



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

November 11, 2022

## In this Issue:

[National Grange Convention will set off “Sparks”](#)

*by Philip J Vonada*

[National Grange Convention Program](#)

[National Grange Convention Livestream Schedule](#)

[156<sup>th</sup> Attendee Passport Challenge](#)

[National Grange Community Service Project](#)

[Western Region Poker Chip Fundraiser](#)

[Welcome New Presidents!](#)

[Advocacy Playbook: National Grange and Resolutions](#)

[Grange Supply Store Updates](#)

## **National Convention Preview Edition**



*Ours is a country filled with promise for tomorrow — because ours is a history shaped by heroes like you.  
Thank you for your service.*

## **National Grange Convention will set off “Sparks”**

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

After months and years of anticipation, the National Grange will kick off its 156<sup>th</sup> Annual National Grange Convention in Sparks, Nevada on Tuesday! Staff, Delegates, Officers, guests, and friends are already beginning to arrive in the Silver State, looking forward to the fellowship and fun – and yes, the work, too – that makes National Grange Sessions so memorable!

The states of the Western Region are ready to show off! Nevada Grangers are excited to welcome members to their state and showcase some of the amazing things they are doing in the Showcase and the Experience Pass.

Just like past conventions, Grangers will also have the opportunity to watch the Delegates of the National Grange debate policies and resolutions, discuss important changes, and make decisions for the future of the Order.

The Western States are working together to bring the exemplification of the Sixth Degree to the session on Saturday morning and, following that exemplification, the Assembly of Demeter will exemplify the historic Seventh Degree. If you have never had the opportunity to visit the Silver State or had the opportunity to obtain your Seventh Degree, now is the time!



You won't want to miss a second of coverage, so be sure to follow along. Throughout the week, the Communication Fellows will be hard at work releasing daily Patrons Chain newsletters as well as livestreaming many of the events – we encourage feedback, comments, and participation from members nationwide.

Members attending the session should remember their cash, checks, and credit cards as there will be many causes to support and shopping during the week, including the Grange Foundation, Supply Store, Junior & Youth funds, Lecturer's Department, and the annual auction at the Celebration Banquet!

## [National Grange Convention Program](#)

Do you want to follow along with the Convention from home? Are you attending the Convention and don't want to carry around our program book?

This year, you can view the Convention Program online and download it to your phone or tablet for easy access throughout the week!

[View the Convention Program on issuu 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

## 156<sup>th</sup> Attendee Passport Challenge



Attending the National Grange session, and don't know what to do or where to go? Take part in the 156<sup>th</sup> National Grange Attendee Passport Challenge!

Each square has a challenge to complete or something to see around the National Grange convention. The aim is to take a photo of each of the 30 items included and upload them to social media with the hashtag #ng156.

The first **100 passports** to be returned to the Vice President's station in the session room will receive a special gift.

So challenge yourself to meet someone new, find out about the things that can be done at the session, and – above all – *have fun!*

Cards will be available to pick up at the Registration Desk or Communication Fellows office.

(click on the picture to see full-sized passport card)

## 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.

- 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**.
- Item donations:** Donations can include nonperishable food items and items such as laundry detergent, dish soap, cleaning products, and toiletry items.
- 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)
- 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**

## 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*

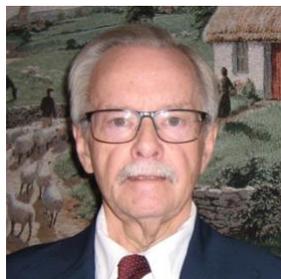
### **Ohio – Mike Russell**



**Mike Russell** was elected the Master/President of the Ohio State Grange at their recent 149<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention. He has previously served as Gatekeeper & Steward in the Ohio State Grange. Mike was born & raised in Miami County, Ohio. He was raised in the Grange starting at the age of 5 when he joined the Junior Grange & is a longtime Grange member. He has served in many offices in the Grange at all levels.

