

THE GRANGE INITIATE

The Grange that you have joined is an organization that will work with you and for you and your family.

Through the Grange you will have the opportunity to labor in the spirit of fraternity and cooperation with other Grange members to influence the world in which we live. By expressing your thoughts and sharing your expertise you will help the Grange's effectiveness and further develop your own leadership abilities.

As a Grange member you will find many services which will benefit you and your family. Your dues payment to your Community, State and National Grange supports many services and organizational functions. In its first century of service to America and rural communities in particular, the Grange left an indelible imprint on the moral, social, economic, political and cultural lives of our parents and ourselves. The Grange has enhanced the quality of living in thousands of rural communities and you are now part of this continuing philosophy.

The Grange is not an organization through which you may excuse yourself from personal responsibilities that are inherent in the processes of self-help and self-government. Rather, it is one in which mutual responsibility to each other, as well as to our community, state and nation is recognized. The very atmosphere and purpose of the Grange thereby becomes a living, dynamic influence.

The fraternalism of the Grange truly develops a better and higher manhood and womanhood among us. It stimulates individuals toward their maximum potential. As individuals move in that direction, the community, the state, and the nation progress. Conversely, if we fail to stimulate our members—if you fail to accept your responsibilities—then you and we as individuals have neglected our responsibilities to our community and have diminished the potential of our state and our nation.

Grange work is built upon universal service, with sufficient range in its activities to give each member of the Grange—each member of the family—ample opportunity to participate. You have individual talents and through the Grange you are encouraged to use them for the benefit of your Brothers and Sisters in the Grange and your fellow citizens in your community. The Grange is the strongest when all members bear some responsibility, no matter how willing a few may be to accept it all.

You are earnestly invited to become familiar with the Grange's record of service. The Grange is proud to claim you as a member. As you are stimulated to lend a hand in further enhancing the Grange's record of service, you are invited to accept your responsibility for influencing and helping to direct the course of your Grange. Through such wise investment of your talents, your time and your energy, you will receive rich dividends.

Your community and America as a whole need the best Grange that we can build. You can make your Grange better through your personal involvement.

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE, CONTINUED

earnest cooperation are essential to future success.

Conclusion

It shall be an abiding principle with us to relieve any of our oppressed and suffering members by any reasonable means at our command.

We proclaim it among our purposes to continue our historical appreciation of the abilities and equality of women.

Imploring the continued assistance of our Divine Master to guide us in our work, we pledge ourselves to faithful and harmonious labor for all future time; to advance by our united efforts, to the wisdom, justice, fraternity and political purity so earnestly sought by the wise and courageous men and women who founded our noble Order.

The Grange Defined

Our Grange is a family-oriented organization with roots in rural communities all across America. We are also a fraternal Order, which distinguishes us from other farm or rural groups.

People joining the Grange find it a unique and wholesome experience. Young couples find it particularly attractive because of the family atmosphere; senior citizens enjoy the companionship and social aspects; farmers because of its legislative influence; and teenagers find a forum to develop leadership abilities.

Without a doubt, our Grange offers the best all-around program of any legislative, social, community service organization in the country. We encourage our members to develop and display their talents in photography, music, sewing, public speaking, and arts and crafts. The

Grange takes the lead in community affairs, as many of its members are the leaders in the community.

Organized in 1867, the Grange has served rural America longer than any other agricultural organization. Nationally it enjoys the respects of both major political parties, as the Grange maintains a nonpartisan approach to politics. It does not contribute to any political party, does not support particular candidates and it's not owed by, or obligated to, any political figure, party or administration. Consequently, the National Grange is able to effectively carry on its legislative/lobby work in Washington, D.C. regardless of the political party in power.

THE GRANGE INITIATE AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE



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DECLARATION OF PURPOSE



Preamble

Profoundly impressed with the truth that the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry should proclaim to the world its general objectives, we hereby unanimously make this Declaration of Purpose.

General Objectives

United by the strong and faithful tie of an agricultural fraternity, yet welcoming all of good moral character to membership, we mutually resolve to labor for the good of our Order, our country, and mankind. We heartily endorse the motto, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

Specific Objectives

We shall endeavor to advance our cause by striving to accomplish the following objectives:

To develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood among ourselves; to enhance the comforts and attractions of our homes; to strengthen our attachments to our pursuits; to foster mutual understanding and cooperation; to maintain inviolate our laws, and to emulate each other in labor, in order to hasten the good time coming.

We propose meeting together, talking together, working together and, in general, acting together for our mutual protection and advancement. We shall constantly strive to secure harmony, good will, and brotherhood, and to make our Order perpetual. We shall earnestly endeavor to suppress personal, local, sectional, and national prejudices, all unhealthy rivalry and all selfish ambition. Faithful adherence to these principles will ensure our mental, moral, social and material advancement.

Business Relations

For our business interests we desire to bring producer and consumer into the most direct and friendly relations possible, remembering that, "individual happiness depends upon general prosperity."

We are opposed to such spirit and management

of any corporation or enterprise, which tends to oppress people. We long to see antagonism between capital and labor removed by common consent, and by statesmanship worthy of an enlightened people.

We are opposed to wages and salaries that exceed productive efficiency. We recommend that farmers buy wisely and produce efficiently to make their farms profitable; to make the maximum use of the innovations of science and technology; to systematize their work and to calculate intelligently on probabilities.

To all we recommend sound money management that we may avoid insolvency and bankruptcy.

Education

We shall advance the cause of education by all just means within our power.

Influenced by our strong belief in the institution of the family, we are convinced that education begins in the family circle.

Discipline is an essential part of education. Self-discipline comes with maturity. Until such time as this level of competency is reached, families and schools have a responsibility for enforcing adequate discipline.

We recognize the necessity of experimentation to develop new and better methods of education, but we caution against the widespread adoption of these innovative and experimental methods until they have been proven effective.

We recognize that education is a continuing process. We encourage all to continue their education through adult education classes, by continued reading, observation, and such other methods as may be available, including radio and television.

We recognize the valuable contribution made to education by printed words, especially in newspapers, periodicals and books, and will continue to advocate their widespread availability.

The Grange, Not Partisan

We emphatically and sincerely assert the oft-

repeated truth taught in our Constitutional Law, that the Grange—National, State, Pomona or Community—is not a partisan or party organization.

The principles we teach underlie all true statesmanship, and if properly carried out, will tend to purify the whole political atmosphere of our country; for we seek the greatest good to the greatest number.

We must always bear in mind that no one, by becoming a Patron of Husbandry, gives up that inalienable right and duty, which belong to every American citizen, to take a proper interest in the politics of one's country.

On the contrary, it is right for every member to do all in his or her power, legitimately, to influence for good the action of any political party to which he or she belongs. It is reserved by every Patron, as the right of a free citizen to affiliate with any party that will best carry out his or her principles.

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."

We desire a proper equality and fairness, protection for the weak, restraint upon the strong; in short, justly distributed power.

These are American ideals; the very essence of American independence, and to advocate the contrary is unworthy of the sons and daughters of our Republic.

We cherish the belief that sectionalism is, and of right should be, dead and buried with the past. Our work is for the present and the future. In our agricultural fraternity we shall recognize no North, no South, no East, no West.

Outside Cooperation

Our Fraternity, being agriculturally based, family oriented and dedicated to the pure principles of equality under Constitutional Law, we appeal to all good citizens for mutual cooperation and assistance toward reform that we may remove from our midst the last vestige of inequity and corruption. We believe that harmony, equitable compromise, and

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