productivity, and to maintain a balance between public and private lands throughout the nation.
8. The National Grange supports changing laws so that, in points of controversy, private property rights take precedence over environmental regulations.
9. The National Grange supports legislation to prohibit the Federal Government or any agency or authority of the Federal Government from exercising its power of eminent domain to be used for private economic development unless there is an immediate danger to the health and/or safety of citizens. Furthermore, the National Grange supports federal legislation to require that no state, political subdivision of a state or any person or entity to which such power has been delegated shall exercise its power of eminent domain, for the purpose of private economic development or over property that is subsequently used for economic development unless there are situations of immediate danger to the health and/or safety of citizens. Any state or political subdivision that exercises the power of eminent domain for private economic development shall be ineligible for any federal economic development funds for any purpose for a period of at least two years.
10. We support the ranchers and other landowners in Southern Colorado who oppose the Army's proposal to take land by eminent domain for the expansion of the Ft. Carson Army Base and urge Congress to pass legislation prohibiting the Base's expansion through the use of eminent domain.

Clean Air

1. The National Grange supports a clean air policy that will best protect agricultural interests, relieve automotive passengers, freight users and carriers of costly and unnecessary restrictions, and will protect the physical and economic health of industry and the general public.
2. The National Grange proposes that Congress determine state compliance to the Clean Air Act by statute and not by administrative regulations. Until then, we urge state and national administrative flexibility in deadlines for meeting Ambient Air Quality Standards. The National Grange strongly urges the EPA to retain the existing National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ground-level ozone.
3. The National Grange opposes any national mandatory motor vehicle emission inspection and maintenance programs. We oppose any national law or regulation that would require the use of "stand alone" vehicle emission testing facilities. The National Grange supports exempting agricultural equipment and machinery manufactured prior to January 1, 1993 from the current Clean Air Act,

4. The National Grange favors the repeal of the ozone provisions contained in the Clean Air Act to allow the use of Freon for refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners.
5. The National Grange favors reducing sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions from coal-burning plants. The National Grange encourages more research into clean technology and revision of EPA standards for use of coal and gas in building new generating plants. The National Grange opposes any “Cap and Trade” bill or related legislation concerning climate changes that would restrict greenhouse gas emissions.
6. The National Grange supports changes in the United Nations Climate Change Treaty before it is ratified by the United States. We urge the Kyoto Protocol to include uniform standards for all major countries, developed and developing. In the meantime we support the following measures: expansion of voluntary efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions; scientific research and educational programs on climate; investing in the development and deployment of new technologies and urging utilities to update their older plants bringing them into compliance with the current Clean Air Act.
7. The National Grange supports a program of government incentives that will reduce commuting by private vehicle, increase subsidies for mass transportation or car pooling, and sponsor more research to make alternative energy cars viable.

My sincere thanks go to the members of my committee for their help, advice and insight as we deliberated. I would like to thank committee secretary, Jimmy Taylor, for his work in recording and organizing our work. We would like to thank the National Grange staff for their assistance.

Fraternally,

Matthew Johnson, MA (chair)

Kay McCord, CO

Vicki Huff, ME

Kim Bascom, NH (H)

James Taylor, VA (secretary)

Don Heikkila, ID

Lester Gibbs, VT

Joan Smith, Potomac (H)

EDUCATION & HEALTH COMMITTEE**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
401	Physical Education in Schools	CO	Present Policy
402	Free College Tuition for Undocumented Students	IN	Present Policy
403	National Health Care System	NE	Present Policy
404	Obamacare	TX	Withdrawn
405	Banning of BPA in Children’s Products and Food Packaging	PA	Adopted
406	Early Childhood Education	PA	Adopted as Amended
407	Eliminate Prescription “Donut Hole”	PA	Adopted as Amended
408	Medicare Part B Drugs Reimbursement	PA	Present Policy
409	Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act	MI	Adopted
410	No Child Left Behind	MI	Present Policy
411	Control of So-Called “Bath Salt” Compounds	NY	Present Policy
412	Telemedicine and Telehealth	NY	Adopted
413	Lyme Disease Research	NY	Adopted as Amended
414	Healthcare Flexible Spending Accounts	NY	Present Policy
415	School Lunch Portions	MD	Covered in 409-MI
416	School Lunch Milk	MD	Withdrawn
417	Removal of Milk from School Lunch	MD	Present Policy
418	Flavored Milk	MD	Withdrawn
419	Dental Care	CT	Adopted

POLICY STATEMENT***Education***

A quality education opens minds to new possibilities and encourages students to think for themselves. While the Grange commends those who have followed the traditional path for higher education, we need to encourage those who fall outside the term “traditional student” to look at the educational opportunities offered by vocational or trade schools and other nontraditional degree programs to expand their personal and professional lives.

In support of students stepping out on their own, we believe we must return the power of education to parents, teachers and local school boards. Parents must be an essential part

of the decision making process. The National Grange encourages the teaching of financial literacy as a major point of education if we are to see productive, prepared, responsible citizens and future elected officials; while contributing to our local and national economy.

The National Grange offers its continued support of OCRE (Organizations Concerned About Rural Education), the National School Board Associations and other educational associations that seek improvements to the No Child Left Behind Act, as well as supporting the efforts to reduce the pupil to teacher ratio at all levels of education through 12th grade.

We encourage the use of agricultural-based curriculums such as Ag in the Classroom and Food for America. Agricultural education not only gives students career skills, leadership skills and life skills, but also a deep sense of purpose.

The National Grange encourages the involvement of parents, teachers and students in the awareness and prevention of bullying in America's schools at all levels of education.

We strongly encourage Grange members nationwide to play an active role in their local school systems and communities. It is essential for our members to invest in our children's education through volunteering. Some examples of this are the donation of school supplies (such as the Words for Thirds program) and exposure to volunteerism and community service. These contributions will help us remain positive role models for school children and increase the awareness of our organization.

Health

It is important that each of us take responsibility for our own health. The National Grange continues to support the repeal of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, returning the responsibility to the local communities to develop their own guidelines to reduce childhood obesity. We would recommend and encourage that the guideline include healthy lunches, choice of low fat milk and low fat flavored milks, increased physical activity, and limited access to soda machines and snack machines.

The National Grange supports the efforts of legislation to include cost effective, early intervention medical care to be covered by private and public insurance programs.

The National Grange supports that a cap to be placed on malpractice cases to assist in the reduction of healthcare costs.

The National Grange encourages all Americans to be mindful of prescription drug safety. Educational information should be provided by the prescribing physician, as well as by their pharmacists. We believe the information available through the FDA and the DEA should be provided to patients to give an unbiased opinion of the medication. Patients should be allowed to purchase their prescription from whatever reliable source they choose. The National Grange insists that all prescriptions drugs that are purchased from within the boundaries of the United States should meet or exceed the standards of the FDA and the DEA. Increased efforts must be made for the continuing education of Medicare recipients on the benefits available to them through Medicare.

The National Grange continues to support the prescription disposal program, while encouraging local Granges to get training and to take part in this program in their own local communities.

While not all products that enter the United States can realistically be tested to determine if they are defective or contaminated, we encourage government agencies and consumer safety advocates to be diligent in safety inspection on imported products. The National Grange requests that all products sold in the United States be labeled with the country of origin.

National Grange urges its members to be diligent in their communications with their legislators to continue the cost of living increases to Social Security recipients.

We believe the National Grange should continue to lobby Congress to ensure that any national healthcare legislation pertains only to healthcare.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Banning of BPA in Children's Products and Food Packaging

WHEREAS, bisphenol A (BPA) is an industrial chemical used in clear and hard plastics, such as water and soda bottles, and in the resin linings of food and beverage cans, including soup cans and containers of infant formula; and

WHEREAS, BPA leaches into food when plastics containing it are heated, and studies have linked BPA to cancer, infertility, diabetes, and obesity; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has expressed "concern about the potential effects of BPA on the brain, behavior, and prostate gland in fetuses, infants, and young children" and the potential effects "on the mammary gland and an earlier age for puberty for females in fetuses, infants and children"; and

WHEREAS, the FDA has denied a request by the National Resources Defense Council to ban the use of BPA in human food and food packaging, but Canada and eleven U. S. states have passed legislation prohibiting the sale of baby bottles, sippy cups and other children's products that contain BPA; and

WHEREAS, many businesses that sell baby bottles, sippy cups and other children's products have stopped using BPA in their products and clearly label such fact on their products; and

WHEREAS, Campbell's has voluntarily stopped using BPA in the lining of some of its soup cans and is phasing out its remaining use in response to customer concerns about the safety of BPA; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Grange support legislation to prohibit the use of BPA and other similar industrial chemicals in all children's products, human food and food packaging.

This covers 405-PA.

Early Childhood Education

WHEREAS, politicians have targeted the budget ax at programs for the very children they claim to champion; and

WHEREAS, politicians want to reduce funding for public school systems for four-year-olds from low income families; and

WHEREAS, children who do not attend pre-kindergarten classes enter school about 18 months developmentally behind their peers; and

WHEREAS, the Head Start program is currently under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange suggests and encourages the transfer of the Head Start program to the U.S. Department of Education, and that the federal level funding be supported as needed to efficiently support the program and be it further,

RESOLVED, the Head Start program be completely integrated into the federal and state education programs.

This covers 406-PA.

Eliminate Prescription "Donut Hole"

WHEREAS, the number of Americans who cut corners on drug usage to afford prescriptions has risen 9% since the end of 2010; and

WHEREAS, they have put their health at risk by cutting pills in half or taking them less frequently than prescribed to save money; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports the continued process to eliminate the “donut hole” for Medicare prescription coverage.

This covers 407-PA.

Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act

WHEREAS, the problem of childhood obesity has become a national issue with focus being led by First Lady Michelle Obama in a “Let’s Move” campaign that has led to a legislative action named “Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act”; and

WHEREAS, this endeavor started out with good intentions; and

WHEREAS, the new act is requiring schools to follow new guidelines and place calorie cap requirements on school lunches; and

WHEREAS, many students purchase their lunches from their schools; and

WHEREAS, not only children, but adults as well, can be picky eaters and with new healthier items that are not appealing to children that are being introduced such as kale and collard greens, many items are ending up in the trash, costing the school money, which then passes the cost to the parents; and

WHEREAS, these children that are still hungry are asking other students that bring a cold lunch for more food, making the strict requirements the school has to follow null and void; and

WHEREAS, many students who are involved with physical activities, such as sports, may not get the appropriate amount of calories needed from the school lunches resulting in their hunger and possibly failing in their activities; and

WHEREAS, not only obese students, but non-obese students are suffering from the one size fits all mandate and going hungry; and

WHEREAS, the new lunches are causing many of the older students that are able, to go to convenient stores and fast food places to satisfy their hunger caused from these lunches, therefore increasing unhealthy foods into their systems; and

WHEREAS, many children may not come from sound financial families and this may be a child’s only meal for a day; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange urge legislation to repeal the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act and allow the local communities to make their own guidelines on school lunches to reduce child obesity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the local communities making their own guidelines be encouraged to look at alternative ways to reduce child obesity, such as how school lunches are prepared (baked vs. fried), requiring physical education classes, and eliminating unhealthy snacks and soda pop from vending machines.

This covers 409-MI.

Telemedicine and Telehealth

WHEREAS, rural health providers focus on primary care but large distances need to be traveled for specialty services; and

WHEREAS, telemedicine and telehealth need to be expanded to meet the needs of sparsely populated areas; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange support elimination of regulatory and statutory impediments to broaden the use of telemedicine and telehealth and institute a more uniform approach for reimbursement

This covers 412-NY.

Lyme Disease Research

WHEREAS, lyme disease has become a major health concern; and

WHEREAS, those who contract the disease often lose months of full productivity and can be adversely affected for the rest of their lives; and

WHEREAS, there are insufficient incentives for the medical/pharmaceutical sector to seek new treatment, methods of prevention and cure for the disease; and

WHEREAS, mobilization of economic and educational resources will be necessary to adequately fight the disease; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange supports governmental efforts on the state and national level to fund research on the prevention and treatment of lyme disease and educate the public about its prevention, detection, and treatment.

This covers 413-NY.

Dental Care

WHEREAS, teeth are a natural part of the body and an important part of the digestive system; and

WHEREAS, dental problems and diseases affect other parts of the body which require a physician's care; and

WHEREAS, insurance companies will try to avoid anything that will raise their costs by any means possible; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive healthcare law is being reconsidered by Congress; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that teeth should be declared a legitimate part of the body requiring the same comprehensive level of care and coverage as any other part of the body by health insurers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all prosthetics, including dentures, implants, crowns, and bridge work be covered at the same rate as all other medical procedures; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that dentists be treated as any other medical specialists by both the government and the insurance carriers, and reimbursed at comparable rates.

This covers 419-CT.

PRESENT POLICY

Education

General Education Policies

1. The National Grange supports public education and supports the idea of strengthening and improving the system of public education. The National Grange urges Congress to amend the "No Child Left Behind" law so local tax dollars on education are spent more responsibly. Parents should have a choice of schools based on the schools' performance numbers provided that those parents furnish transportation for the children. We believe that every child should be able to receive a public education, and that the state is responsible for providing said education, which shall include the following: a broad curriculum with emphasis on basic language, physical education, math, and science skills; an opportunity for students to choose either vocational or "college preparatory" training; functional buildings; frequent public reports and accountability of funds; and basic training

- in agriculture, including the “Ag in the Classroom” program, covering both production and consumption.
2. The National Grange supports the adoption of a comprehensive health education curriculum.
 3. The Grange supports the teaching of foreign languages, including sign language. We recommend that all other subjects be taught in the English language and that all non-English speaking students and residents in the United States be given the opportunity to receive immediate instruction in the English language through programs such as English-As-A-Second-Language.
 4. The National Grange supports affordable telecommunications services for rural schools and libraries.
 5. The National Grange supports strong educational standards, but does not believe that the establishment of National Education Standards Testing achieves this goal.
 6. The National Grange supports the retention of the Head Start program and encourages its transfer to the US Department of Education. The National Grange also suggests that the Head Start program be completely integrated into federal and state education programs and that federal level funding be supported as needed to efficiently support the program.
 7. The National Grange supports the teaching of both the theory of evolution and the story of creation, allowing individual school boards and students to make their own choice.
 8. The National Grange supports posting the Ten Commandments in schools, courthouses and other public facilities.
 9. The National Grange supports legislation that would bring about protection of parental and/or guardian rights in the guidance, control and administration of their dependent minors’ health care. This legislation should be written to include any and all federal, state and local government agencies.
 10. The National Grange supports the teaching of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, including the Preamble and the Bill of Rights, in schools.
 11. The National Grange urges that United States’ citizens, rather than foreign students, be given preference in obtaining publicly-funded scholarships. The National Grange opposes any legislation allowing illegal aliens to receive tuition discounts at American institutions of higher learning.
 12. The National Grange endorses “Read Across America;” we recommit our organization to engage in programs and activities to make Americans the best readers in the world.
 13. The National Grange supports traditional educational standards in American schools by making certain that school textbooks, today and in the future, are not modified to the point where our historical family gender specific terminology is altered or lost due to political or social pressures.
 14. National Grange is opposed to any changes in the language of classic literature, with the exception of those necessary for translation from another language.
 15. The National Grange opposes any legislation that may be proposed permitting or requiring non-security school staff to carry firearms while at school.
 16. The National Grange urges the Federal Department of Education to encourage all local school systems to retain recess for elementary school children.
 17. The National Grange supports legislation to establish standardized requirements

for school nurses in all 50 states, as well as legislation to adequately fund school nurse programs to be able to handle the increased workload.

Education for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Special Needs Children

1. The National Grange believes that parents of deaf and hard of hearing children, deaf and hard of hearing people, teachers, and professionals who are trained in the area of educating the deaf should assist in determining the extent, content, and purpose of the educational program, and particularly consider those program options that provide the pupil with an appropriate and equal opportunity for communication access, including the state's school for the deaf, which may be the least restrictive environment for a deaf or hard of hearing child.
2. The National Grange strongly supports continuation of the Education of the Deaf Act to provide maximum benefit for deaf and hard of hearing persons, both in programs and services, including funding for Gallaudet University and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID).

Educational Funding

1. The National Grange supports the continuation of the federal guaranteed student loan, grant, and work-study programs. The National Grange recommends that Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Expected Family Contribution (EFC) regulations be adjusted to reflect family expenses, such as real estate taxes, medical expenses and other financial obligations in the determination of financial aid. We urge strict enforcement of the requirements for repayment of federally financed student loans with severe penalties for default. The National Grange suggests that the guidelines for student financial aid laws be revised so financially independent students are eligible to receive financial aid for their higher education.
2. The National Grange supports the retention of Federal Government Impact Aid for public school districts that lose traditional revenue sources due to a federal presence or activity.
3. The National Grange supports federal categorical aid to school library centers.
4. The National Grange believes that public funding should be used only in public schools. We support redirecting public funding to nonpublic or charter schools, only when the money is for special-needs students where the law mandates special training not available in public schools.
5. The National Grange supports federal funding for state allocation of dollars for rural education to promote better salaries and benefits for teachers in rural education and to improve rural school conditions.
6. The National Grange urges adequate funding by the federal government for all federally mandated education programs. In particular, we support equal educational opportunities for exceptional and handicapped persons including federal funding at the 40 percent level for federally mandated individualized education programs for special needs children.
7. The National Grange supports federal legislation protecting the Upward Bound Talent Search, designed to benefit low-income students seeking college educations.
8. The National Grange supports legislation that awards grants to institutions for history teacher preparation initiatives stressing content mastery in traditional American history and the principles on which the American political system is based.

Nutrition

1. The National Grange urges adequate funding for school breakfast and lunch programs. We support the American Dietetic Association's current guidelines recommending two to three servings of dairy products daily in the school nutrition program. We urge the USDA to keep dairy products in the Food Pyramid and encourage all consumers to include adequate amounts of calcium in their diets. School breakfast and lunch programs should provide balanced diets to meet a child's daily nutritional requirements.
2. The National Grange urges legislation to repeal the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act and allow local communities to make their own guidelines on school lunches to reduce child obesity. The National Grange also encourages local communities making their own guidelines to look at alternative ways to reduce child obesity, such as how school lunches are prepared (baked vs. fried), requiring physical education classes, and eliminating unhealthy snacks and soda pop from vending machines.
3. The National Grange urges the agricultural community to provide nutrition education programs for consumers and school-aged children and support continued funding for the Farmers' Market Nutrition program.
4. The National Grange supports any legislation to prohibit the sale of junk food and soda pop from vending machines in elementary and junior high schools. We also urge school districts to seek out contracts with vendors distributing more healthy alternatives such as milk.
5. The National Grange opposes any additional tax on "fat" foods for the purpose of preventing obesity. Instead, educational programs should be provided to encourage eating a variety of nutritious foods in moderation, and to teach the basic interaction of calorie intake and energy expenditure.

