



WASHINGTON STATE Grange News

February 2024

Informing Grangers Since 1912

113th Year No. 2



Washington State Grange Hosts Successful Legislative Day

The Washington State Grange held their Annual Legislative Day on February 5. More than forty Grangers gathered at the State Grange Office in Olympia for orientation and a presentation by State Grange

Government Lobbyist Jesse Taylor.

Grangers then made the trek to the State Capitol Building for tours, legislative meetings, and additional speakers. The State Grange made appointments

for each attendee to meet with their State Representatives and Senator or their office staff. Time between appointments was filled with attending hearings of the Senate and House Committees.

This year's lunch speakers included State Senator Judy Warnick, a member of Moses Lake Grange #1151, who discussed her work on rural and agricultural issues currently under consideration by the Senate. We also heard from Peter Abbarno, 20th District State

Representative from Centralia, who thanked the Grangers for serving their communities.

Additional speakers were Evan Scheffles, Director of Government Relations for the WA State Department of Agriculture; Morgan Irwin, a

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MARCH 2024 issue deadline – FEBRUARY 20th
Submissions can be sent to grangenews@wa-grange.org



President’s Message

Grange: A Politically Active, But Nonpartisan Organization

By Tom Gwin
State Grange
Master/President

As this is a full election year, I find it necessary to rerun a previous column on the Grange’s non-partisan stance. The next several months will generate a great deal of interest in our governmental elections. While candidate filing for most offices, from the U.S. Congress to precinct committee officers, will take place in June. Many candidates have already announced their intentions. We can expect to see the retirements of a few politicians, while incumbents across the board are expected to have an increase in challengers from previous years. Throw in the fact that our country is polarized to the far left and far right, with few candidates taking a moderate approach. We have the makings of a political firestorm at our doorstep. We should anticipate another nasty election with accusations, smear campaigns, and other questionable tactics that will make this an election to remember.

As always, we hope our membership will take the opportunity to learn as much as we can about the candidates and their stance on the issues. We must, however, keep politics out of our Grange and our Grange out of politics. The Grange is a politically active, but non-partisan organization. As a Grange,

we get involved on issues, but do not support candidates of any party for political offices. Our organization was founded on this principle, and we are committed to remaining a non-partisan organization. Regarding partisan politics, here are some of the basic guidelines we use to remain non-partisan:

- Grange halls may be used by political candidates for their

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-- Tom Gwin

events. Full rental rates must apply.

- The Grange cannot host an event for a candidate for a political office.
- We encourage Granges to hold candidate forums. All candidates for an office must be invited to participate.
- While individual Grange members may support a candidate, the Grange itself



Tom Gwin

cannot endorse or support a specific candidate for political office.

- As a State Grange, we ask elected officials to speak at our convention, but not candidates for political office. This sometimes is difficult in election years.
- The Grange, as a whole, may not contribute time, finances, or services to a candidate for political office.
- The Grange name and emblem may not appear on advertising, brochures, flyers, signs, social media, etc. for any candidate for political office.

As far as the State Grange in concerned, we will only invite elected and appointed officials to speak at the convention. Any who are running for reelection are reminded that we are a nonpartisan organization and their discussion should focus on issues rather than partisan politics.

By keeping these guidelines in mind, we will continue to be active in the political arena, but also remain a non-partisan organization that works to educate the voters on the issues. My best wishes to you as we trudge through the long election process and work together for the betterment of our communities, towns, cities, state, and nation.

Legislative

Legislative Session Update



By Jesse Taylor
Legislative Lobbyist

Jesse Taylor

If you believe Punxsutawney Phil, it seems we are in for an early spring this year which is welcome news to rural folks and farmers. This time of year is one of hope as we begin to see light at the end of the tunnel from a long winter and we begin to see the end of legislative session. And speaking of hope, the Washington State Grange just finished up another great legislative day on the hill. This year we were joined by approximately forty-five Grangers from all over the state on February 5th. We had guest speakers, capitol tours, good food and great conversation. These days on the hill are very important for us as an organization as we completed dozens of office visits informing lawmakers of the importance of the Grange and the public services we provide. I think one of the lesser told stories about Granges in Washington state is the fact that we are very much public use facilities with capacity for emergency response, town meetings, 4-H and FFA meetings, family events, birthday parties, as well as municipal and school district meetings. Over the course of the next year I want to emphasize an effort to educate lawmakers, state and local, about the vast offerings of our Grange halls and I hope fellow grangers join me in that. Legislatively it will soon be time to turn eye towards 2025 and our goals within policy and also within the capital budget as we look to rebuild Grange halls across the state. The ground work during the “interim” period is where a lot of that work happens to make us successful during the legislative session. Look for calls to action from me and others as we begin to close the book on the 2023 session.

Session Update

From a high-level standpoint, the legislative session is going well and as expected. We have entered the time of session where the activity is mostly “floor action” as lawmakers are voting bills off of their floor of origin (House or Senate). If you follow the session watch that is published every Monday on the State Grange website, you can follow along with the bills we are engaging in and any policy we are pushing for or against. The session is on track to adjourn March 7th as we speed towards the deadlines and cutoffs. This year, being an election year, the lawmakers have a built-in incentive to finish on time so they can begin to fundraise and campaign in earnest, in hopes of retaining their seat come November. This interim, during an election year, is a great time to have your local Senator and Representatives over to your Grange for a site visit and conversation. They love to engage with the public during election years and attend events where they can shake hands and engage with voters. Lawmakers know Grangers have a high propensity to vote, so we tend to offer an attractive landing spot. Please reach out to me during the interim to schedule a local Grange visit with you and your legislator.



National Grange

Virtual Legislative Fly-In

March 18, 2024 Register: grange.biz/flyin2024





Session Watch 2024

Stay informed about what is happening in the State Legislature. Send us your email at grange@wa-grange.org to receive our weekly Session Watch report. You can also find each weeks Session Watch on our website under the Legislative Department page at www.wa-grange.com/LegislativeSession.aspx

National Grange News

A View From The Hill - Winter 2024 Wrap-Up

By **Burton Eller**
National Grange
Legislative Director

WASHINGTON OVERVIEW

The nation's capital has been dealing with lingering snow and cold temperatures like the rest of the country, but the arctic blast hasn't cooled the political atmosphere. Congress prevented a government shutdown by kicking the can to March 1 and March 8. There's still no agreement on funding support for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan or a solution to the border crisis. In fact, it appears that a promising bipartisan agreement on a compromise border control package in the Senate has now been tanked. Other important legislation is languishing in committees on both sides of the Hill. As well, it appears as though President Biden and former President Trump have clear sailing to their party's nomination for the presidency. Americans appear to be feeling more upbeat about the economy as the stock market pushes to new records and inflation begins to taper off.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

GAO critical of USDA foreign land ownership monitoring.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released along-awaited report in late January that said USDA staff fail to sufficiently verify the accuracy of foreign land ownership data and are slow to share information on those landholdings with the Committee on Foreign investment in the United States as required by law. The report detailed a list of challenges crippling USDA efforts to track foreign landholdings. These include a handbook that provides only limited instructions on collecting information, data entry errors in agency spreadsheets, funding constraints limiting the creation of a searchable database of foreign landholdings, and missing information on some of the

submitted forms. Secretary Vilsack says he's working on these challenges and Congress plans to become more deeply involved in the next steps to assure accuracy and completeness in the program.

Farm bill timing remains elusive.

The latest stopgap funding measure (a third continuing resolution) now expiring in March may delay farm bill consideration even further. House Ag Committee Chairman G. T. Thompson had planned to move the House version of the farm bill in March when the House is in session for three consecutive weeks. Thompson remains guardedly optimistic of that time frame, but the government funding bills are also favorites to attach other bills and eat up floor time, derailing other legislation. Strong support remains among producers for the 2018 farm bill which has been extended through this year.

HEALTH CARE

Grange updates Biden administration on rural obesity.

The National Grange alerted the administration's top health care leadership at the Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the White House Policy Council about the prevalence of obesity in rural America. In letters to HHS Secretary Becerra, CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure and the Policy Council, the Grange referenced a recent report by the University of Chicago on obesity among rural populations. The report found that obesity in rural areas is over six times greater than in urban cities. Obesity has been identified as a significant risk factor for cardiovascular disease, cancer, and type 2 diabetes which are leading causes of mortality and morbidity in the U.S. Nearly a quarter of all residents in rural counties are on Medicare or Medicaid. Yet CMS guidance does not permit

coverage for drugs that treat obesity under Medicare Part D. The Grange urged the administration to extend Medicare coverage so rural seniors living with obesity can have access to obesity treatment options just as those with other chronic diseases.

Grange files petition for early cancer detection approval.

The National Grange filed official comments with the Molecular and Clinical Genetics Panel of the Medical Devices Advisory Committee at the Food and Drug Administration to request final review and approval of multi-cancer early detection (MCEd) tests. MCEd tests will help more people find cancer in earlier, treatable stages and will advance health equity by giving rural Americans an easy-to-administer blood test that can detect multiple variations of cancer earlier. With limited access to health care in rural areas, MCEd tests would reduce late -stage cancer diagnosis when treatment is more difficult and has a lower chance of success.

