

NATIONAL GRANGE



*153rd Annual Convention
Journal of Proceedings*

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

153rd Annual Convention
Bloomington, Minnesota
November 5-9, 2019

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www.nationalgrange.org*

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The Grange strengthens individuals, families and communities through grassroots action, service, education, advocacy and agricultural awareness.

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Master	Betsy Huber 362 University Rd., Lincoln University, PA 19352	(484) 459-1957
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Chairman (2020)	Leroy Watson 298 Watkins Hill Road, Walpole, NH 03608	(603) 903-9012
Secretary (2020)	Lynette Schaeffer 10041 Rieder Road, Lebanon, IL 62254	(618) 537-4237
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NATIONAL DIRECTORS

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CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Agriculture

Allen Stiles, MD (Chair)
Kevin Cooksley, NE (Secretary)
Wayne Campbell, PA
Jimmy Gentry, NC
Glenn Gibson, MA
Bill Johnson, MT
John Plank, IN
Don Schaeffer, IL
Jonny Pittman, WA, Trimble Youth Rep.

Audit & Budget

Duane Hamp, WA (Chair)
Judy Sherrod, TN (Secretary)
Dwight Baldwin, IA
Chip Narvel, DE
Buddy Overstreet, TX
James Owens, ME
Leroy Watson, NH

Citizenship & Taxation

Sue Roy, OH (Chair)
Sherry Harriman, ME (Secretary)
Melanie Bostwick, KS
Steve Coye, NY
Earlene Foster, WV
Harry Greer, CO
Eileen Javaux, ID
Michael Lynch, DE
Brenda Rousselle, VT
Royal Vine, WI

Conservation

Tom Gwin, WA (Chair)
Kay Stiles, MD (Secretary)
Jim Foster, WV
Richard Javaux, ID
Marilyn Johnson, MT
George Russell, CT
Lynette Schaeffer, IL
Billy Shufeldt, OK

Education & Health

John Crippen, MN (Chair)
Debbie Gegare, WI (Secretary)
Barbara Borderieux, FL
Sharon Croucher, NY
Christine Hamp, WA
Wilber Heath, NH
Mark Noah, OR
Barbara Narvel, DE
Sharon Russell, CT
Jini Reynolds, CA
Rylee Furr, NC, Youth Ambassador

Grange Growth & Development

Karen Overstreet, TX (Chair)
Debbie Campbell, PA (Secretary)
Kathy Baldwin, IA
Kathy Gibson, MA
Lisa Goodrich, VT
Chris Johnston, MI
Helen Lynch, DE
Maureen Prelli, CT
Pete Pompper, NJ
Katie Fallon, Outstanding Young Patron

Grange Law

Eileen Hebert, RI (Chair)
Cindy Greer, CO (Secretary)
Roger Bostwick, KS
Bruce Croucher, NY
Joe Goodrich, VT
Chris Heath, NH
Susan Noah, OR
Phil Prelli, CT
Jan Saxton, CA
Zac Mazag, NC, Youth Ambassador

Labor, Judiciary, Transportation & Postal Policies

Walter Hartley, RI (Chair)
Joan Smith, Potomac (Secretary)
Anita Gentry, NC
Connie Johnston, MI
Susan Plank, IN
Mark Naylor, OH
Lena Shufeldt, OK
James Taylor, VA
Cheri Watson, NH
Brittney Oliver, WA, Outstanding Young Patron

OFFICIAL CONVENTION PROGRAM

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

9 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting
10 a.m. New Delegates Training
Noon Executive Committee & New Masters Lunch
2:30 p.m. SharePoint Training
3:30 p.m. Committee Chairs & Secretaries Meeting
4 p.m. Convention Overview and Budget Meeting & Foundation Meeting
6 p.m. Host Banquet
8:30-11 p.m. Committee meetings

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

8 a.m. Committee Meetings
Noon Legislative Lunch
2 p.m. Opening of the 153rd Convention
2:15 p.m. Admission of Fourth Degree Members
2:30 p.m. President's Address
5:45 p.m. Session Recess; Delegate Photo
6 p.m. Friendship Dinner
7 p.m. Committee Meetings

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

8:30 a.m. Session Opens in Fourth Degree
Noon Session Recess
12:15 p.m. Salute to Agriculture Luncheon
2 p.m. Committee Reports & Actions
5 p.m. Session Recesses
5 p.m. Showcase & Mercantile Open
5:30 p.m. Distinguished Grange Awards & Grange Legacy Families Presentation
7:30 p.m. Session Reconvenes & Quilts of Valor Presentation
9 p.m. Session Closes
9 p.m. National Officers/Youth Officers Meet & Greet
9 p.m. Committee Meetings
9:30 p.m. Youth – Get Acquainted Party
10:45 p.m. Vespers
11 p.m. Youth Officers Practice

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

8:30 a.m. Session Opens in the Fourth Degree & Election of Officers
9 a.m. General and Youth Tour
Noon Session Recesses
12:15 p.m. Past Delegate Luncheon
2 p.m. Session Reconvenes in Fourth Degree
3:30 p.m. Past Delegate Recognition & Memorial Service
5 p.m. Session Closes
5:30 p.m. Youth Code Reading Contest
6 p.m. Junior Sign-A-Song & Speech Contests
7 p.m. Junior & Youth Community Service Project
7:30 p.m. Junior Leadership Workshop (adults/directors)
7:30 p.m. Youth Directors Meeting
8 p.m. Assembly of Demeter Meeting & Election
9:15 p.m. Committee Meetings
9:30 p.m. Youth Costume Party & Dance
11 p.m. Youth Officer Practice

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

7 a.m. Chairs/Secretaries Breakfast
7:30 p.m. Youth Officer Practice
8:30 a.m. Session Opens by Youth Officers & Junior Presentation
10 a.m. Youth Workshops
10 a.m. Junior Tour
11 a.m. Sign-a-Song Contest Judging
Noon Session Recesses
Noon Grange Foundation 1 in 1,000 Club Lunch
1 p.m. Evening of Excellence Rehearsal
1:30 p.m. Membership Workshop
2 p.m. Session Reconvenes
2:45 p.m. Community Service Workshop
2:45 p.m. Grange Youth Baseball Contest
5 p.m. Session Closes
5 p.m. G.R.O.W. Club Dinner
7:30 p.m. Evening of Excellence followed by Youth Vespers

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

7:30 a.m. Parliamentary Procedure Team Testing
8 a.m. Junior Grange Breakfast & Program
8:30 a.m. Communications Workshop
9:30 a.m. Junior Grange Activities
9:45 a.m. Youth Team Transition & Planning Meeting
10 a.m. Sixth Degree Conferral
11 a.m. Seventh Degree Conferral
12:30 p.m. Food Waste Workshop for all
1:30 p.m. Cow's Milk Soap Making Workshop
2 p.m. Lecturer's Workshop
3 p.m. Convocation of the Assembly Demeter
6:30 p.m. Grange Celebration Banquet
9 p.m. Vespers

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 153rd ANNUAL NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

153rd National Grange Convention

Arriving prior to convention in Bloomington, Minnesota were National Grange Master Betsy Huber, and staff members Amanda Brozana-Rios, Samantha Wilkins, Loretta Washington, Stephanie Wilkins, and Burton Eller. Board of Directors members arrived prior to convention also, as did several delegates, with the remaining delegates set to arrive by Monday November 4. The Executive Committee met with the National Master on Sunday, November 3.

Monday, November 4, 2019

The delegate tour to the Oliver Hudson Kelly farm in Elk River, Minnesota began at 8:30 a.m. The Executive Committee and National Master met beginning at 9 a.m. New delegates were welcomed to the 153rd National Grange Convention for a workshop led by Joe Stefenoni, National Membership Director (CA), Pete Pompper, National Community Service Director (NJ), and Roger Bostwick, Priest Archon (KS), followed by a luncheon at noon with the Executive Committee. New delegates are Jan Saxton and Jini Reynolds (CA), Glenn and Kathleen Gibson (MA), second delegate Mark Naylor (OH).

Beginning at 2:30 p.m. Stephanie Wilkins led delegates who wanted to go paperless at convention in SharePoint Training, followed at 3:30 p.m. by a workshop for committee chairs and secretaries led by Burton Eller, Legislative Director.

At 4 p.m. a convention overview for officers and delegates, and budget meeting was conducted by National Master, Betsy Huber. She announced she had good news and reported on the receipt of a check from the Insurance Company for settlement for the California lawsuits, which are now over for National Grange. Copies of the budget income and expenses were handed out and Executive Committee Chairman, Leroy Watson (NH), gave updates regarding income and expenses of the National Grange. The Chairman of the Grange Foundation, Joan Smith (NJ), presided over the annual Foundation meeting. The Foundation Treasurer, Stephen Coye (NY) gave a breakdown of the assets and liabilities. Board members made motion and second to accept financial report, which was adopted. Joan urged us as State Masters to advertise more about the Foundation in all states, and the annual Foundation meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

The host banquet began at 6 p.m. with opening remarks from Kari Blasingame, host committee chairman (IL). She recognized those on the host committee as well as volunteers from each of the hosting states. The hosting states are Minnesota, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa. Invocation by Minnesota State Chaplain, Bob Quist (MN).

Committee meetings from 8:30 p.m. to approximately 11 p.m. National officers practice began at 8:30 p.m.

Hospitality room today hosted by Indiana.

FIRST DAY

153rd National Grange Convention

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Committee meetings began at 8 a.m. until noon. The annual Legislative Luncheon was held at noon. The guest speaker was Thom Petersen, Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner.

At 2 p.m. the 153rd Annual Convention of the National Grange was called to order in the Seventh Degree by High Priest, Bruce Croucher (NY). The session was held at the Doubletree by Hilton in Bloomington, Minnesota.

The National officers marched in and formed an altar circle, before going to their stations. The singers for the opening were Gene Edelen (IA) and Melanie Bostwick (KS).

National Master, Betsy Huber (PA), opened the Grange in the Seventh Degree, followed by the High Priest Bruce Croucher (NY) leading the salutation of the seven degrees. 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 lowered to the Fourth Degree and Fourth Degree members were admitted to the hall.

The American Flag was presented followed by the presentation of the Grange flag by Steward, Chip Narvel (DE). Then each of the flags from the Midwest host region states were presented by members from each state as follows:

Minnesota – Troy Behnke

Ohio – Mark Naylor

Indiana – John Neff

Michigan – Sharon Poplar

Iowa – Doug Baldwin

Illinois – Karie Blasingame

Wisconsin – Duane Scott

Opening song was "This is My Country".

The roll call of officers and assembly officers found all present, and the roll call of delegates showed all states represented, as well as a representative from Potomac #1. Also present was the John Trimble Legislative Experience Representative Jonathan Pittman (WA), followed by a roll call of National staff members.

Chairman of Audit and Budget committee, Duane Hamp (WA) gave a credentials report, which was adopted. A motion was made to adopt the printed convention schedule which was adopted.

Overseer, Phil Prelli (CT) assumed the Master's station, declaring the Grange at ease as Worthy National Master, Betsy Huber (PA) gave her external annual address. Called back to order by Phil Prelli. Lecturer, Chris Hamp (WA), gave a couple of trivia questions regarding the state of Minnesota.

Worthy Overseer Prelli then assigned sections of National Master's Address to various committees.

The Grange was called to order by Overseer Prelli and Master Betsy Huber then gave her Internal Address. Phil Prelli then assigned sections of this report to several committees for review.

Both of these reports will appear in the Journal of Proceeding as ordered by the delegate body.
Recess.

Calling the Grange back to order, Master Betsy Huber (PA) announced she would honor a hero every day. Today's Grange Hero Award was presented to Allen Stiles (MD). His was the first state to partner with RALI (Rx Drug Abuse Leadership Initiative), the coalition against drug abuse, and has distributed hundreds of drug disposal bags at several events throughout the year. And because today is his birthday, we sang Happy Birthday to him.

Betsy reported that the beautiful emblem on the Master's station was hand made by Eugene Fletcher. It will be auctioned off Saturday evening.

Announcements by Overseer Prelli (CT).

Duane Hamp (WA), chairman of the Audit & Budget Committee gave a partial report.

Transfers of resolutions between committees were made.

Allen Stiles (MD), Chairman of Agriculture Committee gave a partial report.

Announcement by Steward, Chip Narvel (DE) reporting that there will be charging stations for laptops and tablets in the corners at the back of the room. Samantha Wilkins (PA) was presented a hero cape by Overseer, Phil Prelli (CT) for finding a microphone for use in the business session this afternoon.

The Grange was closed at 5:39 p.m. Closing song "Be Faithful O Patron."

A group photo of delegates and officers was scheduled to be taken immediately after close.

A dinner was held beginning at 6 p.m.

Pianist was Ethan Edwards (IL).

Hospitality room hosted by Minnesota and Iowa.

The committees met to work on resolutions during the evening, and National officers practiced.

SECOND DAY

153rd National Grange Convention

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Master Betsy Huber (PA) opened the second day of the 153rd Annual Convention of the National Grange in the Fourth Degree at 8:30 a.m. following an entrance march by the National officers.

Roll call of officers found all present, and a roll call of delegates found all states were represented, and all staff members were present. Also, in attendance were a representative from Potomac #1 and the John Trimble Youth Representative Jonathan Pittman (WA). Opening song was "Pass It On."

The minutes from pre-convention activities and first day of session were read and adopted as corrected.

Heroes of the Day were escorted to the Master's station to receive The Grange Hero Award. They are Bonnie and Scott Mitson from Idaho. Since 2017 Bonnie has coordinated getting all the quilt squares that have been sent to National convention made into beautiful quilts and managed the Mercantile store at convention.

Grange Growth Chairman, Karen Overstreet (TX) gave a partial report.

Recess until 10:25 a.m.

Coming back from recess, announcements were made. Christopher Johnston (MI) reported he has from time to time given other states some of his state's excess regalia and implements and today he has with him in the State trailer 7 trunks of sashes from all levels of Grange. These are available to any state for free. Brother James Owens (ME) asked for delegates to serve as deputies for the Seventh Degree.

Duane Hamp (WA), Chairman of the Audit and Budget Committee, gave a partial report. He reported the committee amended the budget on the Expense sheet on the line for communications and publications to add \$1,000. The committee also put \$10,000 in the building reserve fund, which takes the contingency down to \$10,657.47.

Time certain for budget at 2 p.m. Thursday.

Allen Stiles (MD), Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, gave a partial report.

Labor, Judiciary & Transportation Chairman, Walter Hartley (RI) gave a partial report.

Master Huber reported that bagels and coffee were available outside the meeting room this morning, and hoped everyone enjoyed them.

John Crippen (MN), Chairman of the Education and Health Committee gave a partial report.

Announcements: Chris Hamp reported that the Mercantile is open for business. Every item is hand made from Grangers across the country and the money from sales goes to the National Grange Foundation.

Recess at 11:48 a.m. -- until 2 p.m.

Salute to Agriculture Luncheon at 12:15 p.m. with guest speakers Mark Gibbons, RetireSafe; Collin C. Peterson, (via video) Agriculture Chairman, U.S. House of Representatives.

The Grange was called back to order in the Fourth Degree at 2 p.m.

Education & Health Committee continued their report with Present Policy at 2:06 p.m.

Tom Gwin (WA), Chairman of the Conservation Committee, gave a partial report.

Kay Stiles (MD) announced that the Fellows are selling items at a table just outside of the office. They have the Good Day! Magazine for sale and past issues if you have missed one. She told of the Master's Conference to be held in February 2020 in Maryland, and gave some information about the hotel, available flights, airport information, and area restaurants. She has prepared a packet for each delegate and asked that they fill out the questionnaire and return it to her at this session so that planning can be started about how many will attend and whether they need transportation, etc.

Grange Law Committee Chairman, Eileen Hebert (RI) gave a partial report.

Recess at 3:30 p.m.

Grange was called back to order at 3:40 p.m. Grange Law Committee continued their report.

Sue Roy (OH), Chairman of Citizenship gave a partial report.

Announcements.

Session recessed at 5:05 p.m.

Distinguished Grange Awards were presented at 5:30 p.m. in the Plaza Room. The 2019 Distinguished Grange Awards were presented by Phil Prelli, National Overseer (CT) to winners from State Granges and Subordinate Granges.

Following the awards for Distinguished Granges, 12 Grange Legacy Families were recognized. Legacy families are those with 5 or more generations in the Grange. Awards were also given to Granges in Action. This is the first year for this award and had wonderful participation with awards to 98 Granges.

The session reconvened at 7:30 p.m., called to order by Master Betsy Huber (PA).

Past Master of the National Grange, Edward Luttrell, was escorted to the Master's station, and shared a few thoughts.

Master Betsy Huber (PA) welcomed guests to the session. Roll call of states was called and Grangers representing their states were recognized.

Gary Brumbaugh (OH) Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee gave some history about the Grange Hall of Fame and the nomination process. Besides Gary Brumbaugh, other members of the Hall of Fame Committee are Mary Johnson (ID), Arthur Merrill (NH) and George Spies (Potomac).

Inductees for 2019 are Leonard Rhone from Pennsylvania and Oliver Wilson from Illinois. The biography of Mr. Rhone was given by State Master of Pennsylvania, Wayne Campbell, and the biography of Mr. Wilson was given by State Master of Illinois, Lynette Schaeffer.

National Lecturer, Chris Hamp (WA) announced that the Armed Forces Medley would be played and asked those who served in that branch of service to stand when they hear their theme. Chris Hamp introduced Tammany McDaniel, Executive Director for Quilts of Valor Foundation and Jennie Caughey, the Minnesota State Quilts of Valor Coordinator, with each telling some about the history and mission of their organization. Chris then announced the recipient honorees, who were each escorted to the front of the room to receive their quilts.

Bonnie Mitson (ID) and Gwen Swenson (MN) helped wrap the quilts around the service members. Assisting with these presentations were Donna Champion (MN), John Plank (IN), and Dwight Baldwin (IA), and youth members who escorted the recipients to receive their quilt.

Tonight, Quilts of Valor were presented to the following 13 veterans who are Grange members:

Air Force

Doug Baldwin (IA) -- 2005 to present

Todd R. Hegge (IL) – 1984-88

Army

Ruth Blasingame (IL) -- 1970-72

Noah Robert Glaser I (OH) 1966-68

Gary E. Brumbaugh (OH) – 1964-66

David L. Dana (MT) – 1964-65

Norman M. F. Keller (IL) – 1953-55

Lyle E. Lee (IL) – 1969-73

Gloria Paddock (MT) – 1996 to present

Marion L. Thornberry (IL) -- 1966-68

Michas Ohnstad (MN) – 1945-47

Marines

Michael K. Lynch (DE) – 1972-76

Royal Vine (WI) - 1985-89

Phil Prelli (CT) gave a brief presentation concerning Grange Advocacy, followed by Joan Smith (Potomac Grange #1) who gave a rousing presentation about the National Grange Foundation.

The Grange was called back to order. Announced that there will be a meet and greet with National Officers and Youth Officers immediately after closing. Also, immediately after closing eleven members participated in the "story slam." Winners were Duane Hamp (WA) and John Crippen (MN).

Closing song "Blest Be the Tie That Binds". The Grange was closed at 9:15 p.m.

Hospitality Room hosted by Illinois.

Session pianist was Ethan Edwards (IL).

The resolutions projected on the large screen in the session room were taken care of by Jennifer Tobin-Tinch (IL)

Committees were to meet until approximately 11 p.m.

The Youth Check-in and Orientation began at 6:30 p.m. with Ambassador interviews beginning at 7 p.m. The youth enjoyed a get acquainted party in the evening, followed by vespers at 10:45 p.m. The Youth Officers practiced beginning at 11 p.m.

THIRD DAY

153rd National Grange Convention

Thursday, November 7, 2019

The third day of the 153rd Annual Convention of the National Grange opened in the Fourth Degree at 8:30 a.m. following an entrance march by the National officers. Opening song was "The Welcome Song."

Roll call of officers found all present, and roll call of delegates found all states represented. Also, in attendance was a representative from Potomac Grange #1, as well as the John Trimble Youth Representative, Jonathan Pittman (WA).

D. Thomas McKern, Chairman of the Board of Grange Insurance, was escorted to the Master's station for his annual report to the National convention.

Minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved as corrected.

Hero of the Day was Joan Smith, the chairman of the Grange Foundation. She was escorted to the Master's station to receive the Grange Hero Award. She has worked tirelessly on behalf of The Grange Foundation. She attended the Grange Revival where she hosted Grange Olympics and presented 225 medals to winners. Joan taught Ag in the Classroom classes as well so she made it educational as well as fun.

Worthy Master Betsy Huber (PA) called for the election of officers for the National Grange. Again, this year, the election process will allow suggestions from the delegates. She gave rules for this process.

Betsy Huber (PA) was re-elected Master.

Building Report was given by Samantha Wilkins, Operations Coordinator.

Pete Pompper (NJ), Community Service Director, gave his annual report. He told that 607,753 service hours were reported from Granges this year. 1,036,660 dictionaries have been given by Grangers in 17 years in their communities.

Phil Prelli (CT) was re-elected Overseer.

Amanda Brozana-Rios, Communications Director, gave her annual report.

Lynette Schaeffer (IL) was re-elected Executive Committee member.

Recess. Following recess, elections continued.

Stephanie Wilkins, IT Director, gave her report telling about SharePoint and taking questions from delegates. She reiterated that National Grange needs e-mail addresses and also mailing addresses for all members.

Stephen Coye (NY) was re-elected to a two-year term as a member of the Executive Committee.

Legislative Director, Burton Eller, gave his annual report, first thanking the states for getting their resolutions in promptly for a National convention that was a week earlier than normal. He told of the Fly-in to New Hampshire early next year and newsletters from the Legislative Department throughout the year.

Chris Hamp (WA) was re-elected Lecturer.

Membership Director, Joseph Stefenoni, gave his annual report, announcing the states that had a net gain in membership. He reported in the last six months we organized or re-organized 6 subordinate Granges, representing 135 new members to our organization as well as Junior members. Net gain of 30 new members through E-membership this year. Nevada now has five Subordinate Granges.

Chip Narvel (DE) was re-elected Steward.

Loretta Washington, Director of Sales/Benefits/Programs and Membership Recognition /Customer Care gave her report. She told of the partnership with Monroe Classic, the new Grange in Action program, new benefits, RV Club, Tickets at Work. She told of the possibility of new programs.

John Plank (IN) was re-elected Assistant Steward.

Education & Health Chairman, John Crippen (MN), gave a partial report.

Karen Overstreet (TX) was elected Lady Assistant Steward.

Barbara Borderieux (FL) was re-elected Chaplain.

Recess for lunch.

National Grange Flora, Lena Shufeldt (OK) was emcee at the past delegates luncheon at 12:15 p.m., at which past delegates were honored. Guest speaker was Joan Smith (Potomac).

Called back to order.

Duane Hamp (WA), Chairman of the Audit and Budget Committee, moved to adopt the budget as presented by the Executive Committee. The proposed budget for 2020 was adopted.

Sue Roy (OH), Chairman of the Citizenship Committee made a partial report, which was adopted.

Committee reports continued during the elections.

Sherry Harriman (ME) was elected Treasurer.

Judy Sherrod (TN) was re-elected Secretary.

Christopher Johnston (MI) was re-elected Gatekeeper.

Cindy Greer (CO) was re-elected Ceres.

Kay Stiles (MD) was re-elected Pomona.

Chris Hamp (WA), Lecturer gave information regarding Minnesota's hot-dish.

Lena Shufeldt (OK) was re-elected Flora.

Recess.

Following recess, Master Betsy Huber (PA) called the Grange to order and past delegates of the National Grange were welcomed into the hall. At the office of the Overseer, each delegate introduced themselves and gave their years of service and positions held.

The Grange was placed at ease for the memorial service.

The Grange memorial service was conducted by National Grange Chaplain, Barbara Borderieux (FL), assisted by Master Betsy Huber (PA), Pomona Kay Stiles (MD), Ceres Cindy Greer (CO), Flora Lena Shufeldt (OK), Secretary Judy Sherrod (TN), Soloist Ethan Edwards (IL). State Masters representing the states of the deceased members placed flowers on the altar in memory of their respective members. Pianist Ethan Edwards (IL) provided the music for the memorial service. Jimmy Gentry gave the benediction.

Those honored in the Memorial Service were:

Edward Louis Komski (CA)

Lucille Mary Groves (IN)

Helen C. Shoemaker (OH)

Gilbert A. Farmer (KS)

Harold Bergeron (VT)

Don Johnson (ID)

Sharon L. Wetmore Burkle (CT)

Carl Stevens Adams (NH)

Madelin D. Andrews (FL)

Ernestine Keiser (VA)

Harold Loyd West (KS)

Milton I. Spencer, Jr. (RI)

Helen Routier (IA)

Following recess, Allen Stiles (MD), Chairman of Agriculture Committee, presented a final report, which was adopted. The committee was dismissed.

Lynette Schaeffer (IL) moved that we amend the Credentials Report to include those mistakenly left off the report, second delegates Melanie Bostwick (KS) and Ann Bercher (MN).

Steward Chip Narvel (DE) reminded all officers to leave their sashes for use by the Youth officers who will open the session in the morning.

The Grange was closed at 5:12 p.m. Closing Song, "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

Pianist for the day was Ethan Edwards (IL).

Hosts in the hospitality room today are Michigan.

Jennifer Tobin-Tinch (IL) was responsible for displaying the resolutions on the large screen in the session room.

The Annual Business Meeting of the Assembly of Demeter met at 8 p.m.

Youth and Junior activities during the day included a workshop for Youth Directors, the Youth and Junior Community Service Project, and the Youth and General Tour. The Youth Code Reading Contest took place, and the Junior Sign-a-Song and Speech Contests were held. Youth had their costume party during the evening. The Youth officers held a practice and all youth members closed the evening with vespers at 11 p.m.

FOURTH DAY

153rd National Grange Convention

Friday, November 8, 2019

A breakfast for Committee Chairs and Secretaries was held at 7 a.m.

The fourth day of the 153rd Annual Convention of the National Grange opened in the Fourth Degree at 8:30 a.m. following an outstanding entrance march by the Youth Officer Corp.

The following Youth served as officers:

Master – Emma Edelen (IA)

Overseer – Samantha Hanson (IA)

Lecturer – Elliot Wilser (NY)

Steward – Cole Settle (NC)

Asst. Steward –Skylar Zaborac (WA)

Lady Asst. Steward – JC Dumolt (OR)

Chaplain – Georgia Clark (WA)

Treasurer – James Lesley (NC)

Secretary – Isabella Lierman (WA)

Gatekeeper –Jordyn Moyes (IA)

Ceres – Ashley Drop (NC)

Pomona – Olivia Barber (NC)

Flora- Sasha Secor (NY)

Exec. Committee - Lane Smith (NY)

Exec. Committee - Ayden Slominski (NY)

Exec. Committee - Melody Shufeldt (OK)

Roll call by Youth secretary of the youth team members. The opening song was "Good Grange Spirit."

The Junior Grange Assistants, Daniel Greer and Jenna Greer, wearing costumes and dressed as red tennis shoes, brought all Junior members who have participated in activities during this session in a march around the session room.

Escorted to the Master's station were National Junior Director Samantha Wilkins (PA); National Youth Director Mandy Bostwick (KS); Junior Ambassador Billy Greer (CO); Youth Ambassador Zachary Mazag (NC); Youth Ambassador Rylee Furr (NC); Outstanding Young Patron Katie Fallon (NY), and Outstanding Young Patron Brittney Oliver (WA).

Samantha Wilkins, National Junior Director, gave her annual report. Billy Greer, 2019 Junior Ambassador, gave some remarks. All Junior directors, leaders, and helpers were asked to stand. The "red shoes" escorted Past National Grange Junior Director Emalee Colver, around the floor. Samantha spoke of the new contest for Junior Community Service and announced the Outstanding Junior of the Year, Brianna Gervais (CT), who completed over 200 hours of service. She announced the 2020 Junior Ambassadors, Brianna Gervais (CT) and Bryce Danko (PA).

Zac Mazag (NC) spoke on behalf of the 2019 Youth Ambassadors and Young Patrons, giving thanks for the group for being able to sit in with the new delegate training and allowing them to sit on committees as they worked on resolutions.

Mandy Bostwick (KS) gave the annual report of the Youth Department. Mandy presented the Youth Community Service Award to Ryan Orton (NY), and announced that this award has been named for Wib and June Justi (OH), Past National Youth Directors.

National Master Huber then presented a gavel to Youth Master, Emma Edelen (IA).

The Grange was declared at ease for the departure of the Youth Officer Team. Youth officers exited the session with another excellent and fun march. Youth and Junior activities will be going on throughout the day.

Master Huber called the Grange to order in the Fourth Degree.

Roll call of officers and delegates found all present, as well as Potomac Grange #1 and the Trimble Legislative Experience participant, Jonathan Pittman (WA). The minutes from Day three of the convention were read and adopted as corrected.

Heroes of the Day were presented by Betsy Huber, first to Chris & Connie Johnston (MI) who took care of all of the Seventh Degree trunks throughout the year. They drove the trunks to MI following the 2018 session in Vermont, placed them in storage and watched over them during the year, and loaded the trunks into the Michigan State trailer and drove from Michigan to Minnesota. Also, Connie did all the copying of resolutions and putting them into binders two days before convention. That's a lot of work that I'm sure we are all thankful for from both Chris and Connie.

Another Hero to honor at this time is Chip Narvel (DE). Chip unloads all the trunks, sets up the meeting room, places delegates in their place with their sashes, and he works with the National Youth officers to instruct them in the proper procedures, working for two evenings until the wee hours of the night. He packs up the trunks following session. We don't always realize all the work he does.

Chris Johnston, Connie Johnston and Chip Narvel were escorted to the Master's station to receive their Hero awards.

John Crippen (MN), chairman of the Education and Health Committee, gave a final report which was adopted in its entirety. The committee was dismissed.

Karen Overstreet (TX), Chairman of the Grange Growth & Development Committee, gave a final report, which was adopted in its entirety. The committee was dismissed.

Thanks were given by National Master Huber to our pianist, Ethan Edwards (IL) for his contributions to our session. He will be also the pianist for the Seventh Degree.

Duane Hamp (WA), Chairman of the Audit and Budget Committee, gave a final report, which was adopted in its entirety. The committee was dismissed.

Chris Hamp, Lecturer, announced winners in the first PR Contest. She received 450 entries. There were two categories – not prepared by a professional, and professionally prepared.

Labor, Judiciary and Transportation Committee Chair, Walter Hartley (RI), gave a final report, which was adopted in its entirety. The committee was dismissed.

Tom Gwin, Chairman of the Conservation committee, gave a final report, which was adopted in its entirety. The committee was dismissed.

Grange Law Committee Chairman, Eileen Hebert (RI), gave a final report, which was adopted in its entirety. The committee was dismissed.

Sue Roy (OH), Citizenship and Taxation Chairman, gave a final report, which was adopted in its entirety. The committee was dismissed.

Bill Booth (CA) asked for point of personal privilege to thank members for making donations for the fire relief that was processed through the Foundation. The Booths lost their home in the fire one year ago. The fire changed their lives forever, tested their faith, and they survived. Bill said, "There is nothing more satisfying than having wonderful friends in the Grange." It was then reported by the delegate from California that Lillian Booth was the California State Secretary at the time of the fire and instead of picking up their personal things, they saved the records from the State Grange that the Grange had fought to get back. They are two Grange heroes.

Jonathan Pittman thanked the delegate body for including him as the Trimble Legislative Experience this year. This experience has been wonderful for him and he is thankful for what he has learned through the resolution committee he was a part of, and now feels that he can share with his home Grange.

Motion made and adopted that the Executive Committee be tasked to review and adopt minutes of last day's meeting, staff be authorized to make grammatical corrections in resolutions and reports, and the results of the final actions of the session be released to the public.

Recess until 3 p.m.

Called to order for installation service.

The installing officer was High Priest, Bruce Croucher (NY); Installing Master, James Owen (ME); Installing Chaplain, Sharon Croucher (NY); Marshall, Roger Bostwick (KS); Regalia Bearer, Andrew Croucher (NY); Emblem Bearer, Melanie Bostwick (KS); Pianist, Ethan Edwards (IL).

Dwight Baldwin (IA), Brenda Rousselle (VT), and James Owens (ME), Priest Annalist, were escorted to the Master's station where they received their Past National Officer pins.

Announcements.

Master declared Grange back at work.

Distribution of annual passwords by National Master, Betsy Huber (PA).

The 153rd Session of the National Grange was closed in the Fourth Degree at 4:15 p.m. Everyone present formed a circle, joined hands and sang "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

Hospitality room today was hosted by Ohio.

Pianist for today was Ethan Edwards (IL).

Jennifer Tobin-Tinch (IL) was responsible for displaying the committee work on the large screen in the session room.

Youth workshops were held throughout the day, and Sign-A-Song contest and the Youth Baseball contest about knowledge of the Grange, as well as the Junior tour. Also, a membership workshop was presented by Joe Stefenoni and a Community Service Workshop was conducted by Pete Pompper.

Grow Club dinner began at 5 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m. the Evening of Excellence was held. The flag was presented by Scarlotte Ellwanger (IL), from Prairie Junior Grange and Casey Renken (IL) from Hopewell Junior Grange, followed by the singing of the National Anthem by Gene Edelen (IA) and pianist Ethan Edwards (IL).

National Lecturer Chris Hamp (WA) introduced participants in the talent portion of the evening, and National Youth Ambassadors introduced the participants in the Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song portion as well as introducing State ambassadors.

The winners in the Evening of Excellence were announced. There was voting on-line taking place throughout the evening, with the People's Choice results being announced as follows: Speech: Lurae Benzio (PA); Sign-A-Song: Adam Terrell (NH); Vocal: Jennifer Beamon (PA); Variety: James Lesley & Cole Settle (NC); Instrumental: Harry Traxler (OH). The Junior Grange Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song winners were announced by National Junior Grange Director, Samantha Wilkins. Sign-A-Song Best of Show is Brianna Greer (CO), Public Speaking is Nathan Greer (CO).

The National Youth Ambassadors winners for 2020 were announced by National Grange Youth Director, Mandy Bostwick. The winners are Alexis Kudsk (WA), and Jaycee Jette (MT). 2020 Outstanding Young Patron winners are Phillip and Tracey Jones (IL).

Vespers to close the evening following Evening of Excellence.

POST-CONVENTION

Saturday, November 9, 2019

A Junior Grange breakfast and program was held beginning at 8 a.m. Awards were presented to Juniors for work they completed during the year. The Youth participated in a Parliamentary Procedure Contest beginning at 8:30 a.m. Around lunchtime, the Junior Grange leaders led two workshops for Juniors – one regarding Food Waste and the other Cow's Milk Soap-Making Demonstration. There was also a Lecturer's workshop beginning at 2 p.m. by National Lecturer, Chris Hamp.

The Sixth Degree conferral began at 10 a.m. by Grangers in the host states.

The Seventh Degree conferral began at 11 a.m.

The Grange Celebration Banquet began at 6:30 p.m. Welcome by National Grange Overseer, F. Philip Prelli (CT), followed by the singing of the National Anthem and pledge to the U.S. flag, and the invocation by Chaplain Barbara Borderieux (FL).

Following dinner, Master Betsy Huber introduced the National Grange staff members, National officers and Assembly officers, as well as past National Master Ed Luttrell. Introductions were made of Junior and Youth Ambassadors and Outstanding Young Patrons.

The quilt that was completed this past year from the last year's contest squares was displayed. As has been our practice for many years, it was given to the National Foster Parents organization to be raffled off at their annual convention.

Betsy Huber presented our annual donation to Anders Mayland, site manager of Kelley Farm.

The National Grange community service awards were presented by Pete Pompper, National Community Service Director, as follows: Honorable Mention went to Avon Grange #125 (MT) and Clear Lake Grange #692 (MN). Fourth place to Volunteer Grange #1250 (TN); Third place to Kenna Grange #516 (WV); Second place to Grantham Grange #968 (NC); and First Place to North River Grange #946 (WA).

Pete Pompper then presented awards as follows: Firefighter of the Year, Capt. Larissa Rohr (WA); Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Officer Mark Dallas (IL), and Teacher of the Year, Vickie Bocek (MI).

Junior Grange Community Service awards were announced: First place Ekonk Jr. #101 (CT); Second place Humptulips Jr #376 (WA), Third place Marvel Jr. #37 (CO), and Fourth place, Kirkland Jr. #116 (NY).

2020 National Junior Grange Ambassadors were announced. They are Brianna Gervais (CT) and Bryce Danko (PA).

Youth awards were announced. The winning teams in the Youth Parliamentary Procedure Contest were: Teams: 1st North Carolina, 2nd New York. Individual winners: Highest Scoring Chair, Rylee Furr (NC) and Highest Test Score, Cole Settle (NC). Grange Baseball winners were 3rd place Riley Reynolds (OR), 2nd Matt Horton (NY), and 1st Lexie Suing (OR). Code Reading in the Novice Division were 3rd Jodi Keith-Kensing (PA), 2nd Ayden Slominski (NY), and 1st Matt Horton (NY).

Membership Director, Joseph Stefenoni (CA) announced State Granges with net gains and told there were seven new Charters to be presented tonight: four to California, one to Florida, and two to Nevada.

Communications Director for National Grange, Amanda Brozana Rios, introduced the 2019 Communications Fellows and well as past Fellows.

National Master, Betsy Huber (PA) thanked Host Chairman Karie Blasingame and all of the Midwest Host Region for their hospitality and hard work in bringing this convention to the Midwest. Team members from the Region states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Iowa were introduced by Kari Blasingame.

An invitation from the 2021 Host Committee was given for next year's convention to be held in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, November 17-21. Betsy told that the 2019 National Theme was Heroes and urged us to continue recognizing heroes in our midst. She announced the 2020 National Theme is "Cultivating Connections."

Raffle winners were announced for the GROW Club 50/50 raffle as well as the Youth Silent Auction.

An auction was held by auctioneer, Marty Billquist (MT) which included several items.

The benediction was given by National Chaplain, Barbara Borderieux (FL) and the evening's events were concluded, followed by a dance. Youth vespers were at 11:30 p.m.

OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE ASSEMBLY OF DEMETER

Annual Business Meeting & Convocation

153rd National Grange Convention

Thursday, November 7, 2019

The combined Business Meeting and Convocation of the Assembly of Demeter was held at the Veranda Ballroom of the Double Tree Hotel on the above date at 8 p.m.

Priest Herald Kevin Klenklen (Kansas) led in the officers of the Assembly as follows:

Priest Archon Roger Bostwick (Kansas),
Priest Annalist James Owens (Maine),
Priest Treasurer Dwight Baldwin (Iowa),
Priest Interpreter Gene Edelen (Iowa),
Priest Archivist Maurice Wiles (Maryland),
Priestess Hierophant Barbara Borderieux (Florida),
Priest Orator Christopher Johnston (Michigan),
Priest First Mystagogue Chris Heath (New Hampshire),
Priest Second Mystagogue Stephen Coye (New York),
Priest Conductor Mark Noah (Oregon),
Priest Messenger James Taylor (Virginia),
Priest Guardian Chip Narvel (Delaware),
Priest Announcer Gary Brumbaugh (Ohio),
Priestess Ceres Cindy Greer (Colorado),
Priestess Pomona Kay Stiles (Maryland)
and Priestess Flora Welina Shufeldt (Oklahoma).

The Priest Herald then conducted High Priest Bruce M. Croucher (New York) and National Grange Master Betsy Huber (Pennsylvania) to their stations.

The Worthy High Priest opened the Convocation in full form and the Priestess Hierophant gave the ritualistic prayer. All were welcomed to the Convocation by the Worthy High Priest. He introduced the cast of the Seventh Degree. Remarks were given by the Seventh Degree Directors, Gene and Maria Edelen. They thanked all who are assisting them. National Master Betsy Huber was called upon. She thanked all for being here.

The High Priest talked about the gavel and gavel block made of marble from the ruins at the Temple of Demeter.

Priest Croucher then announced that we would now go into the business meeting.

All joined in the salute to the flag of the United States of America and singing "America the Beautiful".

The minutes of the 2018 business meeting in Stowe, Vermont were read.

A count was taken with 82 voting members in attendance. Election of Officers was held with the following elected:

High Priest: Bruce M. Croucher (NY)

Priest Archon: Roger Bostwick (KS)

Priestess Annalist: Martha Stefanoni (CA)

Priest Dan Bascom turned over to the High Priest a 1929 Seventh Degree Manual which had been in the possession of Carl Adams, Past Master of New Hampshire. Priest Adams passed away in the last year.

Priest Owens announced that he is still in need of deputies for the Seventh Degree.

Brief remarks were given by Priest Ed Luttrell, Past National Master.

The Convocation of the Assembly of Demeter was closed in form at 10:05 P.M. All joined in the Salutation and in singing "Blest Be the Tie".

Fraternally Submitted,
James A. Owens
Priest Annalist

2019 SEVENTH DEGREE CANDIDATES BY STATE

CALIFORNIA	1	NEW YORK	2
FLORIDA	1	OHIO	3
ILLINOIS	9	OKLAHOMA	1
MAINE	3	OREGON	4
MARYLAND	5	RHODE ISLAND	1
MASSACHUSETTS	2	TEXAS	2
MINNESOTA	4	WASHINGTON	3
NEVADA	1	WISCONSIN	2

TOTAL: 44

2019 SEVENTH DEGREE CONFERRAL CAST

High Priest	Bruce M. Croucher (New York)
Priest Archon	Roger Bostwick (Kansas)
Priest Annalist	James A. Owens (Maine)
Priest Treasurer	Dwight Baldwin (Iowa)
Priest Interpreter	George Thomas (Massachusetts)
Priest Archivist	Maurice Wiles (Maryland)
Priestess Hierophant	Barbara Borderieux (Florida)
Priest Orator	Christopher Johnston (Michigan)
Priest First Mystagogue	Christopher Heath (New Hampshire)
Priest Second Mystagogue	Stephen Coye (New York)
Priest Conductor	Mark Noah (Oregon)
Priest Messenger	James Taylor (Virginia)
Priest Herald	Kevin Klenklen (Kansas)
Priest Guardian	Chip Narvel (Delaware)
Priest Announcer	Gary Brumbaugh (Ohio)
Priestess Ceres	Cindy Greer (Colorado)
Priestess Pomona	Kay Stiles (Maryland)
Priestess Flora	Welina Shufeldt (Oklahoma)
Ceres Attendant #1	Lisa Goodrich (Vermont)
Ceres Attendant #2	Sharon Russell (Connecticut)
Trumpet Girls	Ashlynn Falk (Ohio) Amber Corrill (Ohio) Olivia Yost (Ohio) Hannah Yost (Ohio) Rachel Upah (Iowa)
Marching Candidates	Mindy Schiefer (Illinois) Katie Renken (Illinois) Isabella Leirman (Washington) Georgia Clark (Washington)
National Master	Betsy Huber (Pennsylvania)
Directors	Gene and Maria Edelen (Iowa)
Assistant Director & Sound Manager	Andrew Croucher (New York)
Wardrobe, Makeup and Backstage Assistants	Melanie Bostwick (Kansas) Judy Sherrod (Tennessee) Donna Wiles (Maryland)
Slide Presentation (Sacred Oracle)	Duane Scott (Wisconsin)
Video Technician	Patty Dyer (Ohio)
Soloist	Emma Edelen (Iowa)
Pianist	Ethan Edwards (Illinois)
Court ladies:	Sue Roy (Ohio) Eileen Javaux (Idaho) Sherry Harriman (Maine) Kathy Gibson (Massachusetts) Jan Saxton (California) Jini Reynolds (California)

MASTER'S ADDRESSES

STATE OF AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Delivered By Betsy E. Huber, National Master
2:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019

We are happy to return to Minneapolis for our 153rd convention. National Grange has met here before, in 1950 and 1966. Thank you to the Midwest region for their hard work and planning of this event.

The National Grange has been very busy this past year, participating in the issues and debates in Washington and across the country. National Grange policy covers an enormously wide range of issues. Burton monitors all National Grange policy and we get actively involved with as many issues as we possibly can. We are regaining our reputation as an important source of grassroots information not available from almost any other group represented in the Capital. Coalitions and organizations are increasingly coming to the Grange for its insight and its support on issues and matters of public policy.

In December the National Grange awarded its annual "Champions of Rural America" honor to Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas, Chairman Ajit Pai, Federal Communications Commission, and Alan Morgan, CEO of the National Rural Health Association. This award increases our visibility in the Capitol and strengthens partnerships with the awardees and their organizations.

My work on the Federal Communication Commission's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee ended last year, but the FCC announced the creation of a new group—the "Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States," or the Precision Ag Task Force for short. I've applied to serve on this committee and the members will be announced in December. I hope to be selected because I do have some knowledge of precision farming at the grassroots level and I really want to assist in the effort to advance broadband service to the agricultural operations that desperately need it to enable their high-tech equipment.

We wrote an editorial that was published by Agri-Pulse saying that expanding wireless internet access in rural areas will continue to fuel the truly game-changing advances made by precision agriculture. These include new ways to grow crops by using less water, seed, fertilizer and pesticides. Made possible by a faster mobile internet, precision agriculture will continue to support new innovations like driverless tractors, robots and drones which are increasingly used to handle farming tasks. With the weather issues and trade wars this year depressing the rural economy, our farmers need all the benefits they can have to increase productivity and efficiency on the farm.

Speaking of agriculture, we were very pleased last December that the 2018 Farm Bill was negotiated and became law in the same year it was introduced—an unusual accomplishment. It was passed with overwhelming majorities in both House and Senate, aided by two of our Champions of Agriculture, Senators Debbie Stabenow and Pat Roberts. The package now gives much needed multi-year certainty to commodity programs, crop insurance, conservation, farm loans, beginning farmers and ranchers, SNAP assistance, nutrition programs, foreign markets promotion and more. It also establishes a new Foot and Mouth Disease vaccine bank, a Grange priority. The Farm Bill includes the Dairy Margin Coverage program which is much improved from the prior Margin Protection Program and, if dairy farmers sign up, should assist them this year since coverage is retroactive to January 2019.

An attempt was made to add work requirements to the SNAP or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, but could not garner the needed majorities. This program makes up 80% of the Farm Bill cost. There should be a way to reduce the cost of the program without harming those who are truly needy, if only Congress could agree. The Farm Bill also provides permanent authority and rules for the \$600 million rural broadband grant and loan program created by the fiscal 2018 spending bill.

It prioritizes funding for projects to combat opioid addiction and authorizes a 33% increase in grants under the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program

Another great victory for agriculture was the action to repeal the WOTUS (Waters of the U.S.) regulation that would have given the EPA control over the use of most agricultural land because of its definition of "navigable" waters. This would have greatly overstepped the authority of the Clean Water Act, and the Grange is very appreciative that this onerous regulation was stopped.

Trade

We did not expect the tariffs on China to last so long, but the economic effects of the trade war that affected so much of agriculture is now spreading through the American landscape. True, it is a war that needed to be fought to curtail China's monetary and intellectual property shenanigans that threaten so much American business. But trade wars with high tariffs and more expensive goods take their toll and cut into the economies of both countries. The good news is-- the trade pact with Japan has been signed, and the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement that will hopefully be signed yet this year. USDA has run trade missions to India, Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines. These will certainly help but we are hopeful that a full agreement with China will be settled soon. Farmers do not want government payments; they just want fair trade for their products.

My summary of agricultural issues is very similar to that stated by a Past National Master:

The greatest need of American Agriculture from now on is neither subsidies, patronizing nor “uplifting;” not further campaigns of investigation, literature or other superficial or useless camouflaging, all costing great sums of money, employing an army of non-producers at the expense of the public treasury, and all getting us nowhere. The time has come to simply classify agriculture as one of the great industries that make up our economic structure, and to treat it as one of the vital parts of that structure. This means such an adjustment of prices for farm products, such a recognition of production costs, such a scale of hours and wages, as shall enable the farmer to run his business exactly as does the manufacturer of every other commodity—selling prices to be based upon the cost of production, plus such reasonable margin as shall provide for depreciation of equipment, for interest on investment and for a fair profit over all. When agriculture is thus classified, and thus rewarded, there will be no shortage of farm investors or farm workers, no scarcity of food and no need of any propaganda... to popularize agriculture, no subsidies of any kind, ... no other fictitious inducements to insure an adequate food supply for America and for the world.... Oliver Wilson, National Master, 11/12/1919.

One hundred years later, we are still facing the same struggle, still selling products at less than the cost of production. We have a choice—pay the farmer a fair price, or import our food. “No nation can prosper whose agriculture deteriorates.”

Health Issues

Our participation with RALI, the Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative, continues to increase with TEN state Granges now RALI partners and we constantly push the national RALI leaders to add more. The focus of this initiative continues to be awareness and distribution of the drug safe disposal kits. Our youth are leading the way in the anti-addiction phase of the opioid battle. We were able to secure scholarships to send three Grange youth and Youth Director Mandy Bostwick to the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) training in Dallas in July. Delegates there learned how to build coalitions to address the youth drug crisis in rural and small-town areas and helped develop a Grange tool kit to be used in communities.

Much of our time this year has been occupied with health care issues. The price of prescription drugs has long been a growing concern of patients, particularly those on high cost specialty drugs. Now the House, the Senate and the President are all talking about how to control rising prices. The Senate Finance Committee passed a bipartisan package in July without the support of most Republicans on the committee. Speaker Pelosi and the House Democratic leadership introduced a sweeping partisan legislative package, H.R. 3, in September. President Trump says he wants to see drug prices drop at the pharmacy counter and is focusing on numerous administrative changes to be undertaken by the Department of Health and Human Services. Drug pricing is a confusing process and the chain between manufacturer and patient has become complicated. We continue to urge that imported drugs are not the answer because of the danger of lack of FDA oversight. This will continue to be a hot topic in 2020, and as Washington works through the drug pricing dilemma, the National Grange will continue to sort the good, the bad and the ugly of the various proposals with the patient in mind.

Surprise medical bills should not be allowed. These are unexpected bills that you may receive, even though you have insurance coverage, because the doctor who sees you in the hospital may be out of your network, even if the hospital is in-network. This is a big enough problem that it has Congress’ attention and we may see some action next year.

The suspension of excise taxes on medical device innovation expires December 31st; the Grange is working to permanently repeal excise taxes on medical devices.

Grange Advocacy

Grange Advocacy is expanding its reach, profile and effectiveness. Coalitions in Washington and in the states are again looking to the Grange grassroots membership network for help in reaching rural and small-town America. Our 501(c)4 branch is proving to be as successful and helpful to the National Grange as we hoped it would be when it was formed in 2013. You will hear a more complete report tomorrow evening from Grange Advocacy Chairman Phil Prelli.

Looking Ahead

As we all are aware already, next year is a big election year for President, all Representatives, and one-third of the Senate. Politics will be the order of the day. Election years are generally a bit out of the ordinary too. There are promises, rhetoric, demands and accusations that can sometimes be unsettling to voters, business and international partners. This time around, we have a more unsettled political, economic and diplomatic climate than ever. This is truly one to watch.

You can watch it begin in New Hampshire for the first in the nation primary. Grangers will be there Feb. 7-8 to work on the campaign of their choice and learn about grassroots campaigning at the very beginning of the election season. Details will be coming soon so watch for them, register right away, and join the fun!

As we enter the 2020 election cycle, The National Grange is anticipating an unsettled environment for its public policy issues as well. Some of these are:

Health care

Health care will be a major political and public policy issue in Washington. Surprise medical bills (for example, from an out-of-network doctor in a network hospital) have become a top priority for Congress. A remedy could clear

the Hill by Christmas. High prescription drug pricing is Congress' next priority, but will be more difficult to fix. The big question is can Congress pass something the President will sign that mandates a moderation of prices and a patient savings at the pharmacy counter? There seems to be support within the Administration to turn to imported drugs, which are indeed cheaper but which may be unregulated, unsubstantiated, ineffective and even dangerous. We have been vocal in opposing imported drugs for safety reasons.

Broadband

Continued expansion of high-speed broadband into remote areas is promising. Updated and more accurate service maps are on the way and this will help. Congress, the White House, the Federal Communications Commission and USDA have all given rural broadband deployment high priority status.

Trade

Trade will remain a deep concern for farmers, ranchers and those businesses that serve agriculture. While several bilateral trade agreements like Japan will certainly help, the tariff war with China will continue to put downward pressure on farm gate prices. A settlement with China is a moving target and could take much longer than first anticipated.

Food

It will be important to find a common sense nomenclature (product name) for plant-based milk and meat items as well as lab-grown meat that protects the integrity of the original food product. The truth about the ingredient content and nutritional content of these products must be disclosed to the consumer. The various types of agriculture need to promote their products without bashing others. There is room for all, the small farms as well as the large operations, in today's economy.

Ag labor

Several common sense solutions have been proposed to solve our farm labor crisis but have gone nowhere in Congress. Ag labor is being held hostage by some members of Congress as a trade-off to get their immigration priorities included. Immigration is way too political at this time for a comprehensive immigration bill to see the light of day on the hill for the foreseeable future. This is such an important issue for agriculture and it is very frustrating that it's been dragging on for years.

Infrastructure

Most in Congress agree our infrastructure is in dire need of attention. But repairing old and building new infrastructure is a massive undertaking that costs lots of money. Unfortunately, the "pay for" is probably too big to tackle on a presidential election year.

Regulations

In the fourth year of any presidency, proposed regulations usually fall into two categories: 1) those the Administrations want to finalize at all costs, and 2) those the Administration wants to bury. The Grange will follow both categories closely, especially WOTUS (Waters of the U.S.), plant-based and lab grown products, permits for broadband expansion, changes to Medicare and Medicaid, hours-of-service for ag truckers, options to receive paper bills, notices and reports, climate change and more.

Help from State Granges

The National Grange and your State Grange can be so much more effective with a direct pipeline to our biggest resource: grassroots members. We need to get them connected to the information available in View from the Hill, Patron's Chain, notices, updates, reports and more from their State and National Grange. But we need their email. Will you help? Every time you send out a registration form or questionnaire or anything else that requires a response, please add a line for email address. I can't stress enough the importance of communication with our members.

The theme for next year's National Convention in Valley Forge is 2020 – Focused on the future. We are all interested in the future, but what part of it will we focus on in the coming year? Legislation? Civic Engagement? Community Service? Youth and Juniors? Membership? Whatever we focus on, promoting our activities to the public will increase interest in what we do. Activity attracts attention and attracts those busy people who like to be involved in their community.

In closing, I want to quote Heather Retberg, a small farmer Granger in Maine:

With so much beyond our control: in world affairs, in the country, in our state, our community and even our homes and families, we must yet focus on what lies firmly in our grasp. What task at hand is ours to accomplish, what path ours to orbit, what sphere ours to influence for good?

I leave you with that challenge. Ponder that thought through this session and the coming weeks—what sphere is ours to influence for good? In the Grange we have brothers and sisters all across the country who can help. Let's all work together in 2020 to influence our world for good.

STATE OF THE GRANGE ADDRESS

Delivered By Betsy E. Huber, National Master
3 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2019

2019 has again been a busy year for the National Grange. We kicked off activities on December 4th with a “mini-gala” reception sponsored by Grange Advocacy at the Headquarters building for our issue partners. Events like this help keep our name out there and connect us through goodwill with legislators, regulators, and other significant organizations and individuals working to better rural America.

We were so pleased to present Champion of Rural America Awards to three recipients: The National Rural Health Association, CEO Alan Morgan, for their work in providing relevant and timely information to all who care about the health of rural America. The Honorable Ajit Pai, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, for his reforms to remove regulatory barriers, lower the cost, and expedite broadband expansion into rural areas. And the Honorable Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas, for his many years in the U.S. House and Senate representing rural America, improving access to quality healthcare, supporting small businesses, and shepherding Farm Bills through Congress. It was a wonderful very successful evening.

We had a good Masters Conference in Wichita, where the 2021 convention will be held. Thanks to Oklahoma and Kansas State Granges for hosting us. Next year’s Masters Conference will be hosted by Maryland State Grange in Westminster, MD on President’s Day weekend in February.

Our youth participated again in Ag Day in DC, attending the panel discussion and the Capitol Hill reception. We had an excellent Fly-in with 22 attending from 11 states. Thanks to Burton for enlisting great speakers and our intern Abigail Sharp (a Grange member from NJ) for scheduling all the Congressional visits. Next year’s Fly-in will be hosted by New Hampshire State Grange February 7-8 for their “first in the nation” primary. Everyone is welcome to come see how campaigning works at the grassroots.

Through the year I attended five State Grange Sessions, four regional Leaders Conferences, and made site visits to six states looking for convention hotels. I’ve also gone to the Grange Insurance Association annual meeting in Seattle in March and several Grange events in Maryland and Pennsylvania, of course.

This summer three of our youth – Ava Grenier-Riley (RI), Brittney Mercado (NY), and Addison Eyler (MD) along with Youth Director Mandy Bostwick, attended the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America (CADCA) training in Texas. We were fortunate to receive scholarships from our partner RALI (Prescription Drug Abuse Leadership Initiative) to pay their expenses. Also, Jaycee Jette (MT) attended training in DC last February. I’m so proud of our youth for undertaking this issue, to develop a program to train more of our youth to go back to their communities and be leaders in the fight against opioid, alcohol, and vaping abuse. Kelly Riley, Ava’s mother, will be overseeing this effort for the National Grange. We will have several youths attending the next training in DC this winter. Watch for more details and think about how your state can help support the initiatives they wish to undertake after going through the training.

