

WASHINGTON STATE**Grange Needs**December 2020Market Market M

INTELLE LIERMAN

Congratulations New Officers



Note: Rusty Hunt's photo was not available at the time of publication.





State Grange Elects New Officers

Five new officers were elected at the State Grange Business Meeting, held on October 30-31 at various locations across the state. Normally an off-year election has only an executive committee position to fill. This year, there were four additional offices due to resignations for various reasons.

JACOB GWIN

Each of the new officers was asked to provide biographical data and a picture.

is a retired Computer Support Specialist for the Washington State Legislature's Joint Legislative Systems Committee. David currently serves as the Treasurer of Pierce County Pomona Grange and the Secretary of Elk Plain Grange. Prior to his election as Overseer, David was a member of the State Grange Executive Committee. He previously served as State Secretary, Treasurer, and Junior Grange Program Director. David has been the Sixth Degree Acting Master and served as the second delegate from our state for the 2017 and 2018 National Grange Conventions. He is the Pierce County Degree Master for the first five degrees and serves as the Installing Master as well. He and his wife, Mary, have three daughters: Andrea Wilbur, Jeanine Cerar, and Erin Chinneth, and five grandchildren. His non-Grange

David Bryant was elevated for the State Grange Executive Committee to the position of Overseer/Vice President. David, a member of Elk Plain Grange in Pierce County,

— Continued on page 2

January 2020 issue deadline – December 20th Submissions can be sent to grangenews@wa-grange.org

ANNOUNCEMENT: District Meeting For The 2022 Convention Host Committee

Northern District is having a convention meeting on January 10, 2021, at Kellogg March Grange at 2:00 P.M. Agenda includes selecting a convention chairman, secretary, and treasurer. Also bring your site location proposals and costs. Northern District is hosting the WA State Grange Convention in 2022.

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming State Grange Events

Due to COVID-19, many scheduled events are either canceled or postponed.

This listing reflects new dates for several items. Please call prior to the event to confirm.

DECEMBER 1Ele	ection of Officers Report Due to State Grange Office
DECEMBER 22Yo	uth Department Zoom Meeting "Brainstorming for Potential Teen Activities", 7 p.m. Login info in the youth column.
DECEMBER 31Fo	urth Quarter Secretary Reports Due
DECEMBER 31Ar	nual Lecturer Reports Due to State Lecturer
DECEMBER 31Ar	nual Family Living Reports Due to State FL Director
JANUARY 6Yo	uth Department Zoom Meeting "Brainstorming for Potential Teen Activities", 7 p.m. Login info in the youth column.
JANUARY 9 Yo	uth Department Zoom Meeting "Brainstorming for Potential Teen Activities", 7 p.m. Login info in the youth column.
JUNE 23-26, 202113	2nd Annual WA State Grange Session at Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Port Townsend

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While Supplies Last.		

State Grange Elects New Officers

Continued from page 1 —

activities include serving as the President of the Grange Rural Retirement Housing Association (Pomona Villa) and on the Board of Directors for the Supply Credit Union. He enjoys crocheting, cooking, and spending time in Westport.

Rick Ferguson was elected to a 3-year term on the State Grange Executive Committee. He returns to the committee after a 23-year absence. A member of Waitsburg Grange #1 since 1974, Rick is a retired mail carried and postmaster and currently works as a deputy for the Columbia County Sheriff. He currently serves as a State Grange Deputy for Southeast Washington and is the Treasurer of Waitsburg Grange and Columbia County Pomona Grange. He has been on the State Grange Youth Team and the National Grange Youth Team. He served as the President of the National Grange GROW Club. He and his wife, Terry, were the State Grange Young Couple of the Year and went on be the Runners-up for National Grange Youth Couple. They have three children: Dr. Angela Rohde, Heather Ferguson, and Reade Ferguson and three grandchildren. His non-Grange activities include ranching and serving as the bailiff for the Columbia County District

and Superior Courts. He enjoys woodworking, travel, hunting, and fishing.

Rusty Hunt was selected to fill a 1-year term on the State Grange Executive Committee. A member of St. Andrews Grange #832, it is unfortunate that his biographical information was not submitted to the State Grange Office for inclusion in this article.

Jacob Gwin was elected to fill the office of Steward. Jacob is employed at the First Street Market in the resort community of Seabrook, near Pacific Beach. He is a member of Humptulips Grange, where he serves as Chaplain. He is also the Assistant Steward for Grays Harbor/Pacific Pomona Grange. A former Junior Granger, Jacob was the 2011 National Junior Grange Ambassador. He later served as the National Grange Youth Ambassador in 2018. He has been active in the Grange Youth Group for several years, is a Past State Youth Master, National Grange Youth Officer, and has been on the staff of Morehead Junior Grange Camp, first as a teen counselor then as an adult staff member. A major accomplishment for Jacob was securing funding for the past three years from the Hoquiam High School Foodball to support the Humptulips Grange Food Bank. In his spare time,

Jacob is an avid video game player

Janelle Lierman was elected to the office of Flora at the recent business meeting. Janelle is the Office Manager and Lead Estimator for Wright Way Cleaning and Restoration. A former Junior Granger, Janelle joined Horseshoe Grange #965 in 1988. She is currently the Master of Horseshoe Grange and secretary of Snohomish County Pomona Grange. She is the leader of Horseshoe Junior Grange and has been the Director of the Northern District Junior Grange Camp at Cornet Bay for 18 years. She has served on both the State Junior and Youth Teams. Janelle and her husband, David, have five children: Kelsey Lierman, Isabella Lierman, Naomi Wilson, Brady Lierman, and Adam Lierman, and recently welcomed their first granddaughter. Janelle is the Grange Department Superintendent at the Evergreen State Fair in Monroe and is active in the Snohomish Faith Church with the Faith Kidz and Faith Youth. She enjoys escape rooms, Shakespeare, poetry, and family road trips.

A full slate of officers, with the exception of two executive committee positions, will be on the agenda of the 2021 State Grange Session, currently scheduled for June 23-26 in Port Townsend.

Fort Colville Grange Spreads Holiday Cheer

The Fort Colyille Grange #533 recently helped to spread some holiday cheer. Under the direction of member Kay Kanyon, we put together 3 boxes of food for a nice holiday dinner. The turkeys were provided with the much appreciated help of County Chevrolet. The food was delivered in boxes nicely decorated by member Denise Dunham. A great time was had by all. Pictured are some of the Fort Colville Grange# 533 members and the food boxes.

With the COVID outbreak, we are not able to hold our fundraising bingo events. We are looking at different ways to try and keep our doors open. Recently the Grange hall was used to house some of the Habitat for Humanity student works. Three different groups used the Grange hall.

Different fun things are planned for the members in the months to come at our meetings.





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Tom Gwin, Executive Editor

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Moving? Let Us Know?

| Old Address (label should be on reverse of this form) _

3

President's Message

Use The Lessons Of 2020 To Build A Bright Future

By Tom Gwin State Grange Master/President

As we approach the end of 2020, a year in which we would rather forget than remember, we are wrapping up loose ends of the current year and preparing for a much better year of Grange activities in 2021.

On a positive note:

• As individuals, we survived a tumultuous year, probably one of the most chaotic in recent years

• We haven't lost any Granges, at least not yet, because of the pandemic

• Many of us learned to better incorporate technology into our daily lives

• Zoom has become our best friend, providing us the opportunity to conduct business in an unusual, but effective, manner

• We have been forced to think "outside the box" for our Grange meetings and activities, especially with potential fundraising events

• The State Grange held a successful State Grange Session, with delegates converging in five locations and then zooming together to conduct business

• Nineteen resolutions were forward to the National Grange for their consideration, with the majority of those being adopted by the national delegates

The State Grange and three subordinate Granges were named "Distinguished Granges", plus another 40 Granges in our state were named as "Granges in Action"
 Through three quarters, we have welcomed over 350 new members into the Granges of our state

• We reorganized one new

Let's use the lessons of 2020 to our advantage as we build a bright future for our Granges, our communities, and our nation! -- Tom Gwin

Grange (Birdsview) and have plans to reorganize another Grange (Orchardvale) in the near future

Now for the downside of this year:

• With the lack of fund-raising opportunities, many Subordinate and Pomona Granges are financially struggling

• Many of our Grange contests had to be cancelled early in the year, due to the unknowns of the Covid-19 virus



Tom Gwin

• Granges who have not met or touched base with their members may have lost the sense of belonging

• The lack of adequate broadband connectivity, especially in remote rural areas, continues to provide challenges for business and the education of our youth

• Some of our members are feeling isolated as social interaction has been limited

That being said, the need for the Grange, an organization that brings people together to work for the betterment of our communities, is as great if not greater than ever before in the history of our organization. As Grangers, we reflect on the past, but we also provide a vision for the future of our Granges in our communities and across our nation. That vision allows us to determine the path our organization will follow in remaining relevant and productive.

Every Grange in our state should use the lessons learned during the past year to review the path we have chosen and to determine whether to change course to insure our relevance into the next decade.

The future is up to us. Let's use the lessons of 2020 to our advantage as we build a bright future for our Granges, our communities, and our nation!