Food Safety and Labeling

1. The National Grange believes the agricultural industry should be free to advertise their products as long as the advertisement is accurate and is based on facts.
2. The National Grange favors strict enforcement of all food labeling laws by the Food & Drug Administration and supports a uniform system for labeling food and drink products, including expiration date in a color that is readable on the background. We encourage the National Safety Working Group and Congress to enact far-reaching legislation increasing the inspection rate and level of safety of imported foreign foods, drugs, and manufactured goods. We also support legislation requiring food companies and restaurants to clearly mark food labels and items on menus that may contain ingredients such as Monosodium Glutamate (MSG) and inform patrons if their food contains peanuts, are exposed to peanuts, or has been cooked in peanut oil. We recommend that a ban be placed on the use of all sulfites on fresh fruits and vegetables in restaurants. We further recommend that all manufacturers of food and drink who use sulfites in their products be required to specify on the product label that a sulfite was used. However, we support each individual restaurant's right to decide whether to include calorie counts on their menu boards of calorie, fat, carbohydrates and sodium on their menus for all food and beverage items.
3. The National Grange urges the Department of Health and Human Services to review and strengthen the regulations pertaining to manufactured products used

in the home canning process, including requiring a manufacturer's name and expiration date on these products.

4. The National Grange favors continued testing of cider processing but strongly urges Congress and the USDA not to require pasteurization of all commercial cider.
5. The National Grange supports the initiation of a regulated food products irradiation program. We further support federal funding for a program to educate the public about the benefits of irradiated food products.
6. The National Grange supports easy and inexpensive access to vitamins and supplements. We urge that all herbal medicines sold in the United States be labeled with a warning to consult with a physician or pharmacist before using. We further support legislation that would require manufacturers and processors of dietary supplements to report certain information to the Secretary of Health and Human Services annually, including a list of supplements manufactured and the labeling and major ingredients for such supplements.
7. The National Grange supports national legislation to require clear labeling of food AND medicines as well as other products that may be ingested when they contain gluten in any form, or as gluten-free when they do not contain gluten.

Health

Family Planning

1. We oppose any amendment to the United States Constitution that denies an individual the freedom of choice for abortion. We recognize the need for readily available family planning information for those who need or desire it. However, we do oppose partial-birth abortions. Government financing should not be available for abortions, except in cases of rape, incest, endangered health of the mother, or serious defects of the fetus. We support educational efforts, which would emphasize the necessity for licensed hospitals and medical doctors when abortions are necessary. We further support requiring all abortion agencies to provide counseling by qualified professional personnel to explore all possible options before an abortion, and we favor state legislation requiring abortion and family planning clinics to notify parents or guardians of minors who are seeking drugs or abortions.
2. The National Grange supports the release of adoption records that will provide family health history.
3. The National Granges opposes the distribution of any contraceptives to middle school age students.
4. The National Grange supports legislation that requires coverage of infertility treatments, such as the "Family Act of 2011."

Health Care Consumer Protection, Patients' Rights and Accessibility

1. The National Grange supports access to affordable health care and health insurance for every American regardless of age, race, income, health condition, or location with freedom of choice of medical provider and facility. In addition, health care cost containment strategies should maintain the highest quality of care without compromising effectiveness and efficiency. The National Grange supports restrictions being placed on insurance companies, so that they can only cancel policies for nonpayment or fraud, and not because of new health issues. We favor

legislation to guarantee that the attending physician's decision is the governing factor regarding appropriate medical treatment or length of hospital stay. The physician's decision should be the deciding factor for coverage whether or not treatment or hospitalization takes place in or out of the patient's home state. We believe HMOs should be required to accept the determination of the attending health care provider as evidence of the need for an emergency visitation or ambulance service. The National Grange encourages all families to carry catastrophic health insurance.

2. The National Grange will work with other organizations to develop and present a "Healthcare Bill of Rights" for Americans to Congress. We support proposals for health care reform that include the following safeguards: a) allow patients to sue HMOs for medical malpractice; b) place a cap on how much an individual may sue for per medical malpractice suit, including a \$250,000 cap on malpractice awards arising from non-economic claims (i.e. pain and suffering); c) place a cap on malpractice awards regarding product liability; d) require insurance companies to provide hospital coverage for birth as deemed necessary by the doctor; e) establish an efficient grievance and appeal process for patients when medical procedures or payments are denied by insurance companies/HMO's; f) require that insurance companies cover all legally mandated medical services deemed necessary by a doctor at federal, state, or hospital levels, including preventative procedures such as Well-baby check-ups and childhood immunizations; h) require insurance companies to pay claims within 30 to 45 days of receiving properly completed forms and bills. We also support a health care plan that includes the following provisions:
 - Access to affordable, portable health care, health insurance and prescription drugs for every American regardless of age, race, income, health condition or location with freedom of choice of medical provider and facility.
 - Each person should be treated with dignity, equality and respect and health information should be provided in a manner that is easily understood and comprehended.
 - Protection of Medicare or current health insurance coverage as they are presently provided with no reduction in coverage.
 - No ban on writing new policies for insurance companies.
 - Preventive care, screenings and services that include educational programs, immunizations and holistic or alternative medicines that assist the patient in taking responsibility for their own care but do not mandate participation.
 - A national registry of health information that is accessible in all health care settings by health care professionals.
 - Encourage utilization of technology, such as telemedicine, to support the delivery of care and management of patient conditions.
 - Address the alarming rate of medical errors in health care settings by establishing guidelines, training and standards.
 - Oversight of any federal healthcare program should be provided by a qualified healthcare agency and not the Internal Revenue Service.
 - Medical decisions should be made by licensed medical professionals based on the needs of the patient.
 - Efforts to reduce overall health care costs while providing the right care by the right provider at the right time in the right place and for the right cost.

- Guidelines for revamping the reimbursement structure to support the delivery of primary care that seeks to address the needs of the most costly patients.
 - Programs to ensure that there is an ample health care workforce that is qualified to deliver all levels of care.
 - Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Veterans Administration (CHAMPVA) health care coverage for eligible dependent children to the maximum age of 26 to mirror language in the recent Healthcare Reform bill of 2009.
 - Any health care program established by Congress should be acceptable to the members of Congress as required coverage for them and their families.
3. The National Grange believes that teeth should be declared a legitimate part of the body requiring the same comprehensive level of care and coverage as any other part of the body by health insurers and that all prosthetics, including dentures, implants, crowns, and bridge work be covered at the same rate as all other medical procedures. The National Grange also believes that dentists should be treated as any other medical specialists by both the government and insurance carriers and reimbursed at comparable rates.
 4. The National Grange urges federal agencies to be more aggressive in their investigations and prosecutions of fraud, waste, and abuse in the health care system. We support efforts to maintain the National Practitioners Data Base allowing consumers to have access to malpractice reports so they can properly choose the best medical professional for themselves.
 5. The National Grange supports tax deductible medical savings accounts (MSAs) in the form of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) type account to be used strictly for medical expenses. The National Grange supports legislation that reinstates the list of Over The Counter items eligible for reimbursement under Health Saving Accounts (HSAs), Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), and Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRAs), removes limits on contributions and allows year-end balances to roll over to the new year or return to the employee.
 6. We support extending health care coverage under COBRA for all terminated employees who qualify for a period of up to 36 months or until eligible for Medicare/Medicaid and include portability of health insurance coverage — even if there is a pre-existing condition — for those who change jobs or become unemployed. The National Grange supports tax incentives for businesses to provide health insurance coverage for their employees and 100% tax deductibility of health insurance premiums for the self-employed and individuals acquiring private health insurance.
 7. The National Grange favors the passage of laws, which allow parents/guardians in conjunction with their doctors to decide whether or not to keep severely physically and mentally handicapped children alive by life support systems without interference by the government.
 8. The National Grange urges that the new federal and state laws on privacy of medical information be examined, and amended if necessary, so that medical practitioners may release or disclose limited information when necessary to contact relatives or others who are needed to authorize medical treatment. We further support legislation that would require patients, when physically or mentally able, to submit their medical background to health care professionals.
 9. The National Grange supports legislation such as “The Small Business Health Fairness Act” or any other legislation that would allow professional associations to offer

- members group health insurance on a national basis thus making it more affordable.
10. The National Grange strongly urges hospitals to charge uninsured patients the same rates that are negotiated by insurance companies and Medicare for their clients.
 11. The National Grange supports legislation that would eliminate the mandatory purchase of health care insurance as mandated by the Health Care Reform Act of 2009, repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) also part of the Health Care reform Act of 2009 due to the extensive authority given to the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB.)
 12. The National Grange supports legislation requiring all restaurants and all public buildings to be smoke free and to require builders and landlords to include carbon monoxide detectors as well as smoke detectors in buildings they build or manage.
 13. The National Grange strongly opposes any effort to require the Internal Revenue Service to turn over tax return documents to other government agencies that review health care decisions.
 14. The National Grange opposes the imposition of a tax on medicine or medical supplies.
 15. The National Grange supports legislation to override the 1950 Supreme Court ruling that prevents medical malpractice suits against military doctors with the exception of threat of war.
 16. The National Grange opposes any legislation that would dis-enroll any veteran who is currently receiving health care coverage through the Veterans Administration (VA) Health Care System.

Rural and Home Health Care

1. We urge that the federal government maintain block grant/matching funds to states for community health clinics.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to ensure that fairness in price and benefits offered becomes a part of any and all medical insurance programs. The National Grange believes that payment to health care providers should adhere to a schedule of fees for services provided that is fair and equitable across the United States.
3. The National Grange supports incentive programs for doctors who will agree to practice in rural areas where basic medical care is not available and supports the creation and/or expansion of programs that encourage students to become general practitioners and that address incentives and reimbursements for primary care.
4. The National Grange supports the establishment or use of the necessary infrastructure for the expansion of telemedicine into rural areas. The National Grange also supports the elimination of regulatory and statutory impediments to broaden the use of telemedicine and telehealth and institute a more uniform approach for reimbursement.
5. We encourage local Granges to present programs that educate the community about pharmaceutical assistance programs.
6. The National Grange supports preserving quality, rural home health care services provided under traditional fee-for-service Medicare by opposing the imposition of new, patient co-payment fees and the imposition of further cuts to reimbursement rates for home health care service providers.
7. The National Grange supports reinstating Medicare Advantage, alternative Medicare insurance coverage offered by private companies, which would specifically allow

rural Medicare patients to voluntarily elect to use a greater proportion of their Medicare benefits for home health care expenses.

8. The National Grange supports efforts by Congress, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the home health care industry to reduce unnecessary Medicare spending on home health care services by aggressively weeding out instances of fraud, abuse and poor management practices in the home health care sector.

Medical Research/Awareness

1. The National Grange supports and recognizes the value of medical research in increasing the quality of life. We support improvement in the quality of health care services and access to new and existing technologies. We encourage continued funding of medical research, including the responsible use of animals in research.
2. The National Grange encourages research to continue on alternative treatments, such as acupuncture, hypnosis, massage therapy, prayer, and meditation, which may be used in conjunction with the standard treatments that are showing results against diseases.
3. The National Grange supports the National Cancer Institute and encourages Congress to continue providing funds for research.
4. The National Grange supports the establishment of a “radiation database” on radiation releases to the public resulting from both intentional and unintentional releases due to nuclear weapons testing and accidental releases from nuclear power plants.
5. The National Grange support legislation to explore the risks involved in the use of water fluoridation in the United States.
6. The National Grange urges that the correct information about Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) should be given to all parents and caregivers of children under five years.
7. The National Grange urges adequate funding for agencies at all levels dealing with the HIV and AIDS problem and supports increased emphasis on testing.
8. The National Grange urges the use of government funds for stem cell research only on postnatal or adult stem cells. We further support the research and possible use of cord blood stem cells and, promote the registry and donation of cord blood stem cells. However, we support legislation banning full human cloning.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that would ban the patenting of natural occurring genes. We only support the patenting of treatment and/or alterations of those natural occurring genes.
10. We urge a Silver Alert System for people dealing with dementia.
11. The National Grange supports governmental efforts on the state and national level to fund research on the prevention and treatment of Lyme disease and educate the public about its prevention, detection, and treatment.

Medicare/Medicaid

1. The National Grange supports the adoption of a comprehensive health education curriculum.
2. The National Grange supports the following reforms and changes in the Medicare and Medicaid programs: a) equity of payment between inpatient and outpatient procedures according to Medicare’s Diagnostic Related Groups; b) equity in

- reimbursements between rural and urban hospitals; c) prohibit hospitals or doctors from setting fees or discontinuing Medicare assignments for specific diagnosis during treatment on the basis of the method of payment or from charging amounts above the Medicare limits for Medicare services; d) faster processing of claims to permit faster reimbursement; e) extended coverage to ensure sufficient time for full recovery; f) health care professionals; and (g) all reimbursements under the Medicare program to all Medicare patients, medical personnel, suppliers, be made within a 3 month timeframe and (h) adequately compensate primary care physicians for non-procedural services.
3. The National Grange supports a full investigation of the causes of the rapid increase in Medicare/Medicaid costs. We urge our legislators to investigate pricing, availability and coverage options provided by health insurance companies as supplemental coverage for Medicare recipients. We further support a cap on the annual increase in Medicare deductions of no more than the general inflation rate. The National Grange strongly urges Congress to refrain from reducing payment to physicians and providers under Medicare since it would add an additional burden to patients needing to use the program. The National Grange urges all U.S. Senators and Representatives to continue to support funding to all aspects of the current Medicare programs.
 4. The National Grange will lobby for a change in current Medicare insurance to include coverage for hearing exams and hearing aids. The National Grange urges Medicare and Medicaid to review their payment schedules and make changes which recognize recommended and accepted medical procedures and screening tests, such as: coverage for the prostate-specific antigen test (PSA); increased coverage for home health care costs; reimbursement for services of midwives and physicians' assistants; coverage for outpatient office laser surgery.
 5. The National Grange favors legislation permitting retired people to deduct the cost of their supplemental health insurance from their taxable income. We support changing current regulations to permit seniors who are "grandfathered" by residence address into a Medicare supplemental insurance program to be allowed to move anywhere within the original service area without being dropped from their insurance plan. We further support a division of assets procedure for Medicaid and Medicare that would preserve the financial stability of a healthy spouse.
 6. The National Grange supports the right to have a second doctor in the operating room, where medically required, for patients on Medicare.
 7. The National Grange supports legislation that would give eye and dental insurance to seniors age 65 plus for those procedures that Medicare does not cover, with a co-pay/deductible for amounts over 100 dollars.
 8. The Grange at all levels works to convince our government that Medicare money should also be spent on health screening for early intervention of diseases which is far more economical than the huge cost of treating advanced stages of the diseases.
 9. The National Grange urges Congress to pass an act allowing Medicare information to be given to an assigned representative and that the representative be allowed to act on behalf of said patient without consignment of Medicare and/or Social Security benefits.
 10. The National Grange encourages the Federal Government to simplify the Medicare Part D program to achieve substantially lower drug prices for beneficiaries and require all aspects of the program to be implemented within 60 days of an applicant's

enrollment. However, the National Grange opposes any Medicare rebate system such as the Waxman-Rockefeller tax.

11. The National Grange supports the continued process to eliminate the “donut hole” for Medicare prescription coverage.
12. The National Grange supports allowing Medicare to help cover the cost of purchasing hearing aids and eye ware. The National Grange also supports legislation to change the regulatory language that categorizes hearing aids as cosmetic devices to the category of prosthesis devices in all instances for Medicare as well as Medicare supplemental insurance.
13. The National Grange supports passage of legislation mandating the Medicare system to use an identification number other than the individual’s Social Security Number.
14. The National Grange shall actively lobby for the requirement that all members of Congress, upper and lower Houses, shall be provided only the standard Medicare offered to our citizens at age 65 and that any additional medical insurance shall be purchased at the going rate as necessary for the Congressman and his/her family at his/her own expense.
15. The National Grange urges the United States Congress to amend the Federal Health Care Overhaul Bill to read that all states be fiscally responsible for their portion of Medicaid expenses.

Long Term Care and Assisted Living

1. The National Grange supports coverage for long-term nursing/in-home care, including an allowable tax credit for long term care insurance premiums, and an allowable tax credit for adult day care expenses incurred by primary care givers of adults who cannot care for themselves. A tax credit should also be available for programs to provide assisted living to the elderly in their own homes. We urge changing the Medicare entitlement and managed health care insurance programs so that they provide payment for assisted living programs.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that will provide uniform care and services to nursing home patients and will protect their rights.
3. The National Grange encourages Congress to require Medicare to make timely payments to both acute care and extended care facilities to ensure that the correct level of care is maintained for all patients.
4. The National Grange urges the U.S. Health Care Financing Authority to allow elderly couples to be in the same nursing home when long term care for both becomes necessary.
5. The National Grange supports action that develops a comprehensive and economical method to treat patients requiring Palliative Care.

Deaf, Hard Of Hearing and the Disabled

1. We strongly support legislation to protect the rights of deaf and hard of hearing persons.
2. The National Grange encourages manufacturers of machinery and stereo equipment to place warning labels, where feasible, informing consumers that permanent hearing loss could occur as a result of prolonged noise exposure above 85 decibels. We further support legislation requiring motorcycle mufflers to be designed so that the maximum decibels produced shall not be higher than 85 decibels at a distance of 50 feet.

3. The National Grange supports legislation requiring emergency warning messages to be both close captioned and delivered verbally, and all television stations provide closed captioning for news, weather, sports, and other live events.
4. The National Grange encourages telephone companies to make all public telephones hearing aid compatible and install volume-controlled amplifiers. We further recommend that local, state, and national governments specify in their lease/purchase agreements with any telephone contractor that all instruments be hearing aid compatible.
5. The National Grange supports legislation that would require all health insurance companies to cover hearing screening, testing, surgery, and hearing aids, including mandatory regular hearing screenings and hearing aids for children.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would establish detection and intervention programs for newborns and infants with hearing loss. We further urge Congress to pass legislation to require hearing testing of newborns prior to their release from the hospital.
7. The National Grange urges the Department of Transportation to become aware of the need for unisex handicapped restrooms and to make provisions for them at all new or remodeled rest stops.
8. The National Grange supports legislation so that any retired military service personnel with 50 percent or more service-related disability rating be allowed to obtain and receive needed dental treatments at the Veteran's Administration Dental Clinics at no cost.

