



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

July 14, 2023

## In this Issue:

[Relaxed Grange events draw people together](#)

by Betsy E. Huber

[No time like the present](#) by Samantha Wilkins

[Participate in a National Grange service project](#)

[Register for National Grange Convention](#)

[Convention Feature: The Lamb Family](#)

[Participation in Multigenerational Panel Discussion on Rural Mental Health](#)

[Order your 2023 Grange shirts](#)

[Introducing USPS Ground Advantage](#)

[Grange Supply Store: Grange Socks](#)

[Grange Supply Store: Raised Right Here Vinyl Stickers](#)

[Grange Member Benefit: Rx Savings Plus Card](#)

## Relaxed Grange events draw people together

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

As you read this, I am already on my summer camping travels—first to the PA State Grange Family Festival July 13-16 and then on to Curtis, Michigan for the third Grange Revival until July 24.

The PA Family Festival began in 2004 when I was State Grange President, and has been held every year except 2020, making this the twentieth year! Attendance has averaged around 150, with new folks joining us each year. I love this event because it attracts a different crowd than our State Grange session and involves a new set of Grangers, broadening their Grange horizon from just the Community level and introducing them to other members around the state that they haven't met before.

People stay in tents, trailers or RVs, or the local hotel. All gather together for meals and evening activities.

The key word is **family**—all ages playing, eating, and relaxing together. Kids get together again with new friends they made just last week at camp. There are a few workshops and sometimes a tour in the area, but mostly it's just chatting, getting to know people who may do Grange differently in their part of the state. Discovering new project ideas and fundraisers. And some friendly competition in chili making or corn hole.



[Grange Revival](#) is the same, on the national level. A time of relax and recharge, seeing old friends and making new ones, touring a new area, eating, and chatting together. You know that Grangers are wonderful, friendly people! Why not spend five days with some of them seeing part of our beautiful country you may not have visited before?

We'll be doing it again somewhere in July 2025, so plan to join the fun and revive your Grange spirit!

## No time like the present

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



Good Day, Grangers, and **Happy Junior Grange Month!!!**

Can you believe we are halfway through the summer, and parents are already looking ahead at school supply lists and making plans for the next season? I don't know about you guys, but this summer has flown by and I do not think we have slowed down for a minute.

As we prepare for the last few weeks of summer vacation, we have started working on our list of Grange projects. Our State Session here in Texas is coming up in a few short weeks so

this has been a great time to break out all of the craft supplies and have the kids get to work on all the fun projects.

This year, we are decorating flowerpots, painting pictures, and building birdhouses; I think there are a few other things we will be throwing in the mix while we are at it. While working on State items we also decided to take a look at the [National Junior programming](#) and see what the kids want to participate in, which then reminded me that National deadlines are quickly approaching! **September 1st** is the date to remember when all our national applications and projects will be due. Please make sure that you take a moment to look at the national Junior Grange program book to see the new contests and get the information on where to send your entries.

As we are now halfway through July, we have now entered a new quarter's focus point. This quarter (July-September) we will focus on Deaf Awareness. This is honestly one of the projects from a few moons ago that kept me involved with the Grange; the love I developed for sign language and learning sign-a-songs became such a passion.

So, within this quarter, we have several projects to get your Juniors involved. Of course, we will have our sign-a-song contest, which is happening at Regional Conferences across the country this summer, but we also are taking time to focus on two other projects:

First is our [CREATIVE ART POSTER CONTEST](#) with the theme: Deaf Awareness. The National Junior Grange is working to help bring awareness about the deaf and hard of hearing community to your community by creating a poster on deaf/hard of hearing awareness.

With this comes our [Deaf Awareness Service Project](#). Through the deaf awareness service project your Grange/Junior Grange will have the opportunity to choose one or more of the following events to support the deaf community and serve as a committee to help bring awareness to deaf culture within your own communities. You may work together with your Subordinate and/or Junior Grange to host one of the following events.