Legislative

Legislative Session: Looking Ahead To 2021

By Heather Hansen Legislative Lobbyist



Heather Hansen

I wrote my last column days after the election. At that time, half a dozen state legislative races were still too close to call. As more ballots were counted, most of those races were decided in favor of Republicans. As of this writing, only one race is left to decide. In eastern King County, a progressive Democrat challenged a business friendly incumbent Democrat for the Senate seat. The incumbent is currently 73 votes ahead out of 85,030 votes cast. One Republican Senator from Tacoma and one Republican Representative from Whatcom County lost their seats to Democrats. One Democratic Senator and one Democratic Representative, both from southwest Washington, lost their seats to Republicans. That means the balance stays the same with Democrats in control of both houses and the Governor's mansion.

Representative Brain Blake, who chaired the House Rural Development, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee for many years, was one who lost his seat. We don't yet know who will chair that committee or how it may be restructured.

Now the 2021 legislative session is fast approaching. Majority party leadership in both the House and the Senate have indicated they plan to focus on the budget, COVID response and equity issues including policing. Other issues may not be considered this session. Of course, budget issues can include fee increases, carbon tax, and many other strategies to increase state revenue.

State agencies have already submitted their proposals to the Governor's office for approval. The Washington State Department of Agriculture is asking the legislature to increase pesticide registration and license fees. License fees would increase by 30% plus a new \$7 surcharge to support WSU's Pesticide Safety Education Program, which provides pre-licensing and recertification courses for pesticide applicators. The additional funds would support rebuilding the licensing database. It would also support additional staff for technical support and education. A separate proposal would increase fertilizer registration fees.

At least three different groups of legislators are working on bills related carbon. There will be a bill creating a low carbon fuel standard and others creating a carbon tax or cap and trade program.

One of the biggest challenges to hit Washington agriculture in many years came on November 5, 2020, when the Washington State Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision, that agricultural workers must be paid overtime for any work over forty hours per week. Agricultural employees have been exempted from overtime pay since 1959. This has been the case in all states until recently when California, New York, Maryland and Minnesota created various forms of overtime pay for ag workers. In those states, overtime begins after 60 hours a week.

In Cuevas v. Deruyter, Justice Steven Gonzalez wrote in the majority opinion. "This exclusion from overtime pay is unconstitutional because it violates our state constitution's promise of equality under the law." Justice Gonzalez is the new chief justice of the Washington Supreme Court.

At this point, the decision applies only to dairy workers, however

Now's a Great Time to Support the

Washington State Grange Foundation

Here's how you can help:



Do you shop at Amazon?

Make a difference this holiday. Shop for gifts at http://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-6064592 to generate donations for the Washington State Grange Foundation (you can also search by our name, the Washington State Grange Foundation). You MUST shop at AmazonSmile not just the normal Amazon website.

Are you a Fred Meyer Customer?

Support the Washington State Grange Foundation just by shopping at Fred Meyer with your Rewards Card. You are now able to link your Rewards Card to your favorite nonprofit by visiting customer service desk at your local Fred Meyer or

by creating an account online and linking your rewards card to the Washington State Grange Foundation (account # DI486). Whenever you use your Rewards Card when shopping at Freddy's, you will be helping our organization earn a donation from Fred Meyer. They are donating \$2.6 million each year - up to \$650,000 each quarter - to the local schools, community organizations and nonprofits of your choice. All you have to do is link your Rewards Card and scan it every time you shop at Fred Meyer.



most attorneys believe there will be another lawsuit that results in it being applied to all agricultural workers. Given the majorities in the legislature, a legislative fix would be difficult.

Stay tuned, 2020 was a difficult year for many in agriculture because of COVID. 2021 could be even more difficult because of court and legislative decisions.



Membership Corner

Welcome New Members

GRANGES WITH MEMBERSHIP GAINS

November 2020

<u># Joined Jr. +1</u>

Greenwood Park #590 4 Juanita Curnutt, Daniel Baker Ginger Lusfor, Dennis Tennent	
Fern Prairie #866 3 Josiah VanGelder, Hannah VanGelder Benjamin VanGelder	
Finley #414 2 Randall Vertz, James Vertz	
Humptulips #730 2 Jean McLucas, Tessa Taft	
Mountain Valley #79 2 Suwan Malinowski, Melvin Malinowski	
Silverlake #105 2 Sasha Olson , Karen Stanley	
Stillaguamish #1058 1 Igor Ribeiro Dias	
<u># Joined</u>	<u>Jr. +1</u>
TOTALS 16	0

Attracting New Members In Challenging Times

This year has been challenging to say the very least. But through the challenges set in front of us, the resilience of so many Granges across the state is exhilarating.

Despite the pandemic, we still have Granges actively adding new members to their roster every quarter. We have added 325 new members and 39 new juniors as of the third quarter of this year. In 2019 we added 479 new members which really is not that far off from our current numbers with all the hiccups and hurdles that this year has brought us. And our numbers are only for the first three quarters which gives us hope that this last quarter of 2020 could get us closer to our 2019 numbers. 2019 showed us great gains in membership for the first time in many years.

With just one month left in 2020 let us hit the ground running and invite our friends, family, and communities to join us and all we have to offer!

Its also a great time to start looking to the future and setting our new goals for the coming year. What are your Granges' goals? How can you stay relevant with the closures and uncertainties we all are currently facing? Maybe it is time to start thinking outside of our traditional programs and activities and think of new innovative ways to give the Grange new life in these ever-changing times. It is important for us to have relevance in our communities in this new digital era.

What can we do to help you attract new members? Are we producing what you need for materials to pass on to others? We are working on putting a series of zoom programs together for the coming year. Would you like to see a program on zoom to help with increasing membership in your Grange? Maybe a session of brainstorming amongst Granges who have successfully grown their Grange membership could be idea.

We would love to hear your feedback! Please feel free to give us your thoughts and ideas so we can better serve you.

Send to: grange@wa-grange.org

Would you like your Grange featured in a coming issue of the Grange News?

If your Grange has sponsored 5 or more new members this year, we would love to hear what you are doing to entice new members to join. We would like to share what has worked for your Grange and feature your story.

Did you set up a committee to focus on membership? Did you hold specific community events to remind others about the Grange? Are you having success using social media? Send your story and any photos you would like to share to grangenews@wa-grange.org.

Lecturer's Department

New Member Incentive Contest: New Winners Announced

Our 3rd Quarter reports are in and winners of our individual membership contest have now been revealed. Congratulations to the following Grange members who brought in 3 or more new members into their Grange:

Fern Prairie #866 – Stony Winkleman (5 new members) – T-shirt & 1-\$25 Amazon Gift Card

Finley #414 – M.C. Smoot (6 new members) – T-shirt & 1-\$25 Amazon Gift Card

Greenwood Park #590 - Michael Schwartz - (4 new members) -T-shirt

Our First Contest For 2021: Creative Writing Contest



Leslie Jo Wells

By Leslie Jo Wells State Grange Lecturer

With all that we have lived through in 2020, it was suggested that our topics for this contest should be timely. With that in mind, the **Creative Writing Contest** has a change to it. The topics to be used provide you with a choice: **Virus or Constitution**. • Group/Class entered.

4. The **Poetry** entry has no word limit.

5. The **Short Story/Anecdote** and **Essay** categories have a maximum length of 1000 words. Your Short Story/Anecdote should entertain the reader and your Essay should provide information for the reader.

6. The Book Review should

class will receive rosettes. Cash prizes will be awarded as listed below.

10. Creative writing books, with selected entries printed, will be available at the State Grange Convention. Cost of the book will depend on the number of entries.

Group A – Adults, age 20 and over

If you have brought in 3 or more new members since January 1, 2020 and have not seen your name listed here or in previous Grange News', please email Sophia at skeller@wa-grange.org.

• Recruit 3 new members and receive a state Grange mission statement T-shirt

• Recruit 2 more new members for a total of 5 new members and receive a \$25 Amazon gift card

• Recruit an additional 5 new members and receive an additional \$25 Amazon gift card – no limit to how many gift cards you can earn.

• Incentive program runs from January 1, 2020 thru December 31, 2020

***Subordinate Grange Secretaries – please be sure you are using the NEW quarterly report so you can report who the new members are recommended by. This information was either left blank by some or the new report was not used leaving no ability to report who recommended the new member. You may want to review their definitions in your dictionary. These topics will be used for the Poetry, Short Story/Anecdote and Essay categories.

1. This contest is open to both Grange members and nonmembers. Non-members must be sponsored by a subordinate Grange. We no longer have categories for younger than 14 years old.

2. All entries must be either typed or neatly written in ink on 8 ¹/₂" x 11" paper. Illegible entries will be disqualified.

3. The following should be placed on the top right corner on the front of the entry:

- Name of entrant
- Grange name and number

be your endorsement of a book you have read. Remember, you don't re-tell the story of the book – you evaluate/critique the overall work. The word limit has been eliminated.

7. All entries are to be sent to the State Lecturer Leslie Jo Wells, 18232 201st Ave SE, Monroe, WA 98272 and **must be postmarked by April 15th**.

8. Judging criteria: a team of judges will evaluate each entry using the following criteria: Originality and Organization; Adherence to Topic and Contest Rules; and grammar, spelling, punctuation, and neatness.

