



WASHINGTON STATE Grange News

January/February 2026

Informing Grangers Since 1912

115th Year No. 1



Meridian Grange Celebrates Christmas With Cookie Decorating Event

It was beginning to "Look a little bit like Christmas" with Meridian Grange's first Christmas Cookie Decorating Event held November 29th.

Thirty-nine people of all ages participated in this fun afternoon of decorating cookies to take home to show family and friends

their efforts at cookie decorating.

This event was hosted by Taj Alex, Tricia Garboden, and Matthew and Tiffany Richard who had everything ready when people arrived. This committee had a wide array of sugar cookies in the shapes of Santa, trees,

candy canes, stockings, and stars ready to decorate with various colors of frosting and an assortment of colorful sprinkles.

Taj Alex did a wonderful job narrating this event giving out various sugar cookie recipes, along with ideas and hints on making sugar cookies and

various frostings including buttercream, royal icing, and even demonstrating how to "flood cookies with the royal icing"!

Taj Alex's husband, Rod, had a table with multiple beads where guests could also create wonderful beaded Christmas ornaments for

their Christmas tree.

A fun and memorable experience was had by all.

Meridian Grange planned another free Community Event for Saturday, January 10th from Noon to 2:30 PM on learning to make Sourdough Bread.

March/April 2026 issue deadline – February 20th
Submissions can be sent to grangenews@wa-grange.org



Celebrating the spirit of the season, Washington's Community Granges shared joy, tradition, and warmth through festive gatherings and heartfelt activities. Holiday photos begin on Page 10.

(Above) Lower Naches Grange welcomed Grangers and families to the annual Christmas dinner. Santa made a stop with treats for the kids.

Lecturer's Department

New Year's Resilience Button

By Claudine Mincks
State Grange Lecturer

Like on a computer, mobile phone, or digital game, in life there are moments, hours, days, weeks, months, or even years we would like to push the "REFRESH" button on, if that were a choice, right? When I reflect, I know there are for me. Unfortunately, in refreshing the entirety of bad, the hurt, or the grief, you would also refresh the good, the joyful, and the happy during those same time periods. Some of the most poignant life lessons are learned in the bad moments of life. They stick with us the most, we ponder over them, and gripe with others about what went wrong. From those we can put forth a better idea, way of responding, interacting, or being open to a change. Bad moments in life strengthen us and can provide resilience in them.

We do not find resilience itself in either success or failure but instead from the ability to bounce back from the failure and setbacks. We can use them as learning tools

to find success in a long-term time frame. Resilience is the route of steering through adversity instead of avoiding it, which builds our strength in order to thrive. This teaches us perseverance, critical thinking, and adaptability, which are all crucial components for success, whether in self or group environment.

January is the best time to reflect on the previous Grange year; what were the successes and failures of your programs, events, and activities? What lessons did you learn? How could you change these items in a positive way to make them more successful? January Grange meetings should include a large white poster board to be your "idea board" and then first begin your Lecturer's time with the simple Candle Lighting Ceremony (online WSG Lecturer page of forms and reports) to put each member in the mood of Grange and then conclude with "REFRESH" on your "idea board" for the coming year of programs, events, and activities to put each member in the mood of Granging.

Tune into the Lecturer and Family Living Departments joint zoom meeting - a fun time to be in the know on Grange while finding enjoyment in participating in learning something new. The first zoom airs on Thursday, January 22nd, 2026, at 6:30PM and you can connect through the WSG website link. We look forward to seeing each of you! Try something new "REFRESH" and zoom with your Grange for a group experience together!



Claudine Mincks

Heirloom Project Readings

January, February and March 2026

JANUARY 2026: "For our business interests we desire to bring producer and consumer into the most direct and friendly relations possible, remembering that 'individual happiness depends upon general prosperity.'

(Grange Declaration of Purposes)



FEBRUARY 2026: "In kind words and deeds dispense Charity, as freely as flowers do their perfume..."

(Fourth Degree; Flora)

MARCH 2026: "Courage then, and patience, when gloom broods over your pathway."

(First Degree; Vice President)

LECTURER AND FAMILY LIVING TRAINING DATES

State Lecturer Claudine Mincks and State Family Living Director Debbie Fisch have scheduled joint training sessions for the two departments. The Zoom meeting will allow for open discussion on the two department's programs and activities. **Meetings are scheduled for:**

Thursday, January 22 - 6:30 pm • Tuesday, February 17 - 6:30 pm • Thursday, March 26 - 6:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98036971581>

Meeting ID: 980 3697 1581

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,98036971581# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 980 3697 1581

Camden Grange Presents 60-Year Award To President



Marylee Rozelle President/Master of Camden Grange #687 receiving the Golden Sheaf and Medallion representing 60 years of Grange membership. Congratulations and thank you for your service.

Email Us

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Washington State GRANGE NEWS

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• Tom Gwin, Executive Editor •

WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE NEWS (ISSN: 1070-4442) is published every other month for and by the **Washington State Grange, 924 S. Capitol Way, Olympia, WA 98501-1210**. Subscription price to Grange members is included in annual dues. Non-member price: \$12.50 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Olympia, WA and additional entry offices.

**POSTMASTER: Send change of address to -
WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE NEWS
P.O. Box 1186, Olympia, WA 98507-1186.**



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Please mail to:
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98507-1186

President's Message

PIPS Program Being Implemented To Move Our Granges Forward

By Tom Gwin
WA State Grange President

The National Grange has proposed the use of Performance Improvement Plans (PIPS) for Granges across the nation. To develop this program in each state, members of the National Grange Executive Committee has been assigned as mentors to each of the State Granges. The mentor for the Washington State Grange is Joseph Stefenoni, Master of the California State Grange.

Joseph met with our State Grange Executive Committee via Zoom at their December meeting. We were joined by nine additional state officers for an introduction to the program and implementation into our state. The state officers unanimously agreed to support the program and to serve as mentors for Granges.

The State Grange is beginning the process by completing the State Grange Assessment Form. The form asks questions about the State Grange Mission Statement, how we communicate with our Pomona and Community/Subordinate Granges, and goals we want to focus on for the next 1-2 years.

The first step for Community/Subordinate Grange is also the completion of a Grange Assessment Form. State Officers and Deputies have been working to complete assessments of each Grange in our state since last spring. We have completed these assessments for approximately half of our Granges and will be working

to finish the remaining Granges in the next few months.

Upon completion of the assessments, we will then identify 10-15 Granges across the state to participate in the PIPS Program this year. Your team of mentors will meet with you to assist in setting goals for your Grange in the area of membership

"The use of SMART goals is a well thought out process that will assist our Granges in creating an action plan to attain those goals, which will strengthen our organization across the state."

-- Tom Gwin

development, creating relevant and interesting programs and activities, communicating with your current and potential members, and identifying and developing leaders to carry on your Grange's legacy.

Your mentors will be familiar with the use of SMART Goals to move your Grange forward to increase your relevancy in your community. SMART is an acronym that help guide goal setting and achievement. Each letter stands for a key component:

S - Specific; clearly define what you want to accomplish.

M - Measurable; identify how you will measure progress and know when the goal is achieved.

A - Achievable; ensure



Tom Gwin

your goal is realistic and attainable.

R - Relevant; make sure your goal alights with your broader objectives or values and those of the Grange at the state and national levels.

T - Time Bound; set a deadline to create urgency and focus.

The use of SMART goals is a well thought out process that will assist our Granges in creating an action plan to attain those goals, which will strengthen our organization across the state.

If your Grange is looking for new ideas to develop membership, increase relevancy in your community, and/or developing new leaders, I would encourage your participation in this program. If your Grange is even remotely interested in participating in the program, please email me at tagwin@wa-grange.org to let me know of your interest. I am hoping for many more interested Granges than we can possibly mentor this year. We will select 10-15 Granges for immediate inclusion in the program and put our mentorship teams to work.

Training for state officers and deputies will take place at the Deputy and State Officer Conference in late February. Mentorship teams will be created, assigned a Grange to work with, and immediately begin the PIPS project. The Mentors will continue to meet and check in with each Grange over the next year to help move your Grange forward.

Legislative

WA Legislature To Convene For Short 69th Regular Session

By Jesse Taylor
Legislative Lobbyist



Jesse Taylor

Happy New Year fellow Grange Members.

As we ring in this New Year, we're stepping into an extraordinary milestone: 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the United States of America — a celebration of freedom, resilience, and the enduring spirit that built this nation.

American history has always interested me, ever since I was a wide-eyed kid perched on my Granddad's knee, hanging on every word of his wartime tales. He didn't talk much about his days as a foot soldier in Eisenhower's mighty army during Operation Overlord, the epic push across France against Hitler's forces. But when he did open up, it was mesmerizing—his blue eyes would drift to another world, as if he were right back on the battlefields of Western Europe.

I'll never forget his most gripping story: leaping from a landing craft onto the blood-soaked sands of Normandy Beach, just one day after the D-Day invasion. Amid the chaos of gunfire, explosions, and sheer heroism, Granddad and his fellow patriots fought with unbreakable courage. Against all odds, they triumphed, liberating Europe and securing victory for the Allies.