Over half of mental health visits via telemedicine.

An analysis of clinical outpatient data by researchers at the Veterans Affairs Health Care System published in the Annals of Internal Medicine found that telemedicine rates remain high following the COVID-19 pandemic, with more than half of mental health care visits being conducted remotely via video conferencing.

TAXES

Hill announces deal on tax breaks

Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden (D-OR) and House Ways and Means Committee Chair Jason Smith (R-MO) have agreed on a bipartisan deal that would increase limits on the Section 179 expensing provision and restore the bonus depreciation to 100%, both popular with farmers and ranchers. The Section 179 proposal

would raise the expensing limit to \$1.29 million and increase the phaseout threshold to \$3.22 million with both indexed to inflation. The bonus depreciation provision allows businesses to immediately write off the cost of equipment and buildings. The deal also includes an expansion of the child tax credit and restores business deductions for research and development costs, interest payments and capital investments. To pay for the deal, tax writers would drop the employment retention tax credit which they say has been aggressively marketed within the tax industry and has been a source of fraudulent business activity. The tax package has cleared the House Ways and Means Committee on a 40-3 bipartisan vote and is headed to the House floor.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Patent trolls threaten to keep rural America offline.

Patent trolls are shell companies, often backed by hedge funds, who accumulate patents for the sole purpose of pursuing infringement litigation. They seek money from productive companies in the U.S. who participate in the global supply chain to bring American users innovative products. The International Trade Commission (ITC) is charged to protect Americans from unfair import practices. But if the ITC finds patent infringement, it cannot use discretion, the way a court can, to frame the right remedy. Instead, it can only impose domestic import bans that bar products with infringed technology from entering the U.S. If a patent troll alleges a single patent is infringed upon among the dozens of components in a cell phone for example, then the ITC can bar that entire category of mobile phones. To end the digital divide in America, we need both the rural internet infrastructure (currently being rolled out under the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program) and the



right cutting edge mobile devices to connect to that infrastructure. But patent trolls are threatening the supply of mobile devices. Congress has introduced the bipartisan Advancing Americans Interest Act which the Grange supports. The Act would restrict the ability of patent trolls to file frivolous investigations. The National Grange has been calling attention to patent troll abuses to the system for several years.

OF INTEREST

Supreme Court may limit federal agency power.

A controversial 40-year-old legal doctrine is now before the Supreme Court for review. The Chevron doctrine is a longstanding rule that requires courts to defer to the executive branch on how to interpret ambiguous worded statutes where Congress has not been clear enough. Therefore, when a statute is ambiguous, the court may defer the issue to a federal agency for interpretation. The practice has strengthened presidential administrations' ability to regulate wide aspects of daily life. Chevron critics contend that judges are required to abdicate their responsibility to interpret the law. Chevron supporters question whether overturning Chevron would unleash a flood of litigation as people who lost cases because of the doctrine would seek to have their issues reheard.

Grange's Grassroots Process in Action

National Grange President Christine Hamp recently met with U.S. Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-5) to discuss the Grange's position on many issues, including opposing the removal of the Lower Snake River Dams unless certain economic, agricultural, and infrastructural conditions are met.

This position comes directly from a resolution passed at the 2023 National Grange Session, submitted by Washington State Grange, and originating with San Juan Island Grange #966.



SPEAK LIKE A "CHAMP"

Speak like a "CHAMP" will be a monthly word or phrase designed to get everyone speaking the same language to build a positive message as we Grange.

"GOOD ENOUGH, ISN'T!"

Good Enough Isn't! is a phrase that emphasizes the pursuit of excellence and high standards. The expression suggests that settling for mediocrity or accepting something as merely "good enough" falls short of the desired level of quality or achievement. It conveys a commitment to continuous improvement, exceeding expectations, and refusing to be complacent with average or satisfactory results.

National Grange News

NATIONAL GRANGE: AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT POLICY STATEMENT - 2023

Agriculture is, as always, a foundation of America's economy, providing directly or indirectly through value-added processing, and is \$1.264 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 Grange reaffirms its request to fund Conservation programs at adequate levels. The National Grange will continue to promote water storage projects that benefit agricultural and domestic needs while appropriately safeguarding fish and wildlife safety concerns. The NG encourages reviewing and revising existing water rate structures to ensure fair and affordable pricing, specifically tailored to agricultural activities in urban and rural food deserts. The Grange opposes the expansion of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) current authority to regulate our water supply. We oppose proposed changes to expand the definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS). We believe that the US Army Corps of Engineers should have jurisdiction only over navigable waters, as defined in the 1972 Clean Water Act, and non-navigable waters should be subject only to state Department of Natural Resources & Natural Resources Districts regulations.

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 encourages the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and State Departments of Agriculture to continue programs like the Farmers to Families Food Box Program. These programs enabled the purchase of foods that would have potentially been destroyed. 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 The COVID-19 pandemic we helped us 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 endorses the plans to fund the "Food Transformation Network" which will target the creation of regional food business centers, reducing food deserts, reducing food loss and waste, and help for fruit and vegetable growers to comply with food safety regulations.

The National Grange continues to monitor issues concerning GMO-related (Genetically Modified Organisms), Genetically Engineered (GE) and Bioengineered (BE) 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:

Eliminate unscientific regulatory burdens and barriers that hinder the development of safe gene-edited products.

Increase investment in research and development (R&D) priorities such as advancing Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) tools, enhancing photosynthesis, and improving methods to measure soil carbon.

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

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 born, 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 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 supports states' rights to regulate agricultural production practices, but limit states' rights to standards that are science based and will not substantially interfere with interstate or export commerce. 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, Grange Youth Fair Program 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 high-speed 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, benefited small-to-medium sized dairy 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, and the broadened work requirements for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

We urge continued work on the new Farm Bill in a timely manner but appears at this time there will be a one-year extension granted to create a new Farm Bill. Failure to adopt a new Farm Bill before it expires would cause chaos in the markets.

While the National Grange continues to support Commodity Checkoff Programs, questions remain whether there is sufficient oversight relating to whether checkoff dollars are being properly used. We support additional efforts to ensure checkoff funds are properly spent.

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 nutritionally-inferior plant or artificial

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NATIONAL GRANGE: AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT POLICY STATEMENT - 2023

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substitutes as “milk,” “yogurt” or “cheese”. The USDA must retain the authority to regulate the emergence of the efforts to grow cultured protein (“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. We firmly support the clear and accurate labeling of all non-meat alternatives to reduce consumer confusion at the market shelf.

Small farm operations have dwindled over the last 50 years and small farms and farmers fail when bureaucracy and regulations become burdensome. The United States Department of Agriculture classifies a small farm to have \$350,000 or less of gross income per year and a demographic of farm operators exist where a more realistic annual income for them is \$150,000 per year. We encourage the USDA to reevaluate the income threshold levels for the classification of small, medium and large farm operations and if necessary, adjust them to be more reflective of the range of income levels in the agriculture sector.

Milk prices to the farmer have failed to keep up with inflation 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 domestically-produced milk, thus leading to higher prices for our producers. Less waste of food will make more food 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, and adapting to climate change, water and soil conservation, and animal welfare. There is great concern that foreign governments, individuals and other entities are purchasing agricultural land, endangering not only food security but also national security. We urge that this issue be addressed. 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.

We were excited that the White House held a Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health after more than 50 years, but production agriculture needs to be part of the conversation, both the nutrition side and the production side. We see local food initiatives such as farm markets, farm to school programs, and local processing and butchering expanding to meet a growing demand. The food as medicine concept will expand as more research is conducted on the effect of diet, particularly on chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, etc. As demands on agriculture increase, the need for adequate funding for mental health issues is necessary.

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.

National Grange encourages the recycling of all twine and netting and supports educational programs to educate farmers and other users of twine products for the proper disposal of twine to prevent the endangerment of raptors and wildlife.

National Grange urge the federal government to give preference to domestically grown horticultural products for display in domestically located US government-owned facilities and buildings.

National Grange encourages all State Granges to be aware of government regulations on agri-tourism in

their state and to work to stop the reclassification of value-added and agri-tourism buildings to commercial buildings.

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.” We endorse the Global Agricultural Productivity Report from Virginia Tech released October 3rd, 2023, which states that “only by working together will agricultural productivity meet demand.”

The National Grange supports the use of agrivoltaics in conjunction with agricultural land and supports efforts to develop responsible regulations governing such efforts, that would result in minimizing the amount of Class I-VII soils allowed for this dual-use. The National Grange continue to support its current policies on clean energy but also include:

- Supporting regulations that ensure the safety and viability of farmlands, rural areas and the people, animals and wildlife that live in or transit the area.
- Support studies and recommendations that can help assure that animals and wildlife are not compromised in any way and are protected from long term exposure.
- Support bonding to protect landowners and the corrections to the land that may need to be made at the end of the lease.
- Support environmentally safe options that avoid hazardous materials that are not recyclable.
- Support regulations that ensure the safety of consumers and utility workers when adding stored energy into the power grid.

