# THE CALIFORNIA GRANGER



## **Growing Communities since 1873**

Volume 2 Date: May/June 2023

#### FROM THE TOP ~ JOSEPH STEFENONI ~ PRESIDENT



Greetings, Granger. I hope you all had an eventful and successful Grange Month! I've always found it fitting that Grange Month fall at the beginning of Spring, a time for renewal, growth, and emergence. Last month we passed the 3-year mark of the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced all our Granges to get creative in how we meet, how we cultivate connections with members & community and how we continue to serve the mission of the Grange. Now with life and community returning to a sense of normal, many Granges are emerging anew with fresh ideas, new members and a renewed outlook on their future.

This entrance into springtime is also the best time to take inspiration from our ceremonial traditions. In the First Degree, candidates are taught that the degree is "symbolic of springtime on the farm, when all Nature is bursting into newness of life. The wild flowers are making the woods and the hills glorious with their beauty; orchards are in bloom, and the air is redolent with perfume...in our fraternity there is work for all, and the idler has no place among Patrons of Husbandry."

From the outset we are taught that, as Grangers, we are workers and doers. Especially in this spring season, there is much to do. As Granges and Grangers, we should take this time to ask two questions. The first is "What are we doing well?" and the second is "What can we do better?" The answer to these questinos will help you as leaders and members to set the course and trajectory for your Grange over the course of the year.

In this Springtime season, I challenge all Granges to spark a new idea, try a new wevent, find a new way to outreach and connect with your community, ask a new member to take on a leadership role on a committee, team or office. Find a new way to enrich the experience of your membership. Visit a neighboring Grange and learn what helps them be successful or where you can better support each other. Finally, during this Grange month, find a way to invite the community in and show them what your Grange is doing.

The California State Grange was organized in Napa City on July 15, 1873.

There were representatives from 28 Granges present.

#### **LEGALESE**

Snippets from the National Grange's "View from the Hill."

Emphasis on Local A bipartisan group of senators and representatives have introduced the Local Farms and Food Act. The bill reforms the Local Agriculture Market Program, the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program, and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. The aim is to build infrastructure for small and midsize farmers to sell at local markets and provide incentives for low-income households to purchase local foods.



#### **NATIONAL NEWS - A PATRON'S CHAIN**

A Patron's Chain Newsletter - News and Information Direct from the National Grange to You via your email inbox! You can download the latest issue here.

#### Agriculture production depends on rural energy

By Betsy E. Huber, National Grange President

This week, I had the opportunity to attend the annual national confference of America's Rural Energy Coalition in western Pennsylvania. National Grange and the PA State Grange have been working with AREC since last summer on a joint educational project.

Though the energy and agriculture industries may seem totally different, they face many of the same problems with government regulation, greenhouse gas issues, and refusal to recognize scientific facts. AREC wishes to support all efforts working toward an energy independent America.

Attendance at the conference consisted of representatives from all types of energy industries and related businesses from all areas of the country, along with local mayors, county commissioners, and Congressmen.

You may wonder why this meeting was held in Pennsylvania. My state ranks number 2 in U.S. natural gas production, and together the Appalachian region is number 1 in the U.S. and third in the world. PA produces 19% of all U.S. nautral gas. And of course, the first oil well in the world was in Titusville, PA in 1859.

I learned about oil & gas production in Texas, California, West Virgina, Missisippi, Kansas and Utah, as well as nuclear, solar, coal, electricity, and many other additional topics. We were privileged to hear from U.S. House Agriculture Committee Chiarman G.T. Thompson in person, relating his commitment to both the agriculture and energy industries which both happen in rural America, or "Essential America" as he calls it.

Plentiful and reasonably priced energy is essential for production agriculture, and agriculture is essential for food security which equals national security. We all need to be telling this story to our government representatives at all levels.

#### **CALLING ALL GRANGE MUSICIANS**

#### Music is love, let's share some...

State Grange Musician Wendy DeWitt invites local Grange Musicians to come together in conversation to share ideas for music in our Granges. What classic songs are still favorites?