Alcohol, Tobacco, Controlled and Toxic Substances

1. The National Grange encourages the bold, accurate labeling of household products (including carpeting and furniture that have been treated with toxic chemicals), farm chemicals, and other products containing toxic ingredients.
2. The National Grange supports the continuation of the many programs presently fighting substance addiction. The National Grange urges that funding for addiction treatment be governed by medical personnel and not by non-medical administrators of reimbursement programs. The National Grange supports legislation to end insurance discrimination against Americans living with mental illness and addiction in order to provide necessary assistance and treatment programs that will allow many of these afflicted individuals to return to a productive life in mainstream society.
3. The National Grange believes that any product containing above the acceptable FDA limit of Dioxin should display a label warning consumers of its presence.
4. We support federal legislation, which would ban the advertising and promotion of alcoholic beverages on television and radio. The National Grange supports the adoption of more prominent alcohol warning labels on all beer, wine and liquor containers.
5. The National Grange supports the effort of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to ban cigarette and alcohol advertising that encourages children to smoke and drink alcoholic beverages.
6. The National Grange urges legislation requiring all tobacco products to carry a federal health warning label, just as cigarettes do, and that advertisements include the detrimental effects of any tobacco products as well.
7. The National Grange recommends the passage of laws making it a punishable crime

to use such drugs as Rohypnol, GHB, and Ketamine on anyone for the purpose of procuring sex.

8. The use of steroid and other stimulants, unless prescribed for medical reasons, should be made illegal in all competitive sports and the National Grange supports having heavy penalties imposed upon the violators.
9. The National Grange supports aggressive enforcement of the laws to stop the import of all jewelry and any other products from foreign countries that contain highly dangerous levels of cadmium, other metals or chemicals.
10. The National Grange support legislation to prohibit the use of BPA and other similar industrial chemicals in all children's products, human food and food packaging.

Prescription Drugs and Medicines

1. The National Grange supports making prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs more affordable. The National Grange strongly encourages drug companies to produce lifesaving and life enhancing medicines for a wide variety of diseases and medical conditions. We further support requiring all government and private prescription drug coverage programs to offer the widest possible selection of lifesaving and life enhancing medicines at an affordable price for those who need them.
2. The National Grange supports allowing U.S. citizens, who are visiting foreign countries, to bring back with them up to three months supplies of regulated pharmaceutical products for their own use, provided that they have valid prescriptions for those specific pharmaceutical products from their U.S. physician. The National Grange supports the current Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act provisions that generally do not allow regulated pharmaceutical products to be imported into the U.S. for sale or distribution unless those importers are also pharmacists and/or pharmaceutical wholesalers currently subject to federal and state regulation. We strongly support current law and regulations that require anyone who imports regulated pharmaceutical products for sale or distribution in the U.S. to keep accurate records tracking the origin, history and chain of custody of these products before they entered the U.S. We support legislation requiring anyone authorized to import regulated pharmaceutical products for sale or distribution in the U.S. to be financially responsible for any testing necessary to verify the authenticity and/or degradation of the pharmaceutical products they import. We support strictly limiting the importation of pharmaceutical products to drugs from licensed pharmacies and wholesalers who sell to the public in Canada. We support providing the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) with sufficient resources and authority to ensure the safety of imported drugs from Canada employing technological and other safeguards. We further support legislation requiring anyone authorized to import regulated pharmaceutical products for sale or distribution in the U.S. to be allowed to import such products only if they are shipped into the U.S. in counterfeit proof and tamper resistant packaging.
3. The National Grange supports a voluntary program, which would offer pregnant women who test HIV positive voluntary access to the drug AZT that could prevent the transfer of the HIV antibodies to the unborn child or newborn child.
4. The National Grange will work to secure legislation requiring physicians to obtain specific written approval of the patient or those legally authorized to give approval prior to prescribing experimental drugs. When the physician prescribes

experimental drugs, the warning and permission form must be in clear, common layman language on a separate medical form.

5. The National Grange supports legislation that would require the pharmaceutical companies to significantly reduce the minimum dose purchase requirement for pneumococcal vaccine. We recommend that local county Health Departments include this vaccine in required childhood immunizations.
6. The National Grange urges pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmaceutical wholesalers and pharmaceutical retailers to work cooperatively to reduce the cost of drugs for consumers in the United States and will work to pass legislation to amend the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 to facilitate this cooperation.
7. The National Grange urges the Food and Drug Administration to mandate that pharmaceutical producers label all products and commodities containing gluten.

My sincere thanks to the committee members for their work and valuable contributions on the work assigned to this committee. Their help, advice and insight were greatly appreciated. I would like to thank the committee secretary, Melanie Bostwick for her work in the recording and organizing the committee work. We would also like to thank the National Grange staff for their support and assistance.

Fraternally,

Claire Logan, RI (chair)
Christopher Johnston, MI
Susan Plank, IN
Maureen Prelli, CT (H)

Melanie Bostwick, KS (H)
Linda Brumbaugh, OH
Brenda Rousselle, VT
Wade Schneiderman, NV

GRANGE LAW COMMITTEE

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

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501	Changes to Digest Chapter 6.2.4	FL	Adverse
502	Term Limits for Officers	FL	Adverse
503	Inactive Grange Re-Organization Time	ID	Rejected by Delegates
504	Junior Pledge	KS	Adverse
505	U.S. Flag Presentation at Grange Meetings	NE	Adverse
506	Junior Grange Amendment	NJ	Adverse
507	Voting Rights for Potomac Grange #1	NJ	Adverse
508	U.S. Flag Display at Grange Meetings	WA	Rejected by Delegates
509	Judicial Code Revisions	PA	Adopted
510	Gender Requirements	MA	Withdrawn
511	Flag Presentation Ceremony	MA	Withdrawn
512	Alternate Installation	MA	Adverse
513	Junior Grange Membership	MA	Adverse
514	Waiver of Charter Membership Requirement for Subordinate Granges	MA	Withdrawn
515	Affiliate Membership Dues	MA	Adverse
516	Pomona and Subordinate Granges Entering into Contracts	NH	Adopted-1st reading
517	Changing Grange Month	ME	Transferred to Growth & Development
518	National Grange By-Laws- Chapter 6.2.4	NY	Adverse
519	Optional Procedure for Election of Officers	CT	State issue
520	Substitute for Secretary's Charges in the 5th Degree	CT	Withdrawn
521	Yearly Assessment Fees for National Grange Annual Meetings/National Dues	WV	Rejected by Delegates
522	Affiliate Members Proof of Good Standing	RI	Adopted- 1st reading
523	Installation of Officers at National Grange Session	RI	Adverse
524	Resolution for the Good of the Order	VT	Adopted
525	Sale of Real Property	GL	Adopted-2nd reading

526	Elimination of Term Limits for National Grange Executive Committee	GL	Adopted-2nd reading
527	Family Definition	GL	Adopted-2nd reading
528	Granges in U.S. Territories or DC	GL	Adopted-2nd reading
529	24 Hour Delay for National By-laws	WV	Adverse
530	Removal of Grange Signs	GL	Adopted-1st reading
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532	Appointment of Junior Leader	GL	Adopted-1st reading
533	Organization of Junior Granges	GL	Adopted
534	Junior Grange Individual Membership	GL	Adopted-1st reading
535	Annual Licensing Charter Fee	GL	Rejected by Delegates
603	Grange Degree Training	TX	Adopted as Amended-1st reading
613	Pomona Grange Names	CT	Policy Statement

POLICY STATEMENT

Grange Law is a mechanism for Grangers to understand what is involved in good citizenship. Citizenship involves understanding how law is made, the challenges and difficulty of the law making process, understanding what our nation’s leaders go through when they have to make laws, and overcoming the challenge of adhering to the laws. To overcome these challenges, the National Grange relies on receiving high quality Grange Law resolutions from State Granges. High quality resolutions have the following traits: (1) the resolution fits the scope of the National Grange (2) the resolution’s intention is clearly identified (3) the resolution is for the “Good of the Order” and not in reaction to an isolated incident (4) the resolution avoids complicating the Digest, and (5) the resolution has been subject to critical review by other Grangers well before it reaches the floor of the National Grange.

Improving the perception of the Grange is encouraged. To improve the Grange’s perception, Pomona Granges may add “County” or “District” to their Names.

The Grange, at all levels, should not have oversight of internet social media pages belonging to individuals, but should have oversight of internet social media and websites that are Grange based. Grange leaders at all levels should remember their postings will reflect on the integrity and reputation of the order.

Finances are required to support the work of the National Grange. While a new revenue stream is very difficult to discover in committee meetings, there exists the possibility of

one of the many Grange members across the country coming up with a viable solution to increasing National Grange revenue.

Just as good farm management involves a foundation of sound financial practices, individual Granges are encouraged to thoroughly understand their finances -- especially the relationship between Grange finances and Grange Law.

Adherence to Grange Law, especially when dealing with Grange assets, will prevent future issues in the Grange. Many of the Grange laws are in place for a variety of reasons, including (1) the protection of the members of the Grange (2) ensuring the Grange has the finances to operate (3) to ensure camaraderie from meetings and (4) to ensure the order is perpetual.

NATIONAL MASTER'S RULINGS ON GRANGE LAW AND USAGE

All Officers and Delegates have voice and vote in all meetings

- Q. Minnesota By-laws see Article II Membership, Section 4: All Officers and Delegates have voice and vote in all meetings.
- A. 8.2.6 in the Digest of Laws of the National Grange clearly states "Officers of a State Grange, who are not delegates, may serve on said committees of the State Grange and may, without objection, speak to questions on the floor of meetings of a State Grange, but are not entitled to vote."

Therefore the words "Officers and" in the sentence that you have sent me, from the Minnesota State Grange By-Laws is in direct conflict with the Digest and as such is null and void as of this date. Since the Delegates have full voice and vote regardless of whether it is stated in your By-Laws or not, it is your choice to use this ruling and strike the two words or the entire sentence.

Arbitration Panel, and Trial Court appoint by a suspended California State Grange Master Sister Parker,

This is in response to the complaint, Arbitration Panel, and Trial Court appoint by a suspended Master against you.

Chapter 12 of the Digest of Laws is clear in that any complaint against you (as a State Grange Officer) must be filed with the State Grange Master. As of August 6, 2012, the Master of the California State Grange was suspended, so any charges filed after that date needed to be filed with the Acting Master, Martha Stefenoni whose authority is specified in 4.10.7 (3). As of September 17, 2012 the Charter of the State Grange was suspended and all authority was transferred to the National Grange as per 4.4.5. Any charges filed after that point must be filed with the National Master.

The refusal of the suspended Master and the majority of the members of the Executive Committee to abide by the laws of the Grange does not change the rules that they each promised on their sacred honor to uphold. They may continue to violate our rules, but do so with no authority over the Granges and members of the Order.

I therefore rule that any charges not properly filed with the authority designated within the Digest of Laws are of no force. In addition, any action by Arbitration Panel or Trial Court appointed by the suspended Master of the suspended California State Grange is made in conflict with the Digest of Laws and as such is null and void, or of no force.

I would caution any member that attempts to serve as a member of an Arbitration Panel or Grange Trial Court without appointment from the duly designated authority that their actions violate the Digest of Laws and their obligations as members.

Any action or judgment that an improperly appointed Arbitration Panel or Grange Trial Court takes is outside Grange law. Any member who publicizes the charges, findings, or judgments of such a panel or court violates their obligations and shows their disregard for the Grange organization, rules, and fraternal spirit.

Associate Membership

- Q. As question has arisen in relation to how Associate members are counted in the membership totals of a Community Grange. Should a Grange fall below 13 Fraternal members but yet have a number of Associate members, do they still constitute a legally operating Grange? The Digest, along with our State Grange By-laws on the subject appear to be silent on the issue.
- A. In reading the Digest there are a couple of important points. 4.5.1 (F) speaks clearly that a Grange may not fall below the organizational requirement of 13 without being subject to suspension or revocation.

The entire article three in chapter 4 talks about members required to Charter a Grange. 4.6.12 deals with Associate members who are prohibited from voting, etc.

While the Digest may not define in black and white that Regular members are required for the 13 minimum but the assumption is that members can vote, hold office, etc. Regular members include, Individual members, Family members, Honorary members, and Affiliate members. The digest does specifically exclude Associate, Supportive, and E-Members from many of the rights of Regular membership including voting.

I therefore rule that the Digest is clear in intent that in order to keep a Charter, a minimum of 13 Regular members are needed and that Associate members as well as Supportive or E-Members do not meet that requirement. We count Associate members as they are Grange members and are entitled to some Grange benefits, but are a different class than Regular members.

Board Appointing a New Trial Court for a Retrial in Full Form

- Q. The National Grange Executive Committee requests a ruling on the Digest Chapter 12 Section 12.2.24. This section was amended in 2008 and our question is if the section “the Board may appoint a new Trial Court for a retrial in full form, on any or all the charges” was unintentionally left out of the amended version which appears in the current Digest 2012 edition.
- A. 12.2.14 (B), 12.2.24, and 12.2.33 all deal with appeal of rulings and/or judgments.

The amendments adopted in 2008 were an effort to correct possible inequities in the appeal process and to create similar processes at all levels. It is likely that in amending this section an error was made similar to the error which occurred when a code amendment enacted in 2007 inadvertently omitted a full sentence.

Inquiry with the North Carolina State Grange, which submitted the 2008 amendment to the National Session, revealed that it had not intended to omit the language in question.

I therefore rule that the National Review Board may appoint a new Trial Court for a retrial in full form, on any or all the charges if they find procedural error or that the Trial Court erred in its ruling. This ruling is in force until November of 2012

when the Delegate Body must replace or insert language to uphold this ruling.

Executive Committee Members

Q. I need an official ruling on if a Master, Secretary or Treasurer of a Grange at any level can also serve as an elected member on the Executive Committee.

A. 4.10.1 (C) (1) clearly states that an Executive Committee consists of the Master, and 3 or more Elected Members and that other officers may be ex officio and be granted voting rights according to the By-Laws of that Junior, Subordinate, Pomona, or State Grange. That section ends with elected officers of those Granges may also be elected to the Executive Committee.

It seems clear that the flexibility of the Digest in giving each State Grange the right to set the number of members on the elected Executive Committee and in including other officers as a part of the Executive Committee, either voting or non-voting, is intent to ensure that the Executive Committee is representative of the Grange body.

4.10.1 (C) (1) would clearly disallow the Master to be one of the elected officers of the Executive Committee due to their already being a part of the Committee by virtue of their position as they are already named separately as part of the Committee. To allow the Master to be elected additionally to the Executive Committee would in effect reduce the number on the Executive Committee in violation of the Digest.

In considering the intent and flexibility stated and implied within this section I would rule that no officer included as a member of the Executive by the By-Laws of a Junior, Subordinate, Pomona, or State Grange may also be elected as a Member of the Executive Committee as they already served on said Executive Committee by virtue of their office.

Facilitation of California State Grange business meetings following charter suspension

Q. As the Charter of the California State Grange is suspended, I am asking you to make a ruling as to who may call a meeting of the CSG Executive Committee and which officers are to be present and voting.

It is my understanding that any business conducted during the suspension period must be authorized by the National Grange or its representative. I also believe the two new officers elected during the “illegal convention” are not authorized members of the CSG EC. Please rule on that factor also.

A. A Charter is a binding agreement that establishes governance between the National Grange and the people desiring to form a Grange. During a suspension of the Charter of the Grange for cause, that Grange is not authorized to conduct Grange business. National Grange, as outlined in the Digest of Laws, assumes responsibility for management of the State Grange until the Charter is either reinstated or revoked.

As the California State Grange (CSG) has had its Charter suspended for cause, the Executive Committee (EC) of the suspended CSG may not take legal or formal action on behalf of the Grange. Therefore no one may call a meeting of the CSG EC as they cannot conduct business under Grange law. Since no one may call an EC meeting, there are no officers needed nor is any voting legal under Grange law.

Under Grange law, while the Charter is suspended all business of the CSG must be conducted by the National Grange or its representatives.

As you noted, the convention (California State Grange Session) could only conduct business with an active Charter. All elections and business conducted at any event claiming to be a CSG convention, session, or meeting are null and void and of no force.

Family Membership Qualifications

- Q. This is a question concerning family membership. A family of four has had a family membership in a Subordinate Grange for a number of years. Two of the members have demitted to join another Grange in a different County, but those two have reapplied to their original Grange for Affiliate Membership. The question is: Can they still qualify for family membership in the original Grange, as two are regular and two are affiliates?
- A. 4.6.4 defines individual membership, 4.6.5 defines family membership, and 4.6.6 defines affiliate membership.

The circumstance you outlined is not addressed within these three sections. Yet it is clear that an individual within a family membership is able to become an affiliate member with no impact to their primary membership. It is clear that affiliate membership was written prior to the creation of the family membership, and while there is no provision for an affiliate family membership, there is no prohibition on individuals of family membership plans becoming affiliate members. Therefore I would rule that if an affiliate member qualifies to be part of a family membership it is allowable under the Digest of Laws provided some of the individuals within the family membership are not affiliate members.

Master's Vote

- Q. The Digest is specific about Masters of Junior, Subordinate or Pomona having the right to vote as any other member when the vote is taken by ballot or by 'yeas & nays'. What about routine 'sign of the order' voting...not specifically excluded here, is it addressed elsewhere in the Digest?
- A. In your question, the answer is clear in 4.7.3 as Ballot is defined as a paper or other physical casting of the vote, as the balls and cubes would be. The Digest is clear that the Master (presiding officer) is given the vote when it is taken by ballot or by a yea or nay roll call vote. In this case, the Master voting through the use of the voting sign, which is equivalent to a raised hand or general voice vote, is not allowed.

The Master is the facilitator for the meeting as the presiding officer and thus is not allowed to debate the issues for the Grange and also not to normally participate in the vote, which is the decision of the body on the issues.

In this case the Digest lists what is allowed and the clear intent is that if it is not listed, it is not allowed.

Members Holding Office

- Q. Where in the digest is it written that a member may hold only one office in his/her Subordinate/Community Grange, except that any officer may also be elected to the Executive Committee? I can find the latter part, about holding EC office with another office, but I can find nothing about holding both Sec and Treasurer, for instance...
- A. 4.10.1 (C) (1) ends with the sentence "Elected officers of Junior, Subordinate, Pomona, and State Granges may also be elected to the Executive Committees of said Granges."

Roberts Rules of Order states "Although, strictly speaking, there is not prohibition against a person's holding more than one office, it is understood in most societies that a member can serve in only one such capacity at a time, and sometimes the bylaws so provide."

4.6.6 and 4.6.8 clearly states that no affiliate member may hold the same office in two Granges.

Traditional practice in the Grange, from my observation, has always been that a member is only eligible to serve in one office in a Grange with the exemption of 4.10.1 (C) (1). I do realize that some Granges have, on occasion, elected a member to more than one office due to low membership or attendance.