NATIONAL GRANGE: AUDIT & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT POLICY STATEMENT - 2023

The members of the Audit and Budget Committee thank the National Master, Executive Committee and the National Grange staff for presenting us with a budget that allows us to continue with the programs and projects of the National Grange.

Dues on all levels of the Grange are the lifeblood of our Order and it is imperative that Granges on all levels and in all states encourage membership growth. Every member should make a serious effort to attract new members while working to retain our existing members.

We encourage all members to continually monitor the many member benefits that are listed on the National Grange website and to take advantage of these benefits as they are not only a benefit to the membership, but many of these programs provide an ongoing revenue stream to the National Grange. Few organizations give such value for the small monetary contribution from its membership.

The Communications Department continues to expand communications to the State Granges, Community Granges and our membership. Some of these programs include The Patrons Chain, and our quarterly subscription based Good Day! publication.

We applaud the Communications Department for the continued innovation in our quarterly Good Day! magazine. Good Day! is now available as an online magazine in addition to the printed version. Good Day! is truly an asset to the National Grange. This is due to advertising and donations to offset the cost of the publication and distribution of the magazine. In order to remain financially viable, we encourage all members to subscribe to the Good Day! magazine and enjoy a wealth of different articles. In an effort to make the Grange more visible, why not consider a subscription to the magazine for your local library or FFA chapter? Communication between the National Grange and our membership is vital and the outstanding Good Day! publication is an essential part of that effort, but to continue it, it must receive support by us as leaders as well as our members. Why not take few minutes and renew your subscription, or subscribe to the magazine today?

It is our responsibility as leaders of the Grange to work with our Membership Director to design and create strategies for success in our membership recruitment efforts. Has your Grange considered offering members requesting to be dropped from the Grange an e-membership for this individual for a period of 1 year to keep them informed of the activities of the Grange? Hopefully, these E- members will see the benefit of membership and maintain their E-membership moving forward.

The National Grange is at a crossroads as to what to do with our sixty plus year old building. We cannot let the discussions and emotions distract us as we work to increase membership and the visibility and relevance of the Grange on all levels.

We need to ensure that the principal from the sale of the building is invested in such a way to generate the income that will be lost without the rental income generated by the tenants in the building. We also need to ensure that the funds generate enough income to continue the existing programs and allow for creation of new programs which will continue to enhance member value as well as attract new members to our order and allow us to carry on for many years to come.

The Grange does not live in one building but in the many communities we serve.

Now’s a Great Time to Support the Washington State Grange Foundation

Here’s how you can help:

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.



Your 2024 Program Handbook is Nearby



This year’s Washington State Grange Program Handbook is right at your fingertips at any time on the State Grange website.

Refer to the Handbook often for details about contests and programs from each Grange department. Valuable information about Grange Foundation and GIA scholarships is also in the handbook.

Download the Handbook file to your computer for ready access.
<http://wa-grange.com/downloads/ProgramHandbook.pdf>

National Grange News

Find The Fun As A Leader

By Christine Hamp
National Grange President



If there is one, single-most important lesson, or truth, that has been reinforced in my first few months as President of the National Grange it is to make time for fun! When it feels like the weight of the entire organization is resting on my shoulders, I am fortunate to have the support of my husband, Duane, my family near and far, and a bunch of amazing and wacky friends who help me focus on the important stuff and not get bogged down in the details. A large helping of fun makes everything more enjoyable!

Leadership can be like a rollercoaster ride – ups, downs, and occasionally an upside-down loop-de-loop. Remember to celebrate victories and share in the laughs. When times get tough being able to find joy in chaos is like having a secret superpower! It sparks creativity, lights up the dark corners of problem-solving, and turns challenges into opportunities.

Enjoy the journey! Make time for fun!

Imagine the impact the Grange can make when we prioritize and actively work toward enhancing the experience and value we provide to each member. How awesome this country could be if every community had a strong, vibrant Grange focused on resilience and relevance. Remember also that determined people working together can do anything. Let all who desire join in serving as Caretakers of a Legacy!

FEBRUARY 2024 NATIONAL GRANGE EVENTS

TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP
JOIN US ON ZOOM FOR THESE EVENTS!

ALL TIMES
EASTERN

2: FELLOWSHIP FIRST FRIDAY 8:30 P.M.
A new program! Connect: grange.biz/firstfriday
Join us for this fun NEW monthly program - a time for fellowship, thought-provoking conversation, and the chance to connect with Grange members from coast to coast! Includes a short program, activity, and time to socialize around topics of your choice.
February topic: Lunar (Chinese) New Year, which includes a look at history and traditions and a cooking lesson on a traditional Chinese dish, plus a game!

7: RURAL MENTAL HEALTH RESILIENCE WEBINAR 8:30 P.M.
Register: grange.biz/RMHQ
Join leaders from **Rural Minds** and the **National Grange** as we introduce the Rural Mental Health Resilience Program to our Grange members via Zoom.

16-18: NATIONAL GRANGE LEADERS' CONFERENCE
National Grange leaders, State Grange Presidents, and more will be gathering in Myrtle Beach, SC. Be sure to ask them what they learned afterward!

ALL TIMES
EASTERN

21: MEMBERSHIP MATTERS 8:30 P.M.
Now on a new night! Connect: grange.biz/matters
Join Membership/Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios for this monthly time to learn about various membership challenges and growth opportunities.

21: 1-IN-1000 CLUB MEETING 8:30 P.M.
Connect: grange.biz/1in1000
The **Grange Foundation's** 1-in-1000 Club will hold its annual meeting. Want to join this Club to help secure the longevity of the Grange? Visit www.grangefoundation.org to learn more!

27: LECTURER'S FORUM 8:30 P.M.
Connect: grange.biz/lecturerforum
Join National Grange Lecturer Tom Cwin to learn about what's happening in the National Lecturer's Department - from contests to programming, and more!
Questions? Email lecturer@nationalgrange.org

MARCH 1: APPLICATIONS FOR THE ERNESTINE KEISER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP DUE

2024 Convention Info



JUNE 26 - 30, 2024
135th Annual Washington State Grange Convention
at the
Northeast Washington Fairgrounds
317 W Astor Ave, Colville, WA 99114

WA State Grange Convention 2024 Hotel/Motel Listing

- Housing options for this year's State Grange Session in Colville are limited. With that in mind, the Convention Steering Committee submitted housing information early. Grangers are encouraged to make their reservations now for the best options.
- **Comfort Inn** – 166 NE Canning Drive, Colville – 509-684-2010; 0.5 mile from convention site- Features pool and ispPet friendly – Free hot breakfast
 - **Benny's Colville Inn** – 915 S. Main, Colville – 800-680-2517 or 509-684-2517; 0.5 miles from convention site, range from economy to spacious suites, complimentary breakfast bar. Pets allowed, 65% of rooms are designated non-smoking.
 - **Selkirk Motel** – 369 S. Main Street, Colville – 509-684-2565; 0.5 miles from conventions site -pet friendly, refrigerators and coffee maker, free WiFi, kitchens in some rooms, microwaves in some ooms.
 - **Columbia Point Resort** – 978 US Hwy 395, Kettle Falls – 509-690-4208; 10 miles from the convention site. free WiFi, pet friendly, air conditioning, smoke free property.
 - **Chwelan Hotel and RV Park** - 301 S. Park Street, Chewelah – 509-935-4763; 22 miles from conventions site – free WiFi, air conditioning, pet friendly, smoke free property
 - **Nordlig Motel** – 101 W. Grant Avenue, Chewelah – 509-935-6704; 22 miles to convention site -Pet Friendly, free breakfast, free WiFi, air conditioning in some rooms
 - **Mistequa Hotel at the Chewelah Casino (COMING SOON)** – 2555 Smith Road, Chewelah – 800-322-2788; 25 miles to the convention site – daily housekeeping, indoor pool, hot tub, and sauna
- You may also want to try the following:
Airbnb – <https://airbnb.com/>
VRBO – <https://www.vrbo.com/vacation-rentals/houses/usa/Washington/colville>



Legislative Day

WA State Grange Hosts Successful Legislative Day



Continued from Page 1

former State Representative and current Governmental Affairs Director for the Association of Washington Business; and Tom Kwieciak, lobbyist for the National Rifle Association. All three discussed pending legislation of concern to their constituents.

The 45 participants represented 13 different legislative districts. Many of the first time participants attended to discuss their application for Capital Budget Funds for improvements to their Grange Halls, especially those Grange Halls that are considered Public Meeting Facilities.

Following lunch and additional meetings, Grange members made their way back to the State Grange Office where Grange Lobbyist Jesse Taylor completed the day with a debriefing session. It was a great day for the Grange and agriculture in the State of Washington!

First time attendee Dave Langston, Master of Moran Prairie Grange #161 in Spokane County, commented “This was a very good event for Grangers to network with other Grange members, learn about the grassroots lobbying efforts of our Grange, and allowed for networking with other Granges facing struggles and challenges.”