The highlight of the year was the Grange Revival, a five-day fun camping experience in Ozark, Arkansas. What a fabulous time! (We’ll be showing photos during the breaks this week.) About 70 people attended, of all ages from 5 to 95; some in tents, some in the lodge, some in cabins, and many in RVs. Several attendees offered craft workshops, Joan Smith presented Ag in the Classroom educational sessions and Olympic games, and we all shared at least one big meal each day. Even nightly visits by the bear, named Oliver, did not dampen our enthusiasm! If you missed this event, don’t worry—you will have another opportunity in 2021, July 20-25 in Sturgis, South Dakota. Be sure to put these dates on your calendar and plan now for a fantastic Grange vacation.

We made our annual appearance at Farm Aid September 21st in Wisconsin, with an interactive booth about food waste, a skills demonstration of cow’s milk soap making, and staffing the Youth Market once again. It was a rainy day, but that just brought more visitors into our tent and we collected more than 60 interested names and emails for follow-up. Thanks to staff Amanda, Samantha, and Joe, and local Grangers Ann Bercher, Karie Blasingame, Debbie Gegare and family, Kymm and Amber Scott, and Duane Scott who impersonated an overripe banana.

HEADQUARTERS

I am pleased to report that all systems in the building are currently working. The two old boilers were re-connected in November so we could have heat. The new boiler is not yet connected as it has not been needed with the other two working, but it will be hooked up soon. We have sued the former contractor and have been awarded judgment against his company in the amount of \$1,160,218-- but collecting it is another matter altogether. A new roof was installed in late summer and roof anchors are in process—these are required by OSHA for window washing. (Our windows have not been washed in 2½ years and the tenants are complaining.)

The Executive Committee commissioned an engineering report of the building mechanical systems which we are currently reviewing. Many other repairs and replacements will be needed within the next 5-10 years, some at huge cost but required to comply with code. The Board will be prioritizing the list and, as soon as possible, putting money in a capital improvement fund toward these expenses. Our headquarters is a very valuable asset and contributes 36% of our annual budget, but it is 60 years old and needs a lot of work to keep it operating and attractive to tenants. It may be time to take a hard look at the building, its cost and benefits, and make some hard decisions. The Board is examining how we might be able to access \$2.2 million for repairs that will be needed in the next 10 years. With

dues income decreasing as membership declines, and the amount of rent from our tenants decreasing because our older building cannot demand the same rent as newer buildings with greater amenities, it will not be easy. This is a challenge for the delegates here to consider.

CALIFORNIA

I am SO happy to report that we have reached a settlement agreement with the insurance company covering the California Guild, and both major court battles are over. We received a good compensation from the insurance—not enough to cover the costs over the last 7 years, but it will certainly help. (The check should arrive this week.) Unfortunately, the CA State Grange still must fight for each individual Grange hall that the Guild has refused to vacate; and this process will go on for several years. With the court precedent we now have, these cases should not be difficult to win but of course they are costly for the California State Grange.

Just because we have this infusion of money does not mean we have any extra to put in the budget. We have to pay the huge bill we owe our attorney and pay back all the loans we received for prior attorney fees, chiller and boiler repairs, new roof, etc. We will put some in a capital account but it will not be as much as we would hope.

This extended ordeal tested and tried our beloved Grange organizational structure and even our fraternal bonds, but our Grange laws were judged to be strong and valid by the U.S. court system. The test brought us closer together, like any family facing a challenge, and I thank you all for your support through the process, either financial or encouragement or prayers. We have come out stronger as an organization and as brothers and sisters. At long last we can put this battle behind us and look to the future growth of our Order.

HEROES

Our theme for the past year has been Heroes in our Hometowns, and it's been wonderful to see the many ways that Community and State Granges have used this theme in their displays and programs.

This theme references our community service work, and our Granges have again excelled in assisting their communities in so many different ways. I appreciate the work of Community Service Director Pete Pompper in compiling all the Granges' Facebook posts on his Community Service page so they are easy to find and copy by other Granges across the nation.

The heroic theme also references our legislative efforts to make the country better, and Legislative Director Burton Eller has been running in circles to keep the Grange visible in so many issue arenas in DC as well as state capitols. If we are to continue our involvement in so many issues that you determine policy on here, we desperately need an intern or additional staff member to help with the work.

We are heroic in our youth and Junior programs that train our children to be good citizens and leaders. Junior Director Samantha Wilkins and Youth Director Mandy Bostwick and their teams have worked hard this year to visit all the regional leadership conferences and deliver worthwhile workshops. They've also made changes in their programs to deliver valuable experiences and training that are useful to our young people. We are training them to take our places here in these offices and keep the Grange a vital part of society now and in the future.

Worthy Lecturer Chris Hamp works hard to honor the heroes who are veterans or service members through the Quilts of Valor program. This has been a very moving, emotional addition to our National Session for the past few years and will continue tomorrow night. It's great to see many State Granges and even Community and Pomona Granges participating in this wonderful program by honoring their own veteran heroes. Another way to gain publicity for your Grange and spread the news about the great work we do in our communities.

Quoting from Sister Lynette Schaeffer's Master's Address, heroes are characterized by courage, passion, integrity, honesty, confidence, patience, selflessness and caring. I'm sure you all know many Grangers who exemplify these traits in their everyday lives. This week I'm going to recognize one Grange Hero each day of Session and thank them for going above and beyond for the National Grange and for all of us. Of course, I really appreciate everything each one of you does to advance the Grange in your community, your state, and the nation. Thank you!

The theme Heroes in our Hometowns has surely helped to increase our pride in Grange, and the capes certainly attracted attention in many areas! We want to continue to increase our pride in our organization in order to show the public why we are important to them and why they should join with us if they want to make a difference in their world. The year and the theme may be ending, but the pride should continue to build as we continue to be Do-ers.

2020 THEME

Our theme for 2020 is Cultivating Connections. There's a lot included and inferred in these two words. First cultivating—makes me think of farming, that excited feeling of HOPE each spring when we turn over the brown soil and plant seeds; some growing into good things to eat, some into beautiful flowers to enrich our lives, some into crops to feed our animals. In the Grange we cultivate all these things, but we also cultivate our Juniors and youth to grow into responsible adults who nourish the world with their knowledge, abilities, and commitment. We continue to cultivate our adult members by offering new opportunities to learn leadership, new skills, and new friends.

Then the second word, Connections. The Grange is and has always been about connections—to each other within the Grange as family. Connecting to our communities around our halls, by hosting or assisting with community events, making our halls available to other groups, giving assistance to worthy causes in our areas and beyond.

Connecting with government officials, from local to county to state to federal; expressing our opinions, promoting Grange policy, offering our assistance with agricultural or other issues, and thanking them for their service. Connecting with military members and veterans in our communities and honoring them with Quilts of Valor or Patriots Program certificates. Connecting Baby Boomers with Generations X, Y and Z in this age of disconnect so we can understand each other and appreciate our differences. Connecting these generations with our members who know how to preserve foods, do crafts, sew and knit and crochet, so these skills can be passed on. Connecting members and nonmembers with our rich history of contributions to rural America, and connecting our history to our future by involving citizens in today's issues that need to be addressed to improve lives. Connecting rural with urban, agriculture with consumers, to increase the understanding of modern farming methods and where our food comes from; how farmers care deeply for their land and animals. They have been conservationists for centuries because their livelihood depends on the soil and rainfall. Connecting people with the land, either directly through gardening classes or indirectly through the internet, making them appreciate those who do care for and preserve the land. In this way we can show the public that farmers are the original conservationists, that they care for their animals and the soil now as they have forever.

I could go on and on with ways the Grange connects, and I'm sure you can suggest many other ideas. I hope you will use this theme throughout 2020 to present the Grange, possibly in a new light, to residents in your communities so they can see the myriad of things we do and realize how they can be a part of us and contribute their own talents to our efforts.

We talked last year about Generation Y and how we need to change our approach to attract them to the Grange. Have you tried this? Have you planned something different to attract new people to your Grange? With many Community Granges drying up and blowing away, and several of our State Granges on the verge of losing their charters, it's time to take those risks. We must be willing to learn, unlearn, and re-learn to get ahead in this fast-paced digital world, as individuals and as an organization. It's going to take the hard work of every one of us to turn around our membership decline, unlearn the old ways of searching for members, and re-learning how to be an exciting, attractive, radical organization like we were in the 1880s.

In conclusion, I issue you a challenge—Disrupt yourself! We must stop looking behind us at our history, and look ahead—far ahead of the curve, to pounce on opportunities, take calculated risks, turn our understanding into concrete steps that take us from where we are today to where we will need to be tomorrow to be successful. I thank you for your work this past year, and look forward to the disruption that can occur in our Granges in the coming year.

STATE MASTERS' REPORTS

CALIFORNIA

Submitted by Acting State Master Jan Saxton

For Kent Westwood, stepping into the Master's job with Ed's untimely passing was a challenge that he met head on. California has been entangled with the courts for several years, trying to resolve the situation with The Guild. Kent did a great job of taking charge, with the help of our State Secretary, Lillian Booth and the rest of the leadership team, which included the deep Grange experience of Bob Clouse and Martha Stefenoni. In October, on the last day of our 2019 State Session, they signed the settlement agreement with Bob McFarland and The Guild and concluded that particular battle. In November, the settlement check arrived.

Thanks to the incredible dedication of Bill and Lillian Booth, who saved the State Grange computers from the Paradise fire while abandoning their home and their own belongings, all of our State Grange records are still intact. This past year the State Grange offices in Sacramento have gotten a computer and network upgrade, with our own cloud, where we are now in the process of scanning and digitally storing all of our records.

With the settlement of the lawsuit, it was time to get down to the business of bringing back those Grange properties still held by groups that had left the Grange. I am encouraged to tell you that many of them have chosen to come back into good standing. Some, however, are continuing to fight us in the courts, so the work isn't over yet. On the bright side, we have some new Granges starting up with a lot of kids who want to show animals. Our Grange Youth Fair Program is growing, with interest popping up around the state.

One thing Kent put a lot of time into was traveling the state to visit as many Granges as possible. He discovered that we still have many halls in poor condition, with serious deferred maintenance issues. With the help of our dedicated deputies, we are connecting with them and doing our best to re-instill enthusiasm. We have restarted our hall loan program with a new twist: for small Granges that are struggling with necessary infrastructure repairs we give half of the requested amount in a grant, the other half in a loan, and then we send out a "virtual barn-raising" notice to the membership. We ask those Granges that are doing well, financially, to make donations to help pay down the loan amount. Many of our brothers and sisters from more robust community Granges have chipped in to help. That brings down the loan principal, which makes paying back the loan even more manageable. We are grateful to all those Granges who have reached out to help their brothers and sisters reduce their loan amount.

During Kent's travels, it became apparent that some abandoned halls are now beyond repair and are a liability to the State Grange; in some circumstances, we have been paying property taxes and liability insurance on buildings that are ready to fall down. The Board has decided to sell those properties and invest the funds from the sales of any properties that have been defunct for more than seven years in the grant/loan program for Granges with deferred maintenance needs.

Our most exciting news: on September 28th we had a Strategic Planning workshop in our office in Sacramento. Due to space constraints, we were only able to fit 20 people into the conference room, but the hand-picked group represented a broad array of Grange experience, from 5th generation members to some very enthusiastic newcomers. We are building a road map that makes sense and will move the California State Grange forward. The workshop was expertly facilitated by long time professional consultant and Grange member Brian Weller from the Little Lake Grange in Willits, CA. Brian is an amazing strategic facilitator. The workshop was such a success that we are thinking of making it a yearly event, but next year in a larger space so we can invite more members. A lot of our thinking and focus in our Strategic Planning process emphasized the need to connect with younger generations. We have to attract new and younger members if the Grange is going to survive and grow. This does not mean we are forgetting about our long-timers. We need both. We especially need the more experienced members to mentor the younger/newer ones; teaching them what it means to be a Granger and helping them learn the by-laws and traditions.

But we also need to adapt to a rapidly changing world. The bottom line is that we want to make our organization more relevant to the times. Many of us are not experts when it comes to using social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Messenger, but like it or not, younger generations depend on them. If we want to attract their interest, we need to "meet them where they are." Kent has been a champion in that arena, working hard to bring younger Grangers into leadership and listening to what they have to say.

Shortly after our October State Session, Kent suffered a major aneurysm. We all held our breath as he underwent two days of long brain surgeries to try and remedy the issue and then he made a miraculous recovery. Kent is now completely back to normal but remains on medical leave until his doctor clears him to return to work. In the interim, I am doing my best with the help of the leadership team and our wonderful and devoted deputies and active members to keep things running smoothly until Kent is back in the Master's chair.

COLORADO

Submitted by State Master Cindy Greer

Worthy National Master, National Officers, Delegates and Fellow Grange members, greetings from Colorful Colorado.

Colorado State Grange again put up a display at the Colorado State Fair, which runs for 11 days. The FFA students were mostly responsible for restocking the tables in the building. We were fortunate to be able to have milk carton banks and "Deterra" drug disposal bags to give away. We also had a coloring page available for individuals to take as well as many brochures.

The Colorado State Grange received \$500.00 from the National Grange Advocacy for assisting RALI with the distribution of Deterra drug disposal bags. To date, we have ordered 1600 bags and are distributing them across the state.

We've been privileged to make it to a few more Granges this year for a visit and to do some re-visits. We have visited the Granges doing Fundraisers – we went to a Breakfast fundraiser for the Juniors, several dinners as fundraisers for the subordinate Grange and a dance.

We attended the Great Plains Regional Leadership conference in Waco, Texas. Billy and Nathen Greer attended the conference with us. We attended the Grange Revival held in Ozark, Arkansas in July. It was a wonderful week of fun and fellowship with Grangers from around the nation. We enjoyed workshops, meals, and the local wildlife (specifically a daily visit from a bear). I expected hot and humid weather but it was very pleasant the entire time we were there.

The Master's Newsletter has been sent out every other month. I try to get them out on months that the Granger doesn't come out. Many times there is not enough room in the Colorado Granger to share all the information received from National.

After a winter where we finally had a significant amount of snow, the grass has been greener and the rivers fuller in our beautiful state than it has been for the last ten years. We were fortunate to have irrigation water through the month of July in our corner of the world, which for me was a first in the last 40 years.

Our Ag Director and Legislative Director keep the Colorado State Grange in the forefront at the State Capital and with the Colorado Ag Council.

Colorado AgrAbility Project's (CAP) mission is to promote success in agriculture for people with disabilities or other physical challenges and their families. Colorado AgrAbility is part of a nationwide network of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs that began through the 1990 Farm Bill. The goal of the National AgrAbility Project is to inform, educate, and assist farmers, ranchers, farm workers, and their families with disabilities, so they can continue to have successful careers in agriculture.

Farming and ranching are physically demanding and hazardous professions. Colorado AgrAbility and modern technology can help men and women with disabilities.

We are still in the process of gathering history updates for the 145th History of the Colorado State Grange. My goal is to have all the information assembled in the coming year in order to have the information printed in some form for State Session next year at our 147th annual convention.

A group of growers from Sedelia have inquired about becoming a Grange. We visited them in October to provide more information and answer questions.

The children (5-14 years old) we currently have in the Grange, are our future. To be honest, we don't currently have very many Junior Grangers or Junior Plus 1 members. It's something we all need to think about and work on. The current members we have who are 14 – 25 years old are unknown as we don't generally keep that information. These young people can lead us to more people their age.

It came to my attention that the Colorado State Grange didn't have any liability insurance in the Colorado State Grange name. When the office was moved to Florissant, we agreed to pay part of their insurance to cover the building, but this policy did not cover liability for the Colorado State Grange. Last year we purchased event insurance to cover state session at the Masonic Lodge. We have worked many hours investigating insurance that would be the best to cover our possible liability needs and in protecting officers and Directors from possible litigation. Finally, in August, we purchased two policies to cover general liability and liability for officers and directors.

I have spent two years trying to convince the state of Colorado Unclaimed Property Division that some of the funds they are holding from five or six Granges who no longer have charters, belongs to the Colorado State Grange, which of course would be held in an account for seven years if those Granges were to be reorganized. To date, I am still trying to convince them. I hope that this last effort of providing them with our by-laws and National By-laws and affidavits will accomplish that effort. Only time will tell.

The Delegate body passed a significant raise in dues in Colorado this year. We have not had an increase in dues since the 1990's. We raised our dues \$10.00 per person. We are hopeful that members will see the value of this raise and that our secretaries will work with those who might have problems paying them all at one time.

CONNECTICUT

Submitted by State Master George Russell

The Connecticut State Grange has had a busy and productive year. We hosted the Northeast Leader's Conference in March and the Northeast Youth Conference in July. There was an excellent turnout for the Northeast Leadership Conference with 117 people registered. It was so nice to see so many Grangers from Connecticut that were represented at the conference. This was the first year that the conference was open to the Subordinate

Granges so that they could attend. There were four excellent speakers on Friday and Saturday night. The four speakers spoke about leadership and membership strategies. There was a banquet and entertainment on Saturday evening to complete the event. National Grange Master Betsy Huber, National Legislative Director Burton Eller and Membership and Leadership Development Director Joe Stefenoni attended the Conference.

The Youth Conference in July was held at the University of Connecticut on the Storrs Campus. There were 28 members that spent the weekend competing in contests. The Massachusetts Youth came in on Sunday to compete for the Drill Team contest. Although the turnout wasn't what we expected, they seemed to have had a good weekend, thanks to my director Dawn Anstett.

The Board of Directors thought it was time that we hired a part-time membership director. Faith Quinlan, our State Membership Director, agreed to take on this responsibility. Faith was one of the featured speakers at the Northeast Leader's Conference held last March and has written many articles in our Connecticut Granger. Faith put together an Advisory Committee which consists of the Connecticut State Grange Master, State Treasurer, State Youth Director, Pomona Member, a Community Grange member under 30 years of age and the Membership Director. This committee will help her put together programs and seminars to help our Grangers to promote their Granges and attract new members.

Once again this year, Connecticut has had a decline in membership along with four Granges that have closed this past year. The Granges included Manchester #31, Southington #25, Ashford #90 and Norwich #172. Every time a Grange closes, there is a percentage of the members who do not join another Grange so we lose in two ways; the Grange and the membership. Having to close a Grange is a difficult job for any State Master to do; some of these Granges are over 100 years old. It's really sad to lose them.

This year we have completed our first anniversary of all three Pomona's; Eastern Connecticut Pomona #14, Mountain Laurel Pomona #15 and Nutmeg Pomona #16. They put on the Fifth Degree for inspection. The three Pomona's hold their meetings either on Saturday afternoon or evening or Sunday afternoon. There are only four regular meetings a year; one in each quarter. Two of the Pomona's hold a special meeting to put on the Fifth Degree.

The Connecticut State Grange continues to support education by having available scholarships and student loans. This year at state session there were eight \$2500 scholarships that were presented to Grange members who are continuing their education. The State Grange also has student loans up to \$10,000 with 5% interest for its members.

As my first year as Connecticut State Grange Master comes to a close, I can look back and reflect on the positive memories of past year. Sharon and I have had the honor to travel to Lime Grange to present Arthur Skip Beebe with his Outstanding Firefighter Award. We also traveled to several Granges to present 50-year pins and Citizens of the Year awards.

The National Grange Convention will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from November 5th to the 9th. Sharon and I will be attending to represent the Connecticut State Grange as their delegates.

FLORIDA

Submitted by State Master Barbara Borderieux

It is a pleasure to bring you greetings from the state of Florida. Our State Session was held February 23. Our four teenage state officers did a great job. Joan C. Smith from Potomac Grange #1 was able to attend our session and shared some things they are doing in the Washington DC area. Joan helped us out tremendously and we were delighted to have Joan's sister fill in as musician during a musical performance.

Our Grange has had some ups and downs this year. Our state has been struggling with membership decline for several years. This year we had 4 long-time members who passed on. We are continuing to work on building new Granges but also adding members to current Granges.

In July, two youth members attended Grange camp in North Carolina along with one adult. We all had a great time. The Southeastern Leadership youth and junior conference was held in Tennessee; two adults and two youth were able to attend. Following the conference, four Grange members attended the Grange revival in Arkansas. It was a great time to have fellowship and get to know Grange members across the country.

Our Grangers continue to help in their communities and they are making things for local pregnancy centers and The Salvation Army. Many are helping with the scouts and with activities through the agriculture museum.

When you come to Florida, we would love to have you give us a call and visit us during your stay.

IDAHO

Submitted by State Master Eileen Javaux

It's a great honor to bring you greetings from the "Gem State" of Idaho. In October of 2018, I was elected as Master of the Idaho State Grange. The year has been fast and furious, and the Idaho State Grange has been busy.

We kicked off 2019 with a visit from Amanda Brozana. The focus of her visit was how to attract new members to the Grange and show what the Grange has to offer. We have been taking steps to show our communities what we have to offer. We set up a new website, purchased our own domain (IdahoStateGrange.Org) and rebranded our quarterly newsletter as "Idaho Insights."

To get our finances on track we appointed a Finance Review Committee and a Building Sale Feasibility Study Committee to determine if maintaining our State office was economically feasible. It was determined that we should keep the building and rent out the second half as quickly as possible. The committee also recommended more transparency and creating reports that are easily readable for our older members.

As the year progresses and in the next year we will continue to focus on the question of, "What do we have to offer to attract new members?" Our National Grange Mission Statement says, "The Grange strengthens individuals, families and communities through grassroots action, service, education, advocacy and agriculture awareness."

As a Grange, we have several great options for new members:

Service: Is the action of helping or doing work for someone; act of assistance. Our Granges have reported thousands of hours of volunteering through the Community Service Reports.

Education: Some synonyms of education are guidance, cultivation, development, improvement, and mentoring-- all words that describe the work of the Grange. Grangers are experts in many areas, and they can provide mentoring in a multitude of ways.

Advocacy: Public support for or recommendation of a policy. The National Grange has partnered with many programs and the Idaho State Grange supports local and state issues in the form of resolutions that indicate our needs and desires as a group.

Agriculture Awareness: I was raised on a ranch and as the wife of a farmer and the daughter of a Master Gardener long before Master Gardeners existed, Ag Awareness has been part of my life. It has always warmed my heart to see The Idaho State Grange showing support for Idaho Agriculture through memberships with Food Producers of Idaho and Ag in the Classroom and these programs continue to be a priority.

We are working closely with Idaho Preferred, a program to identify and promote food and agricultural products grown, raised or processed in Idaho. Idaho Preferred also encourages all Idaho Child Nutrition programs to serve an all Idaho Menu on October 2nd of each year.

Going Forward: Across the state our members are actively involved in Service, Education, Advocacy and Agriculture. Sharing that work allows others to gain ideas and implement those ideas across the state. In northern Idaho an Eagle Scout project benefited the Grange Park, Upper Big Wood River Grange sponsors a seed bank and Mica Flats Grange fundraises to support Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. which benefits wounded Veterans.

Idaho State Grange continues to advocate and support local and state issues. Funding for Idaho schools is an issue that includes funding Full Day Kindergarten. The funding request has failed to pass in the Idaho Legislature. The Idaho Constitution calls for the legislature to maintain a "a uniform and thorough system of free common schools." When families have to pay for full-day kindergarten, that "uniform" system starts to decline. I would like to see the Idaho State Grange support funding for full day kindergarten.

Other state concerns include the overuse of opioids and vaping. In the next year, our Grangers are looking for ways we can prevent overuse of opioids and help end this epidemic in our communities. Vaping is harmful for youth and young adults; the E-cigarettes contain nicotine and other chemicals that can damage health. This has become a billion- dollar industry in annual sales and tougher regulations need to be in place.

Contests and programs are an important part of our Grange work; encouraging non- Grangers to participate in free advertisement. In Idaho, we have started Project Red, White and Blue, created by the Graces, to sew quilt blocks for Quilts of Valor. Across the state, we presented eleven Quilts of Valor in 2019. We also created Project Men, creating care packages for the homeless and less fortunate.

In March, we unexpectedly lost long time Grange Member, Past State Master, and Past National Assistant Stewart Don Johnson. Don was a great mentor and his loss was difficult. Fortunately, others stepped in to mentor me along the way and I'm looking forward to another productive year.

ILLINOIS

Submitted by State Master Lynette Schaeffer

Worthy National Master Betsy, National Officers and Delegates of the 153rd National Session;

It is with eager enthusiasm that Don and I deliver greetings from Illinois.

Don and I attended the 152st National Grange Session in Stowe, Vermont, and thanks to the Granges and Grangers of the region for their warmth and generosity. It was captivating to serve on the Executive Committee. The session was clouded in grief for the loss of Brother Ed Komski, CA, while attending the meeting. I was proud that we had several families mentioned and represented for the Legacy families, Paulson, Summer (Wade), Guth

(Wade), Stutz (Helms), Heberer/Helms (Heberer), and Zerban (Schaeffer). I was pleased that Turkey Hill was recognized as Distinguished Grange.

The Illinois Grange Resources Information and Training – GRIT was held in October 2018 at Hopewell Grange. Presentations were made by Albert Ebel III (Agriculture), Tracey Jones (Community Service), and Ruth Blasingame (Communication/Editor), Jenn Tobin-Tinch (Family Activities), Bev Smith (Historian), Mindy Schiefer (Junior), Ethan Edwards (Lecturer), David Donley (Legislative), LindaKay Ebel (Membership), Sheri Koniectski (Secretary) and Karie Blasingame (Youth) and myself as Master/President. RALI – IL made a presentation for the IL State Grange to educate everyone about the opioid abuse campaign. I was glad that many Grangers came to discover the upcoming programs for this year.

The National Grange's State Master's Meeting in February was in Kansas hosted by Kansas and Oklahoma State Granges. Thanks to them for their hospitality. It was an educational well-planned event. While at the conference we, all the State Masters, created a new mission statement. I was proud to be part of that process.

Illinois State Grange Leadership Training was held in March, at Emerald Mound Grange and Boone County Community Hall. Presentations were made by Karie Blasingame, Overseer and Youth Director, Mindy Schiefer, Junior Director, Tracey Jones, Community Service, and Ruth Blasingame, Editor/Communication. We reviewed the National Grange programs and projects; State Community Service project "Just Breathe 815".

We have lost a Great Grange Hero. Sister Arline Magee passed to the Great Grange above. She served as *Illinois Granger* Editor, IL State Grange Lecturer, ISG Community Service Director, ISG FAC Director, National Grange Community Service Committee, chief cook at many Spring Fling/Camp ISG Youth events, many Subordinate and Pomona offices, my proofreader and good friend.

Grange Month was full of Grange Superheroes showing their pride in their communities and their accomplishments in those communities.

Illinois State Grange held the third State Grange picnic sponsored by the Youth at the KOA, Springfield, IL on May 18th. It was a beautiful day for the picnic in conjunction with the second State Grange Camping trip May 17-19, 2019. Attendees had a great time and plans are in the works for the next IL Grange Camping and annual Grange picnic. It was a great way to spend my birthday!

The Midwest Grange Leadership Conference was held June, 2019 in Indiana. There were 20 IL Grangers in attendance. We participated in all the events/workshops/crafts. Indiana Grangers were great hosts. During the event, a 2019 planning meeting was held under the direction of Karie Blasingame, IL State Grange Overseer and Youth Director. All the states were in attendance or available via phone. It was a great discussion.

The 148th State Session was hosted by the Granges of Boone and Winnebago County Pomona's. The meeting was a first for us as it was held at the Boone County Fairgrounds. Several Granges served as caterers for the meals. The delegates were delighted by the National Grange representatives Chris and Duane Hamp, National Grange Lecturer and Washington past State Master and past First Lady. Past IL Master and past first Lady Al and Darlene Henninger, Past Master David Donley and his wife Mary, Past Master and past First Lady Lyle and Patti Lee and the Hamp's were presented to start the session. I want to thank the State Officers and Committee Chairs and Directors for their industrious work to make the session a rewarding event. The contest display room was full of Junior crafts, Family Activity: cookies, breads, needlework and crafts, Community Service books, and lots of clothing and backpacks for "Just Breathe 815", Lecturer's photography, drawings and writings, Agriculture: vegetables, flowers and antique items. It was great to see how talented IL Grangers are. The drill work of the "Youth" and several older Juniors was once again extraordinary. The auction of Agricultural items was beneficial to the Grange committees and lots of fun. Our Chaplain had an inspiring thoughtful memorial/worship service. According to Tracey, Community Service Director, Grangers and friends in Illinois are busy raising funds for many various community projects and concerns. We had many volunteer hours of community service projects and efforts. The Grange communities in IL greatly benefit from having a Grange in their area. All our Committee chairs, directors, and officers organized a first-rate program this past year and I thank them for their efforts.

We lost one Grange this past year. Many Granges held membership drives and gained members, but we were unable to obtain a gain in membership for IL Granges.

I have attended all the National Grange Executive Committee meetings and National Grange Foundation meetings. I hope that I have served the National Grange to the expectation of all Grangers.

Don and I are delighted and proud to once again be delegates for IL, and we are participating as part of the host group at the 153rd National Grange session in Minnesota. We look forward to the committee work, session efforts, making new friends, and catching up with Grangers from across the country.

INDIANA

Submitted by State Master John Plank

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates and Members of the 153rd National Grange Convention:

It is with honor and great privilege for Susan and I to bring you greetings from the State of Indiana. As I look back on the last eight years as State Master, it has been a great journey for us so far.

We recently held our 149th Annual Session of the Indiana State Grange in October. This was the fifth year we held our session at Pine View Resort in Monticello, Indiana. Our members really like the setting and what the resort has to offer.

Indiana was honored in having National Secretary Judy Sherrod as our National Grange Representative this year. Judy enlightened us with new updates on the National Grange building repairs and the California situation.

We are gearing up for our 150th celebration next year and I hope you can come and join us at Pine View Resort, Monticello, IN. We must be doing something right to be able to reach 150 years. We are Grangers who make a difference in the world.

In July our Elephant Ear stand was up at the Logansport 4th of July event and Goshen Airport for the Freedom Show. The one-day events had great turnouts from workers and also people attending the shows. It keeps our members busy making Elephant Ears. This year at the Cass County Fair, we made some changes and tried something different but still didn't have a lot of success.

The stand is one of our money-making projects for our State Grange Committees. This year I was able to be at all three locations to help run the food stand. The food stand has been a great opportunity to get the Grange name out for the public to see and get to know us.

May all Granges have a successful year and Happy Holidays to all! See you next year in PA for the 154th National Convention.

IOWA

Submitted by State Master Dwight Baldwin

Worthy National Master, officers, delegates, brothers and sisters of the National Grange, it is with great pleasure that Kathy and I bring greetings from the members of the Iowa State Grange at this 153rd annual session in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The 150th annual session of the Iowa State Grange was held in Kellogg, IA at the Amboy Grange hall with Jasper County Granges as hosts. Our National Representative was Amanda Brozana-Rios. We had a successful session and celebrated our 150th session by decorating the hall as it would have been done 150 years ago. We went to the grave site of Andrew Failor, the founder of the second Grange and the first in Iowa and held our memorial service and also placed a Grange marker there. I want to thank the officers and delegates for helping us celebrate the monumental occasion.

Our State Lecturer worked hard on Programs for the year.

The Youth Director had a successful Jr. camp with over 40 kids in attendance. Samantha Wilkins attended Midwest Leadership and took several Youth and our Jr. Ambassador. The Juniors also served one breakfast at our camp. We have three youth on the National Officers team-- Emma Edelen as the President, Samantha Hanson as the Vice President and Jordyn Moyes as Gatekeeper. We are all proud of them and their accomplishments.

I worked with our advocates on our Medicare and opioid initiatives.

Our community service award went to Amboy Grange for all their volunteering in the community.

We are continuing to work on Membership. Without new members we will not exist in the future.

It is my honor to be the National Treasurer. I will continue to encourage our executive committee to make wise decisions with the finances of the National Grange. The building we have in Washington, DC is a valuable asset to the Order and we need to do everything in our power to retain this asset.

Once again, I extend our thanks to the Midwest region for hosting the 153rd National session of the National Grange. We appreciate all the hard work they have put into this convention.

KANSAS

Submitted by State Master Roger Bostwick

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates, Members, and Guests of the 153rd Annual Convention of the National Grange: greetings from Grangers in Kansas.

We just finished our 148th Annual Convention of the Kansas State Grange. We will be celebrating our 150th in 2021, the same year that the 155th National Session will be in Wichita. We are looking forward to welcoming you to the Great Plains Region.

During a weekend in February, the State Granges of Kansas and Oklahoma co-sponsored this year's Annual Masters Conference. Nearly 50 members consisting of State Masters, National Officers and Staff gathered in Wichita for a three-day event. This short period of time was packed with workshops, guest speakers, brainstorming and even a little fun. One of the many items of concern was the revamping of the National Grange mission statement from its previous 128 words. After several suggestions, word changes, more suggestions, and carefully reviewing every word, several hours later we agreed upon "The Grange strengthens individuals, families and communities through grassroots action, service, education, advocacy and agriculture awareness."

The Grange leaders were also made aware of the nationwide problem of opioid addiction. Dr. Erin Yelland, Assistant Professor/Extension Specialist from Kansas State University spoke about how nearly 130 people die on an

average day from opioid overdoses, nearly 48,000 each year. She mentioned that many addictions begin through legal prescriptions, how it can take as little as five days to become addicted to opioids, and how easily a tolerance can occur. She encouraged Grangers to continue to partner with organizations to raise awareness of drug disposal kits and make them available. Dr. Yelland had a very good article in the Spring 2019 Good Day magazine. Dr. Yelland's, *The Last Word* article addresses the problem and gives examples of ways you or your Grange can help. If you have not yet subscribed to The Good Day Magazine you are really missing out on great ideas for your Grange.

In July, I attended the first Grange Revival at Mulberry Mountain in Ozark, Arkansas. Nearly 70 members ranging from ages 5 to 85, from the Atlantic to the Pacific and Maine to Florida attended the 5-day event. Grangers were able to get to know members and enjoy time to get to know one another in a camp style atmosphere and meet others with shared values who became friends quickly. Everyone was able to do their own thing throughout the day or participate in group activities and workshops, such as geocaching, line dancing, farm in a glove, and how long does it really take to make a pizza. In the evenings, a group meal was prepared and shared together much like our Grange potluck dinners. This event was enjoyed by all in attendance and is currently being researched for the next one in 2021 and encourages everyone to attend.

This year, we have sadly had to say goodbye to two of our own Grange Heroes with the passing of Brothers Gilbert Farmer and Harold West. Both Gilbert and Harold were past First Men of the Kansas State Grange and had served the Grange in many other capacities in nearly 70 years of membership. Their wisdom and Grange experience will be greatly missed.

As we all think of ways that we as Grangers can be heroes in our communities, it all boils down to the words of Maya Angelou, "I think a hero is any person really intent on making this a better place for all people."

MAINE

Submitted by State Master Sherry Harriman

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates and Members of the National Grange,
Hello again from "Vacationland". It is an honor to present my annual report for the Maine State Grange. Richard and I were very pleased to represent Maine in Vermont last November as delegates gained a lot of knowledge and information.

I attended the Northeast Leaders Conference in Connecticut in January and the Master's Conference in Kansas in February and found them both very informative.

I hosted a School of Instruction for Deputies, Officers meetings, and Directors meetings during the year, gaining a lot of input and ideas from those attending. Several public events were held, where we had a manned booth and some unmanned, ag trade show fairs and other events where we publicized Grange. I attended many meetings throughout the state.

Several successful degree days were held at different times during the year. We had 21 Granges with Net Gains in Membership. However, we did not have a net gain overall this year. Maybe next time. Many of our Granges are going strong, some large, some small but doing great things in their communities and we still have others struggling.

About 40 folks attended our annual Grange Family Campout held on one of the most "broiling" weekends in July, with activities, fun, food, friendly competitions, traditional ice cream social and "Awards". Most staying for the entire weekend. It is always a great time.

Three of our Past State Officers passed away this year. It was a difficult time and they will certainly be missed by many here in Maine.

Another successful State Grange Session has just completed. Thank you to Barbara Borderieux, National Chaplain for coming and being part of it. I changed things around again this year. Our 6th Degree Conferral was on Saturday during the morning, rather than Friday night, with the intent of getting more people to attend. We presented Community Service Awards, Membership Awards, Tree Farmer Award, Teacher, First Responder and Policeman of the Year Awards, and awarded Scholarships. Thanks to the generosity of our Granges, we donated \$1,015 and a mountain of "pennies" to a Veteran's Program here in Maine (House in The Woods Military and Family Retreat), donated \$960 and Christmas gifts to Home for Little Wanderers and received other donations for different departments and projects. Our Chaplain presented an impressive Memorial Service honoring our beloved members and fallen heroes. We discussed the budget, had reports of Officers and Department heads, Art & Photo contests, department fund raising tables, carried out the business of the Grange, and had a Grand March and insisted Barbara participate, then served the traditional cider and doughnuts. We had a great session.

We didn't have the controversial resolutions we had last year but did have time for some excellent discussions concerning Grange in general with a general forum of questions and answers from the attendees on many subjects. I also invited several speakers to come in during session, the Commissioner of Agriculture, an Attorney for Senior Rights, Communications presentation, and Legislative overview. Our office building is still on the market and we have had some discussions on our options but no concrete plans as yet.

We held full elections this year, with officers remaining the same for the most part. I am challenged with finding the right Directors for the different departments but will persevere.

I am looking forward to another successful year in the Maine State Grange.

MARYLAND

Submitted by State Master Allen Stiles

The Grange in Maryland continues to struggle. Despite my best efforts several more Community Granges closed leaving us with 12, below the threshold to have 2 delegates at National Grange Session. Being reelected to my third term, I am faced with the difficulty of running State Grange while also trying to survive these equally difficult times as a dairy farmer. As I was opening our session, I received a phone call saying the person whom I thought was going to milk for me would not be able to do so. I am leaving National Session early because I need to get home to the farm.

Now that I have that out of my system, I want to focus on what's right in Maryland. I was thrilled and shocked when Sister Kay was elected National Pomona at last year's session. Former National Grange Executive Committee member Joe Fryman pointed out that I am now sleeping with a goddess! I knew that all along.

Teaching and learning are founding principles of the Grange. Our state is struggling to provide a top-quality education to our young people without bankrupting our state's taxpayers. Maryland State Grange worked with other farm groups and the University of Maryland to rebuild our decaying Ag programs. The much-needed agricultural teaching program has been revitalized with fulltime staff and a clear pathway to earn a degree. My first goal as state master/president was to rebuild our important relationship with Extension and the state FFA program. I represent the Grange on the Maryland Council of Agricultural Educators. The Grange is highly respected in this coalition. A good friend of the Grange, George Mayo, has retired as Executive Director of the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation. We have built a relationship with the new director, Susanne Zilberfarb. She is impressed with our work with another coalition partner, RALI, since a close friend recently died of an overdose. This epidemic touches many lives.

The Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America is another member of RALI. Addison Eyler of Thurmont Grange attended the CADCA Youth Leadership Development Conference in Texas. She spoke about it at our Youth Breakfast. I am encouraging her Grange to help her implement the plan she developed for her high school to combat teen vaping. I believe she has more self-confidence since attending the conference.

At our State Leaders' Conference, a member said that it is nice to honor military veterans, but what are we doing to improve their lives? I invited the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to my next Medford Grange meeting. He was unable to attend our State Banquet but we had a speaker from the Veterans' Commission. We are asking local Granges to spread the word to veterans about the programs that are available and to advocate for veterans.

My goal is to reorganize Granges in the areas that are not currently being served by our great organization!

MICHIGAN

Submitted by State Master Christopher D. Johnston

Worthy Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters, welcome to the 146th Annual Convention of The Michigan State Grange.

This is the ninth time we have met in the city of Adrian since the first time in 1925. I remember in 2007 we were meeting in this same location and we had been in search of someone that would be interested in running for the position of Assistant and Lady Assistant Steward at the next year's convention. I ran out the front door to catch up to this sweet little lady I had just met. I asked her if she thought she and her husband would accept the nomination next year if they were nominated and she said talk to my husband. I did, and the following year they were nominated and elected. Thankyou Ron for accepting and voluntelling your sweet little lady wife that she could do it.

During the course of the last year or so, the political climate in this country has gone from tolerable to despicable. Whether you are Republican, Democrat, Independent, or otherwise, you have to agree that there comes a point when someone has to stand up and be the bigger person and either admit they were wrong or admit that for the betterment of the country that we need to move on. The constant bickering between the political parties has turned the Legislative, Judicial, and Executive branches of the US Government into a three-ring circus. While we as Grange members may from time to time squabble about our differing of opinions, when we rap the gavel at the close of the meeting, we walk out those doors not just as friends but brothers and sisters of the order. I believe our organization has the potential and the ability to influence our elected officials. I believe we not only have the potential and ability but we also have a responsibility to the members of our organization today, as well as to those who have come and gone before us and to those who are still to come.

Earlier this year I attended the National Grange Legislative Fly-In. I was fortunate enough to be able to get one hill appointment. This year I met with Congressman John Moolenaar. While the meeting was supposed to be 15 minutes it lasted closer to 45 minutes and there were several people who seemed irritated with me when I left on my own choosing. Many topics were covered from Healthcare to Rural Broadband to the Grange booth at the Midland County fair. Then the discussion focused a little closer to my home town and discussed against the advice of his aide the secretive metal plant coming to Durand. In general, it was a good and informative visit with the Congressman. While in Washington D.C., we also had the opportunity to meet with the head of the FCC, and were visited at the headquarters by many leaders from different telecommunication companies including the White House Chief of Staff for telecommunications.

As we are preparing for the National Convention that we are co-hosting, I would like to see more members go and take part in the workshops that are provided for the members that are not voting delegates. This is an excellent opportunity for our members to make connections with members from across the country and stir up some ideas on ways to increase membership across the state.

In the Boy Scouts, we have a term that is often used, known as “Feeder packs,” meaning the Cub Scout Packs feed scouts to the Boy Scout Troops. In the Grange, we have a very similar program known as the Junior Grange. Of those who came for all of my years as a Junior, there are a few sitting amongst us today as Grange Members. As we have noticed the continual decline of membership over the years in the Grange, we have also noticed that there are virtually no Juniors. I would like every Grange to take a serious look at growing their current Junior Grange or starting a Junior Grange. The programs have been revamped over the years at the State Grange level and at the National Grange level. In my mind if we start cultivating the minds of those in the Junior age range, we can then reap the rewards of them growing to become the leaders of the Grange in the future. So, in a sense, we need to grow our feeder packs to help grow the Grange. The Youth age range is also a very important group of people we need to be working on now that we have a new National Grange youth director. Mandy has grown up in the Grange and with her experience in Grange and her insight into the younger age group as a teacher, I look for great things to come in the future. The youth department’s program at the National level was completely scrapped and she started over with her ideas and incorporating some of the programs that have had success in the past.

During my annual address last year, I announced that I was looking for an individual to take on the Membership department. When we got to the National Convention in Stowe, Vermont, one of our members was visiting our business meeting. I had asked her if she would be interested in the job, she said tell me more about it. I introduced her to the National Grange Membership Director Joe Stefenoni as the new membership director of the Michigan State Grange, and she ran with it.

For the last year and a half or so, we had been encouraging campers from Michigan to register and participate in the first ever Grange Revival. Well Connie and the boys and I decided to go for vacation. Since we only owned a pop-up, we bought a new camper that had four solid walls and air conditioning. The weekend before we left for Arkansas, we replaced the front-end brakes and as we stopped at the office to the resort, Cory asked what is the smoke from. When I opened the door, not knowing what he was talking about, I could smell that unforgettable odor of hot brakes. It seems that those mountains and 10mph hairpin curves and a heavy load was a bit much for those new brakes. We finally got our camper set up and had a great time with Grange members from all across the country for the rest of the week. Plans are in the works for the next Grange Revival. I would really encourage everyone to come and join the fun.

In closing, as I stated last year in my address, as we continue our deliberations over the next couple of days, let us be mindful of where we have come from and where we want to see our organization go over the next year, the next five years and the next 146 years. Let us plan today for the future of our organization and let us leave the organization in a manner that will make our children and grandchildren proud of what we have left them.

MINNESOTA

Submitted by State Master John Crippen

Worthy National Master, National Officers, Delegates and Attendees of the 153rd National Grange Convention:

Welcome back to Minnesota after a 53-year break! We are honored to host this year’s convention along with the other states of the Midwest Region, and hope you will be back again soon.

The big excitement with the Minnesota Grange this past year was the reorganization of Zumbro Valley Grange #765. Members there did an incredible job of recruiting new members to make up for the ones previously lost, and after much work they passed the threshold into viability.

We are also proud to have Ann Bercher elected as President for the 2019-21 term, and with her a collegial transfer and sharing of power throughout the ranks of state officers. We feel we are on a steady path forward to a sustainable growing State Grange.

MONTANA

Submitted by State Master Marilyn Johnson

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters; it is with pleasure that Bill and I bring greetings from the blue sky and snow of Montana to this the 153rd annual session of the National Grange.

As I embark on my second two-year term as State Master, Montana State Grange faces many challenges with the number one being membership. I continue to try and ignite the “kindling” with the current Granges, but the ensuing fires do not continue. The needed fuel in these Granges has become tired. We are going to put full focus in the year ahead to increasing our numbers and hopefully reorganizing one Grange that is failing in 2019.

I attended the Masters’ Conference in Wichita and found this session to be very informative and worthwhile. I continue to learn there are many new avenues to venture on than there was on my first stint as State Master 20+ years ago.

In the past year, I visited most of the Subordinate and Pomona Granges in our state. If you are at all familiar with the vastness of Montana, this was a lot of miles. It was helpful to see what our local Granges were doing in their communities. The vastness of the many community projects that are happening are very rewarding and certainly get the Grange name out to their communities.

Montana has strived very hard and with perseverance to improve our Grange membership and reinvent those Granges that are about to lose their charter. Three Granges have become more active in this past year and participated in many more State Grange projects than in the past several years. Their continued enthusiasm is rewarding.

Membership will continue to be our number one project for the 2019-2020 year.

Bill and I are delighted once again to be delegates for Montana State Grange at this 153rd National Grange Session here in Minnesota. We look forward to our committee work, session business, and renewing friendships.

NEBRASKA

Submitted by State Master Kevin Cooksley

I welcome the Officers, Delegates, members and guests of the Nebraska State Grange to the Ramada Inn Conference Center, here in Grand Island, our 131st annual convention of the Nebraska State Grange.

Let us first do a little of the “year-in-review” to cover what has transpired since last September’s Convention. Last November, I “retired” from the Nebraska Rural Radio Association’s Board of Directors after 15 years of fulfilling service. Representing the Grange on that board was one of the highlights of my life in public service, and I will always miss the wonderful folks I had the privilege to work with. Fellow-Granger Scott Kaelin was nominated for my empty seat, but unfortunately was not successful in winning enough votes at the NRRA Annual Meeting to take the seat. Therefore, for the first time in over 30 years, the Grange has no representative on the Board of Directors. The Grange was one of the four organizations that started KRVN in 1949, and I feel it is important to correct this situation in the near future. Meanwhile, I do want to thank and recognize the NRRA for giving our organization 5 minutes each Friday for our weekly program, which is heard across the state and into Wyoming, Iowa and Kansas.

Last November 12th-17th I flew to Stowe, Vermont to represent the Nebraska State Grange at the 152nd National Grange Annual Session. There, I served once-again on the Ag Committee. As always, it is an enlightening and an enjoyable experience renewing friendships and making new friends, while helping craft policy for the National Grange and learning new things along the way. This organization exists in some-37 states. Many of the states are struggling with membership decline, like we are. Yet one would never know it when their delegate’s minds come together in deliberation of National Policy.

On the legislative side, Nebraska State Grange is still very much involved in being a presence in Lincoln during the legislative session. Once again, we participated in the efforts to bring about much-needed property tax relief through the actions of the coalition we belong to (*Nebraskans United*). Again, our group’s efforts fell short, due mostly to the opposition by the Governor of our revenue-production plan. The politicians say they want property tax relief, but most will not consent to increasing state revenue in order to offset property tax cuts. They love to preach that we can achieve that goal simply by “growing the economy”. We weighed-in on several other legislative issues, as well. In addition to those actions, we once again co-sponsored one of the spring legislative breakfasts that are held several times during the session. While this cost is significant, it also serves to keep our organization’s name in front of the Senators. It also gives us a chance to have a little “face-to-face time” with Senators and other organizations in a casual setting.

In addition to the Legislative Breakfast, we also help sponsor the *Elite Showman* contest at the Nebraska State Fair. Since we don’t have a booth at the Fair anymore, cosponsoring the *Elite Showman* contest provides the opportunity for the State Grange to be showcased over the loudspeaker with the following message “*The Grange is America’s oldest agricultural fraternal organization, with family and community making up the foundations of the Grange. For more than 150 years, the Grange has sought to educate the public of the role that agriculture plays in today’s modern society; to influence public policy through thoughtful legislative advocacy; to promote the proper use of the environment and natural resources and to assist in protecting the property rights of the stewards of the land.*” How valuable is this message? I don’t know the answer to that, but I can tell you that it keeps our name alive in front of a huge audience.

It is more apparent each year, that here in Nebraska, the Grange’s role is more local than ever. We rarely get invited to State-level meetings anymore, so efforts such as the Legislative Breakfast and sponsorship at the State Fair provide us with the affordable ability to reach the general public without the aid of government leaders or our own pro-active (and paid) public relations office. Farm Bureau owns that “hill”, and it takes lots of money, membership and press releases to do that. We have none of those. What we DO have are great members, doing GREAT work in their communities where we are known and appreciated. A wonderful example of this is the work Edgar Hicks is doing, with the help of Carver Grange, in building a working relationship with Nancy Williams and her north-Omaha project *No More Empty Pots*. Will this boost our membership? Only time will tell, but the possibilities are tremendous, due to the close-proximity of a large metropolitan population and a very popular and high-profile project.

In the meantime, our member numbers continue to decline, even though our local Grangers keep doing all they can to remain relative in their community efforts to make life better for everyone. Even though we may grow more

demoralized each year, I encourage you to remain hopeful that we can stay active enough to catch someone's eye, and result in them saying, "I'd like to be a Granger". Our Community Service reports document our efforts, and my thanks again go to Sandra Dunkel for chairing the Community Service Program. One only needs to read the Community Service Reports to see that we DO make a difference. I encourage all of you to take a few minutes to read the submitted community service reports. There is much to be proud of, and we need to share our ideas.

The 2019 National Grange session will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 3rd-9th. It will be the 153rd annual session. I will be serving on the Agriculture Committee once again, and I will be reporting back via the State Grange radio report on Friday the 8th, as well as through the President's comments in our quarterly Grange News sheet. I am looking forward to seeing and hearing from our National President, Betsy Huber, as she updates the delegate body on what the National Grange has accomplished during 2019 as well as her plans for the organization in the coming year.

In closing, I challenge each of you to keep on making a difference. I wish to thank our officers for a job well-done this past year. Special thanks go to Richard Schell, our long-time State Treasurer, who stepped down last year, Judy Hansen for the invaluable work she does as Secretary, for without her efforts we couldn't function, to Darlene Janing for representing the Nebraska at the Regional Leadership Conference in Texas, to Richard Janing for keeping us informed on Legislative issues and to the members of our Executive Committee, who meet regularly in the efforts to keep this organization active and relevant. Your officers work as a team, and it really takes a team to get this job done.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Submitted by State Master Christopher Heath

The New Hampshire State Grange held its annual session in Keene NH. Master Christopher Heath was elected to an unprecedented third term as State Master. This breaks a 70-year tradition of the State Master serving only two consecutive terms. The State Overseer Robert Trombi and Master Heath will work closely to plan the future of the Grange in New Hampshire.

In November, the State Master travelled to Stowe Vermont to attend National Session. He was asked to serve as Master in the conferral of the Sixth degree on Saturday morning. He along with other members from around New England exemplified the 6th degree on several candidates.

In December, the leadership of the NH State Grange converged on the New Hampshire Fire Academy to hold its annual leadership school. All committees and Deputies attended a day full of instructional workshops and breakout meetings to plan the work of the year.

In February, the membership and agriculture committees worked together to have a booth at the annual NH Farm and Forest expo in Manchester NH. Juniors, subordinate and committee members spent two days talking to visitors about the Grange, chickens and swine. This included a visit from the NH Commissioner of Agriculture Shawn Jasper. He was very interested to learn about the Grange and encouraged our members to be more involved with the Agricultural bills in the NH legislature.

Later in February, the Youth department held its annual Winter Rally at the State Grange building. Director Rachel Scanzani and her committee provided an excellent day full of activities which included "Escape" boxes and Grange Baseball. Many members in attendance participated in the Grange knowledge test.

In March, the Lecturer Jane Trombi held our annual bowling tournament at Lakeside lanes in Manchester. This event was attended by many members including many Juniors who enjoyed the bowling time. In April, during Grange month, Lecturer Jane Trombi and Beth Merrill, State Grange executive committee member hosted the Spring Fling/Grange month celebration. This was a day of workshops that provided instruction to the members in attendance. It included a delicious meal and the state talent contest.

In May, the deputy state masters were busy travelling the state to provide instructions to the Subordinate and Pomona Granges. Also, in May, we held our first of three membership conferences, this one being hosted by Antrim Grange and featuring National Grange Membership/Leadership director Joe Stefenoni. Joe led a workshop on how to get younger people interested in the Grange. He provided steps on how Granges can come up with a plan to gain new members. In June, our second membership conference was held. This time Rochester Grange hosted and the guest speaker was TJ Malaskee, past State Master of the Minnesota State Grange. He led an excellent workshop on how to get new members. He taught us that we need to be more on target on what we say to prospective members. He explained that we need to tell people why we Grange instead of the how and what we do.

In August, the Youth department held its annual Summer rally at the New Hampshire State Grange building in Hooksett. Rachel Scanzani and her committee provided a meal and the members in attendance converged on Chucksters in Hooksett to enjoy a round of mini-golf and ice cream. Adults, Youth and Juniors enjoyed this time of fellowship and the State Master showed his expertise by having the lowest round score.

In September, the deputies were back on the road holding their fall inspections. With the exception of two Granges, all visits were completed and the final forms given to the General Deputy. Also, in September, members from the State Grange worked in the New England Grange building in West Springfield during the last two days of the Eastern States Exposition. This is a great time talking to the public about the Grange. It is also a great way to support

the building. New Hampshire is starting to plan for our Sesquicentennial Celebration which will be held in 2023. We hope that many of you will be able to join us. One of the special things we will be doing is sending the "Freedom Gavel" on the road around the state to commemorate the celebration. The "Freedom Gavel" was presented to the New Hampshire State Grange in 1974 in commemoration of the country's upcoming bicentennial.

NEW YORK

Submitted by State Master Stephen C. Coye

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way – in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only." So wrote Charles Dickens in his classic *Tale of Two Cities* in 1859, 160 years ago. I was struck with how this short paragraph has so many applications to us today in the society we live in, and the Grange we love and serve.

As this was the second year of our program cycle, and with the intensity of the National Session in the Northeast we did not embark on events of special significance such as regional meetings, or specific statewide conferences. We did however maintain our schedule of public venues consisting of farm shows, the State FFA Convention, and the State Fair. Each year we publish a "Special Edition" of our State Grange Newspaper which to my mind is an excellent informative and attractive publication, of which we distribute nearly 4,000 copies at our public events. Those are the best of times, as we are out there in front of the public educating the public about our organization. The worst of times manifests itself in relation to local Granges, who for the most part have little interest in having any kind of public event to educate their own local townspeople concerning our organization.

We witnessed the spring of hope as it looked as though we might actually achieve a membership gain this year, however the winter of despair overtook us with another year of loss.

Our season of light is embodied by our youth. Our Youth Team has done a fabulous job over the past five years, turning aimless (in relation to Grange) youth into dedicated Grangers, who are picking up the mantle of leadership in every level of the Grange in New York State. With light there is also darkness, as we continue to lose too many Granges whose ability to be the light of progress in their community has been extinguished.

Oliver Hudson Kelley & Co. sought to usher in the age of wisdom to rural America, and did so by developing a timeless body of knowledge that was grounded in agriculture, oozed wisdom from all its pores, and was taught and constantly reviewed in the mind and heart via ritualistic methodology; and today, especially where the above principles are neglected or even scorned, foolishness abounds.

This year it is New York's turn to host the Northeast Leaders Conference. We are striving to put together a conference for any Granger interested in moving their Grange forward that will educate, motivate, and equip them to do the job, regardless of their specific area of interest. Hopefully this will turn out to be the best of times, with no worst to follow.

NORTH CAROLINA

Submitted by State Master Jimmy Gentry

The NC State Grange continues to be heavily involved in the agriculture community in the state, but to do so means a lot of time spent traveling and participating in meetings. We currently operate with five full-time staff, one full-time contract staffer, and three part-time employees. While we have a great staff, it remains challenging to cover all of the bases that are represented in our legislative policy, but we give it our best shot. NC Grange also operates a Blue Cross Health Insurance program in addition to disability and life insurance products.

Our work also leads to service on a number of Boards. Some of these Boards include the Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation, 4-H Development Board, NC FFA Foundation, Agriculture and Forestry Commission, Tobacco Research Commission, NC Feed the Dialog, North Carolina A&T State University College of Agriculture Advisory Board, NC State University Plant Science Initiative Advisory Board, NC State Agricultural Leadership Development Program, Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Advisory Board, Ag, Dairy, and Tobacco Foundations at NC State University, among others. We are gratified that NC Grange has a level of respect within the state which places us in a position to do the work that we believe is important.

Through our community service program, we like to identify one charity each year to support. This year it was the Durham Rescue Mission. This is a large organization that serves in excess of 400 men, women and children. The Grange focus was to contribute socks and underwear to the Mission which was presented at our State Convention in September. The Director of the Mission was present to receive the contributed items and made comments to our members.

