



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

May 20, 2022

## **National Grange partners with Rural Minds to provide webinar**

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

As you read these issues of The Patrons Chain, you should be aware that the National Grange has formed a partnership with Rural Minds, a nonprofit that aims to end the suffering, silence, and stigma around mental illness in rural America. Jeff Winton, the founder and CEO, spoke at both our DC Experience and Fly-In about his organization.

The mission of Rural Minds is to serve as the informed voice for mental health in rural America and to provide mental health information and resources. National Grange will be helping through our grassroots network to get this information out to our rural areas, where the rate of suicide is 25% greater than in urban areas. This is truly a crisis that we want to help solve.

Rural Minds is hosting their second webinar next Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 pm Eastern Time. If you listened to the first webinar you met Jeff “Ditz” Ditzenberger and heard him tell his story of recovery from depression and the organization he has founded to help those in similar situations. Ditz will be speaking in more detail next week, and our own Pete Pompper, National Grange Community Service Director, will also participate in the webinar. Everyone is welcome to participate in this free Zoom program—[just sign up to receive the link](#).

Watch for more information about the partnership and materials that will soon be available to Granges.

## **156<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention registration is now open!**

By [Samantha Wilkins](#), National Grange Operations Coordinator

The Western Host region is excited to invite Grangers and friends from across the country to the Silver State! We are just over 6 months away from the opening of the 156th National Grange Convention, set to be held in Reno-Sparks, Nevada from November 15 through 19, 2022.

Many new and exciting things are being planned by the Host region and you are sure to have a memorable experience in Reno!

This year, you are invited to kick off the 156th annual convention with a welcome reception on Monday, November 14. This reception is open to all who register for the convention. The welcome reception will be full of entertainment and will include a large welcome from the Western States.

Nevada Grangers are excited to welcome members to their state and showcase some of the amazing things they are doing, like the Youth Fair Program, cultural art dancing and more!

Also, new this year is the ‘Experience Pass!’ Instead of taking a tour bus out of the hotel, we are bringing the tour to you. Those who purchase an ‘Experience Pass’ during their registration process will have the opportunity to stop in throughout the day on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> to participate in hands-on education and fun, with local artisans, vendors, and people connected to the agriculture industry. This is an event open to all ages and is sure to bring a ton of fun to your convention experience.

Just like past conventions, Grangers will also have the opportunity to watch the Delegates of the National Grange debate policies and resolutions, discuss important changes, and make decisions for the future of the Order. The Western States are working together to bring the



exemplification of the 6th Degree to the session on Saturday morning and, following that exemplification, the Assembly of Demeter will exemplify the historic 7th Degree.

If you have never been to the Silver State or had the opportunity to obtain your 7th Degree, now is the time! Also throughout the week, you will have the opportunity to join in on workshops from different departments that could benefit you and your local Grange. There will also be time to meet with the National Grange leadership, learn about programming, and participate in contests and activities for Youth and Junior Grange members alike.

Don't take too long to decide; catch the **early bird registration** and make plans to attend today by registering for the National Grange Convention at this link: [156th Annual National Grange Convention - The National Grange](#).

**Early Bird Registration** - \$32 is open until 9/9/2022

**General Registration** - \$37 is open until 10/19/22

**Late Registration** - \$42 closes for meal options on 11/1/22

**Registration on Site** - will be available at the late registration cost, *however, you will not be able to obtain tickets to any meals*



Submit your videos here: <https://bit.ly/2022TelethonSubmissions>

## **The Grange Foundation Virtual Telethon is seeking sponsorships!**

Granges, individuals, and companies are being sought to become sponsors of this 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Virtual Telethon for the National Grange Junior and Youth Departments. Sponsors can choose from several levels of support and will be recognized during our virtual telethon, on our website and social media, and in [our weekly newsletter](#) and quarterly [Good Day!](#) magazine. For as low as \$25 (individuals/Granges) or \$500 (companies), you can help ensure that children, youth, and young adults have access to educational opportunities and more from the National Grange.

