



WASHINGTON STATE

Grange News

February 2025

Informing Grangers Since 1912

114th Year No. 2



Grangers Converge On Olympia To Advocate For Rural Concerns

In the past month, the Washington State Grange held two events designed for Grange members to learn about the legislative process, while advocating for rural concerns.

The Youth/Junior Grange Legislative Experience was held on January 19-20 with young Grange members from four Granges in attendance. The group started their program at

the State Grange Office, just four blocks from the state capitol. As it was a beautiful day, the delegation walked to the capitol building for a tour and scavenger hunt. After taking pictures,

the group trekked back to the Grange Office. The State Grange Youth Department treated the delegates and their chaperones to dinner later in the evening.

Monday, January 20 started

with a speaker, Dylan Brown, Government Relations Director for Quinn Thomas. Dylan is a Washington Legislature veteran. He came into the legislature as

Continued on Page 4

March 2025 issue deadline – FEBRUARY 20th
Submissions can be sent to grangenews@wa-grange.org





In Memoriam

William "Bill" Weiss

Past State Grange Executive Committeeman and Deputy Master

May 27, 1933- December 4, 2024



We are saddened to hear of the passing of William L. "Bill" Weiss, past Spokane County Deputy Master (1998-2003) and past member of the State Grange Executive Committee (2003-2011).

Passed into the arms of Jesus on December 4, 2024, William L. "Bill" Weiss was born May 27,

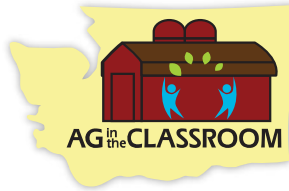
1933 to William E. Weiss and Louella Gibbons in Grayling, Michigan. Bill graduated from Grayling High School in 1951 and joined the United States Army Air Defense where he served our country for 20 years. He was a Vietnam Veteran. He was known for his positive attitude and was "Mr. Fixit" for family and neighbors.

Bill served unselfishly his family, church, the Washington State Grange and was the Master of Spring Hill Grange. He was a 20-year member of Spokane County SCOPE and the Inland Farmers Credit Union.

Bill is survived by his wife of 64 years, Nancy Weiss; daughter Sue (Terry) Krupke; and son Bill Weiss Jr. He is also survived by grandchildren, Keighley, Stephanie, Brian and several nieces and nephews.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents and 1 brother, Clyde.

A Celebration of Life was held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, January 17, 2025, at the Spring Hill Grange, 8717 N. Brooks Rd., Spokane, WA. A private family inurnment took place at Spring Creek Cemetery.



Washington Agriculture in the Classroom

Washington Granges (State, Pomona, And Subordinate) Support "Washington Agriculture" In The Classroom Program

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

The new calendar year has begun, but our students and families are (almost) ready to begin the 2nd half of the school year. The Winter Issue of our WAIC Ag@School magazine for 4th graders and Ag classes was mailed January 23.

► If a teacher requested a free classroom set of magazines, they were sent.

► If you requested information from me about Washington Ag in the Classroom (WAIC) program, that includes the magazine, you

have heard from me.

► If you want some information before you contact me, you can go online to waic.net to "check us out".

Many Grangers and Grangers also continue to support Washington Ag in the Classroom through donations. Our materials are free to the students and teachers, so money continues to be needed.

Your donations go directly to "increase agricultural literacy through K-12 education" using our four Washington State programs. An agriculturally literate person is defined as "one who understands and can communicate the source and value of agriculture as it affects

our quality of life." Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) programs seek to improve student achievement by applying authentic, agricultural-based content as the context to teach core curriculum concepts in science, social studies, language arts and nutrition.

I continue to represent the Washington State Grange on the WAIC Board of Directors, as your representative. Call me. Email me. I love to share information about our WAIC programs- we are more than just a magazine.

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.

Thurston County Pomona at McLane Grange



McLane Grange hosted the December 5, 2024 Thurston County Pomona meeting for a large crowd of attendees. Prior to the meeting, Grangers enjoyed live music during dinner from a family of musicians playing holiday carols. All enjoyed a delicious dinner of ham, turkey, side dishes and desserts.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON FAIRGROUNDS

136th Annual WA State Grange Convention at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds
Centralia/Chehalis, 1909 S Gold Street
Centralia, WA 98531

JUNE 25 - 29, 2025

Email Us

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Washington State GRANGE NEWS

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• Tom Gwin, Executive Editor •

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Moving? Let Us Know?

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

New Address _____

Your Name _____

Grange Name & Number _____

Please mail to:
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PO Box 1186
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98507-1186

President's Message

Grange Activities Off To A Great Start In 2025

By Tom Gwin
WA State Grange President

January has certainly been a busy month for the State Grange. We started our Grange Resource and Information Training Session on January 4. The final three sessions will be held this weekend. Some of the sessions were held in conjunction with Pomona meetings, while others were standalone activities. Thank you to Elk Plain, Deer Lagoon, Manor, Centerville, Fruitvale, Fredonia, Tualco, Kettle River, Whelan/Ewartsville, Central, Sallal, Dry Creek, Moses Lake, Okanogan, and Bee Hive Granges for your hospitality and the use of your hall.

While we did not make every county this year, we will attempt to get into the other areas next year. New faces were present at most of the sessions. In many cases, we had previously talked on the phone but not met in person. It is always good to meet new people and put names to the faces.

Now that the training sessions are over, each Grange has received the tools to guide your programs and activities for the year. I want to reiterate, it does no good if the various packets of information stay in the envelope in which it was delivered. Share the information with the appropriate person in your Grange, be it the Secretary, Lecturer, Family Living Chair, or the Junior Grange Chair. Use the Master/President Guide to assist you in conducting your meetings and activities. The Treasurer/Financial Guide is an excellent recourse to

assist your Grange treasurer in reconciling accounts, balancing revenues, and reporting to your Grange.

