



Scheduling Note

Be sure to tune in live at 2:30pm Central time on Tuesday to see President Betsy Huber's "State of American Communities" address during the opening of the 155th Annual Session of the National Grange.



You're Sweet

Thanks to John & Susan Plank for the delivery of Albanese gummy bears to the Fellows!

State Presidents

Please remember to drop off a USB to the Fellows in the Santa Fe Trail Room as soon as you can.

Follow the Fellows on social media, and stay up to date with the happenings at Session.

Instagram:

n.grange_communication_fellows

Facebook:

National Grange

Twitter:

NationalGrange

PATRONS CHAIN

The Official Newsletter of the National Grange

Delegates tackle tough resolutions

BY ROBERT BEAMON

Assistant Communications Fellow

AND BRITTNEY OLIVER

John Trimble Legislative Youth Delegate

Since 1867, the Grange has been a leader in the fight to bring prosperity and opportunity to farmers and rural Americans.

As Delegates from around the country converge in Wichita for the 155th Annual Session of the National Grange, the goal remains the same. Awaiting the Delegate body are approximately 100 resolutions including the topics of agriculture, education and health, and Grange Law to name a few.

Three areas of interest are resolutions concerning the food supply chain issues, healthcare and telecommunications.

The issues affecting the food supply chain have impacted many across the country since the beginning of the pandemic. Resolutions that were submitted but are present policy include AG-104-ID which promotes the preservation of agricultural lands and AG-103-CA that encourages reducing regulations and costs for small farmers.

A new topic of discussion AG-108-OR encourages the development of a Farm Corps program for apprenticeships and mentoring of new and beginning farmers. The combination of these topics help



Members of the Conservation Committee hard at work reviewing proposed resolutions on Monday evening. | Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

address some of the food supply chain issues the country is facing.

One topic that Granges will want to focus on in the near future will be healthcare, due to the price of prescription medication and accessibility to healthcare professionals.

Legislative Director Burton Eller says, "We need the right medicine, at the right time, and at the right price." To have access to the medicine healthcare professionals are needed in rural areas. Resolution EH-502 aims to incentivize healthcare professionals to commit and serve rural and underserved communities.

Eller and Legislative Assistant Sean O'Neil highlight broadband communication as the most important topic facing rural America. The pandemic has put a

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Familiar face tackles new role

BY PHILIP J. VONADA

Senior Communications Fellow

In February 2021, Joe Stefenoni announced that he would be stepping down from his role as Director of Membership and Leadership Development for the National Grange.

At the same time, Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Communications Director, was appointed to the role, straddling the departments during a time of transition.

For the past eight months, Brozana Rios has successfully grown both departments. As she prepares to shed the Communications Director position and officially "pass the torch," she reflects on her

time as Communications Director and prepares for a new challenge.

"This is an exciting change," Brozana Rios says. "I am really passionate about the Grange and why it's relevant to our communities and individuals today. I am hoping some of the new initiatives build on what the previous direc-



Amanda Brozana Rios
Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

BROZANA RIOS
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Great Plains region provides special touches for convention

BY ETHAN EDWARDS
Communications Fellow

The Great Plains region, host to the 155th Annual Session of the National Grange, is providing resources to enhance the conference experience of delegates and attendees. The Granges of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas will be staffing the host office and the hospitality room throughout the conference.

The host office is located in the Willow Room on the second floor of the Conference Center.

“We’re here to help with anything people might need assistance with,” said Region Co-Chair Lois Barber of Kansas. Among the amenities the office will provide are basic medical supplies, including distilled water for CPAP machines, assistance with mailing, answers to questions about the area, and other conveniences.

“We’ll try to help with anything—within reason,” she added with a smile.

Melanie Bostwick, region Co-Chair, also from Kansas, noted that the host committee will also be taking orders for corsages for attendees to express recognition to others.

There are also a limited number of regional t-shirts available for sale.

Bostwick is particularly grateful for the ease with which the committee worked together to prepare for this week.

The host office will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with allowances for lunch and breaks. If assistance is needed when the office is closed, attendees are invited to text or call Lois at (913) 522-7452.

The hospitality room is available to provide snacks and beverages for conference attendees throughout the week, with food and drinks provided by the Granges in the host states and staffing duties rotating among the five host states during the week.

Due to hotel policies and COVID restrictions, all food articles are pre-packaged for safety and convenience.

The hospitality room is located in the Waterview Suite on the 18th floor of the hotel, accessible from the lobby ele-

vators.

Hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 7 a.m. to noon and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

“It’s probably a lucky thing that items are pre-packaged for everyone this year,” said Roger Bostwick, Kansas State Grange President.

“The hospitality room is at the top of the hotel tower, which is a bit of a trek from the meeting rooms. Delegates can take snacks with them back to their stations at breaks; with one elevator out for service, there may be some delay in getting to and from the hospitality room.”



Some of the items available from the host office.
Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

BROZANA RIOS *from page 1*

tors have done to ensure our future and help us grow.”

Brozana Rios lives in Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania with her husband Victor, father Stanley and their three dogs. She is Secretary of Jefferson Grange #1384 in Schuylkill County, and an affiliate member of Potomac

Grange #1 in Washington, D.C., where she is Steward.

Already, Brozana Rios has rolled out a member appreciation and communication program based on the Love Languages. She is also announcing a program for local Granges to introduce new members and remind seasoned members about the lessons learned through the Degrees.

“Amanda is the right person to take on this position. She is motivated to grow the Grange from within,

by strengthening our leaders at the local, state and national levels. She is passionate about reaching into new communities to find ways the Grange can be of service in developing strong hometowns across the country,” said Betsy Huber, President of the National Grange. “Her love and dedication to the Grange are catching and bring new enthusiasm to all she meets.”



