



WASHINGTON STATE Grange News

January 2024

Informing Grangers Since 1912

113th Year No. 1



Manson Grange Youth Fairs Program Give Back To Heritage Heights

Christmas came early to the residence of Heritage Heights in Chelan, thanks to thirteen members from the Manson Grange Youth Fairs program

on Saturday - December 9. Community service is part of the Youth Fairs program, teaching our students the importance of helping others and giving back to

our community.

Heritage Heights is a senior living community in Chelan that offers professional, well-trained staff that specializes in assisted

living and respite care for 55 and older adults.

Rachel Kiesecker, Activities Director, was our contact, she helped on the day of the event. Rachel said, "The event was Fun and so special, our residents really loved and enjoyed it. They said having kids perform with them made there day super special and it's an early Christmas gift for them."

Youth Fairs Program Manager, Norm Manly kicked off the program at 2:00 with introductions and background on the Youth Fairs program. "This is going to be a fun event; it's even snowing outside. The only thing that would make it better is a visit from Santa Clause, Norm exclaimed. At that moment, Santa

Clause entered the room while Jingle Bells was played.

Two Youth Fairs member were highlighted with Christmas solos then the entire group sang "Jingle Bells" and "We Wish you a Merry Christmas" under the direction of Myra Kurtz, assisted by Kaya Banghart with residents joining in.

Personalized Christmas cards, made by Youth Fairs members and cookies, made by Sally Colman were handed out with the help of Santa Clause and students.

The event concluded with pictures with Santa. Many of the residents took the opportunity to sit with Santa and receive a candy cane. Youth Fairs members also

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

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SAVE THE DATE!

Upcoming State Grange Events

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

PAST DUE – Grange Officer Lists (2024) to the State Grange Office, Grange Secretary Fourth Quarter Reports to the State Grange Office, Annual Lecturer Reports to the State Grange Lecturer, Annual Family Living Reports to the State Family Living Director

- JANUARY 2**Grange Resource and Information at Deer Lagoon Grange in Island County, 6 p.m.
- JANUARY 6**Grange Resource and Information at the Pierce County Pomona Meeting at the Collins Grange, 10 a.m.
- JANUARY 7**Grange Resource and Information following Thurston County Pomona Installation of Officers at the Brighton Park Grange Hall, 2 p.m.
- JANUARY 8**Grange Resource and Information at the Yakima Valley Pomona Meeting at the Fruitvale Grange Hall, 3 p.m.
- JANUARY 10**Grange Resource and Information at the Clark County Pomona Meeting at the Manor Grange Hall, 7 p.m.
- JANUARY 13**Grange Resource and Information at the Grays Harbor/Pacific Pomona Meeting at the Elma Grange Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- JANUARY 14**Grange Resource and Information at the Klickitat County Pomona Degree Exemplification at the Centerville Grange Hall, 12 p.m.
- JANUARY 15**State Grange Office Closed for M.L. King Day
- JANUARY 15**Grange Resource and Information at the Tualco Grange Hall in Snohomish County, 2 p.m.
- JANUARY 16**Grange Resource and Information at the Orcas Island Grange in San Juan County 6 p.m.
- JANUARY 18**Family Living Department Zoom Meeting, 7 p.m.
- JANUARY 20**Grange Resource and Information at the Mason County Pomona Meeting at The Agate Grange Hall, 11 a.m.
- JANUARY 20**Grange Resource and Information at the Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Pomona Meeting at the Catlin Grange Hall, 2 p.m. (Pomona meeting begins earlier)
- JANUARY 22**Grange Legislative Update Zoom Meeting, 10 a.m.
- JANUARY 22**Family Living Department Zoom Meeting, 2 p.m.
- JANUARY 23**Grange Lecturer Program Zoom Meeting, 7 p.m.
- JANUARY 24**State Grange Executive Committee Zoom Meeting, 6 p.m. (all agenda items due to the State President’s Office by January 17)
- JANUARY 25**Grange Community Service Program Zoom Meeting, 7 p.m.
- JANUARY 26**Grange Resource and Information at the Whelan-Ewartsville Grange Hall in Whitman County, 7 p.m.
- JANUARY 27**Grange Resource and Information at the Addy Grange Hall in Stevens County, 1 p.m.

- JANUARY 28**State Grange Convention Kick Off Meeting, 2 p.m. at the Tyler Grange Hall
- JANUARY 29**Junior Grange Department Zoom Meeting, 7 p.m.
- JANUARY 30**Grange Lecturer Program Zoom Meeting, 7 p.m.
- JANUARY 31**Q&A with the State Grange President Zoom Meeting, 7 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 1**Grange Youth Department Zoom Meeting, 7 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 1**Registrations Due to Grange Legislative Day
- FEBRUARY 2**Grange Resource and Information at the Bee Hive Grange Hall in Chelan County, 6 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 3**Grange Resource and Information in Okanogan County, location and time to be announced
- FEBRUARY 4**Grange Resource and Information in Grant County, location and time to be announced
- FEBRUARY 5**Grange Legislative Update Zoom Meeting, 10 a.m.
- FEBRUARY 5**Grange Lecturer Program Zoom Meeting, 2 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 7**Youth Fairs Program Zoom Meeting, 7 p.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 5-6**Youth/Junior Grange Legislative Experience in Olympia
- FEBRUARY 5**Grange Legislative Day in Olympia
- 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 4**Grange Legislative Update Zoom Meeting, 10 a.m.
- MARCH 6**Youth Fairs Program Zoom Meeting, 7 p.m.
- MARCH 18**Grange Legislative Update Zoom Meeting, 10 a.m.
- MARCH 27**Q&A with the State Grange President Zoom Meeting, 7 p.m.
- MARCH 31**Grange Secretary First Quarter Reports Due to the State Grange Office
- APRIL 10**Registrations due for Regional Grange Conference
- APRIL 25-28**Western Regional Grange Youth and Leaders Conference in Yakima
- APRIL 25-28**Grange Deputy and State Officer Conference in Yakima
- MAY 1**Resolutions Due for consideration at 2024 State Grange Session
- JUNE 26-30**WA State Grange 135th Annual Session at Northeast WA Fairgrounds, Colville

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• Tom Gwin, Executive Editor •

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Grange Name & Number

Please mail to: Grange News PO Box 1186 Olympia, WA 98507-1186

President’s Message

Looking Forward To Another Banner Year In 2024

By Tom Gwin
State Grange
Master/President

After an outstanding 2023, we are primed and moving forward toward another banner year in 2024.

Our Granges have a storied past. We do not often celebrate our successes of the previous year. 2023 saw a fruitful State Grange Session in Moses Lake. We debated nearly forty resolutions, over 150 recommendations from the standing committees, and enjoyed the fellowship of a full state session. We elected a full slate of state officers, with five new faces joining our officer lineup. Likewise, the Subordinate and Pomona Granges across the state are operating full speed ahead as each works to make a difference in their own community.

We had our second consecutive year of membership growth in our state. Subordinate Granges reported 894 new members in 2023. While this is down from 2022, it is still noteworthy. There are 113 Subordinate Granges who reported new members in 2023. This is just over half of the Subordinate Granges in our state. I challenge each of our Granges to obligate at least one new member in 2024. We cannot be afraid to ask potential members to join us. New members will bring new ideas, which can lead to new programs and activities at each Grange. New programs and activities can easily lead to more new members. This is a concept we need to embrace. We must keep in mind the Grange is for our communities and the future of our communities. We are simply the current caretakers of the Grange. Staying current and relevant in our programming will lead us to a brighter future.

What do we have to look forward to in 2024? Your State Grange Leadership Team is working to provide tools that will assist you in building your Grange, causing you many reasons to continue your celebrations. The first set of tools is the upcoming series of Grange Resource and Information Conference. I will be attending nearly 20 meetings across the state in

January and February. Some of these are in conjunction with a Pomona Grange meeting, while others will be stand-alone meetings. Packets of information will be distributed, including departmental information, Grange Secretary Handbook, Program Handbook, and Legislative Policy Handbook. The list of dates, times, and locations is found elsewhere in this issue.

While the department directors will only attend the

We have multiple opportunities to continue growing not only at the state level, but in all Granges in every single community across the state.

-- Tom Gwin

meetings in their own area, we have scheduled a series of Zoom Training Sessions for each of the departments. The list of training sessions, with the topic of each meeting, is included elsewhere in this issue. I encourage all Grange members to sit in on one or more of these meetings to learn more about current Grange programs.

Please keep in mind that all packet material is available on the State Grange website: www.wa-grange.com. Feel free to download additional copies of the program material that will be useful in your Grange.

The upcoming legislative session will occupy our interests here in Olympia. Our Legislative Lobbyist, Jesse Taylor, has already been meeting with legislators as he continues to work for us and all of agriculture. He has been involved with the Capital Budget Requests. Please note that state legislators have requested changes to our requests for this year. Jesse has contacted each of the Granges to explain the changes and what is next for our requests.

