



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

January 14, 2022

Planting the Seeds of Agriculture in our Youth

By Betsy Huber, National Grange President

It created quite a stir this week when we saw [a story on Facebook](#) about the youngest certified farmer in Georgia, six-year-old Kendall Rae Johnson.

Kendall Rae lives with her parents in Atlanta and when she showed interest in growing things at four years old, they built her a small patio garden. Two years later, she has grown into a small backyard farm that produces vegetables and fruits that she sells in food basket subscriptions through her business, called [aGROWKulture](#), currently offering about 20 monthly subscription baskets of fruits and vegetables to local community members.

The county commissioners recognized her work by presenting her with a proclamation declaring September 28, 2021 as Kendall Rae Johnson Appreciation Day in Fulton County. Now she is an intern in the county commissioners' office because of her "infectious energy and passion for growing fruits and vegetables."

The Johnson's goal is to expand to 75 to 100 acres in five years. Asked if she wants to be a farmer when she grows up, Kendall Rae replied, "Oh yeah, and I think I am already a farmer." Absolutely she is!

I hope this story inspires you to mentor a young person—a child or grandchild or Junior Granger—to develop their interest in agriculture or gardening. They are never too young! If you own a Grange Hall with a bit of property, start a community garden. If you don't have land, contact your local elementary school about helping to start a garden on school property. It's been proven that children will eat more vegetables and try different ones if they help grow them.

If you're not into playing in the dirt, partner with [Ag in the Classroom](#) and help teach students in their schools about agriculture. AITC has lots of resources and curricula for you to use and every state has an AITC organization. Several State Granges are very active in participating with Ag in the Classroom.

If one of these projects sounds good to you, start now to plan for garden season in the spring. It will be here soon—we hope!

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Impart Grange lessons at every meeting with the Heirloom Program

By Amanda Brozana Rios, Membership/Leadership Development Director

The Grange's many lessons are found in our cornerstone documents – our Declaration of Purposes, the Opening and Closing of our meetings and our Degree work, especially in the First Four.

However, they are easily overshadowed by the business of the Grange and hampered when spoken by short attention spans and language that is beautiful but uncommon. New members often wait years to see or hear all of these words of wisdom. More seasoned members may recall the words but have not taken the time to think about them and apply them to daily life in some time.



For that reason, the National Grange has released the Heirloom Program, and encouraged every Grange to take just a few quick moments at one meeting each month to introduce a key lesson and reflect upon it – thereby passing on part of our heritage and making meaningful to daily life in the 21st century words mostly written more than a century-and-a-half ago.

The program is designed to introduce these lessons through short readings – similar to a liturgy at a church service. These bite-sized pieces help connect members to the most essential ideals of Grange without overwhelming.

The schedule of readings allows members to experience reflection on the lesson together and potentially share with one another, across Granges, ideas of how these can be applied today. Additional materials, such as social media posts, ads, posters and more will be released with each lesson, allowing Granges to share with not just their members but with their community the central concepts taught in Grange.

A few sample activities are also available – ciphers and coloring pages that lead members to discover the lesson or interact with it – and more will be released as the program move forward. This is not limited to a Lecturer's program – in fact, Granges are highly encouraged to have different officers or members present the monthly lesson and lead the short reflection or activity related to the lesson during the "conferral of degrees" portion of the meeting (unless, of course, you are conferring degrees at that meeting).



Over the course of five years, 60 total lessons will be introduced. While it does not take the place of providing new members with a Declaration of Purposes or conferring degrees, it certainly will allow new members a taste of what they would see or hear when interacting with these Grange texts and events and make them less foreign.

This program officially kicks off in March, as the season of Spring is upon us. The “Year A” readings (March 2022 through February 2023) are available online and all the resources related to them will be available by the beginning of March. A preview can be seen here, with the image to the left and the entire program, including a full description and further details can be found at <https://www.nationalgrange.org/heirloom-program/>.

Each month, a preview of the following month’s lesson will be provided in the Patron’s Chain, including a printable letter-sized poster. Starting on the first of the month, you’ll find the related image of the lesson on our Facebook Page and our website. We encourage you to share the image and start the conversation with your friends – both members of the Grange and those who have not yet joined – and see how these lessons resonate with others.

Welcome New Members!

**Battle Born
Stockton Well
Grange #29
Nevada**



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world."