He returned home a hero, raising seven children and helping spark the Baby Boom generation—one that included both my mother and father. His sacrifices didn't just shape history; they shaped my family, and in turn, me. My Granddad left earth and went to be with his savior, Jesus Christ, when I was just 21 years old, but I will always tell the story of the Greatest Generation and the men that built me.

This year, as America turns 250, I'm filled with gratitude for warriors like Granddad who defended the ideals we hold dear. Here's to honoring our past, celebrating our present, and charging into the future!

Now, all eyes turn to Olympia, where the Legislature convenes for its 69th regular session. This short, 60-day session kicks off on January 12 and wraps up by March 13, focusing on supplemental adjustments to the 2025-27 biennial budget and a select slate of bills. With Democrats holding majorities in both chambers—59-39 in the House and 29-20 in the Senate—expect debates shaped by progressive priorities, but also bipartisan opportunities on rural, agricultural, and natural resource issues.

What can we anticipate? Short sessions emphasize urgency, with cutoff dates accelerating the process: bills must pass committees by February 17, their house of origin by February 28, and opposite house by March 6. Pre-filing began December 1, 2025, and already over 300 bills are in play, touching everything from taxes to energy. For us in the Grange, this means vigilance on matters affecting our farms, small towns, and natural resources. We'll push for policies that bolster family agriculture, protect water rights, enhance rural broadband, and ease property tax burdens.

The 2025-27 biennium, effective since July 2025, totals \$78 billion in general fund spending and \$150 billion overall, funding education, health care, and infrastructure. However, recent revenue forecasts paint a concerning picture. The June 2025 update projected \$74.76 billion in revenues for the biennium, a 5.4% increase from prior estimates, but subsequent collections have tumbled, creating a projected billion dollar shortfall through 2027. Factors like sluggish capital gains tax receipts and economic slowdowns are to blame. Gov. Bob Ferguson released his budget in mid-December 2025 and that will be the biggest point of debate.

Expect discussions on balancing the books without deep cuts to essential services. Democrats may advocate for new revenues, such as expanding the 7% capital gains tax or introducing a 9.9% income tax on earnings over \$1 million, potentially raising \$3 billion annually for education and social programs. Republicans, meanwhile, will counter with calls for fiscal restraint, tax relief, and efficiency measures. For Grange members, this translates to safeguarding ag funding: programs like the Farm to School initiative, soil health grants, and disaster relief for wildfires and droughts should remain intact.

On potential bills, several align with our priorities. Senate

Continued on Page 4



ERNESTINE "ERNIE" KEISER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Applications Due March 1, 2026

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.

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

2026 Legislative Day



Monday JANUARY 26, 8AM-4PM

Registration is \$20 per person prior to **January 23, 2026**
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
Email: skeller@wa-grange.org
Fax: 360-357-3548

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.

Legislative

WA Legislature To Convene For Short 69th Regular Session

Continued from Page 3

Bill 5117, sponsored by Sen. Nikki Torres and others, aims to “protect agriculture” by streamlining regulations, supporting workforce development, and incentivizing innovation in farming tech—crucial for our members facing labor shortages and climate challenges. House Bill 1588 seeks to expand opportunities for organic, regenerative, and climate-smart producers, offering grants and tax credits to transition to sustainable practices, which could benefit our fruit orchards, dairy operations, and grain fields. Wildfire prevention is another hot topic; Rep. David Stuebe’s proposals include enhanced forest management and rural fire district funding, vital after recent devastating seasons.

Housing and affordability bills may also gain traction. Lawmakers are eyeing financing for rural homes, permanent supportive housing, and eviction reforms to address the cost-of-living crisis squeezing our communities. Energy legislation, like advancing nuclear power and curbing pollution via House Bill 1303, could impact rural utilities and clean energy transitions.

There will be much more coming our way as the session progresses so please check the Session Watch along the way.

Please join us for Legislative Day on January 26th as we run around the capital and meet interesting and important people! See you soon.

Lummi Island Grange Undergoes Renovations



During the month of December, 2025, the Lummi Island Grange #925 underwent some major improvements, including insulation, exterior siding replacement, installation of a sound system, and a new energy efficient heat pump.

WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE NEWS STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE NEWS

1-6. Statement Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685 showing the Ownership, Management and Circulation of the Washington State Grange News, published every other month (6 issues). Publication No. 226-060. Annual subscription price \$3.02.

7. Location of known office of Publication is P.O. Box 1186, Olympia, WA 98507-1186.

8. Location of the Headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publisher is 924 Capitol Way S #300, Olympia, WA 98501.

9. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, and managing editor is:

Publisher, Washington State Grange, P.O. Box 1186, Olympia, WA 98507-1186.
Editor, Tom Gwin, P.O. Box 1186, Olympia, WA 98507-1186.
Managing Editor, Tom Gwin, P.O. Box 1186, Olympia, WA 98507-1186.

10. The owner is: Washington State Grange, P.O. Box 1186, Olympia, WA 98507-1186.

11. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None.

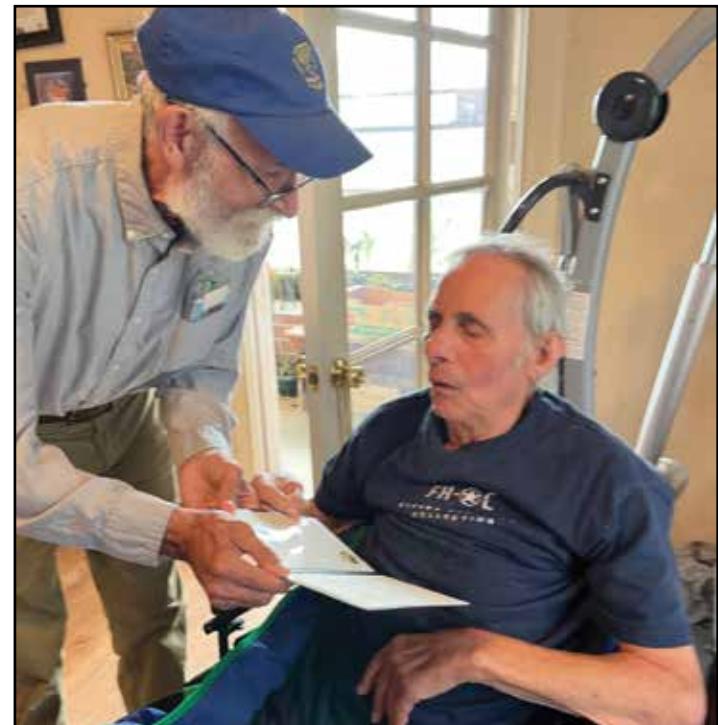
12. The purpose, function and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during the preceding 12 months.

13-15. Extent and Nature of Circulation:

	Average No. Copies each issue during preceding 12 months	Dec. 2025 single issue nearest to filing date
A. Total No. copies printed	5921	5822
B. Paid and/or requested Circulation	5921	5822
1. Paid/requested outside-county mail subscriptions	0	0
2. Paid in-county subscriptions	0	1
3. Sales through dealers, carriers, street vendors, counter sales and other non-USPS paid distribution	0	0
4. Other classes mailed through USPS	0	0
C. Total paid and/or requested circulation	5828	5803
D. 1. Free distribution by mail	38	38
4. Free distribution outside the mail	55	25
E. Total free distribution	136	63
F. Total distribution	5881	5837
G. Copies not distributed	40	10
H. Total	5921	5822
I. Total % paid circulation	98.4	98.2

I certify that all information furnished is true and complete.
(Signed) Tom Gwin, Editor 12/30/2025

Kellogg Marsh Grange Presents 50-Year Golden Sheaf Award



Five members of Kellogg Marsh Grange #136, went to the Campbell's farm in late August to honor John Campbell with his 50-year Golden Sheaf Award. His farm used to have the best corn in Marysville. He hasn't been able to plant for the last 2 years. His wife still grows and sells her dahlias.

(Top) President David George gave John his certificate.
(Bottom) We put the certificate on his old stove for him and visitors to see.

Membership Corner

Welcome New Members

GRANGES WITH MEMBERSHIP GAINS

December 2025

		# Joined	Jr. +1
385	Bee Hive.....	2	
	Larry Auvil, Shirley Auvil		
534	Cedar.....	1	
	Janice McCarty		
456	Clayton.....	1	
	Lennie Sellers		
893	Collins.....	4	
	Mike Simms, Steve Vonderau, Lisa Hopkins, Jim Johnson		
853	Fargher Lake.....	1	
	Sherry L. Hardman		
348	Fruitvale.....	1	
	Katharina Daniel		
94	Glenwood.....	1	
	Francis Kay Carr		
925	Lummi Island.....	2	
	Sarah Powell, Kyler Hall		
1054	Menastash.....	2	
	Paulette Bird, John Norling		
372	Quillisascut.....	2	
	Ken Wickwire, Terry Wickwire		
720	Quimper.....	1	
	Celine Santiago		
226	Rome.....	4	
	Cynthia Kuhn, Tim Kuhn, Roxanne Orr, Ross Abbe		
608	Selah Heights.....	2	
	Amanda Auth, Heather Gabbard-Eells		
250	South Bay.....	4	
	Donna Shumann, Tom Terry, Rachael Tuller, Matt Tuller		
1093	Triway.....	1	
	Diane Marie		
994	Violet Prairie.....	1	
	Wanda Heikes		
114	Whelan Ewartsville.....	6	
	Sam Charpentier, Brandon Souvenir, Travis Christensen, Kenda Christensen, Dave Core, Melinda Core		
		# Joined	Jr. +1
TOTALS		37	0

A New Year, A New Chapter: Growing Membership, Growing Leaders, Growing Impact

By Sophia Keller
Membership Director

Happy New Year! With 2026 officially underway, the Grange enters another year of opportunity, growth, and renewed purpose. The past four years have been a period of remarkable expansion for our organization, and the momentum shows no signs of slowing. In 2025 alone, we welcomed nearly 850 new regular members and over 250 Junior +1 members into our Grange family — a testament to the relevance, resilience, and community spirit that define who we are.