The Digest of Laws is silent on a prohibition on holding two offices such as Treasurer and Secretary, but considering the statement in Roberts, the exemption to an unstated prohibition in 4.10.1 (C) (1), common or traditional practice including the prohibition on holding the same office in two Granges, and the checks and balances instituted and inferred throughout the Digest of Laws I would rule that no member can hold two offices in a Grange except as prescribed in 4.10.1 (C) (1). I would suggest that any State Master finding any Grange operating is violation of this ruling, educate and work with that Grange to remedy the situation.

Motion for member expulsion

Ruling on your question on if a Grange member can move to have another member invoke expulsion upon themselves at a Grange meeting.

First such a motion would be out of Order as the Grange judicial process is clearly spelled out in Chapter 12 of the Digest and in no place allows a motion passed by any Grange body to expel a member. A member believing that another member has committed violations of the laws or obligations is entitled to file a complaint, with specific charges as provided in Chapter 12.

Making such a motion, clearly violates the members obligation and the maker and second of such a motion clearly has violated Grange law. Instead of abiding by the process outlined within Chapter 12, such a motion would have as, at least partially, the goal of casting doubt on or judging the member who is the target of such a motion. Such action is equal to slander of the targeted member and as such, is an attempt to deny due process to the targeted member.

Any Master by allowing such a motion to be made in such flagrant disregard for due process and Grange law as described in Chapter 12 would also have committed violations of his obligation and duty as a member and Master.

Such a motion is so far removed from the spirit of the Grange that those who voted for such a vile personal attack, rather than follow Grange law, should be ashamed of themselves. While any member who voted for such a motion would be violating the obligation they took upon their sacred honor, unless it was a roll call vote or they publicly admit to such a vote little can be done about their actions as it would take several witnesses to possible prove their vote.

Non Demitted Grange Member as a Signing Member of a Reorganized Grange

- Q. The question has arisen concerning the availability of a present Grange member (non demitted) to become a signing member of a Grange that is being re-organized. Their intention is to remain as an Affiliate with the re-organized Grange. As the Digest appears to be silent I thought it best to ask for a ruling.
- A. The digest in 4.6.6 clearly states the process for a regular member who wishes to join a second or affiliate Grange. Previous sections also outline the process of joining for an individual or family. The process for joining during a Chartering or re-organization does not require the election, as when joining an existing Grange,

as the Grange being formed does not exist until completion of the process.

It is proper and acceptable for current members to sign the Charter application or re-organization application as an affiliate member. In the case of a new Grange, the said member would be a Charter member.

Oregon State Grange Special Funds

Q. “Section 20, Oregon State Grange Special Funds

1.20.1 No money from Committees either earned or in interest is to be used for anything other than for the support of the Committees that earned the money.”

While I agree that committee funds should normally be dedicated to committee uses, emergency situations do arise and by making this a by-law of the Oregon State Grange it restricts my authority as State Master to make decisions in the best interests of the order.

The specific situation from which this bylaw arose dates back several years. Our Life Membership Fund annual payment to participating Granges was going to be particularly small due to poor returns on investments, and the OSG Executive Committee decided to place all interest earned on Directors Funds into the Life Member fund to bolster this payout. There was no attempt to move any part of any fund, only the interest earned. There was protest, primarily from only a few, but this bylaw was approved at the following delegate session. I have thought it out of order ever since and had I been State Master at the time I would have so ruled on the resolution. Thanks for your consideration of this issue.

A. Section 20, Oregon State Grange Special Funds

1.20.1 No money from Committees either earned or in interest is to be used for anything other than for the support of the Committees that earned the money.”

In response to your question of the validity of this section of the Oregon State Grange several factors must be considered.

First, 4.15.4 clearly states that income derived for the committees work is the property of the Grange, unless the Grange provided otherwise. The section further states that the Grange has the right to authorize the expenditure of these funds either individually or on a continuing basis. The end of the section gives the Grange the right to revoke the authority so granted at any time with reference to any income.

Second, precedence in Oregon was set during the administration of W.C. Harris when limits were set upon the Women’s Activities Committee, which clearly placed the ownership of funds generated by a committee to the Grange and only allow a small operating fund for incidental expenses.

While the intent of the section is clearly within the guidelines of the Digest, the resulting action of this section is not. “The Grange” in this case is the Delegate body of the Oregon State Grange and the Executive Committee of the Oregon State Grange and if “the Grange” has the right to revoke the authority at any time as stated in the Digest of Laws, this section of the Oregon State Grange By-Laws is in direct conflict with the Digest, as only the Delegates may amend the By-Laws, which would be required to revoke the authority given in this section.

I therefore rule that 1.20.1 of the Oregon State Grange By-Laws is in conflict with the Digest of Laws of the National Grange and is thus null and void.

Qualifications of a Voting Delegate

Q. Our minutes read...

“There was a motion and a second that we amend the By-Laws by having them

read: Master & spouse of a local Grange, Master and Spouse of a Pomona Grange, and officers of the SC State Grange can vote. We voted in favor of this amendment.”

The code of the state Grange in the National Digest reads:

8.2.6 Officers of a State Grange, who are not delegates, may serve on said committees of the State Grange and may, without objection, speak to questions on the floor of meetings of a State Grange, but are not entitled to vote.

A ruling on a similar topic that was made in 2010 stated:

“The Digest is clear in that the State Grange Delegate body is made up of the voting members of the State Grange. 4.6.9 and 8.2.1 both clearly state that the State Grange is a delegate body and that the State Grange may determine how those delegates are numbered and selected with the provision that the Master, their spouse, or alternates are delegates unless the State provides otherwise.

“From the Digest it is clear that the intent is that the Master and their spouse are the preferred delegates of the Subordinate/Community and Pomona Granges to the State Grange. It is also clear that the Digest allows some flexibility in the selection of the delegates to accommodate circumstances and State traditions.

“On the other hand, the Digest, 8.2.6, also states that officers who are not voting members are specifically not granted that right due to their position. This is a clear point that further defines that voting members are only delegates.

“It is evident from reading the Digest that the difference in governance between Community/Subordinate and Pomona Granges and the State and National Granges is the voting members of each. At the Community/Subordinate and Pomona levels of our Order, all members of that Grange who are physically present for the meeting are entitled to a voice and vote upon any and every topic that comes before the Grange. The State and National levels of our Order have delegates representing the Granges. I believe that this is designed to diffuse the voting power of any single or block of Granges and allow the majority within the State or the National Grange to be representative of the entire group and not dominated by a few Granges that may have substantial larger numbers of members.

“I therefore rule that due to the reasons outlined above, that State Grange By-Laws may not grant all members voting status at the State Grange Session. State Grange By-Laws may set forth formulas to select Delegates to the State Session, but those formulas must be specific and measurable to allow equality among the Community/Subordinate and Pomona Granges to be represented within that State Grange Delegate Body.”

- A. The Digest is clear that no officer by virtue of their position is a voting delegate. The reasoning for this provision would seem to be that since any member, with the exception of gender in the case of four offices, may be elected and serve as a State Grange officer, provided that they have received the sixth degree. These officers cannot be required to be from different Granges and could easily create a block of votes for a Grange or Granges.

Therefore, the amendment is in direct conflict with the Digest of Laws, specifically 8.2.6 and as such conflict is prohibited to be contained within the By-Laws of the South Carolina State Grange the amendment is null and void. Strike the amendment and report this ruling at your next Session.

State, Pomona and Subordinate Handling of Quarterly Checks

- Q. A resolution presented for assignment at our 5/18/12 Executive Committee meeting

stated as follows: “Resolved, the Oregon State Grange mail all Pomona quarterly checks directly to the Pomona Treasurer to enable a timely deposit.” I ruled this out of order because I believed our bylaws indicated that all funds must be received and recorded by the Secretary, and then transferred to the Treasurer for deposit. However, in researching my letter of explanation to the submitting Grange, I cannot find specific mention of this in the digest relating to Subordinate Granges. I did find the following, under National Officers duties:

4.10.5 (B) Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer of the National Grange to receive all funds collected by the Secretary of the National Grange for the account of the National Grange, giving a receipt therefore and transfer such funds to such accounts of the National Grange as may be ordered from time to time by the Master of the National Grange; to keep a correct account of all such receipts and transfers; to pay all drafts drawn on the Treasurer that have been signed by the Master of the National Grange. The Treasurer shall report monthly to the Master of the National Grange as to all funds received from the Secretary and transferred to the National Grange.

Does this also apply to other degrees, or did I rule incorrectly?

- A. The Digest is silent on the specifics of officer duties in the instance that you describe. There are many checks and balances in place and the obvious intent is that both the officers and the Order should be protected by various checks and balances.

In this case, the Oregon State Grange By-Laws protections and intent are not in conflict with the digest. Your ruling is not in conflict with the Digest and should stand.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Grange Degree Training

WHEREAS, Grange tradition is imperative to future membership; and

WHEREAS, secrecy has no place in the Grange; and

WHEREAS, the fading generation of stewards of the Grange has failed to learn or pass down the formal rituals of the Degrees; and

WHEREAS, the current generation has no concept of the Grange Degree traditions or rituals nor a source from which to learn them; and

WHEREAS, with time being of essence (“any plan implemented is better than a perfect plan never implemented”); and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange produce live motion enactments, with narratives, of the ceremonies and rituals of the 1st through the 4th Degrees; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange provide visual media such as training films to each State, Pomona, and Subordinate Grange Master; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange complete this project no later than 30 Jun 2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a like project be completed for the 5th and 6th Degrees with a completion date no later than 30 Jun 2014.

Covers 603-TX.

Adopted as amended on first reading by 2/3 majority; 2012.

Judicial Code Revisions

WHEREAS, there are inconsistencies within the Digest in how we protect the rights of

the members while protecting the Order, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following amendments to Chapter 12, of the Digest of Laws be made:

12.2.0 Add new paragraph at the end of the existing:

Let all members remember that this Code is designed to protect the rights of each and every member as well as the integrity of the Order. This Code is designed to be an internal process to seek the truth in dealing with a complaint against a member. No member should attempt to influence this process through means outside the procedures outlined within this Code.

12.2.14

(A) The Respondent or Complainant may, within fifteen (15) days appeal the finding to the State Master, who in conjunction with the Executive Committee of the State Grange shall constitute a State Review Board for a review of the record, findings, and punishments set by the Trial Court. In the event of a member of the State Board is charged, or has been involved in the case beyond making rulings or performing their prescribed duties, the member will be disqualified from serving in this capacity. If the Board determines there was a procedural error or that the trial court erred in its finding or that the punishment is not equitable in its relation to the charge(s), then the Board may appoint a new Trial Court for a retrial in full form on any or all charges, or the Board may modify the punishment.

(B) The Respondent or Complainant may, within fifteen (15) days of the final State Review Board ruling, appeal the findings of the State Review Board to the National Master for a review of the record, findings, and punishments set by the Trial Court. The National Master shall review the record, findings and punishment set by the State Master and Trial Court. If the National Master determines that there was a procedural error or that the punishment was not equitable in relation to the charge(s), the National Master may appoint a new Trial Court for a retrial in full form on any or all charges, or modify the punishment. The decision of the National Master shall be final.

12.2.15 In no event shall the guilty finding or punishment be reported until Respondent has exhausted the appeal process. No member shall be deprived of any Grange membership until the appeal process has been exhausted.

PROCEDURES AS TO NATIONAL DELEGATE,
OFFICER OF NATIONAL GRANGE, AND
OFFICER OF ASSEMBLY OF DEMETER

12.2.24 Once the Trial Court declares a ruling, the Respondent or Complainant may, within fifteen (15) days appeal the decision to the National Master, who in conjunction with the Executive Committee of the National Grange shall constitute a National Review Board for a review of the record, findings and punishment set by the Trial Court. In the event a member of the National Review Board is charged, or has been involved in the case beyond making rulings and performing their prescribed duties, the member will be disqualified from serving in this capacity. If the Board determines there was procedural error or that the Trial Court erred in its ruling or that the punishment is not equitable in its relation to the charge(s), then the Board may appoint a new Trial Court for a retrial in full form on any or all charges, or the Board may modify the punishment and permit Respondent to accept the modified punishment. The decision of this National Review Board shall be final.

PROCEDURES AS TO NATIONAL MASTER

12.2.33 Once the Trial Court has declared a ruling, the Respondent or Complainant may, within fifteen (15) days appeal the decision to the elected officers of the Assembly of Demeter (the Assembly) for a review of the record and disposition of the finding, in the

same manner as is set forth in Section 12.2.14 above. If the Assembly determines there was a procedural error or that the Trial Court erred in its finding, or that the punishment is not equitable in its relation to the charge(s), then the Assembly may appoint a new Trial Court for a retrial in full form on any or all the charges, or the Assembly may modify the punishment. and permit Respondent to accept the modified punishment. The decision of the Assembly of Demeter shall be final.

PROCEDURAL GUIDE

12.2.35 (add to end of paragraph) In no event shall the guilty finding or punishment be reported until Respondent or Complainant has exhausted the appeal process. No member shall be deprived of any Grange membership until the appeal process has been exhausted.

Renumber 12.2.35 to 12.2.36.

Covers 509-PA.

Adopted by 2/3 majority.

Encumbrances

RESOLVED, that The Digest of Laws of the National Grange, Chapter 4, Article XI, Section 4.11.2 be re-written as follows:

4.11.2 Encumbrance of Real Property, Personal Property, or Corporate Entity- by Subordinate or Pomona Granges- No Subordinate or Pomona Grange may encumber any real property owned by said Subordinate or Pomona Granges except upon the following conditions:

(A) A written notice shall be sent to the Executive Committee of the State Grange having jurisdiction advising of the intent to invoke the procedure included in Article XI of these By-Laws to encumber real property, personal property, or corporate entity. Such notice shall contain a summary of the reasons for the proposed encumbrance and including, if available, an appraisal of the value and a report as to the current use and condition of the said property.

(B) Any resolution adopted by a Subordinate or Pomona Grange for the encumbrance of real property, personal property, or corporate entity is inoperative unless consented to by the Master and Executive Committee of the State Grange having jurisdiction over the said Subordinate or Pomona Grange. Such consent shall be given only if the proceeds from such encumbrance are to be used for the benefit of present and future members of the said Subordinate and Pomona Granges as a fraternal group for Grange purposes. Such uses may include the repair, expansion or improvements of an existing Grange Hall or other Grange real property and the acquisition of fixtures, furniture, equipment or other furnishings for such Grange real property or for use in accordance with the general purposes of the Order

(C) If the Master and Executive Committee of the State Grange consent to the encumbrance, then in that event the procedures for notice, resolution, meeting and vote contained in Sections 4.11.1 (B) through (F) of these By-Laws shall be applicable except that such procedures shall be applicable to an encumbrance of real property, personal property, or corporate entity rather than sale of real property.

Committee Resolution covering 516-NH

Adopted on first reading by 2/3 majority; 2012.

Affiliate Members Proof of Good Standing

WHEREAS, according to the By-Laws of the National Grange (4.6.6), "Fourth Degree members may be elected to membership in one additional Subordinate Grange as an Affiliate Member"; and

WHEREAS, there is nothing in that section of the By-Laws of the National Grange which states that in order to become an Affiliate Member of a Grange the member prove

that they are “in good standing” in their original Grange; and

WHEREAS, it is possible that a member may be in arrears for dues for a substantial amount of time before a Grange takes any action toward suspension and that member could also become an Affiliate Member in another Grange and again be behind in payment of dues causing hardship on both Granges; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that in Section 4.6.6 of the By-Laws of the National Grange, the second sentence be changed to read: “A proposal for Affiliate Membership, including proof of the member being in good standing in their original Grange, and election thereto shall be the same as provided in Section 4.6.4 above except election to membership shall be majority vote by paper ballot.”

Covers 522-RI.

Adopted on first reading by 2/3 majority; 2012.

Resolution for the Good of the Order

RESOLVED, the Manual of Subordinate Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry be amended as follows:

Page 50, Line 14: delete “between” (wrong word) and insert “among”,

Page 54, Lines 2- 5: strike “As Husbandmen and Matrons, the Assistant Steward and Lady Assistant Steward will decorate you with the regalia of our Order...”

(Dangling modifier) and insert “The Assistant Steward and Lady Assistant Steward will now decorate you with the regalia of Husbandmen and Matrons of our Order...”;

Page 109, Lines 1- 3: Strike “Selected to impersonate Flora in our sacred rites, I cordially welcome you...” (Dangling modifier) and insert, “You have been selected to impersonate Flora in our sacred rites, and I cordially welcome you...”

Covers 524-VT.

Adopted by 2/3 majority.

Sale of Real Property

WHEREAS, the Digest of Laws of National Grange Article XI, Sale of Encumbrance or Transfer of Real Property of Subordinate or Pomona Grange Paragraph 4.11.1 (A), line 5/6 reads such notice shall contain a summary of the proposed sale; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article XI, Section 4.11.1 (A) be amended to read: “A written notice shall be sent to the Master and Executive Committee of the State Grange having jurisdiction advising of the intent to invoke the procedure included in Article XI of these By-Laws to sell real property. Such notice shall contain a summary of the reasons for the proposed sale, a copy of the deed and corporate documents if applicable. The State Grange Master will send acknowledgement of receipt of the notice to the Subordinate or Pomona Grange.”

Adopted on second reading by 2/3 majority; 2012.

Elimination of Term Limits for National Grange Executive Committee

WHEREAS, at the 144th Annual Convention of the National Grange, Resolution GL-102 was adopted at the first reading, eliminating term limits for Officers of the National Grange in Chapter 4, Article X, Section 4.10.2 (E) in the National Digest; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 4, Article X, Section 4.10.1 (C) (2) states; “Elected members of the Executive Committee shall serve no more than 3 consecutive terms;” therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the last sentence in Chapter 4, Article X, Section 4.10.1 (C) (2) be eliminated so that this section shall read “(2) National Grange - The Executive Committee

of the National

Grange shall consist of the following members: The Master and Overseer of the National Grange, and the four elected members whose terms of office shall be two years, two to be elected each year at the Annual Session of the National Grange.”

Adopted on second reading by 2/3 majority; 2012.

Family Definition

WHEREAS, all Granges throughout our nation are encouraging young families to join our Community Granges; and

WHEREAS, the National By-laws Article 4.6.5 (B) reads, “A family shall consists of a husband and wife and their dependents;” and

WHEREAS, many of our citizens live as a family unit without the benefit of a formal marriage ceremony given by a marriage official; and

WHEREAS, the wordage of husband and wife pertaining to family membership has caused much hard feelings resulting in families being turned down for membership in the Grange; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that our National Grange By-laws Digest Article 4.6.5 (B) be changed to read; “A family shall consist of a couple and their dependents or a single person and their dependents. Dependents are defined as children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, foster, adopted or stepchildren under the age of 23, who live as a member of the same household or in absence due to illness, education or military service. Legal dependents of any age shall be considered part of their legal guardians’ family.”