The Grange Legislative Committee, chaired by Rex Ogden, will assist in guiding our legislative department. This year, we only have a 60-day legislative session. It looks like it will be



Tom Gwin

a full session with intense discussions. The Legislative Committee will have a Grange Legislative Update every two weeks, beginning Monday, January 22. All Grange members are invited to participate in the updates as they will be conducted via Zoom. Additional dates and login information is listed in the article on “Zoom Officer Training.” We have scheduled our Annual Legislative Day for Monday, February 5. The Youth and Junior Grange Legislative Experience will be on February 5-6. Information on these events is elsewhere in this issue.

The 135th Washington State Grange Convention will be June 26-30 at the Northeast Washington Fairgrounds in Colville. The convention Kick Off Meeting is January 28. Next month, you will find the housing information in The Grange News. I encourage you to book your room early.

This year, the Washington State Grange will host the Western Regional Grange Youth and Leaders Conference. The event is scheduled for April 25-28 in Yakima. Thank you to the Yakima Valley Pomona Grange for stepping forward to assist in hosting this event. The workshop planning committee includes Brittney Pittman, Heather Ferguson, Christine Hamp, and myself. We are finalizing the schedule and list of workshops. Our goal is to have registration materials available on February 1. All Grange members are invited to attend to learn and share ideas with Grange members from throughout the Western U.S.

This year promises to be busy and filled with Grange activities. We have multiple opportunities to continue growing not only at the state level, but in all Granges in every single community across the state. Let’s continue working in building a bright future for our Granges, our communities, our state, and our nation. Our productive work will lead us to another banner year in 2024.

Legislative

Navigating The Legislative Session

By Jesse Taylor
Legislative Lobbyist



Jesse Taylor

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2024 and the start of the legislative session. This year’s session will convene on January 8th and scheduled to end March 8, 2024. As of this writing there are already 326 pre-filed bills ready for consideration in this short 60-day meeting. The short session of the legislature is designed to make supplemental changes to the state’s three budgets based on increased or decreased revenue since the passage of the biennial budget. It’s also an opportunity for lawmakers to address urgent policy decisions that need to be tackled.

Cap & Trade Update

This year the state collected \$1.3 Billion in revenue from the cap-and-trade Climate Commitment Act and the state must decide what to do with the money. This legislative session lawmakers will be haggling over the use of these funds. But citizens across the state have turned in over 400,000 signatures to get Initiative 2117 on the ballot in 2024. This measure would prohibit state agencies from imposing any type of carbon tax credit trading, including “cap and trade” or “cap and tax” programs. It would repeal sections of the 2021 Washington Climate Commitment Act. Look for more information about this ballot measure and potential legislative work-arounds this session.

Local School Decisions

Public School enrollment in Washington State is down by 67,000 students since the 2020-2021 school year. This has been spurred by a 43% increase in homeschool students and a 17% increase in Private school enrollment. Local school districts across the board will be facing severe budget reductions from decreased enrollment when their budget writers meet to propose their 2024-2025 budgets. From 2019 to 2022 average teacher salary and benefits in Washington State increased 31% from \$99,900 up to \$131,155. In the 2023-2024 school year average teacher compensation has increased to \$146,100. Salary and benefits make up 84%-92% of districts total budgets. Look for your local school district to be holding board meetings and looking for ways to balance their budgets.

Small Gas Engines Bill

Washington State Rep. Amy Walen (D-Kirkland) has introduced a House bill to prohibit new gas powered outdoor equipment beginning in 2026. New gas-fueled lawnmowers, chainsaws, rototillers, log splitters, leaf blowers, pressure washers, stump grinders, wood chippers, snow blowers and other equipment with 25-horsepower or less would be banned. The bill would allow federal, state and local governments to use gas-powered equipment for emergency response. Others caught violating the ban would be subject to a \$10,000 fine and one year in jail. The legislation also would exempt electric-powered equipment from sales taxes and hand out \$5 million a year to local governments to replace gas equipment. We are following stakeholder input on this bill to determine the Grange position and advocacy.

As we navigate the legislative session please be aware of the useful resources below. Don’t underestimate the power of a constituent voicing their concerns about potential bills or policy in a well written message. Lawmakers tend to listen to real people on the ground with real concerns.

For information regarding the list and details for pre-filed bills, please see this site <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/prefiled.aspx>.

To determine who your local elected official is please visit this district finder tool <https://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/>

To reach out to your local elected representative and their staff, please find their contact information here <https://app.leg.wa.gov/Rosters/Members>



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 - December 2023 Wrap-Up

By Burton Eller
National Grange
Legislative Director

WASHINGTON OVERVIEW

Welcome to the New Year where it's anything but happy on the political front in Washington. Congress left town for the holidays without a deal for aid to Ukraine and Israel which was tied to new border controls along our southern boundary. This Achilles Heel for Congress will still be on Congress' agenda for January. So will funding the federal government when the stop-gap funding measure runs out mid-month. Congress agreed to budget spending caps for fiscal 2024 in the legislation that raised the debt ceiling earlier this year, but this agreement may not survive new stopgap funding negotiations in January. The House has formally approved a Biden impeachment inquiry on a vote along party lines. Biden son Hunter's legal problems continue to mount. Biden's age comes up in practically every reelection discussion. The President's approval rating is worst of modern-day presidents seeking reelection at this point in the election cycle according to Gallup. Former President Trump appears to have a lock on the Republican presidential nomination right now. However, former South Carolina Governor and former Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley is closing the gap a little on Trump heading into New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary on January 23. Trump continues to juggle campaign stops and court appearances. Congress passed and the President signed the \$886 billion annual Defense Department authorization bill to keep the Pentagon operating for the remainder of fiscal 2024. Former Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy leaves Congress at the end of the year. His departure will further squeeze the already razor-thin House GOP majority. As migrants continued to cross the Rio Grande in record numbers, U.S. Customs and Border Protection closed border rail crossings for five days to divert attention to processing the surge of migrants. These rail crossing closures temporarily disrupted the supply chain for farm commodities, consumer goods, auto parts, finished vehicles and chemicals.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House votes to allow whole milk

back in schools.

On a huge bipartisan vote of 330-99; the House passed the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act which calls for whole milk and 2% milk to again be allowed in school lunches. House Agriculture Chairman G. T. Thompson entered 15 academic studies from around the world into the legislative record which supported whole and 2% milk in children's diets. An amendment by Representative Tom Tiffany of Wisconsin would assure USDA continues to allow flavored milk for all grades. A recent study found that removing flavored milk from kindergarten through fifth grade resulted in a 62% reduction in milk consumption. The bill faces tougher opposition in the Senate where several influential senators are concerned about Congress interfering in school lunch standards. National Grange policy strongly supports whole and flavored milk in school meals.

USDA considering foreign land ownership update.

The Department of Agriculture, under intense scrutiny for its lack of accuracy in reporting foreign land ownership, is considering updates to its foreign land reporting form. The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires foreign investors to file a form with the Farm Service Agency in the county where land is purchased that details number of acres, buyers' country of origin, purchase price, and intended use of the land.

Grange supports ag and food research.

The National Grange and 44 ag, food and consumer groups are calling on the administration budget and scientific offices to consider the significant challenges to our food and agriculture systems as they prepare the fiscal year 2025 budget for USDA. Funding requests would cover the Agriculture Research Service (USDA's in-house research agency), the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (external research at land-grant colleges, experiment stations, schools of forestry, schools of veterinary medicine and cooperative extension), the National Agriculture Statistics Service, and the Economic Research Service.

CLIMATE

Ag in focus at international climate meeting COP28.

The 28th annual climate Conference of the Parties (COP28) meeting of 200 countries in Dubai, United Arab Emirates added a focus on agriculture this year. The U.S. message to COP28 was that farmers and ranchers can address climate change using a "climate smart" approach that does not sacrifice production. Instead of calling for the elimination of animal agriculture in the name of climate change, the session accepted the fact that sustainable production of animal-source foods is at the heart of climate and food security solutions, especially for developing countries. Among other actions, nearly 200 nations agreed to transition from fossil fuels.

Poll says adults are concerned about climate change.

A new CNN poll conducted by SSRS shows that more than half of U.S. adults are worried about the impact of extreme weather including extreme heat, devastating storms and drought. Most adults say humanity bears a great deal of responsibility to reduce climate change. Nearly all Democrats, 76% of independents and half of Republicans say the U.S. should slash its greenhouse gas emissions by half by 2030.

HEALTH CARE

Ensure senior access to pharmacist care.

The National Grange cosigned letters to key decision-makers in the Biden administration and Congress urging passage of the Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act (H.R. 1770, S.2477). The legislation would provide payment for essential pharmacist services under Medicare Part B and ensure pharmacists can continue to protect seniors from the threat of COVID-19, flu, RSV, strep throat, pneumonia, and hepatitis B. Senior access to critical services at the pharmacy is a great benefit to rural residents who may have limited access to quality health care.

Help rural hospitals stay open.

The newly formed congressional bipartisan Rural Health Caucus aims to give rural hospitals better financial stability. They are encouraging the adoption of the Assistance for Rural Community Hospitals Act (H.R.6430). Introduced by Miller(R-WV) and Sewell (D-AL), the proposed legislation would extend both

the Medicare-dependent hospital program and the Medicare low-volume payment program for five years which are essential to help struggling rural hospitals experiencing higher percentages of patients on Medicare.