Lecturer's Department

2024 Lecturer Packets of Information

By Leslie Jo Wells
State Grange Lecturer



Leslie Jo Wells

A number of you have received your Lecturer Packets and have the information you can use through this year for programs at your meetings. You can choose to use the material you’ve been given or develop and present your own programs. If you “do your own thing,” and use a topic or speaker that was successful, please share that information on your annual report. Our department is always looking for ideas for programs to share with our members.

Your packet also contains the information on the various Lecturer Department contests. There were several changes made in the groups of the Arts and Crafts Contest and a couple of changes made in the classes of the Photography Contest. You might plan a program to review both Contests with your members so they can plan entries for your Pomona Contest. This year we will be using a new entry tag for the contests. It will be used for both the Lecturer and Family Living Departments. The one field you will not need for our entries is the one for “Lot.” You can also leave the “Item” field blank. When you bring your entries to state convention in June, be sure to leave the entry tag attached.

FYI...Ferol, at WSG Headquarters has been busy updating the Lecturer Department pages on the wa-grange.com website. If you go to the Forms and Reports link, you will have access to all the info that is included in your packet. The bottom half of the page also provides you with some of the past Lecturer program information. THANK YOU FEROL!

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the Lecturer Department, you can contact me by phone at 360.306.0905 or email at lesliewells@att.net.

Heirloom Project Readings February, March & April 2024

FEBRUARY 2024: “In old age we enjoy the fruits of a well-spent life, surrounded by friends, and in a happy Home, noted for fidelity.”

(Fourth Degree; Steward)

MARCH 2024: “The first and highest object of our Order is—to develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood.”

(First Degree; Lecturer)

APRIL 2024: “Those we admit into our circle are not chosen by outward appearance, and ... we are not deceived by display in dress. It is to the mind and heart that we look for all good works; therefore, in your intercourse with the world, remember that a noble mind and generous heart are often concealed beneath the garments of poverty.”

(First Degree; Steward)



Community Service

Outside Volunteer Ideas



Heather Ferguson

By Heather Ferguson
Community Service Director

It is that time of year when we are done with the gloomy cold weather and being shut up inside. If you, like me, are looking forward to the sun and warmer temps on the horizon,

here are a few ideas for outside volunteer ideas.

- 1) City Park clean up
- 2) Walk dogs at the Animal shelter
- 3) Plan a garden to share with others
- 4) Help maintain a walking/hiking trail

5) Volunteer at a Fun Run or Community Event

6) Check in on Your Elderly Members

7) Help someone with a house repair

8) Paint that ugly city bench

9) Join an Earth Day activity

10) Clean headstones



In 2023 the Poetry topic was “Pet(s)”

Title: Pets
Author: Lorell Fisher, Stranger Creek Grange #374

Dogs come to mind as the #1 pet
But cats know they’re tops and won’t let you forget
Rats are an acquired taste when it comes to cuddles
And ducks would rather just play in puddles
Bunnies are cute with their twitchy little noses
Stretched out comfortable when they take their dozes
Goats but in when sheep are around
Getting attention when some can be found
Chickens don’t lay eggs to be praised or petted
If they don’t produce, they may live to regret it!
Even if I threaten their lives, I could not
My girls are safe from the dreaded stew pot
Horses and mules, not a necessity now
But the love we give them is very profound
Some people like to keep lizards and snakes
The only way I would touch them is at the end of rakes
Hedgehogs are cute but always rolled up
Can’t snuggle with them, without getting stuck
Whatever kind of pet you choose
One that is lively or just likes to snooze
Give them the best care and life that you can
And show the world you’re an animal fan!

The Poetry topic for 2021 was “Virus” or “Constitution”

Title: The Virus With Multiple Myeloma”
Author: Gary Holland, Addy Grange #603

In “20 we had plans, we planned very well,
The virus then came and blew them to pieces.

Scans and labs and clinic visits continued just the same,
Staying home took precedence; it was a different game.

Visitors were few and visits were short
Using the phone became our new sport.

Baking and cooking and eating, oh my,
Sitting and reading and weight gain, oh sigh.

Biking and walking we tried to maintain,
But try as we might, the weight we did gain.

Now here we are at the end of the year,
The virus is raging; we stay home in fear.

One thing we know and this is for sure,
God’s in control and we will endure.

Somehow we’ve managed to stay healthy, it’s true,
So glad to be able to say Happy New Year to you!

The 2022 Poetry topic was “Parent(s)”

Title: My Parents
Author: Jennifer Oliver, Collins Grange #893

Many kinds of parents can be found. But my kind was the best

Yes, I know what you’re thinking.

Please tell me why yours were the best?
Because I know mine were the best!

Aren’t all parents the best?

Really? NO, but my parents were the best.

Experts say, you can be taught to be a good Mommy and Daddy.

Never do they tell you “No you should not try.”
They say read this book, take this class and you too will be the best.

To my parents I would say this, thank you for being the absolute best.
For reading the books and taking the class and making me so blessed.

So, you see my parents were the best.

Spotlight on Youth & Juniors

Youth

Now Is The Time To Work On Your “Keep Washington Warm” Projects

By Jerry Gwin
Youth Grange Director



Jerry Gwin

Each year, the State Grange Youth Department coordinates the “Keep Washington Warm” project. The intent of the project is to collect warming items that can be distributed for use in the convention host district.

Items collected include either handmade or newly purchased hats, gloves, scarves, socks, and other warming items. This year, the items will be collected at the Annual State Grange Session, June 26-30, in Colville. Following the display at the session, the items are packaged and distributed in the host convention district.

This year’s collection of warming items will be distributed in Stevens County to foster families, food banks, homeless shelters, and others.

We hope you will continue to support this service project by bringing your items to this year’s state session. The items can be dropped off in the youth display area at the session.

WA State Grange Offers Scholarships

Scholarships are offered each year through the Washington State Grange Foundation to assist Grange members attending college or the children of Grange members.

Applicants for these scholarships must be high school seniors or graduates already enrolled in institutions of higher learning. They must be Grange members of Washington State Grange members.

The scholarships may be used at any institution offering courses leading to a certificate or degree in a recognized profession or vocation.

The following scholarships are being offered this year:

- Grange Family Living Department Vocational Scholarship
- Grange Family Living Department Home Economics Scholarship
- Kegley Agricultural Scholarship
- Norm Buchholz Agricultural Scholarship
- Kittleson Memorial Agricultural Scholarship
- Delpha Goude Scholarship
- Horace Bozarth Scholarship

- Kiona-Benton (Koss Memorial) Scholarship
- Martin & Grace Forry Scholarship
- Martin & Snowie Vanderpool Scholarship
- Riverview Grange Scholarship
- Fox Island Grange Scholarship
- Nob Island Grange Scholarship
- Ray & Marion Kammerer Scholarships
- Enga M. Anderson Scholarship
- Bear Creek Scholarship
- Rock Creek Scholarship
- French Creek Scholarship
- McCleary Grange Scholarship
- Pomona Villa Scholarship

Details on the requirements for each scholarship, along with applications forms, can be found on the Washington State Grange website, www.wa-grange.com. Completed applications and all other required materials must be in the State Office by April 1.



ERNESTINE “ERNIE” KEISER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

In November, the National Grange Foundation announced the creation of a new scholarship. In the upcoming issues of the Patrons Chain, they will be highlighting some of the application requirements for the scholarship – and hope you’ll apply!

This scholarship fund was established in 2023 by friends and family of Ernestine “Ernie” Keiser. Ernie was a long-time Grange member in Virginia and was a charter member of Beach Community Grange #958 (VA) in 1959. She was very supportive

of the Youth program at the local, state and national levels. Ernie was a firm believer in the importance of education and her family and friends desired to continue her legacy by establishing this scholarship program. For 2024, the value of the scholarship is \$1,000. Application packets are DUE March 1, 2024.

Get started on your essay as part of the applicant packet. Each applicant must use one of the five (5) prompts below for their essay; maximum of 500 words or the equivalent of two pages, typed,

- double-spaced
- How will the furtherance of my education help the Grange or my community?
 - What does Grange membership mean to me?
 - What are my goals with furthering education?
 - What lessons have I learned from my Grange experiences?
 - How has the Grange helped to develop me as a person/leader?
- Full requirements and application at: grangefoundation.org

Juniors

Grange Month Is Coming Soon

By Heather Ferguson
Junior Grange Director



Heather Ferguson

It is that time of the year to think about Grange month. If you did not already know, April is the month to promote, celebrate and talk about your Grange. Here are a few ideas on how Juniors can participate.

1) Wear your Grange shirts and be ready to tell people what the Grange in your community does. Prepare a 30 second “elevator speech”. Include what the Grange is on the State, Local and Personal level in your description.

2) Put up an informational display in your community. Does your local library, a store window, the local museum or any public area have the space to put up an informational display? Make sure your Granges name and a contact phone number, QR code to the State Grange Website or pamphlets are present.

3) Host a fun activity and invite all of your friends. This does not need to be at your hall. Perhaps have a table at a community event, volunteer to host a fun activity at the library or after school program or plan an Earth Day area/park clean up.

These are just three ideas but there are so many more out there. Please make sure to take pictures and submit them to this publication so we can show off all of your hard work. Happy Grange Month Everyone.