What modern songs is your Grange singing? Have you written something the membership responds well to?

If you'd like to be a part of this conversation Let's get together via email or zoom. Drop a note to Wendy Dewitt at tqobw@yahoo.com or text 510-847-5847.

Music lifts our hearts, adds focus and joy to our meetings and brings us together with a smile.

#### WHAT IS THE CALIFORNIA STATE GRANGE FOUNDATION?

It all started with a resolution...

Before the "Troubles", the California State Grange had an affiliated California Grange Foundation. The California State Grange never received control of the California Grange Foundation (then operating under the name of Heartland Foundation) during/after the "Troubles". The actions taken by the Foundation had tainted its reputation such that it was not feasible to continue its operation if we might have received control over the Foundation. Therefore, a resolution from Wyandotte Grange was passed at the 2017 Annual Session of the California State Grange calling for the California State Grange to create a new 501(c)(3) foundation to be called "The Grange Foundation of California", giving a basic structure for the Foundation and stating that the California State Grange shall file for the formation of the Foundation prior to the 2018 Annual Session and report to the delegates actions taken to accomplish the same.

The first Annual Meeting of the California State Grange Foundation was held at the 2019 Annual Session of the California State Grange in Santa Rosa. At this meeting, the Foundation was established and bylaws fwere proposed, added to, amended and adopted. The bylaws called for the Board of Directors of the CSGF to consist of the 7 members of the CSG Board of Directors plus 4 at-large members elected to two-year terms at the Annual Meetings of the Foundation in years when there is not a general election of the CSG officers.

The Board started the process to get set up as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit foundation. The Foundation had to file the appropriate IRS documents and open a bank account. The Foundation also had to get an agreement with the National Grange for use of their trademarks. A website was set up and a social media presence created. Our Foundation deeply appreciates our initial Secretary, Bill Booth, for all the work he did in getting us set up with all the government agencies, website, and so much more work he did in the initial years of the Foundation.

Since that first year, a brochure about the Foundation was put together and we have gone through the initial brochure order; an updated version of the Foundation brochure will be available soon. A Policy Handbook has been established and is updated frequently. Our Mission Statement was adopted by the Foundation Board at its August 2021 meeting:

The California State Grange Foundation promotes community improvement; offers disaster assistance; affords opportunities for lifelong learning; and provides scholarships for education and training. We strive to promote the welfare of our country and of humankind and advance the interest of the Grange.

The Foundation has established the following funds:

<u>General Fund</u> - used for the operational expenses of the foundation and for non-specific scholarships open to students studying agriculture.

<u>Memorial Fund</u> - Donations to this fund are made in the memory of departed Grange members and is used for scholarships for members of the Grange.

<u>Agricultural Studies Fund</u> - Donations to this fund will be used for scholarships for students who are pursuing a degree in Agriculture. Students need not be a member of the Grange but must reside within the jurisdiction of a Community Grange.

<u>Disaster/Fire Relief Fund</u> - Donations to this fund will be directed to members of the Grange who have suffered lossed due to a natural disaster declared by the Government. (FEMA has codified the declaration process at 44 C.F.R. Part 206, Subpart B.)

<u>Great and Small Fund</u> - This fund was passed on to the California State Grange Foundation by Rio Linda Grange. This fund is for Grange members who have suffered a disaster of some kind and need assistance with their animals. As an example. Grange members had a fire come through their property, destroying fencting for their animals. The Foundation donated \$500 to these members to cover the insurance deductible to replace the fencing.

<u>Bennett Valley Grange #16 Preservation Fund</u> - The Bennett Valley Grange is home to the oldest Grange Hall in continuous operation in America, built by local founding members and pioneers of Bennett Valley in 1873. There are many projects needed to ensure the preservation of the building for another 150 years. This dedicated fund has been established for this purpose.

#### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - QUARTER 1**

The 2023-2024 session of the California Legislature kicked off on December 5th as the state's 120 Legislators met in Sacramento for their organizing session.

