



# GRANGER

Volume 2019  
Issue 1

*The Official News Source for the California State Grange*

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

## Special Edition Convention 2019



Your 2019 Acting Officers & 6th Degree Team—Pictured Left to Right: Katie Squire, Martha Stefenoni, Vince Scholten, Jini Reynolds, Lillian Booth, Steven Hood, Suzi Laskowski, Christina Webster, Ellie Bruce, Barbara Geiger, Emily Casterson, Erica Kroesen, Lauren Linkemeyer, Kent Westwood, Jan Saxton, Iona Westwood & Robert Clouse

# THE CALIFORNIA

The California State Grange held its 144th Annual Session at the Rincon Valley Grange Hall from October 12th to October 15th of 2019.

47 Resolutions were presented to the delegate body, 34 of which were adopted.

In the course of developing this newsletter our Worthy Master, Kent Westwood underwent brain surgery to correct an aneurysm. As of this moment, he is in the care of his medical team and is recovering well.

Any who desire to send their support are welcome to use the California State Grange HQ address at: 3830 U St—Sacramento, CA 95817

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Vice President & interim Acting President	<b>Jan Saxton</b>
Secretary	<b>Lillian Booth</b>
Treasurer	<b>Christina Webster</b>
Director	<b>Will Shaw</b>
Director	<b>Erica Kroesen</b>
Director	<b>Martha Stefenoni</b>
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Gatekeeper	<b>Jini Reynolds</b>
Steward	<b>Vince Scholten</b>
Asst. Steward	<b>Brandon Nebitt</b>
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Flora	<b>Emily Casteron</b>
Pomona	<b>Lauren Linkemeyer</b>
Ceres	<b>Ellie Bruce</b>
Musician	<b>Wendy deWitt</b>

## The California Granger

The California Granger is the Official Publication of the California State Grange. A chartered division of the National Grange, and the only State Grange in California.

### Editorial Team

Christina Webster  
Lanny Cotler  
Buzz Chernoff  
Ellen Taylor

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

## Photo Credits

Thanks to Christina Webster for Convention Photos.

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## Directors

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<b>Reggie Corrella</b>	
<b>Will Shaw</b>	
<b>Dwight Winegar</b>	
<b>Steven Hood</b>	
<b>Mitch Clouse</b>	

## Visit Us On Facebook

Yes we have a Facebook page. It can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/CA-State-Grange-505899899548184> or find the link on our webpage at [www.castategrange.org](http://www.castategrange.org)

## Visit us on the Web

**California State Grange:**  
<http://www.CAStateGrange.org>

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

## Is It Official?



Official Grange Logo, as shown to the left, should appear on all official Grange communications, be they printed, emailed or on the website.

## President's Message

Kent Westwood, State President

The California State Grange just had its 144th Annual Convention. It was terrific. We all knew why we were there, and we rose to the occasion. I feel it's important for you to know about it, and why it was important.



Kent Westwood  
State President

Just before the Convention 20 Grangers gathered at our offices in Sacto for an all-day Strategic Planning Workshop. We brought in professional facilitator, Brian Weller, (a member of Little Lake Grange, Willits) to lead

us through a lot of strategizing territory in seven hours. It was amazing. We learned a lot about how we saw the future of our beloved Grange. Basically, we asked four questions:

- What is the Grange's ROLE in current culture?
- How can the Grange make itself more RELEVANT today?
- How does the Grange RECRUIT younger generations of membership?
- How does the Grange preserve its RITUAL?

Brian then came to the Convention to share the highlights and importance of our strategic planning work. The delegates were immediately engaged. Brian and the Workshop participants were given a standing ovation. I've invited Brian onto these pages for a further distillation. Let us know if it helps you and how it stimulates discussion and action at the community level.

A few other highlights:

First place at our talent show went to a colorful, entrancing troupe of Mexican dancers from a sister Grange in Nevada.

Our Fifth and Sixth Degree exemplifications touched me with insights about how sacred our

*Continued on Page 10*

## Overseer's Station

Jan Saxton, Overseer  
& Interim Acting President

I'm writing this from the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington, Minnesota, anticipating the first day of the 2019 National Grange convention. Our Gatekeeper, Jini Reynolds, and I are proud to be here representing California, but our thoughts are always with Master Kent and our wishes for his complete and speedy recovery.



Jan Saxton  
Overseer

Kent's personal style, which includes much warmth and humor, set the tone for our convention in Santa Rosa. Despite the relaxed atmosphere, we got a lot of work done, enjoyed great food, hugged new friends and old ones, and learned a lot, thanks to a series of excellent speakers. I left the convention feeling hopeful about the future of the Grange in California and excited about getting out in the field more, making personal visits to more Granges. I'm very much looking forward to doing just that and I will be stepping up the pace until Kent is fully recovered and back on the job. Until then, the focus is on getting to work in our local and Pomona Granges and putting what we learned into action.

