



WASHINGTON STATE

Grange News

March/April 2026

Informing Grangers Since 1912

115th Year No. 2



Grangers Converge In Olympia To Advocate For Rural Concerns

Every year, the Washington State Grange holds a Legislative Day to provide a platform for Grange members to converge upon the state capital in Olympia to engage with lawmakers, advocate for rural communities, and address key issues impacting agriculture, education, and rural life across

the state. This annual event has become a cornerstone of the Grange's mission to foster democracy, strengthen communities, and create meaningful dialogue between Grangers and their elected officials.

With the 2026 Legislative Session dubbed a "short

session" of only 60 days, the Grange Legislative Day was held on Monday, January 26. Nearly fifty 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 bills currently referred to the

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



(Above Left) Grange Lobbyist Jesse Taylor briefing the group on the day's activities.



(Above Right) Legislative Day participants learn about the various Guest Speakers participating in the event.

Lecturer's Department

Fellowship, Talents, and Smiles



Claudine Mincks

**By Claudine Mincks
State Grange Lecturer**

March and April are the most common times for county/Pomona Granges to hold what used to be known as their "mini fairs" but as we've tried to embrace the fact that although we'd like everyone to know what that term means in and out of Grange, they don't, and so, I implore you to change it up a bit and relabel it to "County Contests" instead. Despite the name you come up with to fit your county/Pomona the purpose is to get as many Grangers as possible and local community members involved in the fun of displaying everyone's talents. County/Pomona Lecturer's make sure you work as a team with your County/Pomona Family Living Director to provide a well-rounded and fun contest day!

Whether under the new classes of photography and art, or with crafting with new

or recyclable materials there is fun to be had. I've seen the talent that is out there in our state both inside and outside of Grange - let's umbrella it under Grange County Contests and display it to the largest audiences possible in your own communities. Think about incorporating another element to the County Contest day with a fun and even educational activity or two to engage the participants and the viewers to interact with other Grange members and give them a taste of our hospitality and welcoming fellowship that will inspire them to want to both learn more about Grange but seek us out to be part of our fraternal organization. County Contest days are great during April's Grange month.

The creative writing contest due date is also on the horizon. This contest is due in writing or email to me, state lecturer, on or before May 20th, 2026: Claudine Mincks, 373 Finn

Ridge Road, Centerville, WA 98613 or claudinemincs@gmail.com which is the same day the County/Pomona Contest best of show report is due to me also. You will find all you need to know in the Lecturer's 2026 Packet and Handbook. Email me if you'd like a digital copy.

I'm a fictional, historical, mystery writer and so I admit that the creative writing contest is one of my favorites out of the Grange selections. Since I'm working with the judges at state convention as your state Lecturer, I will not be submitting an entry, but I look forward to reading all the entries!

Here is my spin at word yarn... Grange Members Laughed When the door to the grange hall shut, and a car was heard starting in the parking lot. By then most of the members were doubled over laughing so hard there wasn't a dry eye in the hall, and two members ran to the bathroom

Heirloom Project Readings March, April and May 2026



MARCH 2026 (Spring E.1):
"Courage then, and patience, when gloom broods over your pathway."
(First Degree; Vice President)

APRIL 2026 (Spring E.2):
"Our Fraternity, being agriculturally based, family oriented and dedicated to the pure principles of equality under Constitutional Law, we appeal to all good citizens for mutual cooperation and assistance toward reform that we may remove from our midst the last vestige of inequity and corruption. We believe that harmony, equitable compromise and earnest cooperation are essential to future success."
(Grange Declaration of Purposes)

MAY 2026 (Spring E.3): "Let the modesty and usefulness of the humble grass be to you an object of imitation."
(First Degree; President)

quickly. Kids in attendance who had been playing in the corner with Legos joined in even though they had no idea what the grown-ups were laughing at. Next to the podium on a small table was a display of posters and literature that a local artist had brought in to help the members

get the word out around their small rural community about their upcoming Grange Week Antique Car Display and County Contests Day. The artwork was astounding, and the words grabbed your interest right away, but all the members could see, like it was in neon yellow and flashing, was antique cars around a large old wooden building with the sign above the double-doors that read: Columbia GARAGE. In fact, all the literature promoting the day read Columbia GARAGE, and they all laughed a little harder at the memory of the artist explaining that she had never heard of a fraternal organization of mechanics that was interested in photography, art, and baking before. Clearly our GRANGE had not done well at our "elevator speech" or longer version of What is GRANGE...

