



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

April 8, 2022

## **Grange Month brings renewed Spirits**

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

We have leaped into Grange Month in a big way! It's so great to see all the Facebook posts during this Grange Spirit Week, showing off Grange shirts, recognizing our mentors in the Grange, showing off some great community service projects, displaying our contest entries, and wrapping up Friday with Grange Friend Day. I'm sure we all have so many Grange friends that we may "blow up" Facebook on Friday!

The first of the special Zoom programs were also successful, with National Grange Vice President Christine Hamp speaking on "Prepare, Perform, Persist, Prevail," and the Foundation 1 in 1000 Club sponsoring "Solving the Puzzle," how to invest and prepare for retirement.

More excellent programming is planned for next week, so be sure to tune in Monday and Tuesday nights. You can find the Zoom link elsewhere in this issue.

Members have told me there's a fresh new wind blowing through the Grange across the nation. If you don't see this in your area, just tune in to one of the programs this month or check out Facebook. Granges everywhere are trying new things or reviving events that were successful BC (Before COVID). People are happy to be out and about, and Spring is here—at least the calendar says so, even if the weather hasn't caught up yet. Flowers and trees are blooming, grass is greening, and the earth is waking to life again after a long, hard winter. What better reason to celebrate with a special Grange event, especially now during Grange Month. And let us know what you're doing so it can be shared to encourage Grangers across the nation. Happy Grange-ing!

## **Grange Month is the time to "brag!"**

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

It is Grange Month! As we move into April, there are many events scheduled by the National Grange to brag about what we as Grangers have and are doing. On April 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm Eastern, we will be holding a very special and exciting [Community Service Zoom program](#). I encourage every member to try and be a part of this program when the information is sent out. We are hoping that Granges across the land will have watch parties either in Grange Halls or at homes. As Grange members, we NEED to support our fellow Granges.

We will be featuring three Granges from across the country - North Fork Grange (CA), Cibolo Grange (TX), and Jonesboro Grange (ME). Each of these Granges have received community support throughout the past 2 years and have grown their membership and reach into the community. The discussion is going to be on what they did new or differently to garner such outstanding community support. What they have heard from the community as to what the Grange has meant to them during the past 2 years. What positive impact the Grange has had on other like-minded groups and individuals. What effect has this had on the Grange membership in those Granges? I am excited about the information that will be shared by these Granges.



The other day, Loretta Washington and I were talking about many different topics as we usually do. One that we both found at first concerning, but we were ultimately energized about, was “*How are Granges going to come out of this pandemic as things open back up?*” Well, to say many Granges have come out of this stronger is an understatement - not all, but a lot have.

Granges and Grangers by our nature really don't like to give up in tough situations. We look at it and figure out how can we move forward, and you have done so in amazing ways. Loretta pointed out very accurately that Granges have either taken on new ideas or taken an old idea and put a new spin on it. I see Granges that are refreshed and rejuvenated throughout the country. Wait until you hear the message the three Granges that will be presenting on the 12<sup>th</sup> have to say if you need proof. We look forward to seeing what you are doing to positively impact your community!

## **Next week's Grange Month Events**

A promotional banner for Grange Month 2022. On the left is the Grange logo, a yellow shield with a sheaf of wheat and the letters 'P or H' inside a blue banner that says 'GRANGE'. The background is a golden field under a blue sky with clouds. On the right, the text 'RAISED RIGHT HERE™' is written in large, bold, black letters. In the center, two white boxes contain event details: 'APRIL 11 New Member Forum Zoom 9 p.m. eastern' and 'APRIL 12 Community Service Forum - Zoom 8:30 p.m. eastern'. At the bottom, the text '#GRANGESTORY #GRANGEMONTH22 USE LINK: BIT.LY/GRANGEMONTHZOOM' is displayed in white, followed by 'GRANGE MONTH' in large, bold, blue letters.

During Grange Month, we encourage Grangers across the country to participate in spreading the word about Grange's advocacy for rural America, to participate in service projects, and to really take pride in being a Grange member!

Thank you to everyone who participated in **Grange Spirit Week** on social media! It was amazing to see and hear so many photos and stories about how the Grange has impacted you, your communities, and the whole country!

We kicked off our Zoom series of events this week, and have two more coming up next week. Tune in on April 11 for a **New Member Forum** with Membership and Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios, and a **Community Service Forum** with Community Service Director Pete Pompper.

Check out everything we have ready for you for Grange Month – these materials can be used on social media, in your newsletters and local newspapers, as posters in your Hall or community, or more!

Visit the [Grange Month 2022 page here](#).

Questions about Grange Month? [Contact Philip Vonada](#), Communications Director

## Speakers slated for Legislative Fly-In



The Fly-In is one of the greatest ways members can engage in Grange advocacy and remind legislators and regulators of the unique grassroots way in which our policy is developed. Participants will help to tell the story of an organization that is relevant, vibrant, and speaks from and for the heart of America.