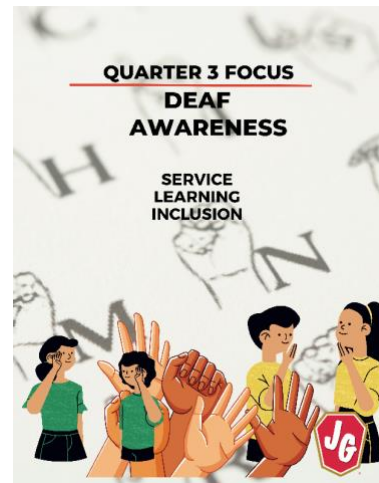
- Start a Sign Language Club in your school/Grange/Community to teach children about sign language and encourage them to learn the language.
- Host a silent dinner where the patrons are only allowed to sign and there is no talking allowed without sign during the dinner.
- Host a deaf movie night - there are several ASL films all in sign-language or other movies about deaf culture. Gather to watch these movies with only closed captioning and no sound.
- Host a deaf coffee chat at a local coffee shop, restaurant, or Grange Hall and invite the deaf to come and have a sign-language social.
- Host a fundraiser event to raise funds for the Grange Foundation Deaf Activities fund.

The possibilities of how you could work to raise awareness and include this community are endless and we want to encourage your Grange and Junior Granges to get involved.

## [Participate in a National Grange service project](#)

For 20 years, the Grange has been the leading voice advocating for the expansion of broadband into rural communities. Most frequently, we focus on the infrastructure of build-out, which is still a major factor keeping millions of Americans from high-speed, reliable internet to their homes. However, for others, broadband is available but unaffordable.

For this reason, the National Grange is actively working to promote the [FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program](#), which provides a discount benefit for broadband to low-income and other eligible individuals. After receiving a grant to assist with the program's promotion, we have begun registering Granges to take part in the work to inform people in the communities in which Granges are located, and beyond, about ACP.



Please remember that taking part in this outreach program is **community service**.

Certainly, we want all Grange members to know about the benefit and sign up if they are eligible, but this cannot stop within our doors. Just like giving nonperishable items to the food bank is important, so is taking the information about ACP to the director of the food bank and asking for it to be placed in the boxes and bags of recipients.

Please take the time to register your Grange to take part in this outreach service, which will allow you to receive free materials to give to your local food bank, to senior centers, to veterans' organizations in your hometown, to place on bulletin boards in your halls and in other community spaces, to put on tables at events your Grange takes part in and more. From placemats that can be used at your community breakfasts and dinners to yard signs that can be placed on the lawns of members whose properties are on well-traveled roadways, there are many ways your Grange can increase awareness about the ACP program.

When you register through [grange.biz/signupgrange](http://grange.biz/signupgrange) or by texting or calling National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios at 301-943-1090 and leaving a message, you will be assigned a Community Navigator - an individual that works with our partner, Oregon Institute for a Better Way, to help Granges plan for the outreach, order and packaging the materials, perform data collection and more.

Navigators - all of whom are also Grange members - will also work to collect more information about your Grange, its outreach, goals, and needs. This data will help us create future grant proposals and allow us to search for grants and other funds that may directly benefit individual Granges.

Granges that take part in this program may even be eligible for a small financial incentive, but it all starts with the first step of registering your Grange to become an outreach partner. Registering through this link does not commit your Grange, but will instead allow you to receive further information and connect with a navigator to brainstorm and talk about your Grange.



The banner features a yellow background with a blue border. At the top, it says "AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM" in bold black letters, with "Helping Households Connect" underneath. On the left is an icon of a house with a Wi-Fi symbol, and on the right is an icon of a cell tower with a Wi-Fi symbol. The main text in large blue letters asks "ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO AFFORD INTERNET?". Below that, it says "SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A MONTHLY DISCOUNT". On the right side, there is a QR code and the website "ACPRC.ORG" in white text on a blue background.

## [Register for National Grange Convention](#)



This November, we are going to "Flow into the Future" in Niagara Falls, New York as we celebrate the 157<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Grange. ***And we want you to be there!***

This year's Convention will be just blocks from the Falls! The [Sheraton Niagara Falls](#) is an incredible hotel which will also house the hospitality room, and the convention itself and many of the evening activities will be held at the [Niagara Falls Convention Center](#), just across the street!

Use [this link](#) to book your stay at the main Convention Hotel using our group rate.

For guests who would prefer to call, as opposed to make their reservations, please call **716-285-3361 x2295** to reach Reservation Coordinator Cierra Duck. She is typically in the office Monday through Friday 8am – 4pm Eastern).

We invite ALL Grange members to participate in the Convention activities, so please make plans to attend from November 14-18, 2023.