Sen. Toni Atkins (San Diego) was elected President pro Tempore of the Sentate and Anthony Rendon (Los Angeles) was selected as Speaker of the Assembly. Assembly member Rendon will serve as speaker until June 30th at which point Assembly member Robert Rivas (Salinas) will step into the Speaker's Chair.

The Legislature reconvened to begin work on January 4, 2023. 1770 bills have been introduced to the Assembly and 891 to the Senate covering the establishment of an affordable housing commission, to establish a clear pathway for the development of offshore wind energy generation and a proposed Constitutional amendment o establish a Water and Wildifre Resiliency Fund. Other main issues in this legislative session are homelessness, drought, inflation and sustainability.

As the lobbyist for the California State Grange, I have attended hearings on mulitple bills and a Senate oversight hearing on the state of cannabis regulations in California.

Californa State Grange submitted comment of the Sentate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development stating our policy on changes we see need to be made in cannabis regulation. A letter was also sent to the Assembly Committee on Insurance and the Assembly and Senate Committees on Public Safety requesting an amendment to AB 506 (2021-2022) to streamline the training for youth service organization volunteers.

California State Grange submitted a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee supporting SB 224. This bill would prohibit a foreign government from purchasing, acquiring, leasing or holding a controlling interest in agricultural land within the State of California. We have also signed on to a coation letter supporting AB 1111 which would allow the direct to consumer sale of cannabis at events with appropriate license.

#### SPECIAL ZOOM SERIES - THE BUSINESS OF THE GRANGE

There are many layers to Grange and one of those is the actual business operations of a Grange. Join Lillian Booth, State Grange Secretary, and others for a special Zoom meeting series dedicated to presenting and discussing the business of the Grange. Here are the first three sessions. Come and join the fun!! Zoom Link

Session #1 - State and Federal Tax Reporting - Wednesday, May 17th - 6:30pm Session #2 - Minutes: Taking & Retaining - Wednesday, May 31 - 6:30pm Session #3 - It's All About Membership - Thursday, June 15 - 6:30pm

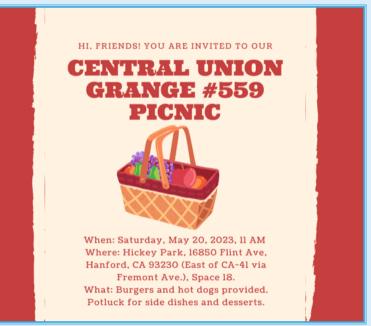
#### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A GRANGE NEAR YOU?





Would you like to see your Grange listed here? Then fill out this form to be included in the next newsletter.

Grange Link Directory





The first building ever built for the dedicated purpose of being a Grange Hall was built by Bennett Valley Grange. The Hall, located in Santa Rosa, CA, is recognized as the oldest Grange Hall in continuous use in the United States.

#### E-X-P-O GET READY TO E-X-P-O

#### Are you Ready? Expo is ready for YOU!

What is the California Grange Expo? It is your opportunity to exhibit the best examples of your skills in many different fields of endeavor to inspire others to also do good works. Agriculture, Art, Computing, Crafts, Horticulture, Needlework, Photography, and Sewing are just some of the Expo contests open to Grange members as well as Guest Exhibitors invited by Grange members. There is a class for everything and if you can't find one, we have the Miscellaneous Division for you to enter and next year there will be a class for that field of endeavor.

The California Grange Expo is the Grange version of the State Fair and exhibits will be on display at the 148th California State Grange Meeting in Petaluma, CA September 20-24, 2023. Unlike many local and state fairs we do not charge an entry fee! Yes, you read that correctly, it is FREE to enter. What is even better is that our contests are open to all ages. Almost every Division has sections for Juniors (ages 4 ½ to 14), Youth (ages 14-20 inclusive), and Senior (age 21+). Winning exhibitors receive specially designed Grange award lapel pins in colors representing the award won.

