



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

September 9, 2022

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## **Installation reminds us of our pledge**

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

In my Grange, September is traditionally the month for the election of new officers and their installation. I know some Community Granges are on a different schedule, but many elect and install in the fall.

I urge you to perform the Installation Ceremony in the Subordinate Manual, either the full form or the alternative form. These words are extremely valuable in instructing the officers of the duties they are assuming. The alternative version is succinct and to the point, in modern language taking only 20-30 minutes to do. The full form is more historical, flowery language and takes longer but, like great literature, is beautiful to hear and reminds us of our legacy.

If you don't have an Installing Officer willing to come to your Grange, try having each officer read aloud their charge in turn. Or have each officer install the next one in line - an executive committee member installs the President; the President installs the Vice President; the Vice President installs the Lecturer, and so on.

The important part of the ceremony is the pledge to perform the duties of the office and abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grange. These pledges mean something within our Grange and even in courts of law. When a person becomes a Grange member and takes the obligation in the Degrees or the Welcoming Ceremony, when a new Grange is formed and members sign the charter application, and when officers pledge to perform their duties - these pledges are just as binding as signing any contract and have been used in recent court cases upholding the Grange rules.

No matter how you choose to install your officers, it is vital that you DO install them using the pledge and instructing them in their duties. And then mentor them as they take on new, unfamiliar tasks. Your Grange will be better for it!

## The impact of “Thank You”

By [Pete Pompper](#), National Grange Community Service Director



**Thank you.** How important those two short words are. The impact of just saying “thank you” for any gesture, whether something simple or monumental, is immeasurable. We, as Grangers, don’t do what we do for recognition or a thank you. We do it because it needs to be done.

From a Community Service standpoint, saying “thank you” is very important for several reasons. When someone comes to your Grange Hall for a dinner or vendors fair, we need to say thank you for coming. People like it when we recognize and acknowledge that they are supporting our Grange in some way.

Thank them for their support and let them know that their support is helping others. Let them know the positive impact they have in the community by supporting the Grange and the vendors there.

Say thank you to the vendors who are there and how their support is helping the Grange in your efforts. We need to make sure the vendors know we appreciate them for taking part in the event and that we as an organization support local vendors. Granges throughout the country hold numerous vendors’ events because we are a local community organization. Yes, they are there to make money, but it is important to thank them for being there.

Last, but not least: as leaders, we need to understand the importance of thanking our members for all they do for the Grange. It is easy to think well that’s what we do as Grangers why do I need to say thank you. Why? Well mainly because it is the right thing to do. But people like to hear it from us because it shows we appreciated what they did and how it was done. It shows we are paying attention to the little things and deeply appreciate what our members accomplish. We need to remember we are not the only ones who have busy schedules. The members of this organization are the true backbone of the Grange, so we need to thank and encourage our members whenever we can. It could be done at the event or during a meeting so they are publicly thanked. It is something so simple but so overlooked at times.

**Thank you** for reading this article,  
Pete

## ACCEPTING BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS



The **Grange Foundation** will accept nominations for members of the Board of Directors from September 2nd through October 15th.

Submit names and bios to [ngfb@grange.org](mailto:ngfb@grange.org) or [betsy@nationalgrange.org](mailto:betsy@nationalgrange.org), or by mail to the National Grange office.

Election will occur at the National Grange Session on November 14.

## Register for the 156<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

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

### **FINAL DAY for 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 (TODAY!)

**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*

## National Grange Community Service Project

This year's National Grange Convention Community Service project is supporting the Eddy House. The mission of the Eddy House is to work with homeless and at-risk youth to develop the life and job skills necessary for sustainable independence. There are several ways that you can help and support this project.

