



PATRONS CHAIN

The Official Newsletter of the National Grange

Delegates authorize sale to move forward

BY PHILIP J. VONADA

Communications Director

Following months of emotional and passionate discussion, a decision has been made regarding the National Grange headquarters.

A roll-call vote on Wednesday afternoon showed a clear majority in favor of selling the building, located at 1616 H Street NW in Washington, D.C.

“It was a necessary step,” said National Grange President Betsy Huber. “It was an emotional decision - I understand that. But our mission is not to operate a building as landlords. We need to dedicate more of our efforts and money to Grange programming rather than managing a building.”

Delegates, assembled in Wichita, spent many hours debating the pros and cons of retaining the headquarters building, and what to do if a decision was made to sell.

In her report to the Delegates, Operations Coordinator Samantha Wilkins pointed out that the structural and maintenance issues the building has faced over the past few years are just the beginning.

“We all love this building,” but she ad-



The National Grange Headquarters, located at 1616 H Street NW, Washington, D.C.

vised that continuing discussion would force the Grange to spend on a building that is no longer in prime shape.

She advised that the history and sentimentality behind the National Grange Headquarters are not strong enough reasons to face mounting debt from taking

DECISION

cont'd on Page 3

Peterson Farm Brothers visit convention

BY CHAD SMITH

Communications Fellow

The Peterson Farm Brothers, known for their viral videos and songs, made an appearance at the 155th Annual Session of the National Grange on Thursday.

Greg, the oldest of the Peterson brothers, hosted a workshop for the benefit of Grangers this afternoon.

A fifth-generation Swedish farm family, the Petersons found a great deal of success after developing social media presence by parodying popular songs in a “farm life” style.

While many online personalities create a fictional character in their social media influence, the Petersons are legitimate farmers of wheat, corn, milo, soy, sun-



The Peterson Farm Brothers performed a concert on Thursday evening. | Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

flowers and alfalfa. Their rise to social media relevance happened while running their nearly 3,000-acre farm in rural Kansas.

Growing up, the brothers (and sister)

PETERSON

cont'd on Page 4

NOTE!

The Youth Tour will leave at 11 a.m. from near the registration desk on Friday. Please arrive 15 minutes early.

Don't forget to visit the GROW Club auction in the Showcase!



“The work of another day demands our attention” window clings are available for \$2 each in the Communications Office!

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

Grange Foundation elects members, changes structure

BY ETHAN EDWARDS
Communications Fellow

Melanie Bostwick, Kansas, and Clay Snyder, Pennsylvania, were elected by Delegate vote to the Grange Foundation Board of Trustees on Wednesday.

According to Foundation Board Chair Joan Conrow Smith, “This is the first time the Delegate body has had a direct voice in the make-up of the Foundation Board.”

The Foundation By-laws were updated in 2021 to broaden the way trustees are chosen.

Traditionally, the Board essentially appointed its own members. Under the new rules, the ten-member Board is comprised of four trustees elected by delegates to the National Session, three National



Clay Snyder (PA) and Melanie Bostwick (KS) were elected to two-year terms on the Grange Foundation Board.



Executive Committee members, two slots chosen by the Board itself, and one member representing outside industry. Bostwick and Snyder each previously served on the Board as appointees. They return to two-year terms, but this time by election.

The Grange Foundation is a

self-funded body, traditionally engaged in supporting Junior and Youth Programs, the Grange Fellows Program, and deaf awareness.

It is an official 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, supporting the programming and priorities of the National Grange. Donations are tax-deductible.

“Our work needs to be more than just internal efforts focused on our own conference,” Smith admitted. “With the addition of an external voice on the board, I hope that we can institute some programs that have even wider impact that might attract corporate sponsors.”

3-D printed fidget cubes benefit Foundation



Eugene Fletcher (MI) has created 3-D printed fidget cubes in Grange colors. They are **\$10 each**, with the blue/gold benefitting the Grange Foundation general fund, the green/white benefitting the Youth Leadership fund and the red/white benefitting the Junior fund.

Fidget cubes are great for anyone who needs something to do with their hands while long debates are ongoing

See Eugene to get one today!

Workshops instruct, inspire attendees

STAFF REPORT
Communications Fellow

Throughout the day on Thursday, National Grange staff presented a series of workshops designed to give Grange members the tools they need to make strong moves within their communities.

ADVOCACY

Legislative Assistant Sean O’Neil presented an Advocacy workshop, where he underscored the value of the Grange as a grassroots political action organization.