White Tail Grange Youth Carole Sing



5 White Trail Grange youth members sang Christmas Carols at a retirement home in Ephrata, Washington. Top Left: Hailey Howell, Sadie Howell, Gracie Howell, Abigail Buchmann. Bottom left: Gracie Lee and two invited guests by Sadie Howell. Not shown are Jamie Dearing, Barb Buchmann and Hunter Butler.

Youth Yammerings

WHEN:
Third Sunday of even-numbered months (February/April/June... etc.)
at 9 p.m. Eastern

WHO:
Youth Directors or anyone else interested in National Grange Youth & Young Adult programming!

WHERE:
On Zoom!
Login: 697 859 421
Passcode: 568970
bit.ly/YouthYammerings



Spotlight on Youth & Juniors

Western Regional Grange Youth And Leaders Conference Scheduled For April 25-28 In Yakima

The Western Regional Grange Youth and Leaders Conference has been set for April 25-28, 2024 at the Terrace Heights Grange Hall in Yakima, WA. The Washington State Grange, assisted by the Yakima Valley Pomona Grange, will be hosting this year's conference. Additional conference information, including registration materials, schedule of events, workshops offered, tours, etc. will be available later this month from the State Grange Office.

The Western Regional Grange Conference serves as a leadership training opportunity for our Grange youth and leaders. It also provides an avenue to share ideas with other Grangers in the Western Region. The Grange Youth Department holds their regional contests in public speaking, sign-a-song, and Grange Jeopardy at the conference. The Western Region consists of the Granges in Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Hawaii, and Alaska.

WORKSHOP TOPICS

While the conference schedule and list of presenters will be available in the next few weeks, we have confirmed workshops on the following topics:

- "Preserving Your Grange Archives"
- "Finding the Gaps: How to Create and Conduct a Community Needs Assessment"
- "Generational Differences"
- "Creating Sponsorship Opportunities for your Subordinate Grange"
- "Making the Grange Legislative Process Work for You"
- "Agricultural Careers – Your Future is Bright"
- "Youth Fairs Panel Discussion"

TOURS

Treveri Cellars (Friday) – Family-owned sparkling wine vineyard. Opened in 2010 just southeast of Yakima Washington. Their award-winning sparkling wines have been served at functions at the White House and James Beard Foundation. They produce a wide array of sparkling wines including non-traditional varieties.

They oversee the entire growing and production process, from vine to bottle. Several of their vineyards are farmed organically. We are fortunate to have a private walking tour, tasting, and lunch at Treveri Cellars.

Bale Breaker Brewing Company (Friday) – Family-owned brewery located just east of Yakima. Backed by four generations of hop farming experience, Bale Breaker started in 2013. They are the fourth largest independent craft brewery in Washington. They operate a 30-barrel brewhouse at a 27,000 square foot facility. The family first planted hops in the Yakima Valley in 1932, the year before Prohibition ended. We will have a walking tour of their operation and a chance to socialize over a good glass of beer.

Kinsey Family Farms (Saturday) – Family-owned farm, they are third generation farmers in the Yakima Valley. They started farming in the early 40's in the Sunnyside area where they still farm today. They grow a diverse product line producing both conventional and organic. We will be touring their asparagus fields to observe harvest then to their warehouse to tour the processing. Kinsey Farms currently have around 200 acres in asparagus production. Greg Kinsey will be our host and guide for this tour.

Central Washington Agriculture Museum (Saturday) – Founded in 1979 and is located just south of Yakima. It is the largest museum of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. Home of 1000s of historic machinery and acres of exhibits that showcase farm life over the past 100 years. We will have lunch at the museum and then a drive through tour. Cheryl Reese Education Coordinator will be our host and guide.

Grange Library (Saturday) – The Grange library is located at the C W Ag Museum and will be open for us to browse and take in the history of local, state, and national Granges. It also has several historical books, some written by founders Kelley and Grosh from 1875 and 1876. The library also houses photos, documents, and symbols of the Grange. Liz Wade, one of the founding members, will be there to answer questions and guide us through the past.

LODGING

Lodging is available at several hotels in Yakima. Conference attendees should make their own reservations. Below is a list of hotel facilities. Feel free to check out these hotels online.

- Oxford Suites, 1701 E Yakima Avenue, Yakima, 509-457-9000
- Baymont by Wyndham, 1603 E Yakima Avenue, Yakima, 509-654-9168
- Best Western Ahtanum Inn, 2408 Rudkin Road, Yakima, 509-248-9700
- Super 8, 2605 Rudkin Road, Union Gap, 509-654-9371
- Holiday Inn, 802 E Yakima Avenue, Yakima, 509-494-7000
- Comfort Suites, 3702 Fruitvale Blvd, Yakima, 509-249-1900
- Red Lion Yakima Center, 607 E Yakima Avenue, Yakima, 509-248-5900
- Fairfield Inn & Suites, 137 N Fair Avenue, Yakima, 509-452-3100
- Hilton Garden Inn Yakima Downtown, 401 E Yakima Avenue, Yakima, 509-454-1111

CAMPING

Camping is available at the Yakima Sportsman State Park. This is one-half mile from the Grange Hall. We will provide shuttle service from the campground to the hotel throughout the weekend. Telephone 509-575-2774 or email Yakima.sportsman@parks.wa.gov

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE

There is a \$35 registration fee per person for the conference. This will include lunch and dinner on both Friday and Saturday, both tours, and workshop materials.

REGISTRATION

Registration information will go out in mid-February. We are also finalizing online registration. Must be received by April 15.

Jr. Grange Camps

Cornet Bay Junior Grange Camp Looking For New Camp Director

Northern District Jr. Grange Camp (Cornet Bay) is looking for a Camp Director. After over 20+ years Janelle Lierman has announced that she will be stepping down as the Camp Director. Those interested person(s) please contact camp board president Scott Hackett shackett@live.com. This is a Volunteer position, and must pass a WSG Background Check to work with Junior Grangers.

On The Web:
www.WA-Grange.com

Fargher Lake Grange Youth Work Membership Drive



Fargher Lake Grange Youth, had a membership drive at Mt Valley Grange in December, selling a few of the items they have made, and Jack, our mascot, made an appearance.

Membership Corner

Welcome New Members

GRANGES WITH MEMBERSHIP GAINS January 2024

	# Joined	Jr. +1
603 Addy 1 2 Brittney Lamica, Cole Lamica, Lane Lamica		
681 Chimacum 3 Laurae Hughes, Pamela Gill, Guy Wehr		
737 Cowlitz Prairie 5 1 Liz Do, Phil Aupperle, Michael McVay, Kimberly McVay .. Kyle McVay		
646 Dry Creek 4 2 Jana Roening, Christina Heistand, Jeff Heistand Madison Heistand		
1012 East Wenatchee 2 1 Chelsea Morris, Stefan Morris		
853 Fargher Lake 1 Linda Marsh		
33 Fords Prairie 3 Jeffry Hixson, Marjorie Hixson, Alicia Silva		
545 Fredonia 5 Debbie Riegel-Yates, Steve Yates, Mary Celia Russell Celia, Basil Hauser-Anderson		
857 Granville 1 Mili Mendez-Rojas		
780 Inland 1 Ruth Beecher		
667 Long Beach 7 Blaine Gunkel, Tresha Dodson, Nicolas Boer Gustavo Paxtian, Delores Jean Stout, Paula Wood Paul Wood		
1101 Manor 2 Julia Heldman, Philip Van Antwerp		
276 Marion 1 Dennis McLeod		
357 Matlock 1 Chad Sweitzer		
1001 McIntosh 25 4 Amanda LaShaw, Jeff LaShaw, Joseph LaShaw Michael Warnecke, Alycia Warnecke, Jesse Warnecke Eric Larson, Jeremy Dau, Michelle Day, Ryan Dau Brayden Dau, Scott Dashiell, Tiffany Dashiell Alyson Dashiell, Cole Ennis, Roc Ennis, Brayden Ennis Marley Pratt, Cretia Primmer, Chris Primmer Trent Primmer, Jaycee Primmer, Justus Snyder Misty Snyder, Briley Snyder		
164 Minnehaha 1 Michael Kersteter		
1069 Molson 2 1 Randy Dart, Sasha Dart		
1151 Moses Lake 2 1 Kayla Tilson, Kim Barclay		
311 Oakview 2 Jim Thurman, Shannon Gaudette-Thurman		
115 Pine Grove 3 Wiley Hollingsworth, Adele Lyle, Libby Lyle		
315 Prosperity 1 Roger Ramsdell		
943 Ralston 4 Ron Greenwalt, Jon Krieger, Cheyenne Galen Debra Lloyd		
815 Rexville 3 Todd Lenning, Talea Price, Elijah Price		
966 San Juan Island 10 Caitlin Blethen, Jeff Scarberry, Kelly Robotham Kristin Lauter, Robert deGavre, Audrey Stewart Juniper Maas, Kellie Jordan, Kristin Arnim, Isobel Davis		
1108 Sequim Prairie 5 Karen Stein, Stephanie VanWinkle, David Granum Gabe Granum, Rachel McDougall		
105 Silver Lake 4 Karen (Kay) Pleak, Carla Chism, Steve Unruh Melinda Grooms-Unruh		
984 Swauk Teanaway 2 Joy Rucker, Manord Rucker		
586 Terrace Heights 3 2 James Ryan Case, Heidi Case, James Robbie Case		
	# Joined	Jr. +1
TOTALS 95 14		

What Is Your 4 In 2024?