TAXES

Death tax repeal introduced.

The Death Tax Repeal Act of 2024 has been introduced by Representatives Randy Feenstra (R-4-IA) and Sanford Bishop (D-2-GA). The National Grange joined 71 agricultural, rural, small business and other family-owned business groups in expressing appreciation to Feenstra and Bishop. National Grange policy supports repeal as the best way to protect family-owned businesses from the estate taxes.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Secure the future of Affordable Connectivity Program.

The National Grange continues to advocate for funding to extend the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) that provides financial assistance to families in need connect to the internet. Newly-elected National Grange president Christine Hamp wrote the leadership of the Senate and House committees of jurisdiction in December reiterating the need to connect rural families and communities and to finally close the digital divide in rural America.

Pole attachment disputes finally get FCC action.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has voted to increase transparency for new broadband buildouts and to set up a dedicated team (the Rapid Broadband Assessment Team) to speed up the resolution process for pole attachment disputes. The team will screen and mediate disputes between utility and telecommunications companies that could hinder broadband deployments, particularly in rural areas. The National Grange has repeatedly petitioned the FCC for such action for the past two years.

Broadband funding coming to states.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 included \$42.5 billion for broadband internet access as part of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD). This differs from previous federal



broadband programs in that it allocates funding to individual states and allows them to figure out the best way to distribute these funds. States are now working with the federal government to develop plans for how they will use these funds. The legislation requires locations defined as unserved and underserved receive first priority for broadband deployment funding. Around 11.8 million rural and urban locations are considered unserved or underserved. Unserved locations currently have no internet or have speeds below 25Mbps downstream and 3Mbps upstream. Underserved locations have speeds below 100Mbps downstream and 20Mbps upstream. The National Grange was very active during the legislative process to make sure the law directs the unserved be served first, the underserved next, then all others.

OF INTEREST

New type of company could control land.

The New York Stock Exchange is seeking permission to list a "natural asset" company (Intrinsic Exchange Group) that leases public and private lands for "ecological services" while prohibiting grazing, ranching, farming, mining, logging and drilling. The company would attract investors that want to express a sustainability thesis that identifies species extinction, water pollution, and the effects of farming and ranching as "threats to life on earth". Western states in particular are wary that the proposal is a back door approach to regulating land use. Ranchers who depend upon grazing on public lands would almost certainly lose their grazing leases. Foreign countries could tie up these land resources for example. Investor businesses could claim carbon offsets from these resources to bolster their social and environmental credentials.

National Grange News

NATIONAL GRANGE: LABOR, JUDICIARY, TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT POLICY STATEMENT - 2023

LABOR

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

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

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

in wasteful spending and behaved in a financially irresponsible manner.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Mail volume has steadily dropped, over the last fifteen (15) years, but it is still an essential service, especially for rural America. Rural America needs the Post Office to deliver mail and bring supplies, medicines, groceries, ballots and more to citizens in remote areas and to isolated populations throughout the country. We also support priority mail delivery for living organism i.e. chicks, bees, plants etc. that are time sensitive. The Post Office will have to operate effectively and efficiently going forward without regular cash infusions from the federal government to continue operations. The National Grange celebrates the passage of the Postal Service Reform Act. This culminates many years of Grange advocacy for Postal Reform.

JUDICIARY

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

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

We vehemently oppose the use of eminent domain to confiscate private property for commercial

use or any project that does not directly benefit the general citizenry.

Identity theft continues to be a significant problem in the United States. We support legislation that would increase security of personal, banking and credit card data to prevent fraudulent enterprises from acquiring and utilizing that data. We encourage strong cybersecurity be applied by all internet providers and the citizenry to apply due diligence in protecting themselves.

TRANSPORTATION

From its inception in 1867, the National Grange has been an advocate for a strong transportation infrastructure. In many ways, agriculture is the "original" business and as such has driven the establishment of a multitude of subsequent industries down the economic food chain, including infrastructure development. The need for farmers to get their products to consumers drove the establishment of our nation's railroads, highways, and waterways and today continues to drive the development of our national infrastructure. Our nation's

The National Grange continues to support accurate broadband mapping, and funding to connect the unserved and underserved. The National Grange encourages State Grange presidents to establish a working relationship with their state broadband agency such as the Affordable Connectivity Program, an FCC benefit program.

The National Grange must continue to fight to protect family farms, ranches and businesses from over-regulation, government control that will inhibit operations and devastating changes in the Federal Tax Code.

The National Grange continues to support the formation of an Office of Rural Prosperity to be housed in the Executive Branch of the President of the United States to coordinate and streamline Federal investments and foster public-private partnerships that strengthen communities and improve the quality of life and well-being of persons living and working in rural communities.

The importance of retaining a tax-exempt status for all qualified Granges must be maintained. We encourage the National Grange to provide State Granges with information on filing procedures for the necessary 990-N form.

The National Grange supports a comprehensive energy policy that includes all sources of energy.

The National Grange strongly encourages our Congressional leaders to engage in bipartisan cooperation.

The National Grange supports the passage of the Stop Stolen Valors for Service-Disabled Veteran-owned Small Contractors Act, or similar legislation.

The National Grange supports the continuance of availability of AM radios in all vehicles.

The National Grange strongly opposes the supplantation of printed currency with digital currency.

overall infrastructure (broadband, transportation services, water and waste management, ports, aviation, parks, schools) is in critical need of repair and upgrade. While recognizing the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, the National Grange continues to encourage Congress to pass and appropriate the funding to repair/upgrade our nations' infrastructure. We also support the posting of the fuel tax amounts visible at the pump and those taxes be used only for highway repair, refurbishment, construction and maintenance.

The National Grange supports the passage of the Freight Rail Shipping Fair Market Act or similar legislation to reauthorize the Surface Transportation Board, empower it to address inefficient and unreliable rail service for the U.S. commodities supply chain, and to assure the Board has the necessary authority to ensure a competitive and reliable freight rail network to support the agriculture and food supply chain. The National Grange with the Agriculture Transportation Working Group encourages continued negotiations towards

satisfactory labor contracts in the rail freight industry to avoid disruption in the agricultural and food supply chain.

We continue to support laws requiring drivers to slow down and move over while passing an emergency vehicle that is stopped with lights flashing and believe all drivers should be held responsible for their driving and guard against distractions from cell phones and other such devices. We strongly support technology that enhances the visibility of vehicles, school buses, construction, farm equipment, rail cars, bicycles, motorcycles, trucks, etc. We also encourage walkers, joggers, bicyclists, etc. to wear reflective high visibility clothing. The National Grange supports increased aviation safety for all onboard.

National Grange supports the designation of English as our national language and thus believe that all road and highway signage should be printed in English. National Grange urges all states have the same criteria/standards for Commercial Drivers License (CDL) drivers.

NATIONAL GRANGE: CITIZENSHIP & TAXATION COMMITTEE REPORT POLICY STATEMENT - 2023

National Grange News

NATIONAL GRANGE: GRANGE GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT POLICY STATEMENT - 2023

Throughout 2023 Grangers continue to dust off their regalia and join together for in-person meetings, fellowship, dinners, and fundraising events. We encourage Granges to continue and expand opportunities for more social activities in their communities. The National Grange reported a net gain in membership for a second consecutive year, which is proof our Granges are open for business and welcome new members. The biggest driver of this membership growth is Juniors, -- children and their parents coming to the

Grange to find a family-friendly environment with service and fellowship opportunities for young and old alike. As we all reflect on the wisdom of our Founders in all levels of our order, we must always remember to aspire to be characterized by open and respectful conversational dialogue. Let us be mindful of our brothers and sisters as we speak in respectful ways and invite open, sincere, and meaningful dialogue among those of different points of view. We will listen to one another calmly, with open hearts, in order to create deeper

understanding. We encourage Granges to set the example of exercising patience, forbearance, charity, and tolerance in all your meetings and Grange activities. The National Grange Foundation continues to support and fund many National Grange activities and programs. We would encourage all Granges and Grangers, as they are able, to continue their donations to support the National Grange Foundation philanthropic endeavors which greatly benefit Grange programs and activities. We urge the continuation of the exchange of ideas and information through our communications in weekly and monthly email blast, Good Day magazine, Facebook, and Instagram. We strongly suggest when

scheduling conferences and conventions, the National Grange consider non-smoking venues. We thank the National Grange staff for the service and work they do on behalf of all Grangers. Much of their work directly benefits members of our communities and the Grange is again becoming the trusted voice of rural America. We need to support our National Grange efforts by bringing the programs, information, and opportunities they develop to our local communities. The National Grange office has resources available to help Granges that do not own their own Grange halls to create a plan that will enable them to remain visible and relevant in their communities. We

encourage Granges in this situation to contact the National Communications Director for information. We highly encourage Community Granges to use the Heirloom Program, created by the National Grange, to help all our members learn or be reminded of our rich legacy. This program helps Granges to incorporate in their monthly meetings a quote or passage from a foundational text and briefly reflect on the lesson and how it may apply to everyday life. These lessons can also be read and discussed as part of the Lecturer's program or shared on social media with members of their communities for increased Grange visibility. For more information, please visit www.nationalgrange.org/heirloom-program.