You can learn more about becoming a telethon sponsor by visiting [this link](#) or by emailing [Samantha Wilkins](#).

## 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!](#)

## **Change to Grange in Action program**

By [Loretta Washington](#), National Grange Sales, Benefits, and Program Director

The **Grange in Action** program has grown every year, showcasing the many wonderful projects Granges are participating in nationwide.

This year, Granges are invited to submit a letter-sized one-page entry of *at least three but no more than six pictures and captions of various events/activities that the Grange sponsored or assisted with between September 1, 2021 and Sept 1, 2022.*

All entries must be received by September 25<sup>th</sup>. [Click here for full rules and entry information.](#)

Granges who submit will be recognized at the 156<sup>th</sup> National Grange Session in Sparks, Nevada.

## **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 made possible thanks to the generosity of Potomac Grange #1 (DC), which funds 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 others 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** June 17-19  
Mid-Atlantic & Southeastern  
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](http://nationalgrange.org/regional-youth-conferences)



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*Welcome New Members!*

**King Hill  
Grange  
#162**

Idaho

**Freedom  
Grange  
#1152**

Washington

## **Benefits Available for Farmers**

Courtesy of [benefits.gov](https://www.benefits.gov)

### **National Farmworker Jobs Program**

If you are a migrant or seasonal farmworker looking for training and or employment assistance, the National Farmworker Job Program provides services to help. The program's goal is to help farmworkers get full-time employment. For more information, visit the National Farmworker Jobs Program page, managed by the U.S. Department of Labor.

### **Crop Insurance & Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program**

Crop losses can be devastating for farmers financially, which is why ensuring your harvest can be beneficial in the long-term. Crop Insurance protects agricultural producers against crop losses resulting from natural causes. Several different plans are offered for crops and livestock. Availability of plans varies by state and county. Secure your harvest by researching crop insurance and deciding if it is right for your farm.

In the event of a disaster, the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops. This consists of low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting due to natural disaster. If your farm has recently been affected by a natural disaster, you may be eligible for this program.

### **Farm Ownership & Operating Loans**

Thinking about taking out a loan? Farm Ownership Loans and Farm Operating Loans help farmers with obtaining credit at reasonable rates and terms. Operating loans are typically short-term, and the funds are used for normal expenses. Ownership loans can last up to 40 years and mainly used for long-term investment opportunities. For example, purchasing or enlarging your farm are long-term opportunities.

Some eligibility requirements include:

- Satisfactory credit history.
- Legal ability to sustain loan obligations.
- Unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms.
- Tenant-operator or owner-operator of a family farm after loan closing.

For more information on these programs, visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

### **Browse by Category**

You can also browse Agriculture & Environmental Sustainability benefit category and filter benefits by state or subcategory.



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.com

## BELT BUCKLE

Solid pewter belt buckle with an antique finish - fits most belts. A fantastic addition to your wardrobe, for showing off your Grange pride!



**\$9.00**  
PLUS SHIPPING

Available for \$9 each - order 3 or more for a discount!

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

**Grange Supply Store Note:** 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.

## National Grange Member Benefit – Harvest Hosts



RV Camping on Wineries, Breweries, Farms and More!

20% Off for National Grange! Code: GRANGE

[WWW.HARVESTHOSTS.COM/JOIN-NOW/](http://WWW.HARVESTHOSTS.COM/JOIN-NOW/)

Grange members can enjoy 20% off their membership with [Harvest Hosts](http://Harvest Hosts), which has more than 3500 partner sites across North America that allow members with RVs to stay *one night free* on the property of an agriculturally-oriented business. In addition to the ag-based destinations, individuals can add to their membership the “+ golf” option that includes more than 350 golf courses.

The Harvest Hosts app provides maps of the destinations, trip routing and planning and much more. Members of Harvest Hosts can also enjoy other RV-oriented savings.

Grange members with RVs are encouraged to check out Harvest Hosts at [harvesthosts.com](http://harvesthosts.com) and use the code **GRANGE** at checkout.



## 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](http://grangestore.com) or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

[www.grangestore.com](http://www.grangestore.com)

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