Like many fairs today, we will accept online entry registration starting April 1st. All photography entries must be submitted online, and digital images will be displayed in a rotating display. All other entries can be submitted either digitally or using the entry form at the end of the 2023 California Grange Expo Handbook which is found at https://www.castategrange.org/Program\_GrangeExpo.html Entries close September 1, 2023 at 11:59pm PDT. Exhibit receiving is scheduled for September 20th at the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds, 175 Fairgrounds Dr., Petaluma, CA.

Baking and Canning entries are encouraged. Each year we auction off these entries, along with the crops entered in the Agriculture classes, to help defray the costs of holding the California Grange Expo. Last year several Granges with Youth and Junior participants received a portion of the proceeds from the auction to encourage continued future youth participation. First place and Best of Show entries in these contests will be included in a live auction and other entries go into the silent auction. Baked goods are judged and displayed on recycled reusable plates, so start watching the garage sales for the perfect plates to compliment your prize winning foods.

This year, since we are beginning the celebration of 150 years of the California State Grange, we have added Division 365 Happy Birthday. Create a party hat or decorate a cake, reflect on the history of the Grange or recreate something from the last 150 years. We will also be accepting entries in "This Should Be in a Time Capsule" for items you deem important examples of what the Grange is today. Entries in this class will not be returned, because they will be included in a Time Capsule to be sealed and opened in 25 years for the 175th Anniversary of the California State Grange.

Watch for more information in upcoming editions of the California Granger. If you need additional information, please contact Katie Squire at <a href="mailto:expo@castategrange.org">expo@castategrange.org</a>

#### 2023 Grange Expo Book - NOW AVAILABLE!!

The California Grange Expo brings together all Grange contests to make it easier for you, our members and friends, to participate in and support the Grange. This book is for Grange and Junior Grange members of all ages as well as prospective members within the community.

Use the Expo to introduce the Grange to other people. Consider offering workships or classes at your Grange Hall or meeting place that could result in entries for these contests. Invite experts to introduce new techniques or skills of interest to your members and the community. Hold your own local Exposition to increase the visibility of your Grange in the community.

**Entries are OPEN NOW!** 

Click here to get the 2023 Grange Expo Handbook.

#### **CSG ROUND TABLE - IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BYLAWS!!**

# This months topic is It's All About the Bylaws with State Grange President Joseph Stefenoni.

Purpose of the Constitution and Bylaws

Function and Structure within the Grange

**Using the Bylaws - Every Member** 

Learn about the hierarchy of the bylaws from the National Grange Digest to the California State Grange, and through the local Community Grange Bylaws.

#### **A Living Document!**

Versions of the Constitution and Bylaws and how they apply now. When were your Community Grange Bylaws last reviewed or updated?



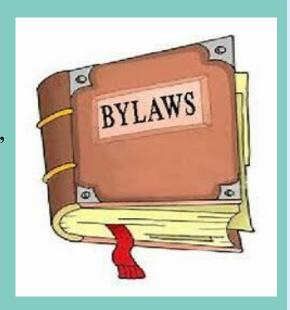
**Ammending Community Grange Bylaws - Process to Completion** 

Ammending the State Grange and National Grange Bylaws - From Idea to Implementation.



### Past Round Table - Found on the CSG You Tube Channel





# WHAT IS THE CALIFORNIA STATE GRANGE FOUNDATION? (CONTINUED)

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One fund that has been slowly growing is the Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund comes from donations to the Foundation in the name of a Grange member who has passed. Additional funds have been donated to get the Scholarship program going. Thus far, we have awarded scholarships to Grange members in 2021 and 2022. Our plan is to make this a perpetual scholarship program, with the scholarships funded by the interest earned on the accumulated donations. But we are far from being able to do that. We encourage our local Granges and Grange members to honor those who have passed with a donation to this fund.

The Foundation has also been assisting our Community Granges in several ways. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the CSGF can accept donations to our local Granges. Monetary donations must go through the Foundation's accounts and the funds then dispersed to the local Grange. For donation of items, proof of the donation needs to come to the Foundation. Receipt letters for both monetary and item donations can be requested by the local Grange to give to the donor.