NC Grange also provided support for the North Carolina Highway Patrol Caisson Unit. This impressive unit utilizes draft horses and a caisson wagon for transporting caskets of notable people and law enforcement officers not

only in North Carolina, but also in the bordering states. In addition to providing financial support, NC Grange also initiated an effort in the General Assembly seeking to obtain funding for the unit. Currently the Caisson Unit operates with charitable and in-kind contributions.

With each long session of the General Assembly, an Ag Day is planned which brings hundreds of people into Raleigh to visit the General Assembly in support of agriculture. In addition, a program is conducted with speakers from the leadership of the General Assembly, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and this year included the Governor. NC Grange is one of the partners in planning this event along with the NC Department of Agriculture, NC Agribusiness Council, NC Farm Bureau, and NC State University.

A new Membership Director was appointed who is Katie Greene. Katie is enthusiastic and is developing ideas that may lead to new members. In addition, a new team was trained to work in the field in hopes of organizing new Granges.

NC Grange offers a great scholarship program to our young members who are attending a post-secondary institution. These scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each are renewable as long as the student is full-time and maintains a GPA of at least 2.8. Twenty-three Grange youth are currently included in this scholarship program.

A great youth/junior leadership camp was held at the Eastern 4-H Center. Approximately 125 youth and adult counselors were in attendance for a week of fun activities and leadership development opportunities. North Carolina youth also participated in the Southeast Regional Conference hosted by Tennessee. Furthermore, we are proud of Zac Mazag and Riley Furr who were named as National Ambassadors at the National Convention in 2018.

We are always excited when we learn of Grange members who are excelling. Dale Threat-Taylor from Capital Grange was appointed by the Governor to the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund. Dale directs the Soil & Water program in Wake County. Two of our members also serve in the NC General Assembly. Holly Grange (yes that is the correct name) serves in the NC House and is also running for Governor of the state. Jim Burgin who is one of our insurance agents serves in the NC Senate.

Our annual convention was a great event that included some well-received speakers. The speakers included Ray Stirling, former Agriculture Advisor to President Trump and former Chief of Staff at the US Department of Agriculture, and current attorney for the NC Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Richard Linton, Dean of the College of Agriculture at NC State University, and Zane Hedgecock, Chief of Staff at the NC Department of Agriculture. The event included resolution work, awards, fellowship, and our annual auction for the Disaster Relief Fund.

Each year in October, a huge event is held in Moultrie, Georgia called the Sunbelt Agriculture Expo. Partnering in the event are 10 southeastern states, including North Carolina. One of the states is highlighted each year and this year it was North Carolina. A building on the grounds is dedicated to the highlighted state, which is filled with displays from various agricultural entities. NC Grange partnered with the NC Department of Agriculture, NC A&T State University, NC State University, and NC Farm Bureau to plan for the event. The results were impressive displays both inside and outside the building that fit the theme "Mountains to the Sea".

We realize that our greatest strength lies in working together, both inside and outside the organization. The development of partnerships and coalitions, especially when working with legislation, is extremely important. Part of our work in North Carolina has been just that - building relationships so that we become stronger and more likely to succeed. It has often been stated in our state that when you work within the agriculture community, you work with a lot of good people. This helps to make our work more gratifying as we endeavor to make a difference in our state.

OKLAHOMA

Submitted by State Master Billy D. Shufeldt

Greetings from the Oklahoma State Grange. This year our State will be represented at the 153rd National Grange Convention with 10 members attending. Everyone is looking forward to coming to Minneapolis, MN and participating in the Convention activities. We truly hope this will be a great Convention and something to remember for years to come.

Oklahoma has one member coming to join in the Night of Excellence, Tamara Stoelzing, and she will be performing as a vocalist. Also, Junior Granger, Carlie Conrady will give her speech at the Junior's breakfast on Friday morning, and Melody Shufeldt will participate in the National Grange Youth quiz contest.

Oklahoma had a great year but the rain kept everything very soggy. Oklahoma State Grange had an increase of 154 members this year thanks to the hard work of our membership directors Jerry Taylor and Carl Shufeldt and all the Subordinate Oklahoma Granges that put in the work to have a gain in members.

This year's Degree Day was hosted by Prairie Grange # 334 on Saturday, April 6th, 2019 in El Reno, OK. We had a very good turn out with total of 51 people in attendance and had six new members take the conferral of the first four Degrees. The new members included; Cheri Baker, Donna Bennett and Ronnie Ramsey – Vinita # 360, Corey Harvick and Lynn Bailey Jr. – South Coffeyville # 351 and Tate Ward – Prairie # 334. We all had a great time and had some great food and fun.

Chaplain/Communication Director Yvonne Meritt and grandson Ryan Meritt attended the National Grange Legislative Fly-In 2019 in Washington, D.C. They both had a great time and they were able to meet Oklahoma Senator James Lankford while they were there.

I am happy to announce that we have awarded nine Oklahoma State Grange Scholarships for the Fall 2019 - Spring 2020 school year. The Scholarships were awarded to; Kennedy Webb, Katelyn Bailey, Ronald Smith and Ashley Harvick all of South Coffeyville # 351, Stephanie Nutter – Cherryvale # 221, Olivia Shufeldt and Tarez Willis – OU # 355, Jace Couch – Cabin Creek # 359 and Jason Foley – Bluejacket # 353.

The 2019, Great Plains Regional Conference hosted by the Texas State Grange in Waco TX on June, 14th - 16th was a great success. We had thirty-four Oklahoma State Grangers go to the conference. While we were there, Carlie Conrady won the Junior speech contest and Melody Shufeldt, Kennedy Webb and Hayden qualified to be part of the quiz bowl at National Grange Convention. I think everyone enjoyed all of the workshops and tours that Texas had planned for us. Thank you, Texas State Grange for being such great hosts.

This year was our 104th Oklahoma State Grange Convention held on the weekend of October 18th, 19th & 20th, 2019. We had 110 + Grangers in attendance in Claremore, Oklahoma. Our National Grange Representative this year was National Grange Exec. Comm. Secretary Lynette and husband Don Schaeffer. Lynette gave us a workshop on Friday afternoon and participated in the Sixth Degree on Saturday evening. Our other honored guests were Priest Archon of Assembly of Demeter and Kansas State Master Roger Bostwick and Kansas First Lady Melanie and also attending was National Youth Director Mandy Bostwick. They are always a great help to the Oklahoma State Grange.

The Oklahoma State Grange Youth Department had a fundraiser of their own again during State Session. They served at our Celebration Banquet, the Saturday luncheon and worked for tips and raised over \$3,200. Our Youth Department continues to grow and get stronger each year.

Thank you to our Youth Department for exemplifying the Fifth Degree on Saturday night. The Youth made us all proud to be part of this great Organization we call the Grange.

Thank you to Lynette Shaeffer for giving a wonderful workshop on Friday and exemplifying the Sixth Degrees as Master on Saturday night. She did a tremendous a job.

Deloris Walker received the Granger of the Year award during the Celebration Banquet and her daughter Marlo Barnhart was there to except the award in Deloris's place due to Deloris being in the hospital. Deloris has been our State Treasurer for several years. Unfortunately, Deloris Walker passed away on the evening of Oct. 26th, 2019; she will be missed.

Lena and I both are looking forward to seeing and visiting everyone at the National Grange Convention and wish you all well and safe travels.

OREGON

Submitted by State Master Susan Noah

Worthy National Master, officers and delegates. Mark and I bring you greetings from the Pacific Wonderland state of Oregon. Over this past year we have continued on with our face to face meetings at each Grange and this year with the theme of "Come Together at the Grange." Our message this year included items for each Grange to use in their community to promote and grow the organization. So far, we are not quite in a net gain position but after the 2nd quarter we are only down 51 members, so I have hopes that we will actually show a net gain by the end of the year. This is the third year we have committed visits to each Grange by our officers, program directors and their district chairs, and my directors and I have just finished a weekend retreat where we have agreed to another year of similar visits. We feel that the face to face connections help to increase awareness of the State Grange and the benefits offered by it and by the National Grange.

One of our major undertakings as a State Grange continues to be our booth at Ag-Fest. This weekend event held at our state fairgrounds highlights agriculture and affords many of the commodity groups and other agricultural non-profits a chance to engage the public. For many years, we have provided seedlings of tomatoes, peppers or marigolds for re-potting and to take home. Originally to acquaint children with the idea of growing their food, we now see children and adults returning who want to make sure they get their tomato plants for the summer, and being held the last weekend in April allows many kids to take home a Marigold for Mom for Mother's Day.

This year we also joined as a partner with RALI Oregon. They attended our trade show at our State Grange Convention and also made available to us the drug disposal pouches to hand out at our State Fair. As one of the first partners, I was invited to their official launch in Portland on October 1st where we joined with the Dairy Women of Oregon, the Oregon Farm Bureau and the Building and Construction Trades to kickoff Oregon's participation in this nation-wide program. I am looking forward to our continued partnership in the work to fight the opioid epidemic.

Our state convention this year was held in Molalla, a beautiful rural community just a short distance from Portland. Our National representatives were High Priest Bruce Croucher and his wife Sharon. They were a great addition to the week, and our members especially enjoyed a chance to look over the "Sacred Record" that Bruce was thoughtful enough to bring. I hope they enjoyed visiting Oregon as much as we enjoyed them.

Other highlights of the week included our "Come Together at the Grange" celebration, where the Juniors stepped up and served ice cream to everyone and we all had the chance to become a "Moo-ster Booster." The tips they received from serving the ice cream turned into their donation to the Grange Foundation in support of the Kelley Farm. Earlier in the week they had visited a small boutique dairy farm and during the week as part of their session they continued with their dairy awareness project, including a craft project that they put into the auction to benefit the

junior program. Being someone who loves a good auction, I just had to have the great cow picture be made out of wooden beads. It now has a place of prominence at the State Grange office.

In place of many overlapping conferences at the convention by our various committees, we have tried out a "trade show" format allowing our members a couple of hours to visit with each of the directors and receive some highlights on their programs. This year we added *RALI Oregon* and *Ag in the Classroom* groups to our own committees, and hope to grow even more next year. This has freed up time at the convention for us to try new things. This year the youth challenged the "older youth" to a game of Grange baseball, the new National program that replaced Grange Jeopardy. It was a spirited competition but I think we all needed a refresher course on Grange knowledge!

Several of the youth that competed also placed on the Western Regional team that will travel to National and my congratulations go out to Riley Reynolds and Lexie Suing. Oregon had a small group at Western Regional in Montana this year, but those of us that did attend had a great time and our thanks to the Montana members for their hospitality.

August was a month of criss-crossing our state for district meetings and help with a GROW club ice cream social helped our Grange finally land in Salem for the State Fair. Our state fair starts toward the end of August and finishes up on Labor Day. The Oregon State Grange has a log cabin display on the premises and our volunteers spend the 11 days of the fair promoting the Grange. This year we had 95 individuals talking to several thousand fairgoers highlighting the activities of our 165 Granges. Our cabin is in a fairly quiet area of the fair, a place where parents can bring the kids for Corn Hole, Giant Jenga or just old-fashioned coloring. Add apples for a healthy snack and conversation and you have a Grange!

The first weekend of October, I hosted a weekend retreat for our program Directors and Communication team. We rent a large house with everyone taking part and exchanging ideas. This next year we plan to again build on the "Come Together at the Grange" theme and continue on with visits to each Grange, this time with the emphasis on encouraging delegates to the State convention. Generally, everyone feels that attending our state convention really raises awareness of the entire Grange organization and sends all of us home with renewed commitment to making our own Granges a thriving and positive piece of the community.

Mark and I also had the privilege of representing the National Grange at the California State Grange session. It was a great experience and I could not be more hopeful about our organization when I know what they have gone through and still have such a positive attitude and so much to offer. Brother Kent and Sister Lone had visited with us in Oregon for a few days during our session, so we both had a chance to experience and to learn from each other, and that's the Grange Way.

Mark and I wish to thank the host region for all their work in planning for this convention and for their hospitality this week. We would also like to thank the National Grange staff for their work and help throughout the year. Mark was especially honored to be a part of the 7th degree cast, and is looking forward to fulfilling the role again this year, and I was very honored to be voted in as a member of the National Grange Executive Committee at the last convention. It has been a wonderful experience and I have hopefully contributed something useful and I have certainly gained from the experience. All in all, it has been a wonderful year and as we look toward the holidays and to 2020 let us all remember our motto, "In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials, Liberty and in all things Charity."

PENNSYLVANIA

Submitted by State Master Wayne D. Campbell

National Worthy Master, fellow Delegates and guests to the 153rd Annual Session of the National Grange. It is with great pleasure that I am here representing Pennsylvania, the Keystone State.

Pennsylvania was able to add 320 new members in the past year. This is an increase over previous years but we have a long way to go. We continue to look for new ways to promote the Grange and to find new benefits.

The Pennsylvania State Grange has been very active in the past year legislatively. The following is a recap of our legislative work:

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION and CAREERS

The Pennsylvania State Grange continues to lobby for support of agricultural education and agricultural careers. Two specific items are making sure that the PA Department of Education supports the new Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence and that any legislation creating inter-agency job-finding resources have the PA Department of Agriculture as a formal member.

BROADBAND: Cell Phone and Internet Access

This is the top legislative priority of the Pennsylvania State Grange. I testified before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committees to remind legislators that this is critical to rural Pennsylvania, in educating our children, farmers being able to be more efficient in agricultural production, and promoting economic growth by giving prospective employers the technology they need. Pennsylvania State Grange testified repeatedly before legislative committees urging that this be a top state priority.

Internet medical care (Telemedicine) is crucial to rural residents who live farther away from medical facilities and doctors. Telemedicine allows the health care provider to, through the Internet, monitor someone's condition, observe symptoms, and direct treatment. Pennsylvania State Grange supports Telemedicine bills. However, Broadband access is essential before Telemedicine will work.

Some of the specific items on which we lobby are: continued support of land line telephones in rural areas that do not have access to cell phones or the Internet. "Piggybacking" on existing state resources such as towers (HB 305); Broadband as a line item in the State Budget and continued support of the Governor's Office and state agency efforts to expand Broadband; lobbying for legislation standardizing "small facilities" installation which expands access in smaller areas; setting up a firewall to prevent monies for Broadband being redirected to other purposes; and urging Federal support of universal access to Broadband in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania State Grange also actively supported Senate Resolution 47 which established a legislative commission to help the General Assembly remain focused on Broadband. The Pennsylvania State Grange is on the Broadband Advisory Committee created by Senate Resolution 47. We are the only non-telecom group that was appointed to the Committee.

The Pennsylvania State Grange hosts an annual program at the Farm Show to make the Broadband issue more visible to the general public.

DAIRY

Pennsylvania State Grange focuses on increasing demand for fluid milk as our approach to helping dairy farmers. In particular, we advocate that whole milk be served in school meal programs and that products which are not truly milk be prevented from using the word "milk" to identify their product.

We have repeatedly testified before the PA Milk Marketing Board and have urged policymakers to look at what other states are doing to help dairy farmers. Pennsylvania State Grange is a strong supporter for the Center for Dairy Excellence and their efforts to strengthen processing of dairy products in the Commonwealth. The Pennsylvania State Grange is a member of the new Dairy Future Commission established by Act 66 of 2019.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Pennsylvania State Grange works with the PA Department of Agriculture to help farmers understand the importance of risk management. Risk management includes food safety, Crop Insurance, conservation practices and more. We work with like-minded groups like the PA State Council of Farm Organizations to further this goal.

HUNGER

Pennsylvania State Grange works with other agricultural groups to increase funding for the PA Agricultural Surplus System (PASS) in the State Budget. PASS integrates fresh farm products with food banks' distribution to give the needy a better selection of healthier foods.

JUDICIAL (TORT) REFORM

Pennsylvania State Grange supports legislation that streamlines our judicial system by enacting legislation designed to reduce the potential for frivolous lawsuits to be filed. One of these bills (HB 1348) provides civil liability immunity for farmers who wish to engage in agri-tourism or agri-entertainment. An urgent need for many farmers and particularly dairy farmers is to diversify income. Agri-tourism and agri-entertainment are promising but the fear of frivolous lawsuits holds them back.

MARCELLUS SHALE ROYALTIES

Pennsylvania State Grange encourages adoption of legislation to make sure property owners receive the full Marcellus Shale Gas royalties that are owed them per state law. We have allied ourselves with the PA Royalty Owners Association to further this goal.

PROPERTY TAXES

A targeted property tax issue on which the Pennsylvania State Grange is working is legislation that would exempt Grange Halls over 100 years old from property taxes (HB 1478).

STATE BUDGET

PA State Grange is heartened to see a real interest in adequately funding many Agricultural programs in the 2019-20 State Budget. We are tenacious advocates for full funding of PDA programs as well as for Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences Research and Extension as well as the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. We try to make sure that other programs such as conservation, County Fairs, farmland preservation, etc. are protected from the budget knife. Along with the National Grange, we support efforts to secure adequate funding for USDA and its programs.

Debbie and I were only able to spend a small amount of time at both Youth and Junior camps this year. I believe Pennsylvania has among the best Youth and Junior departments in the Nation. These are not the Grangers of tomorrow; they are the Grangers of today. We need to promote and support these programs now and into the future. This year Junior Camp held a very special meaning for Debbie and I as our Grandson, Bryce Danko, earned the title of Pennsylvania State Grange Junior Prince. Bryce will be competing at National Grange for the title of National Junior Grange Ambassador.

The 147th annual session of the Pennsylvania State Grange was held in State College PA. It was a wonderful time of fun, fellowship, and developing policy for our future. We reiterated our support of the dairy industry and again encouraged that only milk from mammals should be allowed to use the term milk.

The Youth, Young Adults, Juniors, Family Activities and Lecturer's Departments displayed their many projects that were made during the year. Many participated in the sign-a-song and public speaking contests. It's amazing the talented speakers we are blessed with in this organization.

We concluded our convention with our All Grangers Banquet. Lurae Benzio presented the speech she will use to represent Pennsylvania at the National Convention during The Night of Excellence program. It was a very funny and moving speech entitled, "Music Moves My Soul". Congressman GT Thompson delivered a very interesting presentation on dairy and agriculture today. We had the pleasure of hearing from Dr. Brent Hales who has just been named to the position of Associate Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences and Director of Penn State Extension.

Matthew Espenshade of Lancaster County was honored as our Granger of the Year. Matt is a very active and dedicated Granger, not only to the Grange, but to his local community. Matt has helped many local FFA members by allowing them to complete their projects on his farm. Matt is a very recognized individual in his area and he is always promoting Pennsylvania Agriculture, particularly dairy, when he has the chance. Matt is very quick to use the phrase, "I'd be delighted!".

Debbie and I have travelled thousands of miles this past year supporting and promoting the work of the Grange. We have been received by Grangers statewide with open arms. We truly are a Fraternal Organization!

It's the Grange Way!!

RHODE ISLAND

Submitted by State Master Eileen Hebert

Greetings from Little Rhody!

It is my honor to report the activities of the Granges of Rhode Island for the year 2018-2019.

In November, department directors presented their programs for the year at the annual statewide meeting.

All of our directors have kept us busy with excellent programs and events. Joyce Bastien, Agriculture Director, planned ag events and contests for birdhouses, scarecrows, and compost kits. Due to an unfortunate date conflict on the part of the state of Rhode Island, the annual Ag Day at the State House did not take place. This was an opportunity lost for all of the agricultural groups in the state to promote their products, and agriculture in general. We hope to see it held again in 2020.

Our Community Service Director, Marie Robidoux, continues to promote community service throughout the state. She also urged Granges to recognize and honor outstanding law enforcement individuals, fire fighters, and teachers in their communities. She held three fund raising nights at Papa Gino's at different locations around the state to raise money for the Words for Thirds Project. Granges throughout the state donated approximately 2000 dictionaries to schools.

The Deaf and Health Department, under the direction of Jennifer Lawson, continues to support the R.I. School for the Deaf with donations of "Box Top" coupons worth ten cents each. Donations from various Granges help to support the school's "Project Close-Up" project. In May, Jen hosted a lecture on "Overcoming Stress" given by Dr. Cynthia Lawson Whitaker, which was very informative and well received.

Women's Activities, under the direction of Kathy Stedman, sponsored a Women's Activities Day in May, which included judging baking contest entries, making items for Big E, and packing personal items in ditty-bags for New England Seafarer's Mission. They also collected pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Providence as well as items for the house and monetary donations. They also collected items for other groups such as nursing homes, hospitals and veterans.

For the Information department, whenever something is happening in the Grange, Howard Paster is there – gathering publicity information and taking photos. He works persistently to get Grange news into local newspapers, which can be a challenging task at times.

Our State Lecturer, Danielle Hartley, provided us with a family game night, a movie night, Rummikub tournament and the popular "My Favorite Anything" contest, which was enjoyed by all. The Northeast Lecturers' conference was held in August after a year's hiatus. As Danielle could not get time out of work, I attended the conference in her place to represent Rhode Island. This was an outstanding conference in a new venue and new format, including a tour relating to the "Down on the Farm" theme.

In March, Junior Activities Day was well attended by many Grangers, family members and friends. Juniors visited stations set up by Junior Director Judi White, to learn about Ireland, and about each of the departments in the state Grange and what they have to offer to the Juniors.

Youth chairman Joyce Chase planned a busy year for youth in the state. However, some events had to be canceled due to weather or lack of participation. Bean Bag Baseball was again the popular event of the year with 5 teams participating.

Teams from the four Pomona Granges conferred the degrees at Degree Day in April. In contrast to last year's sparse turnout, we had 32 individuals who attended for degrees. While only 6 were actually joining the Grange by

degree conferral, it was extremely encouraging that 26 members, who had been previously obligated, took the time to witness the degrees. Several of them expressed how much they enjoyed the degree work, so this was definitely a positive outcome. The State Grange also gave a year subscription to the National Grange publication, "Good Day!" to these 32 members. We hope that they will enjoy the magazine and that it will help broaden their perspective of the Grange beyond their local chapter.

Washington County Fair, owned and operated by Washington County Pomona Grange, celebrated its 53rd year of operation in August. The State Grange runs a food booth selling corndogs, which is a major source of income, largely through the efforts of Walter "Mr. Corndog" Hartley and his wife Danielle. A tremendous thank you to both of them for their work. Again, this year, the food booths and the carnival concessions solicited donations for the Hasbro Children's Hospital, which resulted in over \$30,000 being collected. The State Grange corndog booth collected the highest amount of money towards this donation.

One of our youth grangers, Ava Grenier-Riley, was selected by the National Grange to attend CADCA training in Texas.

The RISG executive committee undertook a complete review of the bylaws of the Rhode Island State Grange, which was last completed in 2005. Many of the additions and changes were made to conform to existing National Grange bylaws. The RISG Foundation trustees also reviewed the bylaws of the foundation. Both sets of revised bylaws were presented to the annual State Grange session in September, and adopted at that time.

Loss of members to death is always a sad event, especially when they are members who have contributed a lifetime of service to the Grange. This year we lost Past State Master Milton I. Spencer, Jr. Milt had been a Grange member for over 50 years, and a founding member of the Washington County Fair.

This year, we had to close another Grange, which is never a pleasant task. This Grange had been inactive for several years and without any cooperation from the master, it was an inevitable decision. Despite this setback, I am optimistic about the future of the Grange in Rhode Island. Several Granges in the state are thriving. Some are struggling and a couple have significant problems, which we will be addressing during the upcoming year. However, some Granges have made remarkable progress from the verge of closure.

I would like to thank the members in Rhode Island for all of their support during the year. And yes, let's do it again new year.

TENNESSEE

Submitted by State Master Judy Sherrod

Greetings from the Volunteer State. We just completed our 111th annual state convention held in upper East Tennessee in Greene County, hosted by Wesley's Chapel Grange, the oldest Grange in the state. All meetings, contest judging, displays, and most meals were held at the hall. The Grange in Tennessee is older than 111 years. There were Granges in Tennessee as early as 1870, being organized in 1873, but declined in membership around the turn of the century, but was re-organized in 1934. Although today we are one of the smallest Grange states, we continue to focus on service to our communities.

This past year, there was good participation in the Community Service contest with 4 of 6 community Granges sending in reports. We again had excellent participation in the contests sponsored by the Lecturer, Family Activities and Juniors. Several Granges delivered aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House to the state meeting. This was not a typical year for our State Grange because there were no grange members that passed away, and no candidates for the Sixth Degree, but we walked through the degree as a reminder of that beautiful degree, lest we forget. Our resolutions this year were regarding issues in our State.

During the year, I traveled with my two granddaughters to the Mid Atlantic Lecturer's Conference hosted by Pennsylvania in Gettysburg. It was a wonderful conference with lots of choices for workshops. In June, the Southeastern States Regional Youth/Junior Conference was hosted by Tennessee and held in Knoxville, hosting attendees from Tennessee, Virginia, Florida, and North Carolina.

This next year promises again to be a challenge as we work to grow membership in our State.

We spent time at the state convention talking about the necessity for organizing a new Grange or two in our state. While we realize the challenges ahead, I am encouraged by members across the state who have voiced commitments to make the Tennessee State Grange the best it can be.

TEXAS

Submitted by State Master Karen Overstreet

Worthy National Master, National Officers, Delegates, Members and Guests of the 153rd National Grange Convention: Greetings from the great state of Texas!

As the theme for the National Grange this year has been "Superheroes", Buddy and I have visited Granges and community activities across Texas recognizing 'superheroes' for the various acts and gifts they have. We have many superheroes throughout our Granges in Texas that are constantly showing their powers by the many community service projects that are sponsored each year. These superheroes have been mentioned in our quarterly newsletters.

As I visit the subordinate Granges, I not only get to hear about all their wonderful projects they are working on, but also witness the Granges setting up the hall, draping the charter, presenting the flag, conducting elections, mentoring youth and juniors, installing new officers, and initiating new members. Texas Grangers have it going on!! I love seeing the variety of community service projects that are being sponsored by our Granges. Some include: organizing benefits and bake sales, presenting scholarships, donating dictionaries to local schools, donating items to nursing homes, SAM's shelter, churches, hospitals, honoring Veterans, serving soldiers a Thanksgiving meal and providing opportunities for these soldiers to FaceTime their families are all making a difference in our communities.

We have leaders constantly in motion. In March, the Texas State Grange had its annual Leadership Workshop. Information regarding secretarial responsibilities, Family Activities and Lecturers updates, Community Service and Membership ideas were shared with all. This also allowed me to share the information I received in February at the State Masters' Conference in Wichita, Kansas. I was also able to gather the information that Brother Joe Stefenoni, the National Membership Chairman, had shared with several Texas Grangers and me. I was very encouraged by seeing some of our new members attending the Great Plains Regional Conference which was held in Waco, Texas. Many of our youth also participated in our 85th Annual Session of the Texas State Grange which was held in Helotes, Texas.

I am excited about the future of the Texas State Grange! Thank you to all the members of the Midwest Region for hosting this wonderful National Session.

VERMONT

Submitted by State Master Joe Goodrich

Worthy National Master, National Officers, and fellow Delegates; greetings from the Vermont State Grange and The Green Mountains. (Yes, I did say green. The snow did leave us.)

Since you were all here last year, we've had our wins as well as our losses. In the win column, it appears that once again we are making headway in the Northeast Kingdom with membership slowly on the increase. Just this Fall, Maple Valley #450 was on the verge of voting to close their Grange. Many of their members had moved and the future looked bleak. When they met to hold their vote, it seems some prospective members showed interest in joining. This of course inspired their current membership who then reconsidered closing and voted to stay in the Grange family instead. Also, Caledonia #9 brought in new members who seem to want to learn traditional Grange ritual work. This gives me hope that something that I have cherished for many years will live on a while longer.

Unfortunately, we have had some of our dear members graduate to the Great Grange Above. Amongst their number was Brother Harold Bergeron. Just last year I had the honor of placing flowers on the altar for his dear departed wife, Mary. As much as we wish he was still with us, I'm sure Mary was ready for him to come home.

In Vermont we have property called The Vermont Grange Center. It is a camp that the Vermont State Grange purchased many years ago. It consists of four double cabins, an old mansion, a nurse's cabin and a meeting hall with a stage on one end and a commercial kitchen on the other. This year we held a Family Camp, Junior Camp, Fall Festival and for the first time in quite a few years, a mini Youth Camp. In fact, in 2020, Vermont will be welcoming the Northeast Youth Conference to our Grange Center. We look forward to it.

We look forward to the opportunities and challenges in the coming year. With a little luck, we'll increase membership thus increasing the influence of the Order.

WASHINGTON

Submitted by State Master Tom Gwin

Greetings from the Evergreen State of Washington! It is indeed a pleasure to represent our beautiful and diversified state at the 153rd Annual Session of the National Grange.

We chose the theme "Grange Heroes: Providing Opportunities for Success" to represent our year. Throughout the year, we worked to develop growth in our Grange activities, the number of active Granges, and membership development. We held 18 leadership conferences across the state in the late winter and early spring, working to increase communication, develop leadership skills, promote our Grange programs, and receive feedback as to the direction we were heading as an organization. I was joined at these conferences by our Lecturer, Secretary and department heads (Family Living, Membership, Community Service, Juniors, and Youth) to assist in sharing information with our Grangers and to receive feedback to improve our programming.

We held our 130th Annual Session in June at the Okanogan County Fairgrounds in Okanogan. There were over 200 delegates attending the session in this agriculturally diverse county. Our delegates endured both the sun and the rain as they considered over 50 resolutions and nine standing committee reports. They also revised our legislative policy book. Our state Grange contests culminated at the session, with large displays of our members' work. We had a large group of youth and Junior Grangers in attendance. We are looking forward to the 2020 session as we return to Walla Walla for the first time since 1956.

The Washington State Grange is proud of our recognition as a Distinguished State Grange for the eighth consecutive year. We are also proud of our Distinguished Subordinate Granges: Goldendale #49, Oakview #311, and Five Mile Prairie #905. In addition, over 60 of our Granges participated in the "Grange in Action" program. We

collected the Grange in Action posters in advance and used them to make an attractive display at the Washington State Fair in September.

Our Grange departments are continuing to thrive. Our State Grange Youth Department continues to develop leaders for our organization. The youth department will have seven representatives at this year's national session. The youth-sponsored Keep WA Warm project included the collection of over 1500 stocking caps, mittens, gloves, and socks that were distributed to service programs in Central Washington.

The Junior Grange Programs are gaining strength. Over 450 Junior Grangers attended one of our six JG camps this summer, with the assistance of 90 youth counselors and 80 adult staff members. The State Grange Executive Committee adopted a "Child Protection" policy. An extensive background check is required of all volunteers in our youth and Junior Grange programs. The positive memories created in our Junior Granges and the Grange camping program are sure to benefit the organization for years to come. Junior Grangers, across our state, collected new and gently used children's books for various reading programs. Nearly 500 books were collected this year. The 1+ Junior Program continues to grow as well. Our total Junior Grange membership, including the 1+ members is nearing 800 members!

Legislative activities continue to remain a priority for the Washington State Grange. Our legislative day was held in January. More than 40 Grangers from across the state came to our headquarters building for a day of speakers and workshops. We facilitated tours of the capitol building and made appointments for our members to meet with their legislators. Our 2020 Legislative Day will be January 29. The State Grange Legislative Committee determined our legislative priorities, while our lobbyist carries out the goals and objectives set forth by the legislative committee and the State Grange Executive Committee. Our State Grange's Legislative Priorities for 2020 are:

- We favor retention of the Columbia and Snake River Dams as an integral part of our transportation infrastructure. These hydroelectric power producing dams provide clean energy, recreational opportunities and assist in managing flood control.
- We oppose a carbon emissions tax.
- We oppose road use charges (per mile tax) on motor vehicles in the State of Washington.
- We believe a capital gains tax is a form of income tax as defined by the Internal Revenue Service. The Washington State Constitution prohibits an income tax; therefore, we oppose a capital gains tax.
- To spur economic development, we support increased funding for the expansion of broadband capabilities across the state.
- Maintaining access to water is essential to our rural communities, therefore we encourage the Joint Legislative Task Force on Water Supply and the Joint Legislative *Task Force on Water Resource Mitigation* to complete their work addressing rural water issues created by the Hirst decision.

The educational arm of the state organization, the Washington State Grange Foundation, experienced tremendous support this year. We returned that generosity by awarding 24 college scholarships, ranging from \$750 to \$1000 each, to Grange members and children of Grange members.

We tried increasing our social events for the State Grange this year. Our Grange Travel Adventure Program started with a bus trip to the Leavenworth Christmas Lighting Festival in December and Grange Day with the Seattle Mariners in June. We will continue with another bus trip in the spring of 2020 and we will have another day with the Seattle Mariners next season.

We will continue to work to "Provide Opportunities for Success" through the upcoming year. We are making progress with a stabilized membership, but we haven't quite reached the point of membership growth. Throughout the State of Washington, we are working to revitalize Granges and experiencing a resurgence of Grange activity. Granges and Grangers are working together to make their communities stronger. Our leadership team will continue to provide a diversified program and a wide range of tools that will allow our Granges to flourish in their communities.

Best wishes for a successful convention. We hope for an exciting year of progress for all Granges across the nation!

WEST VIRGINIA

Submitted by State Master Jim Foster

The West Virginia Grange closed out our 148th state meeting finding ourselves in the continued loss of membership. While we gain a few, we lose a few mainly to death. Last year we offered a membership incentive program. This project would have given each Grange \$10 for each new member they received and if they acquired at least five members they would receive an additional \$50. Sadly, not a single Grange received the incentive. As a State Master, I am at the end of the road so to speak in efforts to increase membership.

One of our big problems is leadership. Most of our Grange Masters are in office because no one will accept the job. This trickles on down to all officers. I know this type of problem exists in other organizations; the question is "how do we resolve it?"

We have been working for two years trying to reinstate a subordinate charter with no results. We keep getting the same feedback that we are going to have a public meeting to get members. This has not happened.

On a positive note, our annual session saw an increase in exhibits from our subordinate Granges. All Granges also reported an increased involvement in local communities. Hopefully this involvement will result in new members. Looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones in Minnesota.

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Fees

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Sixth Degree Fees - \$442.00
Golden Sheaf Certificates Fees - \$3,426.00
Silver Star Certificates Fees - \$850.00
75 year Award Certificates - \$798.00
100 year Grange Hall Certificates Fees - \$60.00
125 Year Grange Hall Certificates Fees - \$40.00

Membership Recognition

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

6th Degree Certificates: 177
Golden Sheaf Certificates: 339
Silver Star Certificates: 340
40 year seals: 280
55 year seals: 192
60 year seals: 171
65 year seals: 181
70 year seals: 166
75 year award certificates: 79
80 year letters: 17
85 year letters: 7
100 year Grange Hall Certificates: 6
125 year Grange Hall Certificates: 4

MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

November 11 - 12, 2018

*152nd National Grange Convention
Stoweflake Resort & Spa
Stowe, VT*

National Grange Executive Committee met at the 152nd National Grange Session, Stowe, Vermont, Sunday Nov. 11, 2018. After dinner with spouses and staff the Executive Committee met. In attendance Betsy Huber, Master, Phil Prelli, Overseer Leroy Watson, Chair, Lynette Schaeffer, Secretary, Duane Scott and Steve Coyle, Members. Meeting called to order by Chairman Leroy Watson at 8 p.m. Eastern. Phil led the prayer for the meal and deliberations. The proposed agenda was accepted.

The minutes of the August 20-21, 2018 meeting were adopted as distributed by motion of Phil, second by Duane and carried. The minutes of the October 8, 2018 Zoom meeting were adopted as distributed by motion of Betsy, second by Lynette and carried.

Motion by Phil to go into Executive Session for discussion of legal, State Grange and personnel issues, second by Steve and carried.

Motion by Phil, second by Steve to go out of Executive Session at 9:20 p.m., carried.

Building issues were discussed. There is minimum heat in the building, just the common areas. Contractor has not given a bid to reconnect the two existing boilers. We need to put pressure on the engineer to get the project completed. Betsy is still working on the estimate for the whole building engineering study. The elevator inspection and fire alarm system testing dates have been set. The pumps that were stolen, according to *Keepin' it Cool*, insurance has offered only \$3,230; our agent is looking into this.

Building issues – Sixth floor tenant is leaving January 31. The space is being shown at this time. The space will not need many renovations, paint and carpet shampoo.

Review of the staff reports. Stewart Hughes will be available for our call around 11 a.m. Eastern tomorrow morning to discuss the budget. Good Day subscriptions need to increase. Discussion of who of the National Officers and State Masters who have not gotten a subscription. Discussion of e-membership and what all might be included in the 'package' for e-membership. The purchase of new laptops was discussed.

The meeting was called to recess at 10:50 p.m. Eastern, and will reconvene at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow, Monday Nov. 12 morning.

8:30 a.m. Master Betsy mentioned that Ed Kowski, Master CA State Grange had open heart surgery in Burlington, VT overnight. Phil led the prayer.

Stewart joined the discussion via phone. Budget was the topic of the day and was reviewed and discussed until the recess called for lunch with the new Masters/Delegates.

At 1:45 p.m. discussion was held about what debt to pay off with the loan from Eagle Bank. The consensus of the group was to have a membership director position filled this year.

Motion by Phil, second by Steve to adopt the modified budget. Carried.

Discussion on dividing the conference room and renting out office space. Leroy requested a report of tenant usage of the conference room and outside rentals.

We have been offered by American Senior Benefits a special Grange AARP United Healthcare Medicare Supplement plan for Grange members only, but birthdates for all the members are needed to close the deal. ASB representatives will be at session Tuesday evening for the Friendship dinner which they are sponsoring. Meeting recessed at 3:40pm to prepare for the meeting with the Delegates.

November 16, 2018

*152nd National Grange Convention
Stoweflake Resort & Spa
Stowe, VT*

Meeting called to order at 4:37 p.m. Eastern.

Betsy reported that Stewart was able to talk with the contractor and the contractor has given Stewart an estimated start to work on the boiler.

Phil made a motion to have the Master continue to have work done to hookup boiler even though the cost is greater than we thought, and Engineer needs to work with them and benchmark the process. Second by Steve and carried.

The Executive Committee extended a hearty welcome to Susan Noah, Oregon, who has joined the Committee. And thanks were expressed to Duane Scott for his work on the committee. Susan stated that she considered it an honor and privilege to serve on the National Grange Executive Committee.

Election of officers for the Chairman of the Executive Committee was held, and Leroy was elected Chair and Lynette as Secretary. Both accepted the positions.

The Grange Advocacy Board – three members of the Executive Committee also serve on the Board. Those serving now are Betsy, Phil and Leroy.

Steve made motion to keep the same representation on the Grange Advocacy Board, Lynette second and carried.

Master's Conference will be the next in person meeting, in Wichita, Kansas, starting Thursday of President's Day weekend Feb. 14-15, 2019. Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

February 14-15, 2019

Master's Conference

Wichita, Kansas

The National Grange Executive Committee met prior at the Master's/President's Conference in Wichita, Kansas, Thursday February 14 & 15, 2019. In attendance Betsy Huber, Master, Phil Prelli, Overseer, Lynette Schaeffer, Secretary, Susan Noah and Steve Coyle, Members. Meeting called to order by Chairman Leroy Watson via phone at 7:30 pm CT. Betsy led the prayer for the deliberations.

The proposed agenda was accepted, with additions to new business: the 401K information that Leroy sent via email, and the Grange Road Neighbors email from Emalee Colver. Junior, Youth and Membership Directors will report in person tomorrow.

The minutes of the November 11 and 16, 2018 meetings were adopted as distributed by motion of Phil, second by Lynette and carried.

Motion by Phil to go into Executive Session for discussion of legal matters and personnel issues, second by Steve and carried.

Lynette made motion to go out of Executive Session, Betsy second at 9:35 p.m. Central.

We reviewed the IT report from Stephanie Wilkins. The report reviewed the comments of those who returned the questionnaire on the SharePoint usage at the 152nd National Session. The Executive Committee needs to write a report for the delegates on the ongoing plan, what has been completed and recommendations.

Sales report from Loretta Washington was discussed. Betsy used the new Lenovo computer benefit and was pleased.

Discussion on the membership database. Susan is concerned that the current database is not usable for the states. Oregon is willing to pay Blue Tahiti to improve the package to make it more usable for Oregon. Efforts are ongoing.

Recess called at 10:15 p.m. Central until 8:30 a.m. tomorrow morning, Feb. 15, 2019.

Leroy again joined via phone. Steve led the prayer to start the meeting at 8:45 a.m. Feb. 15, 2019. Controller, Stewart Hughes, joined the group via phone. There was discussion about assessment payments to the National Grange, timing and billing. Question about the \$93K California dues advance payment, Stewart is including an estimated amount in income because we have not received quarterly report data from State Secretary Lillian Booth because of their house fire. Discussion with Stewart Hughes about items included on the reports which should not be there; discussion about transparency and making the 'reporting' more understandable for the 'accounting challenged.' Stewart left the call.

Discussion about the roof and elevators (refurbished 15 years ago, need again). The engineer said that some electrical details need to be finished for the new chiller. The two old boilers are working and the new one is not yet connected to the system. At this time usually only needed one boiler, second if really cold.

Discussion of Grange Foundation.

Motion by Steve second by Betsy to give authorization for the National Grange office staff to include the Grange Foundation brochure on bequests in the mailings for the 50 plus recognition awards. Carried.

NG office staff and Betsy have decided to pull the plug on Grange Radio. More money is needed to make a 'go' of it but there are very few listeners. There is an expense \$80 each month. It was decided that content created will be used as podcasts rather than radio broadcasts. It was decided that Grange Radio will be phased out after an article in the Patron's Chain letting everyone know.

Communications Director, Amanda Brozana Rios entered the meeting. She discussed Grange Social Media. Good Day! magazine - an email has been sent to the State Masters with the listing of the subscribers and subscription status. Discussion on digital subscriptions vs. hard copy and the renewal notices being sent with the magazine and that might not go to the person who subscribed (as in gifts or libraries). Amanda left the room.

Legislative Director's (Burton Eller) report was reviewed. Discussion on Youth Team Ag Day and Fly-In.

Leroy left the call.

Recess for lunch.

Leroy reconvened the meeting via the phone at 1:45 pm.

Membership Director, Joe Stefenoni entered the meeting. Nevada is doing well with one new Grange and several more forming. Rick Gobel is the appointed deputy for Nevada. There has been discussion of establishing a State Grange but this will not be rushed. There is a new Grange in California. Joe is working with interested persons in Louisiana and Florida. Joe is working on 'How to' guides, updating documents and PowerPoints on the NG Website, revising the New Grange resources, and the regional membership assistants plan. Discussion about the

Charter applications and fees and new Grange kit. The \$25 fee is not enough to cover the expenses. He needs support from all - all need to buy in. Joe left the room.

Junior Director, Samantha Wilkins entered the room. Discussion about the Safe Gatherings. Child Protection policies from States were sent to her and she provided copies to the board. Samantha is reviewing the policies and drafting a National Grange policy. In her conversations with Safe Gatherings usually the more general the policy the better, do not be too specific. Samantha volunteered to have a rough draft of the NG Child Protection policy to NG Executive Committee by March 15. The NG EC will then hold a zoom conference to discuss the draft. The draft will then go to the lawyer for review and would hopefully be ready for May distribution as stated at the past National Session. The passport program, there has been a delay in getting them posted on the website. Samantha will be having a monthly Zoom date for Juniors.

Samantha left the room.

Youth/Young Adults Director, Mandy Bostwick entered the room. She has been working with the State Directors to see what they want/need, to build a close connection with them. Working to balance programs for all ages of youth. She will be working on Snap Chat and incorporating more social media for the youth/young adults' members. Mandy will be completely revamping the Jeopardy and Trivia programs. She wants to include time at Session for the Youth Officer Corps to spend time with the corresponding National Grange Officer. This idea was well received by the NG EC, and possibly having a 15-20 minutes meet and greet for the matching officers (National Grange and Youth/Young Adult). Mandy will be putting the Super Star awards on hold and she will be asking the attendees this weekend for input on this program. Mandy will be holding monthly Zoom calls starting in March, the first one will be for the state directors. After that they will be open to anyone interested. Mandy left the room.

Unfinished business

Future Conventions-- 2019 National Convention, regional committee will be holding an onsite meeting in May, Betsy will be attending. They are holding monthly Zoom calls.

2020 National Convention, Betsy will be visiting the hotel about the Seventh Degree arrangements.

2021 Wichita hotel – Betsy visited yesterday and found it very nice. The convention center is part of the same complex so members do not need to go outside to move between hotel and convention center. She will be reviewing the contract.

2022 Betsy will meet this weekend with the Western Region Masters for their input on location.

The minutes of the 4th day of the 2018 National Grange Session minutes were approved via motion of Betsy and second of Steve. Carried.

Discussion of the NG headquarters conference room, installing a wall and renting the front part of the current room as office space. A report was distributed on the conference room usage. If the room is smaller, we would have to rent a facility for the Fly-In. It was suggested that when tenant agreements are renewed the conference room use could be limited. Discussion on the need for remodeling the room and kitchen.

New business

National Grange Database. Susan asked for the ability to sort names/addresses to create rosters and mailings. She will be contacting Stephanie to work with Blue Tahiti. Stephanie is to make the database a priority and more usable for the states. A survey could be created to gather what the states want/need to make the database more usable for them. The Masters need to be made aware the benefits that can be gained from using the database.

Discussion of the IMR Digital proposal to scan our historic documents. The Foundation will be discussing digitizing the Charter Application Books for all the states. Pennsylvania is using this company and have digitized a lot of their information.

Demographic information – how much and what information is needed for the benefits that Loretta is looking at? At a minimum zip codes and ages (year of birth), for the Grange Medicare supplement that is a guarantee issue.

The 800-toll free number – do we still need it for the National Grange. The cost is \$10 per month and about \$100 per month for calls received. Discussion; no decision.

The discussion about the USPS Mail that Illinois Granger Emalee Colver received from 'Grange neighbors.' Leroy stated that it probably did not violate our trademark since it is talking about the Grange Road neighbors.

Another possible benefit that Leroy brought forth via email to all previously, could be multi-employer 401K retirement plans for small employers. Discussion included that we needed to learn more, what is our liability, this could be a marketing tool, might work like GIA for supportive memberships and could we offer for our licensees or to just Grange members, e-members? Leroy will have more information for next meeting.

TRC Engineering proposal for mechanical systems assessment.

Motion by Susan Noah to proceed with the proposal from TRC Engineering to conduct an assessment of National Grange building mechanical electrical and plumbing systems. Second by Lynette and carried.

Next meeting April 30-May 2, 2019 at National Grange building starting at 5 p.m. The staff would like to meet with us as a unit to discuss the strategic plan they have created and are following. August 20-22 will be the next meeting at National Grange building starting at 5 p.m.

Adjourn at 5:35 p.m. by motion of Steve and second of Betsy. Carried.

April 1, 2019

Zoom Call

National Grange Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom April 1, 2019. In attendance Betsy Huber, Master, Phil Prelli, Overseer, Leroy Watson, Chairman, Lynette Schaeffer, Secretary, Susan Noah and Steve Coye, Members. Jeff Skinner, National Grange attorney. Meeting called to order by Chairman Leroy Watson at 8:35PM CT. Steve led the prayer for the deliberations.

Motion by Steve to go into Executive Session for discussion of legal matters with the attorney, second by Lynette and carried.

Steve made motion to go out of Executive Session, Lynette second at 9:38 p.m. Central. Carried.

Motion by Phil and second by Susan to accept the recommendation of our attorneys to counter the current counter-offer received from the Guild and their attorneys. Carried.

Susan will be in Hawaii Saturday April 6-April 21, so if a decision is needed during that time, she might be hard to contact.

Betsy discussed due to the cost of the meals and other convention considerations, the registration cost for the 2019 convention needs to be increased.

Motion by Betsy and second by Susan. Carried to increase the 2019 National Grange Convention registration to \$30 for early registration and the regular to \$40.

There will be no late fee if they are a State Master elected after the early cutoff date.

Adjourned at 10:08 PM CT by motion of Phil and second of Susan. Carried.

April 18, 2019

Zoom Call

National Grange Executive Committee met via Zoom April 18, 2019. In attendance Betsy Huber, Master, Phil Prelli, Overseer, Leroy Watson, Chairman, Lynette Schaeffer, Secretary, Steve Coye, Member. Jeff Skinner, National Grange attorney. Meeting called to order by Chairman Leroy Watson at 8:15 p.m. Central. Phil led the prayer for the deliberations.

Motion by Phil to go into Executive Session for discussion of legal matters with the attorney, second by Steve and carried.

Motion by Lynette, second by Steve to come out of Executive Session, carried at 9:19 p.m. Central.

Motion by Phil to authorize Master Huber and Attorney Skinner in cooperation with the California State Grange to continue negotiations to achieve the best possible final settlement. Second by Lynette, carried.

Jeff left the call.

Chairman Leroy asked for other discussion points. None were mentioned.

Phil made the motion to adjourn. Steve second and carried at 9:23 p.m. Central.

April 30-May 1, 2019

National Grange Headquarters

Washington, DC

National Grange Executive Committee met at the National Grange Headquarters, Washington, DC, Tuesday April 30, 2019. In attendance Betsy Huber, Master, Phil Prelli, Overseer, Leroy Watson, Executive Committee Chairman, Lynette Schaeffer, Executive Committee Secretary and Susan Noah Member. Meeting called to order by Chairman Leroy Watson at 5 p.m. Eastern. Phil led the prayer for deliberations. The proposed agenda was accepted, with additions to new business: Convention meals and Employee Handbook.

Discussion began with the Sales and Benefits report from Loretta Washington. Discussion about the Monroe Classic items and sponsorships of meals at session for which Loretta is the lead staff person. John Crippen, Minnesota State Master, and Bob Quist are also working on identifying and contacting local companies. American Senior Benefits may be sponsoring a meal again at National, but it would be easier to get their sponsorship if we could supply them the birthdates and ZIP codes of our members. Discussions about sound systems being possibly borrowed from State Granges. Lynette mentioned some of the items about the about 2019 convention. May 4-5 the host committee and Betsy will be meeting at Doubletree in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Convention Report-- Things going well for 2020 Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, 2021 Wichita, Kansas, Betsy is working with a convention planner for 2022 Nugget in Reno, Nevada. Working with a different planner for 2023 for Northeast. Planner has been very helpful in getting a good deal.

Recess called for dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Back in session --Discussion on Convention Budget submitted from Midwest States Region. The bus bid is not complete. There were questions about the budget so action was postponed until August meeting.

Communications Director, Amanda Brozana Rios' report. Discussion of e-subscription for Good Day! magazine, maybe do a pilot to a few people to make sure email does not forward the publication, should the publication print from the e-subscription? Maybe do a survey to see if current subscribers want e-subscription or stick with paper publication. Question about Grange Radio podcasts.

Information Technology Director, Stephanie Wilkins, report. Some improvements have been made to the National Grange database. A new credit card processing device has been purchased to comply with regulations. Phil mentioned that CT State Grange is dealing with a Grange Facebook account where the owner of account is now not a member. The Grange Radio web domains will be retained.

Legislative Director, Burton Eller, report was discussed. There are 20-25 members currently participating in the Fly-In. Good speakers and involvement by the members attending. RALI, Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative, will be sponsoring four scholarships to the CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) midyear training for Grange youth from MD, RI, TX and NY and Youth Director Mandy Bostwick.

Junior Director report Samantha Wilkins-- she is working with Mike Warner, Monroe Classic, to develop Junior items.

Youth Director report, Mandy Bostwick, would like to change the Youth scholarship to Ag day, not the FLY-IN, because of scheduling issues for the youth. She will work with Potomac Grange sponsor. The Home Away from Home seems like a great program; it will link college students away from home with local Granges in the college area. The Grange Baseball that was played at recent regionals was greatly enjoyed by all. This will take the place of Grange Jeopardy.

Membership Director, Joe Stefenoni - he is looking for regional assistants and has sent out the application. He submitted a proposal to have a booth at the FFA Convention.

Recess until 8:30 a.m. May 1.

Chair Leroy called the meeting to order at 8:42 a.m. and asked Steve Coye to lead the prayer for the meeting. Master Betsy added one more thing to the agenda from a recent email, Alaska North Pole Grange.

Joe Stefenoni joined the meeting and discussed his ideas for the FFA convention. If approved, we will have to find \$7,500 in the budget. Joe will need to volunteers to assist with manning the booth.

The minutes of the February 14-15 meeting were adopted as corrected by motion of Phil and second by Betsy, carried. The Zoom meeting minutes on April 1st, were approved by motion of Betsy, second of Phil, carried. The Zoom meeting minutes on April 18th were approved by motion of Betsy, second of Phil, carried.

Master's report.

Motion by Steve second by Lynette to go into executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters. Carried at 9:48 a.m. Eastern.

Steve made motion to go out of Executive Session, Susan second at 10:48 a.m. Eastern.

Controller, Stewart Hughes, joined the group to discuss the financial reports. There was discussion about some of the notes on the reports and how they could be made clearer. Discussion about the accounts receivable and Stewart reviewing the list for accuracy and possibility for working with a collection agency for some of the larger amounts of money. He also brought to our attention the requests for some of the tenants regarding improvements to the conference room and their floor space. He recommended that we give the tenants a rent rebate for 'chiller discomfort' from last summer. He was instructed to create a listing of amounts per tenant for one month rent as a rebate.

Recess for lunch at 12:10 p.m.

Back at 1 p.m.

Linda Kurz offered Transamerica's Multiple Employer plan presentation. Leroy introduced her and asked us to consider this as a benefit for the members who are small business owners. Many questions were asked and answered.

Motion by Steve second by Lynette to accept the bid of the Nugget in Reno, Nevada, for the 2022 National Grange Convention. Carried.

Motion by Phil, second by Susan to discontinue the 888-4Grange number as of November 1, 2019. Carried.

We will advertise the 202-628-3507 number in all the regular publications between now and then. It will immediately be removed from the website.

Recess at 3:05 p.m.

Back from Recess at 3:10 to hear presentation from MGA, Inc. MGA exclusively represents tenants, buyers, and occupiers of space; they deal with many non-profit groups. They discussed with us strategies for the National Grange headquarters building. They agreed to offer a proposal at no cost with ideas for the Grange building.

Discussion about MPowered wanting out of their lease for the fifth floor as they are not using that space.

Motion was made by Phil, second by Lynette to accept the recommendation of Worthy Master Betsy to allow MPowered to only pay ½ of the rent of the 5th floor space during search for new tenants for that space. Carried.

The Youth Protection Policy was reviewed. Language and definitions need to be cleaned and created. This is a national policy that the states can use as a guideline. The policy was tabled until the August meeting. A time certain

was set to discuss the National Grange Child Protection Policy right after the adoption of the minutes at the August meeting.

Phil made motion to accept the Worthy Master's appointment of Mandy Bostwick as the Youth Director. Second by Steve, carried.

Betsy discussed email from Brad Sworts, Alaska State Grange Master, who forwarded an email from John Poirrier past Alaska State Grange Master about North Pole Grange. This Grange owns their building but the 4-acre property is owned by the state and it has recently raised the fee. The state will only sell to a 501c3. The Grange wants to form the North Pole Grange Gallery and Museum, a 501c3, that will be able to purchase at least the usable portion of their property. Betsy will get more information.

The Headquarters roof, gutters, and drains repair was discussed. Bids were reviewed. Motion by Phil to accept the Denchfield Roofing Corporation bid to cover roof repairs in the bid for \$43,000. Second by Steve and carried. Other bids were from Culbertson Company and Hy-Tech Coatings and Foam, LLC. Betsy will discuss the roof anchors with Denchfield and Mujo Mrkonjic, Building Engineer, will be part of the discussion. Discussion of other building repairs; remote control for chiller delayed until there is money available.

Break for dinner at 5:40 p.m., returned at 7:25 p.m.

Discussion on the FFA convention proposal from Joe Stefenoni to have a Grange booth for membership. Joe will provide more specific plan and decision will need to be made via Zoom.

The rent rebate was discussed, points of dialog included-- no rebate if previously received, only those affected receive rebate, Stewart Hughes will gather the information for the cost of one month rent rebate, amount based on rent for July 2018, spread over remainder of 2019. The tenants could be asked if they would like to donate that rebate back to conference room updates.

Motion by Phil and second by Susan to table for further information the final vote on one-month rental rebate to tenants for chiller discomfort last summer. Carried.

Next in person meeting will be August 20-22, 2019 at 5 p.m. Eastern.

Adjourn at 7:59 p.m. by motion of Lynette and second of Betsy. Carried.

May 13, 2019

Zoom Meeting

National Grange Executive Committee via Zoom May 13, 2019. In attendance Betsy Huber, Master, Phil Prelli, Overseer, Leroy Watson, Chairman, Lynette Schaeffer, Secretary, Steve Coye, and Susan Noah Member. Meeting called to order by Chairman Leroy at 7:35 Central. Betsy led the prayer for the deliberations.

MGA proposal will be discussed later.

Motion by Steve to go into Executive Session for discussion of legal matters, second by Betsy and carried.

Motion by Phil, second by Susan to come out of Executive Session, carried at 8:17 p.m. Central.

Discussion included notifying the California State Executive Committee of their right of appeal and offering a Zoom conference between the NG Executive Committee and CA State Executive Committee.

Motion by Phil to confirm the expected allocated split of the settlement of Guild litigation to be 50/50 (National Grange/California State Grange). Second by Steve and carried.

Discussion about the rent rebate information distributed via email. Discussion about Consultants International now having a sublease with American Horse Council, they were tenants last year. These rebates are a reward for loyalty during the time of no air conditioning.

Phil made the motion to accept the report of Worthy Master on the rent rebate amounts, money to be distributed from June to December. Susan second and carried.

