



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

June 24, 2022

In this Issue:

[*Inject your meetings with meaning for maximum results*](#) by Betsy Huber

[*Use the Heirloom Program in your meetings*](#)

[*How are you optimizing your social media?*](#) by Philip J Vonada

[*Register for 156th Annual Convention*](#) by Samantha Wilkins

[*Vermont State Grange kicks off 150th anniversary*](#)

[*The Grange Foundation Virtual Telethon seeks sponsors \(and talent\)*](#)

[*Communication Fellows Applications due soon*](#)

[*Barkhamsted veterans, Grange hold flag retirement ceremony*](#)

[*Bipartisan and Bicameral agreement to extend school and summer meals for kids*](#)

[*Grange Supply Store: Grange Promotion Kit*](#)
[*Grange Member Benefit – Avis and Budget*](#)

Inject your meetings with meaning for maximum results

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

What a great week I've spent in Talent, Oregon at the Oregon State Grange Session! It seems like a long time since I've attended a session—it has been almost seven months since our National session in November and eight months since my own State Session. It was wonderful to be among friendly brother and sister Grangers who gather joyfully to do the business of the Grange.

I'm always impressed by the excellent ritual work done by Oregon and the efforts they make to ensure that the Degrees are decorated beautifully, the parts spoken with feeling and meaning, and the officers are looking their best in suits and gowns. New members can't help but be impressed.

I've spoken before about my growing up years, when my father and grandfather dressed in suits and ties for our twice-a-month Grange meetings and we all attended as a family for this special time with friends and relatives. I know times have changed and people don't even dress up for church anymore, let alone work or social events. I think we've lost a lot by being so casual, like Grange doesn't mean that much to us anymore.

I encourage you to try something at your next meeting. Have a special "dress up" meeting, set up the hall in proper form and perform the Opening and Closing ceremonies as in the Manual. Speak the parts with meaning and think about what you're saying—maybe even discuss what the words mean to you during the program. This is a good exercise not only for newer members but to remind long-time members of the proper form and why they love the Grange procedures. If we expect others to respect us and our Grange we must show our pride in ourselves by doing our work well.

Use the Heirloom Program in your meetings

These little "nuggets" of Grange history and ritual are perfect, digestible lessons for use in your Grange meetings. Use them to discuss issues of the day and learn about and reflect on the Grange in new, meaningful ways.

[**Access the Heirloom Program materials here.**](#)



How are you optimizing your social media?

By [Philip J Vonada](#), National Grange Communications Director

A necessary “evil” that we face in today’s ever-connected society is the world of social media. From Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to TikTok, YouTube, and Snapchat (among countless other apps that seemingly pop up every other week), the landscape of social media can be difficult to manage, but having a presence is important to both attracting and retaining members and participants in your Grange.

According to a 2021 survey from [Pew Research Center](#), roughly 7 in 10 Americans “ever” use social media, with 81% of Americans saying they use YouTube, and 69% using Facebook. A majority of 18- to 29-year-olds say they use Instagram (71%) or Snapchat (65%). So, how does your Grange fit into this?

It’s not necessary to have a presence on every social media site. For the most part, having an active Facebook page is potentially the most important site you could use unless you’re regularly creating and curating videos to post on YouTube.

Potential members or participants are highly likely to go directly to Facebook to find your Grange when they hear about you or your events. If they get to your page and find that its full of typos, outdated information, or that you only post once every few months (or less!), it’s not likely that you’ll have a new member.

Understanding that Grange social media (as with all things Grange) is run by a volunteer or two, here are a few simple tips to help improve your social media game:

- Use a social media calendar – [here’s one from the National Grange](#) that includes National Grange events, agriculture, and major holidays.
- Mix your promotional materials with educational or informational material, or “National _____ Day” posts.
- Get visual! Posts with images receive higher clicks and engagement. Posts with videos have a wider reach across social media. (You can use a free site like [Canva](#) or [BeFunky](#) to create professional images for your posts).
- Keep the conversation going. When someone comments, be sure to respond, like, and engage with their comment.
- Stay positive! Using uplifting language and speaking positively about your Grange and its members is more likely to attract a potential new volunteer or member.
- Showcase what you’re good at – this includes your members! BE PROUD of your Grange and everything you are accomplishing in your communities.

