



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

May 13, 2022

Bring fun and connection to communities through events and celebrations

By [Betsy Huber](#), National Grange President



I had the great pleasure of visiting North Carolina last weekend to attend the 85th anniversary celebration for Grantham and Brogden Granges. The day-long event showed the success Grangers can have by working together and partnering with another community group.

The [Eastern Carolina Vintage Farm Equipment Club](#) holds a tractor show each year on the county fairgrounds. The Granges wanted to celebrate their anniversary in a big way, so they asked to join the two events together. The grounds were packed with dozens of antique tractors, a wagon ride, and a kiddie train ride. The building was full of local vendors and Grangers selling local products (“**Raised Right Here**”) and displaying the history of the Grange.

Following the opening ceremony in the pavilion, musical entertainment continued throughout the day. Of course, there was delicious food including homemade ice cream and free slices of pie after the pie baking contest. The [NC Troopers Association Caisson Unit](#) was there, featuring a large NC Grange logo on the side of the truck because the North Carolina Grange is a major sponsor of the unit. There were many other things to do and see throughout the day and I really enjoyed visiting with State President Jimmy Gentry and many other NC Grangers.

I’m sure this event took a lot of hard work and organization, but it was all put together in two months by dedicated, enthusiastic Grangers working together. What a great example for all of us! Everyone was so happy to be together after two years of isolation. With the beautiful summer weather coming, now is the perfect time to plan an outdoor event for your Grange to let the community know you’re still here, still serving the needs in your neighborhood. [Be sure to send us photos!](#)



Time to do some Spring Cleaning!

By [Amanda Brozana Rios](#), National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director

Though Spring has been elusive for many of us, it’s upon us and that means it’s time to do a bit of spring cleaning.

You can start by ensuring your local Grange’s membership list and information is accurate.

This does not just fall on the Secretary of your Grange – each member should assist by providing any updates to their Secretary, and if necessary, to the State and National Grange. Changes in mailing addresses and phone numbers, additions of



email addresses, and other details are important to ensure that you are getting the most membership has to offer.

Has one of the Juniors in your household “aged up” into Subordinate Grange? Make sure they are listed as part of your family plan or that they have a membership of their own. Or maybe one of your “pre-Juniors” is about to or recently has had a birthday and they can now be considered among our family as a Junior. Let your secretary know you’d like them to be added as a Junior 1+ member or [join the Junior Grange](#). In both cases, make sure it’s official by having them take the obligation and be welcomed as part of a regular meeting of your Grange or the Junior Grange.

The National Grange membership database also has fields that allow input of additional information about your Grange experience. Are you a 7th Degree member? Have you received your Silver Star? Have you held a State or National Office? What office do you hold in your local Grange today? Please consider working with your secretary to provide details that your State Secretary can submit or encourage your local Secretary to work with the State to gain access to the database and update the records of your Grange and its members.

For local Secretaries, a question sometimes comes, “But what about those who haven’t paid their dues?” Dues are the lifeblood of our Order, after all, but the bylaws are clear: No, you can’t just “drop” them.

Members must be notified at least three times – one of which must be in writing, by mail – that they are delinquent in dues payment before you can submit their name to your Grange for a vote to maintain their membership (at your Grange’s expense) or to remove them from the membership roster. You should keep a record of how you reach out to delinquent members and the response, if any, provided.

Only if you know someone has passed away, should you remove them from your rolls – but to do so with the respect they deserve, you should also take a few moments to drape the Charter at your next meeting and acknowledge their years of service or support for the Grange.

No matter what has caused a member to leave our Order, Secretaries should ensure the list the State Grange has of current members matches that of the local Grange. This allows us to archive past members and ensures our database is correct for future mailings just to better understand our membership.

Now is the time to reflect on your Grange journey thus far and provide details to your Secretary so that your member profile can be cleaned and adorned with details that helps today and tells your relatives or descendants about your activities and accomplishments in Grange long after you’ve received that welcome plaudit – “Well done, Good and Faithful Servant.”

Vintage Grange Songs presentation



Recently, folk musician Katherine Rhoda presented an hour-long concert at the [New England Folk Festival](#) on the history of the Grange and its music.

[The NEFFA has made that presentation available for free!](#)

Katherine does a wonderful job explaining some Grange history and relevance and uses unique instruments to tell the Grange story. She also has a [page on her website](#) dedicated to some

vintage Grange music.

Take a few minutes to check out this fun program and enjoy some great historical Grange music!

Youth Yammerings & JUNIOR JIBBER-JABBER

COMBINED!