Manson Grange Youth Fairs Program Give Back To Heritage Heights

Continued on Page 1

had their photo taken with Santa. "The Youth Fairs program is open to students from 5 to 19 and is similar to 4-H and FFA. It is one of the many Grange programs for youth. The Manson Grange Youth Fairs program is focused on students five through eighth grade, preparing the student for involvement in FFA at Chelan and Manson when they begin high school. When students join Youth Fairs the entire family becomes Grange members. The mission and purpose of the Grange "Youth Fairs" program is to provide an opportunity for young

Grange members to participate in an educational setting, designed to increase confidence, strengthen character, learn invaluable life skills and teach the importance of self-discipline. The program encourages learning opportunities for the members," stated Program Director Norm Manly. The Manson Youth Fairs begins its second year of operation on January 16 at 6:00 pm at the Manson Grange with a new member sign up night. For more information visit the Manson Grange website www.mansongrange.com or contact Norm Manly - 509-293-0225.



2024 Legislative Day

MONDAY FEBRUARY 5, 8AM-4PM

Registration is \$20 per person prior to **February 1, 2024**
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED

FIRST AND LAST NAME _____ GRANGE _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____ LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT _____

PAYMENT
Check (make check payable to the Washington State Grange)

\$ _____ enclosed (\$20/person)
Mail To:
PO Box 1186
Olympia, WA 98507-1186

LODGING
Those attending must secure their own lodging. There are many hotels near state headquarters, and Grange members get a discount through the National Grange at Choice Hotels. To take advantage of this discount, book your room through their website at choicehotels.com or by calling (800) 288-2847 and using promo code #00211660.

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>

Lecturer's Department

Fair Booth Results and Reports

By Leslie Jo Wells
State Grange Lecturer



Leslie Jo Wells

2023 Fair Booth Contest Results

The 22 entries representing 15 different Granges and participation at 12 different fairs for the 2023 fair season contest have been judged and resulted in the following:

Subordinate Grange:

Division I – Produce

1st Place	\$100	Lower Naches #296	Central Washington State Fair
2nd Place	\$75	Ohop #812	Washington State Fair
3rd Place	\$50	Humptulips #730	Grays Harbor County Fair

Additional entries were received from: McMillin #848 - King County Fair and Washington State Fair.

Division II – Project

1st Place	\$100	Oakview #311	Southwest Washington Fair
2nd Place	\$75	Adna #417	Southwest Washington Fair
3rd Place	\$50	Washington #82	Clark County Fair

Additional entries were received from: Five Mile Prairie #905 - Spokane Interstate Fair, McMillin #848 - Pierce County Fair, Moses Lake #1151 – Grant County Fair and Othello Fair, Mountain Valley #79 – Clark County Fair, Olympic View #774 – Grays Harbor County Fair, Riverside Valley #1047 – King County Fair and Pierce County Fair, and Ten Mile #399 - Northwest Washington Fair

Pomona Grange:

Division II – Project

1st Place	\$100	Columbia #56	Walla Walla Fair
2nd Place	\$75	Grays Harbor/ Pacific #28	Grays Harbor County Fair
3rd Place	\$50	King #13	King County Fair

Youth Groups:

Division II - Project

1st Place	\$50	Humptulips #730	Grays Harbor County Fair
2nd Place	\$30	Grays Harbor/ Pacific #28	Grays Harbor County Fair
3rd Place	\$20	Humptulips #730	Cowlitz County Fair

An additional entry was received from: Prospect Point #1067 Walla Walla County Fair

I would like to thank the following members who served as judges for this year’s contest: Harriett Barr and Betty Meske from Tualco #284 and Janelle Lierman from Horseshoe #965. All have experience putting in booths and are definitely qualified to judge these booths.

Reports:

Just a reminder that I am still looking for the Lecturer’s Annual Report. Please mail to me at: Leslie Jo Wells, 18232 201st Ave SE, Monroe, WA 98272.

Heirloom Project Readings January, February & March 2024

JANUARY 2024: “Encourage improvement; remember that Nature’s motto is onward; she never goes backward.”
(Installation Ceremony; Installing Officer’s charge to President)

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)



In 2022 the topic for Poetry was “Parent(s)”

Title: The Love of My Mom and Dad
Author: Lorell Fisher, Stranger Creek Grange #374

My life was shaped and molded with love
From the time I was born and when push came to shove
My parents were there to show me the way
And patiently listened when I’d have my say
From taking my hand and letting me walk
To teaching me when and how to talk
They let me try and watched me fall
Lifted me up and let me stand tall
I believed in myself and tried new things
Went out on a limb and spread my wings
Good times and bad, it didn’t matter
With their love and wisdom I didn’t shatter
Through-out my life there was support and trust
I learned compassion for others is a must
Now it’s my turn to pass what they taught
To others and hope it isn’t for naught
To my children and theirs and hopefully more
To make strong families and let them soar
And when time comes for me to go
I can leave in peace, because I know
My life has left me contented and glad
Thanks to the love of my mom and dad

In 2023 the topic for Poetry was Pet(s)

Title: My Pet
Author: Bob Sholes, North River Grange #946

I enjoy very much to rite of my pet
She’s as pretty and faithful as any you get
She doesn’t tear up furniture or soil the floor
Outside is her favorite place to explore
She never comes begging to get in at all
You have to go get her, don’t bother to call
She is sometimes stuck up, and ignores me a lot
But them I’m reminded she is the pet that I’ve got
She allows me to carry her wherever I go
No matter; the sunshine, the rain, or the snow
You are probably wondering of what pet I do talk
You see, this wonderful pet of mine, is a rock.

Title: Pets
Author: Ann Fackenthall, Gardenspot Grange #278

Pets die, It’s a fact
But Oh, the ride
In the years between.

Pure joy
Upon homecoming.
Long walks, together.

Stick throwing,
Ball catching,
Game playing.

Adventuresome years go by
Suddenly, you’re gone,
Joyful memories remain.

Fargher Lake Junior Grangers Work Table At Holiday Bazaar

Fargher Lake Junior Grangers had a table at the Fargher Lake Bazaar on November 18. Proceeds from the table will go toward upcoming Youth and Junior Grange projects.



Barberton Grange Members Entertain Clients At CDM Caregiver Services

Barberton Grange members Matt and Tammie Hodges entertain the clients at CDM Caregiving services with a one hour classic country music show. For the past four years Barberton Grange has sponsored this event twice a month. We have developed a wonderful relationship with both the clients and staff at CDM. It is such a blessing to perform for these folks and see them get into the music and some even start dancing. We plan to continue this event for many years to come.



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 _____



From the beginning, supporting the private the Grange was an enterprise system. The organization developed the success of these to protect farmer's cooperative efforts led interests and to to many ventures, one encourage working cooperative venture with others while that still exists today -

Grange Insurance Association

- Quality Insurance Products
- Competitive Pricing
- Professional Prompt Claims Service

For Preferred Risks

To locate an agent near you call 800-247-2643 or log on to www.grange.com and use the agent locator.



Washington Agriculture in the Classroom

Why Learn About Agriculture?

By Judy Hossner
jmhag@gmail.com
360-394-7744
(please leave a message)

What is Washington Ag in the Classroom (WAIC)?

Washington Ag In the Classroom (WAIC) is a school-based education program aimed at enhancing agricultural literacy in K-12 students and educators. It is not a vocational agriculture program and does not promote products or political points of view. WAIC's goal is helping teachers, especially those with little knowledge of agriculture, integrate the study of this vast industry into existing curriculum.

Why Learn About Agriculture?

Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. Agriscience, agribusiness, and production agriculture form the largest industry in America. Environmental issues such as land use, water quality, air quality, and wildlife protection are inextricably linked to agriculture. As future leaders, students must have an understanding of agriculture and how it affects their world.

- 1) The Grange is proud to include Junior and Youth members within our Fraternity. Together we support Washington agriculture.
- 2) WAIC has worked with the

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). Director Derek Sandison has sent a representative to participate on our Board for many years..

3) This late Fall I met with Chris Reykdal, Washington Superintendent of Public Education. He was very excited about our Goals and agreed that we should follow-up with another meeting to determine how best to work together as WAIC expands throughout Washington. (I will give an update in my next article.)

Imagine!

Each person you approach about joining your Grange already had an understanding of agriculture AND knew/ appreciated the importance of agriculture in our daily lives, no matter if they live in rural, suburban, or urban Washington.

Imagine!

Each person you talk with - in cities or rural area - understands the importance of agriculture, knows people who work in agriculture-related businesses, and/or wants their children to learn about the importance of Washington's agriculture..

Actually!

Washington Ag In the Classroom (WAIC) was organized by Grange volunteers, especially Sister Marie Scheider, in 1983 as a nonprofit organization.

The volunteer WAIC Board oversees all WAIC activities and finances, including the Ag@School magazine distribution, teacher outreach, and funding promotion. The WAIC office is located in Lacey in the Farm Bureau building.

Thank You!

1) During your Grange meetings in 2023, you took time to donate money to Washington Ag in the Classroom.

2) Yes in 2023, we received money from many different people, groups, and organizations such as several Washington county farm bureaus, Washington Wheat Foundation, Wilco, several Washington commissions, AND several subordinate and Pomona granges.