Discussion about the proposal from Membership Director Joe Stefenoni on the FFA convention participation. Joe had revised the estimated expense. He is looking for sponsors, discussion about possible from Potomac or Grange Foundation for the promotional items. It was suggested that there needs to be more promotional items and less on items that will be given to those who sign as e-members. Discussion as to where this will come from in the budget, it was decided that it would be membership promotions. The FFA convention will be in Indianapolis right before National Session. Hopefully Joe will be able to get enough helpers for the booth.

Motion by Susan to go forward with the FFA convention booth proposal with a budget not to exceed \$7,500 from Membership budget. Second by Betsy. Carried.

Leroy asked that we have a time certain to have a vote on the Transamerica presentation we saw at the meeting in April. The time certain will be the August meeting in DC.

Steve made the motion to adjourn. Lynette second and carried at 9:11 p.m. Central.

August 20-21, 2019

*National Grange Headquarters
Washington, DC*

National Grange Executive Committee met at the National Grange Headquarters, Washington, DC, Tuesday August 20- 21, 2019. In attendance Betsy Huber, Master, Phil Prelli, Overseer, Leroy Watson, Executive Committee Chairman, Lynette Schaeffer, Executive Committee Secretary, Steven Coye and Susan Noah, Members. Meeting called to order by Chairman Leroy Watson at 3:24 pm ET. Lynette led the prayer for deliberations. The proposed agenda was accepted.

The minutes of the April 30-May 1, 2019 meeting were adopted by motion of Betsy and second by Lynette, carried. Minutes of the Zoom meeting on May 14, were approved by motion of Phil, second of Susan, carried. These will be sent to the State Masters.

Master's report.

Motion by Lynette second by Phil to go into executive session to discuss legal, building, State Grange issues and personnel matters. Carried at 3:29 p.m. Eastern.

Motion by Phil and second by Steve to come out of executive session at 4:58 p.m. Carried.

Recess for dinner preparation. Meeting back to order at 5:23 pm.

Building issues. The roof will be fixed soon – Betsy is trying to clarify the bid for the roof repair and the anchors, whether or not all is included in Denchfield's bid. There have been piping leaks recently, one serious in Stewart's office where water leaked through to the 10th floor as well. The room units for the air conditioning need to have air filters cleaned or changed, have not been changed in a long time. The Grange Foundation was given anonymously \$50,000 for the building fund which will be used for the down payment on the roof. Discussion about updating the conference room as many tenants have requested, kitchen, paint, flooring and technology, possibly using settlement money, and possibly doing the kitchen later as money available.

Unfinished business.

Phil made a motion to approve the 2019 Host proposed budget of \$35,000 from National Grange Assessment Fund. Second by Lynette and carried.

Discussion about payment of travel for the Seventh Degree Directors and assistant as staff. It was decided by common consent that this should be a decision of the High Priest, Bruce Croucher. Some members have reported to Betsy that they were able to book the hotel room at a cheaper rate than the contracted rate for us. Betsy will ask the convention planner's advice concerning this matter.

Recess for dinner provided in the conference room at 6:07 p.m.

Called back to order at 6:55 p.m. by Chair.

Discussion on the 2023 Convention Site. Betsy provided summary of information from the convention planner. She will be visiting four of the sites in September and October. Those sites being; Double Tree by Hilton, Boston North Shore; Hyatt Regency Buffalo Hotel and Conference Center; Sheraton Niagara Falls Hotel and The Conference and Event Center Niagara Falls; and Crowne Plaza Hotel Providence – Warwick (Airport). She plans to have real numbers and dollars at National Session.

After lengthy discussion on the Child Protection Policy, Phil moved to adopt the proposed policy as and that this policy be sent to the State Grange Masters. Second by Steve and carried. It is to be noted that this is a 'living' document and can be revisited at any time necessary.

Discussion about the Multiple Employer Plan (401K) presentation last meeting with Linda Kurz of TransAmerica. It is believed that this could be a membership tool but at this time there is no time limit to getting started with this program. Many Discussion points that include all the following items: There would need to be 'buy-in' by the local Granges and Grangers for hosting informational meetings to possibly gain members who would like to be a part of the Multiple Employer Plan. They would receive no financial gain from the program. Multiple Employer Plans appear to be the 'in' thing now for small employers. Depending on the option selected by NG there could be an investment of funds required. Discussion of possible National Grange Associate membership for this program. No definite action was taken at this time.

Discussion about the MGA Real Estate presentation from last meeting. An Executive Summary of the proposed Study of 1616 H Street, NW was presented. The final study is awaiting the building survey that is being compiled by Ted Ross Consulting. Betsy has received an email from John Gibb, JLL Americas, as a worldwide company wants to make a presentation to the Executive Board on the same idea of making the most of our building. Discussion of possible fund raiser for capital improvement campaign such as \$1 per day "Raise the Roof" fundraiser. The decision was made by consensus that we wait for the building survey to be completed before any decisions would be made.

Meeting recessed at 8:43 p.m. until 9 a.m. Aug. 21 in conference room.

Chair Leroy called the meeting to order at 8:55 a.m. Phil led the prayer for guidance and wisdom.

The 2018 National Grange Journal of Proceedings was handed out to everyone.

Stewart Hughes, Controller joined the meeting. The provided financials were discussed as well as tenant leases. The property tax bill is due soon, hoping it will be covered by dues from State Granges. One tenant wants large 'updates' to their space, at this time Betsy has told them we will pay a certain amount of the updates and they will pay the rest, but still in negotiations. Conversation as to whether updates to the conference room could be charged back

to the tenants as operating expenses. It is believed to be allowable. The 2018 audit has started, and we will possibly have a Zoom call with the auditor. Stewart left the meeting.

The Board was informed that Ernestine "Ernie" Keiser, past delegate of Virginia State Grange had passed away while working in her garden. Without objection a moment of silence was observed for our Sister.

Amanda Brozana-Rios, Communication Director joined the meeting. She is now back to work after surgery. The Communication handbook is being updated with current media and technology practices. Loretta will have it for sale in the Grange Store soon. Amanda has talked with the new fellows for the 2019 National Session. Grange Advocacy will be providing \$800 scholarships for up to 8 fellows. She will be sending Good Day! subscription list to State Masters to assist with getting the subscriptions renewed and new subscriptions. Amanda left the room.

Stephanie Wilkins, Information Technology Director, entered the room. She has been working to get the SharePoint site ready for 2019 Session, adding new folders, and information like present policy and resolutions. Each delegate needs their own SharePoint link which she will create and send out. It was suggested that she create a YouTube video about using the SharePoint or a tutorial for the delegates. Discussion about the report that the Executive Committee needs to create for the delegates in response to the 2017 resolution to go paperless. Leroy will work with Stephanie to complete. Discussion about the new computers to be purchased and VPN access for off-site users. Discussion about the building security tapes and the consistency of reviewing the tapes by Stephanie or Mujo Mrkonjic. Stephanie left the room.

Betsy distributed copies of the email received from Attorney Jeff Skinner concerning the California settlement.

Betsy made a motion to go into executive session to discuss legal matters. Second by Phil and carried at 11:24 a.m.

Motion by Lynette second by Steve to go out of executive session. Carried at 11:57 a.m.

Phil made a motion to accept the recommendation of counsel to authorize the Worthy Master to sign the proposed settlement agreement as long as no additional changes were made. Steve second, and unanimously adopted.

The distributed printed material is to be confidential and not shared.

Recess for lunch.

The meeting was called back to order at 1:17 p.m.

Review of Mandy Bostwick, Youth Director's written report. Discussion on the CADCA opportunity for the four youth members, follow-up is needed to keep this program active. Betsy reported that Mandy believes that money is needed now from the Grange to proceed with the program. We will discuss with Burton. Discussion about Northeast Youth conference.

Loretta Washington, Sales and Benefits Director entered the room.

Discussion on Charter Kits and the price of gavels was mentioned. There is believed to be an excess of gavels in many state offices. The supply of Silver Star Certificate folders is depleted; the Board agreed not to reorder the folders, to send the certificates without folders. Due to difficulty in obtaining demographic information on our members, Loretta expects American Senior Benefits to withdraw the Medicare-United Health Care program. She is working with our benefit partner Gallagher with a similar plan. Demographic information is still needed. Loretta mentioned a fundraiser that her church is doing, donate \$2 each day to replace their roof; she suggested a similar venture for National Grange.

Loretta and Pete Pompper have been appointed to be on-site convention coordinators to work with hotel staff during the session. She has received entries in Distinguished Grange and Legacy Family. The work with Grange Store and Monroe Classic, Mike Warner, is going smoothly. The Grange-owned inventory that had been turned over to Monroe for sale is mostly gone; we had been receiving all the profit for the sale of those items. Loretta left the room.

Membership Director, Joe Stefenoni, joined the meeting. He mentioned the National FFA Convention, J Allen and Shelly Cameron will be the persons manning the booth with him. Joe is excited to work with them. Donation letter has been sent to State Masters and some response has been received. Joe has been working with Florida State Grange and believes that a new charter will be signed soon in St Petersburg, and the man as the strong force in this group has ties to other areas of Florida that might be prime for a Grange. Joe is working on a video for e-members showing Regional meetings. Discussion about other State Granges needing help. He is still looking for regional associates to help with membership. Joe left the meeting.

Junior Director, Samantha Wilkins, entered the room. She has been working on the 2020 Junior Program. There has been an influx of pen pal requests. She has entered into a partnership with Oliver the Ornament. Creator Todd Zimmermann will be at National Session selling books and a percentage of each purchase will be going to the Grange Foundation. There are four ambassador candidates for the 2019 National Session. Samantha and the other directors have been working together to try to make the programs cohesive. Discussion about the 1+ program. She discussed the Youth & Junior plan to replace Fly-In and Ag Day events with the "Washington Experience" which would include more training for youth on how to talk with their legislators.

Samantha then changed hats for the Building manager. She has been working with the real estate company for renting out the properties. There is a new tenant on the first floor – a frame shop. Due to complaints about the janitorial crew a new cleaning crew has been hired. The security company person that has been here this summer is

very personable, but he will be leaving for school soon. Samantha has been pricing a new directory board for the lobby. Tenants have discussed with her requests for the updates to the conference room, flooring, paint and phone and video technology. There was a new leak from the roof during yesterday's rainstorm. She was thanked for her work on the Child Protection Policy we adopted yesterday. Registration for the 2019 convention is going well. Samantha left the room.

Legislative Director, Burton Eller, entered the room. He distributed a summary of Grange Advocacy work he gave to the Grange Advocacy Board yesterday. Discussion about the Fly-in 2020 that will be in conjunction with the Presidential Primary in New Hampshire. Dates yet to be made definite but probably Feb 7-8, 2020, in Manchester and Concord. There will be no Washington DC Fly-In in 2020. Burton mentioned the Ag Day and it being more valuable to the youth and Juniors. Items to watch - healthcare, drug pricing, broadband seems to be picking up steam again. It appears that many Democratic candidates do not know much about rural life or agriculture, they are focusing on carbon issues. More states are working with RALI and Burton will be meeting with the RALI folks next week. RALI sponsored 4 scholarships to Youth members from MD, RI, and NY to attend CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) training in July in Texas. The attendees enjoyed the training and are excited to go to the next step. We asked that Burton to follow-up with this seeing what the next steps are. Being totally prepared for convention will be a challenge this year because five State Granges will be meeting the weekend before National meeting. Burton left the meeting.

New Business.

Discussion about the Good Day magazine and why people do not seem to want to subscribe. No conclusions were reached. It was suggested that the income and expense pages of the second quarter financial report be sent to the State Masters along with the minutes and Child Protection Policy. It is financial best practice to have 3 signers on business checks. Now there are only two, Betsy and Stewart. When Betsy is traveling, Stewart gives Betsy a list of checks for approval and signs them.

Motion by Phil to have an additional member of the Executive Committee be authorized to sign checks for the general checking account. Second Susan and carried.

Next meeting November 3-4, 2019 at the Double Tree Bloomington, MN 153rd National Session.

Adjourn at 5:04 p.m. by motion of Phil and second of Betsy. Carried.

NATIONAL GRANGE DIRECTORS' REPORTS

NATIONAL GRANGE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Prepared by Samantha Wilkins, Operations Coordinator

Location	Company	Information
Basement	Capital Coin & Stamp Co.	Current Rent: \$2,700 (tenant has two more years on this lease at a 3% annual increase.) Term Ends: March 31, 2020 Square Footage: 814
Suite 105	PICF, INC- Christine Eun Yi	Current Rent: \$1,800 Tenant will receive a \$50 annual increase with 3-year option to renew until 2025. Term Ends: July 31, 2022 Square Footage: 545
Suite 106	Dr. Beth Dzaman Dr. Dori Dr. Arlene Levinson Dr. Kasaan Holmes	Current Rent: \$1,728.92 Term Ends: January 31, 2020 Square Footage: 555
Suite 200	Congressional Commercial, INC	Current Rent: \$1,563.20 with a 3% annual increase-Operating costs are figured into their monthly rent Term Ends: October 31, 2021 Square Footage: 480
Suite 201	VACANT	Current Rent: \$1,129 Term Ends: Currently Vacant Square Footage: 304
Suite 202	White House Historical Association	Current Rent: \$2,800 Term Ends: September 30, 2022 Square Footage: 895
Suite 204	Ball & Associates	Current Rent: \$1,600 (Tenant will receive a 2% annual increase) Term Ends: May 31, 2022 Square Footage: 442
2 nd floor (remainder)	White House Historical Association	Current Rent: \$1,800 (Tenant will receive a 2% annual increase) Term Ends: September 30, 2022 Square Footage: 579.15 + 895
3 rd Floor	Capital Photography- Marie Joabar	Current Rent: \$825 Term Ends: October 31, 2020 Square Footage: 198
Suite 300	VACANT	Current Rent: (Asking \$1,000) Term Ends: Square Footage: 314.60
Suite 301	Burton Rand Associates, LLC	Current Rent: \$197.17 (Tenant will receive a 3% annual increase) Term Ends: May 31, 2019 Square Footage: 55.1
Suite 302	5 Stones Intelligence, Inc.	Current Rent: \$3,300 (Tenant will receive a 5% annual increase) Term Ends: July 31, 2021 Square Footage: 898
Suite 303	Maharashi Foundation	Current Rent: \$4,206 (Tenant will receive a 3% annual increase) Term Ends: April 30, 2021 Square Footage: 1,306
Suite 400	White House Historical Association	Current Rent: \$11,000 (Tenant will receive a 2% annual increase) Term Ends: September 30, 2022 Square Footage: 3,158

5 th Floor	The EOP Group	Current Rent: \$10,152 Tenant will receive a 4% annual increase- Operating costs are figured into their monthly rent. Term Ends: October 31, 2024 Square Footage: 3,158
6 th Floor	Van Smith Company	Current Rent: \$10,500 (Tenant will receive a 3% annual increase) with an increase to \$11,000 April 1, 2020 Term Ends: March 31, 2021 Square Footage: 3,158
7 th Floor	American Horse Council	Current Rent: \$10,697.20 (Tenant will receive a 2% annual increase) Term Ends: July 31, 2022 Square Footage: 3,158
Suite 800	RetireSafe	Current Rent: \$1,704.85 (1% annual increase) Term Ends: July 31, 2022 Square Footage: 682
Suite 820	Generation	Current Rent: \$7,750 (Tenant will receive a 2% annual increase) Term Ends: September 30, 2022 Square Footage: 2,148
9 th Floor	SparkMeter Inc	Current Rent: \$10,500 (Tenant will receive a 3% annual increase) Term Ends: July 31, 2022 Square Footage: 3,158
Suite 1020	EMX	Current Rent: \$1,913.86 Term Ends: May 31, 2020 Square Footage: 410
10 th Floor	5 Stone Intelligence	Current Rent: \$3,700 (Tenant will receive a 3% annual increase) Term Ends: July 31, 2021 Square Footage: 1,050
Suite 1010 & 1030	M Powered Strategies	Current Rent: \$4,584.55 (Tenant will receive a 2% annual increase) Term Ends: April 30, 2023 Square Footage: 1010- 342sqft 1030-868 sq. ft total: 1,210
11 th Floor	National Grange	

I am happy to report that the National Grange Headquarters is now at 98% occupancy. Out of the 29,570.85 rentable square feet we have a total of 28,952.25 square feet rented out leaving 618.60 square feet of vacancy. We hope to have the remainder of the vacant space rented out by the first of the year.

Over the last year we have completed some major and minor repairs to the building- with the largest repair being the replacement of the roof. This project began in August 2019 and will soon be completed. This project will also include the installation of Roof Anchors.

General maintenance has continued throughout the building at the hand of our Building Engineer- small jobs outside of his abilities have been hired out to a private contractor.

The Chiller and Boiler system is now up and running at full capacity with some minor work that needed to be done throughout the year. We do need to do quite a bit of work in replacing some units and this is due to age.

Several Suites have received renovations- Suite 105 updated electrical work & paint. 2nd floor hallway received new carpet and paint. Two suites on the second floor also received new paint and carpet. 5th floor suite is receiving new carpet and paint as well as some minor construction and electrical work. The 8th floor is receiving some much-needed repairs- such as lights and door handles- we will also be installing a small sink for a kitchen area and painting the bathroom stalls. 9th floor – with the renewal of their lease they were granted \$25,000 to remodel the floor- opening up the floor to a more open concept and modern look. Many floors still need updates such as paint and new carpet. This also includes the 11th floor which is occupied by the National Grange.

Many tenants are requesting that we update the conference room. Small updates such as flooring, paint, and décor will make a world of difference while also maintaining the nostalgia and historical feel of the room/building. Most requests are for updated technology in the room- We will be looking for monetary donations to cover the cost of supplies to update this space and reaching out to Grange Volunteers to make the physical work happen, reducing our labor and contractual costs.

Small donations continue to come into the building fund, but we do need more help. Many updates are needed throughout the building in order to keep us an active competitor within the DC real estate market. Current trends are not in our favor when comparing our location to amenities offered in the local market.

We have recently hired a new Real Estate company to oversee the handling of our vacant spaces. Within the past two months of working with them they have been able to secure new tenants for our building at a competitive rate.

This year we also hired a new cleaning company, which started August 1, 2019, to oversee the day to day needs of our building. After many complaints about the last company we interviewed four companies and have made the decision to go with the new one who seemed to offer more for significantly less than the previous group.

COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT

Prepared by Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios, Communications & Development Director

To the Officers, Delegates and members of the National Grange,

Congratulations on closing another chapter in our storied 152-year history of the Grange. This year has been not without challenges, but exciting in the steps made forward across the organization to improve public understanding of our history, our culture, our service and our desire to advance rural America, American agriculture and the quality of life of all associated with our Order.

Since the close of the 152nd Annual National Grange Convention in Stowe, Vermont, the Communications Department has been hard at work. We have prepared and produced four issues of Good Day! magazine, dozens of Patrons Chain e-newsletters, press releases, info guides and more. Additionally, I have been part of several training workshops and programs in various states and regions to better guide our members through the jungle that is communications.

As always, the department has worked with other staff/departments to ensure timely dissemination of materials, provide support in design, editing and general areas. These have been reported in the past at length. Highlights include assisting with convention prep and the creation of many printed materials for the event, providing support of the Fly-In, offering design and PR assistance to the various departments and officers for events, and providing other support integral to the continued success and identity of the Grange.

In the summer, a less intense part of the year for the department, I attended to a health issue and took six weeks of medical leave. I would be remiss if I did not thank the staff for their assistance at that time. While I did still complete some work over that period, without the help of others on staff, the National Master and several other volunteers, there would have been a noticeable void in our communication efforts. Thank you all for your patience and efforts during that time.

Working With Members

In January and early February, I was fortunate enough to meet many of our members who we often do not see at National events; members who are the backbone of the organization, working in their local Granges to fulfill the mission of our organization and serve their neighbors. These individuals were part of planned training sessions, meetings and other events. Interacting with our general membership raises the profile of the National Grange within our ranks and allows a greater measure of the effectiveness of direct training.

Using airline miles and hospitality of state leaders and national officers, the goodwill of former Communication Fellows, and funds from the State Grange of Washington to travel across that state with a team doing pre-scheduled leaders' conferences, this endeavor cost the National Grange less than \$700, an investment that has paid dividends over the course of this year and I expect far beyond. Since this tour of Idaho, California, Oregon and Washington, I've documented many positive stories in local outlets about the Grange, and an increase in social media use, especially engagement that incorporates some of the best practices discussed during my meetings and workshops. I have also connected with members by email and phone throughout the year that I met during this Western tour, assisting with preparation after press inquiries, thinking through making events more visually media friendly, constructing media alerts and press releases, providing visually-oriented social media posts, editing materials, assisting with design for newsletters and advice on group email distribution lists, and much more.

These type of on-the-ground opportunities are, in my mind, essential to the forward momentum and goodwill of the Grange, from local to National Grange. I plan to talk to State Masters from another region during this 153rd Annual Convention about doing a similar tour of States to interact with members at pre-planned events and in small groups in meetings we can establish in 2020.

Additionally, I was able to attend the Master's Conference in Kansas to provide assistance and a workshop in February and work with the new Youth Director for a few days thereafter on program materials and where the departments traditionally have overlapped. I then provided a workshop at the Mid-Atlantic Grange Leaders Conference in Pennsylvania in March.

Good Day! magazine

Since last year's convention, four issues of Good Day! magazine have gone to print and out to our subscribers. We are still in need of additional subscribers to make this a more stable endeavor, however working with Grange Advocacy, we have secured additional revenue via partner issue ads and advertorials that has substantially helped make this a cost-neutral product.

In October, the National Master prepared a mailing to go to all Granges that included a letter encouraging subscriptions and subscription form for the magazine. This is the second mailing from the National Grange about the magazine. New York State Grange also sent a mailing about the magazine to all Granges in early 2019, resulting in a number of new subscriptions from that state. Many other states have provided information to members about the magazine at functions, but there seems to date we still have fewer than 1,400 current (paid) subscribers.

Please encourage every member to read and subscribe to the magazine. Every local Grange should have at least one subscriber in order to ensure the information provided by National Grange through the magazine gets into every hall and encourages full participation in our events, our campaigns, our advocacy efforts, contests and much more. If you have subscribed previously, please make sure you are checking the mailing label of your magazine for your subscription renewal date and renew on time so you do not miss an issue.

Social Media

Over the course of the past year, we have worked hard to include a variety of types of information on our social media posts, taking advantage mostly of Facebook and Twitter. We have grown our following on both platforms by more than 50% and are working to determine new ways to best use other platforms like SnapChat and Instagram in conjunction with the Youth Department as these social channels are more frequently used by younger audiences.

We have used the hashtag #GrangeStory effectively over the past year, and it has been contagious. As many of our members post information or create events, we see the hashtag used, but still more is needed to make sure everyone knows about and uses this to create a groundswell that we and others can follow.

The #grangeheroes hashtag was also used frequently around convention last year and Grange Month. We included it with daily social posts highlighting efforts of Granges around the country doing work in their communities that proved there are many ways in which Granges and Grange members are heroes to their members and neighbors.

Communication Fellows

At the 153rd Annual Convention, we have the seventh class of Communication Fellows participating. This year, we have assistance by several "Senior Fellows" – individuals who have been through the program in a previous year and come back to assist in full or in part with the training of new Fellows – and six first-time Fellows. They are: Troy Behnke, Minnesota; Philip Vonada, Pennsylvania; Sharon Bower and Lorri Freeman, Nevada; Lexi Suing, Oregon; and Karen Cline, Maryland.

The Fellows will be hosting an inaugural #GrangeStory Slam on Wednesday night of the 153rd Annual Convention as a way to encourage our members to share their memories of Grange that may capture the interest of those who have not yet joined the Grange, strengthen fraternal bonds with other members, and provide a bit of fun during the week filled with work. Stories will be shared online, with permission of the storytellers, and may be used in future communications campaigns to introduce people to the Grange and special things that we can share with those who join us.

Additionally, Fellows will be selling notebooks, pens and magnetic photo frames with #GrangeStory for the Fellows fund in the Grange Foundation. This fund makes it possible for us to do some kind of special project, event or initiative each year that the group comes up with or supports – helping to give back to the organization and instill again a sense of turning the often said phrase "What if we ..." into "When we did" This is very helpful to give them a sense of accomplishment and provide some guidance when planning both a fundraiser and a new endeavor. Last year's funds have been used to fund the awards for the Lecturer's Department's PR Contest and refreshments for the inaugural #GrangeStory Slam.

Communications Handbook

As of this report, the Communications Handbook, written and published in 2012, has been updated and includes a look at new social media channels that had not been launched by the time of the earlier edition and new features available for use in more established social channels. I will be working with the Grange Supply Store to have this available for purchase and with the IT Department for it to be available to download by members.

Grange Month 2020

The Grange Month 2020 theme has been chosen and a design has been created that incorporates tradition and a look at Grange today. "Cultivating Connections" sends a strong and positive message and allows Granges to use it in a variety of ways with programs and projects they already coordinate or take part in or new projects they wish to launch. Materials have been prepared with this theme and more will be on the way as we enter 2020.

Conclusion

As always, it is important that all levels of the Grange work together to share information and be a part of the Grange's larger identity. This helps us in a variety of ways, including but not limited to membership retention, growth, recognition and fundraising. We hope you will encourage each of your members to subscribe to Good Day! magazine, share their email address so they can get our weekly newsletter and other communications, sign up for our text messaging platform (text GRANGE to 24365), email us information about their activities and events, share on social media and alert members of the National Grange staff, and more.

Many thanks to everyone who continues to work on behalf of the Grange, providing positive messaging that engages people inside and outside our Order and who ensures the Grange is not forgotten in our communities or our nation.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Prepared by Pete Pompper, Community Service Director

Worthy National Master, National Officers, Delegates and Patrons,

What a year this has been for Granges giving back to their communities on all levels of the Grange from Junior Granges to State Granges working together. Granges have opened their doors to new ideas and programs, continued programs and events and have worked with other organizations helping others. I am really encouraged by Granges that have started new community service projects because they saw a need that needed filling. I would be amiss if I did not also discuss individual Grange members who truly are superheroes for their efforts.

State Granges

The beginning of September Allen Stiles, MDSG President, sent an email to 12 other State Presidents, Burton Eller NG Leg Director and a couple other Grangers about an issue affecting dairy farmers and the FDA. The issue at hand was the FDA definition of real milk. I am not going to go into the details here; I am sure he would be willing to discuss it with you. The email he sent caused a well-thought out and enlightening string of emails including information from Jimmy Gentry, NCSG, about legislation passed by his state which he shared. By the end several other SG's had shown support on this issue. Now you're probably thinking how is this a community service project/program? I say it is, as Granges could pick this up and hold informational meetings in their communities about this milk issue. As individuals want to know more about where their food comes from and are interested in back to the farm products, we can be that forum for them to learn.

California State Grange had a theme of Sustainability for the state session this year and I hope you will take time to talk to Kent Westwood about this. It got me thinking how Granges could also use this as a meeting idea about the sustainability of the family farm. Not only farms that have been in the same family for generations but also new start up farms that have been popping up throughout the country. How can we as an organization help them?

Community Granges

To me community Granges are the backbone of this Department and you are doing some amazing work helping individuals, groups and other community organizations.

Clifton Springs Grange #1042 (NY) helped advertise and support a presentation at a school board meeting about the importance of Ag Education in the classroom. This has been a National Grange initiative for many years and I hope other Granges will pick this up. It is important to educate today's youth on agriculture and the importance of fresh food products. This is one way to help local farmers.

Gardiner Grange (KS) --I have mentioned this Grange before but the Farmers Market they help run in their community continues to grow and include more local vendors. I bring this Grange up again as an example of a way Granges can help with the "food desert" issue that continues to grow in this country. Unfortunately for various reasons grocery stores are closing and families either can't or have to travel farther to find fresh food. Farmers Markets are one way to get locally grown food to the consumer who can meet the local farmer and learn about farming. How many other Granges host a farmer's market or local vendors fair?

Moran Prairie Grange #161 (WA)-- They hosted a Trunk or Treat event combined with a blood drive. Not your ordinary blood drive that's for sure.

Stone Church Grange #1561 (NY) held their third annual "It Takes a Village" project where they "sent 125 little neighbors" back to school with needed supplies. They had such great community support they were able to donate the remainder of the supplies to another community organization that helped an additional 65 children.

High Desert Grange #22(NV) assisted the park rangers for the 2nd year in a row with the cleanup of Rye Patch State Park. 15 members helped with the removal of some invasive species of plants, helped pour cement and other cleanup efforts. Their work over the past 2 years has given campers more areas to use in the park.

Aromas Grange #361 (CA) is a typical Grange in a small town that is very active in their community. They hold a community breakfast on the last Sunday of each month, which is where I was in February on my birthday. What better way to start your birthday than at a Grange Breakfast. The community support was outstanding to say the least but what I really got out of it was how much the Grange does to support them also. The flour for the pancakes was grown and ground in the valley and the sausage came from a local farmer-- again supporting local farmers and local vendors who were there. They also have live music during the meal which was a great touch.

Junior Granges

OHK Grange-The Annex, Junior Grange Center is a new program in MN. "Built by a combination of parents and dedicated Grangers, the Annex, is a special place where children learn to be more, do more, and serve more." They have written cards to veterans and are looking at ways to adopt their school's "Words for Thirds" project.

Moosup Valley Junior Grange (CT) raised \$1450.00 and donated the monies to "The Tomorrow Fund" which helps children with cancer and their families.

Grangers

Patrick Dearth (OR) --He works and coordinates local Granges to support many varied veteran's groups. Patrick spends many hours making sure veterans have support and supplies they need on a day to day basis. He works with businesses setting up "Missing Man" tables.

Katie Squire (CA) is a 2nd grade school teacher who is an active Grange member. Last school year she was able to get a grant to start an aquaculture program into her classroom where the students learned how fish are raised then released back into nature. This year she started a program with the help of Grange members so each of her students were able to take part in the Scholastic Book Club. This is a project any Grange could do; just contact your local school.

Matthew Espenshade (PA) Matt has testified on behalf of the Grange on several occasions either to the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board or at PA House and Senate hearings. Being an active dairy farmer, Matt is a passionate speaker on behalf of the Grange. Matt is also active and an advocate for the farming community on the local level, especially serving milkshakes at the fair.

Dictionary Project

Granges have been involved with the “Words for Thirds” program since 2002 giving dictionaries to third Graders throughout this country. I am so proud to announce that you, Grangers, have given out **1,036,606** dictionaries to date. Think of the number of lives you have impacted by this gesture of kindness and understanding of the importance of education. Granges have for a long-time valued education whether in the home, farm or school and this is just one more way. I personally congratulate the following Granges for their support of the program over the years:

Suncock Valley Pomona Grange #12 **(NH)**: 31,176 dictionaries
Elkhorn VE Grange #393 **(NE)**: 15,624 dictionaries
Burns Grange #160 **(MI)**: 15,168 dictionaries
Prairie Grange #1832 **(IL)**: 13,860 dictionaries
Staughton Grange #2685 **(OH)**: 13,848 dictionaries
Red Lion Grange #1781 **(PA)**: 12,696 dictionaries
Orangevale Grange #354 **(CA)**: 12,408 dictionaries

A list of the leading Grange in each state will be attached to my report. When I was going through the information on the Dictionary Project it was enlightening to see the number of Granges who have been part of this since the beginning. I know that in some cases Granges work with other Organizations to make this work. I encourage each of you to stop by and speak with the Dictionary Project representative in the showcase.

Community Service hours

This year Granges have reported 547,728 Community Service hours. As I have said in the past, we need to try to track these hours so when we are seeking grants or services that we can show Granges are giving back to our communities. It does not matter how big or small the project/program is; it is the fact that Granges are doing great things in our communities. If you get a free moment, please look at the community service books in the Showcase and ask questions. The books are great idea sources for other Granges and you might find the next great program/project for your Grange.

Finally, the end of my report

We as an agricultural organization in the past have been a voice for the farmer as well as a source of education for the farm and household. Is it time we start to get back to our roots? Some Granges have already started to hold meetings for young beginning farmers or on sustainability, food deserts and back to basics for the non-farming community. Granges are opening their doors to farmers markets and local vendors who are just starting their businesses as a way to help them. We have seen Grange members testify in hearings regarding small local dairy farms but are we then asking them to hold a forum in our communities to educate and inform their neighbors? Small niche farms are popping up throughout the country-- are we reaching out to these individuals and asking how we can work with you to help you grow which will in turn help our communities.

I would be remiss if I did not personally thank Loretta Washington for her help this year as we worked on a new process for Granges to report the state winners for the certificates and check issued by the National Grange. We both think this has worked more efficiently and has shortened the turnaround time for these.

CONVENTIONS & EVENTS

Prepared by Betsy E. Huber, National President

- 2020 154th Annual National Grange Convention**
Hosted by Eastern Region
Valley Forge Casino Resort
King of Prussia, PA
610-768-3215
<https://www.vfcasino.com>
November 17-21, 2020
- 2021 155th Annual National Grange Convention**
Hosted by Great Plains Region
Hyatt Regency Wichita
Wichita, KS
316-293-1234
<https://www.hyatt.com>
November 9-13, 2021
- 2022 156th Annual National Grange Convention**
Hosted by Western Region
Nugget Casino Resort
Sparks, NV
800-648-1177
<http://www.nuggetcasinoresort.com>
November 15-19, 2022
- 2023 157th Annual National Grange Convention**
Hosted by Northeast Region
Conference & Event Center Niagara Falls
Sheraton on the Falls
716-285-3361
<http://www.ccnfny.com>
<https://www.sheratononthefalls.com>
November 14-18, 2023
- 2024 158th Annual National Grange Convention**
Hosted by Midwest Region
TBD

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- 2020 Masters Conference** – Baltimore, Maryland hosted by Maryland with assistance by Delaware and Pennsylvania
- 2021 Masters Conference** – Myrtle Beach, SC. Contract signed for venue.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Prepared by Stephanie Wilkins, IT Director

National Grange Online Membership Database

Membership Data/Collection – The National Grange in conjunction with Blue Tahiti has been making various updates to the Online Membership database. These updates will provide additional reporting features to local, state and national level users.

The National Grange requested an updated list of members and officers from each state Grange to be uploaded into the membership database. This request should help to better match the members listed in the system to the membership totals submitted by the states quarterly. Some states have done a great job of updating member information, but not all have. We hope that a fresh upload of current members will be easier to maintain and keep up-to-date.

Pennsylvania State Grange submitted their full membership data and requested it to be uploaded to the online database. This process was completed and allowed Blue Tahiti and the National Grange to resolve a few unforeseen issues while make the necessary adjustments for future bulk upload requests.

The online database also maintains the GoodDay!™ magazine subscriptions, produces the mailing list for the mail house as well as alert of upcoming renewals.

Quarterly Reporting – States are submitting quarterly reporting via online, email or US mail. Leadership/Membership Director, Joe Stefanoni, will work hand-in hand with the Controller and IT Department to collect and report quarterly report information from each state Grange.

E-membership – At the 152nd Annual National Grange Convention, delegates voted to increase the membership dues for E-members from \$12 to \$40. Changes to the brochure, registration web page and PayPal have been made to reflect this change.

The following updates have been made:

The ability to add unique officer types – By default the online database includes all of the officer types typically used. The ability to create unique officer types such as Pianist, Executive Committee 1, Executive Committee 2, etc. can easily be done so that a member can be assigned to that position.

The ability to download Grange properties and officers – State users now have the ability to download the Grange properties (mailing address, phone, fax, email, URL, charter date, etc.) for every Grange in their respective state as well as a list of all current officers. Previously, edits to Grange properties and officers were done manually but now can be done by downloading the report and making edits to be later uploaded. Manual editing can still be done if needed.

The ability to upload Grange properties and officers – After Grange properties and officers have been downloaded and edited, the now edited file can then be uploaded to the online database. These two steps will streamline the process by making bulk edits, especially during election years when officer positions change.

Complete detail member information included in roster download – Some fields (i.e. Join Date, D.O.B, etc.) in the database were being excluded in the download extract. This has been resolved and now all data fields are included in the download report.

Edits have been made to the website interface for Good Day subscriptions. These edits will allow the extracted PayPal report to clearly display the payment description for Good Day Magazine payments received.

The National Grange recently established a spreadsheet for State Granges as a template for bulk uploading their local Grange member and officer information into the online database. This spreadsheet has been matched up to the data fields in the online database in hopes of capturing the most complete member/office information. Prior to distributing the spreadsheet to each respective state Grange, Blue Tahiti approved the spreadsheet and the data fields to ensure a successful upload into the system.

The following update is currently process

PayPal does not allow more than a 10% increase in the initial rate agreed upon for automatic subscription renewal. For that reason, automatic renewal for E-members at the old rate of \$12 will suspended. At the date of their renewal, an email notice will be sent to those subscribers requesting their continued support at the new rate of \$40 annually. These subscribers will then be linked to the database and added as a Good Day mailing recipient.

Registration form for E-memberships will be configured to collect mailing address information instead of email only.

Good Day! Magazine

Subscriptions - Members and non-members can easily subscribe to the Good Day!™ magazine by visiting the National Grange website and navigating to the subscription interface found under the “NEWS” section or from the main slider. To increase subscriptions and visibility on the website, a stationary menu box was placed on the home page under the slider.

Conversations on how to allow access to the Good Day magazine via the National Grange website have been researched. The plan is to allow access to the magazine online to E-members with the assurance that the link cannot be shared to non-subscribers.

New subscriptions and renewals are processed daily in the National Grange office and the mailing list provided to the mail house for distribution.

Auto-Renewal Subscription Email Reminder – On 01/21/19 Blue Tahiti incorporated an automatically generated email reminder to inform subscribers of their upcoming renewal of the Good Day!™ magazine. This email would generate 7 days before the payment is processed and credit card on file is charged \$16.

Steps for auto renewing subscriptions:

- (1) An email notification goes out 1 week before the credit card on file is charged
- (2) PayPal processes the renewal payment to the credit card on file the day of renewal
- (3) Confirmation with PayPal that the money was collected
- (4) If collected Blue Tahiti inserts the relevant data into various tables and maps adding the renewed subscription to the same member id
- (5) A receipt is automatically sent to the subscriber on success.

If auto renewal payment is unsuccessfully collected, an email will be generated to the subscriber to submit new credit card details. These failed renewals are captured and emailed to the National Grange to follow up with the subscriber.

Auto-Renewal Subscription Email example:

Dear Brother/Sister:

This is to inform you that your subscription to the Good Day magazine will auto-renew in 7 days. Please note that a 1-year subscription to the Good Day magazine is now \$16.

You don't need to do anything as this will be processed automatically and your subscription will be updated accordingly.

You will receive a receipt for the renewed subscription by email, once the transaction has been processed.

If you wish to cancel your subscription please contact Stephanie Wilkins by email at swilkins@nationalgrange.org or by phone 1-202-628-3507 ext. 101.

Upcoming Subscription Email Reminder – Not all subscriptions are on auto renewal. For these subscribers, an email is generated every month (during their final quarter) leading up to their renewal deadline requesting their continued support of the magazine.

Upcoming Subscription Renewal Email example:

Dear Brother/Sister:

We would like to inform you that your subscription to the quarterly Good Day!™ magazine is about to expire. We hope that your experience has thus far been positive and that you wish to renew your subscription for another year to read more exciting stories about the Grange. We also hope you've shared your copies with others and encouraged them to subscribe as well or used it as a way to introduce someone to the Grange who you think may make a great member. There are so many ways we hope you've interacted with and spread the news you've received from Good Day! and we'd love your feedback as well as your commitment to spend time again with Good Day!

To renew your subscription, please follow the link. (link with prefilled subscription information)

Please contact us via email at information@nationalgrange.org for any questions about your renewal.

Let's make it a Good Day!™

Lapsed Subscription Email Reminder – Subscribers who have lapsed or not renewed, will receive an email every quarter (based on the Good Day magazine schedule) reminding them to renew their subscription. They will also have the option to contact the National Grange for assistance.

Lapsed Subscription Email example:

Dear Brother/Sister:

This is to inform you that your subscription to the Good Day magazine has lapsed since 2018 / Quarter 4.

We are sad to see you go, and would like to give you the opportunity to renew your subscription. Please click

[here](#) if you wish to [renew online now](#), or alternatively please contact Stephanie Wilkins by email at

swilkins@nationalgrange.org or by phone 1-202-628-3507 ext. 101.

All subscribers receive a written notification attached to their last issue of the Good Day!™ magazine with a reminder to renew their subscription.

Current Good Day Magazine Subscribers as of 10/11/19 (total do not reflect subscriptions and renewals waiting to be processed).

Current/Active	876
Lapsed	700
Pending	11
Total	1587

Website Updates/Changes

National Grange – Information on the National Grange website is updated regularly to include National Grange News, call to action items, press releases, news of interests, member benefits, program information, the new Grange newsletter “Patrons Chain” and a number of Grange events. The main slider of the homepage features highlighted items and events such as the Legislative Fly-In, Regional Conferences, Grange Month, Grange Revival, the 153rd Annual National Grange Convention, the quarterly magazine, Good Day, etc.

The National Grange now has 1014 user profiles registered on the website classified under 3 types of memberships (1) Grange Member (2) E-member and (3) Delegate Member. The Delegate classification was added for National Grange Delegates to view pertinent information such as rulings from the National President. These users are able to log into the National Grange website and access member-only information. All users have the ability to reset their login password, if forgotten, by using the email address they used to register and create their profile.

All domains associated with the National Grange are current and will renew automatically with GoDaddy. All websites have been verified by Google for searching. All WordPress websites have been upgraded to the latest version of 5.2.3. All other installed plugins and themes are up-to-date.

Grange Radio - The website associated with Grange Radio has been disabled. However, the National Grange will keep the domain URL grangeradio.org. Those visiting to the grangeradio.org website will be redirected to a National Grange webpage that simply says “Grange Radio is no longer available”. This will send a clear message that Grange Radio no longer exists and visitors will not think there is a technical problem.

Junior Grange - The National Junior Grange website received necessary updates to the 2019 programs, forms and other revisions as given by the Junior Grange Director. New items such as "Oliver the Ornament" fundraiser and Junior Grange Passports have also been added. Additional passports will be added to the website as they are made available.

Youth – The 2019 Regional Conferences dates have been updated. Additional conference information will be added when it is determined and submitted by the host state/Junior Director for posting. The 2019 Trivia Challenge has been updated so that members can submit their forms electronically.

The Youth and Young Adults website will undergo a revamp. A domain has been created to build out the new site. The initial Grange Youth site will stay in place until the new site has been fully laid out and tested. Once the newly revamped site is complete, the site will be migrated over to the National Grange Youth and Young Adults URL.

Grange Foundation - Donation buttons that were created in the PayPal were edited so that funds collected for the Grange Foundation would be directly deposited into the Grange Foundation bank. The previous buttons on the Grange Foundation website were directing payment to the National Grange and the funds were then transferred to Grange Foundation. This will alleviate a step and ensure the fund is appropriated correctly.

Computer/Hardware/Software

Computers - The National Grange purchased one HP color LaserJet printer for the Marketing, Sales and Benefits Director. This printer will be used to print various membership recognition awards and scans needed for Loretta to work seamlessly.

Dell is working to submit a proposal for seven office laptops with the latest Office software installed to be used as docking stations in the National Grange headquarters.

The National Grange renewed the SSL certificate for the domain remote.nationalgrange.org. This SSL certificate is used for remotely connecting to the National Grange server via Remote Desktop Connection.

An email account and user profile was created for the new Trademark Protection Manager, David Baker. Any and all emails to Spencer Sanders are being bounced to the inbox of David Baker. The sender will also receive an automatically generated response informing that future communications should be directed to David. Since David will be working remotely at times, a VPN connection is established for him to gain access to server files while out of the office.

An email account and user profile was created for the new Operations Coordinator, Samantha Wilkins. Any and all emails to Stephanie Tiller are being bounced to the inbox of Samantha Wilkins. The sender will also receive an automatically generated response informing that future communications should be directed to Samantha.

Hardware - The National Grange purchased a new credit card processing device called Vital Mobile for \$649. This hand-held device is a secure electronic payment solution to replace the very outdated Verifone credit card machine. Vital Mobile uses an advanced Wi-Fi connectivity which accepts multiple payment types. It features a long-lasting battery life with charging base, magnetic stripe reader, chip reader, and most importantly is PCI compliant which alleviates the recurring fee of \$35 each month for non-compliance. Vital held an online set up with Stephanie Wilkins followed by a training session with both Stephanie Wilkins and Loretta Washington. All sales items and prices were manually entered into the new system and assigned a predetermined shopping category. The analog phone line previously used to process credit card transactions was terminated and removed from Comcast bill.

The National Grange purchased an APC Smart-UPS C Battery Backup & Surge Protector with SmartConnect. This device was purchased for \$403 and was needed to replace the failing battery backup that was 4-5 years old. This unit was needed to provide uninterrupted power to the server in the event of power failure or power surge. Unplanned power loss to the server can cause mechanical issues with the server, prevent daily backups from running and remote connection to the server itself.

Symantec - The 1-year license subscription with Symantec was scheduled to end on 02/04/19. To avoid interruption in this service and maintain security, this license of 10 users was renewed on 01/16/19. Symantec Endpoint Protection (version 14.0.3897.1101) runs live updates to provide Virus Spyware Protection, Proactive Threat Protection and Network Threat Protection for all workstations. Virus definitions are updated daily. System updates and virus definitions to all office workstations are current and up-to date. Symantec administers an automatic virus scan of each individual workstation nightly.

ZOOM – ZOOM has become more popular and the number of meetings held this year has significantly increased. The subscription for ZOOM was renewed on 1-21-2019. Freeconferencecall.com remains an alternative meeting option.

Software - System updates to office workstations are conducted weekly. The ideal time to download and install system updates is on Fridays early in the morning when there is limited staff. Updates include Windows updates to workstations and server, java, and ensuring Symantec is running live updates with the most current virus definitions. A scheduled virus protection scan will be implemented on each workstation to run every Thursday evening so that results will be ready Friday morning.

The National Grange purchased a WordPress plugin called "Booking Calendar" for \$110. This plugin will be used for the sole purpose of online reservations for the Goss Conference Room. A webpage has been created for tenants of the National Grange Headquarters to view available dates and submit a request to reserve the meeting space. An email is submitted to Samantha Wilkins, who will then approve the reservations. Upon approval, the tenant will receive an email confirming their reservations. This booking system will allow tenants to better plan their meeting and events by knowing what dates and times are available online.

SharePoint - The National Grange implemented SharePoint at the 152nd Annual National Grange Convention as a digital solution to our resolution process. A total 143 state submitted resolutions were uploaded to SharePoint and assigned to their respective committees. Prior to session each committee chair was given a link to SharePoint with editing permissions while the remaining delegates received a link with viewing permissions only. These links allowed delegates to preview their assigned committee resolutions as well as become familiar with the SharePoint system.

Following the 152nd Annual National Grange Convention, SharePoint beta testers were asked to complete a 5-minute online survey (8 questions) and provide feedback of their experience with the digital system.

How easy was it to view the SharePoint files?

Not easy at all	16.67%	2
Somewhat easy	33.33%	4
Easy	16.67%	2
Extremely easy	33.33%	4
TOTAL		12

How easy was it to edit SharePoint files?

Not easy at all	9.09%	1
Somewhat easy	45.45%	5
Easy	27.27%	3
Extremely easy	18.18%	2
TOTAL		11

Did you attend the SharePoint training session?

Yes	66.67%	8
No	33.33%	4
TOTAL		12

How helpful was the SharePoint training session?

Not at all helpful	10.00%	1
Somewhat helpful	40.00%	4
Helpful	30.00%	3
Extremely helpful	20.00%	2
TOTAL		10

Was the internet connection speed adequate?

Not at all adequate	0.00%	0
Somewhat adequate	33.33%	4
Adequate	58.33%	7
Extremely adequate	8.33%	1
TOTAL		12

Would you like to receive access to SharePoint files prior to Annual Session?

Yes	100.00%	12
No	0.00%	0
TOTAL		12

In your own words, what are the things that you would most like to improve about using SharePoint? (comments have not been edited)

“ It took a lot to access the program. Editing was fine once I got there. Each time I closed the program I had to have the tech reconnect me, I could not access the program. Each time I was asked for a password but the program would not allow me to get to a password box. Now on my laptop my font choices are stored in the cloud and I no longer have access to those. Would you explain how to get those back to my desktop program? ”

“ Committee work - do not need the name of the entire committee spelled out, ie Labor, Judiciary & Transportation", use LJ&T so we can see the rest of the file name. Because so much space used to name, had to open every file in folder to find the one that was the Policy Statement or the Policy. - Having the previous year's statement, policy and thank you there was very helpful, but put the dates in front of file name so can sort quickly - worked very very well overall, great solution. - need to add in the blocks at bottom of every resolution a place to indicate the committee actions as well as delegate actions - doing the upfront zoom meetings on policy is effective and efficient ”

“ I was unable to attend the training, but heard that it was helpful. I did not try to edit the files, so I am not sure if it was easy or not. I enjoyed the ease of using it, I would like to have all the files ahead of session. ”

“ Maybe if a column could be added to the resolutions so we could mark which ones were adopted. ”

“ I was not one who could edit anything. Not everyone was editing properly as the changes were not visible. This may have been an error on the part of the editor if not then something in the system needs to be changed. ”

“ Too early to tell; I think after next year we will have a better grasp on any issues. ”

“ being a beta tester, I wrote down some comments that might help with future sessions.... unable to edit these documents let those whom have paper. Delegate needs to have the ability to add their notes. paperwork passed out needs to be made available on the Sharepoint, Master's Address needs to be on the Sharepoint site. ”

“ Being able to mark adopted, adopted as amended etc. at the bottom. It would be beneficial to have an area to make notes in so you could remember and explain points to those back home as to reasons for actions taken. It may be hard to do, but when copies are requested, only make enough copies for those who are not using the Beta System. ”

“ While the beta testers had copies of the resolutions, we did not have any director reports, exec comm minutes, or other items in the notebooks. I still had to obtain a notebook to have access to those items. These items could have easily been downloaded. As the testers could not modify any of the resolutions, it was difficult to take any notes on specific resolutions. I would like to see additional improvements moving toward a paperless convention. It is much easier than transporting all of the "paper" back home following the convention. ”

“ To make sure SharePoint has all the flaws out of it before National ”

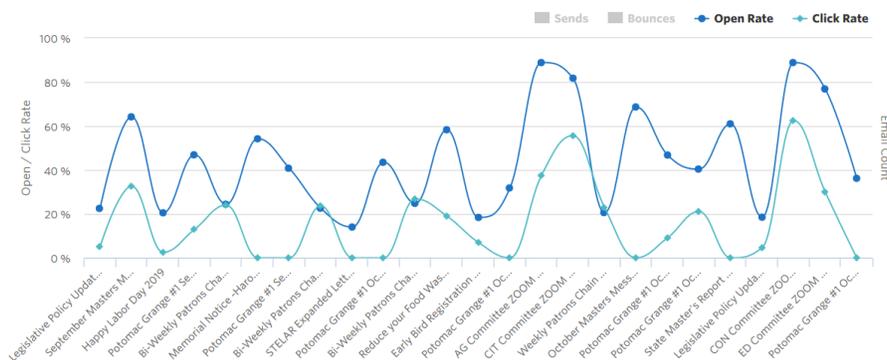
Mailing/Shipping/Printing

Email Distribution – Constant Contact remains the National Grange’s primary source for email distribution to Grange members as well as other group list such as event lists, Senate and House Staff and Press. As of 10/11/2019, 100+ email announcements have been distributed via Constant Contact. Emails include Legislative Policy Updates, Monthly Master’s Message, Fraternal Concerns, Memorial Notices, the Patrons Chain and more.

This year the National Grange has incorporated a weekly Patrons Chain that is fully laid out using Constant Contact. Each week features a new and fresh layout to keep members interested and eager to read each article with expectations of the next issue.

A brief email sign-up form to join the National Grange email distribution list has been added to the National Grange website. We anticipate that this sign-up form will increase the number of people reached as well as collect email information for membership in our database.

Past 25 Emails Open/Click Rate:



Mailing - Mail processing/shipping is being conducted on a daily basis for all departments of The National Grange. This includes Grange Supply Store orders, membership recognition items, Good Day!™ magazine issues, bills/payments, etc. The United States Post Office implemented a postal rate increase effective January 27, 2019. Updates to SendSuite Express Shipping and the Pitney Bowes Connect+ meter have received the necessary updates to process mail at the new increased rate. The National Grange automatically saves .05 on every letter and up to 40.4% on priority mail when processed through the Pitney Bowes meter. Certified mail is processed once a week (Fridays) or as provided by the Trademark Protection Manager.

Shipping - The National Grange has reduced the number of packages shipped via UPS. This comes as a direct result of sending packages via "Media Mail". Media Mail is a less expensive way of sending media items such as books, CD's, etc. Since most of the items we ship fall under this category we are able to take advantage of the lower priced shipping option.

With that being said, it is recommended that the National Grange alter its current UPS contract and discontinue the UPS daily pickup service and to switch to UPS Smart Pickup. The UPS Smart Pickup option uses innovative technology to automatically arrange a pickup only when we have packages to ship. When processing a shipment using UPS Internet Shipping the system automatically notifies a UPS driver to make a UPS Smart Pickup that same day to pick up all prepared packages. Not only will using UPS Smart Pickup save money but having UPS come to our business only when we have a package to ship saves fuel and can reduce carbon emissions.

Daily Pickup		Daily On-Route Pickup		UPS Smart Pickup®
Weekly Billing Total Fee		Weekly Billing Total Fee		Weekly Billing Total Fee
\$0.00 - \$74.99	\$29.00	\$0.00 - \$74.99	\$27.00	Flat charge per week \$13.45
\$75.00 or more	\$14.50	\$75.00 or more	\$13.50	

Printing - The 2019 National Grange Roster was completed, printed and distributed to each State Grange. Two printable versions were constructed, one handheld booklet size, and one larger booklet size. Each state was shipped 2 small and 2 large versions. Additional copies of the roster can be obtained by downloading it from the National Grange website. An Excel spreadsheet with separate workbooks for each state officer, national officers, staff, etc. is also available on the National Grange website. This digital version will prove to be helpful when doing mail merges, group emails, etc.

The National Grange printed a total of ninety-three 7th Degree certificates for all registered participants at the 152nd Annual National Grange convention. Each certificate was printed with the participant's name and assigned certificate number provided by Assembly of Demeter Priest Annalist Jim Owens.

The National Grange will continue to supply various printed items for sale through the Grange Supply Store and for other departments, certificates such as Community Citizen Awards, Pomona Award for Public Service, Silver Star Certificates, booklets such as the Pomona Manuals, Youth Handbooks, Grange Initiate, etc.

Resolutions are being indexed and formatted for printing to be used at the 153rd Annual National Grange convention. Folders have been created in SharePoint in preparation for the upload of resolutions, documents, reports, etc. Binder tabs were ordered and printed to accommodate those delegates that will not be using SharePoint.

Building Security

Passcards - An ongoing inventory of all front door passcards to the National Grange headquarters are being maintained. As of 10/11/19, there is a total of 298 passcards assigned and issued to a combination of National Grange employees, building tenants, subtenants, vendors, etc. Passcards are immediately deactivated for tenants and vendors that no longer require access to the National Grange premises. Damaged passcards are replaced by the National Grange at no charge while lost passcards are replaced for a fee of \$25. Invoices for replacement cards are given to the tenant as well as the National Grange Controller for payment.

Security - The National Grange has two video cameras in the lobby of the Grange building. Due to a security incident with a building tenant, the National Grange has scheduled these cameras to record motion 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week. These two video cameras in the lobby of the Grange building are successfully recording motion and saving the captured movement on the hard drive (3780MB). A larger hard drive will be obtained to increase the number of days that can be stored.

JUNIOR GRANGE

Prepared by Samantha Wilkins, Junior Grange Director

COMMUNICATION

- Through social media/emails/ and phone calls we have been able to keep up with many Junior Granges/leaders/directors.
- I have worked to maintain a quick response rate to email, phone calls, and social media messages.

- I have been working with the Communications department to have frequent posts on social media promoting the Junior Grange as well as monthly entries in Patrons Chain and Quarterly publications through Good Day Magazine.
- I have also had frequent communication with directors through our State Director Facebook page which has allowed these directors to freely ask questions and get input from other directors.

Junior 1+ Program/Data

It has been highly encouraged for states/subordinate Granges to record their Junior numbers (both chartered and 1+) on their quarterly reports. Please refer to the membership report for updated membership numbers for Junior Granges. I am happy to report that at least 3 Junior Granges have reorganized or chartered this year with at least 2 more to come in the coming months.

Leadership Training

Leadership training is and always will be of vital importance to the development of the Junior Program. It has been an instrumental component in attending national/regional/local conferences to be able to get a one on one time with directors to talk about programing, issues, and how to build a strong Junior foundation in their state. As always, I want to make myself available to these state Masters, directors (state and local) and anyone interested in promoting the Junior Grange in their communities.

Travel

National Grange Legislative Fly-In in which juniors attended and were able to meet with their representatives on the Hill. We have noticed a struggle to gain Juniors' attention during fly-in activities and will be working on planning other things in future programing.

Great Plains Leadership Conference: Was held in Waco, TX which had a great turn out and many Juniors in attendance. Juniors were treated to several workshops about the Cape of Honor Award, Dairy Awareness, Creating a quilt block and more. Along with many workshops/activities we were able to participate in two community service projects and take a tour of either the Texas Rangers Museum or Dr. Pepper Museum. Carlie Conrady of Oklahoma qualified with her prepared speech as the best of show winner in the region to attend National Session. Carlie is also planning on running as Junior Grange Ambassador for National 2019. Several Juniors participated in the new youth contest 'Grange Baseball' and several of the Juniors out- swung the youth participants. One Junior had the overall highest score and will be turning youth age before Nationals and now has the opportunity to compete at National Session. A huge thank you to the Texas State Grange and Great Plains region for a well-planned and busy conference.