9. **Prizes:** All entries will receive a blue, red or green ribbon. First, second, and third place in each The Best of Show entry in this group will receive \$50 and the 2nd Best of Show entry in this group will receive \$25

- A-1 Poetry Metered
- A-2 Poetry Free Verse
- A-3 Short Story/Anecdote
- A-4 Essay
- A-5 Book Review

Group B – Youth, ages 14-19

The Best of Show entry in this group will receive \$50 and the 2nd Best of Show entry in this group will receive \$25

- B-1 Poetry Metered
- B-2 Poetry Free Verse
- B-3 Short Story/Anecdote
- B-4 Essay
- B-5 Book Review

Home & Family

Family Living

December News From Another Lock Down

By Helen Berg Family Living Director

Here we go again with another somewhat shelter in place order from our Governor. I know we all wish this virus would go away, however until we get a good vaccination I think we will need to be inconvenienced for awhile longer. So that means I have a bit



longer to finish my UFO's.

I have been working with the double knits that were stored at our Grange and our group has made nearly 20 quilts for the homeless. We are working with the local law enforcements for distribution. It is amazing how quickly these quilts go together. See the September issue of your Grange News for more details.

My sewing machine has been humming these last nine months working on various projects. I have to stop and do a deep clean of the machine often. Now I need to finish a quilt- asyou- go- project I started way back when. Maybe I will have it finished in time for contest this year. I have also started a bargello quilt for our missionary closet at church. It has been a blessing to share my talents with

others.

I had nearly 75 hats knit so I took them to church to go in the Operation Christmas Child boxes. Just think, they will go all over the world!! Now I need to build my supply up for the youth. (When I'm knitting the TV does not put me to sleep.)

Helen Berc

Enough about me. What could you be doing. Maybe make a few quilt blocks for our auction quilt for 2022. Or make the new National quilt block which you can find online (or see below). Maybe make a Quilt of Valor to be presented to one of our Grange Veterans. Check out our program handbook. There are more ideas in there. I do not plan on making any changes this year. Most of all stay safe, mask up and avoid being around people you do not know.





(Courtesy of Family Features)

Just the thought of comfort foods is often enough to warm the soul, especially as cool winds blow and temperatures drop. It's hard to go wrong with a casserole on a chilly day. This Chicken and Rice Casserole with Spinach and Mushrooms is made with simple ingredients you probably already have on hand. Because it takes just 20 minutes to make, this recipe is easy to put on the table quickly and may become a new family favorite. Visit SuccessRice.com for more comfort food recipes.

Chicken and Rice Casserole

Prep time: 10 minutes • Cook time: 10 minutes • Servings: 4

Ingredients:

- 1 bag Success Brown Rice 1/2 cup ricotta cheese 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese 1 tsp chopped Italian parsley 1 tablespoon olive oil 1/3 cup chopped onions 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 pkg (4 oz) mushrooms, sliced 1/4 cup white wine 4 cups baby spinach leaves 2 cups shredded, cooked chicken 1/2 teaspoon salt 1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Prepare rice according to package directions. In small bowl, combine ricotta, Parmesan and parsley; reserve.

In large skillet over medium heat, heat oil. Add onions and garlic; saute 2 minutes. Add mushrooms and wine to skillet. Continue cooking 3 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add spinach and chicken. Stir until spinach is wilted and chicken is heated through, about 2 minutes. Stir in rice, salt and pepper.

Serve casserole topped with dollops of reserved cheese mixture.

2021 National Grange Quilt Block Contest

By Christine Hamp National Grange Lecturer

I am excited to reveal the Pinwheel as the 2021 National Grange Quilt Block. I hope that you give this new block a try and are able to learn a new technique or two. Please share it with your fellow members, friends and neighbors. Remember, the greatest thing about making a quilt block is knowing that it will be joined with other blocks to make beautiful, one-of-a-kind handicrafts. Every block counts!

RULES

A. The National Grange Quilt Block Contest is open to everyone.

B. All contest entries must be received by the National Grange Lecturer by October 31, 2021. Send entries to:

Christine Hamp, National Lecturer

16418 N. Birdie Road, Nine Mile Falls WA 99026

C. Any entries received after the deadline will not be judged. However, all entries received will be exhibited at the 155th National Grange convention in Wichita, Kansas.

D. The quilt block you enter in the contest for judging must be made by

STEP 1:

STEP 3:

Cut the Fabric A 8" square in half diagonally, each direction, creating four (4) triangles.

STEP 2:

Cut the Fabric B 8" square in half diagonally, each direction, creating four (4) triangles.



STEP 4:

Place a Fabric A triangle and a Fabric B triangle right sides together and sew together to form one large triangle. Keep the white on the left.

E. There is no limit on the number of quilt blocks a person may submit, but choose one quilt block per person to be judged.

F. All entries will be retained by the National Grange to be made into finished quilts and other items to be sold at a later date.

G. A 2021 Quilt Block Contest Entry Form must be completed for the block to be judged.

GROUPS

• Group I - Adult (Age 14+) • Group II - Junior (Age 13 and under) • Group III - MEN (Age 14+)

PRIZES

• Monetary prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each Group.

• Ribbons will be awarded to all entrants.

PINWHEEL

Fabric: All fabric used should be cotton.

Constructing the Quilt Block:

Fabric A: Cut one (1) 8" square and four (4) 21/2" x 8" rectangles. All plain white (not white-ish). (The plain white is what will tie the blocks together into beautiful finished quilts.)

Fabric B: Cut one (1) 8" square of any color of your choice.

Fabric C: Cut four (4) 6" x 8" rectangles of the same fabric, any color or pattern of your choice.

• All seams are 1/4".

together to form one large Repeat to form all four (4) triangles.

STEP 5:

Lay a ruler across the square from bottom left to top right and cut into two (2) triangles. Set aside the bottom right triangle (not used in this block).

STEP 7:

Lay out the four (4) squares to make the pinwheel. Sew together the top row, then the bottom row. Press the center seam for each row toward Fabric B. When you flip the second row upside down the seams will nest together for better accuracy in seam matching. Pin well. Press all seams. Clip and remove all threads.

Each finished quilt block should measure 14" x 14".

square. Keep the white on the top. Repeat to form all four (4) squares.

Place a Fabric A rectangle

and a Fabric C rectangle

right sides together and sew



STEP 6:

Sew a Step 3 triangle unit and a Step 5 triangle unit together to make a 71/4" square. Make sure

the white rectangle and the white triangle are in contact on the right.





National Grange 2020 Grange Law Policy Statement

Just as our Ritual provides the vehicle to present and understand our teachings and principles, our Constitution and By-laws provide the unified structure for our order to function with unity of action. Understanding why we have our code is as important as understanding the code itself.

Over the past 150 years, many hours have been spent by many minds crafting a document that will serve and protect the interests of the Grange at all levels, as well as its individual members. It is with a great deal of respect and caution that we approach the task of amending these laws, and sincerely hope that the changes made are in the best interests of the Grange as a whole.

With today's political climate we need to remind our membership that partisanship ends at our door. We want to stress how important it is to remain non-partisan, that we as the Grange do not support any nominee, appointee, candidate, or agency appointees, etc.

Social media has afforded the members the opportunity for instant communication of Grange activities and successes. We understand that not everyone will ever agree with all policies and undertakings of our Order, and that makes our organization unique. We strongly oppose the posting of personal grievances, the purpose of which is to divide and destroy. The First Amendment of the United States Constitution makes us powerless to stop the negativity. We challenge our Grangers to apply the high standards demanded by our Fraternal bonds to conduct our personal participation on social media sites accordingly.

As members we all enjoy the protection of our Digest of Laws, which have proven to be legally enforceable and binding by the Federal and State court and our fraternal responsibility to abide by them and hold our brothers and sisters accountable. Failure to do so results in strife and discontent. Let us practice our motto - "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity."

We recognize that Grange closures can result in significant membership loss. In these cases, Granges should be encouraged to consider first, consolidation with another Grange, second, a demit with recommendations to other Granges or other ways to retain membership. Transfer to e-membership should be considered only as a last resort, as it deprives members of most of their previous Grange privileges.

We want to make sure that we are maintaining fairness in electing the officers of the National Grange. Delegates should be mindful of maintaining equity among the regions of the country, including other factors when electing the Executive Committee.

The National Grange should communicate with the State Granges regarding all the entities that have entered into contractual trademark agreements in their state, so that they may act as agents for the National Grange. This will ensure that the State Grange is aware of all the entities that use our trademark in that State and that licensees are complying.

The Grange law committee would like to acknowledge the vigorous discussions occurring in many Community and Pomona Granges across the country regarding the relevance of the traditional ceremonies being used in our local Grange chapters. This is especially true for the physical performance aspects of the ceremonies involving hall setup/

takedown, marching, standing/sitting as well as tasks like presenting the flag, taking up the password, and opening the Bible on the alter. These discussions manifested themselves this year in resolutions presented to this committee from three different states asking the National Grange to formally sanction informal "round table" meeting formats that would curtail or eliminate the physical performance parts of our ceremonies for opening, conducting and closing our regular meetings. After vigorous discussion, the committee decided not to endorse these requests this year. However, the Grange Law Committee also strongly felt that some degree of guidance from the National Grange was appropriate.