The California Grange is healing, with many of our brothers and sisters continuing to come back into good standing. Our deputies are ready to assist wherever they are needed. The biggest legal battles have been won, but Jini reminds me that several local Granges are still in the struggle. The CSG will continue to support their efforts and retrieve all of our Grange property. We look forward to the day when we are one organization again and we can get back to doing what we do best—Granger on!

## Legal Update—Jeff Skinner

Jeff Skinner, the California State Grange's general counsel, came from his office in Washington, D.C. to present and take questions on the status of the various legal actions involving the California State Grange and the Guild.

He began by saying that he had good news for the delegate body, and indeed he did. He told us that the California State Grange and the National Grange had just reached an agreement with the California Guild on the language of a settlement agreement resolving all lawsuits involving the property of the California State Grange. Under that settlement:

- The Guild's insurance company will pay the Grange \$3,050,000 – to be split evenly between the California State Grange and the National Grange (\$1,525,000 each).
- Judgments will be entered in the state and federal courts that, among other things, return control of the California State Grange's non-profit corporation created in 1946 to the California State Grange.
- The judgments also prohibit the Guild from claiming to have been authorized to control the 1946 corporation at any point after the revocation of the California State Grange's Charter on April 5, 2013, and order the California Secretary of State to remove the unauthorized amendments made to the 1946 corporation's articles of incorporation by the Guild.

In return, the Grange will dismiss all lawsuits against the California Guild and its officers and release all claims against any Guild party relating to the California State Grange's property. Jeff said that all parties are expected to sign the agreement shortly, and that he expects the settlement payment will be made and the judgments entered by mid-November.

The result of this settlement will be the end to all the litigation against the California Guild that has raged since 2012. Jeff pointed out that the settlement agreement expressly does not apply to claims involving Subordinate Grange property. The lawsuits involving such property taken by the Guild shall continue.



Jeff went on to summarize the status of the various lawsuits involving Subordinate Grange property. The Grange already has moved for summary judgment in two of those cases (Bennett Valley Grange and Marshall Grange), and both motions should be heard early in 2020. A motion for summary judgment may be made by a party to ask the judge to enter judgment in its favor when the undisputed evidence shows that it will prevail. The key evidence in all Subordinate Grange cases – the deeds to the property, the rules of

the National Grange, California State Grange, and the Subordinate Grange – are undisputed, and the California State Grange is hopeful that it will prevail on summary judgment in all such cases.

Two other lawsuits (Fort Bragg Grange and Redwood Valley Grange) are in discovery and the Grange will be moving for summary judgment in these cases shortly. Since June of this year, the California State Grange has filed lawsuits to recover the property of approximately one dozen Subordinate Granges from local groups affiliated with the Guild. So far, two of the local Guild groups have returned the Subordinate Grange property in their possession. Four other local Guild groups have expressed interest in reorganizing the Subordinate Grange at issue and returning it to good standing in the Order; they are working out the details with the California State Grange.

## Guest: Trathen Heckman

### Daily Acts

Trathen has found a miraculous source of energy. It's apathy, and he composts it. Apathy contains a myriad of nutrients, like a black hole, but, when composted, it explodes and brings everything to life. He spoke at the 2019 Grange Convention and brought all of us to life too.



Trathen lives in Petaluma, a city of 62,000. It's become a very active city, with an energetic City Council thanks to groups like Daily Acts, founded by Trathen. In May the city declared a Climate Emergency and has mobilized the population to create projects addressing climate breakdown, such as urban gardens, trails and grey water systems, rainwater harvesting receptacles and solar panels, conversion of abandoned lots into green oases, and all with accountability for completion. He's been at it for 20 years and has catalyzed hundreds of "resilient communities" around the world.



He described what he intended by "Daily Acts" which he performs every day: the creation of some project which brings joy, beauty and improves the world. "Repetitions" lead to "transformation", as in all learning processes, but daily acts are intended to transform the world.

In his first year at this, he inspired 628 gardens. This year the tally was 100,000. The desired effect is to make all communities resilient in the context of climate change. Trathen even had suggestions for recruiting unlikely allies.

He's aware of the magnitude of the threat, and all the brutal facts. The CO2 concentration is at 417 ppm. 12 billion tons of ice melted this year, 50 years ahead of what had been predicted. But he is undaunted thanks to the "regenerative hedonism" produced by his composted apathy. He is presently helping Kincadee Fire refugees, just as he helped and housed Camp Fire Survivors.

He expects no less from the Grange, and his inspiration is perfect for us, especially urban Granges. "Put the public wind in the private sails!" he urged, as he invited us all to come and visit him in Petaluma.