WHEN: Sunday, May 15 at 9 p.m. Eastern
WHERE: On Zoom!
 Login: 833 7712 0738
 Passcode: 969128
WHO: Anyone interested in Junior, Youth and Young Adult programming at the National Grange level

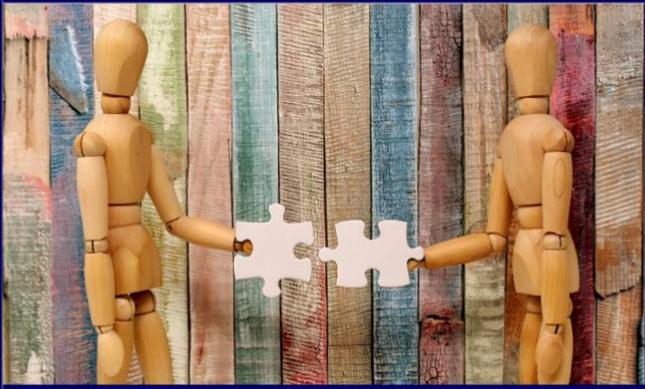



[Click here to join the “Jibber-Yammer” on Sunday](#)

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
with Amanda Brozala-Rios

THIRD TUESDAYS ON ZOOM

MAY 17 @ 8:30PM (ET)
 Use link: bit.ly/mm1867
 Meeting ID: 525 965 930
 Passcode: 981892




[Click here to join Membership Matters on Tuesday](#)

Applications open for 2022 Communication Fellows

We invite you to apply to be part of the 2022 class of Communication Fellows at the 156th Annual National Grange Convention in Sparks, Nevada. This opportunity is made possible thanks to generous funders, but there are VERY limited spots available. Those who become Fellows are expected to make time for at least three hour-long orientation/training teleconferences that will be held at least once a month starting in August and running through October, as well as a few brief assignments or projects prior to the start of the National Convention.

Fellows will hear and learn from the National Grange President, Staff and Officers, former Communications Fellows, other communications professionals, and more. Fellows will produce content for the daily convention newsletter, interviews and content for our social media channels, stories/elements for *Good Day!* magazine, live stream events - and much more. This is hands-on training with support from many of the previous Fellows who have participated in the program since 2012. Former Fellows now hold many significant offices and jobs in their State and National Grange and often credit the program with providing them insight into the differences across State Granges and the opportunities and challenges to the organization, as well as great motivation for being part of our next 155+ years of service.

[The application is available here.](#) Completed applications including nomination letters must be received by the start of business on July 8, 2022.

Rural Minds and National Grange to host webinar

This live Zoom event will spotlight Jeff "Ditz" Ditzenberger, a Wisconsin farmer, sharing more about his personal experience with attempting suicide, confronting and managing his bipolar II disorder, returning to farming, and founding TUGS, a mental health nonprofit.

The webinar will also include

- Pete Pompper, National Grange Community Service Director
- Julie Lux, Rural Minds Vice President of Communications, webinar moderator
- Interaction from the online audience during Q&A sessions

Tuesday, May 24 at 8pm Eastern

[Register for the webinar here!](#)



Patriot's Program



With Memorial Day just around the corner, now is a great time for your Grange to start thinking about ways to honor your community veterans.

The Patriot's Program is possible due to the generosity of Potomac Grange #1 (DC), who fund the printing and mailing of the certificates as well as the accompanying DVD that can be used for our members and communities to learn more about the wars our servicemen and women have fought on behalf of our nation since WWII. Certificates are available for veterans of World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and various conflicts.

The Patriot's Program is an excellent example of a program that allows the Grange to honor those in the community who have done well for their nation, teach other about the sacrifice of soldiers in this time and potentially interest their members or others in doing more to recognize.

If your Grange is interested in presenting certificates, [fill out this form](#) or email [Loretta Washington](#) with the following:

- Name of Grange, Grange #, and state
- Name of Grange President
- Name of Grange Lecturer
- Name of veteran
- Which war or conflict
- Date of your event

Don't delay – reach out to Loretta soon to ensure your certificates are available when you need them.

Register today!

The summer is approaching, and so are the Regional Leadership Conferences!

Great Plains	June 10-12 Manhattan, Kansas	Midwest	June 24-26 Muscatine, Iowa
Eastern <i>Mid-Atlantic & Southeastern</i>	June 17-19 Washington, DC	Western	August 5-7 Eugene, Oregon

For Grange members of all ages

Registration information for all conferences is available on the National Grange website: nationalgrange.org/regional-youth-conferences



Registration information for conferences is [available on the National Grange website](#).