The CSGF also can serve as the fiscal sponsor of a Community Grange when applying for grants. We ask that you notify the Board of your itntent to apply for a grant, provide a copy of your application and then sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Foundation, as the fiscal sponsar, and your Grange as the receipient of the grant. The funds will then pass through the Foundation and onto your Grange for use in your project. Information about the Foundation that might be needed to apply for a grant can be found on the Foundation website.

Your Board continues to work on expanding and improving the Foundation but we cannot do it all If you have any ideas for the Foundation, please contact one of your Board members. We appreciate all ideas and information that comes to us from our members. Your Foundation can grow only with the input of Grange members across the state. The Board currently consists of:

President	Steven Hood	Central Union Grange #559
Vice President	Erica Kroesen	Little Lake Grange
Treasurer	Katie Squire	Central Union Grange #559
Secretary	Martha Stefenoni	Bennett Valley Grange #16
Directors	Joseph Stefenoni	Bennett Valley Grange #16
	Vince Scholten	Hessel Grange #750
	Will Shaw	North Fork Grange #763
	Susan Hanks	Rio Linda Grange #403
	Lillian Booth	Wyandotte Grange #459
	Jini Reynolds	Redwood Valley Grange #382
	Suzanne Davis	Ono Grange #445

We do ask that you remember your Foundation Board are volunteers. The Foundation has no paid staff, and everything done by the Foundation is done by Board members in their spare time. Please be patient when requestion information, working through grants and donations, and anything else.

For more information about the California State Grange Foundation, please visit our website and Facebook page at: <a href="http://www.cagrangefoundation.org">http://www.cagrangefoundation.org</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/CaStateGrangeFoundation">https://www.facebook.com/CaStateGrangeFoundation</a>

George Sehlymeyer of Elk Grove Grange #86 served as Master (today called President) of the California State Grange for 30 years from 1929 to 1959.

#### Registration for National Convention is OPEN!



#### TREASURER TALK

By: Susan Hanks - CSG Treasurer

**Annual Non-Profit Filings for your Grange** 

To keep your non-profit status, your Grange needs to file a form 990-EZ or 990-N (e-Postcard) with the IRS before May 15th each year.

Which one? It depends on your Gross Income. Gross income is all the monies your Grange has received in the previous year. It is not the monies after expenses, that would be Net income. If you receive money and then disburse it to others, you will count the money as received by your Grange before giving away.

If your Gross income is less than \$50,000, you can file the 990-N or e-Postcard. The 990-N can only be completed online, and it is not suggested that it be tried on a phone or tablet. This is a basic form that only asks a few questions, and when signed, attests that you have less than \$50,000 in revenue. It is important to communicate with others within your Grange to find out who filed the 990-N last. You will need to know the username, the password used previously as well as your EIN (tax I.D.). More Information, and a link to start the filing process: Annual Electronic Notice (Form 990-N) for Small Organizations FAQs: How to File | Internal Revenue Service (irs.gov).

If your Gross income is between \$50,001 and \$499,999, you will file a 990-EZ. 2022 Form 990-EZ (irs.gov) This form is much more involved, but it is still manageable for many people. If you are using QuickBooks or other bookkeeping software, you should be able to pull your numbers from your Income and Expense Report. If the form becomes too daunting, please ask for help. While I cannot complete your form for you, I may be able to provide some insight. Seeking the help of an accountant may be necessary, so don't put off getting your information together and making that decision.

shanks@castategrange.org

### 148th ANNUAL CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 20-24, 2023!

California State Grange - Ever Facing the Light

The 148th Annual Session of the California State Grange will be held September 20-24 at the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds in Petaluma. Each day will feature a workshop, keynote speaker or activity for all attendees! Come Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the California State Grange

Resolution Deadline Information

Resolutions to amend the CA State Grange Bylaws are due by July 21st.

All other resolutions are due by August 15th.

Resolutions can be submitted using the link here, or emailed to jstefenoni@castategrange.org, or mailed to:

3830 U St.

Sacramento, CA 95817

**ATTN: Resolutions** 

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### SAVE THE DATE! - State Grange Speaking Contest

The California State Grange Youth Committee is excited to announce the revival of the CA State Grange public speaking contest on Saturday June 24, 2023. The event will be held at the Elbow Creek Grange Hall in Visalia, CA.