Adopted on second reading by 2/3 majority; 2012.

Granges in U.S. Territories or DC

WHEREAS, there is a Subordinate Grange organized in the District of Columbia and more Granges could be organized there or in U.S. Territories in the future; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Chapter 4, Section 4.3.3(A) of the National Grange Digest of Laws be amended to add the words “or U.S. Territory or the District of Columbia.” Thus, it will read as follows:

“Six or more active Subordinate Granges working in a state or U.S. Territory or the District of Columbia may apply to the Secretary of the National Grange for authority to organize a State Grange.”

Adopted on second reading by 2/3 majority; 2012.

Removal of Grange Signs from Formerly Grange Owned Property at the Time of Sale

RESOLVED, that a new subsection be added to Article XI, Section 4.11, Sale, Encumbrance or Transfer of Real Property of Subordinate or Pomona Granges to read as follows:

4.11.1 (H) The State Grange Executive Committee shall require, as a written condition of the sale or transfer of the real property, that any signage on the building or property that would otherwise normally convey with the sale or transfer and that displays any registered trademark held by the National Grange, shall be completely removed from the building in a timely manner, and such signage shall be returned to the Subordinate, Pomona or State Grange, if applicable.

Renumber current 4.11.1 (H) to 4.11.1 (I)

Adopted on first reading by 2/3 majority; 2012.

Junior Grange Individual Membership

RESOLVED, that a new section 4.6.2 be added to the National Grange By-Laws, Article VI, Membership, as follows:

4.6.2. If no Junior Grange is available, an individual between five and fourteen years of age may be proposed as a candidate for membership and elected an individual Junior member of a Subordinate/ Community Grange as follows:

A. Submit an application for individual Junior membership to a Subordinate/ Community Grange accompanied by the prescribed application fee.

B. Receive a recommendation for membership from one member of a Subordinate/ Community Grange.

C. Election to membership shall be by paper ballot at a regular meeting of the Subordinate/Community Grange.

D. Full membership to the Junior program is attained by candidates upon conferral of the Junior Grange Obligation ceremony or Junior Degree.

E. At such time as a Junior Grange is chartered the individual member shall automatically become a member of the new Junior Grange with no interruption of membership. If a Junior Grange charter is revoked or surrendered, the member may be changed to "individual" status with no interruption of membership.

F. Junior Grange membership shall terminate at the end of the Grange year in which the Junior member reaches age 14.

Renumber remaining sections of Article VI.

This is a committee resolution covering part of the Junior Grange Study Committee report.

Adopted on first reading by 2/3 majority; 2012.

Junior Leaders

RESOLVED, that Chapter 4, Article IX, Meetings, Section 4.9.1 be amended as follows:

4.9.1 Junior Granges – Shall meet at least once each month if sponsored by a Subordinate Grange; once each quarter if sponsored by a Pomona Grange; once each year if sponsored by a State Grange. Such Granges may vote to hold additional meetings. An Individual Junior member of a Subordinate/ Community Grange shall meet at least once each month with their Junior Leader. (continue with second paragraph.)

This is a committee resolution covering part of the Junior Grange Study Committee report.

Adopted on first reading by 2/3 majority; 2012.

Organization of Junior Granges

RESOLVED, that the Digest of Laws, Chapter 5, Code of the Junior Grange, Organization, Sections 5.1.10 and 5.1.11 be removed and replaced with the following wording:

5.1.10 Junior Grangers shall develop their leadership skills, participate in community service projects, educational activities and fun with fellow Grangers. Individual Junior members of Subordinate/ Community Granges are entitled to earn awards and enter Junior contests, beginning with the 2013-14 Grange year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a new section 5.2.2 be added as follows:

5.2.2 All Junior leaders and assistants will receive training through the Grange organization.

Renumber the remaining sections of Section 5.2.

This is a committee resolution covering part of the Junior Grange Study Committee report.

Adopted by 2/3 majority.

Sincere thanks to the members of the committee for their help, guidance and insight. Thank you to National Grange staff members Michael Martin and Leroy Watson for their assistance with our committee work.

Fraternally,

Jerry Martin SC, Chairman

Jody Cameron, CT

Marie Nicholson, MT

Gary Brumbaugh, OH

Dan Bascom, NH (H)

Betsy Huber, PA, Secretary

Nathan Strawder, KS

Arthur Merrill, NH

Bruce Croucher, NY (H)

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
517	Changing Grange Month	ME	Adverse
601	Internet Mailings	FL	Policy Statement
602	Buy 'Made in America'	FL	Present Policy
603	Grange Degree Training	TX	Transferred to Grange Law
604	Burial and Funeral Services	MI	Adverse
605	Female Youth Ambassadors	MI	Adverse
606	Grange Wedding Service	MI	Adverse
607	National Grange Quilt Square Project	OH	Adverse
608	Grange Month Promotional Packets	OH	Adverse
609	Encouraging Subordinate Grange Consolidation	OH	Withdrawn
610	7th Degree Conferral Venue	ME	Withdrawn
611	Photography of Minors Distribution Guidelines	ME	Withdrawn
612	U.S. Made Grange Items	NY	Withdrawn
613	Pomona Grange Names	CT	Transferred to Grange Law
614	Grange Insurance Agency	WV	Withdrawn
615	Continued Examination of Junior Grange Program	Potomac	Policy Statement
616	WWII Veterans	Potomac	Adopted as Amended
617	Memorial to Brother Kermit W. Richardson		Adopted
618	Memorial to Brother John W. Scott		Adopted
619	Documenting Our History		Adopted

POLICY STATEMENT

Grange growth and development must be a front burner item for every Grange across our great nation. Radical changes in social structure, technological advances, and the changing demographics of many of our local communities have forced us to look at ourselves, the communities we wish to serve, and the constituencies we wish to reach in ways that sometimes push us outside our long established comfort levels.

It goes without saying that communication with those both outside and inside our walls is paramount to our success. In the past decade, we have seen electronic communication move from luxury to necessity. While printed communication will always be necessary and appropriate for some things, its once dominant role will continue to diminish. We applaud the increased use of electronic communication by the National Grange, State Granges, as well as many Pomona and Community Granges. Recognizing that there are still areas of our Nation that suffer from less than reliable internet service, and also the reluctance of a portion of our membership to use electronic mediums, we encourage Grange leaders finding themselves in this position to devise means with other members of their Grange to utilize this important tool. It should be noted that the greatest periods of Grange growth occurred during periods of significant changes in American society.

The impact of social media is being felt in Grange circles. While it has proven to be a very effective tool for rapid communication and fellowship among Grangers, which we applaud, we must keep in mind the nature of the organization we represent when choosing to use the medium. The National Grange has developed a Social Media Policy, and we encourage Granges at all levels to make it known to members and Granges choosing to use social media.

While policies and procedures have to be fluid in order to adapt to circumstances, we need to be careful not to abandon the underlying principles of our Fraternity which have stood the test of time. Our motto, "In essentials unity, in non essentials liberty, and in all things charity" is as important today as it was when placed as a foundation block of our organization.

The opportunity for us to build citizens for tomorrow exists within our Junior Program. Historically, this division of our Order has trained leaders for the Grange, as well as the community, and it is our desire that it should be once again restored to its original purpose. We offer our sincere thanks to the study committee established last year to address this situation and embrace their findings. It is in our best interests to modify Junior Grange membership procedures to allow for individual memberships. As this would appear on the surface to change the necessary group dynamic, we believe that in the long run it will improve it. We also feel that a comprehensive training program for potential Junior leaders needs to be developed and executed, either live or online, that covers our program and its use, training on principles of leadership along with its practical applications and youth protective screening. All individuals wishing to lead a Junior Grange would be required to complete the training program. We recommend that a task force be assembled to devise an appropriate training program, develop a viable mechanism for reporting Junior membership statistics to the National Grange, and to review the entire Junior activity and project program in relation to its relevance, leadership value, and appeal to a broad spectrum of junior-aged children. This task force will report to the 2014 National Grange Session.

We support products that are "Made in the U.S.A.," and encourage Granges, whenever possible, to purchase such when using our logo.

We encourage State Granges, partnering with the National Grange, to develop strategies to market the value of Grange membership to prospective as well as our present members. The fact that only a very small percentage of our membership sought us out should motivate us to take an aggressive stance towards recruitment. We must also realize that the recruitment process does not end with initiation. Instilling our values and educating our membership on a continual basis is an important key to unlocking the creative energies of our members as to the practically limitless service possibilities of the Community Grange, regardless of size, and the resulting personal growth and satisfaction.

Organizations that have failed to make tremendous contributions to society do not stand the test of time. The very fact that we are nearing our 150th anniversary should remind all of us of our legacy. Not only have we changed the face of America, but we have also impacted and improved the lives of thousands of individuals in hundreds, if not thousands, of communities across our land. The continued legacy of this organization is ours to lose. Let us resolve not to be the ones responsible for the demise of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.

This Policy Statement covers 601-FL, 615-PG, the Junior Grange Study Report, and significant portions from the National Master's Internal Address.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Veterans' Recognition and Remembrance

WHEREAS, with every year there are fewer and fewer World War II veterans still living; and

WHEREAS, these men and women fought bravely and unselfishly in service to their country, earning them the reputation as "the greatest generation;" and

WHEREAS, the Grange has always carried strong support for America's veterans; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange develop a recognition program similar to the Community Citizen Award which Subordinate and Pomona Granges can utilize to honor veterans in their communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Granges be encouraged to start this recognition program immediately by honoring World War II veterans.

This covers 616-PG.

Memorial to Brother Kermit W. Richardson

WHEREAS, Brother Kermit Richardson served the Grange at all levels in a manner which every Patron of Husbandry should strive; and

WHEREAS, Brother Kermit Richardson served as a Delegate to the National Grange from the State of Vermont for eight (8) years; and

WHEREAS, Brother Kermit Richardson served as an officer of the National Grange from 1971 through 2003, as Chaplain from 1971 to 1975, as Lecturer from 1975 to 1985, as Overseer from 1985 to 1995, and as Master from 1995 to 2003; and

WHEREAS, Brother Kermit Richardson influenced multitudes of Grange leaders across this country with his quiet and unassuming, yet effective style of leadership; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, the Delegates at the 146th Annual Convention of the National Grange, pause for a moment of silence in memory of our worthy Brother Kermit Richardson to say "well done good and faithful servant," and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution become part of the permanent record of the 146th Annual Convention.

This covers 617-GD.

Memorial to Brother John W. Scott

WHEREAS, Brother John W. Scott served the Grange at all levels in a manner which every Patron of Husbandry should strive; and

WHEREAS, Brother John W. Scott served as a Delegate to the National Grange from

the state of Pennsylvania for six (6) years; and

WHEREAS, Brother John W. Scott served as an officer of the National Grange from 1963 through 1979, as Gatekeeper from 1963 to 1965, as Secretary from 1965 to 1968, and as Master from 1968 to 1979; and

WHEREAS, Brother John W. Scott was a trusted advisor to Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter while serving as Master of the National Grange; and

WHEREAS, Brother John W. Scott was the consummate supporter and mentor of Grangers at all levels; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, the Delegates at the 146th Annual Convention of the National Grange, pause for a moment of silence in memory of our Worthy Brother John W. Scott to say “well done good and faithful servant,” and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution become part of the permanent record of the 146th Annual Convention.

This covers 618-GD.

Documenting Our History

RESOLVED, that the National Master select a committee to investigate the possibility of initiating an essay contest designed to document aspects of our history that remain incomplete, similar to the one developed in relation to the National Grange centennial; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the committee be appointed by January 1, 2013 with the committee reporting back to the National Master at a minimum of every other month with a final report and recommendations due by September 1, 2013.

This covers 619-GD.

My sincere thanks go to the entire Growth and Development Committee for their attention to the business of our assigned responsibility. I would especially like to thank my secretary, Christine Hamp for her hard work in recording our actions, which usually ended up being changed several times. A thank you is also in order to the members of the National staff for their valuable input into our discussions and decision-making.

Fraternally,

Stephen C. Coye, Chairman, (NY)

Kathy Baldwin (IA)

Pete Pompper (NJ)

Carl Meiss (PA)

Christine Hamp, Secretary (WA)

Donna Wiles (MD)

Susan Noah (OR)

Steve Logan (RI)

LABOR & JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
Master's Address	Paragraphs 4 & 5 of the section titled "Regulation"		Present Policy & Policy Statement
207	Licensing Laws and Government Regulations (transferred from Citizenship)	NE	Policy Statement
701	United Nations Laws	CO	Present Policy
702	Erin's Law	IN	Policy Statement
703	Real-Time Check Verification	KS	Withdrawn
704	Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screenings	NJ	Adopted as Amended
705	Human Trafficking	NC	Adopted
706	Shepherd Visa	OR	Adopted as Amended
707	Oppose Passage of Enemy Expatriation Act	OR	Adverse
708	Oppose Passage of the National Defense Authorization Act	OR	Adverse
709	Maintaining Traditional Farm Duties for Children	OR	Present Policy
710	Firearms Open Carry (Federal)	TX	State Issue
711	People's Rights Amendment	VA	Transferred to Citizenship
712	TPP Negotiations	WI	Policy Statement
713	Child Labor Laws	PA	Present Policy
714	Regulation of Compounding Pharmacies	MI	Adopted
715	Opposition to Law of the Sea Treaty	OH	Adverse
716	Protecting our 2nd Amendment Rights	OH	Present Policy
717	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea	NH	Adverse
718	Smoke Detectors	ME	State Issue

LABOR & JUDICIARY

719	Jail Sentences for Leakers	ME	Present Policy
720	Carbon Monoxide Detectors	ME	State Issue
721	Hand Gun Reciprocity	NY	Present Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

The Grange has long supported an individual’s ability to work for a reasonable wage in a safe environment. The Grange will continue to seek workplace safety regulations that protect workers while not placing excessive financial burden on employers.

We believe employee pensions are an obligation. The Grange would implore businesses to make provisions to secure employees’ pension benefits and all monies paid into retirement plans to prevent them from being lost by beneficiaries in the event of a future merger or liquidation of the company.

While we have concerns about new government mandates that increase the cost of business, we also see a need for marketplace regulations that protect consumers and small investors.

The Grange urges lawmakers to continue to regulate credit card issuers. The Grange supports limits on fees and charges imposed on the responsible cardholders who pay their entire balance in full each month. The Grange supports regulations that will protect seniors from the unscrupulous practices of some reverse mortgage lenders.

While free trade agreements have opened markets to United States products, some U.S. companies have found the cost of labor and operations to be more favorable in other countries. The Grange encourages the state and federal government to provide incentives to companies to retain domestic jobs. The National Grange encourages Congress to seek a fair and level playing field in global trading when entering into international trade agreements. The National Grange encourages continued negotiations regarding Japan’s inclusion in the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement. Global treaties need to be carefully overseen by Congress to ensure that the sovereignty of the United States is not diminished or surrendered.

The Grange urges Congress to reform immigration laws to provide for an orderly, well-regulated immigration process.

We recognize the nation’s law enforcement agencies face the challenge of dealing with crimes as diverse and far-reaching as domestic abuse, terrorism, corporate and consumer fraud and electronic and Internet crimes. The Grange supports stiff appropriate penalties for all crimes.

The Internet has made it easier for child predators to contact children. The Grange supports maximum penalties for those convicted in child predator cases. The Grange supports programs in our schools such as those described in Erin’s Law, designed to educate, inform and thereby protect children from sexual abuse. The Grange supports programs that will help rural communities address complex issues such as domestic violence and the rights of victims of violent crimes.

The Grange urges legislative bodies and regulatory agencies at all levels of government to periodically review and purge outdated laws and regulations.

This covers IN-702, WI-712, NY-722 and sections of the Master’s address.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Human Trafficking

WHEREAS, “human trafficking” is a term for activities involved when someone obtains or holds a person in compelled service; and

WHEREAS, the United States government considers trafficking persons to include all of the criminal conduct involved in forced labor and sex trafficking, essentially the conduct involved in reducing or holding someone in compelled service; and

WHEREAS, under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act as amended (TVPA) and consistent with the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), individuals may be trafficking victims regardless of whether they once consented to or participated in a crime as a direct result of being trafficked, were transported into the exploitative situation, or were simply born into a state of servitude; and

WHEREAS, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 needs reauthorization to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2012 through 2015 to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other purposes; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the U.S. Congress reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to help prevent enslavement of persons and protect those who have been victims of enslavement.

This covers 705-NC.

Regulation of Compounding Pharmacies

WHEREAS, the 2012 fungal meningitis outbreak has claimed the lives of more than a dozen people, including as least two in the state of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, this deadly multi-state outbreak has been presumptively linked to steroid injections produced by a compounding pharmacy operating in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, this type of quality problem clearly underscores the dangers inherent to the current lack of meaningful regulation of compounding pharmacies within the United States; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of clear quality requirements in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals, as well as enforcement of such requirements by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) ensures that the chances of similar outbreaks within pharmaceuticals is greatly diminished; and

WHEREAS, compounding pharmacies in the United States are not currently regulated, inspected, or overseen by the FDA; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange encourage changes in federal legislation, such that compounding pharmacies participating in interstate commerce would be classified as pharmaceutical manufacturers under the Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, that National Grange supports that, as pharmaceutical manufacturers, compounding pharmacies be subject to Pharmaceutical Good Manufacturing Practices, FDA inspection and enforcement, and federal drug industry user fees.

This covers 714-MI.

Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screenings

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 226,870 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2012; and

WHEREAS, mammography screening rates have increased and more cases of breast

cancer have been found at earlier stages when they are most easily and successfully treated; and

WHEREAS, many insurance companies will not cover testing for breast cancer (mammograms and magnetic resonance imaging) for women under age 40 even if they are determined to be high risk because of family history, ethnicity, or other factors; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation on a federal level that will require insurance companies to cover testing for breast cancer for all patients regardless of age.

This covers 704-NJ.

Shepherdder Visa

WHEREAS, sheep ranchers in the Western United States are dependent on shepherders to care for the sheep on summer range and during lambing season; and

WHEREAS, the Farmworker Justice advocacy group is trying to change the H-2A exemption for guest workers to remove shepherders as a qualifying occupation under this exemption; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports existing federal law that includes shepherders in the H-2A visa (temporary work visa) program.

This covers 706-OR.

Due to an editorial error in the 2011 Journal of Proceedings, Labor and Judiciary Resolutions from the 2011 National Convention were not printed and have been printed here for the record.