O’Neil outline ways to maximize the role of individual Grangers and

their collective local and Pomona Granges in wielding big power in the political process.

“The Grange is THE original advocacy group,” O’Neil said.

O’Neil expressed hope that Granges across the nation will push targeted resolutions up the organizational ladder to the hands of the National Grange legislative staff.

He explained how modern grassroots action groups have been intensely successful in their missions, equally through efforts to push agendas forward and by obstructing the agendas of their political adversaries.

He emphasized that the National



Newly-hired Communications Director Philip Vonada presented a workshop about fundraising.

Grange staff (Legislative Director Burton Eller, O’Neil, and National

WORKSHOPS
cont’d on Page 3

DECISION

from page 1

on consistent maintenance problems.

Following the vote, Grange members nationwide are now grappling with the question of “where do we go from here?”

Delegates and past Delegates have expressed concerns of allowing a debt to be paid for by the next generation of Grangers.

National Grange Executive Committee member Leroy Watson said the sale is not necessarily going to be a fast process.

“It’s not like we’re going to put a sign out front that says ‘building for sale,’” he said, noting that there is a “specific universe of potential buyers”

who are looking for a building like the National Grange owns.

Watson noted that the resolution on which the Delegates voted requires the National Grange to work with a licensed real estate firm, in the same way Community Granges are required to do when they sell a Hall.

National Grange Vice President Phil Prelli said that the Executive Committee is challenged to “best use the net proceeds from the sale to do the proper job in running our National Grange.”

Watson pointed out that the building has been an investment for the past 60 years, and the proceeds from the sale will be an investment for the next 60 and beyond.

“It’s about getting a return on the investment that [we] can use to help

support the mission of the organization,” he said. Investing in traditional stocks and bonds “will generate additional income for Grange operations to sustain and even to grow our programs,” Watson added.

These funds “can make a difference in the future of our organization,” Prelli said.

The decision to move forward with the sale of the National Grange Headquarters certainly has an emotional effect on Grangers.

The National Grange Executive Committee is now tasked with the responsibility of making the best decisions and solid investment choices to positively affect programming and the future of the Grange.

WORKSHOPS

from page 2

Grange President Betsy Huber) work in collaboration with agricultural trade groups, and other similarly-aligned institutions to push the agendas and interests on behalf of Grange members across the country.

“I hope Granges understand their power as a group to affect the way legislators think and represent,” he said.

MEMBERSHIP

Today’s Granges face a dual challenge in attracting new and younger members to the work of the Grange and also making cornerstone precepts of the Order accessible and meaningful to individuals without prior Grange exposure.

This was a primary message of National Grange Membership Director Amanda Brozano Rios’ Membership workshop held Thursday at the National Grange Convention.

Those who might be motivated by the community service and social aspects provided by a Community Grange may not respond as positively to the manner in which the important lessons are presented.

“For example, everyone might not be that excited about sitting for hours on a Saturday afternoon to experience the first Four Degrees,” Brozano Rios admitted.

Noting that the sixth item in the Order of Business for Subordinate Grange meetings is “Conferral of



Amanda Brozano Rios, Director of Membership and Leadership Development, presented a workshop on Thursday morning.

Degrees,” Brozano Rios shared a newly-developed innovative program to assist Granges in sharing the Order’s essential values to new and existing members.

The Heirloom Program, which is made available to all Grangers in five concise pamphlets, is a helpful resource for leaders to systematically introduce the core ideas that guided the development of the Grange.

The “heirlooms” are 60 of the most potent and meaningful nuggets that appear throughout Grange work. They are arranged on a schedule that covers all of the ideas over a five year period.

“Even taking five minutes each meeting to read the entry for that month and encourage a brief discussion may be a really impactful introduction to the powerful ideas that should guide our work,” she said.

FUNDRAISING

Today’s Granges face a dual challenge. Philip Vonada, newly announced Communications Director,

held the workshop “Putting the Fun in Fundraising” to help Grangers realize there are more fundraising opportunities than selling candles and cookbooks.

These fundraisers are all very ‘one-touch’, there is no real interaction or collaboration when it comes to selling an item.

Vonada encouraged sponsoring events that involve the whole community, and partnering with other local organizations.

Another point he made was about funding, how you need to spend money to make money and looking into a Tax I.D. number that every state Grange has which gives legitimacy to your fundraiser.

Vonada also explained the importance of partnering with youth based groups such as 4-H and the Future Farmers of America, given that those groups are a great starting point and recruiting tool to get potential new members.

He spoke on the importance of using your local media outlets and free online resources as a way to advertise your event.