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, March 26 – 6:30 pm
Tuesday, April 21 – 6:30 pm
Monday, May 11 – 6:30 pm
Monday, June 15 – 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

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• Tom Gwin, Executive Editor •

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President's Message

Securing The Grange's Future

By Tom Gwin
WA State Grange President

The Grange's long term stability comes from pairing a clear strategic direction with resilient funding, strong governance, and the ability to adapt as conditions change. The most durable organizations treat "securing the future" as an ongoing discipline rather than a one time plan.

Strategic clarity that anchors the organization

A Grange's future is strongest when its mission, intended impact, and theory of change are explicit and shared across staff and board. Strategic planning helps define how limited resources will be used to achieve that impact and creates a roadmap that can be revisited as conditions shift. Many organizations begin with a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis to understand internal capacity and external opportunities or threats.

Key elements of the analysis include:

- **Intended impact and theory of change** — clarifies what success looks like and how programs create it.
- **Prioritized goals** — short-, medium-, and long term objectives that guide decisions.
- **Adaptive planning** — a commitment to revisiting strategy as the environment evolves.

Financial resilience and diversified revenue

Granges and other nonprofit organizations increasingly face funding volatility, especially when public funding declines and private giving cannot fully compensate. Building resilience requires broadening revenue streams and strengthening financial management.

Effective approaches:

- **Diversified fundraising** — combining grants, individual giving, earned

income, and partnerships.

- **Scenario planning** — preparing for funding cuts or economic shifts.
- **Reserves and long term financial planning** — ensuring the organization can withstand disruptions.
- **Equity centered resource allocation** — aligning sustainability with the needs of marginalized communities served.



Tom Gwin

simply expanding programs. This means understanding which programs create the greatest value and how to grow them responsibly.

Core practices:

- **Evidence based program design** — using data to refine and strengthen offerings.
- **Smart scaling** — expanding programs that are proven and aligned with mission, while sunseting those that are not.
- **Partnerships and collaborations** — extending reach through alliances rather than duplicating efforts.

Continuous learning and adaptability

The most future ready nonprofits treat strategy as a living process. They regularly revisit goals, assess progress, and adjust to new realities—economic, political, or community driven. Strategic plans are dynamic tools that evolve with the organization.

Practices that support adaptability:

- **Regular strategic reviews** — checking alignment between mission, programs, and resources.
- **Environmental scanning** — monitoring community needs, policy changes, and sector trends.
- **Culture of learning** — encouraging experimentation, reflection, and improvement.

Bringing it all together

Securing the future of the Grange means aligning mission clarity, financial resilience, strong leadership, and adaptive strategy. Granges that invest in these areas build the stability needed to serve their communities for decades.

"The Grange's future depends on the people who carry out its mission. Strengthening internal capacity ensures the Grange can grow without burning out staff or diluting impact."

— Tom Gwin

Organizational capacity and leadership strength

The Grange's future depends on the people who carry out its mission. Strengthening internal capacity ensures the Grange can grow without burning out staff or diluting impact.

Important components:

- **Leadership development** — cultivating leaders at all levels, not just the executive team.
- **Board governance** — ensuring the board is engaged, informed, and aligned with strategy.
- **Talent sustainability** — investing in staff well being, training, and manageable workloads.
- **Operational systems** — improving processes, technology, and data use to support growth.

Program strategy and impact scaling

Sustainable nonprofits scale impact intentionally rather than

Legislative

Navigating The 2026 Legislative Session Deadlines



By Jesse Taylor
Legislative Lobbyist

The 2026 legislative session has been a blur with the short year bringing a faster pace to the process. As of this writing, we are winding down the policy committee work with only fiscal deliberations left in the session.

In two weeks from now the legislature will pass three new supplemental budgets including the operating, capital and transportation. These supplemental years are generally designed to be mid-biennium adjustments to the budgets based on revenue forecast changes. We don't usually see big changes to the budget in these years or big policy bills.

