



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

November 4, 2022

## In this Issue:

[National Grange Convention combines familiar and fun](#) by Betsy Huber

[Junior Grange Updates](#) by Samantha Wilkins

[Seeking nominations for Quilts of Valor](#)

[November Heirloom](#)

[National Grange Convention Livestream Schedule](#)

[National Grange Community Service Project](#)

[Western Region Poker Chip Fundraiser](#)

[2023 National Grange Guide to Contests](#)

[Welcome New Presidents!](#)

[Analysis: Access Is Not Everything – With Inadequate Broadband Digital Dignity Is Lacking](#)

[Census Bureau Shares Details on 2030 Census](#)

[Preparations and Encourages Additional Public Input](#)

[Grange Supply Store: Junior Grange Supplies](#)

[Grange Member Benefit: CVS Caremark](#)

***Reminders: Don't forget that Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, and remember to vote on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>!***

## National Grange Convention combines familiar and fun

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

We are just 11 days away from when I drop the gavel to open the 156<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Grange. Excitement is building in the headquarters and I'm sure in homes throughout the land. Nearly 400 people are registered to attend in Sparks, Nevada and we will be taking over the town and the Nugget hotel for the week. I hope YOU will be among the members in attendance!

In addition to the usual events like the Seventh Degree conferral, the Evening of Excellence talent show, the Quilts of Valor presentation, and the Night of Honors, this year will also feature special activities like the Experience Pass and Voices of the Grange presentations. Voices of the Grange will be short talks or demonstrations in the Showcase room by members of all ages from the Western Region. They are scheduled at various times Wednesday evening through Saturday, so check the schedule and plan to stop in when you can.

The Showcase will feature lots of other interesting displays from the region as well as the Grange Store and the GROW Club silent auction, so you should definitely plan to spend some time there. This year, we have tried to add lots of new activities for visiting Grangers. Let us know what you think so we can continue to improve for next year.

See you soon at our annual Grange family reunion!

## Junior Grange Updates

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



### TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF

The National Grange staff has been on the ground with their boots running fast as we prepare for the 156<sup>th</sup> National Grange Convention later this month in Sparks, Nevada. But in between that hustle and bustle, there have been some awesome things going on with Junior Granges around the country. Over the past few weeks, Junior Grangers have been celebrating the fall

season with many fall events happening in their communities. This Halloween, the National Grange teamed up with [Wonderama TV](#) and [UNICEF USA](#) to encourage kids across the country to raise funds for UNICEF, USA. UNICEF is an organization that works tirelessly to help

better the lives of children around the world. Monies raised during their 'Trick or treat for UNICEF' event go directly to humanitarian efforts around the world.

A big thank you to all of the Granges who took part in this event to help raise funds for UNICEF! We don't have an exact total of what Granges raised for this effort but we do know there were many that posted the QR codes at their trunk or treat or fall festival events and for that, we say **thank you** for your support!

### LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

Can you believe that the year is almost over!? It seems like just yesterday we were celebrating the start of 2022! But alas, the end of the year is coming and it is time to start making plans for 2023! Things will look a bit different this year in the Junior Grange department and we hope that with some of the new program changes being made, it will be easier for you and your Granges to take part in the National Program. The new [2023 program](#) is broken into quarter focuses with one focus in each quarter of the year. While the activities can be done at any time these specific focuses go right in line with some of the National programs happening across many departments.

Starting off the year will be the Quarter 1 focus of **Advocacy** - let's get these Junior Grangers involved in learning about the legislative process of the Grange and how advocacy works in the Grange all the way to their local, state, and national levels. In the Junior Program book, you will see some ideas of how you can get involved and learn more about Advocacy.

Quarter 2 will be our **Agricultural Awareness** focus - learning about agriculture is nothing new to the Grange, but each year we focus on a new topic - for 2023 our focus will be **Reduce-Reuse-Recycle**. While this isn't a new concept to many, there is still plenty to learn here, especially when we start looking at the many ways each of those things can be done and how they affect agriculture across the country.

In Quarter 3 we are bringing back an oldie-but-goodie. Our focus will be on **Deaf Awareness**. This has always been a passion of mine; learning to connect with the Deaf community is important for our young members. This year, we are hoping to have more participation in the sign-a-song contests, but even more, we are hoping that Juniors will take this opportunity to engage with the deaf community and maybe even hold special events like a 'silent movie night' at their Grange Halls.

To finish up the year, Quarter 4 will focus on something that many Grangers are amazing at - **Community Service**. Serving our communities is something of vital importance to our Grange world and is something that makes a remarkable impact on all our communities. This next year, I really want to encourage Grangers to give their Juniors the opportunity to plan and execute a service project. Help and guide our young members to be leaders of their own ideas while making a great impact.

