



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

October 14, 2022

## In this Issue:

[Do not doubt your ability to connect](#)

by Philip Vonada

[Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF](#)

[Seeking nominations for Quilts of Valor](#)

[Register for 156<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention](#)

by Samantha Wilkins

[National Grange Convention Livestream Schedule](#)

[National Grange Community Service Project](#)

[Western Region Poker Chip Fundraiser](#)

[Advocacy Playbook: Midterm Elections](#)

[2023 National Grange Guide to Contests](#)

[Grange Supply Store: Pewter Belt Buckle](#)

[Grange Member Benefit: Avis & Budget](#)

## Do not doubt your ability to connect

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



It's hard to get started with new things. It can be overwhelming, it can be disheartening, or it can be downright frustrating sometimes. *I get it!*

But did you know there are two key elements to your success? **Don't give up** and **don't be afraid to ask for help**.

Whether it's starting a Facebook page, sending media or press releases, making contacts in your community, or designing a flyer... whatever it is – you are not alone in making it happen. Remember that you have a support system of Grangers across the country – not just in your own Grange – who would be willing to help if you ask.

Humans have an innate ability to connect with one another by finding common ground on important issues. Leverage that ability in effective communication by checking the following:

- 1) Does what you are promoting/saying make sense to somebody who is outside the organization?
- 2) Have you proofread to correct typos/spelling, grammatical errors, or clarification?
- 3) Is all contact information correct – and is the correct person's information listed?
- 4) Do you have an open invitation for your community members to attend?

By ensuring that your communication is clean, error-free, and accurate, you are more likely to attract new members and the community at large to your events. An average person who sees a post with spelling errors, or who gets a bounce-back because an email address was misspelled in a press release, is less likely to make a second attempt at contacting you.

It may also feel like sometimes we are throwing our communication efforts into the void and it doesn't feel like anyone is responding. But please *don't give up*. The more often your community sees your Grange's name or event out in the public, the more likely you are to be recognized. You may become known as "the Grange that does the great chicken barbecue each fall" or "the Grange with the awesome Easter pancake breakfast," so make sure you're also telling them about all of the other activities you are doing!

Your hard work *will pay off*. And sometimes it feels likely incredibly hard, arduous work, which is why I encourage you to team up with other members of your Grange and not to be afraid of asking for help. You can't do it alone, nor should you be expected to. Perhaps delegating something like your social media (Facebook, especially) to a youth or young adult member may be helpful for you; perhaps it is finding somebody to help manage your free [Grange.org](#) website. A communications committee may be worth setting up, or electing or appointing a corresponding secretary to assist in your work.

Just keep doing your best to promote your events and your work. Keep sending your press releases to local media outlets, keep using free resources like radio station community

calendars or newspaper event calendars, and be sure to always let the public know that they are invited to participate, too! It may take a little while, but keep a positive attitude, keep your social media posts clean and straightforward, and you will get there, too!

And, as always, I would be more than happy to proofread your media releases and press releases, help you with logo, letterhead, or business card design, or answer your questions. Just don't be afraid to ask for help!

Above all – believe in yourself, and others will soon believe in you, too!

## Trick or Treat for UNICEF



The National Junior Grange is encouraging Junior Grangers and Grange members across the country to join in trick-or-treating for [UNICEF](#)!

We encourage members to take advantage of the [free resources located here](#) to help make your trick-or-treat efforts a success. And when you're done, please make sure to report your successes [on this JotForm](#) so we can report that our Granges are helping to make an impact!

## Seeking Nominations for Quilts of Valor

National Grange Lecturer Ann Bercher *needs your help!*

Do you know a veteran who is planning to attend the National Grange Session in Sparks who has *not yet* received a Quilt of Valor?

Please [email Ann](#) ASAP so we can do our best to honor all veterans in attendance!

The Grange Foundation logo, featuring a blue shield with a white outline, containing the text "GRANGE Foundation" in white. To the left of the shield are two golden wheat stalks. The logo is set against a dark blue background with a subtle light effect.

## 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



The Western Host region is excited to invite Grangers and friends from across the country to the Silver State! We are now under **one month** 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 the **Experience Pass** will have the opportunity to participate in two days of hands-on activities from painting barn quilts, cultural dancing, mining, and much more.

Make plans to attend today by registering for the National Grange Convention at this link: [156th Annual National Grange Convention - The National Grange.](#)

**General Registration** - \$37 is open until 10/19/22 – **final weekend to register!**

**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 while on-site in Sparks*

**YOU'RE INVITED**

156TH NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION

**JUNIOR ACTIVITIES DAY**

**Who:** Every Junior Grange Member

**When:** Friday November 18

**Time:** 10 AM-4PM

**Cost:** \$20-Lunch Included

register today at [www.nationalgrange.org](http://www.nationalgrange.org)

Activities throughout the day will focus on the four focal points of the 2023 Junior Grange program

- Advocacy
- Agricultural Awareness
- Deaf Activities
- Community Service

## National Grange Convention Livestream Schedule

The National Grange Communications Department will be doing our best to ensure that everyone at Session, as well as those at home, is connected to the goings-on in Sparks! We will be live-streaming portions of the Convention on the [National Grange YouTube Channel](#), [National Grange Facebook Page](#), [National Grange Twitter](#), and [National Grange LinkedIn](#).

These streams will be monitored and will give everyone the opportunity to ask questions and interact with speakers and National Grange staff, while being a part of the action during Session.