One of our local news outlets is asking our state leaders what their four priorities are for 2024. While I listened to some of what they each had to say, I thought that this was a great idea for our Granges as well. Four priorities are so much more manageable than creating a laundry list of priorities. So, if you had to prioritize your priorities, how would that list look?

Let's think about how we can decide on these four priorities for this year. What does your Grange need most? Are you having a dozen or more members attending meetings or are you struggling to have a quorum at your meetings? Are your officer chairs full or are you having a hard time filling those chairs? If the latter of these are true in both statements, then membership would be your number ONE priority for your Grange. Because, lets face it, if we don't have an active membership, we don't have an active Grange.

Maybe your membership has grown in the past few years but you're not sure how to get them involved. Invite them to the next working meeting to discuss new potential events to hold at the Grange or a new community service project. Maybe even new classes the Grange can hold.

We could set so many priorities, so what is it that would be best to focus on for your individual Grange?

Here are a few ideas:

- **New membership in your Grange is needed; how could we add new members to our Grange roster?**

- › Hold a contest with a special prize, anyone who brings in 4 new members in the year would go in a drawing for this special prize.
- › Send a letter to your local businesses and leaders asking them to join the Grange.
- › Invite your town to a special event at the Grange.
- **Find a new community service project.**
 - › Hold a coat drive or clothing drive for your areas less fortunate.
 - › Adopt a family.
 - › Collect food for your local food bank.
 - › Hold a blood drive at your Grange.
- **Create a new annual event that would bring in new potential members into your Grange.**
 - › Easter Egg Hunt/Extravaganza
 - › Valentines Dance
 - › Trunk or Treat
 - › Santa Breakfast
- **Hold classes that are open to the public.**
 - › Canning Class
 - › Sourdough Bread Class
 - › Preservation Class
 - › Invite a local Master Gardener to come and talk.

These are just a hand full of ideas. Pay attention to other Granges and what things they are doing in their areas and see if that is something that would work in your area as well. Check out Grange Facebook pages or Instagram pages for ideas as well. We can ALL find FOUR priorities for 2024! Lets make it ANOTHER great year!!!

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following Grangers for bringing in 3 new members into your Grange. You will each receive the membership t-shirt with our mission statement.

Bruce Quinistance – Bethel #404
Nicole Nickel – Rose Valley #953
Cindy Heller – Sharon #800
Mike Nester - South Camano #930
Florence Robins – Tri Community #1008
Ricardo Barrientes - Fords Prairie #33

Congratulations to the Grangers who have brought in 5 or more new members into your Grange. You have each won a \$25 Amazon gift card for every 5 new members brought in.

Roger Ellison – San Juan Island #966
2- \$25 Amazon Gift Cards

Mike Nester - South Camano #930
1 - \$25 Amazon Gift Card

This Contest runs from January 1, 2023 thru December 31, 2023.
There are many members close to receiving their membership t-shirt or a \$25 gift card.
So, let's get out there and invite our friends and neighbors to join the Grange!

Adna Grange Presents Golden Sheaf Certificate



On September 15, 2023, Treasurer Jim Lester presented Grange member Betty Y. Sipp with her Golden Sheaf Certificate at her residence. Betty initially joined the grange at Newaukum Grange #198, demitting to Adna Grange #417 years later. She served as Master of Adna Grange #417 from 2015 until 2022.



Home & Family

February Tidbits ...

By Helen Berg
Family Living Director

Contest time is rapidly approaching. There has been some confusion about the quantity of baked items to enter per lot. The number 4 is applicable only on the state level. If you plan to have an auction after items are judged feel free to require 13 pieces as was required previous to this year. I know of at least one county that voted to accept either 4 or 13. If you are having your contest after May 15 Just send your results to me as soon as possible. Be sure to use our new entry forms.

Our giving to the various charitable organizations suggested to you on the report forms has really dropped, so much so, as we may not be able to give a Family Living Scholarship this year. I would

encourage you to dig deep and consider giving not only to the scholarship fund but also to the campship funds. Junior Grange camp is a great way for our young ones to learn what grange is all about.

The King Memorial fund is there to help our various camps with needs they may have such as sports equipment or craft items. Most of our camps operate on a shoestring budget so any help is greatly appreciated. You may write one check for all three funds made out WSG Foundation. Just indicate where you want the funds to be allotted. I thank you in advance.

I have a correction on Vicki Gilmour's e-mail address. It should read vickg@tds.net. Sorry Vicki for my error. Please make the change to your program directory.

Our quilt block this year is

Jacob's Ladder. Here are some hints for cutting. The small squares are 2 1/2" square. You can cut 2 1/2" strips, sew together and then cut your segments at 2 1/2". When sewn together your block should measure 4 1/2" inches. Cut 5" blocks for your 1/2 Sq. triangles. Draw a line diagonally and sew 1/4" from drawn line on either side and cut in half. Then square up to 4 1/2". Sew block together. Hope this helps many of you to try making a quilt block this year.

Finally, I have a hint for healthy living. Go to the fresh produce department and find a vegetable or fruit you have never tried. Buy it and take it home to try. Look up ways to prepare it, keeping in mind that eating it in its purest form is the best for you.

Happy Valentine's Day!



Helen Berg



Guilt-Free, Super-Fruit Snacking

(Courtesy of Family Features)

With today's changing palates and the growing demand for sour, less sweet foods and beverages, a superfruit like tart cherries can help snackers permissibly indulge without the guilt. Primarily grown on small family farms in the United States, Montmorency tart cherries – also referred to as sour cherries – are available year-round in dried, juice and juice concentrate, canned and frozen forms.

In addition to their sweet-sour taste and unique nutrient profile, research suggests tart cherries – one of the few natural food sources of melatonin – may help improve sleep, aid in exercise recovery, reduce inflammation, ease arthritis symptoms, improve gut health and promote heart health.

While increasingly featured in functional beverages and health-positioned foods, tart cherries can also add drool-worthy flavor to superfruit-infused snacks, such as these Tart Cherry Superfood Banana Splits.

Find more tart cherry snack recipes at ChooseCherries.com.

Tart Cherry Superfood Banana Splits

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Servings: 2

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup dark chocolate chips
- 2 cups tart cherry juice
- 2 ripe bananas
- 1 cup vanilla Greek yogurt
- 1/4 cup almond butter
- 1/4 cup granola
- 1/4 cup dried tart cherries
- 1/2 cup frozen tart cherries, thawed

Place chocolate chips in bowl. In saucepan over medium heat, bring tart cherry juice to simmer about 20 minutes until reduced to 2/3 cup. Pour juice into bowl and mix until chocolate chips are melted and sauce is smooth.

Cut bananas in half lengthwise and place on two plates. Spoon 1/2 cup Greek yogurt on each banana then drizzle with 2 tablespoons almond butter and 2 tablespoons tart cherry chocolate sauce. Sprinkle 2 tablespoons granola, 2 tablespoons dried tart cherries and 1/4 cup thawed frozen tart cherries on top of each banana split.

Note: Leftover tart cherry chocolate sauce can be stored in airtight container in refrigerator for later use.

2024 National Grange Quilt Block Contest Split Back Star Block

Pattern courtesy of Kim Di.Joseph. This pattern was the 2023 Quilts of Valor official block.

Pieces Needed for one 12" finished block:

- White: 1-4 1/2" square 8-2 1/2" squares
- Red: 3-4 1/2" square 1-5" square
- Blue: 3-4 1/2" square 1-5" square

Deadline: September 1, 2024

The Quilt Block Contest provides an opportunity for Grange members and friends to collaborate in creating quilted items that can be donated or auctioned for funds to provide additional services to community members in a nationwide effort.

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 September 1, 2024.
- C. Any entries received after the deadline will not be judged. However, all entries received will be exhibited at the 158th National Grange convention in Bettendorf, Iowa.
- D. The quilt block you enter in the contest for judging must be made by you.
- 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 2024 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)

PRIZES:

- Monetary prizes will be awarded for 1st (\$50), 2nd (\$30), and 3rd (\$20) place in each Group.
- Ribbons will be awarded to all entrants.

STEP 1: STAR POINTS: With 2 red and 2 blue 4 1/2" squares, sew a 2 1/2" white square to one corner. Cut 1/4" off the sew line and press towards the white. Sew the 4 remaining 2 1/2" squares to the other side of the color, cut 1/4" off sew line and press towards the white. These 4 units will make your star points.

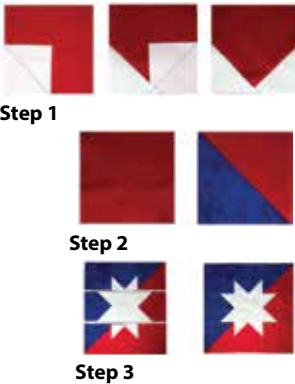
STEP 2: HST's: With a 5" red and a 5" blue square. Place right sides together, draw a line diagonally and sew 1/4" on each side of the line. Cut on the draw line and iron. Square both HST units to 4 1/2".