Therefore, the Grange Law Committee urges that the traditional opening and closing ceremonies or the approved alternative opening and closing ceremonies always be used, whenever possible. The Grange Law Committee further urges that recitation of the verbal portions of either the traditional opening and closing or the approved alternative opening and closing ceremonies must be used, regardless of the whether or not that Grange can regularly follow the physical performance portions of these ceremonies, because at a bare minimum, these verbal recitations are necessary in order to legally conduct business as a Grange. We further urge that State and National Grange leaders exercise wide discretion, common sense and positive encouragement as well as tolerance, respect and a little humility among local Grange members when grappling with these issues. Shaming or lecturing our fellow Grange members in a condescending manner about either

their preference not to follow all of our traditions or their demands that we follow those traditions without exception, will never lead to the growth and development of the Order. For as Brother William Saunders, the first Master of the National Grange and the author of the Preamble to the National Grange Constitution, wrote to us in 1873, "...hence we have a ceremony...which binds us in mutual fraternity as with a band of iron; but although its influence is so powerful, its application is as gentle as that of the silken thread that binds a wreath of flowers."

The Grange Law Committee commends the efforts of the Study Committee Looking at Feasibility for a Video of the First Four Degrees (Video Study Committee). This committee was appointed following adoption of resolution 715 (2019). The resolution called for preserving the lessons, principals and integrity of the first four degrees by creating an audio-visual recording of those degrees for archival and instructive purposes. The committee labored diligently and worked to address many of the concerns related to a lack of consistent quality in the exemplification of these degrees among our various state and local Granges as well as the technical issues related to maintaining the quality and instruction of the impressive aspects of the messages of these degrees in a video format vs traditional, live performances. The Video Study Committee has reported back that it appears that this project is feasible if certain production guidelines and directional instructions for these videos are strictly followed. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee was unable

to work with a sufficient number of video production companies and/or academic video production facilities to be certain that the standards of production for these videos will also meet commercial video production standards. Therefore, the committee has asked for an additional year to complete their final report. The Grange Law Committee recommends that the time allowed for this important study committee to complete their tasks be extended by one year with presentation of a final report at the 2021 Annual Session. The Grange Law Committee also recommends that the Video Study Committee complete its work under the direction of resolution 715 (2019) with the intention that these videos will primarily serve archival and instructive purposes. Once the

videos are produced and can be reviewed by the full Assembly of Demeter, the Delegate body and the larger Grange community, then the decision can be made as to whether it is appropriate to extend the application of these videos to State and local Granges in order to use to bring new members into the Grange. But without the chance to review the final videos, any proposal to use these videos for actual exemplification of the degrees is simply speculation.

Grange Law committee accepted the Report of the Diversity Task Force and suggests that the report be printed in the National Journal of Proceedings and sent out to the State Masters.

Where it could be easily disseminated via e-mail to Granges through their state offices. We feel that the task force should continue on and further define the issues facing the Grange.

National Grange 2020 Conservation Policy Statement

We encourage the responsible stewardship of our natural resources from all who own or use them. We define responsible Stewardship as a balance between use, preservation, and the environmental standards appropriate to the regional needs. Our organization has been a strong advocate for land stewardship. We believe that protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources are vital. We further believe that education of the public regarding the importance of our natural resources is an absolute necessity. We support current federal guidelines on the control of air and water quality. We recognize that plastic and other non-biodegradable materials are a significant environmental nuisance. The National Grange supports legislation that will promote the use of shorter life plastic and biologically degradable materials.

The National Grange recognizes the unique role agriculture plays in land and environmental management. The National Grange supports transparent disclosure of details of any environmental testing and/or modifications being conducted by any governmental agency. We advocate for greater flexibility in the interpretation of environmental laws to allow for traditional land uses taking into consideration varying environmental situations across the country and encourage agricultural producers to engage in best management practices in all aspects of their operations. The National Grange supports coordination among Federal, State and Local Governments when developing land use management plans. We urge Congress to include voluntary incentive-based assistance for conservation practices by farmers, ranchers, foresters, developers, and landowners in future Farm Bills, which will maintain a commitment to conservation. In that light, we also urge USDA to ensure that they use only scientifically based research when crafting regulations to implement the conservation portions of the Farm Bill. The optimum result should be that the environment be protected with the least amount of prime, productive farmland taken out of production.

areas of the United States. Work should continue updating service maps, which have proved an obstacle to connectivity, and utilizing the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund and encourage private enterprise cooperation to obtain high speed internet for every family.

The National Grange supports Broadband internet service for all

National Grange 2020

Citizenship & Taxation

Policy Statement

The importance of retaining a Tax-Exempt Status for all qualified Granges must be maintained. We encourage the National Grange to provide State Granges with information via electronic or paper communications of filing procedures for the necessary 990N form.

The National Grange encourages every individual to participate and provide requested information in the current census when taken every ten years. Using the new information being attained from the 2020 census, the National Grange supports legislation that the Federal Government create an updated formula for the current poverty level.

The National Grange encourages the SNAP and WIC Programs to cover necessary products for recipients with babies.

The National Grange recommends that people charged with vandalizing or destroying historical landmarks and monuments be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The National Grange urge local and State Granges to strive for social and racial justice, equality and compassion in human relations by initiating open public meetings in collaboration with other local and state organizations fighting against social injustice and harsh radical practices. The National Grange should continue to advocate for conservation programs. These programs should encourage farmers to operate in an environmentally sound manner, focusing on scientific and technical assistance, research, education, loans, and cost-share programs.

Climate change is receiving attention not only in our nation, but across the globe. The National Grange understands agriculture is a part of the total picture on climate change and the efforts to accomplish Net-Zero greenhouse emissions in the United States. We demand American Agricultural Data, rather than worldwide data, be used to provide a more accurate picture of greenhouse emissions in our nation and that consistent sources of data be used. The National Grange supports the use of Best Management Practices and any mandates on agriculture in regard to reducing emissions be accompanied with economic incentives to lower the impact on our agricultural producers.

National Grange 2020 Agriculture Policy Statement

Agriculture is, as always, a foundation of America's economy, providing directly or indirectly through value-added processing, and is currently approximately 5.2% (\$1.109 Trillion) of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For over 150 years, the National Grange has been working to improve agriculture in America and the welfare of those who work the soil or care for the creatures of the field. Our roots are in agriculture, and our future is tied to our faith in the perennial cycle of planting and harvest.

Conservation of our soil, water and air quality remains a priority for the Grange, keeping in mind that all pertinent regulations should reflect local conditions. A key component of the future security of our water supply for both domestic and agricultural uses is the ability to store it. Challenges from environmental groups and climate change have brought progress in that area to a standstill. The National Grange will continue to promote water storage projects that benefit agricultural and domestic needs while appropriately safeguarding fish and wildlife safety concerns.

Agricultural producers have been leaders in protecting the environment. The National Grange urges Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agencies to implement Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs). Good soil health, including proper nutrient management, is a priority, and we encourage all farmers to develop and follow a Nutrient Management Plan to ensure that no more nutrients are applied than are needed to grow the crop. As computer technology becomes more integral to farming and the equipment used, we encourage the use of precision agricultural technologies to benefit the environment and improve farm operational efficiency. The National Grange should engage in public relations efforts to showcase the work and leadership of farmers and ranchers in adapting to and utilizing best management practices. We support the research and development of alternative fuel sources for agricultural use that will help to reduce greenhouse gases.

The National Grange wishes to express its appreciation to the USDA for its support to farmers through programs like the Farmers to Families Food Box Program. These programs enabled the purchase of foods that would have potentially been destroyed. The PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) provided a real lifeline to both business and agriculture by providing badly needed financial resources to aid in replenishing lost revenues caused by precipitous drops in livestock and grain prices. The National Grange recognizes that other additional challenges facing producers is the fluctuation in commodity prices coupled with ever-rising cost of inputs and the yearly increases in property taxes. We will continue to work on solutions to help minimize their impact on the agriculture sector. Because of COVID -19 pandemic we realized the need for local processing of our food supplies of beef, pork, poultry and dairy. More regional or local processing would have helped offset the devastating losses caused by the shutdown of large food processing plants. Closing down one plant, even for a few weeks, backs up production across the country, crashes prices paid to farmers and leads to huge surpluses at the farm and severe meat shortages for the consumer.

The National Grange continues to monitor issues concerning GMOrelated food production and labeling.

We endorse the recommendations of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation titled "Gene Editing for the Climate: Biological Solutions for Curbing Greenhouse Emissions, concludes with a set of policy recommendations urging governments around the world to accelerate the development and deployment of gene-edited climate solutions by acting to:

1. Eliminate unscientific regulatory burdens and barriers that hinder the development of safe geneedited products.

2. Increase investment in research and development (R&D) priorities such as advancing CRISPR tools, enhancing photosynthesis, and improving methods to measure soil carbon.

3. Improve coordination of existing R&D efforts within the United States and around the world.

4. Expand incentives that will spur the rapid adoption of novel gene-edited technologies.

The National Grange supports voluntary labeling of Genetically Modified products. We further request that the National Grange Legislative Director share the latest reliable research on this subject with State Granges on a continual basis. As consumers become more concerned about where and how their food is produced, the National Organic Program (NOP) has become more popular. The National Grange supports the continued growth and federal support for the NOP, in order to meet the increasing consumer demand for organic food products.