Mid-West Leaders Conference – was held in Milford, Indiana. There was a great turn out of leaders from around that region along with several Junior Grangers from the states. Juniors did not have workshop times or activities specific to their age group but they were able to participate with the lecturers/leaders in their workshop and close out one day focusing on the Dairy Awareness project, making ice cream with other Juniors and Juniors at Heart. The conference allowed for time of service and fellowship as well as a fun trip down to the lake. For future conferences I would like to see more activities planned for the Juniors and plan on speaking with the next coordinating state on seeing how we can make this happen. Juniors truly enjoy these conferences and we want to provide the best experiences for them. Thank you to the Indiana State Grange and Mid-West region for a great conference.

Pennsylvania State Junior Grange Camp- myself along with Billy Greer, National Junior Grange Ambassador were able to attend the PA State JG Camp and absolutely had a ball! This was my first experience at a Junior Grange camp and I was highly impressed with the activities, organization, and participation the state had. Many state leaders were present and working the camp or coming in to provide workshops and meals throughout the week. PA is one state that still participates in the royalty program and named a new prince and princess for their state. I have been working with the PA Junior Director to get the ages changed for their contest to allow the Junior Royalty to compete for National Ambassador. This year PA will be sending their Junior Prince to compete for National JG Ambassador.

North East Regional –Youth Conference- was held in Connecticut at the University of Connecticut. This conference was light on workshops/activities and could use more structure in future years. Host states should set a goal to have a schedule in place a month or two before the conference that strikes a balance between Grange education, leadership training, and fun activities. In the next year, National Grange Directors will be working with states hosting regional conferences to help structure a schedule that provides this value to those who attend and entices Grange members who have not previously participated in a regional conference to do so.

Southeastern Leaders Conference- was held in Knoxville, Tennessee. This conference was well attended by Youth and Junior participants. There were a handful of adult leaders as well. Overall, the conference went well; however, there was no schedule in place or much information given prior to the beginning of the conference. Once arrival onsite for the conference, we learned that there were no actual workshops or activities planned for the weekend besides one youth team workshop and one Junior workshop. Mandy and I went to work and planned additional workshops and time for program overview along with promoting other National Grange programing to fill the time throughout the conference that wasn't set aside for meals/games. Overall, the conference went well and we were able to get a lot of one on one time with members of that region and talking to them about their ideas for growth and programing. Several Junior Grangers from the region participated in the prepared and impromptu public speaking contests. Rayvn Morris from Virginia will represent the region as the best of show winner for her speech on Pandas.

Grange Revival --Although not a true National event I want to give props to those who planned and executed this fabulous week. Many Juniors from all over the US attended and were able to build new friendships. Some I heard are even planning trips to see each other in the future. Young and 'Seasoned' alike had a great time of fun, food, and fellowship. At the next planned revival in 2021 I plan to create a few activities or events for the Juniors to participate in, although all the workshops, games etc. were very appropriate for all ages that attended. I have plans to attend Western Regional Conference, State Conventions, and A Degree day hosted by a Pomona Grange in New York over the next quarter, as well as prepare for the 2020 programming year.

Western Regional Leaders Conference- was held in Montana right outside of Helena. The conference was well attended despite the change from their typical location of a hotel to a camp site. Workshops of great variety were given and well received by all who attended. We were able to have a new Junior Granger from Idaho join as a 1+ member with Membership Director Joe Stefenoni giving him the obligation. This proved to be a great display of how the obligation worked and also how easy it could be to gain new Junior Members for subordinate Granges. The young man went on to win the Best of Show in the Junior division of public speaking.

Wisconsin State Session- Myself along with several other staff members and National Master, Betsy Huber, attended the Wisconsin State Session. During this session we led a workshop on overcoming the challenges of membership. I focused primarily on the 1+ program and how to get Juniors involved when there is only one. The one-day session closed with a Junior Granger presenting his entry into the digital talent contest.

Farm Aid- 2019- Several of the National Grange Staff along with Members of the Wisconsin State Grange, Minnesota State Grange, and Illinois State Grange participated in the Farm Aid event which drew in over 30,000 attendees. I worked with Junior members and youth members in the Youth Market- promoting the creation of farmers markets and importance of Buying Local. I was able to speak with people from all around the country on the Grange's invested interest in Rural America.

National Junior Grange Ambassador:

National Junior Ambassador, Billy Greer attended the Great Plains Leadership conference in Waco, TX and helped put on several of the workshops. He also participated in Grange Baseball and encouraged others to participate. He helped the Youth Team emcee the contests and even gave a speech himself. Billy also attended the PA Junior Grange Camp. He and his family made a cross country trip (up through Canada, down through Pennsylvania, and back to Colorado.) The Greer family was a huge asset to the Junior Grange Camp and were able to provide guidance, fun, and entertainment for all who attended. Billy has been working on ideas to better the JG program along with helping to design a t-shirt for the Grange Store.

2020 Ambassador Candidates

I am happy to announce that we have 5 candidates competing for the title of National Junior Grange Ambassador. This year we have candidates representing Oklahoma, Iowa, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. After speaking to the National Grange Foundation Board President, we have decided that we should name one female and one male candidate to represent the National Junior Grange as an Ambassador team. I am going to work with our judges that are making the decision to decide if this will be a viable option to offer.

Fundraising

- For 2019 the focus of our fundraising is for the Kelley Farm. We are encouraging Juniors to raise funds to donate to the foundation for the Kelley Farm. Within the program guide they have a list of costs associated with raising an animal.
- National Youth Director Mandy Bostwick and I recently joined forces to create a founder's sponsorship for both the Junior and Youth Departments-- sponsorship levels range from \$25-\$5,000+. Donors can be anyone from individual Grange members to large companies.
- Oliver the Ornament- we have recently teamed up with the author, Todd Zimmerman, author of Oliver the Ornament which is a Christmas book that encourages kindness and anti-bullying. The information for this book will be out in the next Good Day Magazine along with following Patrons Chains. A portion of the books sold online, using the code 'Grange' or going directly through our own website, will come back to the Junior foundation fund and then there will also be a way for Subordinate/State Granges to sell bulk orders of the books and get a portion of the proceeds to go to their Granges as well as the foundation. This will be an ongoing partnership.

Programs

Many of the contests and programs for 2020 will stay the same with only slight variations-- there has been a very positive response to where the program currently stands, and I want to encourage less change and more involvement in the programs as they currently stand.

Within the 2019 program, I wanted to continue with a cohesive theme throughout all departments of the organization. The 2019 Junior Grange theme is "Heroes in Training" moving right in theme with the 2019 Grange month theme of "heroes in our Hometowns." For 2020 we will focus on Cultivating our Connections--How and what does that look like in the eyes of a Junior Granger.

The Agricultural Awareness Project within the Junior Department focused on Dairy Awareness has had a great response. We have brought light to the theme at every regional conference and we have also seen many Junior Grangers and Granges participating in this across the nation.

Also, included in the 2019 program are contests and programs available to Juniors from the following departments: Community Service, Membership, Youth, Communications, Legislative, and Lecturers. This will continue on throughout the 2020 program book.

Since there has been a gained interest in the Agriculture Awareness Project, I have plans to continue that for 2020, with each year bringing a change of focus. The focus for 2020 will be Agriculture and the environment. Junior Ambassador Candidates are each presenting a workshop at National Session focused on this theme- they will present on several topics from recycling to methane. This will also go in conjunction with two workshops being presented by National Communications Fellows on cow soap making and one by Ann Bercher, MN State Grange on Composting and Food Waste.

There has been a gained interest in the Youth Baseball contest and with the support of the National Youth Department, we will be working to create a Junior category which will allow Juniors to participate at their Regional levels and then continue on to National. One of the great components of Grange Baseball is the interactive crowd. We are looking for the best time to input this into National session schedule and to make it a great game.

Washington DC Experience

The National Junior Grange Department along with the National Grange Youth Department and the National Grange Legislative Department have paired together to host the Washington DC Experience beginning in 2020. This will be a great introductory experience to the inner workings of Washington DC – the Grange’s presence in DC – and how to get young people involved in legislation. This event will serve as a mini fly-in focused primarily on the youth and junior aged membership. They will participate in mock interviews, learn Grange policies, tour the city, and learn what it is that the Grange is fighting for. The cost of the registration to come is \$150 which includes meals and tours. The dates are March 7- March 11, 2019 and this will be open to any youth and junior aged members along with their leaders.

Passport Program

There are five themes to encompass a variety of topics that will bring interest to any and all involved in the program. They are as follows:

- Grange Adventures
- Grange States
- Career Readiness
- American History
- World Discovery

I am encouraging anyone and everyone to be a part of the developmental process as we create new passports. Passports are now available on the website and will continue to be added as designs are completed. This program will only be as successful as its counterparts and I want to encourage states to send in their passport entries to continue to grow the program. Thank you to the members in states such as Rhode Island and Washington who have submitted several entries that are now in the production stage.

Safe Gatherings

2019 the National Grange Board worked together to establish a Child Protection Policy. This policy was established August 2019 using the platform of Safe Gatherings to conduct background checks on all who work with our youth and junior members. As of right now 28 members have obtained their clearances through Safe Gatherings. Washington State Grange has set up their own account through Safe Gatherings and has had several of their members/directors obtain this clearance as well. I hope that since we now have a policy in place our members will follow up on receiving their clearances and that our States will push this information through to their members.

Thank you for your time and continued support.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Prepared by Burton Eller, Legislative Affairs Director

Overview

The National Grange continues to recapture its historical reputation as a major voice for the citizens of rural and small-town America. As Washington has begun to rediscover R-U-R-A-L recently, the press, the politicians and the regulators are rediscovering the grassroots organization called the Grange. Coalitions and organizations are increasingly coming to the Grange for its insight and its support on issues and matters of public policy. We have been able to share issue funds with several state Granges who are able to help on specific national issues in their state. Hopefully, these funds can help those states build an infrastructure to help with future issues.

We continue to expand the Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative (RALI) drug awareness, treatment and recovery to the Grange grassroots. Seven state Granges are now RALI partners and we constantly push the national RALI leaders to add more. We

were able to secure scholarships to send three Grange youth and their leader to the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) training in Dallas in July. Delegates learned how to build coalitions to address the youth drug crisis in rural and small-town areas. Grange Youth and Grange Juniors plan a session at the National Grange convention to consider making this initiative their national project. Grange Advocacy hopes to sponsor a Grange youth to the Washington, D.C. follow-up session in February. National Grange awarded its annual “Champions of Rural America” honor to Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas, Chairman Ajit Pai, Federal Communications Commission, and Alan Morgan, National Rural Health Association

President Betsy Huber continues to be a major national voice for rural broadband deployment, which is one of Grange’s major priorities. Her push for more accurate broadband service mapping will focus on remote areas with no service. While health care has increasingly become a major public policy issue for the Grange, it is now the elephant in the room, so to speak. Medicare and Medicaid are popular and necessary among Grange members, but several proposals would weaken these. Surprise medical bills (out-of-network charges) should not be allowed and this has Congress’ attention. Prescription drug prices keep rising but several proposed solutions turned out to be two-edged swords.

Rollout of the 2018 Farm Bill seemed to go well for USDA in the countryside. Securing funding for several of the discretionary programs will be a challenge however. Plant-based milk and meat have become an issue as has lab-grown meat. Our Grange challenge is to assure transparency of nomenclature (Does the name accurately describe the product?) and nutritional content including additives. International trade has become a cornerstone market for farmers and ranchers. Disruption of those markets depresses farm-gate prices. The tariff war with China could be a long haul and the result may fall short of the comprehensive agreement everyone hoped for. On a brighter note, the new trade agreement with Japan is a huge win for American agriculture and food products. Hopefully the United States-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) trade agreement is in final negotiations between Congress and the White House and headed for a vote by December.

Last year in this annual report, we said respect and civility had eroded alarmingly in the Nation’s Capital. It’s only gotten worse in the past twelve months. More and more citizens get their news from and form their opinions based on short headlines and sound bites. To disagree is to become disagreeable. Facts aren’t as important as feelings. Many advocates are tolerant of everyone’s opinion except those they don’t agree with. John F. Kennedy’s famous quote, “Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country” is a foreign concept for some. The American “melting pot” that formed our nation into a common bond of citizenry for over 200 years is dangerously close to breaking apart into a nation of clans and ethnicities much like the Middle East.

Agriculture and Food

We have been actively involved in the implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill including the new Dairy Margin Coverage program, conservation, prevented planting provisions, and more. The EPA and Corps of Engineers have formally repealed the 2015 Waters of the United States rule that has been a serious problem for farmers, ranchers and landowners. This action makes pre-2015 Clean Water Act regulations the law of the land until new rules are adopted. The Grange warned new hemp farmers to be enthusiastic but cautious until FDA approves CBD (cannabidiol) after determining the effect of long-term use in animals and humans. FDA may also crack down on unsubstantiated health claims. The latest concern is the lack of processing capacity for the 2019 crop.

Health Care

Opioids and the abuse of other drugs continue in alarming proportions with 74% of farmers and farm workers reporting they are active with prevention and recovery coalitions. The National Grange spearheaded coalition efforts in Washington to raise awareness of the dangers of unapproved imported drugs. Steps to eliminate surprise medical bills and to limit the price increase of prescription drugs are being actively pursued by the Grange. Rebates and discounts along the supply chain between the manufacturer and patient are common practice, but the patient is not a recipient at the pharmacy counter. We are working with patient groups to remedy this in Congress and at FDA. The suspension of excise taxes on medical device innovation expires December 31, 2019; the Grange is working to permanently repeal excise taxes on medical devices.

Immigration/Ag Workforce

Congress began work last January on comprehensive immigration reform proposals that protected “Dreamers”, provided border security, spelled out family-based immigration and provided for H-2A and “blue card” ag workers. National Grange and the Ag Workforce Coalition worked to include practical common-sense ag worker provisions but Congress doesn’t seem to have an appetite for immigration reform in the current political climate so there’s been no movement. The Department of Labor has streamlined and improved its H-2A temporary ag worker program in the meantime.

Infrastructure

The National Grange has been active in the Rebuild Rural Coalition efforts to have Congress pass bipartisan legislation to strengthen rural infrastructure including broadband deployment, reliable roads and bridges, inland waterways, rural health care and more. But again, no legislative movement is in sight.

Telecommunications

The reason why more rural and small-town residents don’t have high speed broadband now is because of the ole “pay for” rule that it’s more expensive to connect fewer people over large areas. Innovations such as small cell transmitters and low frequency transmission in unassigned spectrum are actively supported by the National Grange. We supported new funding by Congress and USDA to target new rural broadband expansion. Grange joined efforts to improve the accuracy of mapping “connectivity deserts” in remote areas. We are actively supporting the government-subsidized Lifeline program to provide voice and broadband service to elderly, isolated, disabled, low-income and veteran citizens.

Trade

The good news on the trade front is that the agriculture and food industries stand to reap huge benefits from the new Japanese trade agreement. We’re hopeful the House of Representatives and the White House can come to agreement on the

United States-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) trade agreement and pass it by December. The bad news is that our trade war with China could go on for a while. Hopes for a broad comprehensive bilateral trade agreement are fading as China keeps retreating from its negotiating positions.

Fly-In

Twenty-two Grange members from eleven states met with thirty-one members of Congress and their staffs to discuss the Grange's priority policy issues that need action by Congress and the federal agencies. Fly-In 2020 will take place February 7-9 (tentative) in New Hampshire so attendees can participate in the "First in the Nation" presidential primary. Attendees go to various campaign headquarters and work on the campaign of their choice. New Hampshire residents vote February 11 (tentative).

Coalitions

Coalition-building is an important tool for managing issues in Washington. The National Grange engages with fourteen issue coalitions and alliances in the Nation's Capital ranging from agriculture, ag workforce, broadband deployment, health care, taxes, trade, paper options, rural schools and more.

View from the Hill

We published twelve monthly editions of the *View from the Hill* Policy Updates and Issue News newsletter which were sent to all Grange members.

Grange Profile

The National Grange continues to gain stature in the public policy arena in Washington. Here is a recap of some of the high-profile actions by the National Grange on issues since the 2018 convention last November:

Opinion Editorials

Telecommunications - 4

Official letters regarding policy issues:

Telecommunications - 11

Health care - 26

Agriculture and food- 7

Taxes - 2

Trade - 2

Infrastructure - 2

Paper options - 5

Official statements and filings

Telecommunications - 9

Health care - 4

Coordinated state activity:

Op eds, letters and statements coordinated between National Grange and state Granges - 26

Grange Advocacy

Grange Advocacy was chartered as a 501(c) (4) organization in 2013 for the purpose to:

- Educate the American public and elected officials in issues affecting rural America and agriculture at the federal, state and local levels
- Lobby Congress and state legislatures
- Engage in grassroots activities
- Conduct general public political advertisement

Grange Advocacy activities with other organizations, coalitions, Congress, federal agencies and the media have been a tremendous boost to the overall Grange profile and reputation. Grange Advocacy has also been successful in acquiring small grants from issue partners to address numerous public policy issues that coincide with National Grange policy. Grange Advocacy is able to reimburse the National Grange for certain overhead expenses and to transfer some issue management expenses out of the National Grange budget.

Here is a summary of how Grange Advocacy supports work of the National Grange and state Granges:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Grange Advocacy income as of September, 2019 | \$115,000 |
| • Funds to National Grange for overhead recovery
(expenses such as building, facilities, utilities, supplies, equipment and staff) | \$30,000 |
| • Grange Advocacy issue expenses transferred from National Grange
(media monitoring, Agri-Pulse, Politico, Ag Roundtable, Fly-In, intern, fellows scholarships, infomercials, other dues and subscriptions) | \$24,750 |
| • Grant sharing with state Granges | \$6,500 |
| • Total Grange Advocacy funds supporting National Grange efforts through September | \$61,250 |

MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT

Prepared by Membership & Leadership Development Director Joe Stefenoni

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

It is a pleasure to again present the report of the membership department for the last year. This year has certainly had its share of challenges, but the successes have come in stride with the challenges.

Grange Growth

The last membership year has not yielded the positive growth we continue to strive for. The State Granges of California, Indiana, Kansas, Montana, Oklahoma, Rhode Island and Virginia as well as Potomac Grange #1 all achieved net gains in their membership. 351 Subordinate/Community Granges achieved a net gain in membership and 399 Granges had a net neutral result on membership over the last year. Can you imagine if those 399 Granges each had a net gain of just one member? It would be a large first step in closing the gap to achieving a net gain in membership at the national level.

Top 5 Net Gain Granges

Grange Name & Number	State	Net Gain
Blue Jacket #353	OK	43
Big Cabin #156	OK	38
Santa Cruz Live Oak #503	CA	38
Hickory #1285	PA	37
Moses Lake #1151	WA	34

Top 5 Percentage Net Gain Granges

Grange Name & Number	State	% Net Gain
Fern Prairie #866	WA	310%
Moses Lake #1151	WA	308%
Fort Colville #553	WA	108%
Eagle #1	PA	107%
Pleasant Valley #1225	NY	100%
Rainbow Valley #689	CA	100%

Over the last membership year, four Subordinate/Community Granges and one Junior Grange have been organized or reorganized. Congratulations to both these Granges and the State Grange leadership that worked to bring these Granges into our fraternal circle. The following Granges have been organized or reorganized between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019: See *Secretary's Report*.

It is no secret that we will be not able to sustain our organization only by working with those Granges that are currently in our rosters. I urge each State Grange to train members on the process of organizing and reorganizing Subordinate/Community Granges. Over the next year the membership department will be updating teaching materials on this topic and rolling out new training materials to assist in this effort. By the time our 2020 Convention comes, I would like to be able to report at least one new or reorganized Grange in each state.

As a method to ensure that Granges we bring into our organization are given a foundation from which they can begin to build from, the membership department has developed a Grange resource binder that gives Granges an overview of different aspects of our organization ranging from how to conduct a Grange meeting to how to file for an EIN and establish a bank account. This should be a go-to resource for these Granges to answer questions in conjunction with guidance from an experienced mentor.

Nevada

The progress made in Nevada this last year has put us closer to being able to begin the process of organizing the State Grange of Nevada. The Deputy who has been working in the state is no longer able to fill the role and the National Master has appointed two new Deputies to assist the Granges in the State. Brother Carl Clinger and Sister Gloria Montero are both members of High Desert Grange, actively involved in the youth fair program and eager to see the Grange in Nevada grow. Even with the loss of one Grange, the growth of the organization has not been impeded.

In the last calendar year, we have added three new Subordinate/Community Granges, bringing the number of active community Granges in Nevada to 6. Because we have reached this important threshold, the membership department has begun to talk to all of the Community Granges in the state about coming together for a day to talk about the process of organizing a State Grange, the duties that entails and the new responsibilities which they must then assume. Because of the geographic challenges of the state, we believe that it would not be advisable to begin organizing a State Grange until there are at least 10 Subordinate/Community Granges.

In ongoing conversations with the state deputies, we believe that the organization of a State Grange will be realized soon with the first ever delegates from the State Grange of Nevada seated in the National Grange body by the 2022 convention in Reno, NV.

E-membership Program

Over the last membership year, we realized a 30-member net gain in the e-membership program. With the increase in the annual fee for National Grange e-members, we have been working to add and provide value to those who choose to join as e-members. Our e-members are now receiving the *Good Day!* magazine and are beginning to receive exclusive digital content targeted specifically towards e-members.

Regional Assistants

In addition to the two new Deputies in Nevada, the National Master has also appointed Sister Suzy Ramm (OR) as the Regional Assistant for the Western Region. The membership department is still looking for members to fill regional assistant

positions in the rest of the regions. If you know of a member who is familiar with the organization and desires to learn more about the Grange on a national level, encourage them to apply to be a regional assistant.

When the vision for this program is fully realized, these regional assistants will be working directly with State Grange membership directors and State Grange leaders doing strategic planning, goal setting, follow-up & accountability and they will be a resource between the National Grange membership director and the State Granges.

Planning for the Future

Over the last year, the membership department's message has been focused on educating our members about the changing landscape of generational shifts in our society and connecting with Millennials. To facilitate this, a number of presentations and workshops have been held in addition to a monthly zoom meeting. This information is the foundation which we will build from over the next year to lay out plans for membership development in our Granges.

Now our task is to plan for our future. I would like to highlight the California State Grange. In September, Worthy Master Westwood brought together a diverse group of stakeholders of the California State Grange for a day long, professionally facilitated, strategic planning meeting. These stakeholders included State Grange officers & Directors, as well as Community Grange leaders with an active interest in the function of the State Grange. All of the information and draft plans were also shared with those who attended the State Grange Convention last month to create a sense of enthusiasm, buy-in and ownership in the future of the California State Grange.

Over the next year, the membership department will be working with State Granges to create their own strategic plans that take a practical look at their current status and where they would like to be in the future. This will include evaluating financial and time resources & limitations, evaluating structural challenges and impediments and identifying opportunities for exposure to the public to build our name recognition. In addition to this planning, we will also be working with State Granges to develop member mentoring programs tailored to the Grange in each state.

The focus for the National Grange membership department over the next year will be working with State Granges to empower our Granges at the local level to reignite their passion for our organization. It is at the community level that the heart of the Grange lives and it is our duty to strengthen the Grange from the bottom, up. Stronger Subordinate/Community Granges will create stronger State Granges, which in turn will secure the future of the National Grange.

Brothers and Sisters, I look forward to seeing the accomplishments of our Granges over the next year. Membership growth does not rest on the shoulders of one person; it will be accomplished by the united efforts of all dedicated Grangers who are willing to hope and persevere in this good fight.

STATE	Total Members 2nd Quarter 2018	Total Members 2nd Quarter 2017	# change 2017 to 2018	% change 2017 to 2018	Total Granges 2nd Quarter 2018	Total Granges 2nd Quarter 2017	# change 2017 to 2018	% change 2017 to 2018
Alaska	90	90	0	0.00%	7	7	0	0.00%
California	4140	3393	747	22.02%	93	86	7	8.14%
Colorado	1196	1253	-57	-4.55%	39	42	-3	-7.14%
Connecticut	1879	1990	-111	-5.58%	45	48	-3	-6.25%
Delaware	341	360	-19	-5.28%	13	14	-1	-7.14%
Florida	47	46	1	2.17%	4	5	-1	-20.00%
Idaho	689	730	-41	-5.62%	23	25	-2	-8.00%
Illinois	1148	1232	-84	-6.82%	23	26	-3	-11.54%
Indiana	215	234	-19	-8.12%	9	9	0	0.00%
Iowa	129	132	-3	-2.27%	7	7	0	0.00%
Kansas	278	247	31	12.55%	12	12	0	0.00%
Maine	3025	3168	-143	-4.51%	105	109	-4	-3.67%
Maryland	446	452	-6	-1.33%	15	15	0	0.00%
Massachusetts	1660	1704	-44	-2.58%	48	49	-1	-2.04%
Michigan	642	697	-55	-7.89%	25	27	-2	-7.41%
Minnesota	86	125	-39	-31.20%	4	7	-3	-42.86%
Montana	320	264	56	21.21%	11	10	1	10.00%
Nebraska	104	132	-28	-21.21%	12	13	-1	-7.69%
Nevada	184	184	0	0.00%	3	3	0	0.00%
New Hamp.	1279	1431	-152	-10.62%	47	54	-7	-12.96%
New Jersey	1400	1415	-15	-1.06%	42	41	1	2.44%
New York	3780	3946	-166	-4.21%	150	156	-6	-3.85%
North Carolina	1664	1852	-188	-10.15%	31	33	-2	-6.06%
Ohio	3482	3684	-202	-5.48%	132	135	-3	-2.22%

Oklahoma	5646	5460	186	3.41%	20	20	0	0.00%
Oregon	4660	4557	103	2.26%	167	167	0	0.00%
Pennsylvania	6428	6635	-207	-3.12%	192	201	-9	-4.48%
Potomac	23	14	9	64.29%	1	1	0	0.00%
Rhode Island	714	781	-67	-8.58%	17	18	-1	-5.56%
S. Carolina	0	85	-85	-100.00%	0	6	-6	-100.00%
Tennessee	110	120	-10	-8.33%	6	6	0	0.00%
Texas	308	327	-19	-5.81%	10	10	0	0.00%
Vermont	1102	1102	0	0.00%	36	37	-1	-2.70%
Virginia	251	245	6	2.45%	6	7	-1	-14.29%
Washington	9257	9927	-670	-6.75%	231	235	-4	-1.70%
West Virginia	169	232	-63	-27.16%	9	9	0	0.00%
Wisconsin	107	137	-30	-21.90%	8	10	-2	-20.00%
TOTAL	56997	58383						
NET		-1386						

Numbers highlighted indicate numbers that have been estimated due to no quarterly report being submitted

MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION, CHARTERS

Prepared by Sales, Benefits, Programs and Membership Recognition Director Loretta Washington

Details for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

Fees Received

Sixth Degree Fees - \$395.00
Golden Sheaf Certificate Fees - \$3,642.50

Membership Recognition

Sixth Degree Certs.: 228	40-year seals: 111	70-year seals: 134
Golden Sheaf Awards.: 323	55-year seals: 142	Congratulatory Letter: 26
Silver Star Certs. (25 years): 321	60-year seals: 146	
Diamond Award (75 years): 82	65-year seals: 157	

Milestone Celebrations

150 Years of Continuous Service: Fredonia Grange #1, New York, April
125 Years of Continuous Service: Springwater Grange #263, Oregon
Uxbridge Grange #200, Massachusetts
100 Years of Continuous Service: Camden Grange #687, Washington
Chimacum Grange #681, Washington
Malo Grange #679, Washington
Dark Creek Grange #646, Washington
Quillayute Valley Grange #661, Washington
Miami Grange #2158, Ohio
Elmdale Grange #2162, Ohio
Ada Grange #570, Oregon
Trexlerstown Grange #1755, Pennsylvania

Organized, Reorganized Granges

The Grange is continuing to grow. It is due to the state membership directors, state presidents and members who have made this happen while we were without a Membership Director. Here are the new/reorganized charters for the membership year July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019:

Grange Name & Number	State	Date of Organization/Reorganization	Type
Bomoseen Valley Grange #273	VT	August 17, 2018	Consolidation of Bomoseen #273 with Poultney Valley #533
Lunenburg #169	MA	December 7, 2018	Reorganized
Silver Sage #24	NV	January 19, 2019	New
Fernwood #770	OR	January 24, 2019	Reorganized
Jonesboro #357	ME	May 13, 2019	Reorganized
Connecticut Valley Jr. #140	MA	May 8, 2019	New
Walton Junior Grange #701	NY	June 29, 2019	Reorganized

SALES, BENEFITS & PROGRAMS

Prepared by Loretta Washington, Sales, Benefits, Programs and Membership Recognition Director

This has been a very exciting and busy year for me. It was great attending my 3rd National Grange Convention in Stowe, Vermont, where I got to meet a lot more Grange members this year from the North East region. Before the convention, I had the opportunity to travel with Burton Eller, Legislative Affairs Director to the New York State Grange Office to help with the legislative notebooks to get them ready for the convention. It was very nice to meet the New York State Grange staff whom I have talked to over the phone on numerous occasions. I got the opportunity to see the beautiful countryside of New York and Vermont on our way to the Annual National Convention. After giving my annual report I received invitations from 2 state masters/presidents to speak at their upcoming events in their state; I was honored to be asked. I can say that I felt very good and super energized from the convention. I have been working very closely with Controller Stewart Hughes to recover outstanding invoices in the Grange Supply Store and Good Day Magazine subscription areas. I hope that you all can see that I have been very busy maintaining all parts of my job this year. I am trying very hard to keep all the balls up in the air at all times, but most important is to keep the members happy and to generate revenue for the National Grange. This report is based on October 16, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

Grange Store:

The Grange Supply Store is doing ok. I completed the inventory after the convention. Thanks to Stephanie Wilkins, Director of IT for doing an outstanding job in the all the postage for me. I continue to try to get items out in a week to 10 days from the time they have been purchased online. We introduced several new items in the store this year which have helped sales.

Monroe Classic, Mike Warner, our partner has done an outstanding job for the National Grange. "The New Grange Store@ Monroe Classic" has had a good year. Mike Warner and I communicate greatly on ways to increase sales, new items in the store. Mike and his team worked very hard for us ranging from the Grange Hero Capes, new Youth Department items, State Session resales and various items as requested/ordered from the states. Mike Warner and Monroe Classic have been a blessing to the National Grange.

Total Sales income from October 16, 2018 to Sept. 30, 2019 \$28,425.59
Sales income from the New Grange Store@Monroe Classic was \$8,329.59
Sales income from the Grange Supply Store was \$20,096.00

Program:

I continue to have several programs which we promote and help local Granges to use for the members' fulfillment, community outreach and to entice new members.

Patriot's Program

This program is made possible due to the generosity of Potomac Grange # 1(DC) of certificates and DVDs that can be used to allow members and communities to learn more about the wars our service men and women have fought on behalf of our nation since WWII. This is an excellent program that allows the Granges to honor those in the community who have served our nation proudly. 140 certificates were made from World War II, Korean War, Vietnam and the various conflicts.

Community Services

I worked very closely with Pete Pompper, National Community Service Director to assist him in all parts of this program ranging from getting all the information updated and ready for the website and to make sure that all states received their certificates and checks in a timely manner for their state session. During last year's convention, I attended the workshop that Pete conducted; it was a good workshop with a lot of good ideas and suggestions which were shared.

Distinguished Grange

This program has reached a milestone of 10 years. A total of 32 Subordinate Granges and 4 states submitted applications this year. Three Granges will be recognized for 5 years and three Granges will be recognized for 10 straight years. I printed all the certificates and ordered plaques. I work very closely with Betsy Huber, National President, on this program and we have updated the program for 2020.

Grange Legacy

This is the third year of this program. 16 families were recognized at last year's convention. Overall, all the families that were recognized were very happy and proud of this honor; it was great having the Overseer, Phil Prelli to MC this event, while the Youth Ambassadors and Youth Patrons assist in this event. I worked with the Communication Director Amanda Brozana-Rios to make sure the application is updated and placed on the National Grange website and press releases are right for the families to use with local media.

Grange In Action

This is a new program that I introduced at National Convention last year. The program is designed to encourage all Granges to be active no matter how small. So far, the response has been very good.

The Dictionary Project "Word for Thirds"

Grange continues to support this program with purchases of either dictionary or thesaurus for the local 3rd graders in local schools. According to the Dictionary Project nearly 959 Granges have given a total of 1,035,534 reference books since this partnership started in 2002.

2018 Showcase

This was my 3rd year of the Showcase at the National Convention. The location was ok once everyone figured out where it was located. We had several new vendors like IMR Digital and American Senior Benefits, who was also a supporter for the Friendship Dinner. It was great having Kathy Yardley as the volunteer assistant for the showcase. The volunteer assistant and I worked well together so that I was able to attend the Grange Growth Committee which is very important to my department.

2019 Showcase

I worked very hard with John Crippen, State President, Minnesota and Bob Quist trying to secure funds for the 2019 convention. We had bi-weekly phone calls which we invited the host region people to be a part of but no one participated on the call except John, Bob and I. A special thanks to Lynette Schaeffer, State President of Illinois for the many letters that she sent out. We had several responses ranging from No to let's continue conversation. Betsy, Burton and I have met with John Deere staff of John W. Rauber and Collis Jones, here in the Washington DC office, and we had a phone call with Henry Vicary of Caterpillar. Betsy and I met with William Stafford of CHS here in Washington DC. We have noticed that most of the companies have already committed funds for 2019 so I am working for the 2020 convention and beyond.

I had several conversations with Susan Bean, Bloomington Visitor Bureau. They will have a table near the registration area. They have expressed interest in going on the Kelley Farm tour with the delegates. I have also emailed all past vendors/exhibitors to invite them to participate in this year's convention.

Betsy and I met with Jeff Mally, National Account Manager for Experient about future convention sites for 2023. He came to us as a strong recommendation from Julia Broadway, President of the American Horse Council, a tenant in our building. I along with Pete Pompper, National Grange Community Service Director will be the On-Site Convention coordinators for this year's convention.

7th Degree at National Convention

93 certificates were printed here at National Grange and mailed out all to the recipients in January 2019. Stephanie Wilkins, IT Director assisted me in this task. Special thanks to Jim Owens, Priest Annalist for getting the information to me in a timely manner.

Patrons Chain and Good Day Magazine

I continue to submit articles about the benefits, Grange Supply Store and other articles from my other partners for the monthly Patrons Chain. For the Good Day Magazine, I continue to submit the Membership Recognitions and Grange 100 year and 125-year anniversaries. For The Good Day Magazine, I processed 546 either renewal or new subscriptions that come in by mail for the magazine in a timely manner in the QuickBooks, then forward all checks to the Controller Stewart Hughes every week. Since I've taken back this task, we have had very few problems and if there is a problem Stephanie Wilkins, Director of IT and I work in a timely fashion to address all issues.

Birthing a new program:

I birthed this idea while talking with Burton Eller, Legislative Director, about his intern, NJ Grange member Abigail Sharpe whom we did not know was here in Washington DC attending college. Then I talked with Potomac Grange #1 about a meet and greet with young Grange members attending college here in DC. I shared the idea with the rest of the staff during our Strategic Planning meeting and it seemed to be a good fit for the youth team. While the youth team was here in Washington DC for National Ag Day along with Mandy Bostwick, Youth Development Director, we talked about my idea which they liked and named it "Home Away from Home." Presently this program is under the leadership of Mandy Bostwick, Youth Development Director.

Fly-In:

I assisted Burton Eller, Legislative Director as directed and needed for this event. I attended the Sunday afternoon meet and greet. I put together the gift bags for the speakers, made sure the food was in place on time and also greeted the speakers for this event.

The Veterans Health Care Council:

I attended the council meetings regularly. The council has submitted several articles to the Patrons Chain. This is a great organization for the National Grange to be a part of as this council is made up of other health care organizations ranging from Mental Health America, TAPS to Vietnam Veterans of America and other groups.

Membership Recognition and Award:

See Secretary's Report

Granges Celebrating 100th Anniversaries

The following Granges celebrated 100 years of services and all of them received the certificate plaque: South Lake Stevens Grange #690-WA, Espanola Grange #698-WA, Oxford Grange #2211-OH, Lake Grange #2192-IN, Redwood Valley Grange#382-CA

Granges Celebrating 125th Anniversaries

The following Granges celebrated 125 years of services and all of them received the certificate plaque: Fairfield Grange #1408-OH, Dublin Grange #1409-OH, Wakeman Grange#1399-OH

Charter

The Grange is continuing to grow. I ensure that all new and reorganized Granges get their charter and membership kit. I assisted the Membership & Leadership Development Director Joe Stefenoni to make sure he received a scan copy of all charter applications in a timely manner.

Benefits

I have been working hard with all my entire Benefit partners and trying to secure new benefits. I have spoken with Steven Anderson, dealer for Toro motors, Carlos Rosado account manager for Tickets at Work. I met with Brian Zibuda, SVP, Employee and Member Solutions Augeo to discuss the various benefits for the membership programs but we came back to the demographics information which the Grange doesn't have. We did introduce two new programs this year: Tickets a tWork and Lenovo Computers.

The Member Benefits brochure is continually updated as the benefits are changing and the website is also updated as needed in a timely manner.

American Senior Benefits:

I along with Betsy Huber and Joe Stefenoni, Membership Director, had a conversation with Chris Cleland and Al Foschini, American Senior Benefits, on trying to get the demographics for the United Health Care/AARP program. They were thinking that the membership director could remind the states as he travels to them. This program will not happen at this time due to the fact that not all states have given the demographics that we need to make this happen. However, the American Senior Benefits is still a partner who offers financial planning programs.

Gallagher Affinity

I work very closely with Pippi Kramou, account manager. We set up the National Grange monthly planning calendar to promote the various benefits during the 12 months. We introduced the new technology benefit of the Lenovo Computer and the UPS shipping program. I am in talks with them about the eHealth Medicare Program. Our royalty payment for the year was \$872.05.

Tickets at Work

This is a program where members can get a big discount on movie tickets, Sporting Events, Concerts, various shows, rental cars, gift cards and much more. I use the program every chance I get and I have enjoyed the discount.

National Affinity Service (NAS) a long-standing partnership continues. The program offers discounts in health care.

Visit/Travel

I had the opportunity to travel to Delaware State Grange to participate in their state session in December 2018. It was my first state session. I got the chance to sit in on the Grange Law committee and got to meet members who I have talked to over the phone. It was great being a part of this state session.

I then traveled to Maryland State Grange to participate in the Annual Leadership Conference. It was great talking to them about member benefits and other duties of my job and encouraging them with their state upcoming plans for the year.

Next, I had the opportunity to participate the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference. It was great meeting more Grangers to be able to put a face with a name. Overall, the workshops that I attended were very good as well as the presenters.

I attended the National Ag Day Reception on the Hill, revisited with several companies and individuals and made new contacts. I introduced the Youth team and National Staff to Mark Poeschl, FFA CEO and Luke O'Leary, National FFA President.

I was honored to be asked by the New Jersey State Grange President John Benedik to speak at the third annual "Day of Learning". It was great talking to them about the various member benefits and other programs that I am responsible for.

In conclusion, I want to thank everyone that has purchased from either The Grange Supply Store or New Grange Store @ Monroe Classic. Your support is greatly appreciated. I got to travel and visit with many Grangers, learned a lot from them in new ideas and suggestions. I continue to find new benefits that fit the Grange needs and wants. I have been very busy in all parts of my many departments/programs. I am looking forward to continue to give great customer service and care in the upcoming year to the membership. As always, it is an honor and privilege to serve you as your Sales, Benefits, Programs, Membership Recognition Director (Customer Care Person ☺) to this historic organization every day because "That's the Grange Way."

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Prepared by Mandy Bostwick

Communication

I have maintained a quick response to emails, phone calls, text messages, and Facebook messages. I have also kept up the social media pages with frequent posts.

Travel

It has been a very busy summer for me. I traveled to Texas and Indiana in June for the Great Plains and Midwestern Regional Conferences, respectively. In July, I traveled to Connecticut for the Northeast Regional Youth Conference, Grapevine, TX for CADCA, Knoxville, TN for Southeast Regional Conference and Ozark, AR for Grange Revival. I will report on each individual conference in a later section. As I write this board report, I am heading to Western Regional in Montana.

Regional Conferences

Great Plains- Great Plains was held in Waco, TX June. This conference was well attended by juniors, youth and other Grange Leaders. We had 20 people participate in Grange Baseball, 6 Youth/Young Adult/36+ participate in the speech contest and one participate in the Sign-a-Song Contest. Karryn Overstreet (Sign-a-Song) and Kathy Omera (Speech), both of Texas, will represent Great Plains at Evening of Excellence in November. Melody Shufeldt, Hayden Bailey, and Kennedy Webb will represent GP for Grange Baseball at National Session.

Midwestern- Midwestern Conference was held in Indiana. This conference also had a good variety of Grangers. 10 people participated in Grange Baseball. Emma Edelen, Bailey McDonald, and Jordyn Moyes will represent the region at National. We had 9 public speaking entries and 1 sign a song entry. Emma Edelen will represent the region with her speech and Kathryn Renken will present her sign-a-song.

Northeast Region- This regional conference was a youth only conference. There were other Grange leaders from the region. 12 people participated in Grange Baseball. Ryan Orton, Matt Horton and Teddy Secor will represent the region at National Session. There were 14 public speaking entries and 1 sign-a-song entry. Adam Terrell, NH will present both his speech and sign-a-song at National Session. This conference was light on workshops/activities and could use more structure in future years. Host states should set a goal to have a schedule in place a month or two before the conference that strikes a balance between Grange education, leadership training, and fun activities. In the next year, National Grange Directors will be working with states hosting regional conferences to help structure a schedule that provides this value to those who attend and entices Grange members who have not previously participated in a regional conference to do so.

Southeast Region- This conference had a very small number of attendees and had no schedule prepared upon arrival. The schedule was made up as we went and Samantha Wilkins and myself came up with most of the content. I was happy to present things that I have used at other conferences, but I was a little shocked that there was nothing planned. We had 14 people that competed in Grange Baseball and James Lesley, Ashley Drop and Nick Jones, all of North Carolina, will represent the region at National Session. We had several impromptu entries, 2 prepared speeches and 2 sign-a-song participants. Baylor Howerton and Liz Lesley will represent the region at Evening of Excellence. We also introduced a new Speech category at this conference. The "Masters Impromptu Speech" contest. The three state Masters that were in attendance were given pre-chosen impromptu speeches and they gave their speech. All three were very good sports and we will be starting this as a new contest at regionals.

CADCA

This was a very informational and busy 4 days. The girls that represented National Grange represented us very well. They were Britney Mercado, NY, Ava Greinier-Riley, RI and Addison Eyer, MD. For our group, it was a little tougher during the training because our organization isn't an Anti-Drug Coalition, but the girls jumped right in and made it work for our area. The main reason we were there was to work with CADCA trainers to create a Rural Toolkit that will help get our youth interested in programing and utilizing their strategic framework to help in local Granges. It will be a huge asset once it is completely figured out. I will keep in touch with Trent Coffey, CADCA trainer assigned to our group and an e-member in Tennessee, to work on the toolkit. I'm interested to see how far we can go with this because we are going to have to invest, monetarily, to get their trainers to train others to use their strategic framework. I will also work with Burton on this since this can benefit our Legislative Department as well.

Future Plans/Programs:

I will be preparing a study guide for those who will be participating in baseball at National session. It will be a very vague study guide, but will help participants be more prepared.

National session is soon approaching and the National Youth Officer team will be meeting with the National Officers so the Youth can understand the responsibility of being a National Officer.

I will be, with the assistance of Stephanie Wilkins, creating a new website that reflects the new programing that will be launched at National Session.

National Grange Youth Team:

Brittney Oliver attended Great Plains regional and is attending Western Regional. She has been a great asset to the team. She is always willing to help with anything. She has helped go through the website to find updates that need to be changed, and has helped with updating the GROW club list as part of her GROW club duties, all while she is studying for her Professional Engineering Licensure Exam.

Rylee Furr attended Great Plains and Southeast regional conferences. She is also a great help and is willing to go the extra mile. She is great at organizing and is also helping find updates to the website.

Zac Mazag attended Midwestern and Southeast regional conferences. Zac has a great personality and is willing to jump into any situation and make the best of it. He is a great emcee and knows exactly what to add to the conversation.

Katie Fallon attended Midwestern and Northeast regional. She has a lot of great ideas and jumps in when she needs to help. She showed great leadership at Northeast regional since she was the only youth team member at the conference.

As a whole, they worked together to write a Good Day! Article as a follow up to our workshop to give the entire organization a look at what we saw as responses from each of the regions. The youth team, with Betsy's approval, will be sitting in on session committees to get an understanding of what it means to be a National Delegate.

Collaboration Between Departments

Juniors- Samantha and I have been working very closely together to ensure that we are bridging the gap between the two programs.

Sales- Loretta, Mike and I have been in communication about new youth branded items for the Grange Store. There are 16 oz. stainless steel water bottles in the store currently and soon there will be youth branded power packs in the store. These power packs will be also given out at National Session as prizes for those who participate.

IT- Stephanie has created a test website that will be integrated into the current website with the new programing that will be launched at National Session. Stephanie and I will be working together to get this website accomplished.

Thank you for your time and support.

TRADEMARK PROTECTION

Prepared by SGR Law

National Grange Licensees, October 2019

Licensee/Matter No.	Mark	Use Status	Operation/Location	Terms/Status
Ascot Catering d/b/a Grange Fresh, LLC	GRANGE FRESH	Use in commerce	Catering company in Wethersfield, Connecticut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 6/01/2018. <input type="checkbox"/> 10-year term for \$1300/year, additional \$600/year fee per new location.
Brooklyn Grange LLC (9628)	BROOKLYN GRANGE	Use in commerce	Rooftop farm in New York City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 1/13/2012. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term for \$100 upfront fee, \$100 fee Jan. 2013; \$200 fee Jan. 2014 and Jan. 2015; \$300 fee Jan. 2016. <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable for three additional 5-year terms. <input type="checkbox"/> If license agreement is renewed, fee increases by 3% per year, payable in two installments in January and July. <input type="checkbox"/> License renewed on 3/6/2017 with 24 Carrots, LLC, which covers subsidiaries Brooklyn Grange, LLC's and Sunset Park Farm, LLC's use of "Brooklyn Grange."
Castle Rock Development Co. & Meadows Neighborhood Company (9993)	GRANGE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER	Use in commerce	Community center in Castle Rock, Colorado	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 3/2/2006; renews automatically every 5 years. <input type="checkbox"/> Agreement renewed March 2016. <input type="checkbox"/> Execution Fee: \$2500 <input type="checkbox"/> Charitable Contribution: \$4000 <input type="checkbox"/> Plaque <input type="checkbox"/> Subordinate Grange use 6x for 2hrs per year <input type="checkbox"/> State Grange use 1x for 5hrs per year
City Grange LLC	CITY GRANGE	Use in Commerce	Community garden center in Chicago, Illinois	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 11/27/2017 <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term for \$1,300 fee. <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable for additional 5-year terms subject to negotiation.
The Coyote Grange Farm (Kristi Fernholz & Brad Fernholz) (9767)	COYOTE GRANGE	Use in commerce	Farm in Minnesota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 6/8/2016. <input type="checkbox"/> Donation of 20-pound bag of carrots a year to a subordinate Minnesota Grange. <input type="checkbox"/> Terminates on 12/31/2024.
Crowned Heads LLC (9749)	HEADLEY GRANGE	Trademark application and use in commerce (since August 2012)	Cigar maker in Nashville, Tennessee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 6/24/2013. <input type="checkbox"/> 15-year term at \$500/year. <input type="checkbox"/> Cigar maker assigned HEADLEY GRANGE mark to National Grange (U.S. Reg. No. 4,495,306) and took a license back.
Delaware Grange Mutual Insurance Company (9641)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Insurance company in Dover, Delaware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 2/3/2016. <input type="checkbox"/> 15-year term at \$100/year.
Digital Grange Fine Art Services (Bill Kane & Joseph McDonald) (9659)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Fine art photography, scanning, printing, digital imaging, graphic design and customer websites for artists in Petaluma, California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 1/17/2017. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term at \$100/year.
Urban Grange Farm, LLC (079)	URBAN GRANGE FARM	Use in commerce	Farm and CSA program in Hephzibah, GA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> License Agreement executed 8/17/2017. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term at \$500 per year.
Whallonsburg Grange Hall, Inc. (9798)	GRANGE HALL	Use in commerce	Hall in Essex, NY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 4/24/2014. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term at \$100 per year.
Willowford LLC (9639)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Housing development in Loudoun County, Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 5/15/2012. <input type="checkbox"/> 10-year term, renewable. <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment agreement with NVR, Inc. executed on 9/7/2016.
Wilson Gardens (036)	THE GRANGE	Use in commerce	Event space at farm in Wilson, Arkansas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 7/28/2016. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term at \$250 per year.

Licensee/Matter No.	Mark	Use Status	Operation/Location	Terms/Status
Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Company (054)	GRANGE HALL	Use in commerce	Event venue and history museum in Durango, Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 12/19/2016. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term with a \$500 donation per year. <input type="checkbox"/> Yearly use of event space for a Grange
Friends of the Grange (014)	FRIENDS OF THE GRANGE	Use in commerce	Organization working to preserve the legacy and educate the public on the history of the Islip town	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 9/19/2016. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term at \$100/year.
Friends of Zenger Farm (9766)	URBAN GRANGE	Use in commerce	Educational facility in Portland, Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 5/16/2013. <input type="checkbox"/> 10-year term at \$1,000/year, if renewed for additional 5-year term, the fee increases to \$1,300/year.
Grange Café (9622)	THE GRANGE	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Duvall, Washington	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 17/7/2009. <input type="checkbox"/> 15-year term subject to 5-year renewals; \$100 fee per year plus 10% discount to Grange members and catering within 25 miles. <input type="checkbox"/> Business has changed name to The Grange and has also changed owners.
Genuine Hospitality Grp., Inc. d/b/a Grange Community Kitchen (050)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Hamburg, New York	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 2/14/2017. <input type="checkbox"/> Exclusive right to use the name in the New York counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term at \$1000/year and 10% increase for each Renewal Term. <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically renews for successive 5-year terms.
Grange and Grub (049)	GRANGE AND GRUB	Use in commerce	Production and sale of meats and produce grown on a farm and sold through a market in Purcellville, Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 11/30/2016. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term at \$200/year. <input type="checkbox"/> License amendment removing the requirement for the National Grange to be listed as an insured was executed on 2/21/2017.
Grange Hall Cultural Center (046)	GRANGE HALL CULTURAL CENTER	Use in commerce	Community gathering place in Waterbury Center, VT	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 8/15/2016. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term at \$100/year.
Grange Insurance Association (9641)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Insurance in Western United States (based in Seattle, Washington)	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 8/1/2001 for \$1 consideration. <input type="checkbox"/> Indefinite term.
The Grange at New Milford, LLC (008)	THE GRANGE RESTAURANT AND LOCAL MARKET	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Warwick, New York	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 2/9/2016. <input type="checkbox"/> 10-year term for \$1,350/year, renewable subject to negotiation.
HP Heights LLC	LA GRANGE	Use in commerce	Restaurant and Event Venue in Houston, Texas	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 9/17/2019. <input type="checkbox"/> 10-year term for \$1,300/year, renewable subject to negotiation.
Kennex (Hong Kong) Limited	GRANGEHOUSE design mark	U.S. Reg. No. 5,273,821; Use in commerce	Household goods	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 7/5/2017. <input type="checkbox"/> 10-year term for \$1,000/year, renewable subject to negotiation. <input type="checkbox"/> Upon termination or expiration of the agreement, the registration from U.S. Reg. No. 5,273,821 for GRANGEHOUSE design mark will be voluntarily surrendered within ten days.

Licensee/Matter No.	Mark	Use Status	Operation/Location	Terms/Status
Granger Tavern, LLC d/b/a Grange Kitchen and Bar (9923)	GRANGE KITCHEN AND BAR	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Ann Arbor, Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 8/23/2010. <input type="checkbox"/> 10-year term; renewable for subsequent 5-year terms; \$1,000/year plus 10% discount for Grange members and use of facility for Grange events. <input type="checkbox"/> Currently paid through end of 10-year term. <input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 1/16/2013. <input type="checkbox"/> 10-year term at \$1,000/year.
Groundhog Productions LLC (9763)	THE GRANGE	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Providence, Rhode Island	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 2/22/2013. <input type="checkbox"/> 12-year term at \$1,000/year; renewable by licensee for another 5-year term at \$1,200/year.
Hamilton Point Granary LLC d/b/a The Grange Bar and Eatery (9761)	THE GRANGE BAR AND EATERY NYC	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Harlem, New York City	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 8/14/2009. <input type="checkbox"/> 15-year term; renewable for subsequent 5-year terms; annual fee of \$10 plus 10% discount to Grange members. <input type="checkbox"/> In August 2012, Tony Clark, the chef operating the Old Grange Restaurant, signed an amendment to his lease acknowledging that he is subject to the terms of the license. <input type="checkbox"/> Changed name to Cold Spring Grange Restaurant <input type="checkbox"/> License Addendum executed on 3/6/2017 reflecting the new name.
HCSV Foundation, Inc. t/a Historic Cold Spring Village (9617)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Cape May, New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed March 2011. <input type="checkbox"/> Agreement for one-year term and \$100 fee; to be renewed by agreement. <input type="checkbox"/> Status of renewal: They keep sending fees annually <input type="checkbox"/> Amended to 3-year term at \$100 per year on 6/10/2014, due on January 1 of each year. <input type="checkbox"/> License renewed for an additional 5-year term on 02/27/18 for \$125/year.
Home on the Grange Childcare Center (9662)	HOME ON THE GRANGE	Use in commerce	Child care services in Middletown, Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/> Royalty-free license executed 6/27/2014. <input type="checkbox"/> 10-year term.
Lane Pomona Grange Fraternal Society	LANE POMONA GRANGE FRATERNAL SOCIETY	Use in commerce	Springfield, Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/> Prior license agreements executed 8/25/2010 and 8/29/2011. <input type="checkbox"/> Current agreement executed 12/8/2014. <input type="checkbox"/> Agreement for 5-year term and \$100/year; to be renewed by agreement. <input type="checkbox"/> Royalty-free license executed 8/26/2015. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term.
Maine Grange Store, Inc. (9634)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Produce retail store in Maine	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement/sales agreement renewed and executed on 8/1/2019; one-year term expiring 7/1/2020; to be renewed by agreement. <input type="checkbox"/> Status of renewal: Year by year. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Watson told them not to advertise Grange footwear.
Middletown Grange Fair	MIDDLETOWN GRANGE FAIR	Use in commerce	Annual event put on by the Middletown Grange in Penns Park, Pennsylvania (www.middletowngrangefair.org)	
Monroe Classic, Inc. (9912)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Online retailer of GRANGE branded items (promoplace.com/grange)	

Licensee/Matter No.	Mark	Use Status	Operation/Location	Terms/Status
Morris Press Cookbooks	P of H logo	Use in commerce	Cookbook publisher in Kearney, Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited license in connection with the publication of a Maine State Grange sponsored cookbook. <input type="checkbox"/> Indefinite term
Newkoa LLC	GRANGE HALL 39	Use in commerce	Food hall in Buena Park, California	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 8/12/2019. <input type="checkbox"/> 10-year term for \$1,300/year, renewable subject to negotiation. <input type="checkbox"/> Royalty-free license executed 6/27/2014. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term.
Oregon State Grange Foundation	OREGON STATE GRANGE FOUNDATION	Use in commerce	501(c)(3) corporation supporting Grangers and scholarships in Salem, Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 2/27/2017. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term at \$500 per year. <input type="checkbox"/> Legal fee for drafting and negotiation of the agreement was paid by ArtisTree .
Purple Crayon Productions, Inc. d/b/a ArtisTree Community Arts Center (064)	THE GRANGE THEATRE	Use in commerce	Community theater productions and education programs at the former Teago Grange Hall in South Pomfret, Vermont	<input type="checkbox"/> License Agreement executed 9/28/2015. <input type="checkbox"/> 15-year term, \$1,350 for first 10 years, and \$1,500 for the last 5 years.
Rockford Grange at Bear Hollow Ranch, Inc.(002)	ROCKFORD GRANGE AT BEAR HOLLOW RANCH	Use in commerce	Event hall for weddings, reunions, corporate events in Washburn, Missouri.	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 12/8/2009 with Cal West Partners, L.P. <input type="checkbox"/> 10-year term at \$1,000 per year, plus \$5,000 upfront fee (includes new licensees), 10% discount to overnight stays at Citizen Hotel for Grange members; free use of private facility space and notice on www.grangesacramento.com with link to www.nationalgrange.org . <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically renewable for 10 years if Citizen Hotel continues to operate as a 3 star or better AAA hotel. <input type="checkbox"/> License agreement assigned to Sacramento Hotel, LLC on 9/1/2015.
Sacramento Hotel, LLC (9615)	GRANGE RESTAURANT	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Citizen Hotel, 926 J Street, Sacramento, Cal.	<input type="checkbox"/> Royalty-free license executed 6/27/2014. <input type="checkbox"/> 10-year term.
Santa Clara Grange #746 Charitable Foundation	SANTA CLARA GRANGE 746 CHARITABLE FOUNDATION	Use in commerce	Nonprofit connected to Santa Clara Grange in Eugene, Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 4/21/2017. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term. <input type="checkbox"/> License fee each year would be the greater of \$200 or 1% of gross profits of the previous year.
Smithington Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Atwood Ales (058)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Brewery in Blaine, Washington	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 4/24/2012. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term for \$100 upfront fee; \$200 fee April 2013; \$300 fee April 2014; \$400 fee April 2015 and \$500 fee April 2016. <input type="checkbox"/> License renewable for another 5-year term; license fee can be increased by no more than 5% per year. <input type="checkbox"/> License was renewed for another 5-year term. <input type="checkbox"/> Currently delinquent; licensee is contemplating closing business due to unprofitability; requested termination of license and prorated fee with last day of use to be 12/31/2019.
Smooch Arts, Inc. (9646)	PORTAGE BAY GRANGE	Use in commerce	Urban farming and homesteading supplies store in Seattle, Washington	<input type="checkbox"/> License Agreement executed 4/2/2014. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term at \$1,000 per year.
Urban Grange Coffee & Bakery Company (9657)	URBAN GRANGE COFFEE & BAKERY COMPANY	Use in commerce	Coffee shop and bakery in Salem, Oregon	<input type="checkbox"/> License Agreement executed 4/2/2014. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term at \$1,000 per year.