This is your (now late!) warning to ensure your passport is up to date. You won't want to miss the opportunity to pop over to Canada when you're just a few steps away:

<https://www.usps.com/international/passports.htm>

Stay tuned over the coming weeks and months for more information about speakers, tours, and other opportunities (both fun and educational!) for all Grange members during the Convention.

Learn more about this year's Convention and register today on the National Grange website!  
**Early Bird Registration** - \$32 – open through September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

***Register for Convention***

The Host Committee has chosen [Community Missions of Niagara](#) as the recipient of this year's community service collection. Granges and attendees are encouraged to send or bring socks, hats, or mittens for men or women to this year's Convention. If you would rather make a financial contribution, please contact Paula Turner.



### Convention Feature: The Lamb Family

In upcoming issues of the Patrons Chain, we will be featuring one of our speakers or events from session.

**The Lamb Family** will be speaking at the **Salute to Agriculture Luncheon** on Wednesday, November 15.

In 2022, Lamb Farms, Inc., of Oakfield, New York, was inducted into the National Environmental Stewardship Award Program, and in 2023 they were honored with a Platinum award from the National Dairy Quality Awards program. The goals are “to produce the highest standard of milk quality in an environmentally and cow friendly manner, while building a strong employee/team setting and creating a positive image in our community.”

Lamb Farms was founded in 1966 and is now run by two generations and 13 family members in the blended family business (the Lamb and Veazey families). Today, the Farms include the original dairy farm in Oakfield, a second farm in Oakfield that includes a genetics barn, the Bliss Calf Facility in Oakfield, a heifer facility in Alabama, NY, and two Dairies in Wilson, NY, and Convoy, OH (milk from Convoy is used in Dannon yogurt!).

Combined, they operate over 12,000 acres and make it a priority to operate their dairy with environmental practices at the forefront of management decisions. A major innovation has been using anaerobic digestors to capture methane and generate energy for electricity and clean natural gas.

Learn more about Lamb Farms and the Lamb family at <https://lambfarmsinc.net>.



## Participation in Multigenerational Panel Discussion on Rural Mental Health

Everyone attending the National Grange Convention is invited to attend a session about rural mental health conversations, featuring panelists representing several generations. If you will be attending the convention on Thursday, November 16 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET and are interested in being considered as a panelist, please complete [this form](#).

This panel is co-presented by the National Grange, [Rural Minds](#), and [NY FarmNet](#).

**Note** that due to a limit on the number of panelists, your reply does not confirm your participation as a panelist. We will follow up with an email to provide you with more information.

## Order your 2023 Grange shirts



The National Grange has released its 2023 Grange t-shirt. A modern label-looking image that includes the Grange logo and the phrase “First Voice of the American Farmer” as well as “Esto Perpetua” and “Established 1867” appears on the back of this District brand t-shirt that comes in six colors for youth sizes and eight colors for adult unisex sizes (heathered colors of cardinal, navy, kelly green, brown, turquoise, purple and charcoal; and black). District shirts are true-to-fit or a bit generous, and very soft with a slightly larger-than-average rib knit neck.

Single shirts are \$20 each with \$5 shipping. If you are placing a group order, you may use the “multiple quantities” button you see just under the shirt pricing, you will enjoy a reduced shipping rate.

You may also choose to add for only \$3 your name or the name of your Grange in an imprint on the front chest pocket area or leave the front blank.

**This is a limited-time sale that closes July 31.**

To order, visit <http://grange.biz/grangeshirt>

## Introducing USPS Ground Advantage

***New coast-to-coast 2-5 day shipping offering now available.***

**WASHINGTON** — On Monday, July 10, the Postal Service announced the launch of its new shipping offering, USPS Ground Advantage. The enhanced ground solution provides a simple, reliable, and more affordable way to ship packages in two-to-five business days across the continental United States.

“USPS Ground Advantage is a game changer – for our customers, the industry and USPS. By efficiently and effectively integrating our ground transportation model to the magnificence of our last mile delivery operations, we can now offer the most compelling ground shipping offering in the market,” said Louis DeJoy, United States Postmaster General and CEO. “With USPS Ground Advantage, we are ready to compete for an increased share of the growing package business.”

USPS Ground Advantage provides America’s businesses and the public with a compelling new ground shipping option leveraging USPS’ unparalleled last-mile delivery route system and improving integrated mail and package postal logistics network.

With the product’s launch, USPS is retiring three offerings: USPS Retail Ground, USPS Parcel Select Ground and USPS First-Class Package Service as well as Ground Returns and First-Class Package Return Service.