Farm Labor Laws

WHEREAS, the Labor Department has proposed a revision to current child labor laws, specifically for children who work on farms; and

WHEREAS, the proposal would ban individuals under the age of 18 from working with animals, handling pesticides, working in timber operations, manure pits, grain elevators, feed lots, livestock auctions, and others on the farm; and

WHEREAS, by law, children under the age of 18 could not participate in the cultivation, harvesting, and curing of tobacco; and

WHEREAS, those children under the age of 16 would be banned from operating power-driven equipment; examples: tractors, combines, farm trucks, ATV's and shredders; and

WHEREAS, 4-H and FFA programs involve children in many of the proposed activities, this would eliminate these programs; and

WHEREAS, many children are injured or killed in sports activities and regular daily activities, such as swimming, playing accidents, etc.; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange be opposed to the proposed changes in child labor laws by the Department of Labor that limits children under the age of 18 from working with animals, handling pesticides, working in timber operations, manure pits, grain elevators, feed lots, livestock auctions, and others on the farm; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange also be opposed to proposed changes that by law, children under the age of 18 could not participate in the cultivation, harvesting, and curing of tobacco, and those children under the age of 16 would be banned from operating power-driven farm equipment; examples: tractors, combines, farm trucks, ATV's, and shredders.

This covers ID-105, MI-103, NC-105

SAFER Act 2010

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Justice reports that more than 200,000 rapes occur every year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a 1999 National Women's Study found that 10.1 percent of women living in rural areas had experienced a completed rape; and

WHEREAS, a great number of rape victims agree to undergo a rape kit exam; and

WHEREAS, genetic evidence from rape kits is entered into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) in order to assist in identifying perpetrators and patterns between seemingly unrelated crimes; and

WHEREAS, studies show between 63 percent and 71 percent of rapists are serial offenders; and

WHEREAS, entry of all rape kit exam data may increase the chance that perpetrators that commit multiple rapes be charged with more or all of the rapes they committed based on CODIS results; and

WHEREAS, connection of multiple crimes makes it more difficult for perpetrators to use defenses that blame rape victims for not being direct in their objection to sex; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Dept. of Justice estimates there are more than 200,000 untested rape kits in storage at police facilities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, the Debbie Smith Act of 2004 provides federal grants to eligible states and units of local government to conduct DNA analyses of backlogged DNA samples collected from victims and criminal offenders; and

WHEREAS, the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Registry (SAFER) Act of 2010 was authored to appropriate Debbie Smith Act funds to clear the rape kit backlog and create a public online registry to track the progress of every collected rape kit, but now sits before the Judiciary Committee; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support passage of federal legislation to ensure a national database of DNA evidence acquired during previous investigations of sexual assault crimes to be used in the investigation of other sexual assault crimes across the nation that will balance the rights of the accused to due process and the presumption of innocence with the rights to privacy of the victims of sexual assault and the assurance of swift and certain justice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange further support the creation of a federal grant program to the states to audit the quality of the inventory of evidence acquired from sexual assault crimes by local law enforcement agencies in order to increase the value of this evidence in the investigation of sexual assault crimes across the nation.

This covers MI-104. Adopted, as combined with NY-113 and PA-112.

Investment Blind Trusts for Congress

WHEREAS, the Political Intelligence Foundation has been collecting information on Congressional Representatives who have been involved in insider trading with the information which is available to them; and

WHEREAS, unlike other investors, there is no legal act that addresses the practice of insider trading by our elected representatives or prosecutes them for insider trading; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports legislation to require that members of congress shall deposit all personal investments into blind trusts for the duration of their term of office.

This covers Labor and Judiciary 101 and NY-107.

National Medical Criminal Registry

WHEREAS, people holding and working as professional medical doctors and nurses are held in highest regard, having completed the appropriate training and credentialing in the states they choose to practice; and

WHEREAS, people in need of such professional services have a trust in the ethics and quality of work of such professionals; and

WHEREAS, it is often difficult for individuals who are researching the education, background and criminal status of such professionals; and

WHEREAS, medical professionals that are convicted of criminal acts, after serving their sentence, can and do simply move to a different area or state to begin a new practice; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that when a medical professional is legally required to stop practicing medicine, a national medical roster be maintained to identify such individuals for consumer safety sake; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Grange work with legislators and the medical profession to establish a national medical conviction registry to assist the public in securing services from ethical and professional practitioners in the field of medicine.

This covers PA-102.

PRESENT POLICY

Wages, Employment, and Unions

1. The National Grange supports the repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931. Until that time, the threshold exemption level of the Act should be indexed to the rate of inflation.
2. The Grange opposes the legislative enactment of a Farm Worker Bill of Rights. We oppose legislation that would impose a 40-hour workweek that places a limitation on hours that can be worked in a single day, or that requires time and a half pay for overtime on a farming operation.
3. The National Grange opposes any changes to child labor laws by the U.S. Department of Labor restricting children under the age of 18 from working with animals, handling pesticides, working in timber operations, manure pits, grain elevators, feed lots, livestock auctions, and cultivating, harvesting, and curing tobacco, as well as restricting children under the age of 16 from operating power-driven farm equipment; examples: tractors, combines, farm trucks, ATV's, and shredders.
4. The National Grange supports realistic OSHA work place safety regulations. It should be both the employer and employee's responsibility to follow safe work practices. Any employer who is cited by OSHA for violating work place safety regulations should be allowed a reasonable period of time to correct that violation before being penalized. The National Grange believes that OSHA reform legislation as well as any other new workplace health and safety standards should exempt farms having fewer than 10 full-time employees. The National Grange favors lifting the bans in the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1943, which outlaws work that is done in the home in embroidery, gloves and mittens, handkerchiefs, buttons and buckles, jewelry and clothing.
5. The National Grange supports allowing individuals who are collecting

unemployment compensation to decline offers of employment without losing their unemployment benefits so long as they are enrolled in an accredited job training or vocational education program The National Grange supports legislation that would require products bearing an “American Made”, or equivalent claim, to have U.S. manufacturing costs constituting at least 75 percent of the total manufacturing costs for the product, and to be substantially assembled in the United States.

6. The National Grange supports legislation that requires all employers to pay at least the minimum wage, regardless of whether the employees are tipped. We also support legislation to allow younger teens (ages 13-15) to be given the privilege of working a maximum of ten hours a week for less than the minimum wage. After a probationary period, established by the employer, the younger teen should be paid the minimum wage.
7. National Grange strongly urges that the process to form a new union continue to be by secret ballot. We favor binding arbitration clauses in labor contracts covering public sector employees.
8. We support the right of individuals to join a union and collectively bargain in good faith, as long as employees are not required to join or contribute money to any organization that claims to represent their interests in the work place. We further support mandatory restrictions on the use of compulsory union dues for political, charitable or social causes without the paying members consent.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that allows employers to hire replacement workers during a strike.
10. The National Grange supports the “Flextime Options Project,” developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Women’s Bureau in 2003, in order to build national awareness of the benefits of flexible workplace solutions and encourage business leaders to develop workplace flexibility practices, such as
 - Scheduling of Hours (e.g., flextime, compressed work weeks, shift flexibility)
 - Amount of Hours (e.g., part-time, job sharing)
 - Place of Work (e.g., telecommuting, seasonal relocation)
 - Management of Time (e.g. meeting-free flexibility, report late)
 - Organization of Career (e.g., off-and-on ramp, leaves of absence)
 - Other Time Off (e.g., personal days, floating holidays, vacation buying)

Crime and Punishment

1. The National Grange supports imposing stiff mandatory sentences in criminal cases. We believe plea-bargaining should be restrained. We further believe that convicted criminals should be responsible for restitution to their victims and society. The National Grange believes that persons who are convicted of rape, murder, or any three-felony offenses should serve their full sentence without benefit of parole or furlough. We support the death penalty for premeditated crimes ending in death. We further support the death penalty for all citizens who are convicted of military espionage in either peacetime or war.
2. The National Grange favors classifying the importing, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution of all illegal drugs as felonies under state and federal statutes. A mandatory prison sentence should be imposed upon conviction for any felony drug offense. Upon a second felony drug conviction, the penalty shall be a 30-year sentence without the possibility of parole.
3. The National Grange recommends that the U.S. Congress reauthorize the Trafficking

Victims Protection Act to help prevent enslavement of persons and protect those who have been victims of enslavement. The National Grange also encourages its members to educate themselves and others about the dangers of human trafficking.

Protection for Victims and Jurors

1. We support increased protection for those who serve on juries. All jury deliberations should remain confidential. The National Grange supports legislation to forbid public disclosure of information about criminal investigations that could be detrimental to the case of either the prosecution or the defense, until after the case's final deposition.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to assure that victims and witnesses of violent crimes must be notified in writing at least 60 days before any hearings in which the person who has been convicted of that crime seeks release or a change in release status from either a prison or a mental institution.
3. The National Grange supports legislation to protect the language interpreter with an interpreter/client privilege just as lawyers have attorney/client privileges.
4. The National Grange supports federal legislation to create a reliable, national database of DNA evidence acquired during previous investigations of sexual assault investigations to be used in the investigation of other sexual assault cases across the nation that will balance the rights of the accused to due process and the presumption of innocence with the rights to privacy of the victims of sexual assault and the assurance of swift and certain justice. The National Grange further supports federal grants to the states, to audit the quality of the inventory of prior evidence acquired from sexual assault investigations by local law enforcement agencies in order to increase the value of this evidence in the investigation of sexual assault cases across the nation.
5. The National Grange supports the establishment of a consumer oriented, national conviction registry of medical professionals who have been previously convicted of ethical or criminal activity and barred from the practice of medicine.

General Law

1. The National Grange opposes federal regulations that force the closings of jails or that require excessive expenditures of state funds.
2. The National Grange supports legislation making the unauthorized entry or use of a computer facility or illegal tapping of phones a felony.
3. The National Grange supports tort reform to exempt manufacturers of goods and machinery from all lawsuits, fines, liabilities and other civil penalties if they meet all the state and federal regulations that were in effect at the time the product was built or produced. The National Grange also supports legislation which prohibits civil actions against a manufacturer or seller of food or a trade association for any injury resulting from a person's consumption of food including weight gain, obesity, or any associated health condition.
4. The National Grange supports federal legislation to prohibit gambling on the Internet. We further support legislation to make the unsolicited e-mailing or posting of advertisements for pornographic websites and materials both a criminal and civil offense in order to control the availability of pornographic material to children.
5. The National Grange recommends that there be no changes in the laws that currently ban the production and sale of marijuana in the United States.

6. The National Grange supports legislation, which will create a new Twelfth Circuit Court of Appeals to meet the needs to the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, Hawaii and the Pacific Territories.
7. The National Grange believes that state law, not federal law, should have jurisdiction over “hate crimes” and state law should be responsible for assigning specific punishment for these crimes.
8. The National Grange believes that cell phone use by inmates should be banned at all state and federal correctional facilities. Prison visitors should be required to surrender all cell phones at the facility entrance until their departure.
9. The National Grange supports legislation requiring that Members of Congress shall deposit all personal investments into blind trusts for the duration of their term of office.

Firearms and the Second Amendment

1. The National Grange opposes any additional gun control laws until the present laws are strictly enforced. We oppose legislation restricting the rights of citizens to bear arms for protection of their families, property and common defense, with the exception of assault weapons manufactured and designed specifically for military use and stun guns. We favor severe and mandatory sentences, including incarceration, for anyone using firearms while committing a crime.
2. The National Grange supports prohibiting the manufacture and sale of toy guns that are replicas of real guns.

Bankruptcy

1. The National Grange favors additional penalties for bankruptcy fraud to combat planned bankruptcies and other abuses.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to require companies or businesses that file for bankruptcy to ensure that the employees who are owed compensation are the first secured creditors.
3. The National Grange supports legislation, which would classify producers having an ownership interest in agricultural products as secured creditors in bankruptcy cases.

Civil Law

1. The National Grange supports fairness in the civil judicial system at the state and federal levels through reform of tort, liability, and malpractice law. We favor a civil law system in which the plaintiff, if they lose, will be responsible to pay the defendant’s legal and court costs when the court rules the lawsuit was frivolous. We further support limiting the amount of contingency fees that are paid to lawyers as well as putting caps on excessive jury awards for economic and noneconomic damages, such as pain, suffering, and bad faith. We support placing limits on findings of joint and several liability and clearly established standards of bad faith action. We support incentives for alternative dispute resolutions, such as arbitration.
2. The National Grange believes that Legal Services Corporations and local legal aid bureaus should not receive any federal funding for suits against farmers. The National Grange also believes individuals should be prohibited from initiating so called “citizen suits,” civil litigation against farmers and others for environmental violations without demonstrating any direct loss or damage to initiate such a suit.

Children and Family Law

1. The National Grange supports revising federal regulations so that adoption or guardianships recognized for the purpose of receiving government assistance.
2. The National Grange supports efforts to increase public awareness of child abuse and the existence of child predators in our society. All child abuse laws and child predator laws should be reviewed, revised, and enforced so as to secure the safety and well being of all children while remaining protective of the rights of innocent families and individuals. The National Grange supports equalizing sentencing of perpetrators of sexual abuse without regard of the familial relationship of perpetrator to the child. We further support greater notification requirements on convicted child predators, including immediate notification to authorities of address changes, community notification of the presence of a convicted child predator, a national child predator registry on the internet listing the current address of all convicted child predators and substantially increased penalties for failure of convicted sex offenders to comply.
3. The National Grange favors reforms that would consider the best interests of the child in all proceedings, investigations, or rulings by the courts.
4. The National Grange supports requiring that the biological father's name, if known and proven, be recorded on the child's birth certificate for purposes of determining the child's right to Social Security, and other support that should be provided by the father.
5. We believe that in the situation of a broken home, both parents should be required to support their children.
6. The National Grange supports policies that grant legal surrogate decision-making authority to grandparent caregivers in the absence of responsible parents or stepparents. We support financial, social and legal supports as needed to grandparent caregivers raising grandchildren. We further support protecting the visitation rights of grandparents. In the case of a child who is legally removed from the parents, the grandparents should be first be considered as the custodian of that child.

Consumer Protection Law

1. The National Grange supports legislation to allow the consumer more control over who has access to credit reports
2. The National Grange favors a law requiring identification of all products that are foreign-made or assembled. The National Grange supports requiring all companies to comply, to the full extent of the law, in setting strict limits for lead, lead paint and chemicals known as phthalates, and the mandatory third-party testing of products geared for children 12 and under.
3. The National Grange urges Congress to enact laws protecting an individual's right to privacy and to protect the confidentiality of all personal records from fraudulent use. The National Grange supports a program to educate individual consumers regarding how to report suspected identity theft activities. We also support stronger penalties for those convicted of identity theft including full restitution to all victims. National Grange supports allowing children's Social Security numbers and other private information to be frozen by the child's legal custodian in order to protect them from identity theft.
4. The National Grange supports allowing nonprofit organizations to make continued "incidental use" of copyrighted music.

5. Regulations should be enacted that require companies to give consumers the option of mailed billings or statements without surcharges.
6. The National Grange encourages companies to print product expiration dates in the mm/dd/yyyy format.
7. The National Grange encourages changes in federal legislation, such that “compounding pharmacies” participating in interstate commerce would be classified as pharmaceutical manufacturers, under the Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act. The National Grange also supports that, as pharmaceutical manufacturers, “compounding pharmacies” be subject to Pharmaceutical Good Manufacturing Practices, FDA inspection and enforcement, and federal drug industry user fees.

Banking and Consumer Credit Law

1. The Grange supports legislation to enable the family farmer or the family farm cooperative to borrow money at low interest rates.
2. The National Grange supports strong independent banks in lieu of further concentration of banking and financial powers in interstate and nationwide firms. Banks should be prohibited from entering the field of general commerce. We believe that any banks allowed to write and sell insurance must be subject to all applicable state insurance resolutions and laws as administered by State Insurance Commissions. We believe that any banks that are allowed to offer or underwrite securities must be subject to regulation by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.
3. The National Grange supports legislation requiring credit card companies to discontinue the use of “pre-approved” in their solicitations.
4. The National Grange supports the continued independence of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and opposes the merger of the NCUA with any other government financial institution insurance fund.
5. The National Grange urges state and federal banking regulators to better monitor fees charged by banks, reduce and eliminate those that are unfair, and provide customers with protection against aggressive banking business practices.
6. The National Grange supports regulations requiring that all dormancy and/or inactivity fees for store gift cards and prepaid gift cards be permanently eliminated; just as these fees have been eliminated for credit cards.
7. We oppose unreasonable delays in the availability of the funds from a deposited check. We support requiring all banks to honor government checks that are presented to them for payment.

Insurance Law

1. The National Grange supports the efforts of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies to strengthen and improve insurance guarantee funds.
2. The National Grange supports the current McCarran-Ferguson Act. We support state jurisdiction over the insurance industry. We support a federally funded terrorist reinsurance program.
3. The National Grange believes that the National Flood Insurance Program should operate on an actuarially sound basis. Natural Flood Insurance Programs should not be available for properties that have suffered multiple losses where steps were not taken to protect the property from further damage.
4. The National Grange urges state and federal regulators to establish the necessary

safeguards that will make it possible for the viatical industry to serve viators and investors in a responsible way.

5. The National Grange opposes any legislation that would require insurance companies to comply with “The Community Reinvestment Act,” 12 U.S.C. 2901,
6. The National Grange supports passage of legislation mandating the Medicare system to use an identification number other than the individual’s Social Security Number.
7. The National Grange supports legislation on a federal level that will require insurance companies to cover testing for breast cancer for all patients regardless of age.

Immigration, Aliens, and Migrant Workers

1. The National Grange supports the strict enforcement of the immigration laws of the United States and regular review of these laws to be sure they meet the needs of our country. We support increased efforts to patrol our borders, preventing the illegal entry of aliens into our nation, including the assignment of military forces to assist civilian agencies in enforcing our border control policies. We support a prohibition on general amnesty for all illegal aliens of any nationality. We support requiring proof of citizenship and/or legal registered immigration to receive government benefits. We also recommend that federal authorities be allowed to detain illegal immigrants and foreigners with expired visas for the duration of their investigation and processing, and be deported if immigration status is determined to be illegal.
2. The National Grange supports legal programs to bring guest workers into the United States on a temporary basis for the harvesting of seasonal crops. We support reform of current foreign guest worker programs to allow for expedited processing of foreign guest workers employed in the agricultural sector as well as reform of the H2A program so that the wage costs to farmers when hiring under the H2A program more closely reflects the prevailing local wage. We further support an amendment to the Migratory and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act recognizing that a crew chief is an independent contractor who is responsible for the general care of his crew when it does not conflict with the requirements that are assigned to the landowners.
3. Agricultural employers should not be responsible for checking the authenticity of migrant and seasonal worker documentation at the time of employment. Employers who unknowingly hire illegal aliens should not be penalized. National Grange supports legislation or a Constitutional amendment to require that children born in the United States must have one parent who is already a United States citizen in order to automatically receive citizenship and government benefits.
4. The National Grange supports enactment of a practical and enforceable guest worker visa program. The National Grange supports the expansion of the H1B visa program for professionals to enter the United States to provide services in sectors where there is a documented need.
5. The National Grange supports existing federal law that includes shepherders in the H-2A visa (temporary work visa) program.