3) We have a new donor-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)-WA USDA

Imagine!

You and your Grange sponsor a local classroom to receive WAIC programs, maybe the 2nd Grade (book and a reader), or maybe Grade 4 (free Ag@School for each 4th grader),

Actually!

You and your Grange CAN **MAKE THIS REAL!**

Contact me for additional ideas.

Washington Ag in the Classroom promotes agricultural literacy; our outreach activities reflect that purpose.

Every person should know and understand where their food and water come from.

Washington 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.

Membership Corner

Welcome New Members

GRANGES WITH MEMBERSHIP GAINS December 2023

	# Joined	Jr. +1
603 Addy 18	10	
Darla Nez, Jamie Baskin, Moddy Jackson, Elissa Lutz, Kevin Judd, Katie Judd, Carrie Anderson, Charlene Mullen, Him Mullen, Kaali Sill, Koddi Anderson, Elissa Anderson, Renee Leibfried, Willian Lilly, Ashley Perry, Becky Brazeau, Josh Brazeau, Taylor Brazeau		
571 Barberton 4	1	
Robert Jeter, Lisa Jeter, Everett Jeter, Grant Jeter		
385 Bee Hive 4		
Jeff Berdan, Holly Berdan, Evan Berdan, Olivia Berdan		
404 Bethel 2		
James Clements, Selena Clements		
687 Camden 2		
Laura Ast, Molly Lewis		
1123 Crescent 1		
Carolyn Anderson		
148 East Spokane 1		
Jennifer Devine		
782 Elk Plain 1		
Julia Dawson		
866 Fern Prairie 6	1	
Jason Goins, Jennifer Goins, Oliver Goins, Ruth Goins, Magnolia Goins, Bailey Mae Goins		
153 Forest 6		
Edith Mojica, Kim Cox, Tony Valentine, Amber Valentine, Nicholle Valentine, Kaylee Valentine		
280 Garden City 1		
Mary Hendrickson		
857 Granville 2		
Joey Novatney, Michael Scribner		
730 Humptulips 4		
Anna Brenneman, Joseph Brenneman Jr., Ethan Shaddox, Daniel Brenneman		
407 Lincoln Creek 4		
Sarah Pannkuk, Aaron Pannkik, Luca Couthlin, Brayden Agnew		
1054 Menastash 14	6	
Lauren McCormick, Shelly Lounsbury-Griffin, Stephanie Lounsbury-Griffin, Bryan Nelson, Jennifer Nelson, Cara Thayer, Kyle Thayer, Keely Thayer, Brandi Stevenson, Keith Allman, Aspyn Sandnes, Corrin Stevenson, Kai Stevenson, Keeri Tilton		
164 Minnehaha 1		
Sharon Kay Stewart		
315 Prosperity 1		
Gail Shekhizadeh		
953 Rose Valley 1		
Stacie Mangan		
800 Sharon 3		
Steve Brockman, Elizabeth Brockman, Nick Brockman		
930 South Camano 6		
Zachary Abbey, Peony Abbey, Narada Lee, Shanti Kirova, Brian Flescher, Bhima Breckenridge		
1008 Tri Community 2		
Olita B. Wolker, Wayne K. Wolker		
610 Tyler 1		
Bruce Havens		
1143 White Trail 1		
Patricia Neff		
	# Joined	Jr. +1
TOTALS 91	18	

Opening The Door To 2024

Happy New Year! 2023 is officially in the books and a new year brings us new goals and new ideas for both our personal and our Grange lives.

Membership within the Grange has continued to see great growth in the last three years. As of this writing, we welcomed just shy of 900 new members into our organization in 2023. Wow!!! This is something we have not seen in many, many years but we welcome this growth with open arms!

To help you better navigate all this new growth, your State President will be traveling the state to join Pomona meetings and various other meetings to get all your new materials as well as information to you. This is where you will receive all the tools you will need for another successful year of Grange.

Be sure to check the Events Calendar in this issue for the closest meeting in your area. These meetings are NOT just for leaders in the Grange. These conferences are for EVERYONE in the Grange! This is an excellent

opportunity to learn about what we will be doing for the year and how you can better your Grange through our programs and incentives.

Here are a few additional

Membership within the Grange has continued to see great growth in the last three years.

things you can expect: President, Tom Gwin will touch on what is happening at both the state and national level, he will talk about our legislative activities as well as what is in store for our membership department and what great incentives, we have for you again this year. He will also be talking about the Youth

Fairs Program and where we are today. He will briefly touch on all departments information and will have packets for each Grange to pick up.

Also, don't miss the numerous Zoom workshops from our Department Directors. These times can also be found on the Events Calendar in this issue and will be updated in the next Grange news with an additions. Our directors will be sharing what their departments have to offer this year as well.

Some of the many resources that will be available for pickup at these Pomona meetings will be; Program Handbooks, Legislative Handbooks, Secretary Handbook, Lecturer Packet, Family Living Packet, Junior Packet, Youth Packet, Community Service Packet, Membership Packet, Youth Fairs information, and much more.

So be sure to attend one of these great meetings to better understand both the Grange and what our communities need from the Grange.

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.

- Kirk Van Gelder – Fern Prairie #866
- DeAnna Hughes – Forest #153
- Krystal Larimer – Menastash #1054
- Rita Butler – White Trail #1143

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.

- Stephanie King – Marion #276
1 \$25 Amazon Gift Card
- Shannon Basterrechea – Menastash #1054
1 \$25 Amazon Gift Card
- Tianna Wynn – Humptulips #730
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!

Barberton Grange Community Service



(Left) Barberton Grange hosted a fundraiser breakfast to benefit the County Wide Chaplaincy in Clark County. The Chaplaincy is a wonderful group of people who provide assistance to families in times of traumatic injury or death. The breakfast was very well attended and we raised over \$2,000 for the Chaplaincy. We would like to thank the Barberton Grange Youth Fairs members, Boy Scout Troop 333, The Vancouver Oddfellows #3 , ANEW Church and The Masons Mt Hood Lodge #32 for helping on this project. (Middle) This year Barberton Grange members made 40 homemade pumpkin pies. 20 pies were sold at our monthly breakfast, 12 were donated to our local fire department Station #7 and 8 were donated to CDM Caregiving Services. Each year we make and sell the pumpkin pies which helps pay for the pies we donate.(Right) Barberton Grange members Beverly McGuire, Peggy Nelson and Shirley Heffel made and donated 75 lap quilts and afghans to the County Wide Chaplaincy. The quilts are given to people in our community who are in need of comfort. Quilts have also been donated to Meals on Wheels, local Veterans assistance groups and Kidney dialysis centers.

Spotlight on Youth & Juniors

Youth

Youth Department Creates Youth Achievement Recognition Award

By Jerry Gwin
Youth Grange Director



Jerry Gwin

The State Grange Youth Department is striving to encourage Grange Youth members, ages 14-25, to develop their leadership skills by participating and becoming involved in the total Grange program. With that in mind, we have developed the Youth Achievement Recognition Award which will be presented at the Annual State Grange Convention to all youth who qualify.

There are two lists of items for this award. In Group A, the youth member must complete five items. These items are:

- Attend the National Grange Convention
- Attend the Western Regional Grange Youth and Leaders Conference (to be held in April in Yakima)
- Attend the Washington State Grange Convention (to be held in June in Colville)
- Attend the State Grange Youth/Junior Legislative Experience (to be held in February in Olympia)
- Serve as a delegate to the WA State Grange Convention
- Attend either the State or National Grange Legislative Day
- Serve as a member of a Grange Installation or Degree Team
- Mentor Junior Grangers or serve as a Grange Camp Teen Counselor or Staff Member
- Recruit one new member for your Grange (be the first line signer on their membership application)
- Write a resolution, have it adopted by your Grange, and send it to the State Grange for consideration

The second list, Group B, includes a wide range of Grange participation. The youth member must complete eight items in this group. These items are:

- Participate in the public speaking or sign-a-song contest (state level)
- Donate one item for the Keep Washington Warm service project
- Serve as a Subordinate Grange officer or committee chair
- Serve as an officer or committee chair in your Grange Youth

Fairs Program Group

- Serve as a Pomona Grange officer or committee chair
- Serve as a State Grange Officer or a member of a State Grange

Standing Committee

- Attend 25% of youth Subordinate Grange meetings or 25% of your Pomona Grange meetings
- Participate in a community service project at your Subordinate or Pomona Grange

- Participate in the development and creation of a Grange Promotional Display or Grange Fair Display

- One entry in a Family Living Department Contest (baking, candy, food preservation, sewing, quilting, needlework, or quilt block)

- One entry in a Lecturer department Contest (talent, art, craft, photo, or creative writing)

- Enter an exhibit in the Grange Youth Fairs Program at your county or area fair

- Work a minimum of four hours at a Grange Promotional event

- Present a Lecturer Program at your Grange or workshop at a Grange event

- Serve as a member of a Grange Drill Team at any level

This program will run on a 12-month period of June 1 to May 31. Applications are available in the youth packet and on the State Grange website, www.wa-grange.com

Complete applications are due to the State Grange Youth Director by June 1. Many of our Grange youth members will qualify for this recognition. Now is the time to plan those last few items that will allow our youth members to earn the recognition they deserve.