## Legislative Work

Grange roots run deep in the soil of American justice. Established by small farmers suffering from the abuses of monopolies, today's Grange continues bringing issues to the state capital that protect the rights and values of rural Californians. In this last Legislature session, your Resolutions, democratically adopted at annual conventions, provided guidance to the Legislative Committee. We successfully supported two bills: SB 153 Legalizing Hemp farming, providing help to small farmers throughout the state and AB 857 which establishes public banks so the profits and services accrue to the public and not monopolist financial institutions.



Michael Evenson,  
Legislative Director

Beginning only in late March, we supported 10 pieces of legislation, worked with legislators on 7 of them, and saw the two cited above signed into law by the Governor in September.

Developing the program from scratch to implement Grange Policy led us to form partnerships with others having similar goals. These alliances will strengthen our work in the future. In 2020 we expect to be more engaged in Sacramento and will reach out to fellow members to participate in turning Grange Policy into State Law.

The Resolution process drives our Policy. Please consider attending annual conventions so that you, too, can have your voice magnified by being part of this effort. All California Grangers can participate in shaping the society we all desire to live in.

## **Policies adopted at 144th Annual Session**

### **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE DELEGATES TO THE 2019 CALIFORNIA STATE GRANGE CONVENTION**

In these pages, you will find a listing of all the resolutions approved by the delegate body at the 2019 Annual California State Grange Convention. They will be added to the California State Grange Legislative Policy Handbook. They are organized by committee, with the title followed by the resolved.

#### **AGRICULTURE & WATER**

##### **NUTRIA**

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange shall lobby and go on record with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in favor of easing all restrictions on the hunting and trapping of Nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), and be it further;

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange shall lobby and go on record with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in favor of establishing a bounty program with the express intent of full removal of Nutria from within the state of California.

##### **NEONICOTINOIDS**

RESOLVED: That California State Grange will form an action team to educate the public and Subordinate Granges about the threat of neonicotinoids and advocate for a ban similar to one adopted by the European Union; and be it further

RESOLVED: That until a ban is in place that the California State Grange support measures to restrict the sale of nursery plants and seeds that have been treated with neonicotinoids making sure that these plants are clearly labeled with the danger of exposure to bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Such labeling shall also be placed on household garden products sold to the public that contain neonicotinoids.

##### **NORTH AMERICAN WILD HORSE STATUS**

RESOLVED: The California State 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; and be it further,

RESOLVED: The California State Grange request that the National Grange adopt a similar policy.

##### **HEMP FOR PERSONAL USE**

RESOLVED: That hemp grown for personal consumption or use shall be exempt from the yearly \$800 agriculture department registration fee.

##### **ADMINISTRATION OF FAIRS**

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange will lobby the legislature to ensure that people appointed to serve on fair boards represent agricultural interests.

##### **CULTIVATION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP**

RESOLVED: The California State Grange amend its public policy on Industrial Hemp as follows, "California State Grange supports the cultivation of industrial hemp, as defined under the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 as hemp plants having no more than 0.3% Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content", and be it further;

RESOLVED: That upon adoption by the California State Grange, this resolution be sent to the National Grange for its consideration.

##### **RECLASSIFICATION OF MARIJUANA (CANNABIS)**

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange supports the removal of marijuana (cannabis) from the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (USDEA) Schedule I classification, and be it further;

RESOLVED: That upon adoption, the California State Grange forward this resolution to the National Grange for consideration.

##### **LABOR, JUDICIARY & TRANSPORTATION**

###### **ACCESS TO CALIFORNIA STATE BEACHES**

RESOLVED: The California State Grange be in favor of California State legislation, ballot initiatives or propositions that limit or remove the authority of the California Coastal Commission to restrict use or access of California's public beaches when those beaches are already administered by an appropriate land management agency.

**LABOR, JUDICIARY & TRANSPORTATION  
(cont'd)**

**BROADBAND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT  
IN RAILWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

RESOLVED: The California State Grange (CSG) support and/or sponsor legislation allowing broadband providers to install appropriately sited and approved broadband communications equipment within existing and future rural railway rights-of-way; And be it further,  
RESOLVED: The CSG request the National Grange adopt this resolution.

**SPEED LIMIT SIGNAGE**

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange pursue legislation that would implement speed limit signage within 50 to 100 yards of entering a freeway or highway on-ramp; and be it further  
RESOLVED: That upon adoption by the California State Grange, the California State Grange shall submit this resolution to the National Grange.

**AUDIT & BUDGET**

**CALIFORNIA STATE GRANGE FOUNDATION  
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

*This is a large text document - please request a full copy if needed*

**COMPENSATION FOR ADDITIONAL DUTIES –  
STATE SECRETARY**

RESOLVED: That the compensation of the current State Secretary be increased an additional \$1,500 per month for these additional duties, and be it further  
RESOLVED: That is additional compensation be back-dated to November 15th, 2018, and be it further  
RESOLVED: That this additional compensation shall end when the additional duties end.