This next year is all about turning over opportunities for our Juniors: allowing them to express their interests and create meaningful projects for their communities. They are not just the future of our organization; they are the **now** - and we need to work our hardest to provide opportunities for these amazing kids to become substantial leaders in their hometowns.

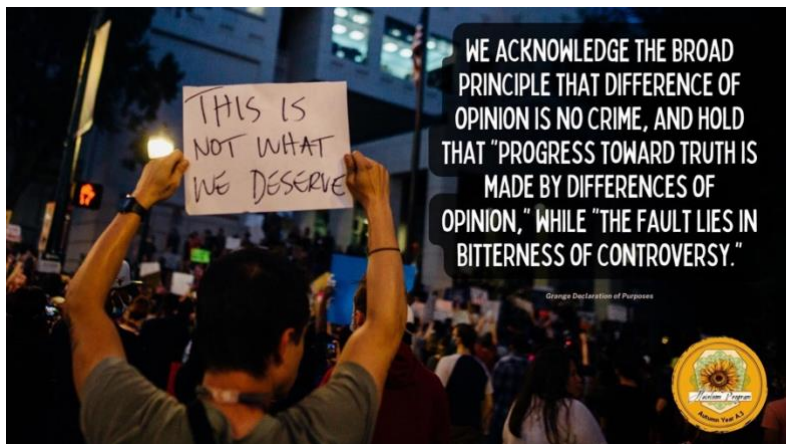
### [Seeking Nominations for Quilts of Valor](#)

National Grange Lecturer Ann Bercher **needs your help!**

Do you know a veteran who is planning to attend the National Grange Session in Sparks, Nevada 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!

## November Heirloom



“We acknowledge the broad principle that difference of opinion is no crime, and hold that ‘progress toward truth is made by differences of opinion,’ while ‘the fault lies in bitterness of controversy.’” – Grange Declaration of Purposes

We encourage you and your Granges to use the Heirloom Program assets in your meetings and on social media this month!

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

## National Grange Convention Livestream Schedule



The National Grange Communications Department will be working hard to ensure that everyone at Session, as well as everyone 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 to give participants the opportunity to ask questions and interact with speakers and National Grange staff while being a part of the action during the 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

## 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](#)

## 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.

### Welcome New Presidents!

In the past few weeks, new Presidents have been elected to lead State Granges across the country. “The members of your Grange selected you to lead them and will look to you as an example.” – *Installing Officer’s Charge*

#### **Connecticut – Robert Buck**



**Robert Buck** was born in 1961 in New Haven, CT, and grew up mostly in Hamden, CT, then moved to Atlanta, Georgia when Buck was beginning his senior year in high school and lived in Dunwoody, GA where he graduated. Buck earned his BS in biology from Oglethorpe University in Atlanta in 1983, then he started optometry school at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and completed those studies at the New England College of Optometry in Boston in 1991.

Buck has been a practicing optometrist for 31 years, split between practices in Bridgeport and Waterbury, CT working in highly diverse and multicultural settings with a high proportion of non-English speakers. In addition to English, Buck speaks Spanish and French, some Portuguese, and snippets of a few other languages. Buck is a 34-year Grange member (3<sup>rd</sup> generation on his mother’s side), belonging to Bethlehem Grange #121 (Lecturer), as an affiliate member of Oxford Grange #194 (Secretary), and serves as Master/President of Mountain Laurel Pomona #15.

Apart from Grange, Buck’s interests are astronomy and cosmology, evolutionary biology, antiques and collectibles, gardening, and birdwatching. With his wife Maggie, Buck runs a 10-acre horse farm called Kettle Drum Farm in Southbury, CT. They have been married for 24 years and met through work but got together and “hitched” through the Grange. Buck is also a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason and Past Master of St. Peter’s Lodge #21, AF&AM in New Milford, CT.

## New Hampshire – Tricia Taylor



**Tricia Taylor** is a 5th-generation, Golden Sheaf, and 7th Degree Grange member. In the Grange, her mother's side goes back to charter members of Mont Calm Grange # 70, and her father's side does the same for Blazing Star Grange #71. Taylor's children and grandchildren all belong to Blazing Star as well, although they may now live in a different state.

Taylor is currently the Master/President of Blazing Star Grange as well as Pemigewasset Valley Pomona Grange. She held multiple offices in her Community, Pomona, and State Granges during her 53 years of membership.

Taylor is a retired teacher and the current town clerk/tax collector in Danbury, New Hampshire, where she lives on the old family farm that her daughter is working hard to resurrect.

## Pennsylvania – Matt Espenshade



**Matt Espenshade** is a seventh-generation dairyman on a farm that has been owned and operated by his family since 1867. Along with his parents, he farms 260 acres, raising hay and corn to feed his 70 Holsteins and Guernseys. Their milk is marketed through Mount Joy Farmer's Cooperative, which is an affiliate of Dairy Farmers of America.