TRADEMARK PROTECTION

Prepared by SGR Law

National Grange Other Authorized Uses, October 2019

Company	Mark	Use Status	Operation/Location	Background
The Meat Block LLC and the South Greenville Grange	GRANGE HALL BROTS	Use in commerce	Bratwurst sausages/WI	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint sales agreement between Meat Block LLC and South Greenville Grange, Wisconsin executed 9/7/2010. <input type="checkbox"/> Not displayed or advertised to the general public on a regular basis. <input type="checkbox"/> Grange chapter earns 5% commission on all sales. <input type="checkbox"/> Have photos of store and items on sale as evidence of use of GRANGE mark in commerce.
New England Grange Association	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Produce retail store operated by six Granges/New England	<input type="checkbox"/> Have photos of labeled jars of food as evidence of use of GRANGE mark in commerce.
Connecticut State Grange	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Sale of GRANGE-branded foods by Grange chapters	<input type="checkbox"/> Company was originally founded by Grange members and was originally affiliated with Grange Supply to serve farmers in Oregon. <input type="checkbox"/> Disaffiliated with the Oregon State Grange in the 1940s. <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy company.
Grange Co-op (069)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Cooperative farm supply stores in Oregon and northern California	<input type="checkbox"/> Grange Supply was sold by the Washington State Grange to CHS Farm Supply Cooperative which included the rights to operate the stores under the existing Grange Supply name. <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy company
Grange Supply Cooperative	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Cooperative farm supply stores in Washington and Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement negotiations have been put on hold. <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy company
NC Grange Mutual Insurance Company (028)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Insurance services to people in North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement negotiations have been put on hold. <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy company
The Oklahoma Grange Mutual Insurance Association	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Provides insurance to people in Oklahoma	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement negotiations have been put on hold. <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy company
The Grange Mutual Casualty Group	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Provides insurance services to 13 states and is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio; Legacy company	<input type="checkbox"/> Legacy company

TRADEMARK PROTECTION

Prepared by SGR Law

National Grange Former Licensees, October 2019

Licensee/Matter No.	Mark	Use Status	Operation/Location	Terms
Michele Woodbury (9990)	PAMOLA GRANGE CENTER	Use in commerce	Convention, banquet and social functions facilities/ME	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 8/11/2005. <input type="checkbox"/> Ceased licensed use in 2006, according to 6/5/2012 telephone call from Ms. Woodbury. <input type="checkbox"/> In March 2012, Machias Bank foreclosed upon and offered for sale to public; license terminates on sale; we informed bank attorney that new owner cannot use Grange name without authorization. <input type="checkbox"/> Company went of business.
Best Fraternal Supply Inc.	GRANGE, NATIONAL GRANGE, GRANGE Logo, Emblems	Use in commerce	Promotional items, including Grange calendars, placemats, custom-ordered Grange logo clothing/OR (Ed Luttrell's daughter and son-in-law.)	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 3/23/2016. <input type="checkbox"/> 1-year term for a license fee of \$200. <input type="checkbox"/> At the termination of the license agreement, the name changed to School of Adaptive Agriculture.
Grange Farm School (021)	GRANGE FARM SCHOOL	Use in commerce	Training programs providing hands-on experience and education on agricultural production methods and skills necessary as a farmer	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 4/25/2013. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term at \$300 for first three years, then \$400, then \$500. <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable by licensee for two additional 5-year terms at 5% increase. <input type="checkbox"/> Terminated <input type="checkbox"/> Phased out as of November 2012.
Healdsburg Shed (9756)	A MODERN GRANGE	Use in commerce	Food market, retail sales, educational services, and meeting facility in Healdsburg, California	<input type="checkbox"/> License Agreement executed 1/28/2014. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term at \$100 per year <input type="checkbox"/> Rita Mueller, a Granger, sought and obtained the local Grange's permission to call her business "Grange Hall Antiques" when she started the business in the old Grange Hall 22 years ago. <input type="checkbox"/> SGR contacted in Nov. 2013. <input type="checkbox"/> Rita emailed terminating the license agreement on 10/17/2016 because her business has closed.
Saco River Grange Hall (9631) C.J. & R. Enterprises, Inc.; Rita Mueller (9653)	SACO RIVER GRANGE HALL GRANGE HALL ANTIQUES	Use in commerce Use in commerce	Non-profit theater and concert hall/ME Antique retailer in New Market, Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/> License Agreement executed 9/10/2014 for Growing Farmers Initiative (educational and training program for young and new farmer). <input type="checkbox"/> 10-year term at \$1,000 per year. <input type="checkbox"/> License Agreement terminated 3/12/2018 by David Lindsey after the business changed its concept; confirmed by Grange intern Mr. Drake.
Stone Barn Center for Food and Agriculture (9786)	VIRTUAL GRANGE	Use in commerce	Nonprofit farm and education center in Pocantico Hills, New York	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 5/14/2012. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term for \$500 per year. <input type="checkbox"/> Interested in renewing and draft license agreement was sent to Angela Lee on 4/27/2017. <input type="checkbox"/> Email received from Angela Lee terminating the license agreement on 6/5/2018 because the restaurant was changing concepts; confirmed by Grange intern Mr. Drake. <input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 8/30/2016. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year term at \$25 per quarter (total \$100 a year). <input type="checkbox"/> License agreement terminated 2/20/2018.
Grange Hall Burger Bar (9744)	GRANGE HALL BURGER BAR	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Chicago, Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 6/30/2011. <input type="checkbox"/> 10-year term at \$1,000 per year; renewable by right for 5 years; renewable at option of parties thereafter. <input type="checkbox"/> Grange paid \$5,000 to Queensway for trademark (U.S. Reg. No. 4,154,376), money placed in escrow. <input type="checkbox"/> First 5 years to be deducted from Grange \$5,000 escrow. <input type="checkbox"/> On 3/25/2013, Queensway renewed assignment of LA GRANJA mark for wine to National Grange. <input type="checkbox"/> Recorded assignment with USPTO. <input type="checkbox"/> Queensway is not using LA GRANJA for wine.
Grange & Company (022)	GRANGE & COMPANY	Use in commerce	Furniture making and design, architectural interior design and renovation, and graphic design services in Portland, OR	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 6/30/2011. <input type="checkbox"/> 10-year term at \$1,000 per year; renewable by right for 5 years; renewable at option of parties thereafter. <input type="checkbox"/> Grange paid \$5,000 to Queensway for trademark (U.S. Reg. No. 4,154,376), money placed in escrow. <input type="checkbox"/> First 5 years to be deducted from Grange \$5,000 escrow. <input type="checkbox"/> On 3/25/2013, Queensway renewed assignment of LA GRANJA mark for wine to National Grange. <input type="checkbox"/> Recorded assignment with USPTO. <input type="checkbox"/> Queensway is not using LA GRANJA for wine.
Queensway Limited (9613)	LA GRANJA	Trademark Office and in commerce	Wine company in Del Mar, California	<input type="checkbox"/> License agreement executed 6/30/2011. <input type="checkbox"/> 10-year term at \$1,000 per year; renewable by right for 5 years; renewable at option of parties thereafter. <input type="checkbox"/> Grange paid \$5,000 to Queensway for trademark (U.S. Reg. No. 4,154,376), money placed in escrow. <input type="checkbox"/> First 5 years to be deducted from Grange \$5,000 escrow. <input type="checkbox"/> On 3/25/2013, Queensway renewed assignment of LA GRANJA mark for wine to National Grange. <input type="checkbox"/> Recorded assignment with USPTO. <input type="checkbox"/> Queensway is not using LA GRANJA for wine.

COMPLETE INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS & ACTIONS

AGRICULTURE			
RES. #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
101	CA	Cultivation of Industrial Hemp	Present Policy
102	CT	Support for Family Farms	Withdrawn
103	MD	Cover Crops	Adopted
104	MD	Dairy	Adopted
105	MD	Efficient Use of Dairy Check-Off Funds	Adopted as Amended
106	MD	Pesticide Bans	Withdrawn
107	MD	Pollinators and Pesticides	Adopted
108	MD	Precision Ag	Adopted
109	MD	Privatization of Meat Inspection	Adopted
110	MD	Promote Job Opportunities in Ag Related Fields	Adopted as Amended
111	MD	Urban Ag	Adopted
112	NC	Whole Milk in Schools	Present Policy
113	NE	Halal Products	Adopted
114	NE	USDA and Futures Trading	Adopted as Amended
115	NJ	Cheaper Energy Sources	Adopted
116	NJ	Elimination of Daylight Savings Time	Transferred to CIT
117	NY	Honeybee Colonies Report & USDA Funding	Adopted as Amended
118	NY	Regional Dairy Pricing System	Adverse
119	OH	Daylight Savings Time	Transferred to CIT
120	OH	Farmland Preservation	Present Policy
121	OH	U.S. use of common cheese, meat, wine, and other food names	Withdrawn
122	OK	S. 2458 "America Grows Act"	Present Policy
123	OR	Develop a National Educational Program About Organic Products	Present Policy
124	OR	Industrial Hemp	Present Policy
125	OR	Prohibit Use of Glyphosate on Public Properties	Adverse
126	TX	Farm Aid	Present Policy
127	VT	Growth Management Plan for Milk	Adverse
128	WA	Breaching the Four Dams on the Snake River in Eastern Washington	Transferred to CON
129	WA	Definition of Milk	Present Policy
130	WA	Disposal of Unwanted Agricultural Animals	Present Policy
131	WA	Food Safety Modernization Act	Withdrawn
132	WA	Restoring and Expanding Markets for American Producers	Present Policy
133	WA	Supporting Farmers Innovations	Policy Statement
134	WA	USDA Inspections	Adopted
135	WI	Dairy Crisis	Present Policy
136	MI	Food Safety	Covered by AG 109
137	PA	Vertical Farming	Adopted

AUDIT & BUDGET			
RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
201	TX	National Grange Expenses	Adopted as Amended
202	WA	National Grange Financial Audit	Adopted
203	-	Covered Expenses for Officers & Delegates	Adopted
204	-	Compensation for Elected Officers	Adopted
610	TX	National Grange Building Repair	Rejected

CITIZENSHIP & TAXATION			
RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
116	NJ	Elimination of Daylight Savings Time	Adverse
119	OH	Daylight Savings Time	Adverse
301	CA	Broadband Communications Equipment in Railways Rights of Way	Rejected
302	CA	Federal Budget Process Enforced Via Constitutional Amendment	Adopted
303	CA	FRRRA and FOIA Requests	Rejected
304	CO	Electoral College	Present Policy
305	CT	Removal of Public Monuments Memorializing Notable People from Public Spaces	Adopted
306	DC	Federal Lifeline Program	Adverse
307	MD	Leftover Produce at Farmers' Markets	Adopted
308	NJ	Importance of 2020 Census	Policy Statement
309	NY	Social Security Tax	Adverse
310	NY	Supporting Accurate Views of Emergency Services (SAVES) Act	Adverse
311	NY	Youth Agriculture Protection Act	Combined with 317 & 322
312	OH	Include Diapers as Allowable Purchases to Those on Government Assistance	Policy Statement
313	OK	H.R. 3375 Stopping Bad Robocalls Act	Present Policy
314	OK	Rural Digital Opportunity Fund	Policy Statement
315	OR	Advocate for Rural Broadband	Adverse
316	OR	Oppose Lowering Voting Age	Adopted
317	OR	Student Agriculture Protection Act	Combined with 311 & 322
318	OR	Veterans Anti-Discrimination	Present Policy
319	OR	Veterans to Farm	Adopted As Amended
320	TX	Drug Testing for Welfare Recipients	Present Policy
321	WA	Eliminate Veteran Offsets	Adopted As Amended
322	WA	Student Agriculture Protection Act of 2019	Adopted As Amended combined with 311 & 317
323	WI	Update Calculation for Determination of Federal Poverty Level	Policy Statement
324	IN	Personal Political Signage	Adverse
325	PA	Display of American Flag	Adopted As Amended
326	PA	Limiting Campaign Advertising	Adverse
327	WV	FORM 990 IRS	Policy Statement
602	ID	Tax Exemption Education for State & Pomona Granges With Property	Policy Statement
814	WA	Daylight Savings Time On The West Coast	State Issue

CONSERVATION			
RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
128	WA	Breaching the Four Dams on the Snake River in Eastern Washington	Present Policy
401	CA	Eliminate Plastic from the Environment	Present Policy
402	CA	North America Wild Horse Status	Adopted as Amended
403	CA	Species Subject to Possible Extinction	Withdrawn
404	IA	Control of Air and Water Quality	Policy Statement
405	IA	Corporation Use of National Parks	Adverse
406	MD	Plastic Bans	Present Policy
407	OR	Make All One-Time Plastics Returnable, Recyclable, or Compostable	Present Policy
408	OR	Weather Modification Technologies	Policy Statement
409	TX	Renewable Energy	Present Policy
410	WA	Opposition to Wild Olympic Wilderness	Present Policy
411	WA	Waste of Energy Incineration Facilities	Withdrawn
412	PA	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems Program (MS4)	Policy Statement
413	PA	Reduction of or Offset from Rain Tax	Policy Statement
815	WA	Protection of the Electrical Grid	Adopted
EDUCATION & HEALTH			
RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
501	CT	School Bus Safety	Policy Statement
502	IA	Encouraging Gun Violence Research	Withdrawn
503	IL	Carbon Monoxide Detectors Required in Public Spaces	Present Policy
504	KS	Arsenic Levels in Bottled Water	Adopted
505	MD	Agricultural Education Pay	State Issue
506	MD	Credit for Landscaping Services	State Issue
507	MD	Medicare Reduction and Skilled Nursing Facilities	Adopted
508	MD	Reclaiming School Food Waste	Policy Statement
509	MD	Support for Vocational Training	Policy Statement
510	NC	Capping Insulin Prices	Present Policy
511	NC	Small Business Health Care Act-Association Health Plans	Adverse
512	NJ	Prescription Medicine Prices	Policy Statement
513	NY	Prohibition of E-Cigarettes, Vaping and Vaping Devices	Adverse
514	NY	Television Advertising of E-Cigarettes	Adopted
515	NY	The Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity and Reliability (WATER) Act	Adopted as Amended
516	OH	Health Effects of e-cigarettes & Vaping	Rejected
517	OH	United States Pharmaceuticals	Adopted
518	OK	Ban E-Cigarettes	Policy Statement
519	OK	Increase Funding for Cancer Research	Policy Statement
520	OR	Advocate for Ban on Direct to Consumer Marketing for Medication	Rejected
521	OR	Mandatory Immunization for K-12 School Attendance	Adverse
522	OR	Require Prescription Bottle Label Have Large Print Purpose and Drug Name	Adopted as Amended
523	TX	Service Animal Identification Abuse	Rejected
524	VT	School Meals Plate Waste	Policy Statement
525	WA	Basic Dental Coverage Through Medicare	Present Policy
526	WA	Opposition to Importing Non-FDA Approved Prescription Drugs	Present Policy
527	PA	Alternatives to Opioid Medication & Healthcare Reimbursements	Adverse
528	PA	Support Separation of Religion and State Relating to Islam	Adverse
529	WV	Safeguarding Pharmaceuticals	Adopted

GRANGE GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT			
RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
601	DC	National Grange Multi-Employer Program 401K Retirement Plan	Adopted as Amended
602	ID	Tax Exemption Education for State and Pomona Granges with Property	Transferred to CIT
603	MD	Military Members' Dues	Policy Statement
604	MD	Support Agricultural Youth	Policy Statement
605	NY	Silver Star Recognition	Adverse
606	NY	Standardized Grange Record Books	Adverse
607	OH	Background Check	Adverse
608	OH	Grange Membership	Policy Statement
609	RI	National Session Registration	Policy Statement
610	TX	National Grange Building Repair	Transferred to A & B
611	WA	Grange Flag Display at Grange Meetings	Withdrawn

GRANGE LAW			
RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
701	CA	Amend Section 4.3.5 (B) of the National Grange Digest of Laws	Adopted by 5/6 majority
702	CA	Amend Section 4.10.6 (A) of the National Grange Digest of Laws	Adopted - 1st year
703	CA	Honoring Religious Diversity in the Grange	Adverse
704	CA	Redefine What is a Family for the Purposes of Family Membership	Adverse
705	CA	Review and Revision of First Four Degrees	Adverse
706	CO	Round Table Format for Grange Meetings	Withdrawn
707	CT	Sale of Grange Property	Rejected
708	NJ	Increasing the Amount of Funds Received by a Grange After the Sale of Property	Covered by 707
709	NJ	Recording of Degree Work	Covered by 715
710	OR	Membership Status	Policy Statement
711	VT	Ex-officio Membership	Covered by 716
712	WA	Sale of Grange Property	Covered by 707
713	PA	Changing the Frequency of Pomona Grange Meetings	Adverse
714	PA	Recording of Degree Work	Covered by 715
715	-	Degree Work	Adopted by 5/6 majority
716	-	Ex-officio Membership	Adopted by 5/6 majority
717	-	Digital signature	Adopted by 5/6 majority

LABOR, JUDICIARY & TRANSPORTATION			
RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
801	CA	Reclassification of Marijuana	Adverse
802	CA	Speed Limit Signage	State Issue
803	IA	Federal Legalization of Medical Marijuana	Adverse
804	IA	Prisoner education and training before release or parole	Withdrawn
805	IA	US Postal Service Five Day Mail Delivery	Withdrawn
806	NE	EPA and the RFS	Adopted as Amended
807	NY	Closing Mexico Border	Adverse
808	NY	American with Disabilities Act	Adopted
809	OK	Immigration Reform	Present Policy
810	OR	Harsher Punishments for False Accusations of Crimes	Adverse

811	TX	Red Light Camera	Withdrawn
812	WA	Automatic Daytime Low Beam Headlights	Adopted as Amended
813	WA	Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act	Present Policy
814	WA	Daylight Savings Time on the West Coast	Transferred to CIT
815	WA	Protection of the Electrical Grid	Transferred to CON
816	WA	Standardized Seat Belt Buckles	Rejected
817	WA	Supporting Youth Firearms Education Programs	Adopted
818	IN	Running From Police	State Issue
819	PA	False Accusers to be Punished	Adverse
820	PA	Preserve Constitutional Law	Present Policy
821	WV	Red Flags	Withdrawn

POLICY STATEMENT

Agriculture is, as always, a foundation of America's economy, providing directly or indirectly through value-added processing, and is currently approximately 5.4% (\$1.053 Trillion) of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For over 150 years, the National Grange has been working to improve agriculture in America and the welfare of those who work the soil or care for the creatures of the field. Our roots are in agriculture, and our future is tied to our faith in the perennial cycle of planting and harvest.

Conservation of our soil, water and air quality remains a priority for the Grange, keeping in mind that all pertinent regulations should reflect local conditions. A key component of the future security of our water supply for both domestic and agricultural uses is the ability to store it. Challenges from environmental groups and climate change have brought progress in that area to a standstill. The National Grange will continue to promote water storage projects that benefit agricultural and domestic needs while appropriately safeguarding fish and wildlife safety concerns.

Agricultural producers have been leaders in protecting the environment. The National Grange urges Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agencies to implement Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs). Good soil health, including proper nutrient management, is a priority, and we encourage all farmers to develop and follow a Nutrient Management Plan to ensure that no more nutrients are applied than are needed to grow the crop. As computer technology becomes more integral to farming and the equipment used, we encourage the use of precision agricultural technologies to benefit the environment and improve farm operational efficiency. The National Grange should engage in public relations efforts to showcase the work and leadership of farmers and ranchers in adapting to and utilizing best management practices.

The National Grange recognizes that other additional challenges facing producers are the precipitous drop in commodity prices coupled with ever-rising cost of inputs and the yearly increases in property taxes. We will continue to work on solutions to help minimize their impact on the agriculture sector. The National Grange continues to monitor issues concerning GMO-related food production and labeling. The National Grange supports voluntary labeling of Genetically Modified products. We further request that the National Grange Legislative Director share the latest reliable research on this subject with State Granges on a continual basis. As consumers become more concerned about where and how their food is produced, the National Organic Program (NOP) has become more popular. The National Grange supports the continued growth and federal support for the NOP, in order to meet the increasing consumer demand for organic food products.

Support for Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) is a long-standing position of the National Grange and is favored by consumers. We support voluntary labeling programs that provide clear information about country of origin and processing, so that consumers can make informed choices about the food they feed their families. Food safety continues to be a significant issue for Americans in light of the ever-increasing amount of our food that is imported. We believe the responsibility for all food safety inspection should fall under one federal agency, preferably the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Healthy pollinator's populations are critical to food production in the US. We are pleased that the USDA has information available to assist first-time beekeepers in learning how to begin production. The National Grange supports ongoing efforts to preserve proven pollinators health practices, while identifying new pesticide crop treatments that are not harmful to pollinator's populations. Although Neonicotinoids are a critical component of seed treatments, their misuse via over-the-counter products has resulted in their increasing presence in water and wetlands. Their toxic effect on pollinator's populations has reached the point where we feel it is time to consider designating Neonicotinoids as a restricted use pesticide. We support additional education efforts designed to inform producers as to the toxic nature of Neonicotinoids that are present in treated seeds and the positive aspects of having untreated seeds available for planting.

The use of drone or UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) technology is rapidly becoming an important tool for agricultural production. However, privacy concerns have arisen as drones have become more popular. The National Grange supports the implementation of developed FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) regulations governing the use of drones, and will continue to work with USDA, FAA and other agricultural organizations to address issues related to drone use as they pertain to agriculture.

The National Grange continues to support extensive research by our Land Grant Colleges and Universities into both short-term and long-term effects on the environment and on human nutrition, of all new crops, whether Genetically-Modified or traditionally bred. 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-minded 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 Extension Service to draw on and develop leadership abilities. Adequate funding of Extension must be continued and increased if we wish to ensure the availability of innovative practices and new tools beneficial to agriculture and society. We support educational programs, such as Farm to Table or Farm to School, that teach the importance of proper diet and nutrition. It is more critical now than ever to help consumers understand the basic food system, where their food comes from, and what, if any, genetic alteration was integral to its development. It is vital that we encourage the younger generation to enter into farming. We support programs or policies that will enhance the ability of young farmers to be successful as they pursue production agriculture as an occupation. Opportunities exist to expand agricultural tourism as an additional source of income for farm families. The National Grange urges government at all levels to remove unnecessary laws and regulations that hamper agricultural tourism expansion.

As production agriculture becomes more dependent on computer technology, access to high speed internet has become critical to farming and marketing activities. High-speed internet access is also critical to the agricultural operations that desperately need it to enable their high-tech precision farming equipment that is used to grow crops using less water, seed, fertilizer and pesticides. The National Grange strongly supports expanded funding efforts necessary to develop high-speed internet access in rural area that are currently under-served.

The National Grange thanks Congress for passing the 2018 Farm Bill. It provided additional funding to help close the existing gap between feed costs and average milk prices. This, along with restructured premium rates, benefitted small-to-medium sized dairy producers. The National Grange also appreciates the establishment of a new Foot and Mouth vaccine bank. These improvements and other provisions designed to provide equitable treatment for all commodities on all farm sizes in all regions of the country need to continue to be addressed. The National Grange also strongly supports retaining adequate levels of financial support for the USDA Risk Management Division and the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP), so that coverages accurately reflect cost of production and provides adequate price protection; yet ensure that premiums remain affordable. Disaster Relief programs are also a critical component of farm income safety nets. We also strongly urge that provisions are made to adequately address the needs for a reliable source of seasonal as well as year-round farm labor. Bills have been introduced, but none have been able to advance through Congress. This lack of action has been frustrating because the need for an affordable and adequate work force remains a critical agriculture issue.

The National Grange continues to support the principle that only those foods from mammalian sources should be allowed to use the term "milk." The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) should not allow the labeling of nutritionally-inferior plant or artificial substitutes as "milk," "yogurt" or "cheese". The USDA must retain the authority to regulate the emergence of the efforts to grow "meat" in a laboratory setting. The Grange supports the principle that the term "meat" can only be used to describe animal protein derived from harvested production livestock, poultry, seafood or wildlife, wild or domestic.

Milk prices to the farmer have continued to drop over the past 20 years, while production costs have continued to climb. The Grange must continue to work to educate consumers on the positive qualities of whole milk and lowering the unacceptable level of waste of our food that currently occurs on a daily basis in this country. Education efforts such as these will lead to more demand for our domestically-produced milk, thus leading to higher prices for our producers and less waste of food will make more available for government-assistance food programs.

Individual incomes in developing countries are rising, leading to changes in diet that will increase demands on the world's food supply even as population growth adds its inevitable impact. The National Grange supports new and progressive trade pacts that lower trade barriers and promote fair trade. Farmers prefer fair trade for their products rather than government payments.

Cooperative nonpartisan effort is the "Grange way," and an understanding of the direct relationship between science and the natural world. The words written by National Master Oliver Wilson in 1919 are appropriate today, in that the time has come to simply classify agriculture as one of the great industries that make up our economic structure, and the need to treat agriculture as a vital part of that structure. One hundred years later we are still facing the same struggle, still selling products at less than the cost of production. We have the choice- pay the farmer a fair price or import our food. "No nation can prosper whose agriculture deteriorates."

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
103	MD	Cover Crops	Adopted
104	MD	Dairy	Adopted
105	MD	Efficient Use of Dairy Check-Off Funds	Adopted as Amended
107	MD	Pollinators and Pesticides	Adopted
108	MD	Precision Ag	Adopted
109	MD	Privatization of Meat Inspection	Adopted
110	MD	Promote Job Opportunities in Ag Related Fields	Adopted as Amended
111	MD	Urban Ag	Adopted
113	NE	Halal Products	Adopted
114	NE	USDA and Futures Trading	Adopted as Amended
115	NJ	Cheaper Energy Sources	Adopted
117	NY	Honeybee Colonies Report & USDA Funding	Adopted as Amended
134	WA	USDA Inspections	Adopted
137	PA	Vertical Farming	Adopted

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

103-MD – Cover Crops

WHEREAS the cover crop program is the most effective way to prevent soil erosion and nutrient run-off; therefore be it
RESOLVED the National Grange urges federal and state agencies to continue to research to find the most effective cover crops and urges state departments of agriculture and Extension to encourage and actively promote their use.

104-MD - Dairy

WHEREAS the Australian Heart Association is the latest entity to conclude that whole milk and other full-fat dairy products do NOT contribute to a higher incidence of heart disease and diabetes; and

WHEREAS registered dietitian and diabetes educator Laura Cipullo recently testified that “when someone eats full-fat dairy versus low-fat dairy, the fat will actually delay the absorption of milk sugar (lactose). As a result, blood sugar rises more slowly over a more sustained period of time, consequently, less circulating insulin means less risk for insulin resistance and diabetes”; and

WHEREAS nutrition professor Dr. Althea Zanecoskey stated that whole milk provides satiety, making consumers feel fuller; and

WHEREAS a 2013 review by Polish researchers found that one of the fatty acids in dairy is found to aid gastrointestinal health with the potential to combat Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS); and

WHEREAS previous research has found that whole milk is helpful in reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, and other metabolic disorders while providing dozens of essential vitamins, minerals, and other vital nutrients; and

WHEREAS Dairy Management, Inc. (DMI) which operates the dairy check-off program and the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) appear to have given up on promoting whole milk; and

WHEREAS the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Dietary Guidelines Committee, which affects what can be used in the School Lunch Program is dominated by believers in the failed low-fat diet; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange urges the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) and Dairy Management, Inc. (DMI) to actively promote whole milk and disseminate the research that supports the healthy benefits of whole milk and full-fat dairy products to health care professionals, nutritionists, and school lunch operators; and be it further

RESOLVED the National Grange reaffirms its call for the USDA Dietary Guidelines Committee to make its recommendations based on current research that shows that dairy is a healthy part of a well-balanced diet; and be it further

RESOLVED the National Grange urges DMI to shift its focus from promoting a specific brand and instead promote the existence of milk from cows with the A2A2 gene that eliminates lactose intolerance.

105-MD – Efficient Use of Dairy Check-Off Funds

WHEREAS Dairy Management, Inc. (DMI) has given significant amounts of dairy check-off funds to Daniel J. Edelman, Inc., which has strong ties to the carbonated beverage industry and the dairy alternative industry and supports the EAT Lancet effort that has a goal to reduce per capita consumption of animal protein by 75% in the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS one DMI-funded product innovation has produced a blend of low-fat lactose-free milk combined with 50% plant-based beverages; and

WHEREAS a significant amount of dairy check-off funding went to Fairlife LLC at a time when consumer sentiment is opposed to corporate farming; and

WHEREAS during the time that DMI partnered with the Edelman group, fluid milk consumption has declined substantially, failing to provide any value for the funds spent; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange strongly urges the dairy check-off program to discontinue efforts that promote dairy alternatives in any form and replace the current consulting firm with a firm that has a primary focus on promoting dairy consumption.

107-MD – Pollinators and Pesticides

WHEREAS some pesticides have been found to be harmful and toxic to pollinators; and

WHEREAS pollinators are vital to food production; and

WHEREAS the Delaware Managed Pollinator Protection Program (MP3) helps farm operators be aware of where hives are located so that they can avoid harming those hives; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange urges the Environmental Protection Agency to require pesticide product label instructions designed to limit harm to pollinators by pesticides deemed toxic to pollinators; therefore be it further

RESOLVED the National Grange urge state departments of agriculture and Extension to include instruction on how to minimize harm to pollinators as part of pesticide applicators license renewal and other educational programs, including helping applicators be aware of the potential presence of pollinators.

108-MD – Precision Ag

WHEREAS modern equipment and technology for precision agriculture can better target the amount of fertilizer and pesticides applied, which will reduce the amounts applied, lowering the costs to the farm operator and lessening the possibility of nutrient run-off and leaching into the water supply and reducing agriculture's carbon footprint; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange urges the state and federal government to make available low-interest loans to purchase precision agricultural equipment and technologies that will better target fertilizer and pesticide application thus reducing the potential of nutrient run-off; and be it further

RESOLVED the National Grange urges the extension service, in conjunction with equipment, fertilizer, and seed dealers, to provide learning opportunities on the use of these technologies and equipment.

109-MD – Privatization of Meat Inspection

WHEREAS at a time when animal agriculture is under constant attack from activist groups intent on destroying it, consumer confidence in our product is critically important; and

WHEREAS any industry that deals with inspectors has inherent difficulties; the best inspectors work with those being inspected to ensure proper compliance; poor inspectors are mainly interested in wielding their power; and

WHEREAS the Federal Meat Inspection Act of 1906 was passed as a result of poor and unsafe conditions in slaughterhouses chronicled in The Jungle by Upton Sinclair, due in part to advocacy by the Grange; and

WHEREAS the dairy industry has a successful record with a combination of government and industry inspection; and

WHEREAS the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) at the US Department of Agriculture created the Pathogen Reduction Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System (PR/HACCP) in 1997 to develop a project and test new models for certain meat and poultry products. Market hogs and young poultry were first chosen because these groups are typically young and healthy. FSIS developed inspection models for these selected market classes and made slaughter process control an industry responsibility, subject to FSIS carcass and verification inspection; and

WHEREAS this process would allow FSIS to maintain and enhance food safety and other consumer protection benefits of the current system while FSIS would effectively and efficiently oversee, evaluate, and verify industry implementation of PR/HACCP regulations. This is known as the HACCP-based Inspection Model Project (HIMP); therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange urges the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspections Service (FSIS) to maintain the strong oversight necessary to ensure consumer confidence and protect consumer safety in meat and poultry inspections; and be it further

RESOLVED the National Grange urges FSIS to strictly adhere to the stated goals of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points, HACCP-based Inspection Model Project (HIMP) that say that FSIS will maintain and enhance food safety and other consumer benefits of the inspections system and effectively and efficiently oversee, evaluate, and verify industry implementation of this program; and be it further

RESOLVED that the final rules of privatized meat and poultry inspection should give consumer safety and confidence a higher priority than line speed at packing plants. Plants with poor records should be ineligible for self-inspection.

110-MD – Promote Job Opportunities in Ag Related Fields

WHEREAS there are many positions available in agriculturally-related companies that go unfilled because students are unaware of their existence; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange, urges 4-H and FFA leaders, staff at state colleges of agriculture, and other farm leaders to actively promote agriculture-related job opportunities.

111-MD – Urban Ag

WHEREAS the Grange has policy supporting urban agriculture that will reduce the existence of "food deserts" in the inner cities; and

WHEREAS there have been groups converting vacant lots into urban gardens that provide much needed fresh produce to their neighborhoods and provide a cleaner environment; and

WHEREAS many local communities and homeowners' associations ban or restrict vegetable gardens and some school administrators refuse to allow gardens on school property; and

WHEREAS the Florida legislature passed SB82, which prohibits local governments from banning vegetable gardening on residential property; and

WHEREAS according to the National Gardening Association, one in three households actually grow some of their food and every square foot can produce one half pound of produce; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange reaffirms its support for urban agriculture and supports efforts to knock down barriers put up by community governments, homeowners' associations, and school administrators and encourages state departments of agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Extension to actively promote and teach urban and suburban citizens how to grow their own food and plant and maintain fruit bearing trees.

113-NE – Halal Products

WHEREAS Halal products have been prepared according to Islamic law; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange urges consumer diligent research into Halal certification.

114-NE – USDA and Futures Trading

WHEREAS the futures markets are now dominated by computerized trading programs; and
WHEREAS the CFTC (Commodity Futures Trading Commission) has essentially stopped enforcing speculative position limits; and

WHEREAS the aforementioned has caused a great deal of money allocation to be based upon USDA Supply and Demand reports; and

WHEREAS: the methodology and raw data behind these reports is not made known to the public, and

WHEREAS: the apparent indifference and secrecy of the USDA is causing a disconnect between the Department and production agriculture; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange ask USDA to become more proactive in assuming its role in the current agricultural environment. Issues which need to be addressed may include, but are not limited to:

1. Urge the Commodities Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to enforce position limits.
2. Urge the CFTC to force (primarily) the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) Group to re-evaluate their agricultural futures contracts. The purpose of these contracts is to act as hedging tools. The disconnect between the cash markets and the futures markets continues to get worse, creating more and more basis-risk for producers.
3. The USDA should consider working with the CME Group to release reports during a suspension of trading, so that proper time can be given to ALL market participants to analyze the massive amount of data in their reports;
4. The USDA should consider eliminating many of the monthly reports, and be flexible on when reports are released so as to ensure the most accurate data possible. Current, realistic data is more important than calendar dates. The USDA should make more data publicly available in real time like the Farm Service Agency (FSA) data and let the private analysts and academia deal with the numbers.

115-NJ – Cheaper Energy Sources

WHEREAS the atmosphere is annually being polluted by fossil fuel emissions; and

WHEREAS the vast number of Americans support wind and solar energy to improve efficiency to effectively reduce the carbon footprint; and

WHEREAS the cattle industry is feeling the effects of reduced use of protein and dairy products losing income due to reduced use of Dairy products; and

WHEREAS the cattle industry provides a source of a natural energy resource, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the National Grange supports low-interest loan funding opportunities for methane digesters being built on livestock farms.

117-NY – Honeybee Colonies Report & USDA Funding

WHEREAS bees are the number one pollinator in the world; and

WHEREAS bees are part of the economy and in New York State alone are pollinators of crops worth over \$1.2 billion annually; and

WHEREAS bee populations have plummeted from 6 million in the 1940's to roughly 2.5 million in 2015 and in the winter of 2018 suffered their worst decline ever of 37.7%; and

WHEREAS data on bee colonies and their decline is critical to protecting honeybee reliant agriculture in New York and the U.S., and

WHEREAS the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has decided to stop studying and reporting on this ecological disaster; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange urges the USDA to continue to study and fund the Honeybee Colonies Report and assure that it is retained in the federal budget for 2020 and beyond.

134-WA – USDA Inspections

RESOLVED that the National Grange encourages the resumption of USDA Inspections to allow horses to be used for human consumption.

137-PA – Vertical Farming

WHEREAS research shows that by the year 2050 the earth's population will exceed 10 billion people, putting increasing pressure on the world's farmers to provide sustainable, efficient and cost-effective means of food production; and

WHEREAS advanced farming techniques required to meet this demand for more food need to be in place as soon as possible in order to stay ahead of nutritional needs; and

WHEREAS seeking viable alternatives to non-traditional food production takes time and financial resources; and

WHEREAS alternative techniques are preferable to the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, as well as the constant overtaxing of our lands; and

WHEREAS the Grange has its base deeply rooted in agriculture and; therefore, has a vested interest in the future of farming; and

WHEREAS the bus tour taken by members at the Pennsylvania State Session held in October of 2018 took members to the nearby Carlow College branch campus where such methods are successfully being used to feed the students and guests on that campus, showing the true viability of these alternative non-traditional means of food production; and

WHEREAS: the economic stability and physical welfare of the American public is in jeopardy without such alternative ways of meeting the demands for quality foods; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange adopt policy and lobby for legislation that intentionally supports the implementation, growth and sustaining of alternate non-traditional forms of food production such as aeroponic, hydroponic and vertical farming that are designed for high production with limited space.

PRESENT POLICY

Agricultural 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. Consideration should be given to greater participation by the USDA in the administration and distribution of American food-aid programs.
3. The National Grange urges the Grain Inspection Service of the USDA to take all necessary steps to insure 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 (Agency for International Development) 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.

Agricultural 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. National Grange supports continued restrictions on imports of animals, meat, meat products and bone meal into the United States from any country having Mad Cow Disease until sound scientific data proves it is safe.
6. To allow for the consumers' right to know where their food comes from, the National Grange supports voluntary country-of-origin labeling for beef, pork, lamb, fish, and shellfish that is compliant with World Trade Organization (WTO) trade rules.

Agriculture Trade Policy

1. 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. The National Grange opposes non-transparent, non-amendable fast-track pacts which are not open to debate by our legislative bodies.
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 ensure 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 National Grange insists that representatives of USDA and the Department of Homeland Security be present at all Free Trade negotiations to ensure 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."
8. The National Grange insists that trade pacts require all imported products from signatory countries, not just agricultural products, meet the same strict standards as domestically-produced goods for environmental protection, residue, labeling and worker safety. These standards must be strictly enforced.
9. The National Grange believes trade pacts should not cede judicial power to foreign tribunals, such as the World Trade Organization, not bound by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

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 cooperatives 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 issues related to the electronic 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.

5. The National Grange opposes any effort to exempt commodity check off funds from being subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to continue transparency.

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 National Grange urges the FDA, EPA, USDA and other national farm organizations to publicize the safety of GMOs 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. The Grange supports a voluntary GMO-free labeling certification program regulated by USDA and urges that the USDA Certified Organic label automatically qualify as GMO-free.
4. The National Grange supports ongoing educational efforts by the Cooperative Extension Service that address growing concerns about GMO genetic material drift to non-GMO plants.

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, including comprehensive strategies to minimize weed resistance issues. 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 continue to support the USDA to establish a certification program that encourages herbicide applicators to use best management practices to prevent damage to adjacent property. We continue to support adequate funding for increased research by all appropriate government agencies to develop, improve, and disseminate information on alternative or sustainable agriculture. We continue to support 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 opposes the federal Environmental Protection Agency's proposed increased requirements for recertification of private and commercial pesticide applicators licenses.
6. 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.
7. The National Grange supports legislation that provides increased and continuous funding for the Inter-regional Research Project Number Four (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.
8. 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.

9. 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.
10. The National Grange opposes the EPA classifying plants as a pesticide based upon genetic engineering.
11. All fertilizer manufacturers using toxic, heavy metal, chemical or radioactive wastes should be required to list those components on the package label.
12. 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. The National Grange supports Integrated Pest Management Programs and other safe alternatives to Glyphosate use.
13. 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 U.S. We urge USDA to alert the general public to the potential threat that foreign insects pose to our native species.
14. The National Grange supports legislation allowing farmers, ranchers and others to protect their property from predators, including endangered species.
15. 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.
16. The National Grange urges the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to continue to allow the use of atrazine after its registration review.

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 (Commodity Credit Corporation) stocks, and the percentage of Class I use.
2. 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 in all federal milk marketing orders.
3. We support the continued payment of Class I differentials and oppose any effort to form a national pool of Class I milk differentials.
4. The National Grange opposes any change in the classification of reconstituted milk and the de-pooling of Class III milk.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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) supplying side controls, (2) charging Class I processors an assessment to fund the cost of cooperatives that balance the pool of milk in their areas, (3) keeping multiple component pricing, (4) declassifying Class I prices from other classes, (5) making major improvements to the dairy producer income insurance program that is complimentary to the Livestock Gross Margin Program, returns to the original feed cost formula and takes into account local prices paid, (6) creating a mechanism to more quickly respond to changing market conditions and reduce price volatility, which would include a growth management program that is flexible and responsive to market conditions while providing producers with the ability to grow, and (7) providing 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.
8. 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.
9. The National 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.
10. 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 also supports having milk used to produce Milk Protein Concentrate (MPC) included in the total milk produced in the area Federal Milk Marketing order and urges the adoption of standards on how MPC is used and inspected to ensure compliance.
11. 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, including required reports to Congress.
12. 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. Only those foods from mammalian sources should be allowed to use the term "milk."
 13. The National Grange continues to support government purchases of dairy for domestic programs.
 14. 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.
 15. The National Grange opposes legislation that requires the labeling of milk/milk products as it relates to rBST.
 16. 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.
 17. We recognize the need for dairy farm and dairy plant inspections to help ensure 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.
 18. The National Grange encourages the continued performance of dairy genetic evaluations for the dairy industry.
 19. 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
 20. 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.
 21. The National Grange should actively participate in education activities that are focused on informing the public of the value and protection provided by the pasteurization process.
 22. The National Grange urges a change be made whereby Commodity Credit Corporation purchases of surplus dairy products are of dairy products that are in demand by domestic and international markets.
 23. The National Grange supports legislation that would expand the definition of qualifying livestock eligible for the 50% bonus depreciation to include all dairy cows purchased by a dairy farm operator for business use.
 24. The National Grange urges the reform of Federal Milk Marketing Order regulations so that excess milk can more easily be donated to food banks while still protecting milk processors from unfair pricing practices and protecting the price being paid to farmers for their milk.
 25. The National Grange encourages fundraisers to purchase excess milk to donate to food banks.
 26. The National Grange urges FDA to adopt the 2017 higher California Standards for protein and solids-not-fat fluid milk to help standardize and improve milk quality.

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, including double-crop soybeans. 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 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 an "emergency" and not otherwise reduce any other 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.

9. The National Grange supports a compromise that will lower the federal crop insurance subsidy for farm operations with an adjusted gross income over \$750,000 or \$1.5 million for a married couple from 62% to 42% and opposes lowering the subsidy for farmers with an adjusted gross income of less than \$750,000. The National Grange further supports crop insurance subsidies for all agricultural producers and urges the Risk Management Agency to adequately train insurance agents about the Whole Farm Revenue Protection Program.
10. Because extreme weather conditions are devastating to producers, The National Grange encourages Congress to provide additional insurance programs for catastrophic losses to livestock, crops and timber not covered by existing insurance programs. The National Grange supports the continuation of the current funding levels for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and the Conservation Reserve Grasslands Program in the 2018 Farm Bill.

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 a 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. This includes recognizing Alpaca and Llama farming as a livestock business enterprise.
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. We urge USDA to modify its programs to provide additional assistance to beginning farmers and ranchers.
4. The National Grange request federal, state and county governments streamline the process to transfer farms and other small businesses from one family member to another, so that the cost of compliance and tax consequences do not prevent the transfer from occurring.
5. The National Grange will continue to support the use of lands for production of food and fiber, as long as the enterprises are operated under best management practices as established by the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
6. The National Grange encourages the U.S. Department of Agriculture to maintain the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) as individual agencies in order to enhance their critical roles in supporting farmer-owned cooperatives and the rural communities they serve.
7. 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 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.
8. 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 well-being 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.
9. The National Grange supports efforts to enhance new economic opportunities for urban agriculture by supporting programs that provide mentorship and education.
10. The State Granges and the National Grange urge state and federal government 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.

11. The National Grange supports Farmers' Markets, family farms and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's) that produce and sell homegrown agricultural products. Grange policy also supports the creation of pilot programs that endorse the buying of local fruits, vegetables and produce.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. The National Grange encourages federal, state and local governments to protect agriculture against bio-terrorism.
15. The National Grange supports 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.
16. The National Grange strongly supports beginning farmer and rancher programs and urges USDA to modify its programs to give additional consideration individuals and families who qualify.
17. The National Grange supports price insurance protection for farmers that considers the diversity of crops, commodities, production methods, target markets and regional differences.

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. 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 driver's licenses (CDLs) to transport their crops and/or their landlord's crops on the public highways.
4. The National Grange supports public awareness initiatives for rural road safety involving the presence of agricultural equipment, to improve signage, education awareness and promotional efforts.

Farmer Credit Programs and the Farm Credit System

1. The primary function of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan officers should be a lender of first opportunity for farmers/ranchers and veterans seeking funds for agricultural purchases. 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. Loan programs should provide needed short and long-term low interest credit for soil and water conservation. 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 Services 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, Services, and we specifically recommend that the Farm Credit Services 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 Services 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.

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 or under-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 the Farm Storage Facility Loans Program (FSFL) 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 be 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 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 USDA's farm programs in order to eliminate any abuse of farm program regulations. The Grange supports funding and staffing of local USDA programs and offices 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.
5. The National Grange encourages the United States Department of Agriculture to actively enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act.
6. 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.
7. The National Grange supports expanding funding in the 2018 Farm Bill to develop Broadband infrastructure in rural areas.
8. The National Grange urges Congress to maintain funding for the National Organic Program and the Specialty Crops Block Grant Program through the 2018 Farm Bill.

Food and Meat Inspection Programs

1. The National Grange urges an increase in inspection 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 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.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that would eliminate the second inspection of bulk bin apples by the Department of Agriculture before being exported to Canada.
10. The National Grange supports a rewrite of the Veterinary Feed Directive regulations to exclude on-farm animal feed or storage products.

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 U.S.
3. The National Grange supports research efforts aimed toward solving the problem occurring with honey bee colony collapse. While a cause for this syndrome has not been identified, research strongly suggests that colony collapse may be caused by a combination of many factors, one of which is the prophylactic use of neonicotinoid pesticides in agriculture production. Therefore, the National Grange supports the designation of neonicotinoids as restricted use pesticides.
4. The National Grange supports continued efforts by all Granges to utilize Managed Pollinator Protection Plans to make their properties better habitat for pollinators and to improve honey bee health.
5. The National Grange encourages agricultural universities and pesticide companies to develop pesticides that are not harmful to bees and other beneficial insects.
6. The National Grange opposes the ban or prescription restriction of over-the-counter antibiotics for treatment of honeybees unless such restrictions are based on scientific information.
7. The National Grange supports increased research through the states in growing mushroom spawn.
8. The National Grange supports expansion of Federal Crop Insurance and Multi-Peril Insurance Programs to include horticultural crops.
9. 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.

Livestock and Poultry Disease Control

1. The National Grange supports continued efforts to eradicate Brucellosis, Johne's Disease, Foot 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.
7. The National Grange supports enforcement of puppy mill laws and regulations.

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 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. The National Grange will work to develop a commercially-acceptable term for cell-based proteins and support USDA to be the regulatory oversight agency responsible for cell-based protein production.
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 continue to support 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 continue to support 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 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.
16. 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.

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 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.

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, such as 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 criterion 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 the concept of a Cover Crop Program that is voluntary and incentive-based for all farm programs that involve government funding.
4. 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.

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 encourage state departments of agriculture and state experiment stations to conduct research designed to achieve the same results. 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 germ plasma.
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 (BMP) 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 organic farming research and education.
7. The National Grange urges continued research on the benefits and risks of using biosolids as agricultural fertilizer.
8. The National Grange encourages USDA and state agriculture experiment stations to identify and promote fire-resistant plants and encourage their planting in fire-prone areas.

Tobacco Policy

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. The National Grange supports negotiations, regulations or legislation to control the importation of low grade, inferior quality tobacco.

4. 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% U.S. tobacco.
5. The National Grange continues to support the Tobacco Auction System and the 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.
6. The National Grange opposes any proposals to ban the use of menthol in cigarettes.

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 urges the USDA to review and recommend changes to current EBT (electronic benefit transfer) eligibility guidelines in order to avoid unintended consequences to the beneficiary.
6. 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.

Miscellaneous

1. The National Grange supports the agricultural weather forecasting service.
2. The National Grange continues to support the development of aquaculture. We urge aqua cultural farmers to use care and caution in the placement of rearing pens in public waterways so as not to interfere with common waterway uses.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would ensure a producer the "right to harvest" any legally planted crop regardless of any environmental or regulatory action arising between planting and harvest time.
4. The National Grange supports the production of industrial hemp when production is done within the guidelines of applicable state and federal laws.
5. The National Grange opposes EPA regulations that concern dust blowing attributed to agricultural operations.
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 National Grange urges the United States Congress to direct the USDA Food and Nutrition Service to amend their rules to allow consumption of grapes, whole milk, flavored milk and potato products by students in school meal programs and to insert that language into the 2018 Farm Bill.
8. The Grange at all levels support initiatives to encourage the use of farm structures as a base for communication antennas.
9. 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 to be limited to two years rather than five years.
10. The Grange supports legislation that offers a form of reimbursement of student loans for large animal veterinarians committing to work in private practice.
11. The National Grange supports the market availability of GPS (Global Positioning System) tracking devices to monitor the locations of agricultural/farm equipment.
12. The National Grange supports legislative efforts that would allow individuals involved in agriculture as well as independent mechanics to have access to diagnostic software, information and other necessary technological tools used to repair modern farm equipment.
13. The National Grange opposes the expansion of the definition of areas considered "navigable waters" as was defined under the 1968 Clean Water Act.
14. The National Grange urges all appropriate agencies of federal, state and local governments to expedite the harvest and removal of beetle-kill trees from all public lands.
15. 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.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Agriculture Committee for their hard work and many long hours before and during the Convention. Having an outstanding committee made the difficult task of this committee go very smoothly and efficiently. We accomplished much even without having any women to keep us in line! Thanks to National Grange, Betsy

and Burton for allowing us to ZOOM prior to this meeting. We were able to use that time to agree on the points of the National Grange Agriculture Policy that needed to be updated or researched prior to arrival at the session.

We are always thrilled to have a Trimble Youth. We enjoyed having Jonathan Pittman help us, especially with technical issues.

As we debate resolutions, I'd like to remind you what the Minnesota Quilt of Valor guest said, "support is an action verb!" Put this policy into action! Not just Burton and Betsy but all of us.

Thank You.

Fraternally submitted,

Allen Stiles, Agriculture Committee Chair

Kevin Cooksley, NE, Secretary

Glenn Gibson, MA

Don Schaeffer, CA

Jimmy Gentry, NC

Bill Johnson, MT

Jonathan Pitman, WA Trimble Youth

Wayne Campbell, PA

John Plank, IN

POLICY STATEMENT

The members of the Audit and Budget Committee thank the National Master, Executive Committee and the National Grange staff for presenting us with a budget that allows us to continue with the programs and projects of the National Grange. 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 encourage membership growth. Every member should make a serious effort to attract new members while working to retain our existing members.

We encourage all members to continually monitor the many member benefits that are listed on the National Grange website and to take advantage of these benefits as they are not only a benefit to the membership, but many of these programs provide an ongoing revenue stream to the National Grange. Few organizations give such value for the small monetary contribution from its membership.

Generations of our members have enjoyed our National Grange headquarters and it is a major asset to the Order. The income generated by the rentals is a significant portion of our annual operating funds. We must maintain this financial asset for future generations. A nearly 60-year-old building needs regular maintenance and we encourage the Executive Committee to put away funds for future maintenance needs. These funds should be used only for the maintenance and updates of the National Grange Headquarters building. We encourage members and Granges to consider making donations to the National Grange for ongoing building maintenance.

The Communications Department continues to expand communications to the State Granges, Community Granges and our membership. Some of these programs include The Patrons Chain, and our quarterly subscription based 'Good Day!' publication.

In order to remain financially viable, we encourage all members to subscribe to the Good Day! magazine. With current subscriptions at approximately 1000, there is a need for an increase in subscriptions of at least 20% in order to make the production of the magazine financially viable. In an effort to make the Grange more visible, why not consider a subscription to the magazine for your local library or FFA chapter? Communication between the National Grange and our membership is vital and the outstanding 'Good Day!' publication is an essential part of that effort, but to continue it, it must receive support by us as leaders as well as our members. Why not take few minutes and renew your subscription, or subscribe to the magazine today?

The revitalization of the Membership Department will allow us to work on membership growth and development. It is our responsibility as leaders of the Grange to work with our Membership

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

Res. #	Origin	TITLE	ACTION
201	TX	National Grange Expenses	Adopted as amended
202	WA	National Grange Financial Audit	Adopted
203	A&B Committee	Covered Expenses for Officers and Delegates	Adopted
204	A&B Committee	Compensation for Elected Officers	Adopted

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

201-TX- National Grange Expenses

WHEREAS each member across the United States pays dues to assist the National Grange in its day to day operational expense; and

WHEREAS as members we like to be informed of the expenses the National Grange incurs; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange provide electronically a detailed statement of financial activities, statement of position beginning January 2020 and at the end of each quarter thereafter to the National Master, National Overseer, National Executive Committee, National Secretary, National Treasurer and Masters/ Presidents of each State Grange.

202-WA-National Grange Financial Audit

WHEREAS the Digest of Laws of the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, chapter 9,3.3 reads "The Executive Committee shall audit the accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary of the National Grange before the annual meeting of the National Grange and report thereon to the National Grange. A statement of a Certified Public Accountant may be submitted in lieu of the Committee actually making the audit." and

WHEREAS: the audit report and/or statement for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017 was not completed prior to the 152nd Annual National Grange Convention in November 2018; and

WHEREAS the audit report and/or statement for the same time period is not included in the online version of the 2018 National Grange Convention Proceedings made available in March 2019; and

WHEREAS the official audit report could be a useful tool in developing the budget for the following year and giving a true financial picture of the organization; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange Executive Committee/Board of Directors take a more aggressive approach in working with their accountants and/or auditors in completing their annual audit in a timely manner; and be it further

RESOLVED the audit for the period ending annually on December 31 be made available to the Audit and Budget Committee and the delegates to the National Grange Convention at their convention in November of the succeeding year.

203-A&B– Covered Expenses for Officers and Delegates

RESOLVED, the National Grange pay room costs for the required days at the National Grange Convention for delegates, officers and approved non-delegates for the 2020 National Grange Convention.

204-A&B– Compensation for Elected Officers

RESOLVED the Audit and Budget Committee affirms the following compensation be approved in the budget at the 153rd annual session held in 2019 for elected officers:

National Master: \$60,000 annually

National Lecturer: \$500 honorarium annually

National Secretary: \$500 honorarium annually

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Audit & Budget Committee for their hard work and many long hours during the Convention. This was a great group, as we were all willing to say what was on our minds and discuss each issue for the benefit of the Grange. A special thanks to our secretary Judy Sherrod for doing a great job once again.

Thank You.

Fraternally submitted,

Duane Hamp, Chair

Judy Sherrod, TN, Sec.