**TREASURER – ADDITIONAL DUTIES  
COMPENSATION**

RESOLVED: That the Board of Directors of the California State Grange be directed to increase the compensation of the currently elected Treasurer from zero to \$7,200, per annum, effective as of October 1, 2019.

**RESTRICTED FUNDS OF THE CALIFORNIA  
STATE GRANGE**

RESOLVED: That the Restricted Funds returned to the California State Grange control in the amount \$328,993.31 be used for Membership and Leadership Development and apportioned as follows:  
Youth/Junior/Youth Fair Program \$20,000.00  
Grange Expo \$ 10,000.00  
Convention Supplies & Equipment \$ 5,000.00  
Membership Development \$293,993.31

**INVESTMENTS**

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange develop an investment policy within the next year that incorporates socially responsible investments that support the mission and policies of the California State Grange.

**CONSERVATION**

**SPECIES SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE EXTINCTION**

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange supports all legal efforts on the part of governments, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and other groups and individuals to modify the human-generated activities which have made survival for endangered and threatened species more difficult, in order that we may recover the biodiversity so essential to the survival of life on earth, and be it further  
RESOLVED: That the California State Grange bring this resolution to the National Grange for adoption.

**ELIMINATE PLASTIC FROM THE ENVIRONMENT**

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange supports efforts by local Granges, the public, and individuals as well as by the California Legislature and Congress to take action to (1) reduce the production of single-use plastic items and to (2) eliminate plastic materials from entering the Waste Stream, and be it further  
RESOLVED: That, upon adoption by the California State Grange, that the California State Grange bring this resolution to the National Grange for adoption so that the National Grange will actively lobby Congress to support the effort to eliminate plastics from entering the Waste Stream.

## 144th Annual Session Photos



5th Degree Team, captained by Steven Hood. The Court of Pomona was comprised (with one Junior Granger exception) of sisters who previously



**Talent Show:** Our Best of Show winners and their project leader Elizabeth Medina. These Juniors from Fallon, NV were selected to represent the California State Grange at the National Session in Minneapolis, Minnesota this year. This talent group of ladies studies their Mexican heritage as part of the Youth Fair Project.



Court of Flora



Did you take pictures at Convention too? We'd love to see them!

**#CSG144Session**

Tag them on facebook & Instagram, or email to: [cwebster@castategrange.org](mailto:cwebster@castategrange.org)





## 144th Annual Session Photos



Grange Expo was a huge success this year with a wide variety of entries from home canned jams, photography & paintings, collections, all manner of fiber crafts, and even a pickup truck



**President's Message – continued from page 3.**

relationship to Earth and the land are. On Sunday we got down to working on resolutions. I was particularly impressed with our work on "getting single use plastic out of the waste stream" and on "banning neonicotinoids.

We were thrilled to announce the re-establishing of our 501(c)3 Foundation, which will allow community Granges to manage grant money and give out scholarships.

The Convention was a healing, an expression of true fraternity, and an opportunity for California to innovate, renew, and move into a future that is rapidly changing and coming at us quickly.

**Legal Update – continued from page 4.**

Only two of the local Guild groups have demonstrated an intention to fight the lawsuits to date. Within the next few months, the California State Grange expects to file motions for summary judgments in these cases as well as any other Subordinate Grange cases where the property is not voluntarily returned. Jeff explained that the decision in the California Court of Appeal's Grange-Guild litigation from 2017 will be decisive in the lawsuits involving Subordinate Grange property. The Grange rules at issue are essentially identical and the governing legal principles are exactly the same. Accordingly, the California State Grange expects to prevail in all these cases, and in relatively quick fashion.

Jeff concluded by thanking the delegate body and all members of the California State Grange for their faith and perseverance in supporting the California State Grange's efforts to achieve a very favorable conclusion to the litigation with the California Guild. Although more lawsuits remain to recover the Subordinate Grange property taken by the Guild, there is every reason to

be confident that the California State Grange will be similarly successful in those cases, and that the property will be recovered in much less time than was the case with the California State Grange's property.



**Policies adopted at  
144th Annual Session**

**CITIZENSHIP & TAXATION**

**FEDERAL BUDGET PROCESS ENFORCED VIA  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

RESOLVED: The California State Grange revise its public policy to support an Article 5 amendment to the US 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; and be it further,

RESOLVED: The California State Grange request that the National Grange adopt a similar policy.

**FRRA and FOIA Requests**

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange is in favor of the Federal Records Retention Act rules and regulations and Freedom of Information Act requests for those records applying to all elected positions, as well as all professional congressional staff at both the State and Federal level, and be it further;

RESOLVED: The California State Grange request the National Grange to adopt a similar policy.

