



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

September 24, 2021



Preventing the “twindemic” in rural America

By Betsy Huber

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As COVID-19 continues to threaten the lives of Americans across the country, and indeed people across the world, we are reminded that we will soon be navigating yet another uncertain fall and winter season. Only this year, we could be facing what many experts are referring to as a “twindemic” as reduced COVID-19 restrictions and a prolonged lack of exposure to the flu could perpetuate a more active flu and pneumonia season. This one-two punch to our immune systems could prove disastrous for all Americans but especially for those living in rural communities.

Rural Americans have been some of the hardest hit by the pandemic. According to the USDA’s Economic Research Service, rural Americans are more vulnerable to severe illness or death from COVID-19 than urban residents due to factors such as underlying health problems, older age and lack of health insurance. These factors are only worsened because nearly a quarter of rural residents live in counties with high mortality due to underlying medical conditions, almost eight times greater than the rate for urban residents. Additionally, many rural residents live in counties where they are vulnerable because of distance to an intensive care hospital — 35 times greater than the percentage for urban residents.

With 93 percent of high-distance counties being rural, living far from intensive care hospitals means those Americans will face an even greater challenge in accessing care when they need it. Adding to this geographic challenge is the fact that since 2005, 181 rural hospitals have closed permanently across the United States.

As more Americans embraced virtual physician/patient visits over the past year and a half, this too has proven difficult for many living in rural communities given the lack of high-speed internet. More than 14 million Americans across the country, including nearly one in five rural Americans, continue to lack access to high-speed broadband. This not only prohibits virtual visits but also makes it harder to make appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations and testing.

These are tough hurdles to overcome in normal times, but layer on a pandemic and potentially more deadly flu and pneumonia season, and we could be facing the worst health care crisis rural America has seen in years.

Preventing serious illness is possible, but we must take steps now to break through the barriers that so many Americans face and ensure broad access to care and treatment for the most vulnerable. This will require our elected officials and health care experts to explore new ways to bring the care outside of the clinic and to the rural residents who cannot travel, enlisting trusted members of the community to talk about the facts behind vaccines and establishing sustainable processes for distributing vaccines to the more remote areas of our country. We as citizens can also encourage our friends and neighbors to continue to follow the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) guidelines for reducing COVID-19 exposure and keeping up with routine check-ups and vaccinations.

While certainly more challenging for those living in rural areas, this one step of ensuring vaccinations are current, could mean life and death for so many vulnerable Americans. During a normal year, 1.3 million people will visit emergency departments in the U.S. each year with pneumonia and nearly 50,000 people will die from pneumonia. While these diseases do not discriminate who they infect, the facts are that older Americans are at a greater risk of death from both COVID-19 and pneumonia and therefore must do everything they can to protect themselves.

Fortunately, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved two new vaccines for pneumonia which cover more variants of the virus than the currently available vaccines. This means that those vaccinated with these new options will have broader protection against contracting pneumonia. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is set to provide recommendations for the use of these vaccines at their planned meeting in October.

We implore the CDC to expedite this process and ensure vulnerable Americans across the country age 50 and over will have access to the most effective vaccines before the flu and pneumonia season is underway. Just as we are laser-focused on increasing COVID-19 vaccination rates, we must remain diligent in ensuring we are using every tool available to protect against the repercussions of a "twindemic". Together, we can overcome these healthcare threats if we all have access to the most effective tools to protect ourselves.

You're voices sought!

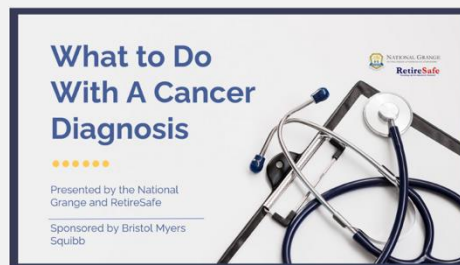
As written by National President Betsy Huber in the op-ed above, rural Americans are facing the possibility of a "twindemic" as fall approaches. Geographic, technological and access barriers are all challenges by virtue of where we live.

The FDA has approved two new and improved pneumonia vaccines covering most of the strains of the pneumococcal virus, and the National Grange is working with vaccine and health advocacy organizations to urge the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to act as quickly as possible to make them available to older adults and those at risk so that they may be protected during this flu and pneumonia season.

They will have a meeting next week, and the National Grange is asking the CDC to act quickly to make certain these fully approved vaccines are available to those who need them, but we need your help. **Please join in this effort by sending a short email or note by September 27 to Legislative Director Burton Eller at beller@nationalgrange.org about why flu and pneumonia vaccines are important.** We will add your comments to Betsy's op-ed and post it on the CDC hearing portal for review by the committee when it meets on September 29.