If you ever need help getting started, don’t be afraid to reach out. Managing social media properly can be fun when done correctly. If you don’t have time, consider asking somebody new to take over – this could be a great way to involve your Youth/Young Adult members!

Register for the 156th Annual Convention

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 5 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! Visit the National Grange website to learn more about what’s coming up at this year’s convention.



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*

Vermont State Grange kicks off 150th anniversary



*Dedicated to Past, Present and Future Generations
of All Vermont Grangers*

*You are cordially invited to celebrate
the 150th Anniversary of the Vermont State Grange
on July 9th, 2022, starting at 1 pm
at the Vermont Grange Center
at 308 West Street, Brookfield, Vermont.*

Schedule of Events

- 1:00 pm Meet and Greet and Viewing of Historical Displays*
- 2:00 pm Introductions and Remarks by Distinguished Guests
Historical Presentations*
- 5:30 pm Banquet followed by Music with Dancing*

Overnight Accommodations Available

*More information on accommodations and schedule available
at Vermont State Grange Web Site - vtstategrange.org*

Attire - Camp Casual

Please RSVP by June 25 to vtgrange150@outlook.com

The Vermont State Grange invites you to be a part of their sesquicentennial celebration!

Join the anniversary on **July 9 at 1pm** at the Vermont State Grange Center – 308 West Street, Brookfield, Vermont.

RSVP to vtgrange150@outlook.com by June 25th.

More information available at VTStateGrange.org

The Grange Foundation Virtual Telethon seeks sponsors

Granges, individuals, and companies are being sought to become sponsors of the 2nd 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](mailto:Samantha.Wilkins).



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

Seeking Talent Submissions and Testimonials!

Grangers of all ages are welcome to submit a video of a talent or testimonial about your Grange Youth/Junior experience, to be a part of our 2nd Annual Virtual Telethon!

Submissions must be received by July 1.
Send to: youth@nationalgrange.org
Questions? Reach out to Mandy or Sam!

GRANGE FOUNDATION
Virtual Telethon
JULY 9, 2022

Talent submissions should be between 2 and 5 minutes long. Testimonials can be any length and can focus on your Grange journey or the importance of the Youth/Junior programs.

Submit your videos (mp4 format preferred) here:
<https://bit.ly/2022TelethonSubmissions>

Communication Fellows Applications are due soon!

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.

Applications Now Open

National Grange Communication Fellows

National Grange Communication Fellows
at the 2022 National Grange Convention in Sparks, Nevada
Application available at <http://bit.ly/commfellows22>

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

[Barkhamsted veterans, Grange hold flag retirement ceremony](#)

Courtesy of The Register Citizen



BARKHAMSTED (CT) — Riverton Grange #169 held the third annual American Flag Retirement Ceremony recently with almost 30 participants. The ceremony is authorized by U.S. code title 36, section 176 which states: “The Flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”

Grange President Dave Roberts was master of ceremonies for the program, held at a private residence on the bank of the Farmington River in Pleasant Valley.

Commander Tim Sweeney served as the honor guard commander. More than 1,000 torn, tattered, and faded American flags were retired in a bonfire during the event.

Three years ago, Riverton Grange learned about the need for a non-profit organization to organize a solemn and respectful ceremony for properly retiring American flags, according to Roberts.

The community Grange conferred with Riverton American Legion Post #159, and decided to host the first ceremony in 2020, when 24 flags were retired. The number of flags needing proper retirement grew to a few hundred last year and the event moved to a private home on the Farmington River in Barkhamsted.

[Read more here](#)

[Bipartisan and Bicameral Agreement to Extend School and Summer Meals for Kids](#)

WASHINGTON – On Tuesday, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Ranking Member John Boozman (R-AR), along with House Committee on Education and Labor Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA-03) and Ranking Member Virginia Foxx (R-NC-5), announced an agreement to help school and summer providers keep kids fed. The **Keep Kids Fed Act** will provide important funding and flexibility for communities to provide children healthy meals this summer and provide support to schools and daycares to respond to supply chain challenges and high food costs for the coming school year.