Support for Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) is a long-standing position of the National Grange and is favored by consumers. We support food labeling programs that provide clear information about country of origin and processing, so that consumers can make informed choices about the food they feed their families. We believe that a food that is labeled Product of the USA shall be both grown and processed in the USA.

Food safety continues to be a significant issue for Americans in light of the ever-increasing amount of our food that is imported. We believe the responsibility for all food safety inspection should fall under one federal agency, preferably the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Growing Climate Solutions Act would create a USDA system for certifying third-party verifiers and technical assistance providers. Farmers and ranchers could receive assistance and incentives for implementing practices which reduce carbon emissions on their operations. In addition, they could sell excess carbon credits to commercial firms who exceed their carbon emission cap. Healthy pollinator's populations are critical to food production in the US. We are pleased that the USDA has information available to assist first-time beekeepers in learning how to begin production. The National Grange supports ongoing efforts to preserve proven pollinators health practices, while identifying new pesticide crop treatments that are not harmful to pollinator's populations. Although Neonicotinoids are a critical component of seed treatments, their

misuse via over-the-counter products has resulted in their increasing presence in water and wetlands. Their toxic effect on pollinator's populations has reached the point where we feel it is time to consider designating Neonicotinoids as a restricted use pesticide. We support additional education efforts designed to inform producers as to the toxic nature of Neonicotinoids that are present in treated seeds and the positive aspects of having untreated seeds available for planting.

The use of drone or UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) technology is rapidly becoming an important tool for agricultural production. However, privacy concerns have arisen as drones have become more popular. The National Grange supports the implementation of developed FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) regulations governing the use of drones, and will continue to work with USDA, FAA and other agricultural organizations to address issues related to drone use as they pertain to agriculture.

The National Grange continues to support extensive research by our Land Grant Colleges and Universities into both short-term and long-term effects on the environment and on human nutrition, of all new crops, whether Genetically-Modified or traditionally bred. One of the major issues facing animal agriculture in our country are the efforts by certain "Animal Rights" groups to define "Humane Treatment" of animals. The National Grange should work together with other like-minded groups, to ensure that sound science is used in determining humane treatment of animals. The National Grange strongly supports agriculture education at all levels, including agriculture science as well as Cooperative Extension Service, and encourages the partnership between 4-H, FFA and Cooperative Extension Service to draw on and develop leadership abilities. Adequate funding of Extension must be continued and increased if we wish to ensure the availability of innovative practices and new tools beneficial to agriculture and society. We support educational programs, such as Farm to Table or Farm to School, that teach the importance of proper diet and nutrition. It is more critical now than ever to help consumers understand the basic food system, where their food comes from, and what, if any, genetic alteration was integral to its development. It is vital that we encourage the younger generation to enter into farming. We support programs or policies that will enhance the ability of young farmers to be successful as they pursue production agriculture as an occupation. Opportunities exist to expand agricultural tourism as an additional source of income for farm families. The National Grange urges government at all levels to remove unnecessary laws and regulations and work to pass legislation to limit liability exposure that hampers the expansion of agricultural tourism. As production agriculture becomes more dependent on computer technology, access to high speed internet has become critical to farming and marketing activities. High-speed internet access is also critical to the agricultural operations that desperately need it to enable their high-tech precision farming equipment that is used to grow crops using less water, seed, fertilizer and

pesticides. The National Grange strongly supports expanded funding efforts necessary to develop highspeed internet access in rural area that are currently under-served.

The 2018 Farm Bill provided additional funding to help close the existing gap between feed costs and average milk prices. This, along with restructured premium rates, benefitted small-to-medium sized dairv producers. The National Grange also appreciates the establishment of a new Foot and Mouth vaccine bank. These improvements and other provisions designed to provide equitable treatment for all commodities on all farm sizes in all regions of the country need to continue to be addressed. The National Grange also strongly supports retaining adequate levels of financial support for the USDA Risk Management Division and the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP), so that coverages accurately reflect cost of production and provides adequate price protection; yet ensure that premiums remain affordable. Disaster Relief programs are also a critical component of farm income safety nets. We also strongly urge that provisions are made to adequately address the needs for a reliable source of seasonal as well as year-round farm labor. Bills have been introduced, but none have been able to advance through Congress. This lack of action has been frustrating because the need for an affordable and adequate work force remains a critical agriculture issue. While many issues were resolved by the 2018 Farm Bill, plenty of challenges still remain to be addressed like more mental health programs for production agricultural workers. We suggest work begin soon on a new Farm Bill. The National Grange continues to support the principle that only those foods from mammalian sources should be allowed to use the term "milk." The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) should not allow the labeling of nutritionallyinferior plant or artificial substitutes as "milk," "yogurt" or "cheese". The USDA must retain the authority to regulate the emergence of the efforts to grow "meat" in a laboratory setting. The Grange supports the principle that the term "meat" can only be used to describe animal protein derived from harvested production livestock, poultry, seafood or wildlife, wild or

domestic.

Milk prices to the farmer have continued to drop over the past 20 years, while production costs have continued to climb. The Grange must continue to work to educate consumers on the positive qualities of whole milk and lowering the unacceptable level of waste of our food that currently occurs on a daily basis in this country. Education efforts such as these will lead to more demand for our domesticallyproduced milk, thus leading to higher prices for our producers and less waste of food will make more available for government-assistance food programs. Food security includes everyone

having enough to eat of course, but it also involves farmers earning enough to stay in business; government not overregulating normal agricultural practices; advancements in scientific research and reliance on sound science not popular opinion. It includes reducing food waste, preparing for climate change, water and soil conservation, and animal welfare. Food security was identified by National Grange delegates several years ago as a top priority and it will continue to be a focus in the coming years.

Individual incomes in developing countries are rising, leading to changes in diet that will increase demands on the world's food supply even as population growth adds its inevitable impact. The National Grange supports new and progressive trade pacts that lower trade barriers and promote fair trade. Farmers prefer fair trade for their products rather than government payments.

Cooperative nonpartisan effort is the "Grange way," and an understanding of the direct relationship between science and the natural world. The words written by National Master Oliver Wilson in 1919 are appropriate today, in that the time has come to simply classify agriculture as one of the great industries that make up our economic structure, and the need to treat agriculture as a vital part of that structure. Over one hundred years later we are still facing the same struggle, still selling products at less than the cost of production. We have the choice- pay the farmer a fair price or import our food. "No nation can prosper whose agriculture deteriorates."

The Grange Exchange



Deadline: 5th of each month (for the following month's paper). Classified ads must be paid in advance. (Tear sheets not sent for classified.)

Ad copy (or attach copy): _

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National Grange 2020 Education And Health Policy Statement

EDUCATION Balanced Approach

The purpose of education is to open the minds of young people to the world around them, to the lessons of the past, and the possibilities of the future. An understanding of the past and how it has shaped our present and future is a part of education that is too often neglected.

We encourage school systems and all students to put the same emphasis on the possibility of exploring vocational training as well as college preparation.

Current events have highlighted the need for local school systems to have standard tools for virtual learning, especially with regard to economically challenged students. We urge Granges to explore the possibilities of working with their school systems to make Grange Halls available as WiFi hotspots, and we urge other groups to provide financial assistance to this initiative.

We support 'K-12 Bridge to Broadband', a collaboration including the non-profit group 'Education Superhighway' and NTCA, The Rural Broadband Association. This is a national effort to connect more students for remote and hybrid learning.

Loans and Aid

Many teachers and mental health counselors undertook their career education under the auspices of federal programs that offered student loan forgiveness if specific conditions were met. However, these programs have sometimes been administered in a capricious and uneven manner, leaving many who followed the rules in good faith with unexpected, significant debt. We believe this is a situation that calls for reason and compassion on the part of the program administrators.

Since the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917 and the 1946 George-Barden Act, focused federal aid for agricultural, industrial, and home economics training for high school students, our federal government has to some degree had a hand in funding public education. Thus, the funding of public education has become a partnership between federal and state/local, but we reaffirm the importance of state and local control. Private providers of higher education are major recipients of federal financial aid and should be held accountable for their academic standards and advertised employment outcomes. We are opposed to any weakening of regulation of private education providers.

education through volunteering.

Special Needs

Great technological strides have been made in the creation of assistive devices for the hearing impaired, but not all are widely known. We encourage state and subordinate Granges to educate their members and their surrounding communities about the availability of such devices under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

HEALTH

Pandemic Response

The National Grange promotes prompt and comprehensive testing and contact tracing to minimize the spread of disease during any pandemic. During the current COVID-19 pandemic we support the Center for Disease Control recommendations regarding wearing masks, social distancing, and discouraging large gatherings.

The National Grange will closely follow the development of COVID-19 therapies and vaccines, proposals for their delivery to the public, and pricing and insurance coverage. These issues will be a major focus for Grange policy in 2021.