Mike worked with his family on their farm raising Brown Swiss cattle, hogs & grain farming. He was a member of his local 4-H club & showed cattle at his local fair. Mike & his wife Debbie have two sons Jim & Scott. They have also been Grange members since joining Junior Grange. They have also held many offices, with Jim serving presently on the State Grange Executive Committee. Scott & Debbie served as 7<sup>th</sup> Degree directors for 10 years. Mike & Debbie have 4 granddaughters that are also Grange members. Mike is looking forward to serving the Grange as Master/President & says he “will do his best in that position for the Grange.”

### **Vermont – Kendal Holden**



**Kendal Holden** describes himself as a “True Vermonter born and raised.” He grew up in South Pomfret, attended Pomfret grade schools, Woodstock Jr. High, and High School, graduated from Castleton State University in 1968 and began work as a teacher in the Chittenden East School District that Fall, retired from the same district in June of 2009.

Kendall’s Grange life began in 1962 when his classmate, Neil Lamson, asked him to join the local Grange, Teago Grange #324. He worked his way up through the offices including Master, joined the Connecticut Valley Pomona “somewhere in there,” and worked his way up through the offices, including Master, of the Pomona Grange, too.

He met his Grange wife-to-be, Linda Chamberlin, at the Pomona meetings, they were married in 1972. Until then, he had little interest in State Grange, but she changed that. They moved several times, and Kendall had the honor of being Master of both Milton Grange and Essex Center Grange. Somehow, he managed to be elected Lecturer of the Vermont State Grange, and Linda was the one who kept him on track to “strive to do well.” Sadly, Linda lost her battle with cancer on Mother’s Day 2004. Since then, Kendall has served as Lecturer, then Overseer, and now as Master/President... and he’s wondering how that happened.

“It’s an honor I never expected even though my offices put me next in line. I look forward to serving the State Grange with some dignity, a little humor, and a great deal of gratitude.”

## **Advocacy Playbook: National Grange and Resolutions**

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

### **The Issue:**

From Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, the 156<sup>th</sup> Annual National Grange Convention will take place in Sparks, Nevada. At the National Convention, delegates from the many state Granges will deliberate over resolutions generated by grassroots Grangers all across the country. Following these deliberations, the delegate body will vote to determine which resolutions will become a permanent part of National Grange policy. Resolutions discussed at the National Convention cover a broad range of topics, including agriculture, audit and budget, citizenship, conservation, education and health, Grange growth, Grange law, and labor, judiciary and transportation issues.

### **Why it Matters:**

As a grassroots organization, the National Grange depends on its local membership to determine its future. To do so, it is essential that local Grangers participate in the resolution process so that the National Grange can continue to best represent the wishes of Grangers across the country. These resolutions not only affect the internal operations of the National Grange, but also set the legislative goals and objectives of the National Grange in Washington, D.C. National Grange staff take their marching orders directly from the National Grange policy book when working with Congress, the Federal Bureaucracy, or the White House. For example, following the passage of a resolution calling for increased scrutiny on monopolies in cattle markets passed at the 2021 National Convention, the National Grange has sent letters, met with lawmaker’s staff, and joined coalition efforts in support of legislative efforts to crack down on anticompetitive practices in the cattle industry.

### **How to Get Involved:**

If you want to get involved in setting National Grange policy the best thing to do is to write and pass a resolution at your Community Grange on an issue that concerns you. When writing a resolution, it is good to first look through the National Grange policy book (which can be found [here](#)) to understand what the current National Grange policy is on that issue. Next, write a clear and concise resolution indicating what position the National Grange should take on that issue and discuss it at your Community Grange meeting. If your Grange agrees to send your resolution along to your State Grange Session, attend that session and advocate for your state to send that resolution along to the National Convention where your state delegates can advocate for its passage at the National level. Another way to get involved with the National Grange policy-setting process would be to attend a National Grange Convention. The event is held annually in November and moves to a

different region every year, so keep an eye out for when the National Grange Convention may come to your region.

## [Grange Supply Store](#)

Due to the National Grange Convention, any [Grange Supply Store](#) received online will be processed and shipped during the week of November 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Grange Supply Store will be set up in the Showcase during the National Grange Session. Many of the items that can be purchased in the online store will be available in Nevada! Items include jewelry (including years-of-service pins), secretary supplies, **Raised Right Here** business cards and stickers, and much more!



**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