While the Secretary packet includes a wide variety of forms for completion throughout the year. We have also made all the forms available on the State Grange website, www.wa-grange.com, in a pdf fillable format. Forms for other departments are also available in the same format. You now have the option of filling out the forms online and emailing them to us or you may fill them out by hand and mail them to us. Do what works best for you!

All Granges are to be commended for their excellent programs and a plethora of activities thus far in 2025.

-- Tom Gwin

Applications for WA State Grange Foundation Scholarships are also available on the website in a pdf fillable format. The application does require a signature, which can be completed through DocuSign or other programs. The recommendation forms are also available and require a signature. All items can either be emailed or sent via regular mail. The deadline for all pieces of the scholarship application is April 1.

We have changes in the State Grange Deputy force. Lucille Bevis retired after 24 years as the



Tom Gwin

Deputy Master for Klickitat County. The new deputy for Klickitat County is Sara Wade of Centerville Grange. Darell Myers of Mossyrock Grange is the new deputy for Lewis County, replacing Robert Knapp. Robert (Bob) Shea of Tyler Grange is the new deputy for Spokane County, a position that has been unfilled for a few years.

The State Grange Youth/Junior Legislative Experience was held on January 19-20 in Olympia. Four Granges sent delegates to the event. You can read more about this elsewhere in this issue.

WA State Grange Legislative Day was held on February 4. Nearly 90 Grange members from across the state converged on Olympia for a day of workshops, committee hearings and meetings with their legislators. The members came from 40 different Granges and represented 19 different legislative districts.

Our activities thus far in 2025 demonstrate how the State Grange is moving forward in numerous directions. This is backed up by the 95 new members reported by Subordinate Granges in January alone. All Granges are to be commended for their excellent programs and a plethora of activities thus far in 2025. I am anxious to see the results of your continued hard work over the coming year!

Legislative

Successful Legislative Day Offers Members Opportunities



Jesse Taylor

By Jesse Taylor
Legislative Lobbyist

This month I got the opportunity to speak in person with about 90 Grangers from all over the state. The "Hill Day" experience is one that I always enjoy because there is nothing like the impact of human-to-human contact. The day seems like a whirlwind and I appreciate all of the conversations I got to have about your concerns, your Grange halls and the projects you are advocating for.

The primary goal of Legislative Day was to empower Grange members to actively participate in the legislative process. Attendees had the chance to meet with state legislators, discuss ongoing and upcoming legislation with guest speakers, and express their views on issues affecting rural Washington. The event also featured briefings on current legislative priorities and providing members with the information needed to advocate effectively. The Washington State Grange has long been a voice for rural residents and the agricultural community and by offering this experience, we ensure that the concerns of rural communities are heard and considered in the legislative arena. This event underscores our commitment to improving the quality of life for Washington's residents through community service and legislative action.

During session you can stay up-to-date with legislative happenings via our Session Watch. Within the weekly Session Watch you will see current bills we are supporting, opposing or tracking as well as upcoming committee hearings and narrative about what has transpired in the committees and floor action.

Upcoming legislative deadlines:

February 7th – Deadline for Transportation Budget Requests

February 21st – Deadline for Capital Budget Requests

February 21st – Policy Bills cut-off.

February 28th – Fiscal policy cut-off

March 12th – House of Origin cut-off

The cut-off deadlines are hard and fast and act as guardrails for the legislative session. February 21st will be the last day for policy committees (non-fiscal) to consider and pass legislation this session. Any policy bills not passed by their respective committee will be "dead" until the next legislative session.

The fiscal policy cutoff is always one week after the policy cutoff. This year February 28th is the deadline for spending bills to be voted out of their fiscal committees. What that means is bills which will be passed as part of the operating budget and included in the state budget have to be sent to the Rules committee from their fiscal committee (House Appropriations and Senate Ways & Means) before 5:00pm on the 28th. The only other fiscal bills which may be considered after the deadline are bills fiscal committee members deem to be NTIB, or Necessary to Implement the Budget. This happens when the budget bill contains funding that needs to pass through the committee process first in the form of a bill.

Finally, the House of Origin Cutoff happens on March 12th and you will notice hundreds of hours of "floor action" leading up to that deadline. Every bill that makes it to the second-half of the session must be successfully voted off the House or Senate floor before that deadline. If you tune into TVW.org in the days leading up to the House of Origin cutoff, you will see late night hours of voting to get as much policy across the finish line as they can before the deadline.

As we go throughout the session you can follow along the daily schedule of the legislature and see the Senate Floor Calendar and the House Floor Calendar.

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.



Session Watch 2025

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

Legislative Day



Presentation by Senator Mike Chapman, Senate House and Natural Resources Committee



Clallam County Delegation – Steve Singhose, Elizabeth Hogan, Trisha Lovgren from Crescent Grange and Pomona Master Cindy Kelly of Dry Creek Grange.

Grangers Converge On Olympia To Advocate For Rural Concerns

Continued from Page 1

an intern as well as held positions on campaigns, as caucus policy staff and caucus communications staff. Dylan spoke to the group about how to engage the legislature and ways to get into a career at the capitol.

The youth delegates also met with Myra Hernandez, the Washington State Senate Director of Civic Education. She spoke to the group about page and internship opportunities on campus and answered questions.

The youth attended committee meetings and had appointments with the state legislators. While the intent of the meetings was primarily educational, youth delegates were able to address their concerns with their legislators.

The Grange's Annual Legislative Day was held on February 4. Nearly ninety Grangers gathered at the State Grange Office in Olympia for orientation and a presentation by State Grange Government Lobbyist Jesse Taylor.

Grangers then made the trek to the State Capitol Building for tours, legislative meetings,

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

This year's speakers included State Senator Mike Chapman of the 24th Legislative District who also serves as the Chair of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Chapman spoke about the legislative process, WDFW commission, agriculture bills currently under consideration by the committee, and what it is like to chair a committee.