**Registration for Virtual Attendance on April 25 can be found here:** <http://bit.ly/flyin2022>

Speakers at the Fly-In include

- Betsy Huber, *President, National Grange*
- Burton Eller, *Legislative Director, National Grange*
- Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), *Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry*
- Representative Glenn Thompson (R-15-PA), *Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee*
- Debbie Witchey, *Executive Vice President and CEO, Healthcare Leadership Council*
- Mike Saperstein, *General Counsel and Head of Government Affairs, Lumos Fiber*
- Robbie Boone, *Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Farm Credit Council*
- Jeff Winton, *Founder and Chairman, Rural Minds*

More information on the Legislative Fly-In can be found here:

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/national-grange-legislative-fly-in-2022/>

## Bipartisan Bill to Create a Permanent Office for Rural Prosperity at the White House

by Kristi Eaton for [The Daily Yonder](#)

A bipartisan bill has been introduced in Congress that would create a permanent office in the White House for rural prosperity issues. According to its proponents, the office would improve lives and livelihoods over time in rural America.

Earlier this month, U.S. Representatives Angie Craig (D-MN) and Dan Newhouse (R-WA) introduced the Rural Prosperity Act, which aims to streamline federal services for rural America and eliminate bureaucratic obstacles by establishing the Office of Rural Prosperity. The Office would be a permanent fixture in the White House tasked with coordinating federal efforts to support and connect America's rural communities to federal programs and resources.

"It's clear to me that the federal government needs to lift up rural communities and build a country where every American can benefit from our growing economy. I'm proud to lead this bipartisan and bicameral effort to reverse that trend by creating – for the first time in American history – a permanent office in the White House fully focused on rural economic prosperity," Craig said in a press statement.

Matt Hildreth, executive director for Rural Organizing – a major supporter of the measure – said the organization "strongly" supports the creation of the office in the White House to ensure that dollars earmarked for rural Americans stay in rural communities and are spent effectively.

“That kind of commitment can improve the lives and economies of rural communities by ensuring that federal tax dollars designated for them get to the right places and are used effectively,” Hildreth added in a statement.

If it becomes law, the measure would create the Office of Rural Prosperity within the White House to coordinate rural economic development programs across government. The office would be led by a Chief Rural Advisor, who will be appointed by the President and be responsible for coordinating all federal rural development efforts.

A Rural Prosperity Council, consisting of heads of executive branch departments, agencies and officers serving rural areas, would also be formed. Finally, a strategy for the future of rural economic development would be designed.

Currently, there are wide-ranging programs across the federal government that don't have a coherent policy, said Tony Pipa, an expert in economic development and co-author of a Brookings Institute report on rural America, in an interview with The Daily Yonder.

“My personal suggestion would be that such an office, for example, would be the place that develops a national rural strategy or a national rural policy. So it provides a vision for how federal support and policy can better enable rural resilience and prosperity amongst that diversity, and also can maintain and sustain those efforts over time,” he said.

“Because development in the sense of starting from one place, and getting to a place where a community is thriving as more prosperous, and sustains that prosperity over time, will also take time.”

Pipa added that it has to have buy-in from Cabinet secretaries and assistant secretaries throughout the federal government.

“I think the important thing is to make sure that it's resourced both with people and money the way it needs to be, [so that it] matches actually the mandate and the purview that the Office has,” he said.

Craig and Newhouse were joined in introducing the Rural Prosperity Act by Representatives Cindy Axne (D-IA), Adrian Smith (R-NE), Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ), and Randy Feenstra (R-IA). U.S. Senators Mark Kelly (D-AZ), Joni Ernst (R-IA), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), and Chuck Grassley (R-IA) introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

*Representative Newhouse will be honored as a Champion of Rural America by the National Grange on April 26, 2022.*



**Save the Date**

*Regional Leaders Conferences will be here soon!*

<b>Great Plains</b>	June 10-12 Manhattan, Kansas	<b>Midwest</b>	June 24-26 Muscatine, Iowa
<b>Eastern</b> Mid-Atlantic & Southeastern	June 17-19 Washington, DC	<b>Western</b>	August 5-7 Eugene, Oregon

*For Grange members of all ages*

*Registration information for all conferences will be available on the National Grange website*



Registration information for conferences is now [available on the National Grange website](#).

# The Submission Deadline for

# Good Day!™

and

 a quarter's worth

is May 1st

*Welcome New Members!*

<p><b>Chico Grange</b> <b>#486</b></p> <p><b>California</b></p>	<p><b>A Warrior</b> <b>Grange #865</b></p> <p><b>California</b></p>
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*"As we enclose you within a circle of friendship, so does the Grange pledge to you a pure friendship, enduring through life."  
- Grange Welcome Ceremony*

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**2021 JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS**

*155th Annual Convention of the*  
**NATIONAL GRANGE**  
*Journal of Proceedings*

The 8.5 x 11" bound volume of the Journal of Proceedings covering materials from 2021 and the 155th Annual National Grange Convention in Wichita, Kansas is now available.

The journal is 225 pages, including reports from State Granges, minutes from Convention, reports of Grange Foundation and Grange Advocacy, and more. Also includes the full printed policy of the National Grange.

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