Download the Presentation for your Community!

If you haven't seen our presentation sponsored by Bristol Myers Squibb, use the link below to download it for your next community program



Perfect for anyone who wants to learn about treatment options, goal creation, medical document preparation, and self-advocacy

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/what-to-do-with-a-cancer-diagnosis/>

Participants named for Youth Officer Team, Trimble Experience

By Mandy Bostwick, Grange Youth/Young Adults Development Director

Earlier this week was the announcement of the youth that will be attending the 155th National Grange Convention in various capacities. While youth are always welcome at the National Grange Convention these specific young Grangers will be involved in top-level leadership opportunities.

Each year, youth from all over the country apply to be a part of the National Grange Youth Officer Team. Leading this year's officer team are husband and wife, Ann and Coty Allen from Oklahoma. They will serve as Master/President and Overseer/Vice President, respectively. Ann, a seasoned youth Granger, states that "Working together with the Grange Youth one last time is such an honor. These memories are what push me forward in this wonderful organization. I hope that the skills I have learned from being a Grange Youth and the opportunities it has provided me will help me to instill the same passion into our future youth." Coty, a new face to the Grange having married Ann last year, says "As my first opportunity at the National level, I look forward to meeting Grange Youth across the Nation, as well as learning more from the officers at the National session." Also, from Oklahoma are JackLynn Keeton, Gatekeeper, and Carlie Conrady, Ceres.

Leading this year's drills will be Matthew Settle and Baylor Howerton, North Carolina. Each year the Assistant and Lady Assistant Steward are tasked with creating and teaching the opening and closing drill that the youth perform on Friday morning of National Session. Rounding out the group from North Carolina include Asheton Medlin, Treasurer, and Autumn Whitaker, Pomona.

As many of us know the opening ceremony, has several speaking parts, and having them committed to memory is no small feat. Youth with speaking parts include Chaplain Jessie Jo Guttridge, Oregon, Lecturer Samantha Hanson, Iowa, Secretary Analise Scholten, CA, and Steward Benjamin Van Kleeck, New York. Ben's State Youth Director, Kathleen Fallon, says that "[He] serves as Stanford Grange #808's Steward, Dutchess County Pomona Steward, and State Youth Steward, so this is a perfect office for him and he is very excited for this opportunity to serve as Steward at all levels of the Grange."

Rounding out the Officer team are Rachel Upah, Flora, and Jordyn Moyes, Executive Committee, both from Iowa, Raimie Freeman, Nevada, and Elizabeth Van Kleeck, New York both on the Executive Committee. Jenn Nauss, Pennsylvania, will be serving as this year's youth Musician.

In 2019, a National Officer Meet and Greet was established for Grange Youth and National Grange officers to come together to gain perspectives from both youth's and seasoned Granger's eyes. The National Grange and Youth Officers will once again meet together on Wednesday night after the youth visit National Session.

The Horizon Leadership Ambassador program was established to provide an opportunity for Youth and Young Adults, selected to represent their state at a National Grange convention, to build their leadership potential, broaden their view of the Grange by experiencing a National convention, receive educational training to use in their states, and build relationships with Grangers throughout the Nation. These youth then come to National Session to compete for a spot on the National Grange Youth Leadership Team. After a year of not meeting in person, everyone is looking forward to meeting once again. Derek Snyder, one of the Pennsylvania Young Patrons, said "It's an honor to be part of Pennsylvania's Young Adult delegation to this year's National Grange Session. I'm thrilled for the opportunity to be back spending time together with Grange Family and friends across the country."

This year we have three Youth Ambassadors and three Young Patrons. Youth Ambassadors include Cole Settle and Lillie Roquet of North Carolina, and Amber Corll of Ohio. Young Patrons include Derek Snyder and Braden Gourley of Pennsylvania and Emma Edelen of Iowa. These youth members were tasked with representing their state at a regional conference and participating in the prepared speech contest.

On Thursday of Convention, the Ambassador and Young Patrons will be presenting a 30-minute workshop for all youth attendees and anyone else who would like to experience these youth-led workshops. "I am excited to see what these young Grangers will bring to National Convention to share with the youth and other Grangers from across the country. It will help build their leadership skills and give them a chance to present to an audience outside their state or region as they prepare to potentially be on the next Youth Leadership Team.", said Mandy Bostwick, National Grange Youth Development Director.

