



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

August 26, 2022

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Seeking nominations for Grange Foundation Board Members

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

Looking ahead to the [National Grange Convention](#), in addition to all the resolution work, special meal events, and fun activities, the Grange Foundation holds its annual meeting on Monday afternoon, November 14 at about 4:30 pm.

The [Grange Foundation](#) is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of ten members elected on a rotating schedule by the Delegates to the National Grange. In November 2022, the terms are ending for Joan C. Smith, Michael Martin, and Susan Noah. (Susan is a National Grange Executive Committee representative.) There is also one vacant seat, designated for a Corporate/Industry representative.

Nominations for two Board Members are open starting on Friday, 2 September and closing on 15 October. Any Grange member may suggest anyone with the submission of a short biography and statement of why they would make a good member of the Foundation Board. Self-nominations are certainly accepted.

Expressions of interest should be emailed to Chair Joan Smith, ngfb@grange.org and President Betsy Huber, betsy@nationalgrange.org, or mailed to National Grange Headquarters, before the deadline of October 15th.

The Foundation By-Laws state, "The process for the election will be that any Grange Member may make a suggestion accompanied by a brief Bio to the Board Chair and President by October 15th prior to the election. That list will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Suggestions will also be taken from the floor prior to the election; each Voting Delegate of the National Grange present will then vote for TWO (2) candidates. The TWO (2) candidates receiving the highest vote will be elected and their term will start at the end of the Board Meeting."

Visit a Grange in your summer plans

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



Summer is travel season. Have you included a visit to a nearby Grange (if that's possible) into your schedule over the past few months? Maybe to an event the Grange hosts or takes part in?

Connecting with other Granges is an important part of our fraternal culture. It helps connect us, but it also is an opportunity to bring excitement and a spirit of collaboration to the table.

Many State Granges used to have competitions for Grange members to visit other Granges or events, but there were also many opportunities for Degree teams, installation teams and more to come to Granges and increase the interaction and exchange of ideas within the Order. While these may not be functioning as they once were, individual members or small groups can choose to continue the tradition.

I encourage you, before the weather begins to cool and days become shorter, to reach out to a nearby Grange and see if you can help with one of their events or drop by a meeting. You need not be a deputy or State Officer or director to do a visitation - just a member happy to see other Brothers and Sisters in their element.

If your Grange is holding a meeting or event, consider reaching out to nearby Granges or to State Officers, Ambassadors, or others to invite them to attend. Let them know you're interested in strengthening the fraternal bonds we all share and that they are welcome.

I'd love to hear from you if you take such a step that was not part of your normal routine.

Register for the 156th Annual Convention

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

Two weeks until the Early Bird Deadline!



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

This year, you can expect to see some new things happening around the convention. Participants in the Nevada Grange Youth Fair Program will have activities and interactive displays showcasing their projects completed in the youth fair program. Throughout the Convention, they will be presenting their projects and talking to attendees about the benefits of the program.

You can also expect to hear from some amazing guest speakers on topics such as mental health awareness and substance abuse. Attendees will also have the opportunity to receive certification in dispensing Narcan, a life-saving medication that can treat a narcotic overdose in an emergency situation.

You also do not want to miss out on the opportunity to get an 'experience pass.' This year instead of going off-site for a tour we are bringing a taste of the region to you. Members who

register for an experience pass will have the opportunity to participate in two days full of hands-on activities from painting barn quilts, cultural dancing, mining, and much more.

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 (less than one month away!)

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*

Western Region Poker Chip Fundraiser

With Nevada in mind, the Western Host Region is holding a “poker chip” fundraiser! With a limited number available (only 500!), you can take a chance by purchasing a chip, which will be used to draw for door prizes and other goodies during the convention. Whether or not you're able to attend the convention, you could still be a winner!

Chips include the Grange emblem and the logo for the 156th National Grange Convention. They are \$5.00 for a random draw, or \$10 for your lucky number (if it's available). Chip #1 will be auctioned off during the celebration banquet.

Support the Western Region today!



[Order your chips here](#)

Junior Grange Deadlines Extended

By [Samantha Wilkins](#), National Junior Grange Director



Last year, we made several changes in deadlines and moved some things around, so with all the potential confusion, I wanted to give everyone an opportunity to still submit applications for the **Ambassador Program, Junior Historian Award, Junior Mentor, Ag Awareness,** and the **Cape of Honor**. The deadline for each of these was August 15 but we will be **extending it to September 1, 2022.**

September 1 is also when all the National contest entries are due- Creative Art, Creative Writing, Photography, Handy-Craft, and digital talent.

Below is the link to the 2022 program book, which contains all the guidelines and applications for the above-listed items.