USPS Ground Advantage is a key element of the Postal Service’s shipping service growth strategy as part of the 10-year [Delivering for America](#) plan. A new shipping portfolio – comprised

of USPS Ground Advantage and USPS Connect Local and Regional – positions USPS to compete very effectively for any package under 25 pounds that can be transported by ground, within a region across states, and across the country.

### **USPS Ground Advantage Key Features**

- Packages delivered in 2-5 business days across the continental United States.
- Free package pickup service at home or in-office.
- Business customers can use USPS Ground Advantage return service as a convenient option for customers who need to send items back.
- \$100 insurance included on USPS Ground Advantage and USPS Ground Advantage Return packages. Customers can purchase up to \$5,000 in additional coverage.
- To bring USPS Ground Advantage to market, the Postal Service is launching an integrated marketing campaign through the fall leveraging Direct Mail, digital, search, social and radio to reach every American business.

### **Where to Find USPS Ground Advantage**

- Available now wherever customers ship from including all 34,000 Post Offices or on [Click-N-Ship](#).
- USPS Ground Advantage is available for shippers of all sizes who want reliable domestic ground shipping to all 50 states, PO Boxes, APOs FPOs, DPOs, U.S. military bases, territories, and Freely Associated States.

In the Postal Service's [Mailin' It](#) podcast, Jakki Krage Strako, Chief Commerce and Business Solutions Officer, discussed USPS Ground Advantage and how USPS is focused on strengthening its shipping solutions as part of the Postal Service's 10-year strategic plan for service excellence, on-time delivery, and revenue generation from enhanced package delivery services. Additional insight from Strako is available on Postal Posts, the [USPS Ground Advantage blog](#).

For more information about USPS Ground Advantage, visit: [www.usps.com/groundadvantage](http://www.usps.com/groundadvantage).



**SUPPLY STORE**

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



**\*NEW\* GRANGE SOCKS**  
*Limited quantity available!*

**Show and wear your Grange Pride at various events and activities, especially at State Session!**

These Grange socks feature the Grange emblem on a navy blue sock.  
They are 80% combined cotton, 15% nylon and 5% elastane.  
**One size fits most**

*For each pair purchased, National Grange will donate a pair of socks to the National Grange Community Service Project - Community Missions of Niagara*

**\$16.00 plus shipping**

Get yours by ordering online through the Grange Supply Store at [grangestore.org](http://grangestore.org) or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.



## SUPPLY STORE

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

### "RAISED RIGHT HERE" VINYL STICKERS



*Great way to celebrate Grange month and to have at other Grange activities and events.*

**Die-Cut Vinyl Stickers** - in two designs, celebrating the National Grange "Raised Right Here" theme

*25 stickers of each design*

**\$12 for 50 stickers** plus shipping

Get yours by ordering online through the Grange Supply Store at [grangestore.org](http://grangestore.org) or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

## Grange Member Benefit: RxSavings Plus Card



The **RxSavings Plus Card** is provided by CVS Caremark – *it's also for pet prescriptions!* This card is 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. Unlike other savings plans, the CVS-Caremark program applies to 99% of prescription drugs, including Lipitor, Plavix, blood pressure medications and thousands more - even pet medications! For the RxSavings Plus Card, please visit <http://nationalgrange.rxsavingsplus.com>.

If your pet has been prescribed a medication, you may get a discount with the RxSaving Plus Prescription Discount Card at participating pharmacies. During your pet's examination and 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.



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

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

## **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. Contact to submit a story idea for Patrons Chain or *Good Day!* magazine, request assistance with publicity, business cards, and more. Email [pvonada@nationalgrange.org](mailto:pvonada@nationalgrange.org) or call/text (814) 404-7985

**Leadership Training and Membership Development** Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Membership, and Leadership Development Director. Contact to learn more about membership recruitment or how to start or reorganize a Grange, leadership training and more. Email at [abrozana@nationalgrange.org](mailto:abrozana@nationalgrange.org) or call/text (301) 943-1090

**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)

**Membership Recognition, Grange Supply Sales, Grange Programs and Member Benefits** Loretta Washington, *National HQ*, ext. 109 or email [sales@nationalgrange.org](mailto:sales@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

**Junior and Youth Programming** Samantha Wilkins, [samantha@nationalgrange.org](mailto:samantha@nationalgrange.org) or (210) 838-7892

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

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