The group also heard from Joel McEntire of the 19th Legislative District. McEntire to the group mostly about the capital budget process and discussed how the sausage is made at the capitol. He discussed bills before the House Education Committee, of which he is a member.

The group also heard from Evan Scheffles, WSDA Policy Director. He reviewed who the main points of contact are at the WSDA and how to reach out to them. Scheffles also spoke about the budget

process and how WSDA advocates for policy to the legislature while also being part of the Governor's cabinet.

State Grange staff made appointments for each of the delegates to meet with their legislators, advocacy for rural concerns and Grange policy regarding those concerns. Many of the delegates met with their legislators to gather support for their application for Capital Budget Funds, which will be allocated later in the session.

The 90 participants represented 40 Subordinate Granges, covering 19 different legislative districts. Most were first time participants at the event.

Lunch was served at the State Grange Office, around the legislator's scheduled appointments. The block block trek was reinvigorating for most of the delegates.

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



Group Workshop



Delegates from the 42nd Legislative District in Whatcom County



National Grange President Chris Hamp addresses the group

Legislative Day



Evan Scheffles from the State Department of Agriculture



Representative Joel McEntire

The delegation from the 7th Legislative District met with State Representative Andrew Engell and his aide. Grange members included: Rusy Hunt and Marcus Dingman of St. Andrews Grange, Douglas and Marie Woodrow of Okanogan Grange, and Elton Kearney of Kettle River Grange.



Moses Lake Grange member Erik Neff spent the day in Olympia at the Washington State Grange Annual Legislative Day. He got to meet with District 13 Representatives Dent and Ybarra to lobby for issues affecting our communities and ask for Capital Improvement Funds for our hall.



Speaker for Grange members in the Legislative Building



Speaking – Senator Mike Chapman



The delegation from Rexville and Fredonia Granges in the State Presidents Office.

Spotlight on Youth & Juniors

Youth

Youth Members Coordinate "Keep Washington Warm" Project

By Jerry Gwin
Youth Grange Director

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

Items collected include either handmade or newly purchased

hats, gloves, scarves, socks, and other warming items. This year, the items will be collected at the Annual State Grange Session, June 25-29 in Chehalis. Following the display at the session, the items are packaged and distributed in the host convention district.

This year's collection of warming items will be distributed in Lewis County to foster families, food banks, homeless shelters,

and others. The convention host committee has a group working on finding suitable distribution locations.

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



Jerry Gwin

Green Bluff Grange Hosts Game Night



Green Bluff Grange hosted their 4th annual Game Night on January 7 with several people having a fun time.

Youth & Junior Legislative Experience



Lecturer's Department

Looking Forward to Spring



Leslie Jo Wells

By Leslie Jo Wells
State Grange Lecturer

I know we are still experiencing winter, but I found the following article that I thought might prove beneficial to the cold days we're going through. As an agriculturally focused organization we tend to be prepared and forward thinking when it comes to our environment. Hopefully you can use these tips so you are ready when planting time arrives.

8 Things Gardeners Never Forget to Do in January (And You Shouldn't Either)

By Melissa Epifano

Melissa is a news writer for The Spruce. She covers a wide range of topics including trends, decor ideas, and design tips.

MEET THE EXPERTS

- Ren Elizabeth is the steward of a 5 acre homestead and the author of the educational blog ecofriendlyhomestead.com.
- Kim Butler is a master gardener based in Central Florida and is the founder of Urban Homestead Hub.
- Laura Janney is a gardening expert and founder of The Inspired Garden, a full-service garden and container business with an online course.

January may feel quiet, but it's the perfect time for planning and taking part in a few mindful gardening tasks. Winter may not feature the kind of sweaty, sun-soaked days among your plants as spring and summer, but there are plenty of helpful things you can dive into that'll keep your green thumb happy.

If nothing else, January is the perfect month to reignite your excitement for gardening. Here are a few expert-backed winter gardening tasks you can start now.

START SEED SHOPPING

January is a perfect time to check the new stock at seed companies as many refresh their collections this month. It's a fun way to find new and interesting plants for the year ahead.

CHECK ON BULBS

Now is also a good chance to ensure your current projects or any seeds or bulbs in the works are holding up okay this season. "Make sure to occasionally check in on any tubers you are overwintering indoors. You want your bulbs to remain firm and free of mold.

Change water, adjust lighting or location, and start planning what's in store for those budding bulbs before the weather changes.

FRESHEN UP MULCH

Mulch does so much for your garden and helps prevent soil erosion while also boosting your soil's health, according to Elizabeth. She recommends freshening up your winter

mulch with a new layer—her go-to is organic straw. Fallen leaves also work wonders.

"I also like to start thinking about obtaining wood chips so that I can add them onto any pathways that need some freshening up," she says. "Call around to your local arborists or power companies—many will give you wood chips for free."

PLAN SEED STARTING AND COLD STRATIFICATION

First, start by checking your seed-starting supplies; this includes everything from checking the working condition of your grow lights to cleaning your seed trays. It's also a great time to start cold stratification.

"[Stratification] is something that perennial plants need, like rosemary, hollyhock, lavender, or echinacea," Elizabeth notes, and lavender is one such example she starts in January.

Janney suggests repurposing milk cartons to sow snapdragons, foxgloves, and campanula.

"The containers work as mini-greenhouses right in your backyard and your seedlings will be ready for transplanting as soon as spring arrives," she says.

START THE RIGHT SEEDS

January may not sound like the ideal month for plant growing, however, you'd be surprised—some seeds will be pretty close to ready. Janney says to check the backs of seed packets.

"If any of your seeds need eight to 12 weeks to grow, you'll want to sow those in mid-February. Use grow lights, a greenhouse space or try your hand at winter sowing," she says.

Different USDA hardiness zones might be ready for planting and won't be as deeply impacted by freezing cold temperatures. "For me in zone 9b, my fall/winter garden is in full bloom, so I am just starting my early spring seeds, and I am still planting carrots and radishes," says master gardener Kim Butler.