**CITIZENSHIP & TAXATION (Cont'd)**

**FIRE INSURANCE**

RESOLVED: The California State Grange initiate and support legislation:

1. protecting homeowners from arbitrary and unjustified rate increases from insurance companies;
2. making the risk models used by insurance companies in rating or underwriting to set "fireline" scores transparent and disclosed to the public;
3. requiring insurance companies to give premium discounts to homeowners who make investments in hardening their home from wildfires;
4. enacting a strict consumer protection standard for non-renewals by prohibiting insurance companies from non-renewing policyholders whose circumstances have not changed; and
5. requiring insurance companies to obtain approval from the insurance commissioner before they can reduce the volume of policies in a given area.

**EDUCATION AND HEALTH**

**FREE HIGHER EDUCATION FOR CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS**

RESOLVED The California State Grange supports and lobbies for California's return to its historic policy of using public funds to provide free admission and tuition to all California residents to public State higher education systems, encompassing community colleges, California State University, and University of California institutions.

**THE CALIFORNIA STATE GRANGE AND ITS SUBORDINATE GRANGES AND GRANGE MEMBERS REGISTER AND PARTICIPATE IN THE GREAT CALIFORNIA SHAKE-OUT.**

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange supports and promotes the Great Shakeout program and encourages local Granges, State Granges, and Grange members and their families to participate in and register for the annual Great Shakeout on their website <https://www.shakeout.org/register/>.

**THE CALIFORNIA STATE GRANGE AND ITS SUBORDINATE GRANGES AND GRANGE MEMBERS REGISTER AND PARTICIPATE IN THE TSUNAMI EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND WHERE APPROPRIATE TSUNAMI EVACUATION DRILLS.**

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange shall educate our membership about the "Know Your Zone" tsunami awareness message and encourages local Granges, Grange members and their families to utilize the website, TsunamiZone.org, to educate themselves and their communities, and to participate in local and regional educational efforts and drills regarding tsunamis and tsunami zones.

**GRANGE LAW/GRANGE GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT**

**HONORING RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY IN THE GRANGE**

RESOLVED: That paragraph 11.8.3 of the Digest of Laws be modified from "All Granges shall have the Bible open on the altar and the flag of the United States of America properly displayed in the Grange meeting room" to "All Granges shall have the bible open on the altar. Other books of faith may be included if a Grange so chooses. The flag of the United States of America shall be properly displayed in the Grange meeting room".

**AMEND SECTION 4.3.5 (B) OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE DIGEST OF LAWS**

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 re-organized by thirteen or more persons, of which there shall not be less than four of either sex.

**GRANGE LAW/GRANGE GROWTH  
& DEVELOPMENT (Cont'd)**

**AMMEND ARTICLE VI—BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SECTION 2**

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange By-Laws Article VI, Section 2 be amended by deleting the word "initial" in the first sentence, and by adding the words "the Treasurer", after the word "Secretary", to read as follows:

"Article VI – Board of Directors  
Section 2. Number, Manner

6.2.1 Number – The number of the directors shall be the Master, the Overseer, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the officers elected as Executive Committee. The number of Directors may be changed to no more than nine (9) or less than three (3) by an amendment to these By-laws, but such an amendment shall not affect the tenure of office of any directors then in office, except as provided in Section 4 of this Article VI. Directors shall be natural persons and must be residents of the State of California."

**AMEND ARTICLE IV ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE FORM OF BY-LAWS FOR SUBORDINATE/COMMUNITY GRANGES**

RESOLVED: That the California State Suggested Form of By-Laws for Subordinate/ Community Granges amend Article IV Membership to add a new Section 3, that shall read:

Section 3. Election to Membership

4.3.1 Election to membership shall be at a regular meeting at which a quorum is present. It may be made by paper ballot ("Yes" for acceptance -- "No" for rejection), election to membership will be made by a majority of the paper ballots cast. The conventional method of ballot box using balls and cubes may be used in place of a paper ballot.

4.3.2 Collective balloting may be used with classes of two or more candidates where the first ballot shall be cast for the group as a whole. In the event the class receives less than a majority of votes, the ballot must be taken on each candidate separately.

**AMEND SECTION 4.6.10 (A) OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE DIGEST OF LAWS**

RESOLVED: That section 4.6.10 (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 only in times of emergency or immediate 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.

**REVIEW & REVISION OF FIRST FOUR DEGREES**

RESOLVED: That the National Grange Master/ President appoint a committee to review the language of the First, Second, Third and Fourth Degrees, as well as the general aspects of the presentation of the degrees, and be it further;

RESOLVED: That this committee consist of representatives from the National Grange membership, youth and communications departments, as well as one representative from each region, and be it finally;

RESOLVED: That this committee will report back to the 2020 National Grange Convention with recommendations to be considered by the National Grange delegates and the Assembly of Demeter.