Today, the Grange is thriving. New families are joining our halls, new activities are filling our calendars, and new programs are strengthening our ability to serve our communities. We are embracing tools and ideas that meet the needs of today's members while honoring the values that have guided us for generations. This is not a return to "what used to work." This is a bold step toward what will work — for our Granges, for our communities, and for the future we are building together.

Investing in Programs That Make a Difference

This year brings an expanded slate of contests, educational opportunities, and community-focused initiatives designed to engage members of all ages and interests. These programs aren't just activities — they are pathways for connection, creativity, and service. They help members discover new skills, strengthen local Granges, and deepen our impact across Washington State.

From youth development to community service, from legislative

engagement to agricultural education, every department has worked to create meaningful opportunities that reflect the needs of our communities today. These programs are designed not only to enrich our members but to

They are for everyone — new members, curious community members, emerging leaders, and anyone who wants to understand what the Grange is doing and how they can be part of it. If you want to strengthen your Grange, this is where you start.

The Grange is strong because its members are strong — and together, we are shaping a future filled with service, community, and opportunity.

Building the Next Generation of Grange Leaders

As membership grows, so does the pool of passionate, talented individuals ready to step forward. Our new programs and engagement opportunities are intentionally designed to help members develop leadership skills — whether they're chairing a committee, organizing a service project, mentoring youth, or stepping into officer roles.

Leadership in the Grange isn't about titles. It's about service, vision, and the willingness to help your community thrive. This year, we are committed to supporting members who want to grow, learn, and lead. The future of the Grange depends on empowering these emerging leaders, and 2026 is the perfect year to begin that journey.

A Year of Purpose and Possibility

As we step into this new year, let's carry forward the energy, optimism, and commitment that have fueled our recent growth. Attend a meeting. Join a program. Invite a neighbor. Mentor a new member. Step into a role you've never tried before.

The Grange is strong because its members are strong — and together, we are shaping a future filled with service, community, and opportunity.

Happy New Year to all, and here's to a successful and inspiring 2026!

Mossyrock Grange Presents Membership Awards



(Top) State Ceres Pam Mathews presented 65 year membership awards to Darelly Myers and Marilyn Armit of Mossyrock Grange.

(Bottom) Carolyn Anderson of Mossyrock Grange receives her Golden Sheaf award from Mossyrock Grange Master Darelly Myers and State Grange Ceres Pam Mathews.

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.

T-Shirts

Vickie Gilmour – Fargher Lake #853

Andy Snow - Rome #226

Jane Hommel – Whelan-Ewartsville #114

James Colwell – Whelan-Ewartsville #114

April Smith - Collins #893

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.

Grange Bucks: Shannon Basterrechea – Menastash #1054

Our contest began January 1, 2025 and ran through December 31, 2025.

Highlights From The WA State Grange Executive Committee Meetings

October 29, 2025

- Approved a request from Salmon Creek Grange #849 from their Custodial Account to pay for tree removal near their Grange Hall.
- Approved a request from Barberton Grange #571 from their Custodial Account to pay for flooring replacement in their hall.
- Discussed Granges two or more quarters behind in dues and reports to the State Grange. Approved notification to the seven Grange they have until December 1, 2025 to become current or they will be placed on probation, and the Washington State Grange will collect their members' dues
- Approved the final

consolidation of Johnson Grange #118 into Whelan Ewartsville Grange #114.

- Approved a line of credit for the following Granges to comply with WA State Department of Commerce requirements for their Capital Improvement Grants: Lummi Island Grange #925, Matlock Grange #357, and Skokomish Grange #379. While no funds are expected to change hands, if funds are expended, a loan agreement will be required with applicable interest and terms.
- Discussion of uncashed and reissued checks. Approved a policy that the Washington State Grange issue checks for 180 days, if not cashed they will be voided and the funds will revert back to the Washington State Grange.

December 12-13, 2025

- The Executive Committee was joined by nine additional State Grange Officers via Zoom to learn about the new National Grange Program regarding Performance Improvement Plans (PIPS) for the State Grange and the Subordinate Granges. The discussion was led by National Grange Executive Committeeman Joseph Stefenoni. Following discussion and questions, the group agreed to work together to implement the plan in our state, with the State Officers, Deputies, and members of the State Grange Leadership Team serving as mentors for Subordinate Granges.
- Approved a request from Triway Grange #1093 from their Custodial Account to pay for an asphalt sidewalk and parking

space to allow for wheelchair access to their hall.

- Approved a request from Humptulips Grange #730 from their Custodial Account to pay the annual mortgage payment to the Lake Quinault School District.

- Approved a request from Matlock Grange #357 for either a lot consolidation or boundary line adjustment of two parcels of real property, whichever process best fits the needs of the Grange.

- Approved updated bylaws for the following State Held Granges currently on probation: Mayview #133, Silver Creek Ethel #150, Beacon Hill #389, Buena Vista #415, Quillayute Valley #661, Eagle Cliff #712, Bluestem #776, Wilbur #798, Canniawai #837, Pleasant Grove #978.

- Approved a line of credit for the following Granges to comply with WA State Department of Commerce requirements for their Capital Improvement Grants: Skagit Valley Grange #620 and Dry Creek Grange #646. While no funds are expected to change hands, if funds are expended, a loan agreement will be required with applicable interest and terms.

- Approved a policy that any newly organized or reorganized Granges in the State of Washington have starting dues of \$10.00 above State and National Grange dues.

- Adopted the 2026 operating budget for the Washington State Grange. Copies of the budget were sent out to each Grange.

By-Laws

Notification Of Proposed By-Laws Changes

The following Granges will vote on proposed changes to their bylaws on the date, time, and location listed below. Changes may include meeting dates/time, amount of annual dues, frequency of officer elections, or a wide range of other topics.

Grange Name:	Voting will Occur on:	Time:	Location:	Contact Person:
Black Lake Grange #861	February 26, 2026	7:00 p.m.	Black Lake Grange Hall	Denise McCartan

WA State Grange Executive Committee Adopts 2026 Budget

The State Grange Executive Committee spent several hours working to balance the State Grange budget for 2026. In October 2025, the State Grange was informed of the loss of nearly \$200,000 in supportive membership funds from GIA. As this loss of funds is hitting us extremely hard, the Executive Committee has taken the following actions:

- payments to Pomona Granges for Pomona Dues are temporarily suspended
- we will print six issues of the Grange News (January, March, May, August, and October)
- delegate mileage payments

for the WA State Grange Convention are temporarily suspended

- suspended housing reimbursement for officers, deputies, directors, etc. for the WA State Grange Convention
- eliminate printing of convention dockets and make the information available online for delegates
- distribute printed copies of the WA State Grange Roster only to State Officers, State Directors, and Deputies. For others desiring a copy of the roster, we can email a pdf version to you upon its completion.
- we will make Department

packets, the Legislative Handbook, the Program Handbook and Secretaries handbook available only in an online format.

- duties and responsibilities of State Grange staff will be adjusted to meet our current financial and operational needs and budgetary requirements.

implementation of a \$30 registration fee for all state convention attendees in 2026. The delegate registration fee is eliminated.

Copies of the 2026 Washington State Grange Budget have been sent to each Grange in the state.

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 _____		

National Grange

National Grange: Agriculture Policy Statement - 2025/2026

Adopted November 2025
159th Annual Session of the National Grange

Agriculture is foundational to America's economy, providing directly or indirectly through value-added processing, approximately 5.6% (1.53 trillion) of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For over 150 years, the National Grange has been working to improve agriculture in America and the welfare of those who work the soil or care for the creatures of the field. Our roots are in agriculture, and our future is tied to our faith in the perennial cycle of planting and harvest.

Farm Bill:

A current U.S. Farm Bill is crucial for the health of our economy, the vitality of our rural communities, and the security of our food supply. We advocate for

fast passage of a new Farm Bill that would address many of the following points:

Research and Development:

- Advocate for increased investment in biotechnology (e.g., CRISPR, Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats).
- Support educational programs on nutrition (e.g., Farm to Table).
- Favor voluntary labeling of genetically modified products.

Agricultural Chemicals:

- Promote healthy pollinator populations.
- Support education on the risks of Neonicotinoids and the benefits of untreated seeds.

Dairy Policy:

- Push for fair pricing structures for small and medium dairy producers.

Advocate for defining "milk" strictly as a mammalian product.