DO SOME GARDEN CLEAN-UP

Garden tasks will largely depend on what zone you're in, but a great one for anyone is to clean up your garden and start planning. One aspect of this preparation should be weed management.

"Since weeds aren't growing as vigorously as they would be in the warmer months, this is the perfect time to tend to weedy problem areas, like pathways or the edges of your raised beds," Elizabeth says.

INSPECT YOUR TOOLS

While things are quieter outside, it's a good chance to look indoors at the very tools you'll need when spring rolls around. Janney recommends cleaning and disinfecting your garden tools now. She also notes that pruners will need to be sharpened, and you should review what you currently have on hand in case replacements are necessary. "Think ahead to your spring garden plans and purchase any equipment you may need like stakes, garden string, fertilizer, or a new set of gloves," Janney says. "You'll thank yourself later."

WHAT TO SKIP IN JANUARY

Lastly, there are a couple of things not worth doing in January, according to the experts.

- Overdoing it: You have a whole year to garden, so don't overwork yourself in January. "Use this time to rest and reflect on your successes and failures of the following season," says Janney.
- Sowing crops too early: Some crops just can't handle the cold, and while you may be excited, it's worth skipping things like tomatoes, eggplants, and other summer crops. "Unless you live in a very warm climate, these crops will need to be potted up frequently in your home and will start to take up a lot of space before it's warm enough to plant them out," says Elizabeth.
- Not planning at all: There's no problem in taking it easy, but your future self will thank you for taking some time to plan placement, quantities, bloom times, colors, and heights, according to Janney. "This way when spring rolls around you will be ready to go and not be overwhelmed at the nursery," she says.

Heirloom Project Readings January, February and March 2025

FEBRUARY 2025: "Hope is the heavenly light that gilds our labors. Were we deprived of that source of consolation, life would indeed be dreary." (Fourth Degree; Pomona)

MARCH 2025: "An honest man is the noblest work of God" (First Degree; Lecturer)

APRIL 2025: "Of all the sweeteners of human toil, of all the motive powers that give alacrity to the hand or foot, readiness to the will, and intelligence to mind and purpose, the quickest and most enduring in results is the kind word spoken in season."

(Installation Ceremony; Installing Officer to Vice President)



On The Web:
www.WA-Grange.com

Membership Corner

Welcome New Members

GRANGES WITH MEMBERSHIP GAINS

January 2025

	# Joined	Jr. +1
603 Addy	11	4
Jennifer Watkins, Hayden Watkins, Tom White Stacy White, Luke Johnson, Chase Duskin, James Fritz Madaleen Heberlein, Teresa Jackson, Lela Belback Darcie McNamee		
571 Barberton	2	
Charles Allen, Deanna Allen		
982 Clarkston Heights	5	
Denice Strohmaier, Pam Hall, Elizabeth Northrup Denise Yeoman, Wendy Casto		
1123 Crescent	3	
Kenneth Williams, Dr. Andrea Merrick Williams Kayla Gordon		
846 Deer Lagoon	1	
Peter Holton		
148 East Spokane	1	
Valerie Kloepfel		
782 Elk Plain	1	
Timothy Moore		
853 Fargher Lake	3	
Abby Trussell, Lacey Marsolek, David Marsolek		
153 Forest	4	
Arnold Hughes, Kimala Coleman, Mario DeMoss Lateea DeMoss		
1152 Freedom	2	2
Toby Cochran, Kendel Cochran		
999 Fruitland	1	
Quane Scott		
965 Horseshoe	3	
Josey McCrory, Steve Dalton, Warren Lewis		
556 Kenova	2	
Jeff Wyrick, Sophronia Wyrick		
667 Long Beach	7	
Vicki Whitmarsh, Bonnie Blake, Barbara Pederson Ashley Wright, Annika Kay, Tasha Murray, Kathy Moore		
1151 Moses Lake	6	1
Wade Schmidt, Cindy Schmidt, Kaylie Schmidt Ken Shields, Diana Shields, Mathew Morice		
1125 Ollala	15	
Barbara Forstrom, Michael Horntvedt, Joy Horntvedt Pamela Kellington, Kerry Aspinwall, Dave Goodhue Huguette Marsicano, Barbara Gill, Bonnie Leckron Charmaine Scott, Dorothy Schuster, Roberta Lauren Carol Von Brandt, Ronda Odden, Susan Sundahl. . .		
315 Prosperity	2	
John Senn, Annette Brokaw		
720 Quimper	1	
Herb Tracy		
815 Rexville	3	
Joan Zoet, Howard Zoet, Barbara Hathaway		
926 Samish Valley	2	
Randy Sue Collins, Devon Rogers		
250 South Bay	5	
Kenneth J House, Betty Bookmeim, Brian Lindsay Sandy Mode, Shannie Jenkins		
930 South Camano	7	
David Weinstein, Katherin Weinstein, Zinna Su Emma Hersh, Emily Kim, Janell Clark, Ted Nestor		
121 Stevenson	1	
Patti Duchesneau		
374 Stranger Creek	2	
Brian Fortner, Deidre Fortner		
482 Twisp Valley	6	
Susan Finn, Michelle Schmidtke, George Schoenfeld Danielle Hoffman, Kyle Hoffman, Eloise Hoffman		
1111 Waller Road	1	
Joe Price		
	# Joined	Jr. +1
TOTALS	97	7

Priorities: What are your 5 in 2025?

In going with the theme of your four priorities in 2024, let's look at making five priorities in 2025. Five priorities are so much more manageable than creating a laundry list of priorities. So, if you had to prioritize your priorities, how would that list look?

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

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

Maybe your Grange is focused on monthly meetings but has not focused much on community activities. If this is the case, how will your Grange every grow? How will your community know the Grange is still there for them? How can you get you members and community interested in more activities in your Grange?