Commercial Trade Policies

1. The National Grange believes that opening trade between nations increases international understanding. We will actively support programs to increase the competitive position of U.S. companies in world markets.
2. The National Grange encourages purchasing American-made products and

recommends that all levels of government be required to buy American made products whenever feasible.

3. The National Grange supports a fair and equitable textile import policy that provides assistance to the domestic industry, is beneficial to the producers of fibers and is not be price inflationary to the U.S.' consumers.
4. The National Grange supports removal of trade, financial, and travel restrictions to Cuba.
5. The National Grange supports prohibiting the sale or lease of properties and/or businesses within the limits of the United States to any foreign purchaser or leaser whose country prohibits the sale or lease of properties and/or businesses to U.S. businesses or citizens.
6. The National Grange supports national, coordinated policies to combat trade-distorting practices instituted by foreign governments, such as currency manipulation and unilateral repudiation of sovereign debt, especially in those cases where it becomes more difficult for U.S. farmers and manufacturers to sell their products in overseas markets.

Foreign Aid

1. The National Grange urges the U.S. government to unconditionally extend foreign aid only in cases of natural disasters. We further support basing a greater use of agricultural products in lieu of cash transfers for humanitarian assistance; closer monitoring of International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans to encourage Third World countries to provide self-help; considering the recipient countries' present foreign debt, repayment schedule, and record before providing them with new financial assistance; and keeping in mind the needs of domestic programs when Congress considers the appropriate amount of foreign aid. We recommend that all countries share in the economic assistance to developing countries through the United Nations. The National Grange supports requiring any country receiving U.S. foreign aid to purchase products made or grown in the United States.
2. The National Grange favors canceling all U.S. aid and supplies to foreign countries that take, hold, or kill American citizens, refuse to recognize international law, willingly permit the production and shipment of illegal drugs into our country, or allow the takeover of U.S. embassies or any property belonging to the U.S. government.
3. The National Grange encourages agricultural research and development in and for Third World nations.

International Relations and the United Nations

1. The National Grange supports a friendly relationship with the Republic of China (Taiwan).
2. The National Grange supports a positive non-military program promoting the democratic form of government as a means to roll back or contain dictatorial forms of government.
3. The National Grange supports actions by our government in condemning terrorist acts and supports efforts to secure the release of all hostages.
4. The National Grange supports a U.S. foreign policy that only allows American troops to be committed to foreign countries in turmoil when it is in the strategic interest of the United States and adequate safeguards are provided. We support the United States' involvement in United Nations' military operations including funding such military operations only with the approval of Congress.

5. The National Grange strongly supports extending and maintaining the protections of U.S. Constitutional law, guaranteeing individual rights, under all international law. We urge the United States government not to ratify or sign agreements or treaties that limit individual rights guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution or Bill of Rights, or that impose taxation on the citizens of the United States.
6. The National Grange supports legislation to rescind the President's signature approving the Statute of the International Criminal Court made on behalf of the United States and to take necessary steps to prevent the International Criminal Court's establishment and prohibit the use of appropriated funds for the establishment or operation of the Court. We further urge the U.S. government to use all of its diplomatic and political influence to protect U.S. Service persons or U.S. citizens from being subject to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

National Defense

1. The National Grange supports international agreements leading toward a balanced reduction and eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons and chemical weapons. To complement this objective, we further support the development of strategic and civil defense systems.
2. The National Grange recommends that the federal government negotiate with foreign countries for compensation for the military defenses that we provide to their countries.
3. The National Grange supports a strong effective military. We urge Congress to appropriate sufficient funding, including adequate pay for all branches of the military. We support policies which will re-establish effective security and intelligence capabilities.
4. The National Grange supports the continued presence of United States Armed Forces in South Korea.

Thanks to the members of the Labor & Judiciary committee for your hard work. A special thanks to Mark Noah, Secretary, and to Leroy and Grace for their guidance and assistance.

Brad Keeton, OK (Chairman)
Kate Poirrer, AK
Connie Johnston, MI
Jim Tetrault, NH

Mark Noah, OR (Secretary)
Don Billmire, ID
Ted Doane, NE
Roger Bostwick, KS (Honorary)

TAXATION & TRANSPORTATION**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>State of Origin</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
202	Five Day USPS Service	FL	Adverse
203	US Postal Service	FL	Adverse
209	Postal Reform	OR	Present Policy
801	Red Light Cameras/Yellow Light Timing	IL	Withdrawn
802	Bicycle Warning Flags	IA	Present Policy
803	School Bus Inspection	IA	Adverse
804	School Bus Safety Features	IA	Adverse
805	Electronic Billboards	TX	Withdrawn
806	Additional Child Tax Credit	WA	Withdrawn
807	Estate Tax	WI	Withdrawn
808	Safety Barriers	PA	Withdrawn
809	Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act of 2011	OH	Adopted as Amended
810	Funding for Social Security and Medicare	ME	Rejected by Delegate Body
811	Medical Equipment Deduction	NY	Withdrawn

POLICY STATEMENT***Taxation***

The Grange has a long and consistent history in support of sound fiscal policy. We believe budgets should be balanced. We recognize there are times or circumstances to support deficit spending and the creation of debt, but that must be carefully evaluated. However, we have a grave concern about the tremendous increase in the federal deficit and the impact this will have on future generations.

The Grange supports taxing policies that levy both personal and business taxes based on ability to pay. Previous federal tax reform efforts have resulted in more confusion. Many millions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of hours are spent each year to file tax returns. This is an overlooked cost of our tax collection system; therefore, we seek a simpler set of tax regulations.

For most farm and small business owners, their farms and businesses are their largest

retirement assets. We need tax policies that assure that our current generation of family farmers and business owners are allowed to retire with dignity and that their productive resources are transferred to a new generation of family farmers and small business owners. Until such time as the estate tax is completely abolished, we support passage of legislation that would exempt farms and ranches from federal estate taxes after the death of its owner, as long as their ownership stays in the family.

We support user taxes with revenue used for the intended program. Programs, once authorized, should receive adequate appropriations. We oppose non-funded and under-funded mandates.

Transportation

Throughout our history, the Grange has had a vested interest in transportation issues. Although there are many different modes of transportation in existence today, the Grange supports the continued improvement of the existing infrastructure for all modes of transportation.

The National Grange continues to support federal surface transportation legislation that would benefit rural America.

We continue to support laws requiring drivers to slow down and move over while passing an emergency vehicle that is stopped with lights flashing. We believe this should become law in all 50 states. We also support increased visibility devices for school buses.

We believe all drivers need to be fully responsible for their driving and guard against distractions from cell phones and other such devices.

Postal Reform

The National Grange realizes the United States Postal Service serves a vital purpose in our local communities. The United States Postal Service (USPS) needs to evolve to meet the economic realities of today's world. That evolution needs to occur now. The Grange supports two options. First, we recommend eliminating the prepayment requirement for future employee retirement health benefits, saving the USPS \$5.5 billion annually. The other option is that Congress release the USPS from Congressional oversight and allow them to make their own decisions and respond to market conditions as they see fit, while providing the last mile of service.

The Grange opposes reductions of service to rural America. A sustainable and prospering postal service is a necessity for rural America; and we urge the postal service to vigorously pursue ways to keep the same quality service it presently provides.

This policy statement includes portions of the Masters Address.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act of 2011

WHEREAS, there is need to amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow a nonrefundable income tax credit of up to \$500 for the purchase of a qualified hearing aid for an individual who is either: (1) 55 or older; or (2) is claimed as a dependent of the taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, U.S. H.R. 1479 is currently in the House Committee on Ways and Means; and

WHEREAS, U.S. H.R. 1479 was introduced on 4/12/2011 by Rep. Tom Latham (IA-4) with 61 cosponsors; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange lobby for the passage of U.S. H.R. 1479, the Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act of 2011 or a similar bill.

This covers 809-OH.

PRESENT POLICY

Taxation

Personal Income Tax

1. The National Grange supports developing a simpler and fairer federal income tax code, written in precise, plain, and understandable language. We further support simplifying the language that is used in the government's instruction pamphlets for filing individual income taxes.
2. The National Grange favors continuing 5 and 10-year averaging of lump sum distributions of pension funds for income tax purposes.
3. The National Grange favors indexing all federal income tax brackets for inflation.
4. The National Grange supports preferential income tax deductions for two-wage earner families. The National Grange supports deducting state sales tax from federal income tax returns.
5. The National Grange supports a 100% tax deduction for all qualified charitable contributions for all federal taxpayers.
6. The National Grange supports equalizing the mileage rates for volunteer services and medical transportation with mileage rates permitted for businesses for tax purposes.
7. The National Grange favors income tax credits for those families who care for their elderly or handicapped relatives who otherwise would become residents of a nursing home. We support legislation to allow a federal tax deduction for all Long Term Care Insurance premiums. We further support exempting all benefits paid under Long Term Care insurance from all income taxes.
8. The National Grange favors making Social Security benefits completely exempt from personal income taxes. The National Grange supports the elimination of the cap on Social Security taxable wages. The National Grange supports legislation that would prohibit any state from imposing an income tax on the pension income of any individual who is not a resident of that state.
9. The National Grange supports the continuation of all current tax deductions allowed on real-estate mortgages.
10. The National Grange supports legislation to allow voluntary contributions of \$1.00 to be solicited on all federal income tax forms to fund our national parks. The Grange supports permitting an individual to designate \$1 on his/her federal income tax return for the USA Olympic Program.
11. The National Grange supports a 100% federal income tax credit to law enforcement officers for purchasing their own bulletproof vests.
12. The National Grange supports allowing a total of \$500 in income tax credits for political contributions.
13. The National Grange supports expanding medical flexible spending accounts to allow employees or retirees to set aside part of their pre-tax pay or pension. We further recommend that any unspent medical flexible spending account balance be rolled into the next year's account or refunded to the employee or retiree as taxable income.

14. The National Grange supports a 100% federal income tax deduction for all medical insurance.
15. The National Grange supports limiting the federal income tax deduction for state legislators' daily expense allowance, so that the deduction only applies to days they actually attend Legislative Sessions.
16. The National Grange supports the passage of U.S.H.R.1479, the Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act of 2011 or a similar bill.

Business, Investment, Capital Gains, and Inheritance Taxation

1. The National Grange supports legislation to permit farmers to use the method of depreciation that is most suitable to the uncertainties of their businesses. We support depreciation schedules for agricultural capital assets that accurately reflect the useful life of those assets. In particular, we support a depreciation schedule of 15 years for single purpose farm structures. The National Grange supports legislation to eliminate the reporting of government funded environmental and conservation cost-share monies as income to the recipients. We oppose the use of income tax write-offs from farming to reduce the amount of taxes that are owed on the earnings of non-farm businesses or professions.
2. The National Grange supports an Investment Tax Credit or accelerated depreciation with a \$100,000 value eligibility limit.
3. The National Grange supports preferential treatment for capital gains income. We support the abolishment of the capital gains tax. Until then, we support indexing the basic value of an asset, so that only the real gain, and not the inflation value, is subject to the capital gains tax. We support excluding capital gains up to \$500,000 from sale of agricultural lands from taxable income. We further support excluding all of the proceeds on the sale or exchange of qualified farmland development rights to a tax-exempt conservation organization from all capital gains taxes. We further support the right of farmers to invest any un-excluded capital gains from the sale of real and personal property into tax-deferred accounts, such as IRAs.
4. The National Grange believes that employees should not be liable for un-remitted income or FICA taxes if the employer properly withheld those taxes from the employee's pay but then failed to make the proper payments to the IRS or the state.
5. The National Grange opposes the enactment of any federal tax on securities transactions.
6. The National Grange supports the uniform application of all timber depletion allowances in the tax code to all timberland owners regardless of the size of their timberland holdings.
7. The National Grange supports legislation abolishing the federal estate tax, especially for small business and agriculture as long as their ownership stays in the family and the farm stays in productive agriculture. We support retaining current provisions for a full stepped up basis on inheritances. We favor using the current use value as the basis for the property for estate tax purposes. The National Grange further supports a personal exemption from federal estate taxes of five million dollars per person.
8. The National Grange supports federal tax credits or tax deductions to growers or grower co-operatives that build or own ethanol production facilities.
9. The National Grange supports legislation prohibiting employers from borrowing from an employee's pension fund. The National Grange supports legislation that would place

employees or former employees who had invested in their employers stock as a part of their retirement plan ahead of payments to other creditors during bankruptcy.

10. The National Grange supports prosecution of cooperative executives and others suspected of illegal actions resulting in a cooperative declaring bankruptcy.
11. The National Grange urges Congress to oppose any future legislation allowing the IRS to implement percentage fees on banking transactions.

Sales, Excise Taxes, and Internet

1. The National Grange opposes the enactment of any national sales tax or any form of value added tax.
2. The National Grange supports federal law prohibiting any charges or taxes on e-mail or the use of the Internet. The National Grange opposes any new or increased excise tax on telecommunication. The National Grange supports legislation that would prohibit mail order houses or Internet retailers from collecting state or federal sales or use taxes on mail order or Internet purchases.
3. The National Grange supports the current levels of taxation of tobacco products at the federal, state and local level.

Taxes - General

1. We support the present tax treatment of agricultural cooperatives as non-profit entities.
2. The National Grange supports a federal prohibition on the imposition of any tax or fee on water that is drawn from private wells, lakes, and irrigation ponds.
3. The National Grange supports tax policies that will preserve the ability of this nation to find and produce domestic oil and gas resources. We support the current oil import fee and the domestic crude oil fee.
4. The National Grange supports tax exemption for income that is raised by non-profit organizations such as the Grange. We oppose IRS guidelines that classify corporate sponsorships as unrelated business income for non-profit organizations. We further support legislation to raise the minimum gross income filing requirements for non-profit organizations.
5. We support a further strengthening of the "Taxpayers' Bill of Rights." We support placing the burden of proof on the IRS - not the taxpayer - under due process of law and providing a course of action in which the taxpayer could defend himself and recover his costs and attorney fees should the IRS fail to prove its case. We support giving the taxpayer the right to record all interviews with IRS representatives and to set a reasonable time and place for meetings. We support prohibiting the IRS from sending out bills that are in excess of owed taxes, except for interest and penalties.
6. The National Grange supports the rights of local governments to use tax-exempt municipal financing without further limitations being imposed by Congress.
7. The National Grange supports requiring a two-thirds vote of each House of Congress to increase taxes. We further support federal legislation to explicitly limit the authority of all courts in the United States to order a state or political subdivision to levy or increase taxes as a remedy for any civil litigation.
8. The National Grange opposes any sale of information from individual tax returns to any agency or individual.

Transportation

Highway Policy, Interstate System and Federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF)

1. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation and reauthorization of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF). We support removing the HTF from the federal budget. We oppose any proposal that would change the concept of dedicating all federal motor fuel taxes to the HTF to be used for highway and highway related purposes. The National Grange supports the creation of a Federal Mass Transportation Trust Fund from user tax revenues separate from the HTF and highway user taxes. The National Grange opposes increasing the federal gasoline tax for purposes other than the HTF and reaffirms its position that all funds received from highway fuel taxes be used only for construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. The federal and state governments should not use these funds to balance their budgets or fund other programs. We oppose impounding HTF monies as a means of enforcement of federal laws.
2. We support federal legislation to remove federal fuel tax from fuel used to operate farm trucks, including legislation that would use a federal motor fuel tax increase to reduce federal budget deficits.
3. The National Grange favors full compensation for homes, farming operations and businesses when displaced by eminent domain for highway right-of-ways.
4. The National Grange calls for increased border surveillance to ensure that commercial vehicles and drivers based in Canada and Mexico are in full compliance with the United States' motor vehicle equipment standards and requirements.
5. The National Grange supports the following provisions as part of any reauthorization of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA).
 - a. Additional funding for core safety programs that are properly directed to lifesaving roadway safety projects.
 - b. Provisions to reduce administrative delays at federal and state agencies responsible for approving highway planning.
 - c. New financial incentives for states to obligate new congestion relief funding for projects that reduce highway bottlenecks.
 - d. Full funding by the Congress for all "guaranteed" highway funds in future Transportation Appropriations bills.
 - e. Full enforcement of additional new fuel tax fraud provisions and additional credit for the HTF for revenue enhancements related to the new tax collection on ethanol.
6. The National Grange supports streamlining environmental requirements to expedite the completion of transportation congestion-relief projects in order to reduce pollution while promoting efficient land use and road capacity in areas designated for growth. We support redirecting the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program (CMAQ) to fund new passenger and freight inter-modal hubs in highly congested areas to serve trains, trucking companies and bus companies to improve intercity Amtrak stations and/or to construct public freight transfer stations that combine bus service, rapid transit and other transportation services, which operate on flexible schedules. The National Grange recommends that the interstate highway system adopt the use of a uniform transponder system for all open-road tolling nationwide.

7. The National Grange opposes the sale of any toll roads or bridges.

Highways – Non-Interstate

1. The National Grange urges government agencies to conserve land for agricultural purposes when considering the location and design of highways including planting trees and shrubs along highways in places where such growth could stop soil erosion and aid in snow control.
2. The federal-aid system of highways should be continued as a federal-state partnership with more flexibility in the states' use of money for safety, construction, and maintenance of state and local highways, including rural roads and bridges that are built to the community's needs as determined by county and local road commissions. The National Grange recommends that the Highway Safety Administration require surface highway reflectors on the center lane divider of all two-way highways on the federal-aid highway system and adopt standards to ensure a better and more durable road surface.
3. The National Grange supports expansion of rural intercity bus, air and rail services.
4. The National Grange supports funding to construct adequate parking or rest areas to allow commercial and other drivers to stop and rest.
5. The National Grange continues to uphold the States' rights to regulate the farmer's transporting of equipment and crops and opposes any federal legislation or regulations that would require farmers to obtain commercial drivers' licenses to operate farm equipment.

