



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

October 8, 2021



National Lecturer challenges Granges to ‘get over the bar’

By Christine E. Hamp, National Lecturer

In my article for the Patrons Chain Newsletter last month I challenged each of you to “raise the bar” at your Grange for 2022 and beyond. If you know me even a little bit you know that this is not just empty rhetoric or meaningless rah-rah – it is intended to be a direct challenge to each and every Grange at every level of our organization to make a focused attempt to DO SOMETHING BETTER in 2022.



The proverbial “bar” is meant to be set at a height that requires effort to get over – that challenges you to stretch and grow. There are too many bars that have fallen and become tripping hazards or that have been put in the closet and are collecting dust. Get your bar picked up, dusted off and shine a light on it. Find ways for your Grange membership to work together to get over the bar and you will find that each of you as individuals, your Grange as a collective whole and your community will reap the benefits. This is what Grange-ing is truly all about!

I look forward to hearing about your successes. Ready. Go!

Final call! All entries to the 2021 National Lecturer contests listed below are due by October 31st. All information and entry forms can be found at <https://www.nationalgrange.org/lecturers-programming/>

2021 Evening of Excellence

State Grange Lecturers, please make sure to submit your Best of Show talent entry for our 2021 National Grange Evening of Excellence to be held on Saturday, November 13, 2021. Each State Lecturer is responsible for certifying their state’s Best of Show winner and for submitting the registration paperwork.

2021 National Grange Publicity Item Contest

Remember, the primary goal of this contest is to share ideas – ideas of the types and kinds of events that you are doing as well as the ways that you are publicizing your events. Please share

EVERY flyer, poster, sandwich board, button, t-shirt, Facebook event notice, newsletter, placemat and display that you create to advertise your Grange – there is no limit on the number of items that can be entered by a Grange. The more entries received the more ideas to share!

2021 National Grange Quilt Block Contest

Please continue to send me your quilt blocks. The more the better! Remember, the National Grange Quilt Block Contest is open to members and non-members alike.

2021 National Grange Virtual Photo Contest

This contest is open to members and non-members alike and replaces the Photography Showcase which was limited to one Best of Show entry per State Grange. The 2021 contest has three divisions – Selfie, Close-up/Macro and Barns. The plan is to have all photo entries available to be viewed at the 155th in Wichita. All photos entered will become the property of the National Grange and may be used in National Grange publications and virtual media.

Please contact me by email at lecturer@nationalgrange.org or by phone at 509.953.3533 (voice or text) if you have questions or comments. Be a DO'er!

A graphic with a dark blue background and orange circular accents on the left and right. The text is white. The title 'GRANGE FOUNDATION SEEKING BOARD CANDIDATES' is at the top. Below it is a paragraph about the board. Then another paragraph about submitting a letter of interest. On the right is a logo for the Grange Foundation featuring a wheat stalk and the text 'GRANGE Foundation'.

GRANGE FOUNDATION SEEKING BOARD CANDIDATES

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).

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.

GRANGE
Foundation

Youth with agriculture expertise encouraged to help address climate change

By Betsy E. Huber, National President

Last week the World Food Forum, held in Rome, brought together youth from a broad range of backgrounds and expertise to discuss action to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and transform agri-food systems.

High level speakers, including Pope Francis and the Queen of Spain, addressed the group of attendees, who were young farmers, youth leaders, entrepreneurs, influencers, and celebrities. Costa Rica's president Carlos Alvarado Quesada, who at 41 is one of the youngest heads of state, said, "More than half of the world's population is young people aged less than 30 years.... The future is yours. Grab it in your hands."

The aim of the Forum is to listen to young voices and empower the younger generations to help forge a future of better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life for all. The youth offer the kind of creativity, inventiveness and resilience needed to overcome the challenges.

The forum ended Tuesday with a Youth Action Assembly tasked with coming up with practical advice to governments and key stakeholders to find solutions and build for the future.

The Forum also provides young talents with tools and resources, such as the Transformative Research Challenge which makes mentors available to young researchers, and the Startup Innovation Awards which connect entrepreneurs with leaders in investment, technology, and policy.

I am challenging our Grange Youth to get involved. Many of you have extensive backgrounds in agriculture through the Grange Youth Fair program, 4-H or FFA. You can contribute an agricultural point of view that few people have today. World leaders are all looking at ways to address climate change, they are focusing on agriculture, and our members who have experience and knowledge in the farm world need to step up and make their voices heard.

Let's see if we can have some Grange youth attend the next World Food Forum!

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Opioid Deaths Continue to Rise as Delta Looms

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Tens of thousands of American lives end prematurely every year due to opioid overdoses, leaving families shattered. Dr. Paul Christo, an Associate Professor in the Division of Pain Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, wants to remind those battling addiction to make use of telemedicine and tele-mental health services that emerged as valuable resources in 2020, and he adds, clinicians need to advocate to their patients that online treatment options are available.

Dr. Christo, who is on the frontlines working to curb the impact of the opioid crisis, also wants patients to know that critical medications for maintaining sobriety can be prescribed by telehealth or telephone.