Espenshade has been a member of Elizabethtown Area Grange #2076 since 1995. He lives in Bainbridge with his wife Charlene, and two sons, Evan, 16, and Alan, 14.

Espenshade is a 1995 graduate of Penn State University, earning a bachelor's degree in Dairy & Animal Science.

In addition to leading Pennsylvania's oldest agricultural organization, Espenshade has served as the Master/president of Elizabethtown Area Grange #2076 for the past 22 years. In 2019, he was the recipient of the Pennsylvania Granger of the Year Award, and he has served the Grange at the local, State, and National levels. He has testified on behalf of the state Grange on agricultural policies.

Outside of the Grange, Espenshade is a member of the Wyoming-Lackawanna County Farm Bureau, Mount Joy Farmer's Cooperative, American Guernsey Association, Abraham C. Treichler Lodge #682, and Mount Calvary Church.

## Rhode Island – Walter Hartley



Walter Hartley was recently elected the 35<sup>th</sup> President of the Rhode Island State Grange at the organization's 136<sup>th</sup> annual convention. He had previously served as Vice President and member of the Board of Directors and Vice President of the Rhode Island State Grange Foundation.

Hartley was born and "**Raised Right Here**". Having grown up in a multi-generational Grange family in West Greenwich where he joined his older brother and sisters at Moosup Valley Junior Grange #27 in Foster, RI. After almost being born at their Halloween party, he later joined when he turned 5 and worked his way to become the Junior President. His youngest daughter is currently serving as Junior Grange President alongside the same Junior (Matron & Patron) Leaders that he had.

As a teenager, he joined Moosup Valley Grange #26 and served as President there as well as President of the Rhode Island State Youth Grange. He is a member and current President of Kent County Pomona #3. Along with his wife, they successfully run the Rhode Island State Grange Corn Dog Booth at the Washington County Fair where they are affectionately known as Mr. & Mrs. Corn Dog. He is currently serving as the President of the Northeast Region and Vice President of the New England Grange Building at the Big E in Springfield, MA.

Walter is a graduate of North Kingstown High School and furthered his education in the Police, Fire & EMS fields in Maine, where his daughters, Rebecca & Heather along with granddaughter Aria still reside.

Walter's leadership skills that he's learned during his lifetime in the Grange have greatly helped and guided him as the Grand Knight of his Knights of Columbus Council, President of the City of Warwick Municipal Employee's Union and a State Municipal Vice President with AFSCME/Council 94.

Walter lives in North Scituate, RI with his wife Danielle, their daughter Annette Grace (aka Nettie), and their twin cats, Jack and Jill.

## **Analysis: Access Is Not Everything – With Inadequate Broadband Digital Dignity Is Lacking**

*New research shows that inadequate broadband can lead to waiting, forcing people to take up unusual schedules, miss work opportunities, and more.*

By Kristi Eaton, Courtesy of [The Daily Yonder](#)

While the Federal Communication Commission estimates that 16 million people in rural America go without broadband Internet access, that number may be far higher – some estimates go as high as more than 150 million Americans lacking adequate broadband access, according to a new report.

“Even when access is available, that does not automatically translate to adoption. When it is available only 63% of rural residents subscribe to home broadband,” according to the new research, appearing in the Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication.

“Additionally, lack of competition means that 36% of rural households do not have a choice of providers and rural residents pay over 30% more for subscriptions (already a national average of \$84/month) than urban Americans.”

Researchers Nick Mathews, assistant professor of digital journalism at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, and Christopher Ali, the Pioneers Chair in Telecommunications and Professor of Telecommunications in the Bellisario College of Communications at Pennsylvania State University, conducted 19 interviews with families in a rural county in the East Coast who lacked adequate broadband connections.

“One of the things we looked at was what people were doing, while they were waiting for connection, while they were waiting while using the Internet, and what they were waiting for in a better connection as well. And very broadly, what we found out is that people just have this utter sense of hopelessness, like they're out of control. The situation is out of their control,” Mathews said in an interview with the *Daily Yonder*.”

...Another issue that Mathews and Ali studied was digital dignity, the idea that someone has the same access to a digital life as someone else.

“These people in this county and these people without broadband access, they don't [have digital dignity],” Mathews said. “They don't have this sense of digital dignity because they do not live in the same way that we do and it's a fact that is underappreciated, and, frankly, is taken for granted. Right? The idea that I can be talking to you on Zoom right now, or I can be looking up anything I want to right now is taken for granted by me. And I try not to, but it's taken

for granted by society in general. And there are millions of people who do not have this access, and they're being left behind.”