Controlled Substances

We understand that opioids serve a needed place in pain management when properly prescribed by a physician However, the opioid abuse crisis continues to plague our country. A multi-pronged approach is needed and must include continued study of the benefits of opioid painkillers as compared to alternative pain management strategies; improved prescription strategies such as limiting the number of pills issued per renewal; proper security of our prescription drugs in our homes; and proper disposal of unused or outdated prescription medications through recognized drug take-back programs or disposal programs. These are all efforts that local Granges can and should promote in their communities. The Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative (RALI) has formed partnerships with ten state Granges to address these issues and we strongly urge additional Granges to develop RALI partnerships in their states. Our youth have taken a great leadership role in this effort, and we encourage them to continue with various programs, including training initiatives such as those provided by the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America (CADCA). Notwithstanding our present policy and resolutions about the integrity and safety of prescription drugs, we support efforts like the Creating and Restoring Equal Access to Equivalent Samples Act (C.R.E.A.T.E.S.) that promote affordable access to medications through the development of lower cost generics.

Affordable and Effective Care.

We encourage bipartisan efforts by Congress to continue health care reform, identifying solutions that provide high quality and affordable healthcare for all Americans.

Transparency and simplicity in the system should be made a priority. For example, in- and out-of-network access and cost differentials continue to be a problem. Disconnects between doctor and hospital networks are aggravating and unhelpful—especially when they result in surprise medical bills that appear due to hidden gaps in coverage.

Consumer education should also be a priority. For example, some supplemental insurance policies limit or do not cover skilled nursing care coverage, and people should be able to advocate for that when necessary.

In the past decade the cost of Insulin has increased without justification. We support legislation that would establish controls on the price of Insulin in the United States.

We encourage efforts towards lowering prescription drug prices but doing so by purchasing such drugs from Canada or certain European countries may not be the answer. We cannot assume that drugs manufactured outside the United States are safe.

Promoting Health of Minors

Nutrition is an essential building block for health. We support the concept of sending unserved food from school cafeterias home with needy students, assuming proper food safety concerns can be addressed. Also related to school lunches, different age groups have different appetite levels. In the interest of promoting healthy portions and minimizing food waste, we encourage the National School Lunch Program to change recommended portion sizes according to grade levels. E-cigarettes have emerged as a serious public health question, with illness and deaths from their use being reported across the country. While the debate continues about new regulations surrounding these products, we urge legislation or public service campaigns to educate youth about the dangers of using

National Grange 2020 Grange Growth Policy Statement

This year has proven at least two things to not only us as Grangers but also to our communities. First, Grangers can adapt to the situations handed them and second, during these trying times the Grange is needed as much today as it was 150 years ago.

Our core values of Faith, Hope, Charity and Fidelity are traits that we have shown these past few months and our communities have responded by showing their support. Recent studies have shown that Americans have a wide array of concerns for the country including "putting America first", "racial injustice", "the economy" and "health care" and these are but a few. The Grange can be a forum, as we have been for other issues, that concern the residents around our halls. Granges can and should be a place where people can meet and discuss their ideas and concerns in a useful and constructive manner within our meeting structure. We are a grass roots organization and the healing of our country can and should begin in our Grange halls. Now is a great time for the Grange to once again lead the way.

If we look at where most Grange Halls are located, they were built at important junctions in the community. Either at an intersection of main roads or in the center of towns and they were built at those locations for a reason. They were and still are beacons in their communities and towns. Some Granges have been in the same location for over 100 years. Everyone in town knows where the Grange hall is and probably where the key is "hidden" to get in. Even for Granges who do not own their own halls anymore, people know where you meet and the good you are doing in your locations. You do not need a hall to be of great benefit to your community.

As we said earlier 2020 has shown that Grangers can adapt to the times and, believe it or not, do so rather quickly. The proof is by the number of Granges who figured out other ways to meet other than in a building. One way was by using a social media platform like Zoom or Google Meets. Yes, these were a learning experience for most of us but with a lot of hope and perseverance we all got through it. These virtual meetings started at the local level and, as we will be experiencing this week, have progressed all the way through to the National Grange Convention. Several State Granges held their annual meetings on Zoom or with some type of on site and Zoom combination. We can now say "we haven't always done it that way." These virtual type meetings have had an unexpected benefit of allowing members who have not been to a Grange meeting in years to attend the virtual meeting from their home. It has also allowed Grangers from around the country to attend or be part of a Grange event even if it is not being held near them. Grangers have also reached out to their members by phone to check on them to either just talk or see if they need anything.

Both residents and elected officials have noticed the work Granges have done for and in their communities. There have been many newspaper articles, television coverage and recognition from elected officials praising the work that Granges have done to make life a little easier during these trying times. The response back has been amazing with the support shown to the Granges from drive through dinners being sold out to donations for fundraising yard sales. People are really looking for ways to get out and do something with others in a safe way. Granges have met this demand by hosting outdoor socially distanced movie nights to name but one example. In serving as food distribution centers Granges are a vital part of their community Food Security plan and put in the advantageous position of being able to partner with the agencies that distribute food in a fair and equitable manner. Granges have hosted a wide variety of community related programs on Zoom that are relevant to the times. These programs vary from gardening and canning tips to Granges hosting musical shows put on by members and friends of the Grange.

Mental Health and Safety

Many social problems in schools arise from bullying, feelings of disenfranchisement and isolation among at-risk students. We urge schools to find ways to increase the availability of counseling for all students, and proactively engage with marginalized and at-risk young people. We strongly encourage Grange members nationwide to play an active role in their local school systems and communities. It is essential for our members to invest in our children's

Family Friendly Workplaces

We support paid parental leave and working with businesses to build a comprehensive policy that benefits both the employee and employer. e-cigarettes and associated products.

Childhood immunizations such as the Measles, Mumps Rubella (MMR) vaccine continue to bring passionate feelings, especially when proposals arise to make them mandatory for all children. We recognize that such proposals may not be practical under the civil liberties established in the U.S. Constitution. However, we suggest that even more effort should then be made to educate the public on this issue using valid science-based information.

Cancer Research

It has been long-standing Grange policy to support research into the causes and treatments of all types of cancer. Since many are impatient with the pace of this work, we encourage Congress to increase funding for cancer research rather than merely maintaining current levels. It is now incumbent upon our Granges and Grangers to use all or part of these ideas and wonderful projects to strengthen our communities and to build and grow our much-needed organization. The Grange, without a doubt, is still relevant and offers a time-tested way to help bring our communities and nation back together.

This committee was given the Report of the Diversity Task Force to review. This committee discussed the report and adopted the report as a whole and recommend it be attached to this policy statement. We thank the Task Force for their hard work and diligence in researching and completing this report.

This Committee has read the Report of the Feasibility Committee on the videoing of the first four degrees. We would like to see the National President extend the current committee appointment to a new Committee to now determine cost and a time frame for this project. The new Committee should have a report prepared for the 2021 National Grange session.

This has been a year that has seen Granges go through and continue to go through tough financial times. It is important that we as members support our Granges and their programs/projects. If we can, we need to give a little more when we have our dues paying nights or hold a fundraiser. Members should try to support our neighboring Granges when that Grange is raising funds to either help themselves or their communities. Each committee or department can use some help this year. We all know our budgets or treasuries are not what they were even 12 months ago. It is time for us to also help our wonderful family organization.

National Grange 2020 Labor, Judiciary **And Transportation Policy Statement**

LABOR

The Grange has long fought for the rights of both employers and employees to live and thrive, understanding that worker protection and prosperity are not in conflict with company success and solvency. We believe that the hardworking men and women of America's workforce deserve the opportunity to earn a fair wage in a safe work environment and the guarantee that their pensions and subsequent benefits will be protected and preserved. We encourage businesses, municipalities, school districts, and state governments across the country to be proactive in ensuring the future growth and stability of employee pension benefits and to guard against their loss in the unfortunate event of a company merger or bankruptcy.

We support legislative efforts to streamline the H2A process to ensure that all agricultural operations can have access to guest workers. The National Grange supports an Agriculture Guest Worker Program for the establishment of the H-2C visa program for skilled agricultural workers to be administered by the USDA. This provides an option to both seasonal and year-round labor needs, recognizing that not all agriculture jobs are the same or require the same level of skill or experience. The H-2C visa program better understands the unique needs of the American farm and ranch operations and the challenges of processing raw, perishable commodities. This will offer workers and employers more choices in their

employment arrangements, with more flexibility and less bureaucratic red tape than the H2A visa program.

The global economy has allowed American businesses to reach markets once inaccessible and has increased the demand for many of our goods, including our agricultural products, in far regions of the world. The National Grange continues to be an advocate for the implementation of fair free trade agreements that encourage international commerce while also incentivizing domestic job growth and economic output for American companies. We do not however, support the bailout of any country, state, or territory that has engaged in wasteful spending and behaved in a financially irresponsible manner.

COVID-19

An impacted category of essential workers was those in the food chain who continued in overdrive to make sure we have access to the food we need. There was plenty of food available, but the challenge was to keep processing plants staffed and running with large numbers of workers (while simultaneously preventing COVID-19 infections) to ensure a steady supply moving to the grocery stores. Closing down one plant, even for a few weeks, backs up production across the country, crashes prices paid to farmers and leads to huge surpluses at the farm and severe food shortages for the consumer. Hoursof-service rules were suspended to enable truckers to make their essential deliveries. The National Grange supports the suspension of some labor laws during a crisis and wants to sincerely thank the producers, harvesters, processors, deliverers and the community handlers of food during this pandemic.