One of your priorities might be accessing your Grange both inside and outside. Is your Grange inviting, both physically and verbally? Is it accepting of new members? Do you show pride in your Grange being a

Grange even when there are rentals in your Grange or are you "taking down all Grange paraphernalia" because you don't believe renters want to see Grange information? If we look like our halls are abandoned or we are fighting within our walls,

- Send a letter to your local businesses and leaders asking them to join the Grange.
- Invite your town to a special event at the Grange.
- Build a Membership corner

- Find a new community service project.
 - Hold a coat drive or clothing drive for your areas less fortunate.
 - Adopt a family.
 - Collect food for your local food bank.
 - Hold a blood drive at your Grange.
- Create a new annual event that would bring in new potential members into your Grange.
 - Easter Egg Hunt/ Extravaganza
 - Valentines Dance
 - Trunk or Treat
 - Hunters Breakfast
 - Santa Breakfast
- Hold classes that are open to the public.
 - Canning Class
 - Sourdough Bread Class
 - Preservation Class
 - Invite a local Master Gardener to come and talk.

These are just a hand full of ideas. Pay attention to other Granges and what things they are doing in their areas and see if that is something that would work in your area as well. Check out Grange Facebook pages or Instagram pages for ideas as well. We can ALL find FIVE priorities for 2025! Lets make it ANOTHER great year!!!

We can ALL find FIVE priorities for 2025!

Lets make it ANOTHER great year!!!

or if we do not display a beautiful corner of Grange membership (with membership brochures, items about what the Grange is, and a sign asking to join our Grange today) that brags about your Grange in your community, then you are missing potential Grange members.

We could set so many priorities, so what is it that would be best to focus on for your individual Grange? Here are a few ideas:

- New membership in your Grange is needed; how could we add new members to our Grange roster?
 - Hold a contest with a special prize, anyone who brings in 5 new members in the year would go in a drawing for this special prize.

Congratulations Winners!

New Membership Contest

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.

2024

T-Shirts: Isabella Lierman – Horseshoe #955

Gift Cards: Mike Nestor – South Camano #930 - 1 - \$25 Amazon Gift Card

This contest ended December 31, 2024.

2025

T-Shirts

Marty Kellogg – Ollalla #1125 • Tammy Williams – Moses Lake #1151

Debbie Harbin – Addy #603

Congratulations to the following Grangers for bringing in an additional 5 or more new members into the Grange. After recruiting your first 3 members and receiving your t-shirt, when you bring in another 5 members you will receive a \$25 "Grange Bucks" Certificate, which can be spent on any Grange gear, pamphlets, jewelry or other paraphernalia we have on hand at State Grange.

Marty Kellogg – Ollalla #1125 – 1 - \$25 "Grange Bucks"

Our new contest begins January 1, 2025 and runs through December 31, 2025.

Home & Family

Baking Contest Tips: Common Cookie Baking Mistakes



Helen Berg

By Helen Berg
Family Living Director

This article was printed in a flyer I received several years ago. I am sharing it with you as a reminder of what you can do to improve your cookies in preparation for the upcoming contests.

15 COMMON COOKIE BAKING MISTAKES YOU MIGHT BE MAKING

1. Your cookies aren't baking evenly. If you have this problem, you may be putting too much faith in your oven. Check your oven temp. Oven temps can vary by 20 degrees. Invest in an oven thermometer and check your oven. Also try rotating your trays halfway through the baking process.
2. You use eggs straight from the refrigerator. Cold eggs prevent the dough from aerating properly, meaning you won't have those air pockets to help improve the texture of your cookies. You can warm your eggs by putting them in a bowl of warm water for a few minutes.
3. You use the wrong kind of flour. While most recipes call for all-purpose flour, be sure to use the type specified in the recipe.
4. You measure the flour the

wrong way. The scoop out of the bag method could actually be giving you too much flour. Rather, loosen the flour and then spoon the flour into the cup and level off with a straight edge.

5. You soften the butter too much or not enough. Butter that is too soft won't hold air, giving you dense and heavy dough, but if you've tried to cream cold butter it is no fun. Set butter on the counter and let it soften at room temp for about 15 minutes.

6. Be sure to use fresh baking powder and baking soda. This is your leavening, and they do lose their potency over time. Anything over 6 months from opening should be discarded.

7. You overwork the dough. Over mixing can add air to the dough and cause it to rise and then fall in the oven causing hard cookies.

8. You skip chilling the dough. If you're looking to get cookies that are crispy on the outside and chewy on the inside, then this is a step you cannot skip. Chilling allows the ingredients to mingle and keeps the dough from spreading on the cookie sheet. And putting cold dough in the oven gives you that crispy outer layer.

9. Your baking pan is too dark. Dark baking sheets will cause your cookies to cook faster. Try

lowering your oven temperature by 25 degrees and shortening the baking time by about 4 minutes.

10. You over grease the cookie sheet. Unless the recipe says to grease, DON'T. A greased cookie sheet can cause the cookies to spread way more than you want.

11. You over-crowd the cookie sheet. Be sure to stagger the cookies about 2" apart to avoid the cookie blob.

12. Bake cookies on the center rack unless you have a convection oven.

13. Avoid taking too many peeks as this cools down your oven.

14. You don't give your cookies time to cool down. Let them sit on the tray for a few minutes before removing them.

I hope these hints help you as you prepare to think about what cookie you would like to enter in your baking contests. May you have a blessed New Year. 2025 is here!



Community Service

Hearts of Service

By Claudine Mincks
Community Service Director

It's February, have you penciled out your Community Service Grange calendar yet? If not, there's still time to put up the white board, grab some color markers, and go around the room at your Grange meeting and jot down the strategy for your Grange's community service for the next year as a team.

Your Grange may already have a list of tried-and-true community service projects that run smoothly and are successful each year, but have you familiarized yourself with the updated 2025 WSG Community Service Department's handouts? It's a great resource to

double check that your Grange is participating in the program in joint efforts with other Granges around the state.