STEP 3: ASSEMBLE BLOCK: You will now have 9 squares, each measuring 4 1/2". Assemble in 9 patch style to create your QOV Split Back Star.



Finished Quilt Block

Questions? Email
lecturer@nationalgrange.org



Grange Connection

Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Pomona Presents Awards



Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Pomona Master Rex Ogden presented James and Bertinia Hedges their 50 Year Golden Sheaf Certificate. They have been active Grange Member both in Catlin Grange #199 and Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Pomona #7.

Pictured is Left Bertinia (Tena) Hedges, Middle Pomona Master Rex Ogden, and James Hedges.

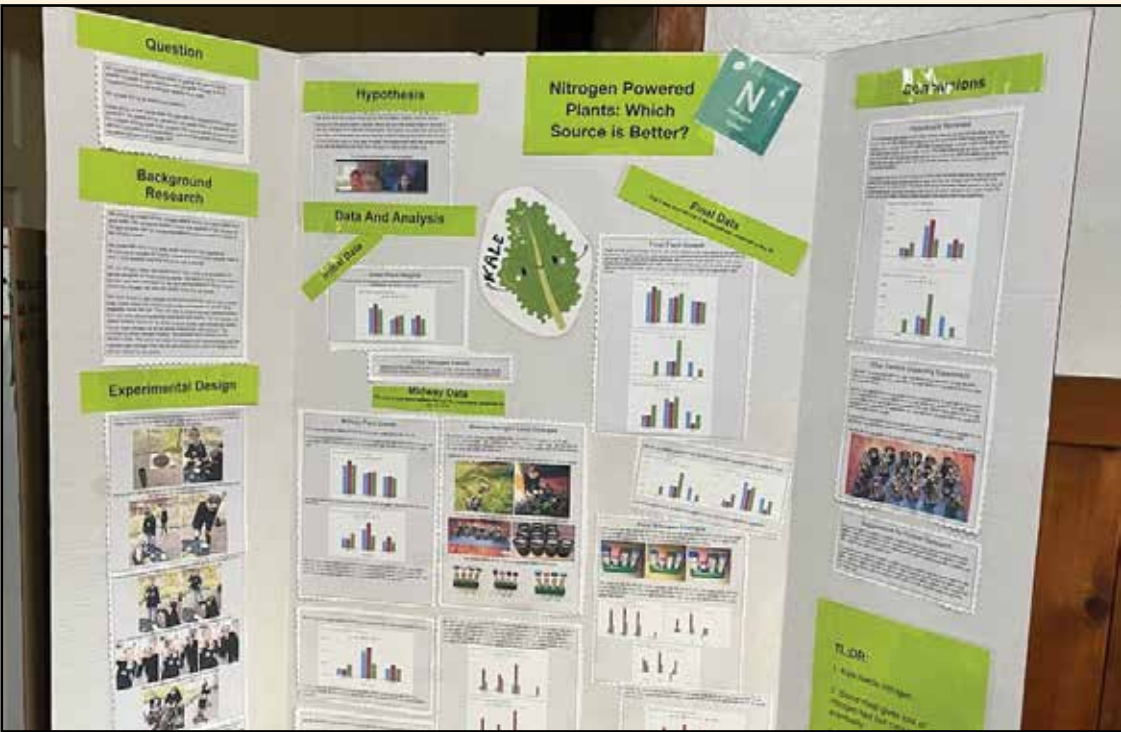


Bethel Grange Hosts Fathoms Of Fun With Toastmasters



Bethel Grange #404 and the Port Orchard Toastmasters Club #6171 hosted the Port Orchard Fathoms of Fun royalty court contestants on January 16, 2024. Each contestant gave a 3 to 5 minute presentation on a topic they were advocating. They were then given individual evaluations to help improve their speeches. In about two months, a Queen or a King and Princesss or a Prince will be chosen after many more public appearances to groups where they will continue to be judged. The winners will then represent the city in parades and other special events.

Fruitland Grange Hosts Science Fair With Local Homeschool Group



Fruitland Grange partnered with a local homeschool group and held a science fair in early December. The kids presented projects about agriculture, baking, and survival skills. The judges were impressed as the kids of all ages stood by their projects and presented their projects in a clear and precise manner. This also sparked interest in starting a Junior Grange at Fruitland and we are continuing to move forward in that endeavor. There are plans for a community garden and subsequent classes this spring and summer on gardening, water containment, composting and home canning the harvest.

McLane Grange Honors Members



McLane Grange honored two members at its January 11, 2024 business meeting. In addition to snacks and conversation about the McLane "Beboppers" dance club, Trisha Swanson was presented with her 30-year pin. In addition, member Dianne Johnson received her blue ribbon for her winning chocolate-mint fudge, awarded last summer at the state convention.

Grange President Speaks With FFA



WA State Grange President Tom Gwin speaking with a group of FFA youth from Emerald Ridge High School.

Grange Connection

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY

Sharon Grange will be holding a Free Game Day for all ages on Saturday, March 2 from 1pm till 4pm. Many board games, cards, and even a foosball table will be there. Root beer floats will be served. Bring your family, invite your neighbors; this is a free community event. There will be a donation collection for those who want to help with the kitchen floor fund. Questions can be posed on the Sharon Grange Facebook page or by contacting grange member at (360)490-4988.

LEWIS COUNTY

Adna Grange is working on grant applications and fund raising activities to repair their hall's outside of our wall replaced this summer, and to install skirting around the entire building. All of our Potato Bakes will have money earned going toward the construction costs. Our Potato Bakes are the 4th Saturday of the month (January, February, March, April, May, September, & October) from 11:30am to 1:30pm. (The October Potato Bake will be extended to 3:00pm for people attending our Fall Bazaar). The \$7.00 price includes the potato, toppings (bacon, butter, sour cream, broccoli, chili, shredded cheese, tomatoes, black olives,

green onions, jalapenos, cheese sauce) PLUS beverage, salad, and dessert. Can't beat that! Any donations toward our construction goal are greatly appreciated and may be mailed to: Adna Grange #417, PO Box 44, Adna, WA 98522. Come out and support us and our efforts to make our Grange safer and more attractive in the process! The potato bakes are FANTASTIC - our physical address is 123 Dieckman Road, Adna, WA.

PIERCE COUNTY

Fruitland Grange closed out last year with a great holiday party for our community. Over 250 families came through our doors and had a wonderful time celebrating the holidays. Grange members have been doing some clearing on the Grange's property in hopes to start a community garden. A committee has been formed and they are researching all of what needs to be done to make it a huge success. Bingo night on January 10th had over 70 people in attendance. Bingo and Bunco nights have become increasingly popular. These are fun family events. February 10th will be our Family Valentine's Day Dance.

SPOKANE COUNTY

Green Bluff Grange's 3rd

annual Game Night on January 2 wasn't as well attended as weather played havoc in the area. Those present had a great time. Family Living Director Priscilla organized a cleanup/organizing of the main floor/storage area at the Grange on January 15. Quentin Pounder, Richard Halbig, and Harley & Lisa Douglass were obligated at Jan. 16 meeting. The annual Spin-In, led by member Kate' was held on January 20—it was a "spinning" success. We started up the last Sunday "All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfasts" on January 28. February 25 is the next breakfast. Jan. 30 another game night was held. The February 6 community event was our Quilt Block sewing night. March 5 is the seed packet hand out plus info on Mason Bees/Pollinators. Information for applications for a Green Bluff Grange scholarship is being disseminated.

STEVENS COUNTY

Camas Valley Grange experienced a number of days below zero in January. Several areas lost electricity. People checked on neighbors and friends and lent a helping hand when needed. There may or may not be a February 3 Bingo night since this time of year the weather is always "iffy".

Junior Connection

GREEN BLUFF JUNIOR GRANGE

Green Bluff Junior Grange set the following dates for 2024: Keep Green Bluff Clean - Monday, 4/22; Clean up the Grange grounds - Tuesday, 7/9; Cherry Pickers Trot - Thursday, 7/18; Drive Thru for Halloween - Saturday, 10/26; and Community Christmas Party - 12/14 6:30pm.

Pomona Calendar

Please submit your 2024 Pomona Meeting Dates.