Margaret Mead



IN-PERSON & ONLINE | APRIL 24-27

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

AFOP Releases Annual Children in the Fields Campaign Report

Reprinted with permission

Since 1997, AFOP's [Children in the Fields Campaign \(CIFC\)](#) has been dedicated to ensuring that farmworker children are protected and given an opportunity to succeed in life. By educating the public, advocating for educational programs for farmworker children, and supporting fair living wages for all farmworkers.

As part of AFOP's mission to serve farmworkers, AFOP formed the Children in the Fields Campaign to work on behalf of farmworker children in three areas:

- *Education/Prevention*
- *Awareness & Advocacy*
- *Expression*



POWERED BY:  AFOP

Children In the Fields Campaign's mission is to show America the realities our farmworker families face through the eyes of their children and to spur action to provide better educational support for our farmworker children, and prevent health hazards from working in the fields.

[Read the full report here.](#)

© Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
Children In The Fields Campaign

Washington DC Experience 2022

One month until the registration deadline!

Youth, Young Adults, and Juniors are invited to join the National Grange in Washington, DC on March 12-15, 2022 for the [Washington DC Experience](#).

The purpose of the Washington DC Experience is for Junior and Youth/Young Adult aged Grangers from across the country to come together and learn about how the Grange functions on the legislative side.

Youth and Juniors will be educated on the many ways in which Grangers and citizens alike can advocate on the issues they feel important to shape public policy and communities in which they live. During the Washington DC Experience, Grangers are invited to get an up-close and behind-the-scenes look at what government is and how it operates in Washington, DC.

Grangers will attend briefings with important information pertaining to the Grange Legislative Department. Plans will also include meeting with governmental departments (such as the Department of Agriculture or Department of Education) meeting with Congressmen and Senators from your state and a tour of DC.

Just as our Grange Declaration of Purposes suggests, we will ensure that our Grange Youth, Young Adults, and Juniors “take a proper interest in the politics of one’s country” so they might become the informed and involved citizens required to move America forward and to guarantee a better society for future generations.

Make plans to join us now. Travel and lodging costs are the responsibility of the attendees with a \$150 registration fee to cover some meal costs and tours. Potomac Grange #1 of Washington DC is offering a scholarship to attend the event - please see the application for the Grange Grassroots Activism Scholarship opportunity in the National Youth and Junior Grange Program books.

Dates for the WASHINGTON DC EXPERIENCE are March 12-15

The tentative schedule will include:

Saturday: Meet and Greet at Hotel

Sunday: Travel to National Grange Headquarters - Learn about the NG Legislative department and how it works in DC - Mock Interviews and Tour the city

Monday: Briefings at National Headquarters - Department visits

Tuesday: Meetings with Representatives and wrap up celebration dinner



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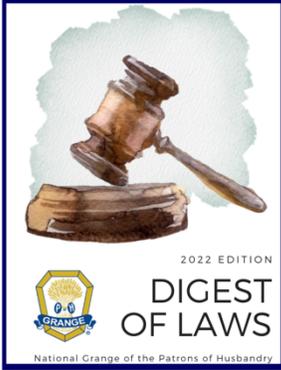
NEW & UPDATED!

The newest edition of the *Digest of Laws*, with an expanded index and updated chapters. This binder also includes the National Grange Constitution and By-Laws, for the governance of your Grange.

\$20 + shipping

Get your copy by ordering online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.com or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

Note: **Members** can also access a free PDF version of the Digest by logging into your account at nationalgrange.org.



Advocacy Playbook – Infrastructure Package and Rural America

The Issue:

In 2021, Congress passed a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package with significant bipartisan support. The National Grange supported the passage of this bill due to its significant investments in hard infrastructure projects in rural America, including unprecedented funding for rural broadband deployment without the need for any new taxes. Of specific interest to the National Grange, the bill allocates \$65 billion to broadband expansion (much of which will be administered by state level agencies), \$110 billion for roads and bridges, including a new \$2 billion rural transportation grant program, \$66 billion for rail networks and terminals, \$17 billion for ports and waterways, \$55 billion for water infrastructure, and \$10 billion for a USDA pilot program in partnership with land grant universities to study the benefits of using materials derived from agricultural commodities in the production of consumer goods.