**GRANGE LAW/GRANGE GROWTH  
& DEVELOPMENT (Cont'd)**

**AUTHORITY TO CLOSE OUT A CONSTITUENT  
GRANGE AMEND ARTICLE VI, ADDING SEC-  
TION 6.1.3**

RESOLVED: That Article VI of the By-Laws of the California State Grange be amended by adding a new Section 6.1.3 to read as follows:

6.1.3 Additional Duties. If a constituent Grange shall become inactive, or have its charter revoked, and does not properly wind up its financial and corporate obligations, the Board of directors of the California State Grange shall assume the role of corporate officers and be charged with the duty to:

- (a) Discharge any and all of its financial obligations;
- (b) Dispose of the personal property;
- (c) Dispose of all real property;
- (d) Wind up and close out the corporation.

The exercise of these additional duties shall be within the bounds of the by-laws of the California State Grange and the National Grange.

**PRESERVATION OF OUR GRANGE RECORDS**

RESOLVED: That up to five percent (5%) Custodial Funds reverted to the California State Grange may be used, at the direction of the Board of Directors, for the preservation of Grange records in digital format, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the priority for this preservation shall be as follows;

1. Existing microfilm, if still available;
2. Antique trunk in the Master's Office, containing historical records from the formation of the California State Grange;
3. Journals of Proceedings;
4. Rosters;
5. Grange News bound book and existing paper publications;
6. Records of Subordinate/Community and Pomona Granges, starting with existing active Granges, then the records of revoked Granges;
7. Other records deemed to have historical importance to our organization.

**RESOLUTION GRANTING LIMITED AU-  
THORITY TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

RESOLVED: That, upon entry of the stipulated judgments in connection with the settlement between the Grange and the California Guild, the Delegates of the 144th Annual Session of the California State Grange (2019) hereby authorize the Board of Directors with the limited authority to make certain changes, if necessary, including, but not limited to, the following; filings with the Secretary of State; filings with the Franchise Tax Board; filings with the Internal Revenue Service; By-Laws of the California State Grange; property deeds; bank accounts; investment accounts; and to take the appropriate actions to merge or dissolve the corporations controlled by the California State Grange. And be it further

RESOLVED: That the Board of Directors shall not alter these documents beyond making necessary changes to conform to this resolution. And be it further

RESOLVED: That the Board of Directors shall report in detail the actions taken to comply with this resolution at the 145th Annual Session (2020).

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENT OF  
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FOR THE  
1946 CORPORATION**

RESOLVED: That the Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation for the 1946 Corporation attached hereto is approved by vote of the Delegates of the California State Grange; and be it further 6

RESOLVED: That the Master and Secretary of the California State Grange 70 shall sign the Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation for the 1946 Corporation attached hereto and cause the same to be filed promptly with the California Secretary of State.

(#2019-009)

**GRANGE LAW/GRANGE GROWTH  
& DEVELOPMENT (Cont'd)**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FOR THE 1946 CORPORATION**

RESOLVED: That the Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation for the 1946 Corporation attached hereto is approved by vote of the Delegates of the California State Grange to be filed if the Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation approved pursuant to Resolution Number 2019-009 is rejected by the Secretary of State; and be it further

RESOLVED: That, if the Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation approved pursuant to Resolution Number 2019-009 is rejected by the Secretary of State, the Master and Secretary of the California State Grange shall sign the Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation for the 1946 Corporation attached hereto and cause the same to be filed promptly with the California Secretary of State. (#2019-010)

**RESOLUTION TO REDEFINE WHAT IS A FAMILY FOR THE PURPOSES OF FAMILY MEMBERSHIP**

RESOLVED: That section 4.6.6 of the National Grange Digest of Laws be amended to read: 4.6.6 Subordinate Granges – Family Membership – A family whose members are 14 years of age (thirteen years and six months or more) with an interest in the purposes of the Order may be proposed for membership in a Subordinate Grange as follows:

(A) The process of election to membership and becoming a full member for all members of the family shall be the same as for an individual.

(B) A family is a group of two or more people and shall consist of a couple and their dependents, or a single person and their dependents.

(C) Dependents who are absent due to illness, education or military service and legal dependents of over 14 years of age (thirteen years and six months or more) shall be considered part of their legal guardians' family.

(D) At such time as a member no longer qualifies as a dependent or becomes a single member the status of the member shall be as an individual with no interruption of their membership.