Advocacy Playbook

By [Sean O'Neil](#), National Grange Legislative Assistant

The Issue:

In 2015 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers implemented the Clean Water rule, commonly referred to as the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. The WOTUS rule is a regulation under the Clean Water Act of 1972 which significantly expanded the scope of bodies of water deemed to fall under federal regulations due to their hydrological or ecological relationship to larger navigable waters, interstate waters, and territorial seas. This expansion of waters that fall under federal regulation led to a significant increase in the number of bodies of water on agricultural operations subject to strict EPA supervision. In 2017, the Trump administration began a process to review and rescind or revise the 2015 WOTUS rule and following federal litigation the rule was formally suspended in early 2020. Since being elected, the Biden administration has initiated a process to issue a new WOTUS rule somewhere between the Obama-era and Trump-era rule in strictness. The EPA is currently conducting a series of regional roundtables focused on the new WOTUS rule.

Why it matters:

One of the industries most impacted by the expanded scope of federally regulated waters was agriculture. Due to the vast landholdings required for agriculture, many farmers found parts of their operations now fell under onerous federal regulations which limited their ability to properly manage their crops. Yet more, due to the expansive nature of the regulation, it was often unclear if certain irrigation ditches, retention ponds, or even just low areas of land which could fill with water could be subject to federal water regulations. Altogether, the 2015 WOTUS rule significantly impacted farms due to burdensome regulation of almost all water that crossed their lands and confusion about what areas could be subject to these regulations.

Currently, the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers are beginning a rulemaking process to implement yet another WOTUS Rule. While EPA Administrator Michael Regan has made clear that the administration does not intend to return to the exact Obama-era rule, it is certainly going to be more expansive than the regulation under the Trump administration. While this rule is being created it is essential that the agriculture community makes its voice heard to ensure that the rule respects their private property rights and does not hinder the farm economy. Unfortunately, so far, the EPA's regional roundtables on the new WOTUS rule have not done enough to engage the agricultural community.

What you can do about it:

If you want to get involved in crafting the new WOTUS rule, the EPA is currently soliciting public input prior to crafting a new rule. Information on how to submit comments can be found [here](#). When submitting comments, it is useful to include a story about how the WOTUS rule will affect you, your family, and your community. As well, to learn about and participate in the regional WOTUS roundtables click [here](#). By lending the voice of Grangers across the country in support of a fair WOTUS rule, together we can push the administration to create a system that benefits both the environment and farmers.



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LADIES' SILK SCARF / BANDANA

This silk scarf/bandana is pink with the Grange wheat emblem. It can be worn in a variety of ways and is a fashionable accessory to add to any outfit!

Available for \$10 each - order 3 or more for a discount!

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

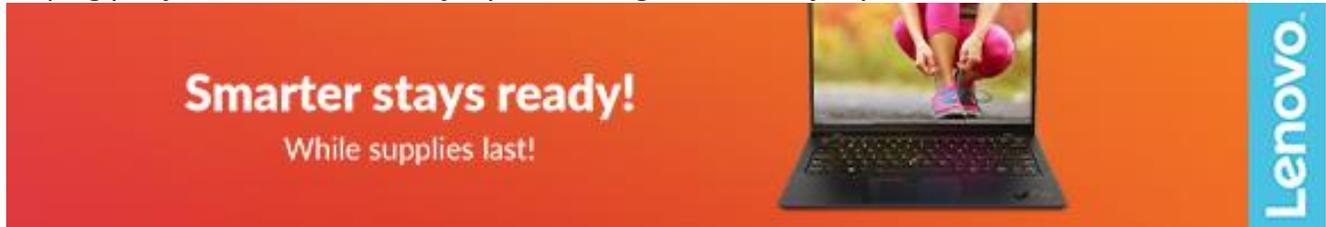
\$10.00
PLUS SHIPPING

Grange Supply Store Note:
Effective May 1, any Grange Supply Store "rush" orders that require expedited arrival (7 days or fewer from time of order) will have a \$25.00 expedition fee added to the order, in addition to the shipping fee. This includes any seals, certificates, and membership recognition applications.

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SUPPLY STORE



GRANGE JEWELRY



Grange Jewelry is now in stock at the Grange Store. Pins include years of service and member recognition pins from 5-80 years, past officer pins, degree recognition pins, and much more!

Some jewelry is now on clearance!

Prices vary

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

www.grangestore.com

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