Keep Washington Warm, Feed the Hungry, Words for Thirds, School Supply Collection, Personal Care Items, Junior Grange Program Support, Other Service Projects in each of the other departments, and Partnering with Schools are all great base ideas to help you succeed at community service within your own Grange.

The WSG Community Service Department 2025 handouts are also an important tool in outlining the Pomona Grange Award for Public Service, Subordinate Grange Community Citizen Award, Volunteer Recognition

Program, and the Community Service Contest. Whether or

not you decide to participate in the contest or not you want to document and compile your community service projects from the past June through May of the current year to complete your WSG Annual Community Service Reports. Keeping these records up to date for your Grange can also help if grants or awards are sought after to benefit your Grange.

Grangers are the Hearts of Service. You continue to surprise and amaze me with your originality and selflessness. Keep up the great Community Service work!



Claudine Mincks

A Savvy Family Meal



(Courtesy of Family Features)

Because this time of year can be crazy busy, drive-thru meals can easily become the norm. While fast-food burgers may do the trick once in a while, they can get old quick if your family is eating them every other night. This quick and easy Baked Spaghetti can bring everybody back to the table and it won't break the bank either. Find more weeknight dinner inspiration at Culinary.net.

Baked Spaghetti

Servings: 4-6

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 pound spaghetti noodles
- 1 jar (16 ounces) alfredo sauce
- 1 jar (24 ounces) marinara sauce
- 2 tablespoons garlic powder
- 2 tablespoons onion powder
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 cups shredded cheese
- French bread or breadsticks, for serving

Instructions:

Heat oven to 350 F. Brown and drain ground beef. Cook noodles according to package instructions. Drain noodles; add alfredo sauce and mix well. Add marinara sauce, garlic powder and onion powder to ground beef. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Place noodles in 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Spoon beef mixture on top but do not mix in. Cover with shredded cheese then cover with foil and bake 30-40 minutes.

Serve with French bread or breadsticks.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Monthly on the 7th

Connect: <https://grange.biz/newmemberzoom>

Pomona Connection

CLARK COUNTY POMONA

Clark County Pomona Grange held its first meeting of 2025 on Wednesday January 8 at Manor Grange. There were quite a few Grangers (37) in attendance, including State Master Tom Gwin. Calvin Russell, master of Manor Grange, did a wonderful job of installing the incoming Pomona officers and installed many officers from subordinate granges as well. Tom Gwin received many Grange in Action awards on behalf of Clark County Granges when he was at the National Convention. We were honored to have him present those awards to Subordinate and Junior Granges as part of his visit. A highlight of the evening was when William Tucker, a member of Fargher Lake Grange No. 853 since 1950, presented Tom Gwin with a sash that was last used by his father, Vern Tucker as a State Grange Deputy. Vern was a distinguished and longtime member of Fargher Lake and remained active until his death in 1975. The sash was stored away with Vern's other effects after his death and was just recently rediscovered. Tom was impressed by the condition of the

sash and was very happy to accept it so that it could be put to use once again.

COWLITZ/ WAHIAKUM POMONA

Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Pomona will meet on Saturday, February 15 at the Sunnyside Grange Hall in Castle Rock. The meeting begins at 1 p.m. with a potluck, followed by the business meeting. The community service project is to collect socks.

GRAYS HARBOR/ PACIFIC POMONA

Grays Harbor/Pacific Pomona met on January 11 at the North River Grange Hall. Lucy Vest was elected as our new Pomona Grange Master. The Pomona Grange agreed to provide the paper products for the upcoming memorial service for David Trusty, past Master of Sharon Grange. The memorial service was held on January 26. The next Pomona Grange meeting will be on Saturday, March 8 at the Humptulips Grange Hall. While the meeting begins as 10:30 a.m., the meeting will also feature the baking and candy contests. Entries are due at 9 a.m.

KING COUNTY POMONA

King County Pomona met on January 31 at the Sallal Grange Hall. The meeting included the obligation of new fifth degree members, installation of officers, and the Grange Resource and Information Training Program, conducted by State Grange President Tom Gwin. Sallal Grange provided a wonderful array of refreshments for all present. The next Pomona meeting will be on Saturday, February 15 at the Meridian Grange Hall.

KLICKITAT COUNTY POMONA

Klickitat County Pomona hosted the Installation of Officers on January 11 for all Granges in Klickitat County. The meeting also included the presentation of three Quilts of Valor. We held our Resource & Training Session, with State Grange packets distributed to all Granges. The next Pomona meeting will be on April 26 at 12 p.m. at the Mountain View Grange Hall in White Salmon.

PEND OREILLE COUNTY POMONA

Pend Oreille County Pomona has changed their next meeting to

Saturday, March 1 at the Camden Grange Hall, beginning at 10 a.m.

THURSTON COUNTY POMONA

Thurston County Pomona #8 met for Installation of Officers on Sunday January 12 at South Union Grange Hall. The oath of office was administered to officers by Pomona Overseer Ron Nelson. Sophia Keller from the Washington State Grange office gave a presentation on membership. The next regular meeting will be Thursday March 6 at 7:00 pm. South Union Grange will host and pre-meeting refreshments will be available starting at 6:00 pm.

YAKIMA VALLEY POMONA

Yakima Valley Pomona has formed a social committee with the goal of encouraging fellowship among Grange members as well as outreach to our Yakima Valley community. In recent months, we have already gone on a trolley ride and dinner in October, then in December we made wreaths and played bingo for charity. Many items and over \$300 were collected for Rod's House. Looking forward, 2025 will be another banner year for our Granges with many activities planned. The social committee has the first event planned for March 4th, with a movie and lunch open to everyone. Watch for details on time and place as the date gets closer.