Well done, good and faithful servants! You spotted opportunities for change in your community, Granges, State, Nation and even the world. You took those ideas, put pen to paper and worked with members of your Grange to develop a statement for the delegates at our annual session to further discuss and develop. The resolves on these pages have been adopted and are now part of the Legislative Policy Handbook of the California State Grange. Michael Evenson can and will continue to keep these policies in mind when working with our Lobbyist Michael Greene to ensure your lawmakers hear your voice, made stronger by the backing of the Grange.

We look forward to seeing how you put these policies along with the others in our policy handbook to work in your community too.

## Guest: Emily Luscombe

### Sustainability in the Face of Climate Change

In recent years the indigenous people of the world have been taking a leadership role in the world struggle against environmental collapse. On an international level it was the nations of Bolivia and Ecuador which articulated the Rights of Mother Earth, included their documentation into their Constitutions and brought them before the United Nations. In the Arctic, it is the Inupiaks, Saamis and Inuits who are most active, and indigenous people of Brazil defend the rainforest. In the US, the tribes have been militant about pipeline expansion.

Emily Luscombe, our first speaker at the 2019 convention in Santa Rosa, also represents a tribe, the Cahtos, where she is Environmental Director. She's also worked with the Coyote Valley Band. Both are Pomo peoples, local to the Eel River Valley bioregion and beyond, but with very different languages. With Emily these tribes are on the leading edge of waste management, which is critical to "Sustainability in the Age of Climate Change", the subject of her talk.

Emily discussed both solid wastes and water quality. Neither problem is under control in this country. There are energy impacts and associated greenhouse gas emissions at all stages of waste disposal. China no longer takes our solid wastes for recycling, which means a larger waste stream to dispose of in landfills. This has discouraged people from sorting their wastes, as was demonstrated at the convention by mixed waste containers of paper, plastic and food scraps.

As a result, we have a 1.6 million kilometer vortex in the middle of the Pacific, children who are born and raised in garbage heaps, fish and marine mammals who starve to death because their



bellies are stuffed with plastic, and tiny plastic particles in our own blood streams.

We have learned to treat waste water so that it is fairly sterile. However removing chemicals, especially new ones, and pharmaceuticals is more difficult. Waste water around some big cities is heavily contaminated with antidepressants and birth control chemicals. The sediments on the floors of water bodies are now quite toxic.

These are all Grange issues. Oliver Kelley, John McDowell, backed by Flora, Pomona and Ceres, would be on it. Our California Grange resolutions however, are a mixed bag. We support Integrated Pest Management(1988) which means agricultural use of chemicals. We also support organic farming. We support reuse and recycling. In 2000, we promised to initiate a program to clean up water ("safe drinking water is more important than profit").

Emily brought up vitally important issues from the standpoint of sustainability. We need to take a cue from her and from the indigenous tribes, and 1) go through our Resolutions Handbook, pulling out what we don't want to back any more, and 2) get our lobbyist to bring sustainability issues to our legislators.

It was a beautifully delivered lecture. Best of all, she is the daughter of our own Grange Master Kent Westwood so we can be especially proud of her!

# Grange Poem for Lillian

By Ellen Taylor

Last month, in Chico, cameras caught  
A scene in Raley's parking lot  
Inspiring viewers to extol  
The beauty of the human soul.

A group had gathered: all were taut  
With sensed injustice, wronged, distraught  
And waiting, with grim words, to meet  
The emissary of their defeat.

With sorrowful heart,  
    though head unbowed  
Lillian approached the crowd  
To take, in legal, signed exchange  
The keys to the De Sabla Grange.

Now, pillar of (since early date)  
The Grange of California State,  
Lillian loved De Sablans well  
And with them faced a fiery Hell:

When Climate Chaos rolled the dice,  
Megalia, Concow, Paradise  
Burned, and the flames took all they knew,  
Their homes, their jobs, their families too.

De Sabla Grange had been the place  
Which helped them shake off this disgrace;  
They'd forged strong bonds,  
    and worked in teams  
To plant new gardens, hopes and dreams.

Lillian read the crowd's dismay:  
They thought she'd take their Hall away!  
They did not know that to Restore  
Was what the Grange was founded for.

Questions, accusations blazed  
But, as she answered, hopes were raised:  
As Camp Fire survivor, too  
She knew the suffering they'd been  
through.

For failures she apologized,  
Their bravery she eulogized  
Regardless of what they had been told  
De Sabla Grange would not be sold.

Their misconceptions were too great.  
She knew they'd need another date:  
They could not grasp the concept focal  
That Grange ownership is local.

Lillian's gentleness and calm  
On their hardships laid a balm.  
The Grange, distrusted as before;  
Of Lillian, they wanted more.

"Let's be the first Guild/Grange," she said  
"To end the feud: rebuild instead.  
Let's repair what's come to pass:  
'In omnibus' find 'caritas'\*."

Relief spread on each listener's face  
And one came close for an embrace.  
Then there were handshakes, smile ex-  
change  
In fellowship of Guild and Grange.