As of late February, lawmakers have navigated several major deadlines, including cutoffs for bills to advance from policy and fiscal committees, leading to the demise of numerous proposals while prioritizing budget negotiations amid a projected revenue shortfall of around \$2.3 billion for the upcoming cycle. Both the House and Senate released their supplemental budget proposals in late February, with the Senate's \$79.3 billion operating plan and the House's \$79.2 billion version proposing to tap the state's rainy day fund, increase spending on legal settlements, and make cuts to programs like child care for low-income families to address fiscal challenges. Transportation budgets from both chambers emphasize preservation and maintenance, adding hundreds of millions for infrastructure upkeep, job creation, and long-term sustainability, reflecting bipartisan support in contrast to more partisan operating budget debates.

On the policy front, several high-profile bills have advanced, including a proposed "Millionaire Tax" on high earners that passed the Senate and is now under House consideration to generate revenue. We still don't know if this bill will clear in the final hours of session, but it sure is making headlines.

Other notable progress includes legislation on producer cooperatives, protections for immigrant workers, voter privacy enhancements to combat suppression, and measures addressing home insurance amid wildfire risks. AI-related bills have also gained traction, such as those requiring disclosures for AI-generated content, safety measures for chatbots aimed at children, and regulations on deepfakes and surveillance in schools. Meanwhile, proposals like lowering the drunk driving threshold, recognizing additional state holidays, limiting ICE access in public spaces, and regulating license plate readers have been introduced or discussed, though not all survived early cutoffs. With the session winding down, focus has shifted to cross-chamber bill advancements and finalizing budgets to tackle ongoing issues in housing, transportation, and revenue generation.

If you have followed along with the weekly session watch this year you may have noticed the number of bills that were introduced. This biennium has seen the introduction of 3,366 bills in total with about 1400 of those coming in the supplemental year alone. In 2025 there were 1905 bills introduced with 422 of those passing representing a 22% pass rate. I expect a similar rate this session with a couple hundred bills passing before the March 12th deadline.

Post-Session

Once the Legislature adjourns sine die on March 12, legislators are no longer in active session. This lifts the primary restrictions tied to the legislative period, allowing them to shift focus to campaign activities.

The key change for most legislators involves campaign fundraising and related activities. Washington State's Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) enforces a "legislative session freeze" on contributions to state or local offices. This freeze prohibits legislators (and other state officials, along with their employees or agents) from soliciting or accepting contributions during the 30 days immediately before a regular session starts, the entire regular session itself, any special session.

For the 2026 short session (January 12 to March 12), the freeze has been in effect since roughly mid-December 2025 through March

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160th National Grange Convention
ROUTE TO THE FUTURE
November 9-14, 2026
Broken Arrow, OK
Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center
Secure your hotel room: <https://grange.biz/160hotel>



State Grange Leadership Team Meets, Plans For The Future

The State Grange Leadership Team, comprised of State Grange Officers, Deputies, and selected individuals, gathered at the Fruitvale Grange Hall in Yakima for their annual conference and planning session.

The primary focus of the conference was the introduction of Performance Improvement Plans for both the State Grange and the Subordinate Granges. The plan

calls for using SMART Goals to develop a Plan of Action emphasizing membership growth and retention, increased community involvement, and recruitment of new Grange leaders. Upon going through the workshops, leadership team members were assigned to work with a specific Grange for next 6-12 months to assist in creating a Performance Improvement Plan for that Grange and then provide

mentorship to the Granges.

Additional topics covered by the leadership team included:

- ▶ Conflict Resolution
- ▶ A review of the State Grange Mission Statement
- ▶ A discussion on this year's State Grange Session
- ▶ An update of State Grange Legislative Activities
- ▶ An interactive Review of the Grange Declaration of Purposes as it relates to the Grange's Non-Partisan Stance



(Above) The delegation from the 24th Legislative District

Grangers Converge In Olympia To Advocate For Rural Concerns

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committee, as well as taxation policy that is making it's way through the legislature.

The group also heard from Senator Ron Muzzall of the 10th Legislative District. Muzzall is the ranking member on the Senate Health Care Committee. He spoke on several healthcare topics, his family farm, and proposed taxation policy.