### *LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE*

#### *Tuesday, November 15*

12:30 pm – Advocacy Luncheon – speakers: Mayor Ed Lawson of Sparks, Nevada; Emily Haggstrom – VP of Communications & Creative Development, Consumer Energy Alliance  
2:30 pm – “State of the Grange” Address by President Betsy E. Huber

#### *Wednesday, November 16*

12:45 pm – Salute to Agriculture Luncheon – speaker: Speaker: Dr. William Payne, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, University of Nevada Reno  
4:00 pm – Workshop: Communication Fellows  
7:30 pm – Grange Hall of Fame Awardees and Quilts of Valor Presentation

#### *Thursday, November 17*

9:30 am – Legislative Workshop – Sean O’Neil, National Grange Legislative Assistant  
10:20 am – Membership Workshop – Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Membership & Leadership Development Director  
11:10 am – Communications Workshop, “Becoming a Social Media Animal” – Dr. Todd Felts, University of Nevada Reno  
2:00 pm – Presentation from **Rural Minds** by Jeff Winton, Founder & CEO  
2:45 pm – Rural Minds workshop

#### *Friday, November 18*

3:00 pm – Installation of Officers  
7:30 pm – National Grange Honors Night

#### *Saturday, November 19*

9:00 am – Community Service Workshop – Pete Pompper, National Grange Community Service Director  
10:30 am – Lecturers Workshop – Ann Bercher, National Grange Lecturer  
8:00 pm – National Grange Evening of Excellence

lecturer@nationalgrange.org' at the bottom. On the right, there is a cartoon illustration of a woman with glasses and a white lab coat peeking out from behind a mailbox with a red flag." data-bbox="112 757 879 913"/>

 *a quarter's worth*  
A quarterly publication for Grange Lecturers

**Submission Deadline: November 1st**  
(but sooner is better!)

Email articles, ideas, etc. to [lecturer@nationalgrange.org](mailto:lecturer@nationalgrange.org)

## 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.

## 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](#)

## Advocacy Playbook: Midterm Elections

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



### The Issue:

On Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, the 2022 midterm elections will be held for the entire House of Representatives, one-third of the Senate, and many state and local positions. These elections will have more impact than any other factor on what proposals do and do not become law in the next two years in Washington, D.C. and many state capitols. As a result, voting in these midterm elections is one of the most powerful ways that any individual can influence the direction of government policies and actions in the short term.

### Why it Matters:

As a grassroots organization, the National Grange depends on the active civic engagement of our membership to influence policy at the federal level. While we often encourage you to be engaged through letter writing, phone calls, town halls, and more, the power of that advocacy comes from the reputation of Grangers across America as citizens who are seriously

engaged with their government. This reputation is built not just through the presence of local Granges in their community but through the knowledge that Grangers are also likely voters. When elected officials and other decision-makers are aware that the group that is advocating for something is a group of people who may hold them accountable at the ballot box for not following through then they are more likely to pay attention. With this in mind, not only is voting in the midterm elections an effective way for individual Grangers to influence government policy going forward it also strengthens the power of the National Grange to influence elected officials in between elections.

### How to Vote:

While voting rules vary widely from state to state, there are a few essential things to keep in mind. First, it is essential that you make sure you are registered to vote and that your registration is up to date. Using the resources at <https://vote.gov/>, you can find out how to register to vote in your state. Be sure to act soon as many state deadlines for registering to vote in the 2022 election are quickly approaching. Once registered to vote, find out from your local board of election or state resources where your polling place may be on election day. If you are unable to vote in person on election day for any reason, look into what options your state offers for early, absentee, or vote by mail. Finally, research the candidates on the ballot, make your decision, and be sure to make your voice heard at the ballot box this November!

## 2023 National Grange Guide to Contests

The National Grange Junior, Youth, Lecturer, Communications, and Legislative Departments have combined their contests into one **Guide to Contests** for the year! With information from the Junior Ambassador Program and the Lecturer's Quilt Block Contest to the Public Relations contest and the *new* Grassroots Activism Award, there is a LOT of information and plenty of new contests and programs. Deadlines for many contests have changed to unite the departments, so please be sure to read through the program guide.



*Click the picture to access the handbook*

Individual handbooks and contests can still be found in the "Programs" section of the National Grange website.



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!

Buy 3 or more for \$6 each!

**\$9.00**  
PLUS SHIPPING

***A great gift idea for  
the holidays!***

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 the 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. Checks must be made out for the correct amount including shipping and expediting fee.*

*Any orders placed by phone (202-628-3507 x109) and any rush orders must pay with a credit card.*

**No checks/invoicing will be accepted for rush orders/**

**NOTE:** [Grange Supply Store](http://Grange Supply Store) orders received by October 24<sup>th</sup> will be processed before the National Grange Convention in November. Any order received after October 24<sup>th</sup> through the month of November will be processed during the week of Nov 28, 2022.

### **Grange Member Benefit: Avis & Budget**



**AVIS Car Rentals:** Grange members always receive up to 35% off your rental when you use AWD# B291044, plus enjoy additional offers like dollars off, a complimentary upgrade, or a free weekend day. With a complimentary membership in Avis Preferred®, you'll travel better, save time and gain access to exclusive offers. Skip the counter and paperwork at many locations and go straight to your car.

Visit [avis.com/en/association/B291044](http://avis.com/en/association/B291044) or call 1-800-331-1212 to make a reservation.

**Budget Car Rentals:** Grange members always save up to 35% off Budget base rates with offer code (BCD) R198144, plus get other great offers like dollars off, a complimentary upgrade, or a free weekend day. Plus with a complimentary membership in Budget Fastbreak, enjoy our fastest, easiest rental experience!

Visit [budget.com/en/association/R198144](http://budget.com/en/association/R198144) or call 1-800-527-0700 to make a reservation.



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

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

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:LWashington@nationalgrange.org)

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