1. **Monetary donations:** Checks can be brought to the convention and given to either Samantha Wilkins (National Grange Operations Coordinator) or to the Host Region office. Checks should be made payable to **Eddy House**.
2. **Item donations:** Donations can include nonperishable food items and items such as laundry detergent, dish soap, cleaning products, and toiletry items.
3. **Amazon Wishlist:** You may also choose to provide items through their Amazon Wishlist: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1X7YACS0553A6?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1X7YACS0553A6?ref_=wl_share)
4. **Handmade items:** They are also looking for pillowcase drawstring bags, these can be handmade and delivered to the National Grange Convention.



For more information about Eddy House, please visit. [www.eddyhouse.org](http://www.eddyhouse.org)

## 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 156<sup>th</sup> 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](#)



## 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](mailto: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](#)



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.  
7:30 PM Eastern / 4:30 PM Pacific.

**NOTE:** The time has changed from what was originally published.

[Register Here.](#)

[View Webinar Flyer Here](#)

## [Make Your Voice Heard: Promoting Efficiency and Equity within CMS Programs](#)

Courtesy of the [Department of Health and Human Services](#)

On Tuesday, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a Request For Information (RFI), seeking public input on accessing healthcare and related challenges, understanding provider experiences, advancing health equity, and assessing the impact of waivers and flexibilities provided in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

The *Make Your Voice Heard: Promoting Efficiency and Equity Within CMS Programs* RFI furthers CMS’ commitment to engaging and learning from partners, communities, and individuals across the health system to inform how we can better support the populations we serve. In alignment with [Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#), the [CMS Strategic Plan Pillar: Health Equity](#) and the [CMS Framework for Health Equity \(2022-2032\)](#), this RFI aims to gather feedback and perspectives related to challenges and opportunities for the Agency to embed health equity into our efforts encouraging innovation, reducing burden, and creating efficiencies across the healthcare system.

CMS is seeking to better understand individual and community-level burdens, health-related social needs, and opportunities for improvement that can reduce disparities and promote efficiency and innovation across our programs. CMS is requesting information related to strategies that successfully address drivers of health inequities, including opportunities to address social determinants of health and challenges underserved communities face in accessing comprehensive, quality care. For example, challenges accessing care may include understanding coverage options, receiving culturally and linguistically appropriate care, accessing oral health services, and accessing comprehensive and timely healthcare services and medication.

CMS encourages comments from all interested stakeholders, in particular, patients and their families, providers, clinicians, consumer advocates, and healthcare professional associations. We also encourage comments from individuals serving and located in underserved communities, and from all CMS stakeholders serving populations facing disparities in health and healthcare. The RFI is open for a 60-day public comment period beginning

September 6, 2022. Comments must be received by November 4, 2022 to be considered.

The web-based public comment form was specifically designed to provide easy access and an improved user experience for submitting information. For more information on the Make Your Voice Heard: Promoting Efficiency and Equity Within CMS Programs RFI and to access the web-based public comment form, please visit: <https://www.cms.gov/request-information-make-your-voice-heard>



## 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!

**FINAL WEEK TO ORDER!**

[Order Here through CustomInk](#)



# SUPPLY STORE

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



## COMMUNITY CITIZEN AWARD & POMONA GRANGE AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Recognize the *do-ers* in your community by inviting them to your meetings and presenting one of these awards!

**Community Citizen Award** - comes in a vinyl Grange folder for presentation. Signed by the National Grange President and Community Service Director.

**\$12.00 plus shipping**

**Pomona Grange Award for Public Service** - comes in a vinyl Grange folder for presentation. Signed by the National Grange President and Community Service Director.

**\$12.00 plus shipping**

Get yours by ordering 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.

## Grange Member Benefit – Nationwide Pet Insurance



**Because pets are family too.**

Members can save more on pet insurance!

**Nationwide Pet Insurance** provides affordable pet health coverage from preventive care to significant medical incidents. National Grange members are eligible for a 5% discount (or more for multiple pets) which makes this peace-of-mind protection even more affordable. Find out why Nationwide is the #1 choice in America for pet insurance. Click on the link to enroll or get more information.

<https://benefits.petinsurance.com/national-grange>





## 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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