The delegation also heard from Brian Considine, Government Affairs Director for the Washington Parks and recreation Commission. Considine spoke on changes to the discover pass, new park policy around camping, and recreation fee increases.

Morgan Irwin, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Association of Business spoke to the group about business issues, proposed income taxes, and estate taxes. Irwin is a former State House Representative from the 31st District.

State Grange staff made appointments for each of the delegates to meet with their legislators, advocating 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 50 participants represented a wide range of Subordinate Granges, covering 14 different legislative districts. Several were first time participants, while others have participated in the program for several years.

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!



(Above Left) Legislative Day in full swing...



(Above Right) The delegation from Moses Lake Grange.

Additional Member Benefit at No Cost!

Through a partnership with American Income Life Insurance Company, an AD&D benefit and other no-cost offers are being provided to all members of Washington State Grange.

Included:

- Group Accidental Death & Dismemberment Benefit
- AILPlus Health Services Discount Program*
- Legacy Will Kit*
- Needs-Based Analysis

Learn more at MyBenefits.AILife.com
Enter access code: **SGOJM**



*AILPlus Health Services Discount Program is not available in NY. Lab Testing not available in MD, NJ, or RI. This is a solicitation for insurance. An AIL representative will contact members who return the reply card by mail or respond online to arrange a convenient time to deliver their certificate of coverage and other no cost offers and review other supplemental insurance benefits that may be available.



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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.

RELENTLESS POSITIVITY

Relentless Positivity is the intentional practice of maintaining a constructive and forward-looking attitude, even when facing difficulties. It is not blind optimism – it is disciplined optimism. This mindset sets the tone for productive conversations, strengthens resilience, and helps teams overcome setbacks. **Relentless positivity** encourages members to focus on solutions, celebrate progress, and create an environment where challenges are met with courage and confidence.

Legislative

Navigating The 2026 Legislative Session Deadlines

Continued from Page 3

12. Once sine die occurs and the gavel drops, the freeze ends immediately (unless a special session is called later, which would restart it).

After March 12th, legislators can solicit and accept contributions (subject to standard state contribution limits, such as around \$1,200–\$2,400 per election depending on the office, adjusted for inflation), hold fundraisers, and engage in campaign activities like events, advertising, and outreach.

Please look for an end of session report and the rest of the way can follow all happenings by tuning into live floor action for both the House and Senate at www.tvw.org.

Highlights From The Washington State Grange Executive Committee Meeting

JANUARY 28, 2026

- Approved the request from Manor Grange #1101 for funds from their custodial account for front door replacement.
- Approved the request from Barberton Grange #571 for funds from their custodial account for roof replacement.
- Approved the request from Barberton Grange #571 for funds from their custodial account for the overage on their floor replacement.
- Denied the request from Barberton Grange #571 for funds from their custodial account for tarping their roof as it is not a capital improvement.
- Approved the request from Humptulips Grange #730 to sell a six acre parcel of real property, along with the property fees and the remaining three years of mortgage payments from the proceeds, with remaining funds to be placed into a custodial account with the WA State Grange.
- Approved a proposed lease between Ohop Grange #812 and Public Safety Towers LLC for a tower on the Grange property.
- Approved a line of credit for North Bellingham Grange #201 to satisfy their capitol grant requirements with the WA Department of Commerce.

JANUARY 29, 2026

- Approved a line of credit for South Bay Grange #250 to satisfy their capitol grant requirements with the WA Department of Commerce.

FEBRUARY 28, 2026

- Approved a line of credit for Kettle River Grange #1120 to satisfy their capitol grant requirements with the WA Department of Commerce.
- Adopted a Conflict-of-Interest Policy for the Washington State Grange.

Highlights From The Washington State Grange Foundation Meeting

JANUARY 28, 2026

- Approved the request of Sharon Grange #800 for use of the WSG Foundation EIN for a donation of funds for electrical wiring at their hall.
- Approved the request of Spring Hill Grange #909 to use the WSG Foundation EIN for a donation for capital improvements to their hall.