Buddy Overstreet, TX

Dwight Baldwin, IA

James Owens, ME

Chip Narvel, DE

Leroy Watson, NH

Income	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Q3	Proposed 2020 Budget	% of Budget
Dues and Fees Income						
Subordinate dues	\$ 742,535.50	\$ 732,442.00	\$ 670,000.00	\$ 527,632.00	\$ 690,000.00	79%
E-membership	\$ 250.25	\$ 738.30	\$ 500.00	\$ 829.30	\$ 1,000.00	166%
Subordinate & Pomona charter fees	\$ 105.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 250.00	75%
Junior Grange charter fees	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00	40%
6th degree fees			\$ 500.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 250.00	9%
7th degree fees	\$ 2,010.00	\$ 2,490.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 480.00	\$ 3,000.00	16%
Dues and Fees Subtotal:	\$ 744,910.75	\$ 735,720.30	\$ 674,150.00	\$ 529,081.30	\$ 694,550.00	78%
Other Income						
Building Income	\$ 1,663,199.25	\$ 1,102,513.66	\$ 1,237,850.00	\$ 846,389.55	\$ 1,229,137.14	68%
Sales Income	\$ 31,723.22	\$ 30,853.84	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 22,532.92	\$ 31,000.00	73%
Supportive Memberships	\$ 62,500.00	\$ 62,500.00	\$ 62,500.00	\$ 46,875.00	\$ 56,250.00	75%
Legislative Sponsorships (Grants)	\$ -	\$ 31,750.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 33,600.00	\$ 31,500.00	90%
Fundraising and donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
License Agreement	\$ 25,410.00	\$ 19,420.36	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 21,661.25	\$ 20,000.00	108%
Communications Income	\$ 143,075.00	\$ 24,034.44	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 16,689.09	\$ 31,000.00	45%
Advertising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Foundation Management Fee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	0%
Bonding Commission	\$ 8,257.40	\$ 12,603.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ -	\$ 8,500.00	0%
Interest, dividends	\$ 50,211.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Miscellaneous		\$ 2,154.10	\$ 560.00	\$ 675.10	\$ 500.00	121%
National Convention	\$ 77,917.06	\$ 67,635.15	\$ 98,000.00	\$ 26,526.22	\$ 93,000.00	27%
Loan		\$ 962,237.21	\$ 962,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Other Subtotal:	\$ 2,062,293.88	\$ 2,315,701.76	\$ 2,495,010.00	\$ 1,014,949.13	\$ 1,501,387.14	41%
Total Income:	\$ 2,807,204.63	\$ 3,051,422.06	\$ 3,169,160.00	\$ 1,544,030.43	\$ 2,195,937.14	49%
Cash Forward:	\$ -	0%				
Total Income and Cash Forward:	\$ 2,807,204.63	\$ 3,051,422.06	\$ 3,169,160.00	\$ 1,544,030.43	\$ 2,195,937.14	49%
NOTE						
Budget						

A. The National Grange increased its loan amount with Eagle Bank for an additional \$1M. The funds (962,237.21) were budgeted for 2019 but were obtained in October and were used to pay outstanding Chiller/Boiler related cost, payoff the LMA, and the Chiller Loan from Oregon State Grange.

2020 Proposed Expenses

Expense	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Q3	Proposed 2020 Budget	% of Budget
Personnel						
Board of Directors	\$ 3,383.42	\$ 4,677.74	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 915.89	\$ 6,500.00	14%
National Master Expense	\$ 7,172.59	\$ 21,897.44	\$ 18,650.00	\$ 11,363.35	\$ 18,650.00	61%
National Master Salary	\$ 54,999.88	\$ 55,211.42	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 39,769.14	\$ 60,000.00	72%
National Lecturer	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	100%
National Secretary	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	100%
Staff Salaries, taxes, benefits	\$ 572,311.00	\$ 555,428.24	\$ 614,398.03	\$ 435,387.19	\$ 606,140.19	71%
High Priest	\$ 1,539.49	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ -	\$ 3,300.00	0%
Subtotal:	\$ 640,406.38	\$ 638,714.84	\$ 698,848.03	\$ 488,435.57	\$ 695,590.19	70%
Departments						
Building expense	\$ 617,514.54	\$ 810,054.17	\$ 537,000.00	\$ 399,487.79	\$ 608,000.00	74%
Marketing & Sales	\$ 11,898.64	\$ 16,331.74	\$ 33,650.00	\$ 14,535.85	\$ 32,550.00	43%
General Administration	\$ 1,110,345.85	\$ 208,616.33	\$ 761,000.00	\$ 362,197.14	\$ 353,500.00	48%
Interest Payment-Oregon State Grange	\$ 14,581.23					
Loan Repayment-Oregon State Grange	\$ 18,845.89	\$ 33,427.12	\$ 33,427.12	\$ 25,070.34		75%
Eagle Bank Loan-Principal & Interest	\$ 126,809.40	\$ 134,049.08	\$ 169,334.28	\$ 127,685.61	\$ 170,247.48	75%
Loan-Chiller-Grange Advocacy	\$ 8.49	\$ 18,775.44	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,032.00	39%
Loan-Chiller-Grange Foundation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,243.96	\$ 8,344.00	\$ -	100%
Loan-Chiller-Red Lion Grange	\$ -	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00	\$ -	100%
Loan-Chiller-Potomac Grange	\$ -	\$ 20,912.40	\$ 4,182.48	\$ 4,180.04	\$ -	100%
Loan-Chiller-New Jersey State Grange	\$ -	\$ 3,986.17	\$ 7,972.34	\$ 7,972.34	\$ -	100%
Loan-Chiller-Indiana State Grange	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	100%
Loan-Chiller-Oregon State Grange (Balloon Payment)	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Loan-Chiller-Vermont State Grange	\$ -	\$ 2,701.54	\$ 10,806.16	\$ 2,701.54	\$ -	25%
LMA line of credit payoff	\$ -	\$ 286,832.68	\$ 286,000.00	\$ 3,560.90	\$ -	1%
Communications/Publications	\$ 109,099.86	\$ 46,723.62	\$ 66,450.00	\$ 35,641.33	\$ 44,600.00	54%
IT Systems	\$ 37,238.13	\$ 45,074.03	\$ 46,000.00	\$ 24,016.48	\$ 46,000.00	52%
Junior Grange	\$ 13,546.52	\$ 21,985.88	\$ 19,180.00	\$ 12,504.42	\$ 19,880.00	65%
Legislative	\$ 15,628.18	\$ 7,074.10	\$ 13,700.00	\$ 2,227.61	\$ 11,500.00	16%
Membership/Leadership	\$ 700.00	\$ 2,525.59	\$ 19,250.00	\$ 11,810.21	\$ 31,500.00	61%
Youth Development	\$ 19,393.40	\$ 18,845.25	\$ 19,180.00	\$ 12,123.35	\$ 19,880.00	63%
Subtotal:	\$ 2,095,610.13	\$ 1,682,615.14	\$ 2,253,376.34	\$ 1,059,058.95	\$ 1,362,689.48	47%
Events, Services, Training						
National Convention	\$ 184,070.25	\$ 128,819.43	\$ 143,000.00	\$ 4,199.86	\$ 117,000.00	3%
Subtotal:	\$ 184,070.25	\$ 128,819.43	\$ 143,000.00	\$ 4,199.86	\$ 117,000.00	3%
Other Expenses						
Building Reserve Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	0%
Contributions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Furniture and equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Special Fundraising/Special Event	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Subtotal:	\$ -	0%				
Total Expenses:	\$ 2,920,086.76	\$ 2,450,149.41	\$ 3,095,224.37	\$ 1,551,694.38	\$ 2,185,279.67	50%
Budget Contingency:	\$ (112,882.13)	\$ 601,272.65	\$ 73,935.63	\$ (7,663.95)	\$ 10,657.47	-10%
Gross Contingency:	\$ (112,882.13)	\$ 601,272.65	\$ 73,935.63	\$ (7,663.95)	\$ 10,657.47	-10%

POLICY STATEMENT

The National Grange supports Broadband internet service for all areas of the United States. Work should continue updating service maps, which have proved an obstacle to connectivity, and utilizing the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund and encourage private enterprise cooperation to obtain high speed internet for every family.

The importance of retaining a Tax-Exempt Status for all qualified Granges must be maintained. We encourage the National Grange to provide state Granges with information via electronic or paper communication of filing procedures for the necessary 990N form.

The National Grange encourages every individual to participate and provide requested information in the current census when taken every ten years. Using the new information being attained from the 2020 census, the National Grange supports legislation that the Federal Government create an updated formula for the current poverty level.

The National Grange encourages the SNAP and WIC Programs to cover necessary products for recipients with babies.

This Policy Statement covers a section of Masters external address and resolutions 314-OK; 327-WV; 308-NJ; 323-WI.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES. #	State	TITLE	ACTION
302	CA	Federal Budget Process Enforced Via Constitutional Amendment	Adopted
305	CT	Removal of Public Monuments Memorializing Notable People from Public Spaces	Adopted
307	MD	Leftover Produce at Farmers' Markets	Adopted
316	OR	Oppose Lowering Voting Age	Adopted
319	OR	Veterans to Farm	Adopted As Amended
321	WA	Eliminate Veteran Offsets	Adopted As Amended
322	WA	Student Agriculture Protection Act of 2019	Adopted As Amended
325	PA	Display of American Flag	Adopted As Amended

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

302-CA – Federal Budget Process Enforced Via Constitutional Amendment

WHEREAS According to the Congressional Budget Office, the partial government shutdown of the 2019 fiscal year had an economic impact of approximately 11 billion dollars, and

WHEREAS Congress has, over the course of almost a decade, failed to complete their constitutionally required duty to complete the budget appropriations process after the president submits a budget near the start of the fiscal year, and as such the U.S. federal government has been operating on continuing resolutions based off an imbalanced budget; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Constitution affords an alternative avenue for the people and states to apply an amendment to the U.S. Constitution through the Article Five amendment process; and

WHEREAS the Article 5 process for amending the United States Constitution has several restrictions built in to narrow the scope of any amendments brought forth for consideration; therefore be it,

RESOLVED that the National Grange revise its public policy to support an Article 5 amendment to the U.S. Constitution requiring Congress pass a 12-month budget before the start of each federal fiscal year, and that failure to pass a budget before the federal fiscal year begins strips Congress of their pay and benefits until a budget is passed.

305-CT – Removal of Public Monuments Memorializing Notable People from Public Spaces

WHEREAS there has been much controversy over the removal of monuments memorializing notable people for actions taken by said persons which are interpreted as offensive by a segment of the population; and

WHEREAS many of these notable people have made significant contributions to the American culture in their respective fields; and

WHEREAS in many cases the overall good of their contributions to American culture should be considered to outweigh an otherwise isolated incident of negative publicity; therefore be it

RESOLVED the Grange at all levels from Subordinate to National stand in support of American citizens that have made overall positive contributions to the culture of the United States of America in their lifetimes; and be it further

RESOLVED the National Grange stand in support for the preservation and maintenance of all monuments in their public spaces.

307-MD – Leftover Produce at Farmers' Markets

WHEREAS there is often leftover, unsold produce at farmers' markets that could potentially become food waste; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange urges producers and vendors at local farmers' markets to donate their leftover produce to local food kitchens.

316-OR – Oppose Lowering Voting Age

WHEREAS Currently you need to be age 18 years or older to vote; and

WHEREAS It used to be 21 before the 26th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1971, lowered it to 18. This amendment was fueled in part by teenagers facing the draft for the Vietnam War, which had become increasingly unpopular; and

WHEREAS Congress had lowered the voting age in 1970 for state and federal offices but some states objected to a lower minimum age being foisted on state elections and insisted the law was unconstitutional and won in the U.S. Supreme Court. This led to the successful push for the 26th amendment; and

WHEREAS 16-year-olds are too young to enlist in the military, too young to own firearms, too young to own property, too young to enter into legal contracts; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange oppose any legislation to lower the current voting age of 18 years at either state or national levels.

319-OR – Veterans to Farm

WHEREAS Farm succession and agricultural land development is requiring a new farm force to maintain and steward the farms, gardens, and ranches; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange supports agencies or organizations such as Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Farmer Veteran Coalition and Farmlink to bring farmers without a succession plan to veterans and their families who are transitioning from military service.

321-WA – Eliminate Veteran Offsets

WHEREAS longevity military retirees rated 40% disabled or less must forfeit a portion of their retirement pay to receive VA disability compensation. Essentially, these military longevity retirees are funding their VA compensation for service-related disabilities with part of their retirement pay; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange supports legislation to address the inequitable offset between rightfully earned longevity military retired pay and Veterans Administration disability compensation for all veterans.

322-WA – Student Agriculture Protection Act of 2019

WHEREAS the Student Agriculture Protection Act of 2019 was introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives and has been designated as H.R. 1770; and

WHEREAS this bill will amend Part III of Subchapter B of Chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which deals with gains from property produced or raised by a student agriculturalist; and

WHEREAS this bill states "in the case of a student agriculturist, gross income shall not include so much of the gain from qualified dispositions during the taxable year as does not exceed \$5,000"; and

WHEREAS a student agriculturist is defined as an individual who has not attained age 22 and who is enrolled in an FFA chapter or a program established by the National FFA Organization, a 4-H Club or other program established by 4-H, or any student agriculture program similar in nature to a club or program described in subparagraph (A) or (B) which is under the direction or guidance of an agricultural educator, advisor, or club leader; and

WHEREAS this act relates to the youth who sell livestock and other items through youth livestock sales held at many county fairs and youth shows; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange supports (the Student Agriculture Protection Act of 2019 to include 4H, FFA, Grange Youth Fairs and exhibitors in like programs.

325-PA – Display of American Flag

WHEREAS the American flag is a symbol of America's Freedom and Liberty; and

WHEREAS there are sectors of the United States that forbid the American flag from being displayed; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange supports the rights of U.S. citizens to promote and display the U.S. flag in accordance with the U.S. Flag Code.

PRESENT POLICY: CITIZENSHIP

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 supports the continuation of religious broadcasts on radio and television.
4. 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.
5. The National Grange supports elimination of the 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. The National Grange supports the current financial assistance to support quality, commercial-free educational children's programs.

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 number 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 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.
5. The National Grange supports an amendment to the United States Constitution that should read: "Congress shall make no law that applies to the citizens of the United States that does not apply equally to Senators and/or Representatives, just as Congress shall make no law that applies to the Senators and/or Representatives that does not apply equally to the citizens of the United States, including health care insurance programs and rates." Further, when the federal government is shut down because Congress has failed to pass proper funding, Congress should not be paid for the period of the shut-down.

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. Proof of citizenship is to be required at the time of voter registration with federally approved photo identification when voting. 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 the federal campaign law that requires public disclosure of the names of persons who contribute \$1,000 or more and anyone who contributes \$100,000 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.
6. The National Grange opposes United Nation representatives at any U.S. polling location.
7. The National Grange supports laws requiring individuals to show appropriate/proper identification at the polls and/or anyone requesting an absentee ballot, to verify they are a legal voter within this country and proper state.

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 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 capital, which 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 supports the continuation of public tours of the White House.
8. The National Grange supports allowing military recruiters to bear arms inside recruiting centers.
9. The National Grange supports the inclusion of a question on census forms as to whether a person is a U.S. citizen.

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 encourages legislation to require the Commerce Census Bureau to return to inclusion of a separate category for farm families.
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 immediately following the successful request by a State Governor for a declaration of a national disaster in the United States.
4. The National Grange supports legislation to reclassify public safety telecommunicators and dispatchers to the same protective first-responder classification as police and firefighters.

Government Spending

1. The National Grange strongly advocates for Congress to put aside partisan politics to pass a balanced budget, prevent federal government shutdowns and ensure a permanent solution to our deficit problems. The National Grange believes the issuance of Social Security, other critical social service monetary supplements, military salaries, benefits, or expenses should not be affected, delayed or reduced, should a federal government shutdown occur.
2. 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 and/or eliminate government jobs where possible.
3. The National Grange supports the enforcement of regulations to assure that government programs abide by the bidding process, when appropriate.
4. The National Grange encourages Congress to eliminate the United States Postal Service requirement to pre-fund retiree health insurance benefits.

Native Americans

1. 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, which includes being subject to the same laws as other citizens.
2. The National Grange supports laws to prevent the robbery or desecration of Native American graves and burial sites.

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 sessions each day.
2. The National Grange favors making new National Veterans Cemetery facilities available.
3. The National Grange believes the American flag be treated with all due respect in accordance with recognized flag etiquette and protocol. We support the purchase of American flags made in the USA and made from domestically produced 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. We support the words “In God We Trust” remaining on our currency and as our national motto.
6. The National Grange supports maintaining November 11th as Veterans Day.

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.
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 favors making Social Security benefits completely exempt from personal income taxes. 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.
7. The National Grange favors an amendment to the Social Security Act to assure that a beneficiary is paid for the month of his or her death. However, the Grange encourages the Social Security Administration to remove deceased persons from the rolls of social security and terminate all benefits to that person; this includes being more diligent in updating its Death Master File.
8. The National Grange encourages legislators to raise the Social Security Death Benefit to at least \$500.

Social Welfare Programs

1. The National Grange urges enforcement of current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations and encourages related social agencies to assist SNAP recipients with information about foods that meet their nutritional needs. The National Grange asks the SNAP program to allow essential non-food personal articles, such as laundry soap and toilet paper, to be purchased using SNAP and opposes replacing SNAP with cash distributions. The National Grange further urges Congress to reduce current welfare rolls and take steps to reduce fraud.
2. The National Grange supports requiring additional means to facilitate the identification and location of each child’s parent 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, vitamins and/or supplements, etc.
6. The National Grange urges Congress to update the Department of Energy code that governs the Energy Weatherization Program for low income families.

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) provide federal government funding for rural broadband infrastructure improvement;
 - 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, stimulate broadband competition and impose reasonable taxation for private investment in rural broadband infrastructure improvement;
 - 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) reallocate unused government agency spectrum (broadband connectivity) for commercial and rural broadband connectivity; and
 - f) 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-generated or robocalls, should be prohibited from calling cell phones. The National Grange supports the Robocall Enforcement Improvement Act.

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. Further, the National Grange opposes measures that would limit or reduce the Federal Communications Commission Lifeline Program.
4. The National Grange will work with telecommunications coalitions to encourage an increase in the number of cellular towers and new technologies where needed in 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.
6. The National Grange urges Congress to appropriate the necessary funding to combat the continuing cyberspace warfare threats to the United States in the 21st century.
7. The National Grange opposes any relinquishing of control of the American internet access to the UN or any foreign entity.

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 retirement 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. Further, the Grange calls upon Congress to support the inclusion of 100% service-disabled veterans in the Space Available Program operated by the Air Mobility Command.
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. The National Grange urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to continue the use of Veterans Administration Medical Centers and allow Veterans to seek community based medical attention. All veterans' medical services be paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs Services.
6. The National Grange supports legislation allowing for a separate 10% disability rating by the Veterans Administration for each ear when veterans suffer from Tinnitus as a result of military service.
7. The National Grange urges the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to efficiently use their resources to resolve the serious backlog of veteran's benefit claims.
8. The National Grange supports the extension of the Veterans Administration Mortgage Protection Life Insurance to all service-connected veterans who are rated as permanently and totally disabled.
9. The National Grange supports legislation to increase to \$50,000 the maximum coverage a service-connected disabled veteran can purchase under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance Program.
10. The National Grange supports legislation that would direct the VA to select a VA medical facility to serve as the national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of biological children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of service members exposed in combat to toxic substances.
11. The National Grange supports legislation to increase active duty service members' payroll deduction to one dollar per month for the Armed Services Retirement Home.
12. The National Grange supports legislation to extend "Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers" to caregivers of all war era veterans.
13. National Grange supports legislation that would direct Veterans Affairs to assist female veterans to reintegrate with their communities after discharge from the Armed Forces.

Miscellaneous

1. The National Grange supports programs that strengthen families and advocates for educational programs that emphasize the importance of families and the prevention of family dysfunction.
2. The National Grange supports all rights that are granted in the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights and urges Congress not to consider legislation eliminating or repealing these rights.

3. 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 government forms throughout the United States.
4. The National Grange favors the establishment of a new branch of the Smithsonian dedicated to the nation's food and farm heritage.
5. The National Grange opposes government regulations that infringe upon personal nutritional choices within our homes and diets.
6. The National Grange supports the National Council on Disabilities efforts to ensure rights of parents with disabilities to raise children.
7. The National Grange urges Congress to reject the United Nations "Small Arms Treaty".
8. The National Grange urges elected officials to address ongoing problems facing homeless and at-risk youth and to make more resources available day and night until they can become self-sufficient.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that would allow distribution from Individual retirement accounts as needed without required minimum distributions based on age.
10. The National Grange encourages the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee to issue a Plymouth 400th Anniversary of Plymouth Colony stamp.
11. The National Grange supports the National Weather Service and other alert systems that relay important life-saving storm warnings over streaming services.

PRESENT POLICY: TAXATION

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 gain taxes. We further support allowing 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 ten million dollars.
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 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.

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 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 supports the continuation of all current tax deductions allowed on real-estate mortgages and on state and local taxes.
9. 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 \$1.00 on his/her federal income tax return for the USA Olympic Program.
10. The National Grange supports a federal income tax credit for law enforcement officers for purchasing their own bulletproof vests.
11. 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.
12. The National Grange supports a 100% federal income tax deduction for all medical insurance.
13. The National Grange supports legislation to allow parents or students to utilize all student loan interest as an adjustment of income on their federal tax return.
14. The National Grange supports legislation to prevent illegal aliens from receiving earned income tax credit or any other financial benefit from the United States government.
15. The National Grange urges Congress to give farmers and ranchers flexibility in the tax code to adjust quickly to estate planning challenges.

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.

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.
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.
9. The National Grange believes that tax preparers should be vigilant in their obligation to comply with the privacy standards of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and the privacy rules of the Federal Communications Commission.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Citizenship Committee for their hard work and many long hours before and during the Convention. Thanks to National Grange, Betsy and Burton for allowing us to ZOOM prior to this meeting. We were able to use that time to agree on the points of the National Grange Citizenship and Taxation Policy that needed to be updated or researched prior to arrival at the session. Thanks to Burton Eller and Tom Gwin-WA for coming in and answering our questions and providing extra information. Thanks Steve Coye-NY, for looking up information for the group.

Thank You.

Fraternally submitted,

Sue Roy, OH, Chair

Sherry Harriman, ME, Secretary

Earlene Foster, WV

Michael Lynch, DE

Melanie Bostwick, KS

Harry Greer, CO

Brenda Rousselle, VT

Steve Coye, NY

Eileen Javaux, ID

Royal Vine, WI

POLICY STATEMENT

We encourage the responsible stewardship of our natural resources from all who own or use them. We define responsible Stewardship as a balance between use, preservation, and the environmental standards appropriate to the regional needs. Our organization has been a strong advocate for land stewardship. We believe that protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources are vital. We further believe that education of the public regarding the importance of our natural resources is an absolute necessity. We support current federal guidelines on the control of air and water quality.

The National Grange should continue to advocate for conservation programs. These programs should encourage farmers to operate in an environmentally sound manner, focusing on technical assistance, research, education, loans, and cost-share programs.

We recognize that plastic is a significant environmental nuisance. The National Grange should support legislation that will promote the use of shorter life plastic and biologically degradable materials.

The National Grange recognizes the unique role agriculture plays in land and environmental management. The National Grange supports transparent disclosure of details of any environmental testing and/or modifications being conducted by any governmental agency. We advocate for greater flexibility in the interpretation of environmental laws to allow for traditional land uses taking into consideration varying environmental situations across the country and encourage agricultural producers to engage in best management practices in all aspects of their operations.

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, developers, and landowners in future Farm Bills, which will maintain a commitment to conservation. In that light, we also urge USDA to ensure that they use only scientifically based research when crafting regulations to implement the conservation portions of the Farm Bill. The optimum result should be that the environment be protected with the least amount of prime, productive farmland taken out of production.

This Policy Statement covers a section of the Master’s External Address and Resolutions 404-IA, 408-OR, 412-PA, and 413-PA

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES. #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
402	CA	North America Wild Horse Status	Adopted as Amended
815	WA	Protection of the Electric Grid	Transferred from Labor, Judiciary, Transportation; Adopted

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

402-CA – North America Wild Horse Status

WHEREAS The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 (Wild Horse and Burro Act) allows Congress to designate territories and management areas where “wild” horses and burros are protected from harassment and roundup with exemption to authorized management agencies; and

WHEREAS the Wild Horse and Burro Act solely preserves a cultural icon and not a distinct species as horses and burros are not an endangered species; and

WHEREAS many “wild” horse and burro territories and management units are located in areas where the local ecology has been proven to be unsustainable for large populations of equines; and

WHEREAS many of these “wild” horse territories and management units have, since the passage of the Wild Horse and Burro Act, come to be ecologically devastated from over-grazing due to unrestricted herd growth; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange request Congress to review the benefits of the protections and restrictions established in Congressionally designated wild horse and burro management areas under the “Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971” and if necessary, amend the act to prioritize balanced ecosystem management or repeal the act.

815-WA – Protection of the Electrical Grid

WHEREAS the United States of America has been blessed with the ability to supply electricity to the whole country; and

WHEREAS the people living in the United States of America have come to be very dependent on this electricity to provide water, food, security in their homes and charge all their devices that they depend on every day; and

WHEREAS the grid that moves and provides this safe energy is susceptible to natural disasters, system overload and terrorist attack; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange work with Congress to make the protection of the electrical grid a top priority of national security.

PRESENT POLICY

Clean Air Act

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. The Grange opposes the Environmental Protection Agency's regulations further curtailing the presence of ground level ozone in the atmosphere below the current 0,075 parts per million levels.
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 opposes adoption of the United Nations Climate Change Treaty or the Kyoto Protocol agreement on greenhouse gas emissions by the United States until uniform standards for greenhouse gas emissions are applied to all major countries, regardless of their economic development. 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 carpooling, and sponsor more research to make alternative energy cars viable.

Clean Water Act and Wetland Management

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% of the federal cost share on agricultural best management practices (BMPs) 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 (TMDL) 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 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 opposes efforts to require states to designate any watersheds with populations of threatened or endangered species as an Outstanding Resource Water that would further impede use of that water by traditional agricultural users.
5. The National Grange supports the US Supreme Court's holdings regarding the Congressional intent of the phrase "navigable waters" as used in the Clean Water Act that limit the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the US Environmental Protection Agency to regulate inland waters and wetlands. We oppose legislative efforts to remove or amend the definition of "navigable waters" in the Clean Water Act.
6. The National Grange supports legislation to improve the wetland regulatory programs by Federal, State and/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.

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 (FSA) 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 (subject to state FSA Committee rules) 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. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) appropriations should be maintained at a level that will significantly help meet the conservation needs of America's farmland. EQIP to complete needed conservation practices and CSP to maintain those practices. 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. EQIP and CSP 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.
4. The National Grange urges each State Grange work with their respective Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agencies implement Nutrient Management Plans (NMP's).

Energy Conservation

1. The National Grange supports voluntary and economically viable energy conservation for agriculture, industry, commerce, and the home.
2. The National Grange encourages the voluntary "energy efficient" construction of new structures without mandating retrofitting existing structures.
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 endorses the continuation of state and federal subsidies for home and business generation of solar energy.
5. The National Grange supports all oil and gas price decontrol as a positive step in reducing our need for foreign oil and gas. We oppose any increase in taxes and/or any decrease in tax credits (i.e. depletion allowance) on natural gas and oil production. 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. The National Grange supports the following practices to guard against supply uncertainty and unreasonably high prices:
 - a. retain one billion barrels of U.S. oil reserve while supplies are adequate; and
 - b. 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 Reserve in the event of war or interruption of delivery of foreign supplies of petroleum into the U.S.
6. The National Grange supports 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.

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, livestock methane, surf/tidal, shale, tar sands, hydroelectric, agricultural products, urban solid 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 all domestically produced hydroelectric power should be classified as renewable energy under all applicable Federal and State statutes.
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 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.
5. The National Grange supports the use of hydraulic fracturing for natural gas production in all hydrocarbon-producing strata.
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. 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.

Environmental Regulations and Controls

1. The National Grange supports requiring all appeals or court actions against properly approved and financed federal state or municipal construction projects to post a security bond equal to the projected cost of the project before the appeal or lawsuit may be adjudicated that will, in turn be forfeited if the appeal or lawsuit subsequently fails.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to require that all environmental impact statements under the National Environmental Policy Act must equitably balance and weigh economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts of proposed Federal actions to reduce unnecessary delays on worthwhile and vital projects.
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.
6. The National Grange urges USDA to use only scientifically-based research when crafting regulations to implement the conservation title of the Farm Bill.

Federal Grazing

1. The National Grange supports basing all decisions on Federal Grazing regulations, including grazing fee pricing formulas, upon solid economic principals, current livestock market prices, good conservation practices and extensive public input from existing grazing permittees. We favor legislation that would further limit any overall reduction in grazing to 10% or less on any given allotment except in the case of emergencies such as drought.
2. The National Grange strongly supports considering the economic impact that restrictions on grazing in riparian areas may have on farmers before legislation is passed.
3. The National Grange encourages the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. 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. We oppose any further designations of National Forest lands as wilderness, especially in Alaska. We believe that all public lands suitable for producing commercial timber, farm or grazing resources, commercially valuable minerals, or public recreational facilities (including motorized sports activities) should be precluded from future consideration for wilderness designation and, instead, actively managed to achieve sustainable multiple use goals.
2. The National Grange believes that regulations governing the management of Federal Wilderness areas should allow for controlled access by motorized vehicles in cases of emergency, especially when lives or private property are at stake. We further support the harvest of timber resources from Federal Wilderness areas following natural disasters. 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 strongly opposes the use of eminent domain or any regulatory property taking via administration designation by any Federal agency to include any private property in any Federal Wilderness area, any part of the Federal Wild and Scenic River System, any part of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative, any land conservation program authorized by an international agreement or treaty or any habitat management area under the Endangered Species Act.
4. 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.

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.

Preservation of Fisheries 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 in 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. The National Grange favors all reasonable measures to save the Pacific Salmon in the Columbia and Snake Rivers as long as the priority 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 that 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.
3. The National Grange urges the federal government to continue funding the National Marine Fisheries Service at a sufficient level to enable them to continue the biological studies that will lead to the elimination of drift net fishing by all nations.
4. 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.
5. 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. 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.
6. The National Grange favors the regulated harvesting of fresh water clams and mussels.
7. 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 Land Use, Planning, Zoning, 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.
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 supports efforts 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.
6. The National Grange supports legislation to mandate that when private property is acquired for a specific purpose by any

federal agency through eminent domain, condemnation, foreclosure or negotiated price, and the property is subsequently not needed or used for the specific purpose it was acquired for, the original owner shall have first right of repurchase at either the original price or the current market price, whichever is less.

7. We support legislation that eminent domain be used only for public purposes, such as rights of way for transportation and utilities.
8. 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.
9. The National Grange supports changing laws so that, in points of controversy, private property rights take precedence over environmental regulations.
10. 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.

Private Timber Land Management

1. The National Grange supports the use of best management practices (BMPs) and sustained yield management practices on private forestlands. The National Grange believes that in return for public benefits resulting from improved forest management on individually owned forest lands. 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.
2. 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. We further support legislation to require each appeal of a timber sale to post a security bond equal to the value of the timber sale before the appeal may be adjudicated that will, in turn, be forfeited if the appeal subsequently fails.

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.
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 supports prescribed burning on public forestlands as a forest management technique to reduce uncontrolled fires on public lands. We oppose public forest management plans that include the use of natural, uncontrolled forest fires as a forest management technique. After a major natural forest fire, we support a maximum two-year administrative deadline for applicable Federal State and Local forest management agencies to formulate a forest recovery plan and complete all appeals. We support expedited restorative actions, such as reforestation and harvest of dead or dying timber resources as part of every forest recovery plan.
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 timber. 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 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, the Grange supports 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 before any regulation or Executive Order designating any additional public land as a National Antiquity becomes effective.
10. The National Grange supports a policy 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.
11. The National Grange supports the use of state and/or federal funds to reimburse small landowners for the mitigation of loss of land values due to any state or federal logging restrictions on private lands.
12. The National Grange opposes the creation of the Owyhee Canyonlands Monument in Oregon and Idaho.

Recycling

1. The National Grange supports legislation that would require a deposit on non-biodegradable beverage containers and urges manufacturers to use recycled materials.
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 requiring the use of biodegradable feedstocks in all appropriate consumer-based products such as retail plastic bags, product packaging, diapers and packing materials. We support legislation to require single-use and short-life plastic products and packaging to be manufactured with biodegradable ingredients that will completely degrade within three years when exposed in a biologically active environment. The National Grange encourages the use of alternative bags such as canvas, cotton, mesh, biodegradable paper, or other biodegradable products. We urge all manufacturers to reduce their use of packing materials in their consumer products.
4. The National Grange supports efforts to restrict the disposal of tires in landfills. We support additional efforts to recycle used tires to recover valuable petrochemical feedstocks and to utilize recycled tires in road and other construction projects.

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, telephone and broadband service to rural areas, the National Grange 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. 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 at competitive market rates. 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.
5. 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.
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.

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 believe that irrigation and agricultural drainage practices should be recognized as soil and water conservation practices. 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 support programs offering at least 50% cost share assistance for establishing grass strip boundaries and other soil conservation best practices, as well as technical assistance, as the primary means of correcting agricultural non-point source pollution problems. We also support programs offering at least 50% cost-share assistance to correct agricultural pollution and free technical assistance prior to non-income producing practices that require major expenditures. The National Grange will raise awareness about regenerative agriculture and encourage practices to minimize on-farm inputs while building capacity for future production.

2. The National Grange opposes the sole use of uniform federal government farm pollution policies and supports that each state, or region, continue to maintain their own farm pollution policies that are unique to their industry and geography.
3. The National Grange supports the privately financed National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation, the American Conservation Corps, as well as vocational programs to educate and train youths to help in the conservation of our woodlands with sustainable forests and arboreal practices 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.
4. The National Grange supports locally developed storm water management programs administered through local conservation districts.

Toxic and Hazardous Wastes

1. 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.
2. 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 potential sources of toxic and hazardous waste pollution.
3. 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.
4. National Grange supports federal legislation prohibiting the dumping of waste material or raw sewage from foreign countries in landfills located in the United States.
5. The National Grange supports continued research on non-toxic materials in preparing pressure-treated wood for building materials.
6. 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.
7. The National Grange supports the current exemptions for family farmers from the EPA's Toxic Spill Prevention Containment and Control regulations.

Water Projects, Irrigation and Reclamation Reform Act, State Authority for Water Rights

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. 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 fish populations including salmon.
7. The National Grange requests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and all environmental agencies to facilitate restorative dredging of rivers prone to flooding.
8. The National Grange supports maintaining minimum water levels along the Great Lakes in order to support commerce, hydroelectric production and tourism in the region. We support accurate monitoring of water drawn from the Great Lakes Water Basin for agricultural, industrial and residential uses. We support only allowing those states and provinces that belong to the International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes to be authorized to allow permitting to remove and use waters of the Great Lakes. However, we also believe that agriculture entities should be exempt from any permits or fees for removing water from the Great Lakes.
9. 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.

10. The National Grange will actively work to preserve the way of life of the Klamath Basin farming community of Oregon and California. We support reversing the decisions of the Ninth Federal Circuit and permanently restoring the flow of irrigation water from Klamath Lake to the farmers and farm communities served by the irrigation system. We further oppose any efforts to remove water storage and electrical generation capacity from the Klamath River Basin system. We call on Congress to convene a local working group to draft a viable Klamath Basin Restoration Plan and then fund that plan for the benefit of the entire Klamath Basin community.
11. 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 alter the flow of water into downstream states unless such transfer is dictated in an approved river basin compact.

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 subspecies, 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The National Grange supports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the chief administrator of the National Bison Range.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. The National Grange supports legislation to expand the hunting season of Canada and Snow geese from November 1st - April 1st. We also support increasing the daily bag limit for Canada and Snow geese.
10. 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.
11. The National Grange opposes the listing of the Eastern Oyster on the endangered species list.
12. The National Grange opposes forcing dams to spill spring waters in an unproven effort to help salmon.

Miscellaneous

1. The National Grange will raise awareness about regenerative agriculture encourage practices to minimize on-farm inputs while building capacity for future production.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Conservation Committee for their hard work and many long hours before and during the Convention. Thank you to the National Grange, Betsy and Burton for allowing us to ZOOM prior to this meeting. We were able to utilize that time to agree on the points of the National Grange Conservation Policy that needed to be updated or researched prior to our arrival at the session.

Each resolution was thoroughly researched and discussed prior to making any decisions on the topic. The diverse backgrounds of our committee members provided for excellent discussion and deliberations. Thank you for serving on this committee.

Fraternally submitted,

Tom Gwin, WA, Chair

Kay Stiles, MD, Secretary

George Russell, CT

Jim Foster, WV

Lynette Schaeffer, IL

Richard Javaux, ID

Billy Shufeldt, OK

Marilyn Johnson, MT

POLICY STATEMENT

EDUCATION

Balanced Approach

The purpose of education is to open the minds of young people to the world around them, to the lessons of the past, and the possibilities of the future. An understanding of the past and how it has shaped our present and future is a part of education that is too often neglected.

Technical education was underfunded or ignored for years, and as a result, employers are now experiencing a shortage of skilled workers. We welcome the recent emphasis by high schools and community colleges on STEM, curricula emphasizing Science Technology Engineering and Math (sometimes written as STEAM, including Arts) . We encourage school systems and all students to put the same emphasis on the possibility of exploring vocational training as well as college preparation.

Loans and Aid

Many teachers and mental health counselors undertook their career education under the auspices of federal programs that offered student loan forgiveness if specific conditions were met. However, these programs have sometimes been administered in a capricious and uneven manner, leaving many who followed the rules in good faith with unexpected, significant debt. We believe this is a situation that calls for reason and compassion on the part of the program administrators.

Since the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917 and the 1946 George-Barden Act, focused federal aid for agricultural, industrial, and home economics training for high school students, our federal government has to some degree had a hand in funding public education. Thus, the funding of public education has become a partnership between federal and state/local, but we reaffirm the importance of state and local control.

Private providers of higher education are major recipients of federal financial aid and should be held accountable for their academic standards and advertised employment outcomes. We are opposed to any weakening of regulation of private education providers.

Mental Health and Safety

Many social problems in schools arise from bullying, feelings of disenfranchisement and isolation among at-risk students. We urge schools to find ways to increase the availability of counseling for all students, and proactively engage with marginalized and at-risk young people. 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.

Before learning can take place in schools, students must get there safely. A 2018 survey of bus drivers found that over 80,000 passing violations occur each school day. We urge state and local governments to create education campaigns to address this problem, and to explore -- within the constraints of constitutional law—cameras installed on buses to assist in enforcement of statutes and ordinances

Special Needs

Great technological strides have been made in the creation of assistive devices for the hearing impaired, but not all are widely known. We encourage state and subordinate Granges to educate their members and their surrounding communities about the availability of such devices under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) .

HEALTH

Controlled Substances

The opioid crisis continues to plague our country. A multi-pronged approach is needed and must include continued study of the benefits of opioid painkillers as compared to alternative pain management strategies; improved prescription strategies such as limiting the number of pills issued per renewal; proper security of our prescription drugs in our homes; and proper disposal of unused or outdated prescription medications through recognized drug take-back programs or disposal programs. These are all efforts that local Granges can and should promote in their communities. The Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative (RALI) has formed partnerships with ten state Granges to address these issues and we strongly urge additional Granges to develop RALI partnerships in their states. Our youth have taken a great leadership role in this effort, and we encourage them to continue with various programs, including training initiatives such as those provided by the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America (CADCA) .

Notwithstanding our present policy and resolutions about the integrity and safety of prescription drugs, we support efforts like the Creating and Restoring Equal Access to Equivalent Samples Act (C.R.E.A.T.E.S.) that promote affordable access to medications through the development of lower cost generics.

Family Friendly Workplaces

We support paid parental leave and working with businesses to build a comprehensive policy that benefits both the employee and employer.

Affordable and Effective Care

We encourage bipartisan efforts by Congress to continue health care reform, identifying solutions that provide high quality and affordable healthcare for all Americans.

Transparency and simplicity in the system should be made a priority. For example, in- and out-of-network access and cost differentials continue to be a problem. Disconnects between doctor and hospital networks are aggravating and unhelpful—especially when they result in surprise medical bills that appear due to hidden gaps in coverage.

Consumer education should also be a priority. For example, some supplemental insurance policies limit or do not cover skilled nursing care coverage, and people should be able to advocate for that when necessary.

Promoting Health of Minors

Nutrition is an essential building block for health. We support the concept of sending unserved food from school cafeterias home with needy students, assuming proper food safety concerns can be addressed. Also related to school lunches, different age groups have different appetite levels. In the interest of promoting healthy portions and minimizing food waste, we encourage the National School Lunch Program to change recommended portion sizes according to grade levels, and to continue to allow students to choose more protein and dairy products when their health and performance demands it.

E-cigarettes have emerged as a serious public health question, with illness and deaths from their use being reported across the country. While the debate continues about new regulations surrounding these products, we urge legislation or public service campaigns to educate youth about the dangers of using e-cigarettes and associated products.

Childhood immunizations continue to bring passionate feelings, especially when proposals arise to make them mandatory for all children. We recognize that such proposals may not be practical under the civil liberties established in the U.S. However, we suggest that even more effort should then be made to educate the public on this issue using valid science-based information.

Cancer Research

It has been long-standing Grange policy to support research into the causes and treatments of all types of cancer. Since many are impatient with the pace of this work, we encourage Congress to increase funding for cancer research rather than merely maintaining current levels.

This policy statement covers 501-CT; 508-MD; 509-MD; 512-NJ; 518-OK; 519-OK; 524-VT and parts of the National Master's external address.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES. #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
504	KS	Arsenic Levels in Bottled Water	Adopted
507	MD	Medicare Reduction and Skilled Nursing Facilities	Adopted
514	NY	Television Advertising of E-Cigarettes	Adopted
515	NY	The Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity and Reliability (WATER) Act	Adopted as Amended
517	OH	United States Pharmaceuticals	Adopted
522	OR	Required Prescription Bottle Label Have Large Print Purpose and Drug Name	Adopted as Amended
529	WV	Safeguarding Pharmaceuticals	Adopted

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

504-KS – Arsenic Levels in Bottled Water

WHEREAS Arsenic is a naturally occurring heavy metal that can cause disease such as cardiovascular disease and certain cancers and also affect child development such as lower IQ scores in children; and

WHEREAS bottled water manufacturers promote their product as a pure, healthy alternative to sugar loaded sodas and tap water and have seen sales on a continuous climb for years; and

WHEREAS the FDA set the federal threshold for arsenic in bottled water at 10 ppb (parts per billion) in 2006, in line with the standard for drinking water set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which regulates tap water; and

WHEREAS new research by a number of agencies has indicated 10 ppb is too high and should be lowered to 3 ppb or lower; and

WHEREAS many bottled water manufacturers are achieving and maintaining the recommended lower arsenic levels while other manufacturers both in country and abroad stay at the 10 ppb or higher in some cases; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange urges the Food and Drug Administration to change the standard for arsenic in bottled water from 10 ppb to 3 ppb or lower, whether manufactured within the USA or imported from other countries, to reduce the health risk to adults and children.

507-MD – Medicare Reductions and Skilled Nursing Facilities

WHEREAS current projections are that Medicare Part A funds will be depleted by 2026 because more people are receiving benefits and fewer people are paying into the system; and

WHEREAS this has caused the federal government to place limitations on the requirements to go into a skilled nursing facility, reducing the length of time that they will cover this type of care from 100 days to 21 days; and

WHEREAS since skilled nursing care is the costliest type of care from hospital admission through post care, emphasis is being placed on trying to push patients to other methods of post-acute care; and

WHEREAS some supplemental insurance policies place limitations on reimbursement for skilled nursing care; and

WHEREAS these changes to Medicare have created significant difficulty for hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, causing financial constraints on these institutions; and

WHEREAS these changes have caused shorter hospital stays and either shorter stays at skilled nursing facilities for rehabilitation or none at all, causing a burden on families who are not properly trained to take care of their loved ones; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange encourages Congress and the Administration to properly fund Medicare so that those covered can continue to receive the care necessary to properly recover from medical procedures that does place an unacceptable burden on the family that is not properly trained to care for them: and be it further

RESOLVED the National Grange also urges that the Medicare appeal process be reformed to make it more helpful to patients needing care.

514-NY – Television Advertising of E-Cigarettes

WHEREAS cigarette advertising was banned from television and radio in 1970; and

WHEREAS nicotine was finally classified as an addictive substance in 1994, and can interfere with brain development; and

WHEREAS smoking has been linked to heart disease and lung and other cancers since 1964; and

WHEREAS vaping and e-cigarettes became available by 1963 and have become more and more popular with young people whose brains are still developing; and

WHEREAS vaping has recently been studied and reported as a probable cause of death; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange recommends that advertising of e-cigarettes and vaping devices follow the same regulations as tobacco products.

515-NY – The Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity and Reliability (WATER) Act

WHEREAS everyone in the United States should have access to the most basic human need- clean drinking water; and
WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency says that over the next 20 years, fixing and maintaining the nation's reservoirs, treatment plants, and pipes would cost about \$24 billion annually; and

WHEREAS bill (H.R.1417), The Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability (WATER) Act has been introduced in Congress to establish a trust fund to provide for adequate funding for our nation's water and sewer infrastructure; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange actively lobby for legislation that would provide adequate funding to fix and maintain our nation's reservoirs, levees, treatment plants, and pipes to ensure that all the people in our country have access to clean drinking water.

517-OH – United States Pharmaceuticals

WHEREAS a large percentage of pharmaceuticals are produced in foreign countries; and

WHEREAS many foreign drugs do not meet the purity standards set by the Food and Drug Administration; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange urge Congress to work with pharmaceutical executives to bring the manufacture of active and inactive pharmaceutical ingredients back to the United States. This would allow the Food and Drug Administration to provide appropriate oversight of purity and potency standards.

522-OR – Require Prescription Bottle Label Have Large Print Purpose and Drug Name

WHEREAS The Institute of Medicine, the health arm of the National Academy of Sciences, estimates that 1.5 million potentially dangerous drug mistakes occur every year; and

WHEREAS Many of the most serious prescription drug mistakes involve older patients taking cardiovascular medications used for high blood pressure, analgesic pain relievers (e.g., acetaminophen and opioids), and hormones, primarily insulin and sulfonylurea, which are used in the treatment of diabetes; and

WHEREAS Many prescription bottle labels use small print, which is difficult for older eyes to read; and

WHEREAS Many prescription bottles are of similar appearance and have labels which are difficult to decipher; therefore be it

RESOLVED That the National Grange encourage legislation which would require prescription bottle labels have a large print and/or Braille-option offered that states the purpose and use instructions of the medication and the name of the drug.

529-WV – Safeguarding Pharmaceuticals

WHEREAS China is producing 80% of the prescription drugs used in the United States; and

WHEREAS there is no American producer of penicillin in the United States; and

WHEREAS 10% of Chinese drugs don't meet the purity standards set by the Food and Drug Administration; and

WHEREAS Chinese domination of the prescription drug market puts Americans and the American military at risk should China withhold its prescription drugs; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange asks Congress to take action to reduce the American dependence on prescription drugs manufactured in other countries.

PRESENT POLICY: EDUCATION

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).
3. The National Grange opposes any repeal of the provisions in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 which provides necessary accommodations for children with special needs.

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 students financially independent of their parents 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. We oppose any legislation that establishes a voucher program which distributes block grant funds to be distributed as vouchers to children attending nonpublic 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 differently abled persons including federal funding at the 40% 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.

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 an 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). We 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 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 vitamins, herbal supplements and other dietary supplements to report certain information to the Secretary of Health and Human Services annually, including a list of supplements manufactured, the labeling to include the country of origin and the major ingredients for such supplements, and be verified to contain only and all ingredients listed on the product label.
6. 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.

7. The National Grange encourages the continued efforts of the FDA and the USDA to establish a viable definition for the term "Natural" on food labeling.
8. The National Grange urges the Food and Drug Administration to modify regulations for the Food Safety Modernization Act in order to balance the need to ensure the safety of the food supply while seeing that the farmers selling direct to the consumer are not harmed economically.

General Education Policies

1. The National Grange supports public education and supports the idea of strengthening and improving the system of public education. 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. The National Grange seeks to establish a program for state granges to advocate for American Sign Language to be offered in primary and secondary schools.
4. The National Grange supports affordable telecommunications services for rural schools and libraries.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The National Grange encourages civics classes to be included in high school graduation requirements as suggested by the U.S. Department of Education, and 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.
8. The National Grange opposes any legislation allowing illegal aliens to receive tuition discounts at American institutions of higher learning.
9. 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.
10. The National Grange is opposed to any changes in the language of classic literature, except those necessary for translation from another language.
11. The National Grange urges the Federal Department of Education to encourage all local school systems to retain recess for elementary school children.
12. 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.
13. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Education to mandate that penmanship be a required course of study in early primary education.
14. The National Grange urges the US Congress and Administration to overhaul the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (currently known as the "Every Child Succeeds Act"), reduce the testing mandates, promote multiple forms of evidence of student learning and school quality in accountability, and not mandate any fixed role for the use of student test scores in evaluating educators.

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 their Dietary Guidelines 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. The National Grange urges school systems to promote milk in school lunches and urges USDA to promote the greater use of milk in other child nutrition programs.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would require adjustments to child nutrition programs as necessary to promote better consumption of milk by the nation's students and to permit schools to offer all varieties of milk consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, including low-fat flavored milk containing no more than 150 calories per 8-ounce serving, as well as provisions for meeting the needs of lactose-intolerant children.
3. 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.

4. 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.
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.
6. The National Grange urges the 2020-2025 USDA Dietary Guidelines to promote a more balanced diet that more accurately reflects studies that show there is no correlation between dietary consumption of saturated fatty acids and SFA levels in blood serum while consuming carbohydrates at levels exceeding an individual's ability to oxidize them contributes to high levels of unhealthy SFA.

PRESENT POLICY: HEALTH

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 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. We also support legislation banning the sale of synthetic marijuana and synthetic cannabinoids regardless of their chemical composition or the name they are sold under.
4. 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.
5. 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.

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.
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 supports the installation and use of "induction hearing loop systems" compatible with telecoil ("T" switch) hearing aids.
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 supports legislation so that any retired military service personnel with 50% 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.
8. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Congress to extend the Support Service Provider program to all 50 states.

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.

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. We call upon federal regulators to ensure insurance companies abide with mental health parity laws already on the books to correct what remains

an unequal health care system for patients with behavioral health conditions. In addition, health care cost containment strategies should maintain the highest quality of care without compromising effectiveness and efficiency. The National Grange calls upon the President to take immediate steps to reduce regulatory burdens and duplication to enhance care coordination by allowing health care providers to focus on patients rather than paperwork. 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;
 - g) require insurance companies to pay claims within 30 to 45 days of receiving properly completed forms and bills.
 - h) 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 health 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 costliest patients.
 - Programs to ensure that there is an ample health care workforce that is qualified to deliver all levels of care.
 - 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 encourages all continued legal and legislative actions necessary to eliminate the sources of counterfeit medications and to pursue the prosecution of those found responsible for the making and marketing of them, in support increased efforts to educate the public on the dangers of obtaining medications from unreliable sources.
6. 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.

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. The National Grange supports federal 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. Carbon monoxide detectors should be monitored quarterly and replaced as needed.
11. 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.
12. The National Grange opposes the imposition of a tax on medicine or medical supplies.
13. 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.
14. The National Grange opposes any legislation that would disenroll any veteran who is currently receiving health care coverage through the Veterans Administration (VA) Health Care System.
15. The National Grange supports that complete medical records be made available to the service member at the time of separation for future Service-Connected Issues that may manifest after separation from service.
16. The National Grange supports World Mental Health Day observed annually on October 10.
17. The National Grange will work with other organizations to urge the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission to reject proposals to increase patient out-of-pocket costs and co-pays for beneficiaries under the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit (Part D).
18. The National Grange urges Congress to reform the Affordable Care Act in an open bipartisan manner. Special care needs to be taken so that rural hospitals that traditionally have high numbers of uninsured patients are not harmed by the reform.
19. 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.

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.

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 supports legislation to explore the risks involved in the use of water fluoridation in the United States.
6. The National Grange urges that 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. The National Grange supports governmental efforts on the state and national level to fund research on the prevention and treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses, to disseminate information and to educate the public about its prevention, detection, and treatment.
11. As an incentive for the pharmaceutical industry to develop drugs for "orphan" diseases, the National Grange encourages "market exclusivity" for orally administered Alzheimer's and Dementia medicines and treatments.
12. The National Grange supports continued research on man-made nanoparticles used in medical devices and sunscreen.
13. The National Grange and all state and local Granges support the various national, state and local agencies and commissions striving to eliminate the unintended and intended abuse of heroin and opioid addiction. The National Grange will be proactive in support of a variety of treatment solutions and programs. The National Grange supports systems to limit the over prescribing of opioids and the education of the application of Naloxone (Narcan) pursuant to state regulations.
14. The National Grange encourages legitimate scientific studies on the risks and benefits of the use of medical marijuana in the treatment of disease.

Medicare/Medicaid

1. 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 three month timeframe and (h) adequately compensate primary care physicians for non-procedural services.
2. 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. The National Grange supports the ability of Medicare and Medicaid to negotiate with drug companies for the best reimbursement price of prescription drugs for consumers. 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.
3. 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.
4. The National Grange favors legislation permitting retired people to deduct the cost of their supplemental health insurance from their taxable income and legislation to improve access to Medicare to ease the financial burdens on seniors. 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.
5. The National Grange supports the right to have a second doctor in the operating room, where medically required, for patients on Medicare.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. The National Grange supports the continued process to eliminate the "donut hole" for Medicare prescription coverage.
10. 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.

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 the Food and Drug Administration to mandate that pharmaceutical producers label all products and commodities containing gluten.

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 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.
8. The National Grange supports passage of the "Caregiver, Advise, Record and Enable (CARE) Act" to prepare caregivers for home healthcare medical and nursing tasks.
9. The National Grange, through Grange Advocacy, engages the American Association of Community Cancer Centers in discussions regarding potential joint efforts to address the lack of access to proper health care and cancer care in rural America. Further, National Grange will support legislation to improve funding and change regulations to help keep rural hospitals and health care facilities open.

Thanks to National Grange, Betsy and Burton for arranging our conference call prior to this meeting. It allowed us to agree on the points of the National Grange Education and Health Policy that needed to be updated or researched prior to arrival at the session. And thanks to the National Master for having confidence in me to lead this committee.

Thank you so much to the members of the Education and Health Committee for their hard work and many long hours before and during the Convention. Your knowledge and participation in discussions helped us complete our arduous but joyful task in a timely manner. Thank you to our youth participant Rylee Furr for continuing the tradition of on-the-spot research when the

committee needs it most. Your input and insights were invaluable. Thank you to new members to this committee for jumping right in and to the ones that have been here before for sharing your wisdom from the previous work in this committee. Thank you to our secretary extraordinaire, Debbie Gegare, for keeping us on task and well organized. In fact, I might say she is D. Vine!

Thank You.

Faternally submitted,

John Crippen, MN, Chair
Debbie Gegare, WI, Secretary
Christine Hamp, WA
Sharon Russell, CT

Barbara Borderieux, FL
Wilber Heath, NH
Jini Reynolds, CA

Sharon Croucher, NY
Mark Noah, OR
YT- Rylee Furr, NC

POLICY STATEMENT

Does your Grange honor your Grange heroes? There are heroes in our Granges that deserve recognition or a simple thank you. One way of honoring our military service men and women could be to cover their dues while they are on active duty.

Grange Advocacy continues to grow the Grange name with other organizations. The Grange needs to be the driving force showing the importance of community unity through cultivating connections with others. We appreciate National Grange's involvement, support and guidance on behalf of Grange Advocacy. We encourage Grange Advocacy to continue building coalitions in Washington DC that can benefit not only National Grange but also State Granges and Local Granges.

National Grange encourages local community Granges to support youth oriented agricultural organizations in their areas. Local Granges can provide financial support for youth to attend State, Regional and National agricultural events. This will create good will with these youth organizations.

Communication is instrumental not only in contributing to the growth of the Grange, but also the basic stability of our diverse national organization. We encourage communication to travel throughout our established grassroots structure to disseminate the flow of information at all levels of the Order. We encourage conversations to be the lifeblood of developing new ideas into tangible results and to be the venue for reviewing established programs and procedures to ensure relevancy to our members and organization in the 21st century. Email is the quickest form of communication; therefore please encourage your members to update their email information and when gaining new members request their email addresses.

National Membership and Communication Departments will encourage State Granges to supply the new membership information for publishing in the Good Day magazine. National Grange encourages the State Granges to submit information to be included in the publication.

Broadband is becoming more important in everyday lives of Rural America and the National Grange still supports expanding rural broadband. We appreciate all the work Worthy Master Huber has done on the Federal Communications Commission's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee and sincerely hope she will be chosen to serve on the new committee, The Precision Ag Task Force. The Worthy Master would be an asset to the committee because of her knowledge of precision farming at the grassroots level. She will assist in the effort to advance broadband service.

With the elections coming in 2020 from the Iowa Caucus to the New Hampshire primaries and beyond, Grangers need to be involved across the Nation. Grangers can open their facilities for "meet the candidate" nights, educate themselves on various issues and participate in the actual elections.

We encourage the National Grange to explore the possibility of offering a one-day pass to Grangers who may want to attend the National Grange Session. This option would be made available to those who are only able to attend one-day of the session without having to pay full price of the registration fee.

Per the Executive Committee report on the Electronic Device Substitution; it recognizes the advantages the technology progress within the Annual Session of the National Grange. It has decreased the amount of paper and copying at the National Session and it has increased the overall effectiveness and time management.