Disaster Assistance and Risk Management:

- Support funding for USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Risk Management Division and crop insurance programs.

Farm Policies:

- Encourage reclassification of small farms based on gross income (\$150,000 or less).
- Call for equitable treatment for all farm sizes and commodities.

Farm Labor:

- Urge provisions in the Farm Bill for reliable seasonal and year-round labor.
- Streamline the H-2A application process, where possible.

Food Safety:

- Advocate for a single federal agency (preferably USDA) for food safety inspections.

Livestock Production:

- Support science-based state regulations of agricultural practices, that do not interfere with interstate commerce.

- Supports the principle that the term "meat" can only be used to describe animal protein derived from harvested production livestock, poultry, seafood, or wildlife, wild or domestic.

Marketing and Cooperatives:

- Encourage USDA programs like Farmers to Families Food Box Program.

- Support labeling of products as "Product of the USA" if they meet specific criteria.

Environmental Regulations:

- Advocate for fair water rate structures and oppose expanded EPA authority.

- Support funding for conservation programs.

- Advocate for the education of proper disposal of agricultural materials.

Food Security:

- Addressing concerns of foreign ownership of agricultural land, impacting food security.

Energy:

- Support agrivoltaics and responsible regulations for dual use of agricultural land.

- Advocate for research into alternative fuel sources to reduce greenhouse gases.

Broadband:

- Supports the use of Federal Funds to efficiently build out high-speed internet access to "the last mile."

National Grange: Audit And Budget Policy Statement - 2025/2026

Adopted November 2025
159th Annual Session of the National Grange

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

The budget for 2025 was the first budget that did not include income and expenses for the former National Grange building. All income was strictly from Grange programs and dues.

The investment of the funds from the sale of the building will provide us with income but we must be mindful stewards and remain conservative with our spending in an effort to allow the principal to grow for future generations of Grange members. While we have had 9.5% growth in the account value this year, we cannot expect returns such as this every year. There have been no withdrawals of any income (interest and/or dividends or appreciation) in the total value of the building account since it was established after the sale of the building in February 2024.

We continue to recommend that a portion of the income generated from the sale of the

building be earmarked for new projects such as Project Sustenance which will create awareness of the Grange and all of our programs.

We need to remind ourselves that dues are an investment in our Granges from the Community Grange level to the National Grange. Dues on all levels of the Grange remain the lifeblood of our Order and it is imperative that every Grange across the country encourage membership growth. Comparing data from 2004 and 2024, we have lost 52.8% of our members and 48.3% of our community Granges nationwide. We applaud leadership for creating programs such as the Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) and the new Grange Pilot program to strengthen our existing Granges while removing barriers in organizing and reorganizing Granges across the country.

With the potential loss of nearly 70,000 supportive members in the western states due to the loss of the licensing agreement and financial support of Grange Insurance Association (GIA), now more than ever we must work to bring in new members but at the same time, it is extremely important that we pay attention to our longer-tenured members. We must be

cognizant of their needs and make sure that they feel valued, needed and respected.

We should also consider adding an annual dues projection review to the annual budget process. This will allow us to monitor our membership numbers and income and make recommendations for future dues increases in a more timely and planned out manner.

The members of the Audit and Budget Committee appreciate the passing of the dues increase. This is a way to generate additional income for the National Grange and will give us the resources to continue to provide additional programs and member benefits as well as continue to make a financial investment in our future.

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

We congratulate leadership of the National Grange for introducing Grange Engage

(powered by GrowthZone). This new, innovative member centric platform will allow our members to be more engaged with the Grange on all levels and provides the National Grange savings in subscriptions such as Constant Contact and Blue Tahiti that are now incorporated into one platform. We as leaders must continue to update our mailing and membership lists and use the database to help

keep our members informed and connected. Providing contact lists of our members is not to "sell" our membership lists but for us to be able to communicate with our members electronically as many members prefer to receive communications electronically rather than through traditional channels.

The Communications Department continues to expand communications to the State Granges, Community Granges and our membership. Some of these programs include the bi-weekly Grange Today and our quarterly subscription based Good Day! publication. Interns that were part of the National Grange staff during the summer of 2025 supported our Communications Director and provided content for Tik Tok and other digital platforms which greatly increased visibility of the

Grange. The continued use of social media is important to keep the Grange relevant and visible in the future.

We applaud the Communications Department for the continued innovation in our quarterly Good Day! magazine. Good Day! is available as a traditional magazine or as an online magazine. Good Day! is truly an asset to the National Grange. Most of the costs for the magazine are underwritten by partners of Grange Advocacy. At the present time, we have around 700 subscribers. We encourage all members to subscribe to the Good Day! magazine and enjoy a wealth of different articles. Please go home and promote this wonderful publication to your members.

We commend our National Grange President, Christine Hamp for creating new and innovative programs and pathways to membership in an effort to increase membership in Granges across the country. Grange is a team sport! We as leaders must do our part by utilizing these resources ourselves and going home and talking up our programs and the resources available to our Granges and members.

Home & Family

January 2026 News From Your Family Living Director

By Debbie Fisch
Family Living Director

"New year, new beginning, endless possibilities."

~ Anonymous

I have been very busy taking a good hard look at several Family Living forms, the program handbook, judging sheets, and even the end of year reports. I have to admit, I have learned a lot! Family Living has so many different aspects! Just like our Granges and homes! It has been so enjoyable to work with State Lecturer, Claudine Mincks, as we coordinate to make the Grange Contests easier for everyone involved. I am also grateful to Sara Wade for coming up with a visual for Family Living. Image to be revealed soon! I can't forget everyone who has helped me edit, review, and bounce

ideas off of them. My team met in November right before Thanksgiving to go over the Program Handbook. Since my free version of Zoom, we got kicked off every 40 minutes! I am so thankful for their patience and steadfastness for jumping back on each time we got kicked off! They are amazing! Several people have reached out to volunteer as well! I think working with Grangers is so satisfying! I have worked on other teams for other entities and have been left to do all the work. Not so with Grangers, they are doers and helpers! I am so blessed to be part of this amazing group!

I would also like to thank the early birds for sending their 2025 end of year reports. It was so much fun to start getting them and seeing all the wonderful generous things that Grangers do all over

the state! If you haven't sent yours yet, please send it in as soon as you can. If you have lost your copy, please go to www.wa-grange.com, under Family Living Department, Forms and reports. I would like them by January 10th if possible. You can either email them to fischarosa@msn.com, or mail them to Debbie Fisch, 4035 Squilchuck Rd, Wenatchee WA 98801.

I am so excited to share all the new things for Family Living! The Program handbook is up on the website so you can take a peek! The printed forms will be distributed soon as Granges receive them from the State office. I hope the new format will make it easier to read and use. I am sure there will be a few mistakes, please be kind and let me know so that we can make the next one even better! In the Candy Group

2, we have changed the name to Confections and added a Snack division that will be great for kids ages 4 1/2 to 100! I am imagining that we will see several bags of fun snack mixes, crackers, and popcorn snacks! Another new one is Wearable Art under Group 5 - Sewing. This is meant to be for decorated handmade or purchased article of clothing with pieced or appliqued fabric, dyed or printed, embroidered, painted or stenciled, quilted, or ??? (what you can come with!) I think that this could be a great "recycled" category. Be sure to check out the Homesteading Group 8 as well! The Homesteading Group is fairly new and is still a work in progress as we see how it fits in. I imagine we will do some adjustments over the next couple of years.

Another major change to

both Family Living and the Lecturer Departments is Group 4 Needlework. Family Living will be taking over all the Needlework for the Grange Contests. Hopefully this will simplify and consolidate the Needlework. Please be sure to read the directions! If you have questions, please email or text me. I work during the weekday and may not be able to get to you right away, but I will get back to you!

Be sure to mark your calendar! Family Living and Lecturer Departments will have a joint zoom meeting via Zoom on January 22nd at 6:30pm.

All in all, 2026 is really shaping up to a lot of new beginnings and endless possibilities! I can't wait to see all that it brings!



Debbie Fisch

RURAL LIFE INITIATIVE
A PROGRAM OF THE
NATIONAL GRANGE

STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES
A National Grange Webinar Series

JANUARY 13
60 MINUTES

FROM IDEA TO IMPACT
Join Nona Bear and Beth Westbrook as they transform sample event ideas into real, workable plans—offering clear steps, smart planning strategies, and proven examples to help your Grange launch impactful community projects.

FEBRUARY 10
60 MINUTES

LESSONS LEARNED: SUCCESS STORIES FROM 2025
Hear directly from Granges funded in the 2025 RLI grant rounds as they share achievements, challenges, and insights to inspire your next community-focused event.

MARCH 10
60 MINUTES

ENGAGING NEW ENERGY
Join Amanda Brozana to explore strategies for welcoming and involving new members who join through the Rural Life Initiative, fostering active participation, lasting connections, and stronger, more vibrant Grange communities.

Register: <https://grange.biz/RLIwebinar>

All webinars will begin at 8:30pm ET / 5:30pm PT.
Can't make it? Recordings will be available following the event.

Community Service

Have You Thought About A Blood Drive?



Leslie Wells

By Leslie Wells
Community Service Director

The following is from an article that was in a newsletter I got at the care facility where my brother is currently in.