The John Trimble Legislative Experience provides one or two youth with an interest in the legislative aspect of the National Grange to see the inner workings of committees and grassroots legislative policy development efforts at the National Grange Convention. Each youth will serve on one of the legislative committees reviewing resolutions as a voting member of the committee,

watch the delegate body take action on resolutions, and as a youth staff assistant to the National Grange Legislative Director. This year's John Trimble Legislative Youth Delegate is Brittney Oliver from Washington State. Brittney served on the 2019 National Grange Youth Leadership Team as one of the Outstanding Young Patrons. "I am honored to have been selected and am eager to be able to have an honorary seat in the room where the legislative action of the national level of our organization is happening. The grassroots activism of the Grange is just one of the many reasons I am proud to be a Granger."


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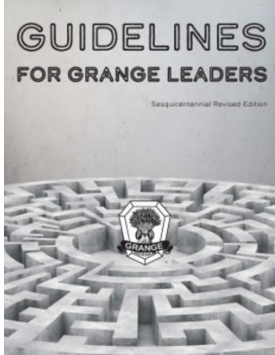
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Guidelines for Grange Leaders
(Sesquicentennial Revised Edition)

The purpose of this book is to define and describe the duties and responsibilities of Pomona and Subordinate Presidents, Lecturers, Secretaries and appointed committees. This book is meant to assist in carrying out duties and responsibilities. Edited and revised by National President Betsy E. Huber.

Only \$6 plus shipping

Recording, Slides Available from Membership Matters Event that Focused on Generational Differences and their Impact Member Recruitment, Retention

By Amanda Brozana Rios, Membership/Leadership Development and Communications Director

On Tuesday, September 21, Membership Matters returned. The monthly zoom program, open to all members that provides information and ideas for those working to attract, recruit and retain new members and on leadership development for the Subordinate Grange and beyond, had taken a summer break.

Dr. Jason Davis, a North Carolina Grange member, former FFA advisor and state director and current assistant dean at Mount Olive University, talked about generational differences and how each engages with the world around them, especially in relation to things they take part in or join. Davis talked about the values and characteristics of individuals starting from the Silent Generation born before 1945 through today's Generation Z.

In October, Membership Matters will switch gears to look at how your local Grange can recruit and offer member benefits before returning to the topic of meeting the needs of the different generations in winter.

The recording of the program and slides related to it are now available to download.

Watch the recorded Zoom Meeting -> [CLICK HERE](#)

View the Zoom meeting Presentation -> [CLICK HERE](#)

Please join us in the coming months at 8:30 p.m. Eastern on the third Tuesday of the month by going to <https://bit.ly/mm1867>. The meeting ID is 525 965 930 and passcode is 981892. You may also call in using the number (301) 715-8592.

- October 19 – Grange Benefits and how to get Local Discounts
- November 16 – Zoom Canceled due to National Convention Travel
- December 14 **(PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE DUE TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY)** -- Generations in Focus: The Traditionalists and Boomers
- January 18 – Generations in Focus: Gen X
- February 15 – Generations in Focus – Gen Y (Millennials) and iY
- March 15 – Generations in Focus – Gen Z

A graphic with a dark blue background and a yellow circular shape on the left. It features the text "GRANGE FOUNDATION SEEKING BOARD CANDIDATES" in white. Below this, it says "The National Grange Foundation is seeking individuals interested in serving on the board. The board, which is composed of a few Grange members in good standing and the National Grange Executive Committee, helps to steer the efforts and activities of our affiliated 501(c)(3)." Further down, it states "Individuals interested should submit a letter of interest with information about your background or qualifications to Joan Smith, Board Chairwoman, and Betsy Huber, President, by October 15. Please email betsy@nationalgrange.org and ngfb@grange.org." On the right, there is a logo for the Grange Foundation featuring a sheaf of wheat and the text "GRANGE Foundation".

GRANGE FOUNDATION SEEKING BOARD CANDIDATES

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National Grange wins trademark case against Oregon hemp company

Earlier this week, the National Grange won a judgment in our trademark case against an Oregon hemp company. This is an important win because the presumed association or endorsement of the company or its products in an area heavily saturated with Granges and the goodwill they've built over generations was jeopardized by the unlicensed and unauthorized use.

Each year we send numerous cease and desist letters and are forced to take some infringers to court to maintain control over our reputation and name, something that costs the organization financially but is essential to maintaining our sterling brand identity.

You can read the full story about the case here: https://www.bendbulletin.com/business/grange-wins-trademark-fight-with-oregon-hemp-company/article_ef84a8b3-c5f1-5d47-9443-393dc2e49d69.html.



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For issues logging in to access benefits on our website, contact info@nationalgrange.org

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