This policy statement covers 603-MD; 604-MD; 608-OH; 609-RI; Executive Committee Report on 2018-615-NH, and portions of the National Master's addresses.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES. #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
601	DC	National Grange Multi-Employer Program 401(K) Retirement Plan	Adopted as Amended

ADOPTED RESOLUTION

601-DC – National Grange Multi-Employer Program 401(K) Retirement Plan

WHEREAS More than 40 million employees of U.S small businesses lack access to a 401(k), or similar, retirement plan because the administrative requirements and costs of these 401(k) plans are too onerous for small business owners to be able to offer these plans to their employees; and

WHEREAS In today's economy 401(k) plans are an important tool for employees to plan for their eventual retirement and they are an important benefit that employers use to recruit and keep experienced and talented employees on their payroll, thus reducing employee turnover and increasing employee job satisfaction; and

WHEREAS family farms and small business that currently cannot afford to offer their employees 401(k) plans are the backbone of farming and rural communities across the U.S., constituting a disproportionate percentage of the total employment in these communities; and

WHEREAS as of September 30 2019, the U.S. Department of Labor issued new regulations designed to allow small businesses to come together as part of associations and non-profit organizations to band together to share administrative burdens and administrative costs of Multi-Employer Program 401(k)s in order to make it easier and cost effective for these employers to offer 401(k) to their employees in order to increase the participation of these employers and their employees in actively saving for retirement; and

WHEREAS the trademark GRANGE has been positively associated with financial and business services that serve farming and rural communities through the organization of numerous mutual insurance companies, mutual banks, credit unions, farm cooperatives, rural electric and rural phone cooperatives by various Divisions of the Order for more than 100 years; and

WHEREAS organizing and offering a national Multi-Employer Program 401(k) Retirement Plan to existing and prospective Grange business members today would build on our legacy of trust and service to farming and rural communities and demonstrate our relevance to modern issues facing these communities; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange actively explore the formation of a Multi-Employer Program 401(k) Retirement Plan utilizing the existing supportive membership category found in the current Digest of Laws that would focus on addressing the retirement planning needs of small businesses and their employees in underserved farming and rural communities across the United States; and be it further

RESOLVED that the National Grange include access to existing National Grange member benefit programs to small businesses and their employees who participate in the National Grange Multi-Employer Program 401(k) Retirement Plan; and be it further

RESOLVED should the National Grange Executive Committee determine that this will be a beneficial program, then the National Grange will design a communication and membership plan, in conjunction with State, Pomona and Community Granges (including sharing contact information for these new members with State Granges) to actively inform this new category of supportive members about the history, purpose, mission and objectives of the Order and provide opportunities to upgrade their membership status to full, active regular members.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Grange Growth and Development Committee for their hard work during the Convention. Everyone worked together cooperatively; therefore, we were able to use the time efficiently and complete tasks in a timely manner. Each member's input, support, and courteous attitude was greatly appreciated.

Thank you also to those individuals who were able to explain or clarify various resolutions so our committee could make a more informed decision. We were also able to develop and update the National Grange Growth and Development Policy.

Thank You.

Fraternally submitted,

Karen Overstreet, TX, Chair
Debbie Campbell, PA, Secretary
Lisa Goodrich, VT
Maureen Prelli, CT

Kathy Baldwin, IA
Chris Johnston, MI
Pete Pompper, NJ

Kathy Gibson, MA
Helen Lynch, DE
YT- Katie Fallon, NY

POLICY STATEMENT

Just as our Ritual provides the vehicle to present and understand our teachings and principles, our Constitution and By-laws provide the unified structure for our order to function with unity of action. Understanding why we have our code is as important as understanding the code itself. Over the past 150 years, many hours have been spent by many minds crafting a document that will serve and protect the interests of the Grange at all levels, as well as its individual members. It is with a great deal of respect and caution that we approach the task of amending these laws, and sincerely hope that the changes made are in the best interests of the Grange as a whole.

With today's political climate we want to stress how important it is to remain non-partisan, that we as the Grange do not support any nominee, appointee, candidate, or agency appointees, etc. The officers and staff of the National Grange should be reminded while a publicly released assessment of the qualifications of any cabinet or agency appointee is a positive; any endorsement or opposition statement by the Grange risks harming the public perception of our non-partisanship in dealing with the issues before the agencies of the federal government.

Social media has afforded the members the opportunity for instant communication of Grange activities and successes. We understand that not everyone will ever agree with all policies and undertakings of our Order, and that makes our organization unique. We strongly oppose the posting of personal grievances, the purpose of which is to divide and destroy. The First Amendment of the United States Constitution makes us powerless to stop the negativity. We challenge our Grangers to apply the high standards demanded by our Fraternal bonds to conduct our personal participation on social media sites accordingly.

As members we all enjoy the protection of our Digest of Laws, which have proven to be legally enforceable and binding by the Federal and State court and our fraternal responsibility to abide by them and hold our brothers and sisters accountable. Failure to do so results in strife and discontent. Let us practice our motto - "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity."

We recognize that Grange closures can result in significant membership loss. In these cases, Granges should be encouraged to consider first, consolidation with another Grange, second, a demit with recommendations to other Granges or other ways to retain membership. Transfer to e-membership should be considered only as a last resort, as it deprives members of most of their previous Grange privileges.

We want to make sure that we are maintaining fairness in electing the officers of the National Grange. Delegates should be mindful of maintaining equity among the regions of the country, including other factors when electing the Executive Committee.

The National Grange should communicate with the State Granges regarding all the entities that have entered into contractual trademark agreements in their state, so that they may act as agents for the National Grange. This will ensure that the State Grange is aware of all the entities that use our trademark in that State and that licensees are complying.

This covers the portion of the Master's internal address assigned and resolution 710 OR.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES. #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
701	CA	Amend Section 4.3.5 (B) of the National Grange Digest of Laws	Adopted by 5/6 majority
702	CA	Amend Section 4.6.10 (A) of the National Grange Digest of Laws (Two-Year Resolution; First Year 2019)	Adopted – First year
715	Committee	Degree Work	Adopted by 5/6 Majority
716	Committee	Ex-Officio Membership	Adopted by 5/6 Majority
717	Committee	Master's Ruling: Digital Signature	Adopted by 5/6 Majority

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

701-CA – Amend Section 4.3.5 (B) of the National Grange Digest of Laws

WHEREAS The application fee for Subordinate/Community Granges has remained relatively unchanged since the inception of the Order; and

WHEREAS The current charter fee does not allow the National Grange to provide quality resources to a new Grange; and

WHEREAS Quality resources for new Granges are essential to their success in their infant years; therefore be it

RESOLVED That section 4.3.5 (B) of the National Grange Digest of Laws be amended as follows:

(B) Subordinate Granges - Application for a Charter for a Subordinate Grange shall be signed by the persons applying for the same, and be accompanied by a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

A Subordinate Grange may be organized or reorganized by thirteen or more persons, of which there shall not be less than four of either sex.

702-CA – Amend Section 4.10.6 (A) of the National Grange Digest of Laws

WHEREAS The Executive Committee of a Subordinate/Community or Pomona Grange is only charged to act in time of emergency or need: and

WHEREAS because of the alternative name "Board of Directors" confusion has been created that the Executive Committee functions in the same manner as other Boards of Directors: and

WHEREAS the Grange structure is built on the concept of member driven action; therefore be it
RESOLVED that section 4.10.6 (A) of the National Grange Digest of Laws be amended as follows:

4.10.6 Duties of Executive Committees -

(A) All Granges – The duties of the members of the Executive Committee of the National Grange shall be as provided in these By-Laws and Laws of the National Grange. The duties of the members of the Executive Committees of the other Granges of the divisions of the Order shall be as provided for in these By-Laws and Laws of the National Grange, and the By-Laws and Laws of the various Granges of the divisions of the Order in which they are members. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committees to act for each Grange between meetings of said Granges in time of emergency or need. Actions by an Executive Committee must have the approval of the Master of each Grange, provided, however, disapproval by a Master may be overridden by a vote of two-thirds of the members of an Executive Committee. State and National Grange Executive Committees shall be permitted to meet when the Master is unable to attend a pre-scheduled meeting, with the express consent of the Master. The Overseer will represent the Master.

Adopted- First reading. This is a two-year resolution.

715-Committee - Degree work

RESOLVED to preserve the lessons, principles and integrity of the first four degrees, the National Grange encourages State Granges to have the first four degrees conferred at least annually and suggests that this be a priority; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Assembly of Demeter, in coordination with the National Master, form a committee to research the feasibility of creating an audio-visual recording or other archival processes of the first four degrees as conferred in full form; and be it further

RESOLVED that this committee include the Assembly of Demeter and two representatives from each region; and be it further

RESOLVED that this committee report to the delegates at the 2020 National Session.

716-Committee - Ex-officio Members

WHEREAS at times, and for many reasons, Community Granges are not able to show a quorum; and
WHEREAS during these times, votes cannot be held to bring in a new member(s) to the Community Grange, thus causing a delay of such actions; therefore be it

RESOLVED that section 4.9.2 be rewritten as

4.9.2 Subordinate Granges -

(A) Shall meet at least once each month, however, such Granges may vote to hold additional meetings. Seven members is the least number with which a Subordinate Grange may be opened in due form, and shall constitute a quorum unless a greater number is provided in the By-Laws of the State Grange having jurisdiction. In cases where a quorum is not present, the Master may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum is present.

(B) In the event only six (6) members are present, therefore no quorum is met but there are applicants in waiting and present, and only if the State Master or a Deputy is present for a scheduled visit, said State Master or Deputy could be considered a non-voting ex-officio member of the Community Grange for that meeting, thus making a quorum.

717-Committee - NATIONAL MASTER'S RULING: Digital Signatures

WHEREAS digital signatures are becoming legally binding in today's business world, therefore be it
RESOLVED that the National Grange Digest 4.3.5 be amended to read:

(A) Junior Granges – application for a charter for a Junior Grange shall be signed in person or by electronic verified signature by the persons applying for the same, and be accompanied by the fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) ...

(B) Subordinate Granges – application for a charter for a Subordinate Grange shall be signed in person or by electronic verified signature by the persons applying for the same, and be accompanied by the fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) ...

(C) Pomona Granges – application for charter for a Pomona Grange shall be signed in person or by electronic verified signature by the persons applying for the same, and be accompanied by the fee of five dollars (\$5.00)

And be it further **RESOLVED** that the National Grange Digest 4.6.5 (C) be changed to read "agreement as certified by the applicant's signature or electronic verified signature on the application for membership, that if elected to membership, the candidate...."

Covers a Ruling by the National Master

Can the Charter application form for a new Grange be signed online by applicants by a digital signature?

RULING:

Digest 4.3.5 states: "Application for a Charter for a [Junior, Subordinate, Pomona] Grange shall be signed by the persons applying for the same, and be accompanied by a fee...."

Electronic signatures are routinely accepted in today's business world and on government documents as legally binding just the same as original, handwritten signatures.

When the Charter application form is signed in person at an organizational or reorganizational meeting, it sometimes takes weeks or months to receive the form in the National Grange office in order to process it, prepare the charter, get the proper National officer signatures, and mail it to the Grange with the new Grange kit. An online Charter application would speed the process and enable the new Grange to get started while they are eager and excited. However, a long delay in a process unfamiliar to new members would discourage them at the start.

An electronic digital signature will be accepted as a legal signature by the National Grange on a Charter application or Reorganization application. The organizing deputy will verify that each person whose name is on the charter or reorganization application did personally sign the form either in person or digitally.

Digital signatures will also be accepted on membership applications completed online and submitted to a Community Grange just as digital signatures are accepted for e-membership.

Betsy E. Huber
June 3, 2019

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Grange Law Committee for their hard work and many long hours during the Convention:

Phil Prelli and Bruce Croucher for their expert advice and wisdom during the many hours of deliberation on our resolutions;

Cindy Greer for her diligent work as committee secretary while juggling her other duties as a national officer;

Chris Heath and Joe Goodrich for their New England perspective and humor throughout the process;

Jan Saxton, Susan Noah, and Roger Bostwick for the perspective of non-New England Granges, reminding us that the structure and operations of Granges are more diverse than we would expect.

Zac Mazag, youth ambassador, who brought the ideas of the Grange youth to the table on several of the more controversial resolutions;

In closing, I would like to thank Betsy Huber for giving me the opportunity to chair this committee.

Let's do this again next year!

Fraternally submitted,

Eileen Hebert, RI, Chair

Cindy Greer, CO, Secretary

Joe Goodrich, VT

Phil Prelli, CT

Roger Bostwick, KS

Chris Heath, NH

Jan Saxton, CA

Bruce Croucher, NY

Susan Noah, OR

YT- Zac Mazag, NC

PRESENT POLICY IS REPRESENTED IN THE CURRENT DIGEST OF LAWS.

POLICY STATEMENT

Labor

The Grange has long fought for the rights of both employers and employees to live and thrive, understanding that worker protection and prosperity are not in conflict with company success and solvency. We believe that the hardworking men and women of America’s workforce deserve the opportunity to earn a fair wage in a safe work environment and the guarantee that their pensions and subsequent benefits will be protected and preserved. We encourage businesses, municipalities, school districts, and state governments across the country to be proactive in ensuring the future growth and stability of employee pension benefits and to guard against their loss in the unfortunate event of a company merger or bankruptcy.

We support legislative efforts to streamline the H2A process to ensure that all agricultural operations can have access to guest workers. The National Grange supports an Agriculture Guest Worker Program for the establishment of the H-2C visa program for skilled agricultural workers to be administered by the USDA. This provides an option to both seasonal and year-round labor needs, recognizing that not all agriculture jobs are the same or require the same level of skill or experience. The H-2C visa program better understands the unique needs of the American farm and ranch operations and the challenges of processing raw, perishable commodities. This will offer workers and employers more choices in their employment arrangements, with more flexibility and less bureaucratic red tape than the H2A visa program.

The global economy has allowed American businesses to reach markets once inaccessible and has increased the demand for many of our goods, including our agricultural products, in far regions of the world. The National Grange continues to be an advocate for the implementation of fair free trade agreements that encourage international commerce while also incentivizing domestic job growth and economic output for American companies. We do not however, support the bailout of any country, state, or territory that has engaged in wasteful spending and behaved in a financially irresponsible manner.

Judiciary

Since its founding in 1867, The Grange has been a staunch defender of our Constitution and the rights and privileges it protects for every citizen. As a nation of law and order we must work to draft, pass, and maintain legislation aimed at ensuring a peaceful society and a fair judicial system. Our first responders work hard and serve bravely on a daily basis. The National Grange will forever strive to grant them the support and respect they deserve.

The Grange understands that citizens and the officials they elect are the best candidates to write the laws by which we will be governed, and that administrative agencies, commissions and other unelected governing bodies should be prohibited from drafting and implementing such regulations that dramatically impact our daily lives. We urge elected officials at all levels to periodically review and purge outdated laws and reduce burdensome and unnecessary regulations that stifle economic growth and fundamentally impede the free market system.

We vehemently oppose the use of eminent domain to confiscate private property for commercial use or any project that does not directly benefit the general citizenry.

Identity theft continues to be a significant problem in the United States. We support legislation that would increase security of personal and credit card data to prevent fraudulent enterprises from acquiring and utilizing that data.

Transportation

From its inception in 1867, the National Grange has been an advocate for a strong transportation infrastructure. In many ways, agriculture is the “original” business and as such has driven the establishment of a multitude of subsequent industries down the economic food chain, including infrastructure development. The need for farmers to get their products to consumers drove the establishment of our nation’s railroads, highways, and waterways and today continues to drive the development of our national infrastructure. Our nation’s overall infrastructure (broadband, transportation services, water and waste management, ports, aviation, parks, schools) is in critical need of repair and upgrade. We urge that funding be appropriated to improve critical infrastructure.

We continue to support laws requiring drivers to slow down and move over while passing an emergency vehicle that is stopped with lights flashing and believe all drivers should be held responsible for their driving and guard against distractions from cell phones and other such devices. We also support increased visibility devices for school buses. We strongly support technology that enhances the visibility of vehicles, rail cars, bicycles, motorcycles, trucks, etc.

We support the designation of English as our national language and thus believe that all road and highway signage should be printed only in English.

This covers portions of the President’s/Master’s address.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES #	STATE	TITLE	ACTION
806	NE	EPA and the RFS	Adopted as Amended
808	NY	American with Disabilities Act	Adopted
812	WA	Automatic Daytime Low Beam Headlights	Adopted as Amended
817	WA	Supporting Youth Firearms Education Programs	Adopted

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

806-NE – EPA and the RFS

WHEREAS the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) was passed into law requiring the inclusion of biofuels into the American liquid transport fuels infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the RFS included provisions for tracking refiner compliance with the law; and

WHEREAS the RFS included provisions for the EPA to grant small, logistically challenged refiners' exemptions from a legal obligation to blend biofuels (known as Small Refinery Exemptions, or SRE's); and

WHEREAS the law requires that obligations waived via SRE's are to be reallocated amongst the remaining obligated refineries; and

WHEREAS the number of SRE's granted recently by the EPA have risen dramatically; and

WHEREAS the EPA failed to reallocate those obligations; and

WHEREAS the EPA is currently ignoring a D.C. Circuit Court order to restore 500 million gallons of blending illegally waived in 2016; and

WHEREAS similar court rulings are likely coming for 2017 and 2018 waivers; therefore be it

RESOLVED the National Grange firmly believes the EPA should be forced to follow the current federal law to ensure that the full amount of ethanol mandated by law to be blended with gasoline be met; be it further

RESOLVED that the EPA be required to establish defined guidelines as to what factors are permitted to be used to qualify a refinery as "small" for SRE purposes; and be it further

RESOLVED that only small refineries (as defined) be eligible for SRE's; and be it further

RESOLVED that the National Grange promote and support the spread of science-based information regarding ethanol and oppose misinformation.

808-NY – Americans with Disabilities Act

RESOLVED National Grange supports the development of clear rules of compliance for the Americans with Disabilities Act Title III (ADA) in regard to internet website accessibility and that a grace period for implementation is necessary once these rules have been established.

812-WA – Automatic Daytime Low Beam Headlights

RESOLVED that the National Grange support automatic daytime low beam headlights and taillights or their equivalents on all new motor vehicles.

817-WA – Supporting Youth Firearms Education Programs

WHEREAS there are several programs (i.e. hunter education programs, 4-H shooting sports programs, etc.) in existence that already promote educating our youth to use firearms and ammunition in a responsible manner; and

WHEREAS these programs help instill firearm and ammunition safety by introducing shooting sports to the next generation of firearm owners; and

WHEREAS the improper use of firearms has created an atmosphere in today's society where various levels of government are attempting to create barriers to firearms and ammunition possession; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Grange support existing youth firearms education programs, such as hunter education programs and the 4-H shooting sports program; and be it further

RESOLVED that the National Grange oppose any legislation that would restrict programs that educate our youth to use firearms and ammunition in a responsible manner.

PRESENT POLICY: FOREIGN & DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

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.
2. National Grange recommends 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 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 continues to support the US non-participation in the International Criminal Court 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.
5. The National Grange supports expanding our military capabilities using unmanned aerial vehicles.
6. The National Grange favors all citizens between the ages of 18 and 26 be required to register with the Selective Service.

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 the 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 opposes any change in the current postal employee retirement programs that would adversely affect the retirement of any postal employees, limit the retirement options of current postal employees or result in a reduction of retirement benefits for current or future postal employees.
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 encourages Congress to allow the U.S. Postal Service to be innovative and flexible in the modern business world and develop a competitive culture within its employees so it may return itself to financial and operational soundness and continue to fulfill its mission.
6. 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.

PRESENT POLICY: JUDICIARY

Banking and Consumer Credit Law

1. 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.
2. The National Grange believes 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 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

6. 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.

Bankruptcy

1. The National Grange favors additional penalties for bankruptcy fraud to combat planned bankruptcies and other abuses.
2. The National Grange supports 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.

Children and Family Law

1. 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 wellbeing 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.
2. The National Grange favors reforms that would consider the best interests of the child in all proceedings, investigations, or rulings by the courts.
3. 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.
4. 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 the first to be considered as the custodian of that child.

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. The National Grange supports that businesses and medical professionals are not required to use Social Security numbers as identification and be allowed to use a different means of identification for customers and patients. We also favor legislation to regulate support animals to reduce the opportunity to fraudulently claim pets as support animals.
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.

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 supports identification of all products that are foreign-made or assembled.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. The National Grange supports allowing nonprofit organizations to make continued "incidental use" of copyrighted music.
6. Regulations should be enacted that require companies to give consumers the option of mailed billings or statements without surcharges.
7. The National Grange encourages companies to print product expiration or use by dates in the mm/dd/yy format.
8. 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.

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. An appropriate prison sentence should be imposed upon conviction for any felony drug offense.
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.

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, except for 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.
3. The National Grange urges at the federal level, a law of national reciprocity between states be created so that a legal permit to carry weapons from one state be recognized by all states.

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 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.
3. 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.
4. The National Grange recommends that there be no changes in the federal laws that currently ban the production and sale of marijuana in the United States.
5. The National Grange supports legislation to place salvia divinorum under the control of the Controlled Substance Act.
6. The National Grange supports legislation, which will create a new 12th 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.
10. The National Grange supports the use of drone aircraft and associated technologies.
11. The National Grange supports that no federal official may halt harvesting and transporting of any farmer's perishable crop by declaring the crop as "hot goods."
12. The National Grange supports the principle that all federal judges be reconfirmed every 10 years to remain on the bench.
13. The National Grange supports revisions to the Hatch Act to permit federal employees to run for local municipal and county offices so long as no conflict of interest exists.

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 believes that the National Flood Insurance Program should operate on an actuarially sound basis. National Flood Insurance Programs (buildings, structures) should not be available for properties that have suffered multiple losses where steps were not taken to protect the property from further damage.
3. The National Grange urges that the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conduct a public awareness campaign to help property owners understand their rights when there is a flood map reclassification.

4. The National Grange urges the National Flood Insurance Program to change policy provisions to allow blanket coverage over multiple structures on a property. Additionally, we support the continuation of the 'Write Your Own' (local insurance agent) model of securing Flood Insurance.
5. 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.
6. The National Grange opposes any legislation that would require insurance companies to comply with "The Community Reinvestment Act," 12 U.S.C. 2901.
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.

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.

PRESENT POLICY: LABOR & TRADE

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.

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 production 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 are responsible for checking the identification, but not for 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 H-1B visa program for professionals/advanced agricultural skills/technical skills 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 sheepherders in the H-2A visa (temporary work visa) program.

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 the child labor laws of the U.S. Department of Labor restricting family members 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 family members 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 workplace 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 workplace 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 enrolled in an accredited job training or vocational education program, who are collecting unemployment compensation, to decline offers of employment without losing their unemployment benefits.
6. 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% of the total manufacturing costs for the product, and to be substantially assembled in the United States.
7. 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.
8. The National Grange urges the necessary changes to the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) that would exempt volunteer worker member co-operatives from minimum wage requirements, allowing members access to quality foods at affordable prices.
9. 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.
10. 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 workplace. We further support mandatory restrictions on the use of compulsory union dues for political, charitable or social causes without the paying members consent.
11. The National Grange supports legislation that allows employers to hire replacement workers during a strike.

PRESENT POLICY: TRANSPORTATION

Air Travel

1. The National Grange supports the continuation of assignment of Air Marshals on random flights.
2. 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 rights-of-way and to work with the railroads to control noxious weeds along railroad rights-of-way 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 Placard 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 supports a standardized toll road transponder that works on all toll roads across the USA.

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 rights-of-way.
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 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) from July 2012 and updated in 2015. Additional funding for core safety programs that are properly directed to lifesaving roadway safety projects.
 - a. Provisions to reduce administrative delays at federal and state agencies responsible for approving highway planning.
 - b. New financial incentives for states to obligate new congestion relief funding for projects that reduce highway bottlenecks.
 - c. Full funding by the Congress for all "guaranteed" highway funds in future Transportation Appropriations bills.
 - d. 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.
7. The National Grange recommends that the interstate highway system adopt the use of a uniform transponder system for all open-road tolling.
8. The National Grange opposes the sale of any toll roads or bridges.
9. The National Grange supports the amendment to the Federal Highway Bill that would classify milk as an indivisible load to allow milk trucks to legally haul the same weight on the interstate system as on state roads.

Highway Policy – 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 intra-citybus, 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. We encourage the use of "Weigh Stations" as rest locations.
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.
6. The National Grange supports legislation to increase federal funding to maintain and repair local bridges throughout the nation.

Impaired Driving

1. The National Grange believes 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.

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 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 rights-of-way, 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, and water, as well as assure their timely removal from the disabled train.

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 high visibility clothing or have an apparatus to make them more visible to other motorists.
7. The National Grange supports requiring all motor vehicles to have a rear bumper or undercarriage guard coming within 16 inches of the ground.
8. 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.
9. The National Grange supports standardizing the cellular emergency numbers for the interstate highway systems throughout the country to *91.
10. The National Grange supports legislation that would penalize a driver for using a cell phone when it is the cause of an accident.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. The National Grange supports legislation banning high intensity discharge (HID) headlights and/or driving lights and/or Xenon lights.
14. 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 have blind spot sensors or devices.

15. The National Grange supports present U.S. Department of Transportation requirements for random drug and alcohol testing for school bus drivers.
16. 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 supports requirements that newer vehicles be equipped with blind spot indicators visible by the driver and that after-market suppliers have blind spot indicators available for earlier models.

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.
4. 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 facilitating greater barge traffic and providing an economic engine to fuel growth and prosperity.
4. The National Grange recommends the 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.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Labor, Judiciary and Transportation Committee for their hard work and many long hours before and during the Convention. Thank you to National Grange, Betsy and Burton for participating and allowing us to ZOOM prior to this meeting and Stephanie Wilkins for providing the technical assistance. That alone is such a time saver, we were able to use that time to agree on the points of the National Grange Labor, Judiciary and Transportation Policy that needed to be updated and/or researched prior to arrival at the session. A special thank you to Joan C. Smith for taking on the role of the Committee Secretary, especially with this being my first year as Chairman. Thanks to Brittney Oliver as our Youth Team Member for her input and web research support.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Hartley, RI, Chair

Joan C. Smith, DC, Secretary

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YT- Brittney Oliver, WA

GRANGE & CONVENTION HISTORY

FOUNDING OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE:
December 4, 1867 Washington, D.C

HISTORY OF THE CONVENTIONS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

Session #	Year, Month	Place	Master
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
147	2013, Nov.	Manchester, NH	Edward L. Luttrell
148	2014, Nov.	Sandusky, OH	Edward L. Luttrell
149	2015, Nov.	Lincoln, NE	Edward L. Luttrell
150	2016 Nov.	Herndon, Virginia	Betsy E. Huber
151	2017, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Betsy E. Huber
152	2018, Nov.	Stowe, VT	Betsy E. Huber
153	2019, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	Betsy E. Huber

Upcoming

154	2020, Nov.	Valley Forge, PA
155	2021, Nov.	Wichita, KS
156	2022, Nov.	Sparks, NV
157	2023, Nov.	Niagara Falls, NY

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Financial Statements

December 31, 2018

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

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ERIC BOLIN CPA P.C.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors
National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry
Washington, D.C.

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2018, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry as of December 31, 2018, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Eric Bolin CPA, P.C.

November 19, 2019
Rockville, Maryland

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2018

	GRANGE OPERATING ACCOUNT	GRANGE BUILDING ACCOUNT	TOTAL NATIONAL GRANGE
ASSETS			
Cash on hand and on deposit (Sch. I)	\$ 213,906	\$ -	\$ 213,906
Building Fund		17,378	17,378
Investments (Note 3)	406,765		406,765
Accounts receivable (Sch. II)	218,320		218,320
Rents Receivable		123,237	123,237
Prepaid expenses and Deposits	42,583		42,583
Inventory - sales	69,200		69,200
Building (at cost)		1,174,014	1,174,014
Accumulated depreciation - Building		(1,174,014)	(1,174,014)
Equipment and Improvement (at cost)	56,112	1,909,789	1,965,901
Accum.Depr.- Equip & Improvements	(56,112)	(750,004)	(806,116)
Land		255,238	255,238
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 950,774	\$ 1,555,638	\$ 2,506,412
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable-Trade	\$ 788,065	\$ 91,008	\$ 879,073
Accrued Membership Assessment	158,625		158,625
Accrued Expenses	12,396		12,396
Security Deposits - tenants		45,398	45,398
Trial Funding	10,208		10,208
Escrow	3,000		3,000
Due to State Granges	78,055		78,055
Due to Grange Foundation	2,400		2,400
Note Payable -LMA	3,006		3,006
Note Payable -Oregon State Grange	211,152		211,152
Loan Payable Eagle Bank	1,772,629		1,772,629
Loan Payable State Grange	136,845		136,845
Due to Grange Foundation	100,000		100,000
Loan Payable Red Lion Grange	100,000		100,000
Due to (from) building account	10,300,865	(10,300,865)	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	13,677,246	(10,164,459)	3,512,787
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted - building		11,720,097	11,720,097
Unrestricted - operating	(13,014,117)		(13,014,117)
Delegate Restricted Fund	287,645		287,645
TOTAL NET ASSETS	(12,726,472)	11,720,097	(1,006,375)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 950,774	\$ 1,555,638	\$ 2,506,412

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2018

Schedule I - Cash on Hand and on Deposit

Operating account	\$	157,864
Petty cash		14
Reserved – Assessment Holding		39,505
Escrow		16,523

Total Cash on Hand and on Deposit \$ 213,906

Schedule II - Accounts Receivable

Employee Advances	\$	7,745
Foundation		2,704
Dues		177,863
Other		153,245

Total Accounts Receivable \$ 341,557

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statements of Activities - Operating Account

For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

REVENUE	
Dues and Fees	
Subordinate Grange Dues	\$ 732,442
Subordinate Grange Charter Fees	40
Junior Grange Charter Fees	10
E-Memberships	708
Seventh Degree Fees	2,624
GIA	62,500
Nat'l Convention Assessments, Exhibitors	70,910
Sponsors, Grants	
Sales Income	29,588
Bonding Commission	12,603
Licensing	19,420
Dividends, Interest Earned	20,697
Gain (Loss) On Investments	(31,021)
Communications Good Day Magazine	24,034
Legislative Revenue	44,450
Other	3,724
TOTAL REVENUE	992,729
EXPENSES	
General and Administrative	719,078
Gen & Admin - Professional Services	1,009,469
National Master	76,268
National Secretary and Lecturer, High Priest	1,500
Board of Directors	4,678
Communications	46,724
Youth Activities	18,845
Junior Grange	21,986
Membership, Leadership	2,526
Legislative	7,074
IT/ Systems	45,641
National Convention	153,523
Marketing/Sales	29,342
Program Resources	5,968
Simple IRA	9,703
Interest	104,851
Bad Debt	47,073
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,304,249
(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(1,311,520)
Reclassification from Delegate Restricted to Unrestricted	19,743
Reclassification Tom Severance Fund to Unrestricted	1,220
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS – January 1,	(11,723,560)
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS – December 31,	\$ (13,014,117)

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statements of Activity - Building Operations

For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

INCOME	
Rent	\$ 1,081,389
NG Building – Expense Allocations	44,632
Storage, Other	6,544
Building Fund, Other	38,482
Less Bad Debt	(26,541)
Rent Rebate	(68,534)
TOTAL INCOME	1,075,972
EXPENSES	
Salaries and Payroll Taxes	96,554
Real Estate Taxes	151,783
Electricity, Gas and Water	87,454
Building Supplies	29,653
Service Contracts, Inspection	156,921
Repairs and Maintenance	228,872
Insurance	28,254
Miscellaneous, Commissions	30,563
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	810,054
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS	265,918
Provision for Depreciation	(30,932)
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS - Building	234,986
NET ASSETS - Building Operations – January 1,	11,485,111
NET ASSETS - Building Operations - December 31,	\$ 11,720,097

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Decrease in Net Assets - Operating	\$ (1,311,520)
Increase in Net Assets - Building	234,986
Total	(1,076,534)
Adjustments to Reconcile Decrease in Net Assets to Cash (Used) by	
Operations	
Depreciation	30,932
Decrease (Increase) in Accounts Receivable	56,479
Decrease (Increase) in Rents Receivable	42,723
Decrease (Increase) in Prepaid Expenses, Deposits	45,367
Decrease (Increase) in Inventory	40,549
(Decrease) Increase in Due to State Granges	2,581
(Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable	(69,185)
(Decrease) Increase in Accrued Expenses	(4,516)
(Decrease) Increase in Tenant Security Deposits	13,855
(Decrease) Increase in Prepaid Rent	0
(Decrease) in Due to Grange Foundation	(6,275)
(Decrease) Increase in Accrued Membership Assessment	39,466
NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
	(884,558)
CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
Purchase of Equipment	(189,078)
Decrease (Increase) in Investment Account	15,941
NET CASH (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
	(173,137)
CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
(Decrease) Increase in Loan Payable - LMA	(270,311)
(Decrease) Increase in Bank Loan Payable	1,000,000
Increase in Loan Payable – Oregon State Grange	(20,002)
Increase in Loan Payable – Grange Advocacy	(18,750)
Increase in Loan Payable New Jersey State Grange	50,000
Increase in Loan Payable Vermont State Grange	22,665
Increase in Loan Payable Grange Foundation	100,000
Increase in Loan Payable Potomac Grange	4,180
Payments On Loans	(72,093)
Increase in Loan Payable Indiana State Grange	60,000
NET CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
	855,689
NET (DECREASE) IN CASH	
	(202,006)
CASH - January 1,	
	433,290
CASH - December 31,	
	\$ 231,284

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statements of Functional Expenses

For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

	Total	Programs	Administrative	Building
Personnel Costs	\$ 697,491	\$ 55,211	\$ 545,726	\$ 96,554
Professional Fees	1,009,469	0	1,009,469	0
Interest	104,851	0	104,851	0
Pension	9,703	0	9,703	0
Depreciation	30,932	0	0	30,932
Repairs, Maintenance	412,625	26,832	0	385,793
Travel, Meals, Lodging	152,888	149,314	3,574	0
Bad Debts	92,810	0	66,269	26,541
Office, Supplies	171,124	88,659	24,558	57,907
Real Estate Taxes	151,783	0	0	151,783
Utilities	87,454	0	0	87,454
Other	250,646	64,479	155,604	30,563
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 3,171,776	\$ 384,495	\$ 1,919,754	\$ 867,527

GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2018

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 Presentation

The financial statements of National Grange have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("US GAAP"), which require National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to the following net asset classifications:

Net assets without donor restrictions: Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of National Grange.

Net assets with donor restrictions: Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors, and grantors, some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of National Grange or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, where by the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statements of activities.

Measure of operations – The statements of activities reports all changes in net assets, including changes in net assets from operating and nonoperating activities. Operating activities consist of those items attributable to National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry ongoing annual services and interest and dividends earned on investments. Nonoperating activities are limited to resources that generate return from investments and other activities considered to be of a more unusual or nonrecurring nature.

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.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2018

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (Continued)

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.

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 and Equipment

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.

We record property and equipment additions over \$5,000 at cost, or if donated, at fair value on the date of donation. Depreciation and amortization are computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets ranging from three to thirty years, or in the case of capitalized leased assets or leasehold improvements, the lesser of the useful life of the asset or the lease term. When assets are sold or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related depreciation or amortization are removed from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is included in the statements or activities. Cost of maintenance and repairs that do not improve or extend the useful lives of the respective assets are expensed currently.

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.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2018

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (Continued)

Financial Instruments and Credit Risk

We manage deposit concentration risk by placing cash, money market accounts, and certificates of deposit with financial institutions believed by us to be creditworthy. At times, amounts on deposit may exceed insured limits or include uninsured investments in money market mutual funds. To date, we have not experienced losses in any of these accounts. Credit risk associated with accounts receivable and promises to give in considered to be limited due to high historical collection rates and because substantial portions of the outstanding amounts are due from members. Investments are made by diversified investment managers whose performance is monitored by the executive committee. Although the fair values of investments are subject to fluctuation on a year-to-year basis, we believe that the investment policies and guidelines are prudent for the long-term welfare of the organization.

Revenue Recognition

Contributions, grants and sponsorships are reported as revenue in the year in which the payments are received and/or unconditional promises are made. The National Grange reports gifts of cash and other assets as with donor restrictions if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of donated assets. When a donor restriction expires temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions. Gains and losses on investments are reported as increases or decreases in without donor restriction net assets unless their use is restricted by donor stipulations or by law.

NOTE 3 -FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

We report certain assets and liabilities (or on or the other) at fair value in the consolidated financial statements. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction in the principal, or most advantageous, market at the measurement date under current market conditions regardless of whether that price is directly observable or estimated using another valuation technique. Inputs used to determine fair value refer broadly to the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk. Inputs may be observable or unobservable. Observable inputs are inputs that reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity. Unobservable inputs are inputs that reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability based on the best information available. A three-tier hierarchy categorizes the inputs as follows:

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2018

NOTE 3: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

Level 1 – Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that we can access at the measurement date.

Level 2 – Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, and market-corroborated inputs.

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability. That are significant to the fair value measurement.

The following indicates the assets carried at the three levels in these financial statements.

The National Grange did not have any Level 2 and Level 3 asset valuations.

Level 1 Investments include:

Cash, Cash Equivalents	\$ 34,270
Equities	175,737
Fixed Income	151,301
Alternatives	<u>45,457</u>
	<u>\$ 406,765</u>

NOTE 4 - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property, equipment and accumulated depreciation are as follows at December 31, 2018

Depreciable Assets	
Equipment	\$ 56,112
Building	1,174,014
Building Improvements	<u>1,909,789</u>
	3,139,915
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,980,130)</u>
	<u>\$ 1,159,785</u>

NOTE 5 – LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY

The following reflects National Grange's assets as of the statement of financial position date, reduced by amounts not available for general use because of contractual of Board imposed restrictions

Financial Assets at December 31, 2018	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 231,284
Accounts Receivable	406,765
Investments	<u>341,557</u>
Total Financial Assets	979,606
Less:	
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	
Board Designated	<u>287,645</u>
Financial assets available to meet	
Cash needs for general expenditures	
Within one year	<u>691,961</u>

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2018

NOTE 6 – UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS- BUILDING

Building unrestricted net assets is comprised of at December 31, 2018

From Operations	\$ 10,748,867
Contributions	260,745
Provided from Exchange of Former Building	396,936
Bicentennial Cookbook	<u>313,549</u>
	<u>\$ 11,720,097</u>

NOTE 7 - PENSION PLAN/SIMPLE IRA

In March 2002, The National Grange established a SIMPLE IRA employee benefit plan covering substantially all employees after the 90 day probation period at open enrollment 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, 2018, the matching portion was \$9,703.

NOTE 8 – INCOME TAXES

The National Grange is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501 (c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code. However, entities that are classified under this section of the code are subject to tax on “unrelated business income” as defined by IRS regulations. The National Grange had no unrelated business income for the year ended December 31, 2018.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require the National Grange to evaluate tax position taken and recognize a tax liability if it is more likely than not that uncertain tax positions taken would not be sustained upon examination by taxing authorities. The National Grange has analyzed tax positions taken and has determined that, as of December 31, 2018, there are no uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability or disclosure in the financial statements. The National Grange’s tax returns are subject to examination by taxing authorities, generally for a period of three years after the returns are filed.

NOTE 9 - 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. 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, 2018 totaled \$406,765.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2018

NOTE 10 – LEASE COMMITMENT

The National Grange has entered into an operating lease for a copier. The lease for the copier was signed on August 29, 2013 for 57 months starting in September 2013. The monthly payment for the copier is \$514.

NOTE 11 – LEASES

As part of its ongoing operations the National Grange leases to tenants those parts of the building it does not use. The leases are one to five years, renewable, leases at current market rents. Some leases have expense pass-through clauses based on the previous year's operating costs. Expected rental income for the year ended December 31, 2019 is estimated at depending on renewals and if additional space becomes available.

NOTE 12 – NOTES PAYABLE

The National Grange has a Loan Management Account (LMA) with Merrill Lynch under which it obtains advances as needed. The account is a demand loan and is secured by the Grange investment account. The loan bears finance charges at a variable rate of interest equal to the Libor Rate plus the Spread and is payable monthly. The balance at December 31, 2018 is \$3,006.

The National Grange also has a promissory note with the Oregon State Grange in the amount of \$211,152 as of December 2018, bearing interest at 6%. The note is payable quarterly, interest and principal at \$14,581. The note and any unpaid interest are due in full by December 31, 2026.

The National Grange has a promissory note with Red Lion Grange No. 1781 in the amount of \$100,000 dated September 25, 2017 and due in full September 15, 2022, bearing interest a 3.2% per annum calculated half-yearly. The note is for semi-annual interest payment beginning September 15, 2017. The balance a December 31, 2018 is \$100,000.

The National Grange has a promissory note with the Grange Advocacy on the amount of \$25,000 dated September 1, 2017 with interest at .25% per annum. Interest and principal payments are payable monthly in the amount of \$2,086 based up on the interest rate and a 1 year amortization schedule. Note is due in full by September 1, 2018. The balance at December 31, 2018 is \$0.

The National Grange has a promissory with the Indiana State Grange in the amount of \$60,000, interest only at 3% payable annually. Due in full April 15, 2023.

The National Grange has a promissory note with the New Jersey State Grange in the amount of \$50,000 with interest of 3% payable semi-annually. Due if full November 15, 2022. No payments were made during 2018.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2018

NOTE 12 – NOTES PAYABLE (Continued)

The National Grange has a promissory note with the Grange Foundation in the amount of \$100,000 payable principal and interest monthly. Interest a 2.4% due in full September 15, 2022. No payments were made during 2018.

The National Grange has a promissory note with the Vermont State Grange in the amount of \$25,000 interest at 5% payable quarterly of \$1,350.77. Due in full July 2023.

The National Grange has entered into a business loan agreement of \$1,000,000 with a bank, dated 1/1/2016 and due 01/21/2026. Payments are variable with the first 60 payments a \$10,554.55 principal and interest of 4.80% with one final payment of \$10,554.41. This loan is secured by a deed of trust on the National Grange building. In October 2018 the National Grange modified the original loan in order to obtain an additional \$1,000,000 loan secured by the building under the same terms as the original loan. The balance of the Bank loan at December 31, 2018 is \$1,772,629.

NOTE 13 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In preparing these financial statements, the Organization has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through November 14, 2019, the date the financial statements were available for use.

NOTE 14 – DUE TO STATE GRANGES

During the current year the National Grange continued the suspensions of two State Granges. These suspensions required the National Grange to take over the administrative task usually performed by the State Grange and has collected certain funds that would normally belong to the State Granges. These amounts are reflected in the category “Due to State Granges”.

Certain legal actions have been undertaken by a State Grange which the National Grange has countered. The National Grange feels that the outcome of any such action will be in the favor of the National Grange.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2018

NOTE 15 – LEGAL MATTERS

In 2014 the National Grange was engaged in two major litigations. First, a case in California Superior Court to determine if a former part of the organization could disregard the rules and retain the assets of the Grange. Second, a case in Federal Court with the same group that was sued for trademark infringement and counterfeiting.

The California case was settled in 2019, as a full and final settlement, under which the Grange is to receive \$1,525,000 by certified check. This amount was received in October 2019

In August 2017 the air conditioning system failed in the National Grange headquarter building. Keepin' It Cool (KIC) was contracted to replace the chiller, one boiler, and perform several other repair jobs. After 10 months KIC failed to complete the job and was fired. Subsequent contractors found incorrect installations, shoddy workmanship, and incomplete work. In January 2019 a suit was filed against KIC for Breach of Contract and Breach of Implied Warranty of Good Workmanship. Settlement reimbursement of \$157,673 was received from the National Grange's insurance coverage.

NOTE 16 – PROPERTY HELD IN TRUST

The National Grange is holding in trust funds collected on behalf of the former Wyoming Grange. This amount is \$51,713 and is reflected as part of the reserved cash balance.

APPENDIX B
Grange Foundation
Financial Statement 2018

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Financial Statements

December 31, 2018 and 2017

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

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ERIC BOLIN CPA P.C.

Board of Directors
The Grange Foundation
Washington, DC 20006

We have reviewed the accompanying Statements of Financial Position of The Grange Foundation (a nonprofit corporation) as of December 31, 2018 and 2017, and the related Statements of Activities and Change in Net Assets and Cash Flows for the years then ended. A review includes principally of inquiries of Company personnel and applying analytical procedures to management's financial data. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, 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.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements.

Our responsibility is to conduct the review in accordance with statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require me to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements. We believe that the results of my procedures provide a reasonable basis for my report.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying consolidated financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our review was made primarily for the purpose of expressing a conclusion that there are not material modifications that should be made to the consolidated financial statements in order of them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Eric Bolin CPA, P.C.

October 04, 2019
Rockville, MD

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Financial Position

	December 31,	
	2018	2017
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash – Operating	\$ 160,578	\$ 193,332
Cash - CD	49,033	46,987
Pledge Receivable	2,871	7,250
Loan Receivable – National Grange	100,000	0
Account Receivable - National Grange	0	12,499
Total Current Assets	312,482	260,068
Other Assets		
Board Designated Endowment Fund	90,375	91,062
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 402,857	\$ 351,130
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	639	7,582
Due to National Grange	304	0
Total Liabilities	943	7,582
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Undesignated	142,345	139,320
Board Designated	91,062	91,062
With Donor Restrictions	168,507	113,166
TOTAL NET ASSETS	401,914	343,548
TOTAL LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS	\$ 402,857	\$ 351,130

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Years Ended December 31, 2018

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues and Other Support			
Contributions, Grants	\$ 1,827	\$ 94,280	\$ 96,107
Interest and Dividend Income (Net of Fees)	4,583	1,393	5,976
Gift (Loss) in Investment Value	(1,248)	0	(1,248)
Gift Annuity, Other	0	0	0
Other Income	545	0	545
Total	5,707	95,673	101,380
Expenses:			
Financial Review	2,450	0	2,450
Office Expense	205	0	205
Marketing	714	0	714
Donations	3,691	0	3,691
Programs	0	35,954	35,954
Total	7,060	35,954	43,014
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(1,353)	59,719	58,366
Net Assets -- Beginning	230,382	113,166	343,548
Net Assets -- Ending	\$ 229,029	\$ 172,885	\$ 401,914

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Years Ended December 31, 2017

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues and Other Support			
Contributions, Grants	\$ 2,420	\$ 477,181	\$ 479,601
Interest and Dividend Income (Net of Fees)	3,932	0	3,932
Gift (Loss) in Investment Value	2,578	0	2,578
Gift Annuity, Other	469	0	469
Other Income	0	0	0
Total	9,399	477,181	486,580
Expenses:			
Financial Review	2,121	0	2,121
Office Expense	970	0	970
Marketing	0	0	0
Donations	4,400	0	4,400
Programs	0	438,138	438,138
Total	7,491	438,138	445,629
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	1,908	39,043	40,951
Net Assets -- Beginning	228,474	74,123	302,597
Net Assets -- Ending	\$ 230,382	\$ 113,166	\$ 343,548

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Schedule I – Net Assets with Donor Restrictions

	O.H. Kelley Historical Prog. Fund	Junior Leadership Program	Youth Leadership Fund	Program For the Deaf	G.R.O.W. Club	American Arts	Youth Exchange Program	Community And Leadership	Trademark Protection	Elmer Grange	National Lecture Program	Communi- cation Fellows Program
Balance- January 1	\$ 2,767	\$ 10,639	\$ 13,427	\$ 17,389	\$ 7,869	\$ 5,259	\$ 5,195	\$ 10	\$ 4,600	\$ 275	\$ 5,756	\$ 250
Contributions	280	5,554	6,002	25	2,843	3,235	0	0	100	1,035	10,966	230
Transfer	0	0	9,589	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest, Other Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,393	0
Expenses	(3,500)	(2,874)	(20,858)	0	(1,525)	(639)	0	0	0	(1,310)	(4,054)	0
Balance- December 31	\$ (453)	\$ 13,319	\$ 8,160	\$ 17,414	\$ 9,187	\$ 7,855	\$ 5,195	\$ 10	\$ 4,700	\$ 0	\$ 14,061	\$ 480

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Schedule I – Net Assets with Donor Restrictions

	Building Fund	1 in 1000	H Watson MF School	Memorial Dorothy S.Zug	Youth-Pie In the Face	GALA	TOTAL
Balance- January 1	\$ 0	\$ 19,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,085	\$ 9,589	\$ 5,056	\$ 113,166
Contributions	50,000	13,000	0	1,000	0	10	94,280
Transfer	0	0	0	0	(9,589)	(4,378)	(4,378)
Interest, Other Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,393
Expenses	0	(506)	(0)	0	0	(688)	(35,954)
Balance- December 31	\$ 50,000	\$ 31,494	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,085	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 168,507

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

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	American Arts	Youth Exchange Program	Community And Leadership	Trademark Protection	Elmer Grange	National Lecture Program	Communi- cation Fellows Program
Balance- January 1	\$ 4,964	\$ 10,454	\$ 17,667	\$ 17,864	\$ 8,332	\$ 2,973	\$ 5,195	\$ 10	\$ 3,925	\$ 2,125	\$ 915	\$ 250
Contributions	1,303	535	8,143	25	1,402	2,286	0	0	675	1,575	11,828	0
Interest, Other Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenses	(3,500)	(350)	(12,383)	(500)	(1,865)	0	0	0	0	(3,425)	(6,987)	0
Balance- December 31	\$ 2,767	\$ 10,639	\$ 13,427	\$ 17,389	\$ 7,869	\$ 5,259	\$ 5,195	\$ 10	\$ 4,600	\$ 275	\$ 5,756	\$ 250

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Schedule I – Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

	Building Fund	California Fire Relief	Intern Fund	I in 1000	H Watson MF School	Memorial Dorothy S.Zug	Youth-Pie In the Face	GALA	TOTAL
Balance-January 1	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 74,674
Contributions	400,000	7,829	1,000	19,000	5,000	1,085	9,589	5,056	476,331
Interest,									
Other Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenses	(400,000)	(7,829)	(1,000)	(0)	(0)	0	0	0	(437,839)
Balance-December 31	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 19,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,085	\$ 9,589	\$ 5,056	\$ 113,166

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Functional Expenses

For the Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2017

	Program Expenses	2018 Management And General	Fundraising	Total
Professional Fees	\$ 0	\$ 2,450	\$ 0	\$ 2,450
Marketing	0	714	0	714
Office Expense	0	205	0	205
Direct Program Expenses	35,954	0	0	35,354
Donations	0	3,691	0	3,691
	\$ 35,354	\$ 7,060	\$ 0	\$ 43,014

	Program Expenses	2017 Management And General	Fundraising	Total
Professional Fees	\$ 0	\$ 2,121	\$ 0	\$ 2,121
Marketing	0	0	0	0
Office Expense	0	970	0	970
Direct Program Expenses	438,138	0	0	438,138
Donations	0	4,400	0	4,400
	\$ 438,138	\$ 7,491	\$ 0	\$ 445,629

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statements of Cash Flows

For the Years Ended December 31,

	2018	2017
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ 58,366	\$ 38,373
Decrease Increase in Due From The National Grange	12,803	(2,120)
(Increase) Decrease in Pledge Receivable	4,379	(7,150)
(Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable	(6,943)	6,740
NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	68,605	35,843
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Change in FMV of Investment Endowment Fund	687	2,578
Decrease in Investment Account	0	117,903
Increase in CD Investment	(2,046)	(42)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(1,359)	120,439
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	0	0
(Increase) in Loan Receivable – National Grange	(100,000)	0
Net Cash Used By Financing Activity	(100,000)	0
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	(32,754)	156,282
CASH – January 1,	193,332	37,050
CASH - December 31,	\$ 160,578	\$ 193,332

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2018

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 Presentation - The financial statements of The Grange Foundation have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ('US GAAP'). Which require to The Grange Foundation to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to the following net asset classifications:

Net assets without donor restrictions: Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of The Grange Foundation's management and the board of directors.

Net assets with donor restrictions: Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors, and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of The Grange Foundation or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, where by the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statements of activities.

Cash and cash equivalents – The Grange Foundation's cash consists of cash on deposit with banks. Cash equivalents represent money market funds or short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of purchases, except for those amounts that are held in the investment portfolio which are invested for long-term purposes.

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".

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2018

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Concentrations of credit risk – Financial instruments that potentially subject The Grange Foundation to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash and cash equivalents and investments. The Grange Foundation maintains its cash and cash equivalents in various bank accounts that, at times, may exceed federally insured limits. The Grange Foundation cash and cash equivalent accounts have been placed with high credit quality financial institutions. The Grange Foundation has not experienced, or does it anticipate, any losses with respect to such accounts.

Pledges receivable—Unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected within one year are recorded at net realizable value. Unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected in future years are recorded at the present value of their estimated future cash flows. The discounts on those amounts are computed using risk-adjusted interest rates applicable to the years in which to promises are received. Discount amortization is included in contribution revenue. Conditional promises to give are not included as support until the conditions are met.

As of December 31, 2018, The Grange Foundation's contributions receivable consisted of unconditional promises to give in the amount of \$2,871.

Due to/from related parties – Amounts reported as due to/from related parties, included in the accompanying statements of financial position, arise principally from the collaborative activities between The Grange Foundation to further the mission of the organization.

Property and equipment, Property and equipment are stated at cost at the date of purchase or, for donated assets, at fair value at the date of donation, less accumulated deprecation. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the lesser of the estimated useful lives of the assets or the lease term. The useful lives range from three to seven years. The Grange Foundation's policy is to capitalize renewals and betterments acquired for greater than \$5,000 and expense normal repairs and maintenance as incurred. The Grange Foundation's management periodically evaluates whether events or circumstances have occurred indicating that the carrying amount of long-lived assets may not be recovered.

Investments – Investments are reported at cost, if purchased, or at fair value, if donated. Thereafter, investments are reported at their fair values in the statements of financial position, and changes in fair value are reported as investment return in the statements of activities.

Purchases and sales of securities are reflected on a trade-date basis. Gains and losses on sales of securities are based on average cost and are recorded in the statements of activities in the period in which the securities are sold. Interest is recorded when earned. Dividends are accrued as of the ex-dividend date.

Fair value measurements – Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. Fair value should be based on the assumptions market participants would use when pricing an asset. US GAAP establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes investments based on those assumptions. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets (observable inputs) and the lowest priority to an entity's assumptions (unobservable inputs). The Grange Foundation groups assets at fair value in three levels, based on the markets in which the assets and liabilities are traded and the reliability of the assumptions used to determine fair value. These levels are:

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2018

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

- Level 1 Unadjusted quoted market prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets as of the measurement date.
- Level 2 Other observable inputs, either directly or indirectly, including:
- quoted prices for similar assets/liabilities in active markets;
 - Quoted prices for identical or similar assets in non-active markets;
 - Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset/liability; and,
 - Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by other observable market data.
- Level 3 Unobservable inputs that cannot be corroborated by observable market date.

Contributions – Contributions received are recorded as net assets without donor restrictions or net assets with donor restrictions, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor-imposed restrictions. Contributions that are restricted by the donor are reported as an increase in net assets without donor restrictions if the restriction expires in the reporting period in which the contribution is recognized. All other donor restricted contributions are reported as an increase in net assets with donor restrictions, depending on the nature or restriction. When a restriction expires (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statements of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Contributed property and equipment are recorded at fair value at the date of donation. Contributions with donor-imposed stipulations regarding how long the contributed assets must be used are recorded as net assets with donor restrictions; otherwise, the contributions are recorded as net assets without donor restrictions.

Functional Expenses – The costs of providing program and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities. Accordingly, costs have been allocated among the various programs and supporting services benefited. Such allocations of all costs are determined by management on an equitable basis.

Use of estimates – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with US GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Income taxes – The Grange Foundation is exempt from income tax under IRC section 501(C)(3), though it is subject to tax on income unrelated to its exempt purpose, unless that income is otherwise excluded by the Code. The Grange Foundation has processes presently in place to ensure the maintenance of its tax-exempt status; to identify and report unrelated income; to determine its filing and tax obligations in jurisdictions for which it has nexus; and to identify and evaluate other matters that may be considered tax positions. The Grange Foundation has determined that there are no material uncertain tax positions that require recognition or recognition or disclosure in the financial statements.

Reclassifications – Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

New Accounting Pronouncement – On August 18, 2016, FASB issued ASU 2016-14, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958) – *Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities*. The update addresses the complexity and understandability of net asset classification, deficiencies in information about liquidity and availability of resources, and the lack of consistency in the type of information provided about expenses and investment return. The Grange Foundation has adjusted the presentation of these statements accordingly. The ASU has been applied retrospectively to all periods presented.

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2018

NOTE 3 – AVAILABILITY AND LIQUIDITY

The following represents The Grange Foundation's financial assets at December 31, 2018 and 2017:

	2018	2017
Financial assets at year end:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 209,611	\$ 240,319
Contributions receivable	2,871	7,250
Total financial assets	212,482	247,569
Less amounts not available to be used within one year:		
Net assets with donor restrictions	168,507	113,166
Less net assets with purpose restrictions to be met in Less than a year		
Quasi endowment established by the board	91,062	91,062
	259,569	204,228
Financial assets available to meet general expenditures Over the next twelve months	\$ (47,087)	\$ 43,341

As part of its liquidity plan, excess cash is invested in short-term investments, including money market accounts and certificates of deposit.

NOTE 4 -- NET ASSETS

Net assets with donor restrictions were as follows for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017

	2018	2017
Specific Purpose Program service	\$ 168,507	\$ 113,166

Net assets without donor restrictions for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 are as follows:

	2018	2017
Undesignated	\$ 142,345	\$ 139,320
Quasi endowment	91,062	91,062
	\$ 233,407	\$ 230,382

Net assets released from net assets with donor restrictions are as follows:

	2018	2017
Satisfaction of Purpose Restrictions Program service	\$ 35,954	\$ 438,138

NOTE 5 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Grange Foundation has evaluated subsequent events through October 04, 2019, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. The Grange Foundation is not aware of any material subsequent events.

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NATIONAL GRANGE

Founded in 1867 as the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, we proudly serve as America's oldest agricultural advocacy organization with deeply held nonpartisan ideals.

We are headquartered at the historic National Grange Building at 1616 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20006.

However, the heart of the Grange is located in the more than 1,600 communities in which local Grange chapters operate today. Our nearly 150,000 fraternal members initiate policy resolutions through a grassroots process and advocate for issues of importance to themselves and their neighbors. In addition, they serve as part of the social safety net and network that improves the quality of life for those living in rural America or following agricultural pursuits.

We welcome you to learn more about the Grange at nationalgrange.org or by visiting a local Grange meeting.