“Time is running out! My agreement with Senator Boozman, Representative Scott and Representative Foxx will help keep kids fed and is fully paid for,” said Senator Stabenow. “With 90% of our schools still facing challenges as they return to normal operations, this will give our schools and summer meal programs much-needed support to deal with ongoing food service issues. Congress needs to act swiftly to pass this critical help.”

“As I visit with our school nutrition professionals, it is quite clear that they need continued flexibilities to cope with ongoing supply chain issues. I am pleased that after lengthy bipartisan negotiations we were able to come to an agreement to extend the waivers in a manner that is fully paid for,” said Senator Boozman.

“While the country is on the road to recovery, many schools are still struggling with supply chain shortages and other increased costs that will make it more difficult to serve meals next year. This bill provides additional assistance to ensure that students can get the nutrition they

need to help them learn and grow,” said Representative Scott. “While this bill does not go as far as I would like in supporting our nation’s students, it is a meaningful step in the right direction.”

“The bipartisan *Keep Kids Fed Act* will empower schools to weather supply chain problems and inflation with targeted and temporary aid to schools,” said Representative Foxx. “This budget-neutral legislation will also put our country’s school nutrition programs back on the right track and keep the permanent pandemic narrative from being used to expand school meal programs beyond their intended purpose. This legislation will uphold our responsibility to taxpayers and abide by the principle that aid should be targeted and temporary while also helping students truly in need.”

Submission deadline for the next issue of



Good Day!™

is July 8

please email to:
pvonada@nationalgrange.org



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.com

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.



GRANGE PROMOTION KIT

With Fair and Convention season upon us, it’s time to think about promoting the Grange to the public.

This kit includes multiple brochures and pamphlets about the Grange and how you can inform potential members about what the Grange has to offer, from Juniors and Youth to e-members and more!

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



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

Grange Member Benefit – Avis & Budget

Enjoy travel perks on your next car rental.

Whether you're traveling for business or booking your next getaway, make the experience safe and comfortable with a rental from your National Grange Avis and Budget Car Rental Savings Program. Members get discounts on base rates, plus other great offers like:

- **Complimentary upgrades**
- **Flexible reservations** with the "Pay Later" option and you may cancel or modify your reservation any time without cost or worry.
- Enroll in the complimentary **Avis Preferred®** or **Budget Fastbreak®** programs and unlock even more perks to help accelerate your savings, earn rewards and bypass the counter for an expedited rental experience.

Save up to 30% off base rates with Pay Now, when making a reservation with Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number **B291044**.

Save up to 35% off base rates with Pay Now, when booking with Budget Customer Discount (BCD) number **R198144**.

Reserve with Avis

Reserve with Budget



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

National Grange HQ | 1616 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20006 | (202) 628-3507

Publisher Betsy Huber, National Grange President. Available to members at betsy@nationalgrange.org or by phone at (484) 459-1957.

Editor Philip J. Vonada, National Grange Communications Director. To submit a story idea for Patrons Chain or Good Day! magazine, request assistance with publicity, email pvonada@nationalgrange.org or call/text (814) 404-7985

Convention Registrations, Leasing Inquiries, Junior Department Samantha Wilkins, samantha@nationalgrange.org or (210) 838-7892

Leadership Training and Membership Development Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director. To learn more about membership recruitment or how to start or reorganize a Grange, leadership training, and more, email abrozana@nationalgrange.org or call/text (301) 943-1090

Membership Recognition, Grange Supply Store, Grange Programs and Member Benefits Loretta Washington, National HQ, ext. 109 or email LWashington@nationalgrange.org

Free Grange Websites, Emails, Good Day! subscription questions and Membership Database Stephanie Wilkins, National HQ, ext. 101 or email swilkins@nationalgrange.org

Lecturer Ann Bercher, lecturer@nationalgrange.org or (612) 501-1231

Community Service Pete Pompper, communityservice@nationalgrange.org or (609) 820-6239

Legislative and Policy Issues Director Burton Eller, National HQ, ext. 114 or email beller@nationalgrange.org; **Assistant** Sean O'Neil, National HQ, email soneil@nationalgrange.org

Grange Youth Mandy Bostwick, youth@nationalgrange.org or (785) 250-7606

Grange Foundation Joan C. Smith, Chairperson, ngfb@grange.org or (571) 662-7220