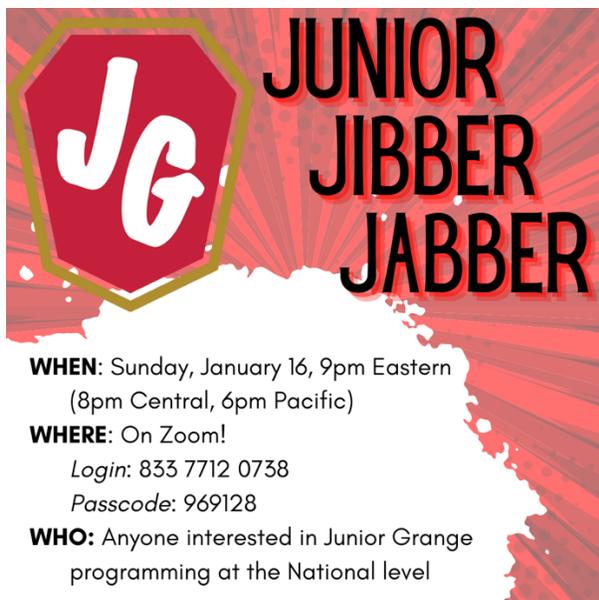
Why it matters:

Rural America is in desperate need of investment in its hard infrastructure from inland waterways and roads to broadband deployment. Without this investment, the economic and development gap between rural Americans and their urban and suburban counterparts will continue to grow. However, just because the bill has been passed by Congress and signed into law by the President does not mean that rural infrastructure advocates should stop now. Just as important as the bill being passed is the proper implementation of the bill's many provisions and the proper disbursement of funds. For example, in the context of broadband funding it is essential that money be spent to build networks in areas that are truly unserved first, rather than used to overbuild in areas which already have broadband access. Similarly, it is essential that advocates for rural America ensure that funds allocated to general issues, such as roads and bridges, be equitably allocated between urban, suburban, and rural America.

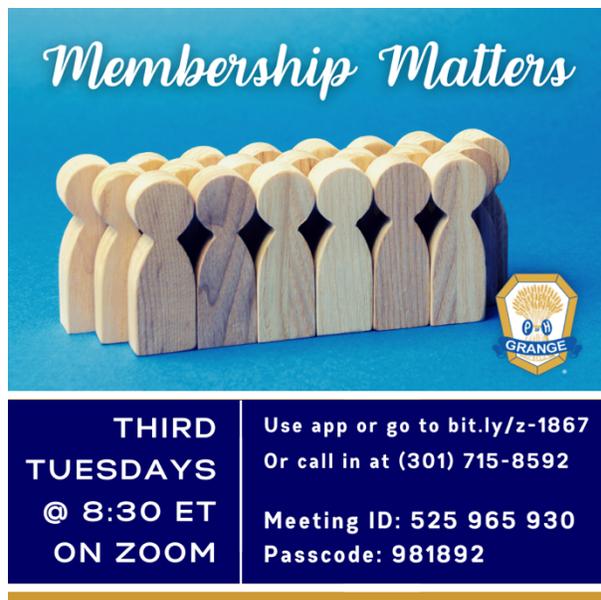
What you can do about it:

If you want to get involved in ensuring that rural America receives a fair proportion of the \$1.2 trillion spent by the bipartisan infrastructure bill, one useful action you can take is to reach out to your member of Congress and state level officials. Elected officials at all levels spend significant time conducting oversight of how federal money is spent, so it is important to communicate to

them that you want to see rural America receive its fair share of infrastructure investment. Whether you plan to call, send an email, or write a letter to your member of Congress, it is useful to include a story about how investments in rural infrastructure will affect you, your family, and your community. Each call, email, and letter an office receives is tallied up and considered when your elected officials are deciding how to conduct oversight of federal funds, and extra weight is given to those contacts which include personal stories. By lending the voice of Grangers across the country, together we can push to be sure that rural America receives the infrastructure investment it needs to continue to grow and thrive.



WHEN: Sunday, January 16, 9pm Eastern
(8pm Central, 6pm Pacific)
WHERE: On Zoom!
Login: 833 7712 0738
Passcode: 969128
WHO: Anyone interested in Junior Grange programming at the National level



Membership Matters

THIRD TUESDAYS @ 8:30 ET ON ZOOM

Use app or go to bit.ly/z-1867
Or call in at (301) 715-8592
Meeting ID: 525 965 930
Passcode: 981892

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