All three workshops can be found in their entirety by visiting the National Grange Facebook Page or YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/nationalgrange).

PETERSON
from page 1

were involved in extracurriculars of all kind. While they were not actually Grange members (the nearest Grange Hall to their farm is 87 miles away), they were active in 4-H, Future Farmers of America (FFA), music, leadership and a variety of sports.

These activities helped them make the plunge into the world of social media, where they have enjoyed nominal success for nearly a decade.

Their workshops gave attendees the opportunity to ask questions

of Peterson. His answers were informed, poignant, and equal measures from the heart and mind.

He touched on subjects spanning from organic farming practices, legacy of farming in the midwest and the future of the Peterson Farm Brothers and their creative enterprises.

“I wanted to be an NBA basketball player as a kid,” he said “If I had a message to 15-year old me, it would be to try some things. Even if it is stuff that your friends don’t like, step out on your own and take some risks.”

Later on Thursday evening, the

Peterson Farm Brothers presented a concert for Grange members and the public at the Century II M. J. Teall Theater.

The concert interspersed stories of farming, their rise to popularity and singing along to their videos that can still be found on YouTube, Facebook and other social media platforms.

“We never intended to go viral,” Greg Peterson said. “It just happened that one video we did was picked up at the right time.”

They chronicled their journey from the farm to the big city and back to their farm, which they still operate, despite their success.

How to Say Thank You: *Physical Affection*

BY AMANDA BROZANA RIOS, *Director of Membership and Leadership Development*

Some members “hear” thank you most deeply with authorized and welcomed physical affection.

These members enjoy hugs and handshakes as gestures of appreciation.

It’s imperative that you have a close relationship with the person, so much so that providing anything further than a fist-bump or handshake is clearly welcomed.

Consider asking if they are a “hug person” and make sure to always ensure they are comfortable with physical appreciation.

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.



Members of the Great Plains host committee presented donations and more than \$2,600 to the Wichita Children’s Home.

Thank you to our Delegates, guests and friends for your commitment to giving back to our host cities.



G.R.O.W. Club inducts new members



New members were inducted to the G.R.O.W. Club, an elite group of Youth and Young Adults who have served in the Horizon Youth Leadership programs. Inducted tonight were (L-R) Molly Newman (KS), Vince Newman (KS), Britney Mercado (NY), Amber Corll (OH), Cole Settle (NC), Lillian Roquet (NC), and Braden Gourley (PA).

“There’s No Place Like Home”



Youth and Young Adult attendees celebrated being in Kansas with a “Wizard of Oz”-themed costume party.



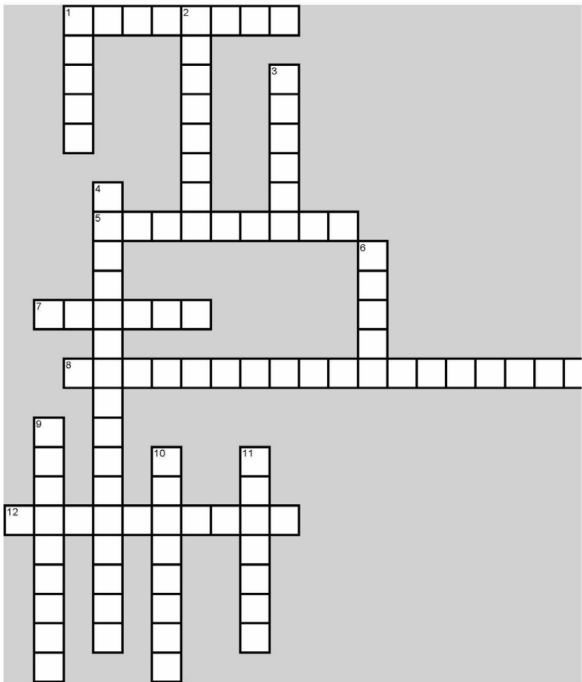
Sights from Session



DAILY PUZZLE

Answers located in your
Subordinate Manual

Who Is Being Installed?



ACROSS

1. may you never labor in vain
5. has crumbled into dust
7. encourage the education of the children
8. the associations so formed prove honorable
12. that they hold you in high esteem

DOWN

1. dignify the one, guard the brightness of the other
2. urge and encourage the young and the diffident
3. let all endeavor that youth may be studious and virtuous
4. be cautious, be true
6. is prepared to be the abode
9. you are honorable and worthy of the trust
10. the quickest and most enduring in result is the kind word
11. by referring them to the library