Klickitat County Pomona Grange Hosts Special Event

Klickitat County Pomona comprising of Alder Creek #890, Centerville #81, Columbia #87, Glenwood #94, Goldendale #49, Mt.View #98, and Trout Lake #210, hosted their county-wide event at Centerville Grange Hall on Saturday, January 11th, 2025.

What was originally spearheaded as a surprise retirement for Lucille Bevis, the County's Grange State Deputy of the past twenty plus years, and to recognize her with a pin and award for her seventy years in Grange, morphed into a much grandeur event. Both the WSG President, Tom Gwin, and the NG President, Chris Hamp, were present with Duane Hamp, Rusty and Jackie Hunt, and fellow State Deputy from Clark County, Janice Anderson, and all completely surprised Lucille along with her local Grangers and she was totally shocked at the end when the event turned into her celebration. She wants to make it clear that she may be retiring from some of her Grange offices, but she is still going to be very active in Grange.

Claudine Mincks, Klickitat County Pomona President worked with State Director for Quilts of Valor, Cindy Hoover, to present three Veterans with a Quilt of Valor, thanking them for their service to our Nation, up to giving their lives if circumstances deemed it, to protect and serve fellow Americans. As Cindy read tribute to each of the three Veterans, Michael Hobbs, Cindy Furlong, and Jeff Furlong, Chris and Claudine draped them with their Quilt of Valor made especially for them. The ceremony was a powerful heartfelt one with not many dry eyes in the hall. Thank you for your service, Michael, Cindy, and Jeff!

At the conclusion of the afternoon Tom, Chris, and Duane installed the officers of the Klickitat County Pomona Grange for their 2025/2026 terms. It was at this time that Sara Wade was appointed the new Klickitat County Grange Deputy by Tom with Lucille's referral. This was a special treat for local Grangers who often don't get to spend an afternoon with the State and National Presidents of Grange.



Pomona Calendar

Please submit your 2025 Pomona Meeting Dates.

- CHELAN**to be announced.
- CLALLAM**February 19 at Crescent, 6 p.m. potluck, 6:30 p.m. meeting.
- CLARK**February 12 at Manor, 7 p.m.
- COLUMBIA**to be announced.
- COWLITZ/ WAHIAKUM**February 15 at Sunnyside, 1 p.m. potluck with meeting to follow. Will collect socks.
- DOUGLAS**March 20 at St. Andrews, 6 p.m.
- EXCELSIOR**March 22 at The Valley, 10:30 a.m.
- FERRY**March 10 at Malo, 6 p.m.
- GRAYS HARBOR/ PACIFIC**March 8 at Humptulips, 10:30 a.m. Potluck lunch at 12 noon. Baking and candy contest entries due at 9 a.m.
- KING**February 15 at Meridian, 10 a.m.
- KLICKITAT**April 26 at Mountain View, 12 p.m. potluck, 1 p.m. meeting.
- LEWIS**April 5 at Oakview. All contest entries due on April 4 between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.
- MASON**March 15, location to be announced, 11 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. lunch. All contest entries due.
- PEND OREILLE**March 2 at Camden, 10 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck.
- PIERCE**March 1 at Fruitland, 10 am. Baking and canning contest entries due.
- SKAGIT**to be announced.
- SNOHOMISH**March 15 at South Lake Stevens, 10 a.m. Baking contest entries due before meeting.
- SPOKANE**February 15 at Central, 10 a.m.
- STEVENS**April 25 at Quillisascut, 6 p.m. potluck, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Contest entries due on April 4 to Stranger Creek.
- THURSTON**February 6 at Black Lake, 7 p.m.
- WHATCOM**February 18 at Ten Mile, 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. meeting. Baking contest entries due.
- WHITMAN**February 15 at the Colfax Library, 11 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck
- YAKIMA VALLEY**April 14 at Fruitvale, 5 p.m. potluck, 6 p.m. meeting. Bring contest entries prior to the meeting.

Grange Connection

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY

Humptulips Grange held their annual Pancake dinner prior to their regular meeting on January 10. The Wishkah Valley School ASB donated several boxes of food, plus over \$3000 in cash, to the Grange sponsored food bank. Their collection was from their Football Collection efforts in December. The food bank continues to serve between 65 and 75 families each month. Monthly bingo was held on February 1, amidst snow showers and icy roads. Our next bingo activity has been moved to March 8, beginning at 7 p.m. With the regular February Grange meeting scheduled for Valentines Day on February 14, we decided to cancel the meeting. We will host the Pomona meeting on March 8, with our next meeting scheduled for March 14.

SPOKANE COUNTY

Green Bluff Grange hosted their 4th annual Game Night on January 7 with several people having a fun time. The Grange was packed at the January 18 Spin-In. Members pitched in at the end of our January 21 business meeting and got all Christmas decorations packed away. We started up the last Sunday "All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfasts" on January 26. February 23 is the next breakfast. February 4 a Mac and Cheese Cookoff will

take place. Winners will be listed in the March news. Our March 4 community event will be the popular "seed packet" give away. Information for applications for a Green Bluff Grange scholarship, which is due no later than April 1, 2025, is being disseminated. If you like bluegrass music/festivals, plan to attend our Bluegrass on the Bluff festival May 23-25.

THURSTON COUNTY

Prosperity Grange is celebrating the 95th birthday of our current Grange Hall on March 22, 2025 with an Open House from 12 - 4 pm. All Grange members and guests are invited to join in the celebration at the Grange hall, located at 3701 Steamboat Island Rd NW, Olympia.

South Union Grange met on January 20 for their regular monthly meeting. The annual holiday food drive for Thurston County Food Bank concluded that night and the food, bags, and egg cartons collected will be delivered to the food bank. Their next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Monday February 17 and will be preceded by a potluck at 6:00. They continue to hold dances with live country music from 1:30-4:30 the first Saturday of the month.

WHATCOM COUNTY

Haynie Grange will be having our February Business Meeting

on Saturday, March 8th, at 11:00 am.