On The Web:

www.WA-Grange.com

Juniors

New Year, New Strengths

By Heather Ferguson
Junior Grange Director



Heather Ferguson

I hope everyone had a great December Holiday and are looking forward to the New Year. This is one of my favorite times of year for several reasons. I always think of a quote by Eleanor Roosevelt this time of year, "With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts." The New Year lets me reevaluate, set new goals and shake off the "not-so-good" of last year for a fresh start. It also means a new year of Grange programs, meetings and new friends.

Leadership conferences are approaching and that means I will get to meet many of you. They are a bit different this year. I will not be travelling the entire state like the previous years but will attend as many as possible on the Eastside. I encourage you to attend, especially if you have questions about any of the Grange department programing or just want to see what is new. All of the times and dates should be elsewhere in this paper so please check for the one nearest you.

There is another option, if you cannot make it to the in-person meeting. All of the departments will be having zoom meetings to discuss their program. The Junior Department zoom meeting will be Jan 29th at 7:00pm. If logging in for the zoom meeting does not work for you, I am always happy to take calls, emails or texts with questions anytime of the year. See or talk to you all soon.

2024 Youth & Junior Grange
Legislative Experience

JUNIOR JG GRANGE

February 5-6, 2024

GRANGE Gy YOUTH

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Monday, February 5

8:00 a.m. Meet at State Grange Office (Breakfast)

Attend Legislative Session, Hearings, Tours

12:00 p.m. Lunch (provided)

1:00 p.m. Attend Legislative Session, Hearings, Tours

6:00 p.m. Dinner

Tuesday, February 6

8:00 a.m. Meet at State Grange Office (Breakfast)

8:30 a.m. Legislative Appointments

12:00 p.m. Closing – Depart for Home

LODGING

Adults will be responsible for youth and junior Grangers after hours. Those attending must secure their own lodging. There are many hotels near state headquarters, and Grange members get a discount through the National Grange at Choice Hotels. To take advantage of this discount, book your room through their website at choicehotels.com or by calling (800) 288-2847 and using promo code #00211660.

Registration is \$20 per person prior to February 1, 2024

FIRST AND LAST NAME _____ AGE _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ EMAIL _____

GRANGE NAME _____ LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT _____

PAYMENT

Check (make check payable to the Washington State Grange)

\$ _____ enclosed (\$20/person)

Mail To:
Washington State Grange
PO Box 1186
Olympia, WA 98507-1186

(After February 1 and day-of registration is \$30 per person)

Home & Family

Program Changes For 2024

By Helen Berg
Family Living Director

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas. As this year comes to a close I think back on all that has transpired this year. I think of all of you who came out for the Leadership Conferences and attended Zoom meetings. I got to put faces to many of the names I see on reports. I think of a very successful State contest in June. Thank you to my team for doing such a fine job. I think of a very moving Quilt of

Valor ceremony held at our State Convention. There is so much more. Delivering many quilts to needy and finishing the year with a great Christmas party at our Grange complete with a visit from Santa and the Grinch. Now it is time to look forward to the New Year. If you have not sent in your report yet you still have time. It is not too soon to begin planning and encouraging people to enter the Pomona contests. Be sure to check your program to see the changes that have been made. I have

split the Junior category into 2 categories: J-1 Juniors ages 5-8 and J-2 Juniors ages 9-13. Youth and adult will stay the same. Now I have a correction to my recipe in the last issue. It should have said 5 quarts of popped corn. Jonny had it correct, so I hope you used his recipe. I leave this wish with you that you have a blessed and happy new year.



Helen Berg



Fresh Flavors for the New Year

(Courtesy of Family Features)

If you're among those looking to set goals and wellness intentions for the new year, it's important to equip yourself with the right tools, whether information or inspiration, to help support you on your journey toward a healthier lifestyle. That can start with something as easy as elevating your menu and the ingredients you keep on-hand.

For example, Fresh Express offers more than 100 varieties of fresh, healthy and convenient ready-to-eat salads, including the French Blue Cheese Salad Kit, which combines a nutrient-dense salad mix of fresh baby spinach, spring mix, red cabbage and carrots, and is enhanced with aromatic blue cheese, crunchy garlic brioche croutons and a savory French blue cheese dressing. Available in the refrigerated produce department, the kit can be paired with better-for-you ingredients like roasted cauliflower and seasoned potatoes to make this Roasted Cauliflower and Potato Spinach Salad in less than an hour.

Visit freshexpress.com to discover more recipes.

Roasted Cauliflower and Potato Spinach Salad

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 40 minutes
Servings: 4

Ingredients:

- 1 small head cauliflower, cut into florets
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, divided
- 1 pound fingerling potatoes, quartered
- 1 package (8 ounces) Fresh Express French Blue Cheese Salad Kit

Heat oven to 425 F. In large bowl, toss cauliflower florets with 2 tablespoons olive oil. Sprinkle with 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning and 1/4 teaspoon salt; mix well. Arrange in single layer on sheet pan.

Bake cauliflower 30-40 minutes, tossing once halfway through, until tender and lightly charred. Cool.

In bowl, toss potatoes with remaining olive oil. Sprinkle with remaining Italian seasoning and salt; mix well. Arrange in single layer on sheet pan.

Bake potatoes 20 minutes until tender and lightly browned. Cool.

Place greens from salad kit in large bowl; add roasted vegetables. Drizzle with dressing from salad kit; mix well. Top with croutons and blue cheese from salad kit.

Community Service

Time To Plan For Community Service For The New Year

By Heather Ferguson
Community Service Director

Happy New Year! It is time to start planning your Community Service programming for the year. I inspire you to make a simple visual to share with your members. Make sure to

list each projects point person, instructions that need to be followed and how long you have supported that project. It would also be a great idea to share this in one of your meetings where possible new ideas or suggestions may be presented. Hanging a larger

version of your community service accomplishments and ongoing projects in your hall is encouraged. As Grangers we never seem to share the work we do enough, this is an easy way to let those members and visitors to our hall see what good we do in our community.



Heather Ferguson

Mossyrock Grange Presents Awards



(Left) John Panuska was recognized with his Silver Star Award for 25 years of consecutive membership at Mossyrock Grange. The award was presented by Darrel Myers, Grange Master, and Julie Panuska (Grange Secretary and John's wife). (Right) Debbie DeGoede and Ed Armit were recognized with their Golden Sheaf Award for 50 consecutive years of Grange membership at the Mossyrock Grange Harvest Dinner. The awards were presented by Julie Panuska, Grange Secretary, and Darell Myers (Grange Master).

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.

Where shopping & giving unite

Grange Connection



Granges Celebrate the Holiday Season

Addy Grange Hosts "Home For The Holidays" Craft Fairs



Addy Grange #603 holds two "Home for the Holidays" craft fairs each year, one in November and one in December. Our 21 vendor spaces hold leather arts, woodworking, fiber arts, jewelry, ceramics, floral arts, and even an author of children's books. Our Junior Grangers participate with baked goods, crafts and an annual swag sale. This year, not only did Santa visit us, but we also had an appearance by the Grinch himself!

Malo Grange Holds Annual Christmas Celebration



Malo Grange held it's annual Christmas Celebration on Dec. 11. Dean and Kelly Bell, our very helpful friends, surprised us with their contribution to the potluck. They brought their electric wok and Dean cooked three kinds of won tons. (Sorry, the photographer was too busy enjoying their delicious efforts to capture a photograph.) The potluck was followed with a round of carols and a white elephant gift exchange to a story of the Right family, which involves passing the gifts to the right, left and across... many times. The photo captured Past Master and 60 plus year member, Jim Crow, on the right and current Master, Cindy Walton, in the Santa Hat admiring her white elephant gift.

Green Bluff Grange Hosts Community Christmas



Green Bluff Grange held their Community Christmas Party in December. Junior Grange members provided entertainment for the evening. Santa, played by Grange President Jim Lahde, made a visit as well.

Grange Connection



Granges Celebrate the Holiday Season

Mossyrock Grange Hosts The Return Of Breakfast With Santa



Mossyrock Grange held their first breakfast with Santa in 20 years. Thanks to Elaine Myers for chairing the event.

Ralston Grange Hosts 92nd Annual Christmas Party

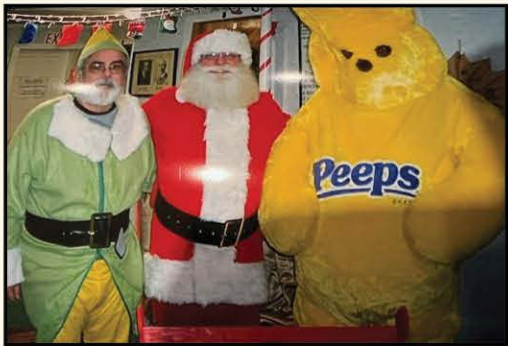


Ralston Grange held their 92nd annual Community Christmas Party on Dec. 3rd with over 100 attending. Families from all the eastern Adams County communities were present in spite of a night of heavy fog, which didn't stop Santa from paying a visit too.