Judiciary

Since its founding in 1867, The Grange has been a staunch defender of our Constitution and the rights and privileges it protects for every citizen. As a nation of law and order we must work to draft, pass, and maintain legislation aimed at ensuring a peaceful society and a fair judicial system. Our first responders work hard and serve bravely on a daily basis. The National Grange will forever strive to grant them the support and respect they deserve.

The Grange understands that citizens and the officials they elect are the best candidates to write the laws by which we will be governed, and that administrative agencies, commissions and other unelected governing bodies should be prohibited from drafting and implementing such regulations that dramatically impact our daily lives. We urge elected officials at all levels to periodically review and purge outdated laws and reduce burdensome and unnecessary regulations that stifle economic growth and fundamentally impede the free market system.

We vehemently oppose the use of eminent domain to confiscate private property for commercial use or any project that does not directly benefit the general citizenry.

Identity theft continues to be a significant problem in the United States. We support legislation that would increase security of personal and credit card data to prevent fraudulent enterprises from acquiring and utilizing that data.

U.S. Postal Service - Mail volume has dropped from 213 billion to 140 billion items over the last fourteen (14) years, but it is still an essential service, especially for rural America. Rural America needs the Post Office to deliver mail and bring supplies, medicines, groceries, ballots and more to citizens in remote areas and to isolated populations throughout the country. The Post Office will have to operate effectively and efficiently going forward without regular cash infusions from the federal government to continue operations. The National Grange encourages Congress to rescind their 2006 mandate requiring the USPS to prefund retiree health insurance benefits for 75 years in the future.

Trade - The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) finally became law with the President signing it January 29. We issued a statement saying, "This agreement helps solidify trade relationships with our neighbors who buy more made-in-America goods than any other market. Every segment of American agriculture benefits from this agreement."

TRANSPORTATION

From its inception in 1867,

the National Grange has been an advocate for a strong transportation infrastructure. In many ways, agriculture is the "original" business and as such has driven the establishment of a multitude of subsequent industries down the economic food chain, including infrastructure development. The need for farmers to get their products to consumers drove the establishment of our nation's railroads, highways, and waterways and today continues to drive the development of our national infrastructure. Our nation's overall infrastructure (broadband, transportation services, water and waste management, ports, aviation, parks, schools) is in critical need of repair and upgrade. We urge that funding be appropriated to improve critical infrastructure.

We continue to support laws requiring drivers to slow down and move over while passing an emergency vehicle that is stopped with lights flashing and believe all drivers should be held responsible for their driving and guard against distractions from cell phones and other such devices. We also support increased visibility devices for school buses. We strongly support technology that enhances the visibility of vehicles, rail cars, bicycles, motorcycles, trucks, etc.

We support the designation of English as our national language and thus believe that all road and highway signage should be printed only in English.

Summary Of Action Taken On Resolutions **National Grange Action On Resolutions From The Washington State Grange 2020**

RESOLUTION NUMBER

3

TITLE

SPONSORING GRANGE

Five Mile Prairie #905

ACTION BY THE NATIONAL GRANGE

National Observance Day for Eleanor Roosevelt

Adopted

12	Removing Barriers to Membership	Humptulips #730	Present National Grange Policy
13	Round Table Format for Grange Meetings	Grays Harbor/Pacific Pomona #28	Included in National Policy Statement
14	Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) Vaccine	Whitman County Pomona #2	Included in National Policy Statement
17	Preventing Animal Disease	Whitman County Pomona #2	Present National Grange Policy
18	Livestock Identification Programs	Whitman County Pomona #2	Withdrawn
19	Livestock Diseases	Whitman County Pomona #2	Withdrawn
22	Support for the Agricultural Fairs Rescue Act	Humptulips #730	Adopted
23	Aid to Developing Countries	Humptulips #730	Adopted as Amended
24	Minimum Wage for Younger Teens, Ages 13-15	Humptulips #730	Adverse
25	Updating the State and National Grange Policies Regarding Undocumented Immigrants	Humptulips #730	Adverse
34	Local Newspaper Support	Issaquah Valley #581	Adopted
37	National Grange Building Repair	Moses Lake #1151	Rejected
Agriculture Standing Res #2	Definition of Meat and Meat Products	Agriculture Standing Committee	Adopted as Amended

■Spotlight on Youth & Juniors■

Juniors

Crossword Puzzle: Winter Time



By Heather Ferguson, Junior Grange Director



Across

- 3 Famous cold guy
- 7 Yearly pattern
- 8 Snow ride
- 9 Winter precipitation
- 10 Merry amusement
- 11 Tropical hostess gift

Down

- 1 Leisure time
- 2 Deck the halls
- 4 Metal string
- 5 Christmas greeting
- 6 Not naughty
- 9 Christmas souvenir

Youth

Youth Department To Host Brainstorming Sessions



By Jerry Gwin State Youth Director

The State Grange Youth Department will be hosting a series of brainstorming sessions on how the department can better meet the needs of Grange members in the 14-35 year old age range. The sessions will all be held over Zoom.

The first session will be held on **Wednesday**, **December 22 at 7 p.m.** and will focus on the potential activities for Grange teens, ages 14-20, and what programs and activities will assist in meeting the needs of our teen members.

To join this Zoom meeting:

https://zoom.us/j/92000082707?pwd=bFRMM1BzUnV4V01KQ1RuN1NrSjJ6UT09

Meeting ID: 920 0008 2707; Passcode: 469687.

Rick and Terry Ferguson will host this brainstorming session.

The second session of the series will be held on **Wednesday**, **January 6 at 7 p.m.** and will focus on the potential activities for Grange young adults, ages 21-35 and how the youth department can meet the needs of our young adults.

To join this Zoom meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86135484212?pwd=bDJFbnhiV29OenZZdzJyVVZpYnBQZz09

Meeting ID: 861 3548 4212; Passcode: Grange.

Brittney Oliver, Jonny Pittman, and Leah Bardal will host this brainstorming session.

The third and final session will be held on **Saturday, January 9 at 9 a.m.** and will also focus on potential activities for Grange young adults, ages 21-35.

To join this Zoom meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82613368370?pwd=M1R0VTAxWTJDbHB5QktKMjFzSTk5QT09 Meeting ID: 826 1336 8370; Passcode: Grange.

Brittney, Jonny, and Leah will also host this session.

Please pass the word of these meetings to your Grange teens and young adults. We hope this series of meetings will provide direction to the State Grange Youth Committee on the needs of our younger Grange members and allow us to meet those needs in our ever-changing world.

Congratulations To The Winners Of The State Grange Youth Department Raffle

First Place - \$400 – Columbia Valley Grange #938 Second Place - \$100 – St. Andrews Grange #832 Third Place - \$60 – Logan Hill Grange #1086 Fourth Place - \$40 – Beth Bradley, Federal Way

Thank you to all of the Granges for their support



Humptulips Junior Grange

Humptulips Junior Grangers will be meeting to put goody bags together for distribution at the Humptulips Food Bank. The bags will be distributed with the food distribution on

13 Melody

16 Illuminates

17 On the search

18 Marshmallows required

20 Arctic flyer

21 Stocking stuffer

23 Striped sweet

25 Tree hanger

26 Place for hanging tinsel

27 Snow vehicle

28 Cool dude

10 Related group
 12 Santa helper

14 Brrr

15 Cookie man or woman

19 Not nice
 22 Figure head

23 Sweet treats

24 All wrapped up

Answer will be in the next issue.

of the WA State Grange Youth Department.

December 16.

Ralston Grange Distributes Gifts

Spirits were lifted and smiles abounded as members of the Ralston Grange distributed personalized gift bags, colorful bouquets, boxes of books and "thinking of you" cards made by Junior Grangers to residents of Rose Garden Estates, a retirement home in Ritzville. The Ralston Grange funded the gift hand-out with a \$1,000 grant provided by Innovia's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund for Eastern Washington.



Grange Connection

CLARK COUNTY

Mountain Valley Valley Grange donated 45 pairs of gloves and 6 pairs of socks to the Amboy Middle School Sock and Glove Drive for the Battle Ground Family and Community Resource Center in Battle Ground, WA. Judy Steigmann deposited the socks and gloves in the receptacle at the Amboy Middle School on Monday, November 16. The Grange participated in the 33rd Annual Community Celebration Honoring Our Veterans on November 7. Cohosts for the program have always been Mt. Valley Grange #79 and North Clark Historical Museum. This year the program could not be held at the Grange Hall as it has been in previous years. This year's event was a a Drive-In at the Territorial Days Park, with the Veterans staying in their cars. American Legion Tum Tum Post #168, North Clark Lions Club, and Territorial Days Park. Each veteran was given a goody bag, a raffle ticket for a patriotic quilt, and a brief questionnaire about their service. Pumpkin and apple pie slices in containers were sold by Grange members Judy Steigmann and Ann Van Antwerp. The pies were donated by Judy Steigmann and the containers were donated by Debbie Richards, Washington State Grange Deputy. The pie slices were a big hit! There were 21 veterans in attendance, representing service from the 1940's to present day. It turned out to be a great event!