Blood Donation Basics

In the United States alone, someone needs blood or platelets transfused every 2 seconds, and each year nearly 7million people in the U.S. donate blood to answer this need. During National Blood Donor Month in January, learn more about the history of this lifesaving practice.

British physician William Harvey discovered how blood circulates within the human body in 1628. Human blood

was successfully transferred to another human patient for the first time in 1818.

In the early 1900s, scientists identified the four blood types, A, B, O, and AB, and developed a transfusion method that matched recipients with compatible donors. Early transfusions had to be made directly from donor to receiver, but researchers discovered that adding sodium citrate to blood kept it from clotting, and refrigeration made it possible to store blood for future use, a practice that was implemented during World War I.

Later, hospitals began storing blood for patients. In 1937, the term "blood bank" was first used for the blood storage program at Chicago's Cook County Hospital.

World War II brought the need for more donations, and donating blood became a way to give back to the community.

Hosting a blood drive is a win-win for your Grange and your community. You will be bringing in community members to your Hall. Be sure to have literature to share and members to greet the donors participating. You might gain some new members. On the other side of the win, your community members will have an opportunity to donate blood at a location that makes their effort convenient. See---a win-win.

Visit us on the Web: WWW.WA-Grange.org

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateGrange

SPEAK LIKE A "CHAMP"

Speak like a "CHAMP" is a monthly message designed to get everyone speaking the same language to encourage positive teamwork as we Grange.

GRANGE FORWARD

Grange Forward is a unifying expression that signals progress, relevance, and momentum. It embodies the organization's commitment to innovation, service, and leadership in rural America. Grange Forward affirms that the Grange honors its heritage while actively shaping its future through bold vision, strong partnerships, and engaged membership. It is both a rallying cry and a strategic mindset – encouraging every member and every hall to move with purpose, adapt with confidence, and lead with courage. Grange Forward reflects a movement ready for its next chapter.

Spotlight on Youth & Juniors

Youth

Updating Grange Youth Programs For A New Year

By Jerry Gwin
Youth Grange Director

As we move into 2026 and a new program year for the Grange, there are several updates for our Grange youth members:

Youth/Young Adult Ambassadors

We are updating the process for the selection of State Grange Youth (ages 16-20) and Young Adult (ages 21-30) Ambassadors. Applications will be available on the State Grange website and will be due June 1. Interviews for candidates will be conducted via Zoom in early June, with the announcement of our ambassadors at the State Grange Session. Ambassadors will represent the State Grange at both Grange and non-Grange events for the next year, with the option of attending the National Grange Session in November to compete for national recognition.

Youth/Junior Legislative Experience

Due to this year having a short legislative session (60 days), we won't be having our Youth Legislative Experience this year. All youth are encouraged to attend the State Grange Legislative Day on January 26. The youth and junior program will return in 2027.

Public Speaking

We are working to improve our process for submitting entries for prepared speeches in an online format. We will still allow live prepared speeches at the state convention, along with all impromptu speeches. Details will be in the 2026 youth program book.

Livestock Judging Contest

The State Grange Livestock Judging Contest will be held in conjunction with the Othello Fair in September. Date and time will be announced.



Jerry Gwin

Educational Posters

There will be two classes for educational posters in our state contest.....animals and non-animals. Educational posters will be expanded to include tri-boards, in addition to the posters. Entries will be due to the State Grange Convention in June in Mount Vernon.

Record Books

We are adding record books for our youth fairs participants to our contests at the state convention. There will not be judging at the Pomona level so all record books will come directly to convention. The books should represent one year of activity and should include all "projects" the member participates in. The record book is available on the State Grange website.

The complete program for the State Grange Youth Department will be available on the State Grange website www.wa-grange.com by February 1.

Juniors

Did You Set A New Year's Resolution?



Jacob and Tessa Gwin

By Jacob & Tessa Gwin
Junior Grange Directors

Happy New Year, Grangers!

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, filled with joy and wonderful time spent with friends and family. As the new year begins, let's look forward to what will be happening this year. The Junior Handbook will be coming out soon, and will be available online. In the Handbook, you will find something new that we are going to start regarding Junior Grange Projects that will be entered into state session. This year, we are going to publish a list of projects for Juniors to create and submit to state session. All projects will be judged in groups as follows: Ages 5-8, 9-11, 12-14. The age group the projects will be judged in will be based on the entrant's age as of January 1 of the current year. The list of projects will be in the Junior Grange Handbook, and will also be published in next month's Junior Grange article, so be on the lookout! Juniors will still be able to submit other projects to the Lecturer's and Family Activities Departments if they choose. If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to reach out!

Juniors! Since it is the new year, did you set a New Year's Resolution? A New Year's Resolution is often a goal that you would like to achieve by the end of the year. What are some goals that you have for yourself? Would you like to read a certain number of books? Would you like to learn a new skill? Would you like to learn to cook a new food? Maybe you want to learn how you can be even more involved in your community. You could even set a goal to complete a certain number of community service projects to include in your Junior Grange's community service report! It is always wonderful to have a goal for yourself, choose a new one today!

Do you live in an area without a lot of snow? Do you wish you could make your own? Good news, you can! A fun winter time activity could be making your own snow. All you need is 2 1/2 cups of baking powder and 1/2 cup of conditioner (white conditioner if you want to make white snow). You could do this at your next Junior meeting, and learn (or present) all about where snow comes from! The weather can be very interesting, and might be something fun to learn about! There are areas of Washington that get lots of snow, and some that get barely any at all, see if you can find out why!

We thank all Junior Grangers, Junior Granges, and Junior Grange Leaders for all their hard work all year round! Keep up the great Grange Spirit!

Junior Connection

HUMPTULIPS JUNIOR GRANGE

Humptulips Junior Grange members adopted a family with six children for the holidays. In addition to toys, each child received a new winter jacket, hats, gloves, socks, and sweatpants. For their holiday party, Junior Grange members were joined by the youth members for an evening of bowling and pizza in Ocean Shores.

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.



At the December East Wenatchee Youth Grange Meeting, officer elections were held. From left to right: Kyah was elected reporter, Ronan was elected treasurer, Caleb was elected secretary, Hazel was elected vice chairman, and Patrick was elected Chairman.



Granges Celebrate the Holiday Season

Sharon Grange Holds Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest



Sharon Grange held an "Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest" at their December meeting. The winners were Toni and Angi Aubuchon who actually came fully outfitted in their matching reindeer wardrobes. There will be a calendar setting meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 starting at 4:30 which will include setting dates for special events and projects, such as the annual oyster feed which has taken place for over 70 years at the Sharon Grange.

Pictured above: Front row: Tashona Bailey, Angi Aubuchon, Julie Lindholm, Roberta VonReichbauer, Carlie Dassow. Back row - Debbie Hill, Richard Bailey, Donna Boyer, Jim Beerbower, Shelley Aubuchon, Toni Aubuchon, Mark George, Shirley George, Linda Waltenburg, and Linda Johnson. Photo taken by William VonReichbauer.

Long Beach Grange Hosts Christmas Market



East Oakville Grange Breakfast With Santa Event



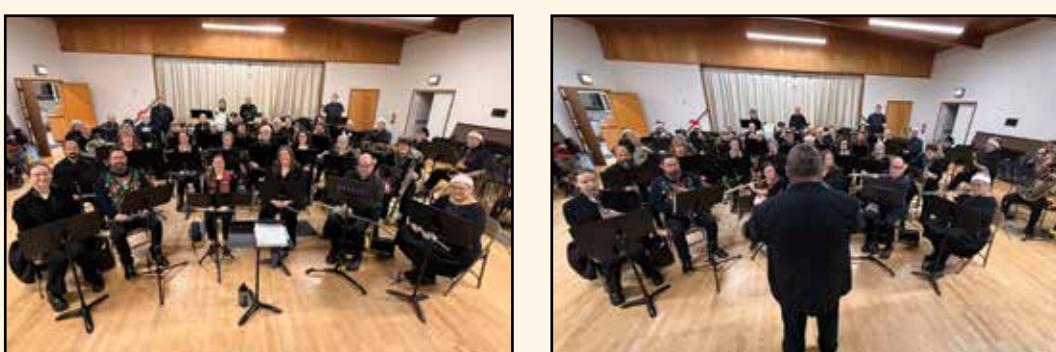
Snohomish County Pomona Grange #12 held their annual Christmas party at the Horseshoe Grange on Saturday December 6, 2025. In lieu of a gift exchange a food drive was held to collect non perishable food items for area Food Banks. Various games were played with the highlight being the 'indoor snowball fight.' Garden City Grange member Steve Dalton was the target of his flying opponent Max Tuchsherer, son of Horseshoe Grange member Christa Tuchsherer.