- [2022-Junior-Program-Guide.pdf \(nationaljuniorgrange.org\)](#)



Youth Officer Team T-shirt Design Contest

1. Designs must be no more than two colors and front design only.
2. Designs and release waivers must be submitted in a .PNG or .JPEG image via email to the National Grange Youth Director (youth@nationalgrange.org) no later than **September 10th**.
3. Voting will take place from September 15-22.
4. Any Youth or Young Adult Member (aged 14-35) may enter a design. Need not apply to be on Youth Officer Team to enter.

Winning Designs will be announced on Sept 30th in the Patrons Chain and on Facebook.



[Find the waiver here.](#)

[Register for Rural Minds / National Grange webinar](#)



Rural Mental Health *Connections* Webinar Series

Presented by Rural Minds and The National Grange

On September 13, join [Rural Minds](#) and the National Grange for the “Rural Suicide Awareness and Prevention” Webinar, which will include people from rural America sharing their experiences of being personally impacted by suicide; information to help prevent suicide; and free resources for rural mental health and suicide awareness & prevention.

Presenters: **Monica Kramer McConkey**, a Licensed Professional Counselor focused on increasing access to and removing the stigma attached to mental health services in rural underserved areas, and **Nathan Lawson**, a farmer and rural mental health advocate, who has participated in the national QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) leadership curriculum.
9:30 PM Eastern / 6:30 PM Pacific

[Register Here.](#)

[View Webinar Flyer Here](#)

Attention Secretaries: Membership Recognition Costs

As of July 1, 2022, the price increased for Golden Sheaf, 75-year membership awards, and 80- and 85-year recognition letters. All awards are \$12.00 each. The updated order form can be found on the National Grange website under **Member Resources**, then **Secretaries' Forms**. Contact [Loretta Washington](#) with any questions.

All Shipping & Handling costs for Golden Sheaf, 75-year award, 80- and 85-year items will now be the same price as the Grange Supply Store shipping and handling. Standard Shipping and Handling rate prices are listed below:

ORDERS TOTAL: SHIPPING & HANDLING

Orders: Up to \$10.00 = \$4.00

Orders: \$10.01 - \$19.99 = \$5.00

Orders: \$20.00 - \$49.99 = \$7.00

Orders: \$50.00 - \$74.99 = \$9.00

Orders: \$75.00 - \$99.99 = \$10.00

Orders: \$100.00 - \$124.99 = \$12.00

Orders: \$125.00 - \$249.99 = \$15.00

Orders: \$250 and above = \$20.00

Note: Any forms that do not have the correct check amount attached will be returned.

Potomac Grange (DC) welcomes new President

Mark Gibbons is the President/CEO for [RetireSafe](#), helping to raise the platform in education and awareness for seniors across the nation. Before joining RetireSafe, Mark served 9 years at Caregiver Action Network (CAN) as the Senior Director of External Programs. Mr. Gibbons dedicated 10 years of service to the U.S. Army by serving as a Commander in combat Operations Desert Shield/Storm and in the humanitarian effort Operation Provide Comfort. Following service to his country, Mark served as Chief of Staff for the Mayor of Augusta, Georgia and then as a congressional aide for Representative Charles Norwood (10th-GA). Following his relocation to Washington, DC, Mark brought his leadership skills to the syndicated television program, the McLaughlin Report and served as the Director of Operations for the American Red Cross.



Mark is a graduate of Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas.

FDA finalizes historic rule enabling access to over-the-counter hearing aids for millions of Americans

More affordable hearing aids could be in stores as soon as mid-October
Courtesy of the [Food & Drug Administration](#)

August 16 - Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a [final rule](#) to improve access to hearing aids which may in turn lower costs for millions of Americans. This action establishes a new category of over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids, enabling consumers with perceived mild to moderate hearing impairment to purchase hearing aids directly from stores or

online retailers without the need for a medical exam, prescription or a fitting adjustment by an audiologist.

The rule is expected to lower the cost of hearing aids, furthering the Biden-Harris Administration's goal of expanding access to high-quality health care and lowering health care costs for the American public. It is designed to assure the safety and effectiveness of OTC hearing aids, while fostering innovation and competition in the hearing aid technology marketplace.

Today's action follows President Biden's [Executive Order](#) on Promoting Competition in the American Economy, which called for the FDA to take steps to allow hearing aids to be sold over the counter and set a swift 120-day deadline for action, which the FDA met. In 2017, Congress passed bipartisan legislation requiring the FDA to create a category of OTC hearing aids, but it was not fully implemented until now. Consumers could see OTC hearing aids available in traditional retail and drug stores as soon as mid-October when the rule takes effect.

"Reducing health care costs in America has been a priority of mine since Day One and this rule is expected to help us achieve quality, affordable health care access for millions of Americans in need," said Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra. "Today's action by the FDA represents a significant milestone in making hearing aids more cost-effective and accessible."