There will be three categories of speeches along with three age divisions as follows:

Youth: 14-21 years of age

Young Adults 22-35 years of age Youth Alumni: 36+ years of age

(Age as of January 1)

Category A: Prepared Speech - A 3 to 5 minute speech written ahead of time

Category B: Impromptu Speech - a 1 to 5 minute speech on a topic chosen on the day

Category C: Youth Ambassador/Young Patron Prepared Speech - Candidates for State Grange Youth Ambassador and State Grange Young Patron are required to give a prepared speech.

More information will be released in the coming weeks.



#### **GRANGE LINKS AROUND THE STATE**

## **California State Grange Links:**

CA State Grange Website CA State Grange Facebook

CA State Grange Expo CA State Grange Lecturer

**CA State Grange Foundation CA StateGrange Foundation Facebook** 

**CA State Grange Community Service** 

### **Subordinate Grange Links**

Central Union Grange #559 Facebook
Ono Grange #445 Facebook

Central Union Grange #559 Website
Ono Grange #445 Website

This section is a work in progress and we need your help to fill it up! Please send us a link to your Community Granges website, Facebook, Instagram, etc. so we can share the info!

Would you like to see your Grange listed here? Then fill out the form using the link below to be included in the next newsletter.

**Grange Link Directory** 



California's first Grange (Pilot Hill #1) was organized August 10, 1870, by A.A. Bayley. This Grange was organized completely by correspondence between O.H. Kelley, Secretary of the National Grange & Bro. Bayley. California's second Grange wasn't organized for almost three more years.

# 2022-2024 CSG Officers:

President - Joseph Stefenoni

**Vice President - Vince Scholten** 

**Lecturer - Suzanne Davis** 

**Steward - Chad Smith** 

**Asst. Steward - Paul Hanks** 

Lady Asst. Steward - Suzi Lawksowski

Chaplain - Barbara Geiger

Treasurer - Susan Hanks

**Secretary - Lilian Booth** 

Gatekeeper - Robert Smith

Ceres - Ellie Bruce

Pomona - Marilla Peeler

Flora - Emily Casterson

**Executive Committee:** 

1 year - Steven Hood

2 year - Martha Stefenoni

3 year - Will Shaw

**Musician - Wendy Dewitt** 

#### **GETTING LECTURED**

Greetings Grangers! I hope all of you had a successful Grange Month. The 148th Annual Session of the California State Grange is right around the corner. We are celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the California State Grange and it will be an event to remember. Summer is on it's way and with that brings many events at Community Grange's throughout the state including Jr. Grangers showing at their local fairs. If you can get out to attend an event near you and show some support it is always appreciated. June is the Speaking contest and July is the Western Regional Leadership Conference and it is conveniently located in Woodland, CA! Be on the lookout for registration information for both the Western Regional Leadership Conference and State Convention. Get your rooms booked early and prepare for a great time. At the 148th Annual Session is the always loved Talent Show and information will be out soon about how to enter. I am excited to see the multitude of talent from our Grange Members young and old. Do you have some great pictures of your Community Grange Hall? I am working on a project for State Session and am looking for pictures of Grange Halls from around the State. They can be old pictures or you can take a brand new picture too! Please send them to sdavis@castategrange.org by August! Enjoy your summer, read your emails, wear sunblock and remember to be kind to all. ~ Your CSG Lecturer ~

#### This is a publication of the California State Grange.

Since 1873 the mission of the California State Grange has been to serve, steward and teach the virtues of the land to our children and community. We maintain our commitment to grassroots advocacy, supporting farmland preservation, farm development, community service, sustainable and regenerative agriculture, and the consumer's role in the food production system.

Joseph Stefenoni - Editor-in-Chief
Suzanne Davis - Editor
Chad Smith - Communications Director

California State Grange 3830 U Street Sacramento, CA 95817