Rose Valley Grange Has Holiday Fun With Santa And Friends

Santa and Friends visited the Rose Valley Grange. Children enjoyed cookies, cocoa and a goodie bag from Santa. They also had a float in the Longview's downtown parade.



Grange Connection



Granges Celebrate the Holiday Season

Greenwood Park Grange Celebrates Christmas With Dinner and Program



Greenwood Park Grange hosted a community Christmas dinner and Christmas program.



Barberton Grange Fills Boxes For Operation Christmas Child



Barberton Grange members filled 50 shoe boxes this year for Operation Christmas Child. This was the first time filling boxes and we all had a great time. The boxes contained a variety of toys and games as well as one of our handmade Christmas cards. We are looking forward to being a part of this project next year.

Grange Connection



Granges Celebrate the Holiday Season

Five Mile Prairie Grange Welcomes Santa With Pancakes



On Saturday, December 2nd Five Mile Prairie Grange held their annual Pancakes with Santa and welcomed over 300 friends and neighbors who braved the winter weather to attend this favorite community event. Thanks to our sponsor, TDS Fiber for their continued support.



Fargher Lake Grange Celebrates Christmas

Fargher Lake Grange held their Annual Holiday Bazaar on November 18, then hosted Santa Claus, played by Dave Johnson of Mountain Valley Grange, at their Christmas Party on December 2.



Grange Connection



Granges Celebrate the Holiday Season

Clark County Hosts Wreath Making Workshops



Washington Grange member Georgia Goff conducted a wreath making workshop for all Clark County Granges on December 3, and did the same for the Juniors and Youth on December 8. We had a great turnout for both workshops.



Old Traditions Meet New At Broadway Grange



Yakima’s Broadway Grange held its first annual Gratitude Dinner for the membership. The meal began with hot spiced cider, the apples having been pressed in October at the 38th annual cider pressing at the home of Grange members Shelly Jenkins and Dave Kirk. Many Grange members were present at that annual event, and reaped yet again the bounty of their efforts. For our first annual Gratitude Dinner, Grange member Dave Kirk prepared a delicious dinner of baked ham, a medley of roasted vegetables, macaroni and cheese and a huge green salad. He was capably assisted by sous chef Steve Manske. Pecan, apple and pumpkin pies, with vanilla ice cream and whipped cream tickled the palate to finish it off. Twenty five lucky Grange members were present to partake in the delicious feast. The dining hall and tables were beautifully decorated by Grange members Linda Manske and Jenifer Parsons. The cleanup was completed in record time by numerous worker bees. The snowy valley did not stop these stalwart members from showing up.

Grange Connection



Granges Celebrate the Holiday Season

Manson Grange Hosts Annual Christmas Brunch Event

Manson Grange held their Annual Manson Grange Christmas Brunch on December 16. According to Grange Master, Susan Lester, this fun event has been taking place for over 25 years. Helping Susan this year were Phyllis Coleman, KJ Casady and Hal Killian. The event was underway at 10:00 am with an amazing potluck. We thank everyone for their contributions.

Following the brunch, everyone took part in a fun “white elephant” gift exchange. A big cow bell was the hot item and traded several times.

Susan Lester wrapped up our Grange year with the following statement. “Manson Grange is moving in to its second century of service to our community. We continue to host the Farmers' Market, fitness opportunities and many community events. We now have a Grange Youth Fairs program that is growing. Plans are underway to improve our Grange Hall's accessibility. In the months and years to come we will be focused on maintaining and improving so we can better serve our community.”

Manson Grange holds its monthly meetings the 4th Tuesday of each month, starting at 5:00 pm at the Grange Hall. Join us on January 23, find out what we are about and join our team.



Snohomish County Pomona Hosts First All-County Christmas Party



On Sunday December 3rd at South Lake Stevens Grange, Snohomish County Pomona hosted it's First Annual All-County Christmas Party. Members and their guests from six of the county's Granges gathered for great food and fellowship. In lieu of a gift exchange, the members donated over 100 unwrapped toys for the Snohomish County Chapter of Toys for Tots.



Grange Connection

Columbia Grange Celebrates 134th Birthday



Columbia Grange #87 in Lyle had over 50 people attend their 134th birthday celebration. Local community members and Grangers from around the state enjoyed the afternoon festivities in the old hall. Columbia Grange #87 members are thankful for the gratitude of both those that donated pies for auction and those that purchased pies. Every little bit helps towards our many building needs. Special thanks to Sheriff Bob Songer and WA State Grange Officer Rick Ferguson for helping us celebrate, and to James Ogden and Kenji Stasiewicz for keeping us entertained with their musical talents.



Sequim Prairie Grange Sews And Donates Bibs



Several Sequim Prairie Grange members put their sewing skills to the test. They cut patterns, sewed and ironed 90 very fashionable and functional bibs. These colorful and fun patterns were made with tender loving care, to help protect from spills, for those who need special care.

"It's not a bib, it's a colorful clothing protector," Valerie Ellard said as she held up a finished bib with a tie on it. It's great to see all the ladies get together and work on such a special project, but mostly to give back to our community.

The purpose was to make a reusable and washable bib with Velcro in the back for easy on and off. Grange members spent several hours sewing 90 different styles of bibs, to be delivered to care facilities in Sequim, just in time for Thanksgiving.

Grange President Dorenda Becker delivered several to the Discovery Memory Care Facility. Beth Stark, Life Enrichment Director was very grateful for the clothing protector. "They will be perfect for our residents," she said. "Thank you, Sequim Prairie Grange, your generosity is very much appreciated!"

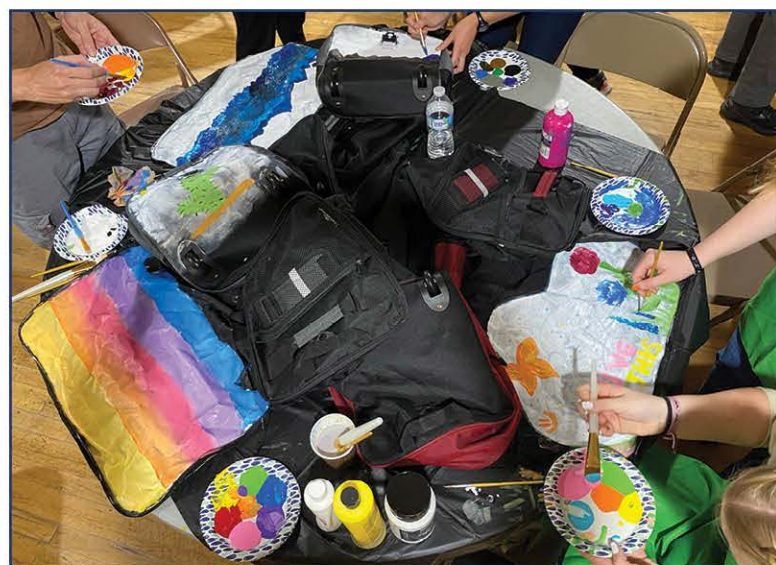
Pictured: (Above Left) Dorenda Becker delivered to the Discovery Memory Care Facility in Sequim (Beth Stark, Life Enrichment Director). (Above Right) Ann on her antique sewing machine. (Right) Loretta Bilow on her sewing machine.



Brighton Park Grange Honored By Thurston County 4-H Council

Rita Klien, Brighton Park Grange President, accepts a certificate of appreciation from the Thurston County 4-H Council for their continued support of the 4-H program. Two 4-H clubs meet at the hall rent free and we are happy to have them. Jenny Taylor, the leader of 24 Carrots 4-H Club is presenting the certificate to Rita.

Five Mile Prairie Grange Donates To Duffels For Darlings Program



Members and friends of Five Mile Prairie Grange gathered to personalize duffel bags for Embrace Washington's Duffels for Darlings program. This program helps ensure that every child in foster care has their own duffel bag for their clothing and possessions.



Grange Connection

Sequim Prairie Grange Selects Granger Of The Year

December is a special time of year for the Sequim Prairie Grange. It is the time when Grange members submit their nomination for Granger of the year.

This year's winner is Duane (Dewey) Thompson, the man with many ties and a big heart.

Dewey, as we call him, has been a member of the Sequim Prairie Grange for 33 years and has a lifetime membership. He is also a member of the Clallam County Pomona Grange.

Not only is Dewey a huge supporter of all the Grange events, but he also believes education is very important. This past year Dewey made a very generous donation to the Sequim Prairie Rhododendron Scholarship, to ensure that the Grange will be able to continue giving scholarships long into the future.

Congratulations Duane (Dewey) Thompson, thank you for your colorful ties and your generosity.