Mathews said he hopes this research study and others will bring about greater awareness to the inequalities across the digital landscape.

[Read the full article on Daily Yonder](#)

## [Census Bureau Shares Details on 2030 Census Preparations and Encourages Additional Public Input](#)

*Courtesy of the Census Bureau*

On November 1, the U.S. Census Bureau released a [prerecorded presentation](#) explaining how it is preparing for the 2030 Census, including research that is underway, the planning timeline and details on how the public can provide input on the design and planning of the next census.

The Census Bureau has begun dozens of research projects to address five areas that will enhance the science of census-taking. It will consider the research findings and public input as it develops the initial operational design for the 2030 Census – the “big picture” plan for conducting the census.

In August, the Census Bureau posted a [Federal Register Notice](#) inviting the public to share its ideas for improving the census. In the presentation, Census Bureau officials note the agency particularly wants to hear recommendations on these topics:

- **Reaching and motivating everyone to respond to the census.** How can we reach everyone in the nation and motivate them to respond to the census? How can we reach historically undercounted populations (such as the Hispanic or Latino population, the Black or African American population, the American Indian or Alaska Native population living on a reservation, people who reported being of Some Other Race, and young children)?
- **Technology.** What technology could make responding to the census more user-friendly? If we need to collect data in person, how can we use technology to do that more effectively?
- **New data sources.** The 2020 Census used [administrative records](#) (such as data from federal and state governments), third-party sources (data from commercial sources), internal data, and publicly available information to enhance operational efficiency and data quality. What other data sources, or methods of using them, could increase operational efficiency and effectiveness and improve data quality?
- **How we contact respondents.** How can we tailor our contact strategies to encourage households to respond to the census on their own? What tools and messages should we use to invite people to respond, and how often should we reach out to each household?
- **Respondent support.** How can we support people as they respond – whether online, by phone, by mail, in English or in another language? How can we increase access for people with disabilities?

The public has until November 15 to comment and is encouraged to provide additional input on ways to improve the 2030 Census. More information is available on the [2030 Census](#) webpage.





# SUPPLY STORE

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

## JUNIOR GRANGE SUPPLIES



**Junior Grange Brochures**  
**\$3.00 for 75** plus shipping  
discounts for larger quantities



**Junior Grange Songbook**  
**\$1.50** plus shipping  
**final markdown!**



**Past Master Jewelry**  
**Gavel Pin - \$7.50** plus shipping  
**Tie Tack - \$3.00** plus shipping  
discounts for larger quantities



**Junior Grange Manual**  
**\$5.00** plus shipping

**Grange Emblem**  
**Junior Patch**  
**\$2.00** plus shipping



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:** Due to the National Grange Convention, any [Grange Supply Store](http://Grange Supply Store) received during the month of November will be processed during the week of Nov 28, 2022.

### **Grange Member Benefit: CVS Caremark**



Rx Pharmacy Card provided by CVS Caremark (**also for pet prescriptions**). This program offers the **RxSavings Plus Card**, a NO-FEE exclusive benefit to National Grange members that is not offered to the public. The RxSavings Plus Card allows members to go to almost any pharmacy and take advantage of its benefits. Unlike other savings

plans, the CVS Caremark program applies to 99% of prescription drugs. Save on Lipitor, Plavix, high blood pressure medications, and thousands more—even pet medications! For the Rx Pharmacy Card Program, go to <http://nationalgrange.rxsavingsplus.com>.

If your pet has been prescribed a medication, you may be able to get a discount with the RxSavings Plus Card at a participating pharmacy. During your pet's examination, ask if the treatment plan they are recommending includes medications that are also used to treat human conditions. If so, you can request a written prescription from your veterinarian instead of the veterinarian clinic providing the medications.



**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)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:pvonada@nationalgrange.org) or call/text (814) 404-7985

**Convention Registrations, Leasing Inquiries, Junior Department** Samantha Wilkins, [samantha@nationalgrange.org](mailto: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](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)

**Free Grange Websites, Emails, Good Day! subscription questions and Membership Database** Stephanie Wilkins, National HQ, ext. 101 or email [swilkins@nationalgrange.org](mailto:swilkins@nationalgrange.org)

**Lecturer** Ann Bercher, [lecturer@nationalgrange.org](mailto:lecturer@nationalgrange.org) or (612) 501-1231

**Community Service** Pete Pompper, [communityservice@nationalgrange.org](mailto:communityservice@nationalgrange.org) or (609) 820-6239

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

**Grange Youth** Mandy Bostwick, [youth@nationalgrange.org](mailto:youth@nationalgrange.org) or (785) 250-7606

**Grange Foundation** Joan C. Smith, Chairperson, [ngfb@grange.org](mailto:ngfb@grange.org) or (571) 662-7220