Lewis County Pomona Hosts Christmas Lights Drive-Thru Event



Lewis County Pomona Grange #3 spent Friday, December 12th, hosting Borst Park Christmas Lights Drive-Thru as a fundraising event. We have been sponsoring this event for the past several years by purchasing a Christmas Card. This year was the first time we were able to host an evening by collecting food donations and entry fees. We had 332 vehicles drive through during the four hours the lights were open (we split the night into two shifts). It was a good way to talk to the community about Grange. We had fantastic weather - no RAIN! And it wasn't too cold, either. We had a great time with our volunteers - Dave & Becky Escobar (Oakview), Lark Schwartz & Fred Harnishfeger (Logan Hill), Paulette James (Mossyrock), Carolyn & Kent Hojem (Newaukum), Margaret Jones (Oakview), Ronetta McConnell & Rob Jenkins (Hope). Coordinator for our group was Marcy Belles from Oakview.

Waller Road Grange Hosts Community Holiday Concert



The Puyallup Valley Community Band played a wonderful holiday concert on December 9th hosted by the Waller Road Grange for the local community. The music was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance, and all participated in the sing-along songs as well! Following the concert was a fantastic time of visiting with neighbors and band members while enjoying a huge selection of tasty Christmas cookies, hot cocoa, and hot apple cider. It was a great time of community building and bonding!



Granges Celebrate the Holiday Season

Green Bluff Grange Toys For Tots Collection And Christmas Party



Green Bluff Grange held their community Christmas party and Toys for Tots collection on December 13. The Green Bluff Grange was very festive looking. Pastor Helen read the Christmas Story. Santa showed up to give out Santa Bags to all the kiddos.

Hope Grange Celebrates Christmas With Santa



The annual fundraiser "Christmas at Hope Grange" was magical as always. Bingo, comfort food, cake walks, our amazing annual silent auction items donated by our outstanding community businesses and Hope Grange supporters and live beautiful Christmas music provided by members of the Washington Acoustic Music Association! Not to mention a visit from Santa that was enjoyed by children of all ages while memories for generations were being made!

Youth Fairs Kids Share Christmas Joy at Heritage Heights

On Saturday, December 13, students from the Manson Grange Youth Fairs program filled Heritage Heights with holiday spirit, sharing songs, laughter, and an early Christmas celebration with residents.

"This is our third year bringing Christmas to Heritage Heights, and it has truly become one of our most cherished community service traditions," said Norm Manly, Program Manager at the Manson Grange.

Heritage Heights is a senior living community in Chelan that offers professional, well-trained staff specializing in assisted living and respite care for 55 and older adults.

Laurie Holmes, Director of Life Enrichment at Heritage Heights stated, The Manson Grange Youth Fairs brought holiday cheer to Heritage Heights with a delightful Christmas sing-along. The children filled the room with song, three accompanied on instruments, and they gifted our residents with homemade cards and cookies. To top it off, they even brought Santa! Our residents were overjoyed; children always bring such special smiles to their faces. We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Manson Grange and everyone who helped make this memorable celebration possible."

At 2:00 p.m., Norm Manly opened the program with warm introductions and a brief background on the Youth Fairs initiative. The afternoon's music began with a lively rendition of Jingle Bells, performed by Youth Fairs singers and accompanied by Myra Kurtz on piano with her son, Jameson, on violin. Adding to the



holiday spirit, Katelyn Pittman, Aria Banghart, and Andrew Lyman each delighted the audience with solo Christmas songs.

Excitement filled the room as Santa Claus made his grand entrance, greeted by the children singing We Wish You a Merry Christmas. Taking his seat with Youth Fairs students gathered around, the celebration continued with heartfelt performances of Silent Night and Away in a Manger. To close the afternoon, students personally delivered handmade Christmas cards and fresh-baked cookies to residents, with the cheerful support of Heritage Heights Life Enrichment Coordinator, Laurie Holmes.

Residents and staff at Heritage Heights, along with Youth Fairs students, were invited to pose for photos with Santa, many of which turned out perfect for Christmas cards. The celebration then moved to the second level of the building, where another group of residents eagerly awaited Santa's visit, along with songs, handmade cards, and cookies. More photos were taken, adding to the joy of the day. Altogether, it was a heartwarming

event that left many residents smiling and filled with holiday cheer.

The Youth Fairs program welcomes students ages 5 to 19 and offers experiences similar to 4-H and FFA. At the Manson Grange, the program focuses on students age five through eighth grade, helping prepare them for future involvement in FFA at Chelan and Manson once they enter high school. When a student joins Youth Fairs, their entire family becomes part of the Grange community.

"The mission of the Grange Youth Fairs program is to provide young members with an educational environment that builds confidence, strengthens character, teaches invaluable life skills, and instills the importance of self-discipline. The program offers countless opportunities for growth and learning," explained Program Manager Norm Manly.

The Manson Youth Fairs will begin its fourth year on Monday, January 26, at 6:00 p.m. at the Manson Grange. For more information or to join, contact Norm Manly at 509-293-0225 or normmanly@yahoo.com

McLane Grange Donates To School's Giving Tree



McLane Elementary School's Family Liaison Angelina Wood (center) accepted a donation from McLane Grange members Dan Miller & Teri Ramsauer in time to be included on the school's Giving Tree. Gift cards for Target & Fred Meyer totaling \$1,500 were provided to brighten the holidays for McLane families in need this season.



Granges Celebrate the Holiday Season

Greenwood Park Grange Christmas Dinner With Santa



Greenwood Park Grange #590 held a Christmas Dinner with Santa on December 13th. 42 people were in attendance. The kids all received a stocking and a gift from Santa. Each lady in attendance received a little gift of lotion, lip balm, finger nail file and a mini candle. Each gentleman received either a mini flashlight or a mini screwdriver set and tape measure. Donna Jo Smith played the harp through dinner prayer was led by Lisa Bennett. We acknowledge the following members for their help with cooking this wonderful meal and help with Santa sale: Mary Schwartz, Linda Hall, Linda Somerlott, Jamie Hall, Charlene Hall, and Marjorie Stemmelin. Merry Christmas to all.

Moran Prairie Grange Holds Santa Photo Event



On December 14th, Moran Prairie Grange organized a free family event, beautifully decorating the hall with vintage ornaments collected over the years. The highlight of the day was a visit from Santa, who posed for photos with families and shared cookies and cocoa. We were thrilled to partner with local bookstore Page 42, which generously donated free books to the children attending. Additionally, our gracious Grange members provided free hats, gloves, and other cold-weather gear. Approximately 40 children participated, and their photos were emailed to them to share with friends and family. It was a heartwarming and festive occasion for all.

Granville Grange Hosts Annual Christmas Party



Granville Grange #857 held their annual Christmas party on December 16th in Granite Falls. Well over 50 were in attendance and a delicious potluck dinner was enjoyed by all. Several Scouts were in attendance from Troop 28, Troop 128 and Pack 28 who provided the desserts. There was a gift exchange after the dinner which was enjoyed by everyone. A number of our new members were in attendance as well. This event has been going on for well over 12 years.



South Bay Grange Hosts Community Holiday Celebration



South Bay Grange hosted a Holiday Celebration for our community. Santa "Master Jack" arrived at 11:00am and spent the afternoon greeting children and families who enjoyed taking photos and sharing holiday cheer. As part of our community service initiative, we partnered with the Thurston County Food Bank and collected donations of food for local families in need. We also held a clothing drive and were able to donate several bags of warm clothing to Union Gospel Mission. The South Bay Fire Department joined in the festivities and brought their antique fire truck, which is always a crowd favorite. Firefighters visited with guests and helped make the celebration even more special. It was a wonderful afternoon filled with love, laughter, and happiness as we came together to celebrate the holiday season.

Photo 1 - South Bay Fire Department Antique Fire Truck Photo 2 - Outgoing Master Jack Ziegler and his wife Donna
 Photo 3 - South Bay Firefighters along with members Kim Gylys, Linda Thompson and Treasurer Shannie Jenkins
 Photo 4 - Members Don Terry, Michelle Harriage, and Linda Thompson organize our clothing drive.

A special thank you to Sherry Gritton and Jessie Bensley for their decorating skills making our Santa backdrop beautiful, and to Linda Thompson for gathering all the donated clothing and dropping it off at the Union Gospel Mission.



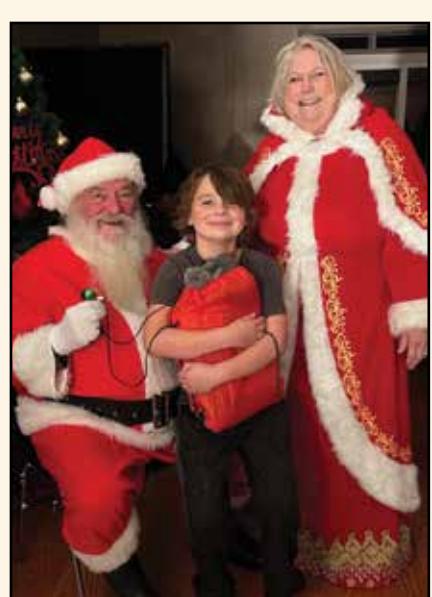
Granges Celebrate the Holiday Season

Camas Valley Grange Hosts Free Community Christmas Dinner



Camas Valley Grange 842 in Springdale hosted a free Community Christmas Dinner on December 7. 127 people signed in, plus there were more that did not sign the book. A moment of silence was held in memory of Pearl Harbor and in honor of past and present military. The tables were loaded with so much delicious food that was enjoyed by all. The "kitchen crew" (Darlyn, Don, Karen, Matt, Tammy, Casey, Russell, and several others) really outdid themselves this year. Lori made sure there were a lot of door prizes handed out. Santa gave gifts to the children. Everyone had a great time. The quilt ticket was drawn, and a lady named Tammy won. A lot of grange members pitched in to help so cleanup went fairly fast and grange members were able to enjoy the Springdale Tree Lighting ceremony at the park. The January meeting has been cancelled so our grangers can get some much-deserved rest. Grange members sure are an amazing group of people! Please remember to shop local, and to stay healthy and safe. Enjoy your holiday season.