Roadway Safety

1. The National Grange supports the enforcement of weight limits on vehicles operating on our highways.
2. The National Grange supports truck regulations requiring the use of brushes and/or flaps that will channel the water down reducing the spray.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would require rear and side impact/under ride guards on all newly manufactured semi-trailers.
4. The National Grange requests that the Federal Highway Administration establish and promulgate standards for the minimum walk light time, type of visual images, and audible sound level for controlled crosswalks throughout the United States.
5. Railroad crossings in rural areas should have ripple strips installed in road surfaces on approaches to crossings, be clear of brush and other vision-inhibiting material and be equipped with flashing warning lights.
6. The National Grange supports requiring that all motorcycle, bicycle, and moped riders wear protective helmets, and wear clothing or have an apparatus to make them more visible to other motorists.
7. The Grange supports an effective federal Highway Safety Program.
8. The National Grange supports requiring all motor vehicles to have a rear bumper or undercarriage guard coming within 16 inches of the ground.
9. The National Grange urges automobile manufacturers to include the following modifications on their new models: uniformly located door latches; louder and more visible interior direction signal indicators; spare tires of equal quality and size as regular tires; uniform tow points; light sensitive sensors that would automatically turn on automobile headlights at a certain degree of darkness; at least one mirror on the right side of a vehicle to reflect an undistorted view of images and a curvature type mirror to pick up blind spots; and headlights that turn on automatically with the windshield wipers.

10. The National Grange supports standardizing the cellular emergency numbers for the interstate highway systems throughout the country to *91.
11. The National Grange supports legislation that would penalize a driver for using a cell phone when it is the cause of an accident.
12. The National Grange supports regulations that would strengthen the safety standards for smaller cars and opposes any weakening of the safety standards of sport utility vehicles.
13. The National Grange strongly supports state and national laws that require reflective tape on all existing and new trucks to help reduce under-ride accidents.
14. The National Grange supports legislation banning high intensity discharge (HID) headlights and/or driving lights and/or Xenon lights.
15. The National Grange encourages all states to use the same laws pertaining to school bus operations and traffic control around school buses. We support legislation requiring all newly manufactured school buses to be equipped with strobe lights that are highly visible in all types of weather. We further support, all school buses being required to have a sign on the back stating "Stay Back 50 Feet," and that all school buses manufactured after July 1, 2013 be equipped with blind spot sensors that activate a warning sound and immobilize the bus once a sensor is activated.
16. The National Grange supports present U.S. Department of Transportation requirements for random drug and alcohol testing for school bus drivers. We oppose any requirement for installed school bus driver monitoring devices on school buses as unnecessary. The National Grange supports legislation restricting the placement of any visual entertainment device within the driver's area of vision within a motor vehicle.
17. The National Grange urges automobile manufacturers to standardize the placement of air bag components and furnish documentation on their operations to Fire/Rescue and EMS personnel.

Impaired Driving

1. We support a nationwide enactment of the "per se" law, which makes driving with a blood alcohol content in excess of .08 percent a violation. We believe the dangers of drinking and driving should be included in all federal anti-drug information and education programs.
2. The National Grange supports maintaining the minimum age for the consumption of alcoholic beverages at 21.
3. The National Grange recommends that transportation authorities, both government and privately owned, be vested with the authority to randomly test employees for illegal drug and alcohol use.

Truck Transportation Policy

1. The National Grange supports legislation and regulatory policies that enhance stability and competition in truck operations for cost-effective and dependable service.
2. The National Grange supports regulations requiring brake lights to be activated on commercial motor vehicles when a Jake Brake is used.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would require reporting of positive drug tests for drivers with any commercial license to the Department of Motor Vehicles of the issuing state so long as there is a mandatory right of appeal and a second test to eliminate false positive results. The report of a positive drug test should remain in the driver's file for a period of two years. The National Grange

supports Department of Transportation (DOT) reclassifying light-, medium-, and heavy-duty utility vehicles separate from on-highway (cross-country) trucks. However, we recommend that logbooks not be required on light-, medium-, and heavy-duty utility vehicles.

Water Transportation

1. The National Grange supports a moratorium on user fee increases for agricultural products transported on coastal and inland waterways. All user fees on waterways should be based on the percentage of federal expenditures attributable to opening waterways to barge traffic and should be placed in an Inland Waterways Trust Fund and used only for construction and maintenance of inland waterways.
2. The National Grange supports maintaining the current United States Corps of Engineers' season for transporting grain on the Missouri River.
3. The National Grange supports the immediate upgrades to the locks on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, facilitating greater barge traffic and providing an economic engine to fuel growth and prosperity.
4. The National Grange recommends repeal of the Jones Act, which requires all freight moved between American ports being carried in American ships.
5. The National Grange supports legislation to prevent any company controlled by a foreign government from taking over management of U.S. port facilities.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would require all U.S. cruise ships have emergency personnel as members of their crews.

Railroad Transportation

1. The National Grange supports scheduling more commuter trains to offer better service to the public.
2. The National Grange urges all appropriate state and federal agencies to consider economic impact and public interests when undertaking transportation planning with regard to the impact of rail line abandonment. We support integration of rail and highway system planning in advance of possible abandonment to maximize economies to the public and private sectors as well as federal assistance to states for this purpose and to assist in rail takeovers by states where maintenance of service is cost effective to local or state governments and to local shippers. We support economic and social impact statements from railroads as well as meaningful local public hearings in the areas affected as a part of the abandonment process.
3. The National Grange supports the development and maintenance of a strong and effective rail network to enhance competition among and between rail carriers in order to ensure efficient rail service and reasonable rates.
4. The National Grange supports legislation requiring warning reflectors to be placed on both sides of all railroad cars in the United States.
5. The National Grange supports legislation that would require railroads to reveal to each landowner, before abandonment, the full and complete legal basis on which the railroad has claimed its right to occupy the corridor. If the railroad's right is less than fee simple ownership, the railroad should disclose to each landowner that its occupancy right would be extinguished upon abandonment. We believe that the right-of-way of an abandoned land grant railroad should revert to the last payer of taxes on the property, or by right of adverse possession or grant titles as well as the possible use of railroad right-of-ways, determined to be economically unfeasible, by adjacent landowners.

6. The National Grange supports efforts to create a Commuter Bill of Rights that would guarantee that rail passengers, stranded on railway trains, would have access to food, water, and a telephone as well as assure their timely removal from the disabled train.

Air Travel

1. The National Grange supports repeal of the “Jim Wright Law” that requires passengers with flights originating or terminating at Dallas’ Love Field, to or from destinations beyond Texas, or the four states contiguous to Texas, to land, disembark, retrieve their luggage and recheck in before they may continue their flight.
2. The National Grange supports the assignment of Air Marshals on random flights.
3. The National Grange opposes legislation authorizing the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to establish fees for air traffic control and related activities, services, facilities, and equipment that increases user fees and taxes for general aviation such as crop dusting, pipeline patrol, power line patrol, forest fire patrol, and commuting to rural communities. We also oppose legislation creating a board dominated by airline representatives that would recommend FAA user fee pricing schedules.

General Transportation Policy

1. The Grange believes that a balanced transportation system, at the lowest cost consistent with adequate and efficient service, is in the best interest of farmers and consumers. We oppose efforts by state governments to toll expanses of the Interstate Highway System built and operating as toll free.
2. The National Grange urges federal and state weed control agencies to control noxious weeds on their highway right-of-ways and to work with the railroads to control noxious weeds along railroad right-of-ways but always respecting the landowners’ property rights and preferences.
3. The National Grange supports inter-modal ownership of transportation carriers only when that intermodal ownership is consistent with the public interest; will not unreasonably restrain competition and will not result in segments of agriculture and rural areas being held by captive shippers.
4. The National Grange supports creating a national uniform vehicle identification system to be used by disabled drivers. Legislation should be enacted to include blindness as a provision for issuance of a disabled parking permit.
5. The National Grange strongly supports a simple public announcement procedure for special-needs citizens in intercity bus transportation systems.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that allows independent vehicle maintenance facilities or car dealership garages to have access to the technology/programming needed to repair all makes of vehicles so that consumers have a choice of where to take their vehicle for maintenance and repair.
7. The National Grange supports safety and educational programs for individuals 17 years and younger for the use of all non-roadway vehicles such as ATV’s, snowmobiles, dirt bikes, sleds, etc. and also endorses the use of helmets and other protective gear.
8. The National Grange encourages states that do not currently place proof of military service on drivers’ licenses and other forms of official identification to initiate such a program.

U.S. Postal Service

1. The National Grange supports efforts by the Postal Service to eliminate waste, hold down operating costs and increase services and reliability. We support the following postal reforms:
 - a. We urge that any future postal rate increases be no greater than the rate of inflation.
 - b. We will support stable rates or eligibility requirements for nonprofit organizations' postal rates. We support the retention of the third class bulk mail rate for not-for-profit-organizations at a reasonable rate.
 - c. We support reorganization of the Postal Rate Commission to include representation of the interests of mail users.
2. The National Grange supports Rural Free Mail Delivery Service as an essential part of universal mail service. We support the continuation of rural Saturday mail delivery and all other mail services to rural areas. Patrons of rural post offices must be given six months notice before their post office is closed and must be provided with an opportunity to express their viewpoint at a public hearing.
3. The National Grange recommends that the US Postal Service be returned to a service branch of the Federal government. The National Grange further supports amending the statues governing the US Postal Service to allow the USPS to develop an innovative, modern and competitive culture in order to return itself to financial and operational soundness and continue to fulfill its mission. However, the National Grange opposes any change to the USPS retirement programs that would adversely affect the retirement of any USPS employee or result in a reduction of retirement benefits for current or future USPS retirees.
4. The National Grange encourages the Postal Service to make their patrons aware that handicapped persons may apply for mail delivery to their door.
5. The National Grange urges the United States Postal Service to utilize guidelines such as the 10-mile proximity rule, in relation to the proposed post office closures, taking into consideration the special needs of the community as well as the statistical analysis developed for closure criteria.

I would like to thank the committee for their help and guidance. Thanks to the National Staff for their help and advice. The committee would like to recognize our appreciation of the efforts of Our Secretary Sharon Croucher and Our Legislative Youth Representative Matthew Clark.

Fraternally Submitted,

Scott Nicholson, MT (chair)

John Poirrier, AK

Barbara Narvel, DE

Duane Scott, WI

Sharon Croucher, NY (secretary)

Jodi Ann Cameron, CT

Lyle Lee, IL

Matthew Clark, NH

ANNUAL CONVENTIONS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

Session No.	Year	Place	Master
	1867, Dec.4	Washington, DC	Birthday
1	1868, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
2	1869, April	Washington, DC	William Saunders
3	1870, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
4	1871, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
5	1872, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
6	1873, Jan.	Georgetown, DC	William Saunders
7	1874, Feb.	St. Louis, MO	D.W. Adams
8	1875, Feb.	Charleston, SC	D.W. Adams
9	1875, Nov.	Louisville, KY	D.W. Adam
10	1876, Nov.	Chicago, IL	John T. Jones
11	1877, Nov.	Cincinnati, OH	John T. Jones
12	1878, Nov.	Richmond, VA	S.E. Adams
13	1879, Nov.	Canandaigua, NY	S.E. Adams
14	1880, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
15	1881, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
16	1882, Nov.	Indianapolis, IN	J.J. Woodman
17	1883, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
18	1884, Nov.	Nashville, TN	J.J. Woodman
19	1885, Nov.	Boston, MA	J.J. Woodman
20	1886, Nov.	Philadelphia, PA	I.P Darden
21	1887, Nov.	Lansing, MI	I.P Darden
22	1888, Nov.	Topeka, KS	James Draper
23	1889, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	J.H. Brigham
24	1890, Nov.	Atlanta, GA	J.H. Brigham
25	1891, Nov.	Springfield, OH	J.H. Brigham
26	1892, Nov.	Concord, NH	J.H. Brigham
27	1893, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	J.H. Brigham
28	1894, Nov.	Springfield, IL	J.H. Brigham
29	1895, Nov.	Worcester, MA	J.H. Brigham
30	1896, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.H. Brigham
31	1897, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	J.H. Brigham
32	1898, Nov.	Concord, NH	Aaron Jones
33	1899, Nov.	Springfield, OH	Aaron Jones
34	1900, Nov.	Washington, DC	Aaron Jones
35	1901, Nov.	Lewiston, ME	Aaron Jones
36	1902, Nov.	Lansing, MI	Aaron Jones
37	1903, Nov.	Rochester, NY	Aaron Jones

38	1904, Nov.	Portland, OR	Aaron Jones
39	1905, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Aaron Jones
40	1906, Nov.	Denver, CO	N.J. Bachelder
41	1907, Nov.	Hartford, CT	N.J. Bachelder
42	1908, Nov.	Washington, DC	N.J. Bachelder
43	1909, Nov.	Des Moines, IA	N.J. Bachelder
44	1910, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	N.J. Bachelder
45	1911, Nov.	Columbus, OH	N.J. Bachelder
46	1912, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Oliver Wilson
47	1913, Nov.	Manchester, NH	Oliver Wilson
48	1914, Nov.	Wilmington, DE	Oliver Wilson
49	1915, Nov.	Oakland, CA	Oliver Wilson
50	1916, Nov.	Washington, DC	Oliver Wilson
51	1917, Nov.	St. Louis, MO	Oliver Wilson
52	1918, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Oliver Wilson
53	1919, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Oliver Wilson
54	1920, Nov.	Boston, MA	S.J. Lowell
55	1921, Nov.	Portland, OR	S.J. Lowell
56	1922, Nov.	Wichita, KS	S.J. Lowell
57	1923, Nov.	Pittsburgh, PA	S.J. Lowell
58	1924, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	L.J. Taber
59	1925, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	L.J. Taber
60	1926, Nov.	Portland, ME	L.J. Taber
61	1927, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	L.J. Taber
62	1928, Nov.	Washington, DC	L.J. Taber
63	1929, Nov.	Seattle, WA	L.J. Taber
64	1930, Nov.	Rochester, NY	L.J. Taber
65	1931, Nov.	Madison, WI	L.J. Taber
66	1932, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	L.J. Taber
67	1933, Nov.	Boise, ID	L.J. Taber
68	1934, Nov.	Hartford, CT	L.J. Taber
69	1935, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	L.J. Taber
70	1936, Nov.	Columbus, OH	L.J. Taber
71	1937, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	L.J. Taber
72	1938, Nov.	Portland, OR	L.J. Taber
73	1939, Nov.	Peoria, IL	L.J. Taber
74	1940, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	L.J. Taber
75	1941, Nov.	Worcester, MA	L.J. Taber
76	1942, Nov.	Wenatchee, WA	A.S. Goss
77	1943, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	A.S. Goss
78	1944, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	A.S. Goss

79	1945, Nov.	Kansas City, MO	A.S. Goss
80	1946, Nov.	Portland, OR	A.S. Goss
81	1947, Nov.	Columbus, OH	A.S. Goss
82	1948, Nov.	Portland, ME	A.S. Goss
83	1949, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	A.S. Goss
84	1950, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	Henry D. Sherwood
85	1951, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Herschel D. Newsom
86	1952, Nov.	Rockford, IL	Herschel D. Newsom
87	1953, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Herschel D. Newsom
88	1954, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Herschel D. Newsom
89	1955, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	Herschel D. Newsom
90	1956, Nov.	Rochester, NY	Herschel D. Newsom
91	1957, Nov.	Colorado Springs, CO	Herschel D. Newsom
92	1958, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Herschel D. Newsom
93	1959, Nov.	Long Beach, CA	Herschel D. Newsom
94	1960, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	Herschel D. Newsom
95	1961, Nov.	Worcester, MA	Herschel D. Newsom
96	1962, Nov.	Fort Wayne, IN	Herschel D. Newsom
97	1963, Nov.	Portland, OR	Herschel D. Newsom
98	1964, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Herschel D. Newsom
99	1965, Nov.	Topeka, KS	Herschel D. Newsom
100	1966, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	Herschel D. Newsom
101	1967, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Herschel D. Newsom
102	1968, Nov.	Peoria, IL	Herschel D. Newsom
103	1969, Nov.	Daytona Beach, FL	John W. Scott
104	1970, Nov.	Boise, ID	John W. Scott
105	1971, Nov.	Charleston, WV	John W. Scott
106	1972, Nov.	Hartford, CT	John W. Scott
107	1973, Nov.	Lincoln, NE	John W. Scott
108	1974, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	John W. Scott
109	1975, Nov.	Columbus, OH	John W. Scott
110	1976, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	John W. Scott
111	1977, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	John W. Scott
112	1978, Nov.	Denver, CO	John W. Scott
113	1979, Nov.	Lancaster, PA	John W. Scott
114	1980, Nov.	Cedar Rapids, IA	Edward Andersen
115	1981, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Edward Andersen
116	1982, Nov.	Providence, RI	Edward Andersen
117	1983, Nov.	San Antonio, TX	Edward Andersen
118	1984, Nov.	Portland, ME	Edward Andersen
119	1985, Nov.	Eugene, OR	Edward Andersen

120	1986, Nov.	Madison, WI	Edward Andersen
121	1987, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Edward Andersen
122	1988, Nov.	Redding, CA	Robert E. Barrow
123	1989, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	Robert E. Barrow
124	1990, Nov.	Wichita, KS	Robert E. Barrow
125	1991, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Robert E. Barrow
126	1992, Nov.	Denver, CO	Robert E. Barrow
127	1993, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	Robert E. Barrow
128	1994, Nov.	Peoria, IL	Robert E. Barrow
129	1995, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	Robert E. Barrow
130	1996, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Kermit W. Richardson
131	1997, Nov.	Springfield, MA	Kermit W. Richardson
132	1998, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	Kermit W. Richardson
133	1999, Nov.	Portland, ME	Kermit W. Richardson
134	2000, Nov.	Fresno, CA	Kermit W. Richardson
135	2001, Nov.	Cedar Rapids, IA	Kermit W. Richardson
136	2002, Nov.	Portland, OR	Kermit W. Richardson
137	2003, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Kermit W. Richardson
138	2004, Nov.	Rochester, NY	William A. Steel
139	2005, Nov.	Columbus, OH	William A. Steel
140	2006, Nov.	Springfield, IL	William A. Steel
141	2007, Nov.	Reno, NV	William A. Steel
142	2008, Nov.	Cromwell, CT	Edward L. Luttrell
143	2009, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Edward L. Luttrell
144	2010, Nov.	Charlotte, NC	Edward L. Luttrell
145	2011, Nov.	Tulsa, OK	Edward L. Luttrell
146	2012, Nov.	Boise, ID	Edward L. Luttrell

Upcoming

147	2013, Nov.	Manchester, NH
148	2014, Nov.	Sandusky, OH
149	2015, Nov.	Lincoln, NE
150	2016, Nov.	Washington, D.C.

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