[Close to 30 million adults](#) in the U.S. could benefit from hearing aid use. Individuals with permanent hearing impairment can use hearing aids to help make speech and sounds louder, improving the ability to communicate effectively with others. Many hearing aids can be expensive. The final rule aims to stimulate competition and facilitate the sale of safe and effective OTC hearing aids in traditional retail stores or online nationwide, providing consumers with perceived mild to moderate hearing loss with improved access to devices that meet their needs and are less expensive than current options.

"Hearing loss is a critical public health issue that affects the ability of millions of Americans to effectively communicate in their daily social interactions," said FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D. "Establishing this new regulatory category will allow people with perceived mild to moderate hearing loss to have convenient access to an array of safe, effective and affordable hearing aids from their neighborhood store or online."

[Read more of the release here.](#)

The National Grange was supportive of this rulemaking effort, but [Legislative Director Burton Eller](#) says there were several cautions that were not included in the final rule. These include:

- FDA rejected calls by leading hearing healthcare professionals and consumer advocates to include a separate gain limit (i.e., amount of amplification the device can apply to incoming sound). In doing so, despite widespread support for a gain limit, FDA explains that it rejected doing so in order to "maximize access to these devices."
- The FDA did not adopt the amplification limits recommended by leading hearing healthcare professionals

[Join a Standards Committee](#)

We need your voice at the table to help make products and services that are better and safer

Courtesy of [ANSI](#)

Many consumers are not aware of how standards are working behind the scenes to improve our lives. From the air we breathe, to the food we eat, to the technologies that support

recreation, health, remote learning, and work—standardization is at play, helping to assure safety, quality, and interoperability.

Product standards aim to help reduce or prevent injuries. They are developed by thousands of volunteers—engineers, designers, professional consumer advocates, victims of injuries or their survivors, government employees (federal, state, and local), those who work in testing laboratories, academic researchers, physicians, lawyers, and others all contribute. **But greater involvement in standards-setting from individual consumers—like you—is critical to improving the safety of products that we all rely on, every day.**

Both consumer representatives and standards developers cite lack of funding as a major barrier to consumer participation. And that’s why the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and five founding sponsors launched the [Consumer Participation Fund](#) in May 2022. Aimed at reducing financial barriers to participation, the fund reimburses eligible travel expenses and participation fees of consumer representatives involved in the development of a new or revised American National Standard (ANS).

“We need your voice at the table to help make products, processes and services better and safer,” says Linda Golodner, former President of the National Consumers League and chair of ANSI’s Consumer Interest Forum, adding, “It can be hard work, and like other volunteer efforts, can be a commitment, but at the end of the day, your viewpoint can make a difference!”

To learn more, contact ANSI’s consumer and legislative outreach manager Cleo Manuel Stamatatos at cstamatatos@ansi.org. There are committees on window blinds, beach umbrellas, and adult bed rails, for example, currently meeting. According to Stamatatos, “I’m excited to help consumers find the right opportunities to volunteer and contribute to making products and services safer.”



Are you a *Grange in Action* ?

Apply to be recognized as a Grange in Action
for being active in your community and
completing events or projects

Simple application of one letter-sized page with
pictures and captions of at least 3, but no more than 6
events or activities for your Grange.

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/grange-in-action/>

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 25



[Support the National Grange “Raised Right Here” T-Shirt Fundraiser](#)



RAISED RIGHT HERE™

A fundraiser for the National Grange

Celebrating our 2022-2023 National Grange theme

August 19 - September 15 only!

2 styles

3 color options

(Green, Red, Blue)

Short Sleeve - \$15*

Long Sleeve - \$20*

*plus applicable taxes and shipping



Through September 15, you can purchase a limited-edition t-shirt (available in three colors in short-sleeve or long-sleeve designs) and help support the National Grange!

[Order Here through CustomInk](#)



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!

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

\$9.00
PLUS SHIPPING

Order online through the Grange Supply Store at 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.



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.com



GOOD DAY!™ **AUGUST ISSUE**

This issue features coverage of regional conferences, the Virtual Telethon, and is full of ideas and news you can use in your Grange. Introducing two new columns: "Along the Way..." about Grange-related sites, and "Life On the Homestead," which will feature lessons learned while becoming a homesteader. Plus, the recipe feature is about all things melon - summer's sweet treat!

\$5.00 PER ISSUE

(plus shipping)

or subscribe at nationalgrange.org/goodday

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

Grange Member Benefit – Harvest Hosts



Grange members can now enjoy **20% off their membership** with [Harvest Hosts](http://harvesthosts.com), which has more than 825 partner sites across the U.S. and Canada 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.

There is an app associated with Harvest Host that 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 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 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