CHELAN	February 15 at Smitty's Restaurant, 12 p.m. social luncheon. The next business meeting is February 17 at Beacon Hill, 10 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck.
CLALLAM	February 25 at Dry Creek, 5 p.m. potluck, 6 p.m. meeting.
CLARK	February 14 at Manor, 7 p.m.
COWLITZ/ WAHIAKUM	February 17 at Silver Lake, 1 p.m. potluck, business meeting to follow.
EXCELSIOR	March 23 at The Valley. 10:30 a.m. Will include the Baking Contest. Photo Contest entries due.
FERRY	March 11 at Malo, 6 p.m.
GRAYS HARBOR/ PACIFIC	March 9 at North Willapa Harbor, 10:30 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck. Baking and Candy Contest entries due at 9 a.m.
KING	February 17 at Cedar, 10 a.m. Will include the candy and canning contests.
Klickitat	March 9 at Mountain View, 12 p.m. potluck.
LEWIS	February 4 at Hope, 12 p.m. potluck, 1 p.m. meeting. March 2 at Mossyrock.
MASON	March 16 at Matlock, 11 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. lunch
PEND OREILLE	March 2 at Fertile Valley, 10 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck.
PIERCE	February 3 at Ohop, 10 a.m. March 2 at Fruitland.
SKAGIT	March 6 at Skagit Valley, 6:30 p.m.
SNOHOMISH	March 16 at South Lake Stevens, 10 a.m. Will include the baking contest.
SPOKANE	February 17 at Tyler, 10 a.m.
STEVENS	February 23 at Quillisascut, 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. meeting.
THURSTON	February 1 at Brighton Park, 7 p.m.
WHATCOM	February 20 at Ten Mile, 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. meeting. Baking contest entries due.
WHITMAN	March 16 at Whelan-Ewartsville, 10 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck. Will have the baking contest and bake sale.
YAKIMA VALLEY	February 5 at Fruitvale, 5 p.m. potluck, 6 p.m. meeting. April 8 at Fruitvale.

Pomona Connection

COWLITZ/WAHIAKUM POMONA

Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Pomona will meet on Saturday, February 17 at the Silver Lake Grange Hall. We will begin with a 1 p.m. potluck lunch, with business meeting to follow. Members are encouraged to bring canned food for the food bank.

GRAYS HARBOR/ PACIFIC POMONA

Grays Harbor/Pacific Pomona changed their January meeting due to icy roads. The meeting was held at the Sharon Grange Hall on January 20. Eight Granges were represented at the meeting. The Pomona Grange will be having a basket bingo fund raising event on April 20 at Humptulips. Our next meeting will be on Sat, March 9 at 10:30 a.m. at the North Willapa harbor Grange Hall. Baking and candy contest entries are due at 9 a.m. There will a potluck luncheon at noon.

PIERCE COUNTY POMONA

Pierce County Pomona first Friendship Meeting of 2024 will be February 15 at the Collins Grange Hall at 7pm. Please join us as all of Pierce County Granges work together to conduct, host and provide a program for a fun meeting to gather in fellowship.

WHATCOM COUNTY POMONA

Whatcom County Pomona will meet on February 20 at the Ten Mile Grange Hall. Baking contest entries are due from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The potluck dinner will start at 6 p.m., followed by business meeting and an auction of the baking contest entries.

SAVE THE DATE!

Upcoming State Grange Events

Scheduled events may be either cancelled or postponed. Please call prior to the event to confirm.

- FEBRUARY 4**Grange Resource and Information at the White Trail Grange Hall in Grant County, 4 p.m.

FEBRUARY 5 Grange Lecturer Program Zoom Meeting, 2 p.m.

FEBRUARY 5-6 Youth/Junior Grange Legislative Experience in Olympia

FEBRUARY 5 Grange Legislative Day in Olympia

FEBRUARY 7 Youth Fairs Program Zoom Meeting, 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 7 Grange Legislative Update Zoom Meeting, 10 a.m.

FEBRUARY 10 Grange Resource and Information at the Fredonia Grange Hall in Skagit County, 2:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 11 Grange Resource and Information at the Haynie Grange Hall in Whatcom County, 12:30 p.m. (following the Haynie Grange Breakfast)

FEBRUARY 19 State Grange Office Closed for President’s Day

FEBRUARY 20 Grange Legislative Update Zoom Meeting, 10 a.m.

FEBRUARY 28 Q&A with the State Grange President Zoom Meeting, 7 p.m.

MARCH 4Grange Legislative Update Zoom Meeting, 10 a.m.

MARCH 6Youth Fairs Program Zoom Meeting, 7 p.m.
- MARCH 15**All Agenda Items for State Grange Executive Committee March Meeting due, 5 p.m.

MARCH 18Grange Legislative Update Zoom Meeting, 10 a.m.

MARCH 20State Executive Committee Zoom Meeting

MARCH 27Q&A with the State Grange President Zoom Meeting, 7 p.m.

MARCH 31Grange Secretary First Quarter Reports Due to the State Grange Office

APRIL 10Registrations due for Regional Grange Conference

APRIL 19All Agenda Items for State Grange Executive Committee April Meeting due, 5 p.m.

APRIL 25State Grange Executive Committee Meeting

APRIL 25-28Western Regional Grange Youth and Leaders Conference in Yakima

APRIL 25-28Grange Deputy and State Officer Conference in Yakima

MAY 1Resolutions Due for consideration at 2024 State Grange Session

JUNE 26-30WA State Grange 135th Annual Session at Northeast WA Fairgrounds, Colville

In Memoriam



WAYNE MILLER
Past WA State Grange Overseer;
Past National Grange Junior Department
September 10, 1947– January 1, 2024

Brother Wayne Arthur Miller of Washington State, Past National Grange Junior Department (co-Director with his wife Peggy) passed away at the age of 76 on January 1, 2024.

Wayne Arthur Miller was born September 10, 1947, to James Arthur & Doris Blakley Miller in Chehalis, Washington. He graduated in 1966 from W.F. West High School, Chehalis and left his hometown to attend Washington State University in Pullman. He married Peggy Miller in Chehalis on February 9, 1974.

Wayne worked in quite a few professions, but his favorite was as a floral designer. Out of college, he became a short-order cook and bartender for Bodes on I-5 in Napavine, and then Country Cousin in Centralia. From this job, he began to help his father as an insurance agent for Grange Insurance in Centralia. He continued to be a bartender at Country Cousin. After the Grange Insurance business was sold he started helping his friend with floral design and later retired from House of Roses in Olympia. In retirement, after they moved to LaCrosse, he managed the food bank and thrift store for the town.

Fraternal organizations and rituals were his passion. He was a member of the Catholic Church, Masons, Jaycees, and his greatest love The Grange. His favorite role was as an advisor for the ritual of the 6th degree. He was a special deputy for ritual as appointed by the Washington State Grange. Wayne & Peggy spent many summers at Junior Grange camp as a leader, cook, adult help, and eventually camp directors. Wayne was also a district youth director. They traveled throughout the state with the title of Junior Grange Director for 20 years. They enjoyed inspiring those who worked with our young Grangers, their parents, and leaders. From Washington State to National Grange Wayne and Peggy became the National Grange Junior Directors in 1988. Again they enjoyed traveling the states meeting new people and making more lifetime friends. In 2010 Wayne and Peggy received the Washington State Grange Leadership Award, the highest award bestowed on members.

Wayne Miller (or Grumpy as his grandkids called him) is survived by his children Codi Titus, Kelly Voie, Keith & Sara Titus, Greg & Arminda Miller, Jennifer Webb, and David & Jean Miller. Grandchildren: Erik Voie (Children: Lilly & Riley), Skyler & Brittany Voie (Children: Owen & Hank), Jessica Voie, Krista & Scott McIntyre (Child: James), Caleb & Rady Titus (Child: Silas), Miranda Panuska, Megan Palmer (Children: Paxton & Emersyn), Lanna Svoboda, Jazlynn Webb, Terrell Webb, Jordanne Webb, Nickolas Webb, Dakota Miller, Brittany Gordon, Jazzmyn & Garrett Blauert, & Wyatt Miller.

His sisters Elaine & John Stemkoski, Children: Jody & Sonya Stemkoski (Children: Tanner, Blake & Gracie), Jamie (Children: Rayder & Miller Jo), and Katie Stemkoski & Mike Steele. Also Tami & Flint DeKoker, Children: Chancy (Children: Violet & Thiago), and Kolten (Son: Gannon). And a special Aunt Irene Miller Tripp who turned 100 this summer.

Wayne Arthur Miller was preceded in death by his wife Margaret (Peggy) Miller, his parents James & Doris Miller, and grandson Bryan Voie.

A memorial followed by a potluck will be held on February 3 at 2:30 pm at Newaukum Grange Hall. The family will be collecting items to be donated to the local food bank.

GRANGE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION
(Seattle, Washington)

NOTICE OF
2024 ANNUAL
POLICYHOLDERS’
MEETING

The Annual Policyholders’ meeting of the Grange Insurance Association will be held on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at Grange Insurance Association, 200 Cedar Street, Seattle, Washington 98121.

All Grange Insurance Association policyholders are welcome to attend.

Signed at Seattle, Washington this 11th day of January 2024.

Brian J. Allen, CPCU, ARM, AFIS
Corporate Secretary
GRANGE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

The Grange Exchange

Let us help you buy or sell with a classified ad!

Cost per word	one month	4 or more
Regular	\$.50	\$.40
Boxed	1.00	.75
Centered or reversed text	\$2.50/line	
Minimum for one month	\$5.00	

Word count: hyphens, spaces and X's separate words. Phone numbers count as one word. **We do not print ads for 900 number services.**

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): _____

No. words _____ @ rate \$ _____ x # months _____ = \$ _____ (enclosed)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____