Fredonia Grange Hosts Christmas Celebration For Family Promise Children



The Family Promise Children were excited to see Santa Claus and received their bags and Christmas Stockings that Fredonia Grange had provided for them. Pomona Grange provided them with Christmas dinner, the server's were: Jill Michels, Mary Celia, Janet Berger, Lynn Handy, Sandi Rude, and the waitress were: Lacey and Basil Houser, Mary Jo Newberry, Miriam and Ted. Santa, Steve Yates and Mrs, Clause is Debbie Riegel-Yates. It was a fun night even though we didn't have any power. Thanks to Philipe and Jen for getting the generator's going and getting the crockpots plugged in and a couple of lights for us.

Yakima County Granges Celebrate The Holidays



Broadway Grange danced the night away



Fruitvale Grange jamming and singing



Terrace Heights Grange toy walk for kids



The art of wreath making at Terrace Heights

South Union Grangers Decorate For Christmas

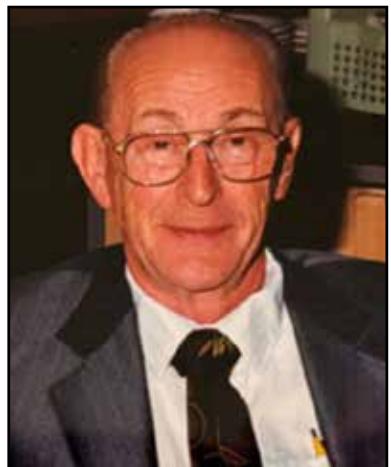


This lively crew of South Union Grange subordinate and 1+ members gathered at their hall to decorate for Christmas on November 28. Pam Mathews volunteered to step behind the camera to take the photo.

In Memoriam

Willard "Bill" Carl Crow (1922-2025)

Past State Overseer and Executive Committeeman Past State Grange Deputy



Willard "Bill" Carl Crow passed peacefully in his sleep just one month shy of his 104th birthday, closing a life defined by hard work, service, resilience, and quiet generosity. He was 103 years old.

Bill was born on January 26, 1922, in Looking Glass, Oregon, the second son and fourth child of Eldon Crow and Lilly Crow. He was one of twelve siblings, growing up in a large family that shaped his independence, work ethic, and lifelong sense of responsibility to others. His siblings included Myrtle Crow, Elmer Crow, Agnes Thompson, Delmer Crow, Floy Crow, Eldon Crow, Alice Edwards, Lucille Highland, Luella Crow, Evangeline Crow, and Ray Crow.

At just two years old, Bill survived a childhood accident that resulted in the loss of the tip of his right index finger—an early lesson in perseverance that quietly echoed throughout his life. He attended schools in Looking Glass and Flourney Valley, Oregon, before leaving home at the age of 18 in 1940 to find work wherever it could be found.

Bill labored in the woods logging, worked at Eugene Auto, and helped build the trail up Skinner's Butte in Eugene, Oregon. While living in Eugene, he answered a call that would place him squarely in history: Boeing recruiters arrived, seeking workers to move to Seattle and help build airplanes. Soon after, World War II began, and Bill became part of the industrial backbone that helped power the war effort.

Over the years, Bill worked for Northwest Greyhound, Boeing, and later as a teacher, instructor, and administrator at Renton Vocational Technical Institute. He also worked in real estate with Benton Realty and devoted countless hours to the Grange, a fraternal organization that became central to both his professional and personal life.

In 1956, Bill married Elnora Crow, the love of his life and true partner. Elnora brought four children into their marriage—Bob, Shirley, Cheryl, and Helen—whom Bill embraced fully as his own. Together, Bill and Elnora built a life grounded in service, travel, and community. Elnora passed away 19 years ago at the age of 82, and Bill carried her memory with him always.

Bill and Elnora were deeply involved in the Grange, where Bill served in many roles, including Master, Camp Club leader, tour guide, and real estate representative. In retirement, they turned their shared love of people and learning into adventure—leading Grange tour groups around the world, including trips to Africa and China.

More than 55 years ago, Bill and Elnora found their dream home in Enumclaw, Washington, where Bill lived out the remainder of his long and full life. Even in retirement, Bill never truly slowed down. It seemed there was never a time when he wasn't helping someone—opening his home to children, grandchildren, and others who needed a place to land. Giving help wasn't something he talked about; it was simply what he did.

Bill was a hard-working, honest man—sometimes a little surly, always genuine, and deeply caring beneath the surface. He valued effort, independence, and doing right by others. He lived through more than a century of change, yet remained grounded in simple principles: work hard, show up, and take care of people.

He leaves behind generations of family who benefited from his steady presence, open door, and unwavering support. His life was long, but more importantly, it was meaningful.

A life well lived. A legacy quietly carried forward.

Information on Services:

** Visitation is scheduled for Sat, January 24, 9-11:30 am at Weeks Funeral Home, 1810 Wells Street, Enumclaw WA

** Funeral Services will be on Sat, January 24, 11:30am-12:30pm at Weeks Funeral Home in Enumclaw

** Committal Service will be on Sat, January 24, 1-1:30pm at Enumclaw Evergreen Memorial Park, 23717 SE 416th Street in Enumclaw

** Memorial Luncheon will follow on Sat, January 24 at 2pm at the Steele Lake Highline Grange Hall, 2902 S 298th Street, Federal Way WA

Well Done Good and Faithful Servant

North Bellingham Grange Awards 65-Year Member



North Bellingham Grange #201 recently celebrated 65 years of membership for Carol Wilson. Carol had been Treasurer for many years, and only "retired" from that role last year. She still serves on our Executive Committee. Three of her four daughters who live locally were on hand to help Carol celebrate. From left, Janelle, Julie, and Cindy, along with Cindy's husband Jerry, surround Carol with her new "65" seal. Daughter Delinda lives in California and was unable to attend.

Hope Grange Distributes Dictionaries To Third Graders



2025 "Words for Thirds" was another successful distribution of the sought after dictionaries that Granges all over the Nation give to 3rd graders. Hope Grange members distributed over 200 dictionaries to 3rd graders in the communities of Evaline, Winlock, and Napavine. Many of these students looked forward to receiving their own personal dictionary just as their older siblings had in previous years. It is a joy to see these students look up the longest word in the world and learn many interesting facts of the world. It was said that while looking up one word, read the word above and below it to learn three words for the effort of one! Hope Grange is proud to continue this tradition and looks forward to seeing the 3rd graders of 2026!

South Union Grange Presents Membership Awards



(left) South Union Grange Master Patty Mathews presents Lisa Wendt with her Golden Sheaf certificate and pin for fifty years of service at the Grange's Christmas celebration on December 14. (right) South Union Grange Master Patty Mathews presents Toni McKinley-Camp with her Silver Star certificate and pin for 25 years of service at the Grange's Christmas celebration on December 14.

Grange Connection

COWLITZ COUNTY

Catlin Grange members are mourning the loss of Past Master Roy Painter. Roy was a Grange member for 79 years, originally joining Mt. Brynion Grange and then Catlin Grange. He is a Past Master of both Granges.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY

Humptulips Grange will enjoy pancakes and ham for dinner prior to their meeting on January 9. We've decided to cut back on the number of bingo events each year. Our next bingo will be on Saturday, February 7 and will be "Sweetheart Bingo" as the prizes will be gifts for your sweetheart. The Grange operated food bank continues to serve over 60 families each month. Thank you to Northwest Harvest and Coastal Harvest for the supply of food and to the Hoquiam High School Foodball and the Humptulips Valley Church for their continued financial support.

SPOKANE COUNTY

Green Bluff Grange held their community Christmas party and Toys for Tots collection on December 13. The Green Bluff Grange was very festive looking. Santa showed up to give out Santa Bags to all the kiddos. Grange members had a business meeting and gift exchange on December 16. Our 2026 Calendar of Events is completed. January 6 will be Game Night which is always popular. January 20 is the annual Spin-In. January 27 is Heritage Workshop & free pizza. This is updating our Green Bluff Heritage

Book. And of course, our famous All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast on January 25. And we'll fit in our business meeting on January 20.

THURSTON COUNTY

Prosperity Grange is adding to our calendar: Every 2nd Thursday - Senior Social Hour, 10 - 11 am, Drop in for coffee, snacks and laughter with friends old & new; Every 3rd Wednesday starting Feb 18 - Community Education Night, 7 - 8:30 PM, Watch for presentations on timely topics and a range of short workshops coming your way; Every 3rd Thursday starting Jan 15 - Open Grange + TRL Anywhere Library, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm, our Grange Hall will be open for tours, to learn and share local history, and for family and local history research from our archives, in addition to our standing TRL Anywhere Library stop (9:30 - 11 AM); Every 4th Monday starting Jan - Hobby Night, drop in and share a hobby with friends - knit/crochet, games & puzzles, make a craft.