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2021 Convention Logo on Forest Green or Old Gold 5.3 oz. pre-shrunk 100% cotton t-shirt

Unisex Adult Sizes Small-3XL available
All Shirts \$15 (cash or check)

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FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE**



Host Committee kicks off session



Members of the Great Plains regional host committee welcomed Delegates and guests to the 155th Annual Session. Below, guests enjoy the host region reception on Monday evening. | Photos by Lindsay Schroeder



RESOLUTIONS

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spotlight on the need for broadband access to the rural communities. Students were not` able to participate in school assignments due to inadequate or non-existent internet access. The passing of the new infrastructure bill, provides hope that the digital gap will be closed by reaching the unserved and underserved.

As resolutions are presented, remember to be mindful of the state

of our country and the future of our organization. The resolutions that are passed here become issues the Grange will advocate for in the coming year. However, the work doesn't stop here.

National Grange hosts a Legislative Fly-In each spring which allows attendees to receive information on current issues and hear from legislative leaders. With the success of the virtual 2020 Fly-In, the National Grange plans to offer virtual accessibility for members to participate in the future.

Answer Key to Puzzle on Page 4

5	4	3	2	9	7	8	6	1
9	1	7	8	5	6	4	2	3
2	8	6	3	1	4	5	7	9
3	1	6	7	5	6	2	8	4
8	6	2	9	3	4	1	5	7
7	4	5	1	8	2	3	9	6
1	9	7	5	3	8	6	4	2
6	2	5	4	7	1	3	9	8
4	3	8	6	2	9	7	1	5

How to Say Thank You: Words of Affirmation

BY AMANDA BROZANA RIOS, Director of Membership and Leadership Development

Individuals, like Joe Stefenoni, California State Grange Vice President, whose preferred language for member or volunteer appreciation is **words of affirmation** thrive on praise. You can offer these verbally or in writing.

Consider a hand-written note in your Christmas card to tell someone how much you appreciate their efforts or congratulate them on good work done over the past year.

Find them during the course of the week or after a meeting to tell them the insight they offered during debate was helpful or that they're invaluable to your committee.

As you go through this week, make sure to take notice of the appreciation language of those around you and use it to cultivate stronger connections with one another.



O'Neil brings new perspective to legislative agenda

BY SASHA SECOR
Communications Fellow

This June, the National Grange welcomed Sean O'Neil to the staff as a full-time Legislative Assistant.

Originally from the small town of Lansing, New York, located in the Finger Lakes, O'Neil is a 2021 graduate of George Washington University, having received a bachelor's in political science and economics.

While completing his undergraduate studies, O'Neil worked in the office of Congressman Erik Paulesen, the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Indonesia, the Embassy of France to the United States, the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association and the Military Commissions Defense Organization in the United States Department of Defense.

The announcement of O'Neil's

employment was made in the spring 2021 issue of *Good Day!* magazine.

Burton Eller, National Grange Legislative Director, said, "We've been happy with Sean's work over the past year as an intern, and look forward to having him join the team full-time."

Eller also expressed his excitement at being able to double-down on the ability to advocate on behalf of the National Grange membership and to expand on their legislative activities as a whole.

Since becoming a full-time staff member, Sean has made many connections with individuals and organizations. Together, their projects have included the Legislative Fly-In.

"Sean is very engaged and detailed, and loves the Washington policy and political scene. Recently he's helped the Grange cover policy activities in

Washington on a broader scale than ever and allows us to cover more ground for our members," Eller said.

O'Neil is glad to be fully integrated into the staff.

"It's been a really good work experience, I'm happy to be a part of the team," he said.

While he will continue to put his best foot forward in working as Legislative Assistant, O'Neil is looking forward to attending Harvard Law School in the fall of 2023 through the Junior Deferral Program.



Sean O'Neil

Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

Editorial: In-person connections fuel the Grange

BY DUANE SCOTT
Past Delegate and National Officer

Welcome to Wichita and the 155th National Grange Convention! It feels great to be back meeting face-to-face after 2020's virtual convention.

Zoom is useful, but the energy you get from meeting with Grangers in-person is not the same. Other associations can probably continue to get away with virtual meetings, but the structure of the Grange is just not

made to do that successfully.

It is an organic meeting that takes place and more ideas are exchanged in the hallways, workshops, hospitality rooms (official and unofficial), restaurants and bars. We need to have the personal exchanges and meetings with our fellow Grangers to really stoke the fires to go back and be enthusiastic about the Grange in our communities.

It is always so much fun to see our Brothers and Sisters from around the nation and reconnect for the week. We sure do cram a lot of activities into a few days!

This is the 25th consecutive session I have attended - *hard to believe* - and it only counts because I could "tune in" to the livestream last year, as I was not a Delegate then and have not been a Delegate, National Officer or member of the Host Committee only 3 of those past 25 sessions.

What brings you to a National Convention if you do not have the responsibility of a Delegate? There are many opportunities at convention that don't have to do with setting policy. Workshops, speakers, tours and especially meal functions give Grangers opportunities to mingle.

Like Betsy said in her interview on KAKE, "it's like a family reunion." You get to catch up with people you see once a year. It is amazing that as members who have been involved at the National level of the organization, continue to maintain these connections once they no longer have the responsibility.

The Grange is definitely an organization that you get out of it what you are willing to put in. The opportunities of a lifetime are there if you are willing to take the challenge.

Welcome back to an in-person convention and make sure to *Cultivate those Connections!*

DAILY PUZZLE

Answer on Page 3

Sudoku #973 (Medium)

		7				8		
		3	1		4			
	4	6			5			
			2		1			
7	5			4				
	8			6				
								2
			6		8	1		
1			7			3		5