



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

April 16, 2021



CELEBRATING GRANGE MONTH

Since 1867, Grange has found a way to bring people together. And together has never sounded so good. We know the way, and we welcome you to join us.

Cultivating Programs

By Betsy Huber National Grange President

I am so proud of the great work our National Grange interns have accomplished in the last two months they have been with us. Baylor interns Lindsey Sather, Valerie Stewart and Claire Wubben, and SUNY Morrisville intern Claire Loker have been working on two major projects sponsored by Grange Advocacy partners.

I hope you were able to tune in Tuesday evening for the Cultivating Connections Facebook program “What to Do When You’re Diagnosed with Cancer.” The interns researched and compiled a six-unit educational Powerpoint program with step by step information on what to think about, where to go, who to contact, and many other points you’ll need to know if ever you hear those words, “You have cancer.” The second project was the Chronic Pain survey you may have filled out earlier this year. The interns received the survey results and organized a set of charts and reports explaining what our Grange members had to say about their experiences with pain and its treatment. On Thursday night the young ladies summarized the findings and their report from the pain survey.

If you missed these excellent programs you can still access them on the National Grange YouTube channel. Please sign up as a subscriber to our channel so you can receive notice when a new video is available. There will be several other Cultivating Connections programs this month celebrating Grange Month, so check out the schedule in this Patrons Chain for details.

Upcoming Telethon

By Samantha Wilkins National Junior Director

Each year the Grange Foundation sponsors many Youth and Junior Grange members from across the nation to attend the annual National Grange Convention and other conferences throughout the year. The information and training received at these events can last a lifetime. You yourself or someone you know has probably benefited from the funds at one time or another. This year the National Grange Convention will be held in Wichita, Kansas- and we are on a mission to raise \$20,000 to sponsor our youth and juniors to once again take part in not only the events at national convention but programming that will benefit them even after the close of session.

For the first time ever the Grange Foundation is hosting a Virtual Telethon set to take place on June 5, 2021. Funds raised during the telethon event will go directly to support the Youth & Junior Grange Funds and could be considered a tax-deductible donation.

There are several ways that you can be involved in this event. 1) by submitting a written or video testimony about how you have personally benefited 2) Show off your talents- can you sing or dance or entertain us in some way? We need you! With a pre-recorded 3–5-minute video we can show off some of the wonderful Grange talent that we have. 3) Become a telethon donor- between now and June 6th all donations \$75 and above will receive a free telethon t-shirt. Or 4) become a corporate sponsor- for more information on giving or becoming a donor go to www.grangefoundation.org/telethon. If you would like to submit a testimony or talent entry contact Samantha Wilkins, samantha@nationalgrange.org

And we are looking for the support from our members to help ensure that these great programs continue. We would love to set up a time to discuss your potential sponsorship to help ensure that the youth of today continue to be great leaders tomorrow.



Volunteer Safely at Home or in Person During Global Volunteer Month

Courtesy of StatePoint Media

April is Global Volunteer Month, a time to recognize the power of volunteers to tackle society's greatest challenges.

A recent survey demonstrates that despite all the obstacles, 2020 marked one of the most civically-engaged years in history. Fifty-two percent of Americans surveyed volunteered for the first time during the pandemic. However, seven out of 10 respondents reported that while the effects of COVID-19 on their community made them more eager to volunteer, they've hesitated due to safety concerns.

To volunteer safely during Global Volunteer Month and beyond, consider these ideas and tips from Points of Light:

1. Offer vaccination assistance. Scheduling vaccinations can be tricky, particularly for those who aren't web-savvy or don't speak English as a first language. Whether you work with individuals in your extended network or volunteer with organizations helping to centralize vaccination information, there are many ways to be involved from home. On-site opportunities to help people navigate their vaccination appointment also exist, and your assistance may be especially needed if you're multilingual. Vaccination distribution centers follow all CDC social distancing guidelines to ensure the health and safety of volunteers.