YAKIMA COUNTY

Broadway Grange hosted a Christmas party and dance with more than 50 people attending. The group hosts monthly contra dancing.

Buena Grange is our canning Grange. They held 6 different canning events and plan to continue this fantastic program.

Fruitvale Grange is working with 4-H clubs and also has a group that meets for musical jam sessions.

Lower Naches Grange did great work making animal treats for Meals on Wheels and hosted a Christmas party with over 60 people in attendance.

Selah Heights Grange is always busy with the Dairy Bar at the Fair, a great choice for food and treats! They also provide scholarships for graduating high school seniors.

Terrace Heights Grange is on the move. They held a community Christmas party where more than 100 children and their families saw Santa, played games, did a toy walk and saw the lighted Christmas trucks. They also offer scholarships and are involved with many community activities.

Whatcom County Pomona Holds Planning Meeting



On January 11th, Whatcom County Pomona held their annual Planning Meeting for the year at the Rusty Wagon restaurant in Lynden. Legislators from the 40th & 42nd Districts were invited to hear about our Capital Grant projects. Sen. Sharon Shewmake - D, 42nd District, joined us for breakfast. Theresa Sygitwoicz (far R, in photo) Secretary of Rome Grange, speaks to Sharon about their projects. In addition to Rome Grange, Haynie and N. Bellingham representatives also made presentations. Pete Hauck, President of Ten Mile Grange, has his back to the camera, and they did not submit a grant.

Bethel Grange Hosts Port Orchard's "Volunteering" Presentations



On January 21st, the Bethel Grange #404 was the site where Port Orchard's Fathoms of Fun contestants gave their initial presentations of "Volunteering." Each contestant was then evaluated by a member of the Port Orchard Toastmasters Club #6171. Pictured (l-r) are Amelia, Azalea, Helene (pageant coordinator), Andrea, and Elizabeth. One will be crowned Queen March 8th.

Deputy Sash Returned To State Grange



During the January 8th Clark County Pomona No. 1 meeting, brother Bill Tucker, a 7th degree member from Fargher Lake Grange, returned his father's Washington State Grange deputies sash along with a State Grange memorial pin to our State Master/ President, Tom Gwin. During his father's, Vern Tucker's, 25 years as a State Deputy Master (1944-1956) and Special deputy (1956-1969), he organized 3 subordinate granges and 9 juvenile Granges in SW Washington. A true believer and supporter of the Grange. A highlight of the night was when our 92 year old member, Dave Johnson, spoke up and said Vern initiated him into a juvenile Grange.

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 _____

SAVE THE DATE!

Upcoming State Grange Events

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

NOTE:Grange Resource and Information Training Sessions began in January. Most sessions are held in conjunction with Pomona meetings across the state, however, some are stand-alone meetings.
All Grange members are invited.

MONTHLYNew Member Reports due to the State Grange Office

FEBRUARY 8Grange Resource & Information Training at the Okanogan County Pomona Meeting, 10 a.m. at the Okanogan Grange Hall

FEBRUARY 9Grange Resource & information Training, 1 p.m. at the Bee Hive Grange Hall (Chelan County).

FEBRUARY 15Agenda Items for State Grange Executive Committee Meeting Due to State President

FEBRUARY 17Grange Legislative Update – Zoom Meeting, 6 p.m.

FEBRUARY 19State Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom, 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 21All Capital Budget Requests Due to the State Legislature via online link, 5 p.m.

FEBRUARY 26Questions/Answers with the State Grange President via Zoom, 7 p.m.

MARCH 3Grange Legislative Update – Zoom Meeting, 6 p.m.

MARCH 15Agenda Items for State Executive Committee Meeting Due

MARCH 17Grange Legislative Update – Zoom Meeting, 6 p.m.

MARCH 19State Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom, 6 p.m.

MARCH 31Grange Secretary First Quarter Reports Due

APRIL 6Southwest District Host Steering Committee Meeting, 2 p.m. at Cowlitz Prairie

APRIL 7Grange Legislative Update – Zoom Meeting, 6 p.m.

APRIL 21Grange Legislative Update – Zoom Meeting, 6 p.m.

APRIL 27-28State Executive Committee Meeting (face to face)

MAY 15-17Western Regional Grange Leaders Conference @ Hamilton/Corvallis, Montana

JUNE 25-29136th Annual Washington State Grange Convention at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds Centralia/Chehalis, 1909 S Gold Street, Centralia, WA 98531

NOVEMBER 8-16159th National Grange Convention Cruise aboard the Carnival Horizon – leave Miami on 11/8; visit Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao; arrive back in Miami on 11/16

Five Mile Prairie Grange Hosts Paint And Snack



On February 3rd Five Mile Prairie Grange #905 in northwest Spokane invited our neighbors for a night of springtime gnome painting. This was our third annual Paint and Snack activity night. Shauna Howell, pictured in the center of the back row, has been our talented and encouraging teacher for each event. As you can see, we have some amazing artists in our community.

Lower Naches Grange Meals On Wheels For Pets



Lower Naches Grange #296 had a work day. We worked for "Meals on Wheels" for their pets. We all need a helping hand once in a while.

McLane Grange Donates Toys



McLane Grange members donated toys for Olympia's Family Support Center. Children can select a toy from the Center's Birthday Closet when they are visiting the center with their parents for services.



ERNESTINE "ERNIE" KEISER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Applications Due March 1, 2025

- Scholarship is available for Grange members in good standing, who are graduating high school seniors or continuing two-year community college, four-year college/university, or postsecondary vocational school students attending an accredited school. Students pursuing graduate degrees or higher vocational certifications are also eligible to apply.
- Scholarship is available to full time or part time students.
- Application includes essay and letters of recommendation.

LEARN MORE AT [HTTPS://GRANDEFUNDATION.ORG/ERNESTINE-MEMORIAL-SCHOLARSHIP/](https://grangefoundation.org/ernestine-memorial-scholarship/)