Columbia Grange Obligates New Junior Plus 1 Member



Columbia Grange #87 welcomed and obligated Gabriel into our Grange as a Junior plus 1 this December. This young man has been part of the Grange family since birth. He was excited to turn 5 and become a granger like his mom, grandma, and aunt. Master/President, Claudine Lefever, also Gabriel's grandma, was honored to present him with the Junior Grange pin. This marks a huge achievement not only for Columbia Grange #87 but Klickitat County Pomona #5 as well. Gabriel marks the first Junior Granger in the county in over a few decades! It is hoped that this will be a rejuvenation of Junior Grange in this area.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY

Humptulips Grange held their Annual Christmas Dinner on December 8. The final bingo event for 2023 was on December 16, with an excellent crowd in attendance. The Grange Food Bank continues to serve upward of 75 families each month. Thank you to the students at Hoquiam High School for their generous donation to our food bank that will allow us to continue operating through 2024. The funds were collected from the Annual Football Event, held in November. We've had issues with the heating system at the Grange Hall, which we believe has been fixed. The next Grange business meeting is on Fri, January 12 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be preceded by our Annual Pancake Dinner at 6 p.m. on that evening. Our other January events include Gift Card Bingo on Sat, January 6. The Grange Food Bank will have a work party and food distribution on Wed, January 17.

SPOKANE COUNTY

Green Bluff Grange held their Community Christmas Party and Toys for Tots collection on Saturday, December 9. Santa showed up to give out Santa Bags to all the kiddos. The Grange is rented for family gatherings during the Christmas season. Our 2024 calendar of events is being set. January 2 will be Game Night which draws lots of people. January 20 is the annual Spin-In. Green Bluff Grange received a 2nd place award from National Grange

for its submission of the Publicity Booster Night entry. We received a red ribbon and \$100. We also received an Honor Grange Award for gain in membership and a Granges in Action Award at the National Grange Convention. Wow—can you believe 2024 is already here and our Grange new year is beginning. Let's make it a unbelievable year!!

STEVENS COUNTY

Camas Valley Grange had over 115 attendees at the annual Community Christmas Dinner. There were amazing decorations on the front of the Grange and inside the Hall. The food was amazing! Santa and his Elf handed out treat bags and goodies to each child as they told Santa what was on their Christmas wishlist. Knit and crocheted hats were available to anyone that wanted and/or needed one. The beautiful Rail Fence raffle quilt in shades of purple was won by Leora - Irene sold the winning ticket. There were quilts along with knit and/or crocheted afghans available for Veterans, current Military, and First Responders that attended the dinner. A huge thank you to each Grange member that worked so hard on this event. Also, a huge thank you to the Corner Table and other area businesses and Grange members that contributed to the dinner. It was decided at the December monthly meeting to cancel the January meeting.

THURSTON COUNTY

South Union Grange held

their annual friends and family Christmas party on Sunday December 10. Violet Prairie Grangers with their friends and families were special guests. We were thrilled to have three of our +1 Junior Grangers in attendance. After a sumptuous and jolly potluck dinner, everyone moved to the meeting hall for the program. Lecturer Bev York led the Christmas carol sing-along. After several carols were sung, the music was interrupted by the jingling of sleigh bells and a hearty "Ho ho ho," as Santa Claus arrived to join the celebration. Patty and Pam Mathews served as Santa's helper elves. The children in attendance received gifts from Santa and treats from the Grange. After Santa emptied his sack, there was time for guests to take family photos with Santa before he departed. South Union Grange would like to recognize and thank Barb Ramsdell of Prosperity Grange who presented us with a wonderful, handmade Christmas tree skirt, which debuted at the Christmas party. The regular monthly meeting was held on Monday December 18. Washington State Grange Executive Assistant Sophia Keller graciously attended to help members better understand the requirements for property tax exemptions for Granges. Monthly dances with live country music by "The Country Four and More" are held the first Saturday of each month from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. All ages are welcome, \$6 per person.

Junior Connection

HUMPTULIPS JUNIOR GRANGE

Humptulips Junior Grange held their holiday raffle in December. There were over 15 prizes awarded through the drawing. Proceeds will go toward supporting our Junior Grange activities over the next year. Junior Grangers supported the food bank by providing hot chocolate packets and peppermint candies in December. The packets were purchased in bulk and the Junior Grangers had to repackage into Ziploc bags for distribution through the Humptulips Grange Food Bank. We also adopted two families for Christmas. Junior Grange members purchased and collected gifts for the families. While our 2022 family had four girls, this year's families had nine boys, ranging from 3-16 years of age. In addition to toys, each child received a winter jacket, stocking cap, gloves, sweatpants, socks and either a blanket or sleeping bag. Thank you to the Humptulips Fire Department for providing the fire truck and driver to assist in delivering the gifts to the two families.

Pomona Connection

**COWLITZ/WAHKIAKUM
POMONA**

Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Pomona will meet on Saturday, January 20 at the Catlin Grange Hall. We will begin with a 1 p.m. potluck lunch, with business meeting to follow. State Grange President Tom Gwin will have program packets for distribution to each Grange and will offer an insight as to current State Grange programs and activities. The Pomona Service Project for January is to collect items for the Women's Shelter. Old tote bags or suitcases and toiletry items are especially needed.

**GRAYS HARBOR/
PACIFIC POMONA**

Grays Harbor/Pacific Pomona met on November 4 at the Sharon Grange Hall. The calendar of events for 2024 was adopted. Each Grange in the Pomona was asked to supply pies to the Union Gospel Mission in Aberdeen for Thanksgiving. We reviewed the Grange display rules for the Grays Harbor County Fair and made minor adjustments for 2024. There were 12 Grange displays, plus 198 entries in the Youth/Junior Grange Department at the 2023 fair. Our next meeting will be on Sat, January 13 at 10:30 a.m. at

the Elma Grange Hall. There will be a potluck luncheon at noon. State Grange Program Packets will be distributed at the meeting.

Klickitat County Pomona

Klickitat County Pomona #5 is starting the new year off with a bang. They will be offering a 1st-4th degree workshop day on Sunday, January 14th, 2024 to help unite and bring members together in their county. The degree day will be hosted by Centerville Grange #81 with State Deputy Lucille Bevis in charge.

**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.

Thurston County Pomona

Thurston County Pomona Grange met at the Black Lake Grange Hall on December 7 for their Christmas celebration and last meeting of the year. The meeting was preceded by a hearty potluck dinner. Sherry Stacey of

Black Lake Grange was obligated into the Fifth Degree. The team that headed the bake sale at Tenino Winterfest reported on a successful event and thanked those who participated. As is the tradition of TC Pomona, the Christmas-themed program consisted of short presentations from the subordinate Granges. This year's program included a Pictionary-style game from Brighton Park, and readings from Black Lake, South Union, and Violet Prairie. As the meeting fell on December 7, the 82nd anniversary of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Shawn Donnelly of Black Lake shared a short documentary about the attack, titled "The Boys in Pump Room A19." The documentary, made by a high school sophomore, was well done and very moving. The February 1 meeting will be held at Black Lake Grange at 7:00 pm.

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.

Klickitat County Pomona Attends National Grange Convention



Klickitat County Pomona #5 had four members attend the 157th National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls. Richard and Daniel Lefever represented Goldendale Grange #49 and received the 2nd place National Community Service Contest. Claudine Lefever and Sara Wade represented Columbia Grange #87 and they learned much in the different workshops offered and enjoyed sitting in on the sessions. Claudine was honored in the National Grange Lecturer's photography contest with 2nd place in farm equipment and the 3rd place in gardening photos. On the final afternoon of the convention both Daniel and Sara were conferred as 7th degree members. In the photo they are taking their annual class photo with National Grange Sales/Benefits Director, Loretta Washington, with her western flare outfit.

Pomona Calendar

Please submit your 2024 Pomona Meeting Dates.

- CHELAN**January 18 and February 15 at Smitty's Restaurant, 12 p.m. social luncheon. February 17 - The next business meeting is 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**January 10 at Manor, 7 p.m. Will include state packet distribution and questions/ answers with the State Grange President.
- COWLITZ/ WAHKIAKUM**January 20 at Catlin, 1 p.m. potluck, business meeting to follow. Will include state packet distribution and questions/ answers with the State Grange President.
- 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**January 13 at Elma, 10:30 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck. Will include state packet distribution and questions/ answers with the State Grange President.
- 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.
- MASON**January 20 at The Agate, 11 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. lunch. Will include state packet distribution and questions/ answers with the State Grange President.
- PEND OREILLE**March 2 at Fertile Valley, 10 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck.
- PIERCE**January 6 at Collins, 10 a.m. Will include state packet distribution and questions/ answers with the State Grange President.
- SKAGIT**March 6 at Skagit Valley, 6:30 p.m.
- SNOHOMISH**January 20 at Tualco, 10 a.m.
- SPOKANE**February 17 at Tyler.
- 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
- WHITMAN**January 20 at Eddy's Restaurant in Colfax, 11:15 a.m. No Host lunch.
- YAKIMA VALLEY**January 8 at Fruitvale, 3 p.m. Will include state packet distribution and questions/ answers with the State Grange President.

Clark County Pomona Santa And His Helpers Visit The Learning Avenue Child Care Center



Clark County Pomona Grange members visited the Learning Avenues Child Care Center on December 12. Santa (Dave Johnson), Rudolf (Brenda Lester), Elf (Vicki Gilmour) and Santa's helpers (Janice Anderson, Lanette Pinard, and Ann VanAntwerp) handed out reindeer cany canes. Each child picked out a color book, crayons, 2 scarves, hat and a toy. The Grange served 41 children at the center.