A noble moment YouTube caught  
That day in Raley's parking lot!  
A glimpse of constancy and truth,  
Courtesy of Lillian Booth.

\* In all things, charity



144th Annual Session Photos



## 144th Annual Session Photos



Certificates given to representatives of various Granges for recognition of membership gains, and years of Grange Charters in service.



## **Fostering Grange Sustainability**

by Brian Weller

*cognitive science, strategic facilitator and organizational development specialist*



In late August, Lanny Cotler and Kent Westwood invited me to run a one day strategic planning workshop in Sacramento to explore the future of the State Grange. We decided on the theme of RENEWAL.

On September 28th, I was joined by twenty Grange luminaries from across the State. In the morning session, we thought deeply about how the Grange can once again become relevant to the pressing needs of our time and our young people by re-imagining our role, building our recruitment and increasing our revenues to better serve our visionary purpose. As nature shows us, renewal is a seasonal cycle and this is a perfect metaphor for our organizational renewal and our purpose: to cultivate and advocate for the health of the nation by serving, stewarding and teaching the virtues of the land to our children and community.

In this, our elders have a special role to play. For the Grange to thrive into the future and fulfill its perennial vision they must recruit younger folk like the Millennials and Generation Z. By finding out the challenges they face, their aspirations and the causes they believe in, we can open a dialogue that will renew the Grange and build memberships and new affiliations.

A question that has been asked in recent times concerns our rituals. Are they still relevant? In my view, the answer is a resounding yes. Just a cursory glance at the most successful games and movies of our time, reveals that ritual, ceremony and symbolism are alive and well in our culture. Every generation searches for spiritual

meaning through stories and legends. The roots of the Grange are in its rituals. It has a legendary story to tell and we must get way better at telling it in a way that excites, enrolls and engages each generation.

In the afternoon session, we broke into four working teams. The purpose was to address some important questions that had been raised during a recent pre-workshop meeting in Sebastopol. These covered:

- Communications—upgrading our website and our social media presence
- Business and Finance—rethinking our investments, banking needs, and the work of the Head office
- Legislative action—grassroots lobbying
- Our Fraternal Work

I was delighted with the team work, and Christina Webster has compiled a comprehensive summary of the recommended action steps for those who want to learn more about our Workshop.

Most recently, during a keynote presentation at our Convention, I summarized our strategic work for our Annual delegates. It was a moving experience for me. The passion and the quality of participation from the delegates showed me that the Grange is alive and ready for RENEWAL. As the miracle of the heavy rainfall in Death Valley during the winter of 2004 revealed, the following spring brought super-blooms and golden flowers that carpeted the valley. All it took was for the roots to be watered. I can't think of a better metaphor for the future of our beloved Grange.

"As above so below"

The Grange, like the country, like the planet, is at a critical point in its long history. We think we're at a make-it or break-it moment. It's time to become inventive and come up with new ways of telling our story and increasing our membership rolls. The alternative of changing nothing is not acceptable. This path could well lead to the Grange becoming just one more of the many fraternities that once flourished in the 19th century and are now just a memory in the pages of a history book.

The Grange had a mission when it began over 150 years ago. And though times and technologies have changed, there are still those who want to take care of the land and farm. As Grangers, we call it "Our Gift". One hundred and fifty years ago it was the railroads, corporations and other monopolies who, out of greed, made life extremely difficult for the farmer. At the time, all the farmers wanted was to provide healthy food from healthy soil for their families and communities. This is our heritage. This is our mission.

Can we turn things around and watch the Grange prosper? We think we can. We need to use some of the strategies discussed by Brian Weller to modify our message to better address the needs of the next generations, the Millennials and Gen Z. These folks represent the future of the Grange as well as the country and the planet. They are the ones who will perpetuate our work and become the custodians of our Great Halls.

In drafting this Convention recap, we hope we have taken the first step towards a Grange renewal where timely and informative communications are the norm. Armed with the information in this edition, you have the knowledge to discuss the legal status of the Grange Guild troubles, the Granges concern with the climate crisis as discussed by Trathen Heckman and Emily Luscombe, the importance of strategic planning as talked about by Brian Weller, and the scope of resolutions that passed which have become part of the California State Grange Policy. There is a lot to be proud of, we just have to know about it. And that's where your help comes in. The relevance of this magazine is dependent on input from you. We need folks to take pictures, write stories about their Grange's achievements, write articles on relevant topics, provide poems or cartoons or graphics that will appeal to Grangers of differing ages, or come up with suggestions on content. If you are interested, please contact one of the Editorial Board members. We will be contacting individuals and putting out additional calls for content. Together we can make it happen.

It is time to renew ourselves and our commitments to the Grange. They are right there in the heart of our Mission Statement:

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