2. Give rides to medical appointments. Seniors without transportation often need rides to life-sustaining medical appointments. With the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine, this need has increased. Connect with a local organization near you that follows protocols to keep drivers and the elderly safe.

3. Support food distribution. The concurrent medical and economic crises have made grocery shopping dangerous for some, and unaffordable for others. Drive-through food distribution centers and contactless drop-off services are essential social protection programs you can support. As more people get vaccinated, an increasing number of in-person volunteer opportunities will likely open up and be needed in food banks.

4. Comfort the grieving. Those who are grieving often need critical emotional support. While some organizations are searching for licensed counselors to make comfort calls, others are looking for anyone with a big heart and a listening ear.

5. Maintain public spaces. As warm weather arrives, communities are looking for volunteers to beautify and improve the local environment of public parks and spaces.

6. Help students succeed. Even in normal years, many families need assistance with school supplies and homework help, and the pandemic has only exacerbated these issues. Help students succeed by providing virtual tutoring through a homework helpline or by contributing to or hosting a donation drive for school supplies.

7. Support health initiatives. After facing long periods of isolation, there is a growing demand to help build strong communities by supporting local fitness and nutrition programs. Virtual and in-person opportunities abound for people of all professional backgrounds and skillsets, ranging from coaching youth runners to widening access to nutrition information in low-income neighborhoods.

8. Show gratitude. Recognize and thank first responders, volunteers and frontline workers. Many say that handwritten letters are the most cherished items received in care packages. This is also a great way to get kids involved!

9. Make connections. During the pandemic, homebound people have been more isolated than ever. Organizations are looking for volunteers to make regular phone calls to provide companionship and determine if individuals are in need of additional assistance.

Cultivating Connections Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>All times Eastern</i>	
Thursday, April 15	@ 8:30 p.m.	Chronic Pain in Rural American
Sunday, April 18	@ 9 p.m.	Youth Yammerings with Mandy Bostwick
Wednesday, April 21	@ 8:30 p.m.	Trivia Night with the Grange
Friday, April 23	@ 9 p.m.	Benefits with the Grange
Thursday, April 29	@ 8:30 p.m.	Community Service and the Grange with Pete Pompper
Friday, April 30	@ 9 p.m.	Trivia Night with the Grange

ATTENTION GRANGERS

**DO YOU HAVE A HALL AND A WANT
TO STOP COVID IN YOUR
COMMUNITY?**

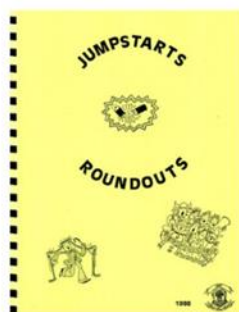
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STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
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THEM KNOW YOUR
GRANGE IS
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Grange Foundation Junior Fund*

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Special Events and More!**

**April is Grange Month,
Let's Celebrate!**

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Grange Store™ by Monroe Classic - www.promoplace.com/grange or www.monroeclassic.com
Order on line or call Monroe Classic, Inc. at **1-800-868-2330** or email **sales@monroeclassic.com**

APPAREL | PROMOTIONAL ITEMS | JEWELRY | REGALIA | FUND RAISING PROGRAMS

NATIONAL GRANGE & GRANGE FOUNDATION STAFF

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Community Service Pete Pompper for project ideas, information about "Of the Year" awards and more by email at communityservice@nationalgrange.org or phone at (609) 820-6239

Legislative and Policy Issues Burton Eller for advocacy information and Grange priorities, contact him at National HQ, ext. 114 or email beller@nationalgrange.org.

Grange Youth Mandy Bostwick for contest, program and more information for young members at youth@nationalgrange.org or call/text (785) 250-7606.

Junior Grange Samantha Wilkins for Passport and other program and contest information at junior@nationalgrange.org or call/text (210) 838-7892.

Grange Foundation Joan C. Smith, Chairwoman, for more details about grants, programs and Foundation outreach at info@grangefoundation.org or (571) 662-7220.