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY

Humptulips Grange donated their Keep Washington Warm items to the food bank for distribution in December. This year's collection included 12 fleece

scarves, 52 pairs of gloves, and 200 pairs of socks. The Grange met on November 13 and elected officers for 2021. With the recent Covid restrictions, the Grange cancelled their Annual Christmas Dinner, originally scheduled for December 11. The food bank will be open on Wednesday, December 15 beginning at 12 p.m. for food distribution. A food bank work party is scheduled for that morning at 8 a.m. for sorting and packaging food. Food bank numbers are starting to rise again. We served 76 families in November. We hope to start our bingo activities up again after the holidays.

ISLAND COUNTY

Deer Lagoon Grange conducted a special business meeting on Thursday November 5. On election night, Nov. 3, the Grange accepted 23 new members. Nine of the new members were obligated at a special meeting designed to accept new members. The Obligation ceremony was led by Washington State Grange Master, Tom Gwin. Those obligated were: Bob and Laura Rookstool and their daughter Abby; Steve Magney; Julie Parrick, Jim and Charlotte Henderson, Robin Flem, and Justin Nichols. This was the largest number of new members obligated in many years at Deer Lagoon. Nine of the newly accepted members are in the Youth Grange age group (they had a conflict on Thursday) and will be obligated soon.

SPOKANE COUNTY

Green Bluff Grange's Master and wife, Jim and Janice Lahde attended State Convention in Addy. He reported at our Nov. 17 Zoom meeting. A "Paint the Town" fundraiser was held on November 14 at the Grange. Fourteen people attended and was provided with drinks, Italian dinner (provided by Grange members Davide & Stephanie Trezzi), salad and cookies provided by Grange members and completed a painting (with instructor's directions). All was set up for COVID-19 directives. It was a fun evening. On December 12 we will will hold a Santa Drive Thru instead of our annual Community Christmas Party. Children collected a bag of goodies from all 4 Green Bluff organizations: Grange, Church, Growers and Home Ec. Fire District 4 was present too! We collected toys and money for Toys for Tots at the same event. A beautiful outdoors setting was available for families that wanted a Christmas photo shot. It will certainly be a different holiday season for most. But there were many things we could be thankful for this past Thanks giving including no Black Friday shopping. Green Bluff Grange #300 wishes everyone a very blessed Christmas season.

THURSTON COUNTY

South Union Grange met on October 19 and welcomed new member Beverly York. South Union's delegates, Pam Mathews and Christie Vintilo, attended the Washington State Grange business meeting in late October. Due to the latest Covid restrictions, the Deck the Hall decorating event and the annual Christmas party have been cancelled. Master Patty Mathews was presented with a certificate and award check recognizing South Union's community service (2nd place in state for their division). The next meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on December 21.

Sammamish Valley Grange Hosts Annual Wreath Making Event

The annual Sammamish Valley Grange #286 wreath making event takes a different spin this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. Under the Sammamish Valley Alliance, in conjunction with Woodinville Rotaracts, volunteer work teams came together throughout November to construct wreaths. Local greens, sprigs and branches were harvested and completed wreaths will be available to the public through advance on-line orders with a suggested donation.



Pomona Connection

GRAYS HARBOR/ PACIFIC POMONA

Grays Harbor/Pacific Pomona met on November 14 at the North Willapa Harbor Grange Hall. Davona Gwin and Lillie Savage, our state delegates, reported on the state business meeting. All representatives from the Granges in our area attended the Long Beach session. Davona Gwin was reelected as the Pomona Master. Several awards were presented to Granges in our Pomona for their work over the past year. The Pomona received second place in the Pomona Community Service Contest. North River placed first overall in community service, while Humptulips was second. The Humptulips Junior Grange place first in Junior Community Service. Additional Junior Grange awards were presented to Humptulips, Camp Morehead, and North River Junior Granges. The Grays Harbor County Fair is moving their theme to next year so we will be "Truckin' to the Fair".

THURSTON COUNTY POMONA

Thurston County Pomona met on November 5 for their monthly meeting, including election of 2021 officers. Pomona delegates Diane Williams and Rick Nelson reported on the recent Washington State Grange business meeting, with input from members who attended subordinate Granges. from Thurston County Deputy Christie Vintilo presented awards as follows: Thurston County Pomona for 2nd place in the window display contest (certificate and check), and 1st place in Pomona division for community service (certificate and check); South Union Grange for 2nd place in their division for community service (certificate and check). She also announced awards to McLane Grange and Prosperity Grange for community service (certificates), and to Skookumchuck Grange for 3rd place in membership outreach (certificate and check). Those three Granges were not represented at the Pomona meeting and will receive their awards later.

Pomona Calendar		
Pomona Grange Secretaries are requested to submit their 2021 list of meeting dates at their earliest convenience to grange@wa-grange.org for inclusion into this calendar.		
Due to Covid-19, there may be numerous changes in this schedule.		
CHELANnone schedule at this time due to Covid19.		
CLARKDecember 9 at Washington, 7 p.m.		
COWLITZ/ WAHKIAKUMJanuary 16 at Catlin, 6:30 p.m. potluck, 7:30 p.m. meeting		
EXCELSIORJanuary 16 at Camas Valley, 10 a.m.		
GRAYS HARBOR/ PACIFICJanuary 9 at Satsop, 10 a.m.		
KINGJanuary 16, 2021 at Sammamish Valley, 10 a.m.		
KITSAPJanuary 22 at Crystal, 7:30 p.m.		
KLICKITAT March 13 at Glenwood, 12 p.m. potluck, 1 p.m. meeting.		



LEWIS	January 8 at Baw Faw, 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. meeting.
MASON	January 16 at The Agate, 11 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck.
PEND OREILLE	December 12 at Fertile Valley, 11 a.m. Will be installation of officers.
RIVERSIDE	December 19 at Terrace Heights, 10 a.m.
SKAGIT	December 2 at Fredonia. January 6 - location to be announced.
SNAKE RIVER	March 20 at Columbia Valley, 10 a.m.
THURSTON	January 10 at Violet Prairie. Installation of officers at 2 p.m.
YAKIMA	December 18 at Fruitvale, 12 p.m. potluck, 1 p.m. meeting

Grange Connection

Baw Faw Grange Presents Socially Distant Words For Thirds



Baw Faw Grange continued the 20+ year tradition of presenting dictionary/thesaurus to Boistfort School 3rd graders in Curtis, WA. Grange members gloved, masked, physically distanced, and presented outside under the play shed following all socially distancing protocols. The "Words for Thirds" Dictionary/Thesaurus Presentation to Mr. MacDonald's Boistfort class occurred on Wednesday, November 18, 2020. We felt this was an important tradition to continue and made it happen!

Rose Valley Grange Helps Local Vets

Rose Valley Grange 953 handed out free coffee and donuts to Veterans on November 11th.





If you or someone you know has a disability or chronic illness, and COVID-19 has made it harder to connect with people or to get care, information, or supplies, Center for Independence can help.

Mt. Valley Grange Delivers Dictionaries To Yacolt Primary School

By Georgene Neal Mt. Valley Grange #79

Mt. Valley Grange members Dave Johnson, Georgene Neal, Judy Steigmann, and Ann Van Antwerp delivered dictionaries to the Yacolt Primary School in Yacolt, WA on November 4th. This was the 18th year for this project! When the principal of Yacolt Primary, Lynnell Tsugawa-Murray, was contacted, she was excited to hear Mt. Valley wanted to continue the tradition. They have a driveby pick-up day for parents and students to pick up books to read and other supplies. Mt. Valley was included in this driveby. As the 3rd grade students picked up their packets, they were directed to stop at the two ladies waiting to hand out a dictionary to them. The excitement and smile on their face were very rewarding to see. Enrollment was down this year, at only 125 students. 120 dictionaries were purchased from The Dictionary Project with a donation from Susan Courtney. 129 dictionaries, 9 left from last year, were delivered to the school. Many were handed out that day. The balance was left at the school to be put in the packets of those who were unable to come that day.



Judy Steigmann, Ann Van Antwerp, Georgene Neal, Dave Johnson



Above: Ann Van Antwerp and Judy Steigmann handing out dictionaries. Right: Dave Johnson and Lynnell Tsugawa-Murray, Principal at Yacolt Primary School



Washington Grange Donates Dictionaries

CFI can help you access face masks, groceries, transportation, technology, peer support groups, information about your rights, and more.

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CFI-WA.org (888) 482-4839 Serving 8 counties in western Washington

CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE

Raffles Firewood

Addy Grange



Addy Grange sold raffle tickets for a load of firewood for \$2 each to help benefit their Grange.

On November 13th Rodger Lance, a member of Washington Grange No. 82 delivered Word for Thirds dictionaries to York School in Vancouver WA. At our last meeting a stack of dictionaries were passed out to each "properly" spaced Granger. During the meeting they added labels in each book. The label has a place for the student to write their name. Also printed on the label it says "donated by Washington Grange #82 (with our address and contact e-mail)"and the message, "The Grange is a service-minded group dedicated to improving the quality of life for all citizens". This is our 15th year we have delivered books to York school.