"The number of fatalities from opioid-related overdoses could be nearly 30 percent higher than reported due to missing information or incomplete death records," he says. "The worst fear is that because of social isolation, people are not being found or treated immediately."

The opioid epidemic today progressed in three phases, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The first involves deaths caused by prescription opioids, the second, an increase in heroin use, and the third, a surge in the use of synthetic opioids or fentanyl. Experts say the U.S. is right in the middle of the third phase of the epidemic, due to the increasing availability of fentanyl and increasing rates of overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids.

According to a recent study there were 632,331 drug overdoses between 1999 and 2016. Most of these deaths (78.2 percent) were drug overdoses with known drug classification. Moreover, 21.8 percent were unclassified drug overdoses. A further investigation revealed that for unclassified drug overdoses, 71.8 percent involved opioids, translating to 99,160 additional opioid-related deaths.

There were over 70,000 drug overdose deaths in 2017, according to an estimate from the CDC. Based on findings from the new study, over half of those deaths — about 47,000 — are suspected of having involved opioids.

Another study on opioid overdoses found that the number of drug overdose deaths decreased by 4 percent from 2017 to 2018. In 2018, more than 67,000 people died from drug overdoses, making it a leading cause of injury-related death in the United States. Almost 70 percent involved a prescription or illicit opioid of those deaths.

"COVID 19 impacted the drug supply chain by closing borders on some regions, and it led to the higher death rate," Dr. Christo explained. He added that drugs become more challenging to get, and the potency of overdose goes up. It also impacts the price, everything goes up, and in that sense, it becomes more deadly each day, according to Dr. Christo.

155TH ANNUAL NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION
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member notice

While the Grange Supply Store website is always open to take your order, during the period around National Convention, store processing and shipping will be closed starting October 20 through November 17. Any orders placed between these dates will not be shipped until after November 17. Please allow ample time for delivery of your item and place your orders now.

WWW.GRANGESTORE.ORG

USDA introduces new insurance policy for farmers who sell locally
Press Release

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is rolling out a new insurance option specifically for agricultural producers with small farms who sell locally. The new Micro Farm policy simplifies record keeping and covers post-production costs like washing and value-added products.

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) created this new policy based on research directed by the 2018 Farm Bill, and it includes feedback from producers who grow for their local communities. The policy will be available beginning with the 2022 crop year.

"We are excited to offer this new coverage for producers who work to provide their communities with fresh and healthy food," said RMA Acting Administrator Richard Flournoy. "USDA is focused on supporting local and regional food systems, and this new crop insurance policy is designed with this important sector of agriculture in mind."

The new policy is offered through Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) and it has distinct provisions that can provide more access to the program, including:

- No expense or individual commodity reporting needed, simplifying the recordkeeping requirements for producers
- Revenue from post-production costs, such as washing and packaging commodities and value-added products, are considered allowable revenue

The Micro Farm policy is available to producers who have a farm operation that earns an average allowable revenue of \$100,000 or less, or for carryover insureds, an average allowable revenue of \$125,000 or less. RMA's research showed that 85% of producers who sell locally reported they made less than \$75,000 in gross sales. [See the full report.](#)

The Micro Farm policy builds on other RMA efforts to better serve specialty and organic crop growers. This includes WFRP, which provides coverage for producers with larger operations that may not be eligible for Micro Farm. RMA recently made [improvements to WFRP](#) as part of a broader set of [new policies and expanded policies](#) to assist specialty crop and organic producers.

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation approved the Micro Farm policy in late September, and additional details will be provided later this fall.



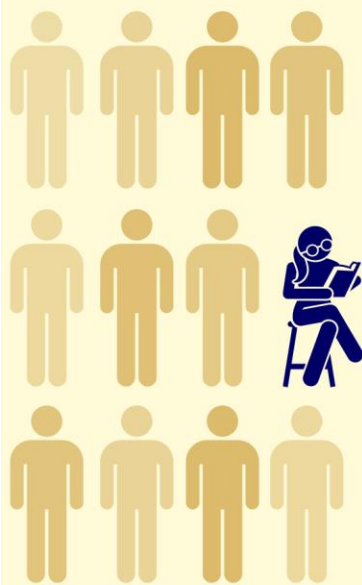
DECLARATION OF PURPOSES BROCHURE

This trifold brochure features the general objectives and purposes of the Grange as set out in the Declaration of Purposes. This is a great product for all members, especially individuals new to the Grange, to understand our heritage and our objectives.

Set of 25 is \$2.50 plus shipping
Set of 100 is \$7.50 Plus shipping

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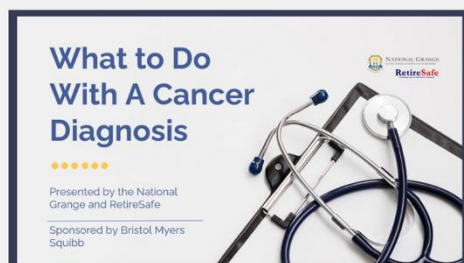
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