South Union Grange members met the day after Thanksgiving to "deck the hall" for Christmas. The crew did a great job. The annual Christmas celebration on December 14 included about thirty South Union and Violet Prairie Grange members, family and friends sharing a sumptuous potluck feast. The program started with presentation of South Union membership awards by Master Patty Mathews. Toni McKinley-Camp received her Silver Star pin and certificate for 25

continuous years of membership. Lisa Wendt received her Golden Sheaf pin and certificate for 50 years. Violet Prairie Master Alice Swidecki read "The Night Before Christmas." South Union Lecturer Beverly York lead the group in Christmas carols until interrupted by the jingling of bells and a hearty "Ho, ho, ho" were heard. Santa, assisted by his elves, distributed gifts to the children. Santa graciously stayed long enough for attendees to take family photos with him, then left for his trip back to the North Pole.

Violet Prairie Grange tried out a new fundraiser this month that pays "by the pound" called "FUNDrive". We collected bags (1116 lbs.) of like new/gently used clothing, shoes, stuffed animals, etc., as well as boxes in two categories: books & media (625 lbs.) and kitchen, glassware, small appliances, knick-knacks, toys, misc. etc. (539 lbs.) totalling \$281.40. Each year, we host volunteers who hand decorate over 900 cut-out cookies for December's month long historical lighted Nativity display (Maytown, WA). This month's [2nd Sat.] "Mercantile Market" had a definite holiday flair and plans to continue into the new year. Once again, we joined Santa at South Union Grange for their annual Christmas party.

YAKIMA COUNTY

Broadway Grange held their 15th annual benefit for Toys for Tots and Coats for Kids and, with help from the Contra Dancers, filled up bags and boxes of goodies, delivered to Salvation Army by Jim Boyd. That

evening was also the 3rd Gratitude Dinner, a delicious sit-down dinner for 40 local Grangers.

Buena Grange collected toys for the Sunnyside fire department supported Rod's House in Sunnyside, and Camp Hope.

Fruitvale Grange contributed to the 4-H, Life Screening, and Yakima Veterans support group food bank. They are also working with the 4-H, Lions Club, and the Sons of Norway.

Lower Naches Grange donates yearly to many local charities

including Rod's House, food banks, and the pet part of Meals on Wheels.

Selah Heights Grange commits many hours to local 4-H, schools and the American Legion.

Terrace Heights Grange hosted Yakima Search & Rescue celebration dinner following their success rescues during recent flooding; a community dinner and open house featuring speakers from local police, fire, school, civic associations, library and American Red Cross; built and installed 3 Little Free Libraries at local elementary schools.

Pomona Calendar

Pomona Granges are reminded to send their 2026 meeting schedules to the State Grange Office for inclusion in The Grange News.

CHELAN	February 21 at Manson, 10 am meeting, 11:30 am lunch. Lunch at Smitty's Restaurant in Wenatchee at 12 noon on January 15, February 19, and March 19.
CLALLAM	January 21 at Crescent, 6 pm potluck, 7 pm meeting. Includes installation of officers.
CLARK	January 14 at Manor, 7 p.m.
COLUMBIA	to be announced.
COWLITZ/ WAHKIAKUM	January 17 at Catlin, 1 pm potluck, meeting to follow. Collect items for the Longview Women's Shelter.
DOUGLAS	to be announced.
EXCELSIOR	March 28 at Clayton, 10:30 pm. Will include baking contest. Photography entries due.
FERRY	March 9 at Malo, 6 pm.
GRAYS HARBOR/ PACIFIC	January 10 at Sharon, 10:30 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck.
ISLAND	to be announced.
KING	to be announced.
KLICKITAT	January 31 at Centerville, 11 am to 2 pm, exemplification of the first four degrees. Next business meeting in February 28 at Centerville, 12 pm potluck, 1 pm meeting.
LEWIS	February 7 at Baw Faw, 12 pm potluck, 1 pm meeting.
MASON	January 17 at The Agate, 11 am meeting, 12 pm potluck.
OKANOGAN	February 14 at Okanogan, 10 am meeting, 12 pm potluck.
PEND OREILLE	March 7 at Camden, 10 am meeting, 12 pm potluck. Will include the baking contest.
PIERCE	February 7 at Ohop, 10 am meeting. March 7 at Fruitland, 10 am, will include baking and canning contests.
SKAGIT	March 4 at Skagit 6:30 pm meeting with potluck following.
SNOHOMISH	January 17 at Triway, 10 a.m.
SPOKANE	February 21 at Windsor, 10 am.
STEVENS	to be announced.
THERSTON	February 5, location to be announced.
WHATCOM	February 17 at Ten Mile, 6 pm potluck, 7 pm meeting. Will hold the baking contest.
WHITMAN	January 17 at Eddy's Restaurant in Colfax, 11:15 am with no-host lunch at 12 pm. February 21 at the Colfax Library, 10:15 am meeting with 12 pm potluck.
YAKIMA VALLEY	February 9 at Fruitvale.

Thurston County Pomona Holds Centerpiece Contest

The November 2025 Thurston County Pomona meeting at McLane Grange included a Centerpiece Contest. Pictured is McLane Grange member Tammy Eltrich's blue-ribbon centerpiece winner in the Novelty category. The Grand Prize Winner of the \$50 gift card to Hobby Lobby was Denise McCartan, Black Lake Grange. Additional categories were Fresh Floral, Artificial & Honorable Mention.



SAVE THE DATE!

Upcoming State Grange Events

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

MONTHLY New Member Reports due to the State Grange Office

JANUARY 22 Lecturer and Family Living Joint Zoom Meeting (hosted by Claudine Mincks and Debbie Fisch), 6:30 pm via Zoom

JANUARY 24 State Grange Convention 2026 Kick Off Meeting; meet at the Skagit County Fairgrounds in Mt Vernon at 11 a.m. for a tour; go to the Fredonia Grange Hall at 12 p.m. for potluck lunch and kick off meeting.

JANUARY 26 State Grange Legislative Day in Olympia

FEBRUARY 17 Lecturer and Family Living Joint Zoom Meeting (hosted by Claudine Mincks and Debbie Fisch), 6:30 pm via Zoom

FEBRUARY 27-28 State Grange Deputy and State Officer Conference in Yakima

MARCH 26 Lecturer and Family Living Joint Zoom Meeting (hosted by Claudine Mincks and Debbie Fisch), 6:30 pm via Zoom

MARCH 26-28 Western Regional Grange Leaders and Youth Conference in Boise, ID – hosted by the Idaho State Grange

JUNE 24-27 137th Annual Washington State Grange Convention at the Skagit County Fairgrounds, Mount Vernon

Grange Connection

Selah Heights Grange Is Growing Thanks To Youth



Selah Heights Grange #608 in Yakima County is growing as a result of recent partnerships with local youth organizations. The Selah Junior Cheer team was looking for a place to practice as the weather turned cool and our Grange building is the perfect place for them. Beginning in October they met twice a week for practice, periodically for board meetings and had their end of season pizza party at the Grange hall. Four of the team coaches, board members or parents have joined our Grange.

A local 4-H club needed to locate a new meeting space that would hold up to 60 people and our Grange hall works well for them. They meet once a month and will hold their annual Christmas party at the Grange. Their leader has also joined our grange.

During the recent Central Washington State Fair in September the Yakima County 4-H Leaders council partnered with the Selah Heights Grange to award coupon for free milk shake to 4-H members who made public presentations during the fair. The leader's council intended to reimburse the Grange for the cost of the milk shakes, but we decided to donate the milk shakes rather than be reimbursed.

We ended the year with our annual Christmas Dinner held December 2 at Selah Mining Company. We had a very good meal and chance to catch up with our Grange members and celebrate our accomplishments over the past year.

Pierce County Pomona Installs 2026 Officer Team



Pierce County Pomona #16 held installation of Officers December 6, 2025 and installed our 2026 Officers. Also, 28 Pierce County Subordinate Grange Officers from nine Pierce County Granges were installed. Front Row: Lecturer Helen Gardner, Flora Mary Bryant, Pomona Betty Garrison, Ceres Kathy Warren and Chaplain Karen Crombie. Back Row: Asst Steward Steve Hall, Gatekeeper Marvin Oliver, Exe. Comm 1 year Kirby Pollard, Exe Comm 2 year Jim Moebius, Master/President Jarrod Gardner, Chairman of Family Living Eileen Moebius, Overseer/Vice President Jennifer Oliver, Treasurer David Bryant, Secretary Andrea Wilbur, Executive Committee 2025 Tom Weston, Steward Marvin James and Lady Asst Steward Cheryl Saiz.

Malo Grange Distributes Dictionaries to Local Students

Malo Grange visited the Keller 3rd/4th/5th grade classroom to give a dictionary to the two third graders and fill in with the older students who didn't have one. The visit was part of The Dictionary Project, nationally promoting literacy through free dictionaries for third graders. Members from Malo Grange visited four of the five third grade classrooms in the county with another Grange visiting the fifth.