FEBRUARY 28, 2026

- Adopted a Conflict-of-Interest Policy for the Washington State Grange Foundation.
- Approved the creation of a Fund-Raising Committee to assist in the financial stability of the Grange at all levels in our state.

Calispel Grange Distributes Handiwork To Nursing Home



Just before Valentine's Day the Hearts and Hands group from Calispel Grange #500 visited our local nursing home in Newport, Washington. Kim Schneider, Mary Liberty and Debbie West handed out homemade sewing projects to residents. They included walker totes, placemats, lap quilts, shoulder shawls and many more handcrafted items. Hearing the residents stories is a bonus during the visit. This is a yearly event. Pictured are Mary and Debbie.

Fargher Lake Grange #853 Hosts Local Clothing Drive



On January 17, 2026, Fargher Lake Grange #853 hosted a clothing drive for the X-Change Recovery program to support efforts to end addiction. Our community and fellow Grangers donated 96 bags, boxes, and totes filled with clothing, coats, shoes, bedding, and blankets. For 22 years, Pastor Bill and Vickie Smith's X-Change Recovery program has helped individuals facing addiction and homelessness by providing treatment resources, housing assistance, employment support, and spiritual guidance. After completing the program many individuals have found stable housing and meaningful employment after years of struggling with addiction illustrating the real-life impact of these efforts. Pictured: Mike & Deb Kadow, Organizers

Goldendale Grange Participates In Souper Bowl, Distributes Dictionaries To Students



Goldendale Grange has been keeping busy. We recently delivered 75 dictionaries to third graders in Goldendale as part of the National Grange Words for Thirds project. Due to safety concerns taking place at the school we were unable to deliver the dictionaries to the classrooms or meet the young third graders. Dictionaries were left at the school office for later delivery to the classrooms.

(Above photos) Goldendale Grange participated in the recent FFA Souper Bowl soup competition at GHS. Five organizations brought ingredients to prepare their special soup at the High School Home Ec. Room. Bubba Genson, of Genson Enterprises took top honors. Bubba is also a Grange member and manages the Grange Kitchen. Former County Deputy, Lucille Bevis, provided both her time and taste buds as a soup judge at this yummy event. A total of 54 bowls of soup were served the next day at the Goldendale Community Soup Kitchen.

Membership Corner

Strengthening Our Granges for the Next 50 Years: Retention, Leadership, and the Future We Build Together

By Sophia Keller
Membership Director

The future of the Grange depends on what we do after someone joins. New members arrive with curiosity, energy, and a desire to belong. Whether they stay and whether they grow into the next generation of leaders depends on the environment we create within our individual Granges. Retention and leadership development aren't separate tasks; they are two halves of the same long-term strategy for a thriving Grange.

How can we create a culture that keeps new members in our Granges? Here are some practical tools any Grange can use to welcome new members, keep them engaged, and help them grow into confident, capable leaders who will steward our Order into the next half-century. New members stay when they feel seen, useful, and connected. These tools help make that happen consistently.

Make the First 90 Days Count

The first three months shape a member's long-term relationship with the Grange. A simple, intentional plan can make all the difference. Assign a "Grange Buddy." Pair each new member with a friendly, active member who checks in, answers questions, and sits with

them at meetings. Invite them personally to events. A direct invitation, phone call, text, or in-person matters more than a newsletter. Explain traditions and rituals. Many new members leave because they feel lost or unsure. A short orientation or "Grange 101" session builds confidence.

Give Them Something Meaningful to Do

People stay where they feel useful. It's important for us to look at each individual and what they want from the Grange. Ask what skills or interests they want to share. Offer small, low-pressure roles like helping with a fundraiser, greeting at the door, assisting with a community service project. Celebrate their contributions publicly at meetings.

Build Social Connection, Not Just Attendance

Retention is emotional before it is organizational. Host informal gatherings, coffee hours, potlucks, work parties. Encourage intergenerational mixing; younger members often stay because of the mentorship they receive. Make space for new ideas, even if they challenge "how we've always done it."

Communicate Clearly and Consistently

New members often drift away simply because they don't

know what's happening. Send reminders before meetings and events. Share minutes and updates promptly. Use multiple channels such as email, phone, social media, and personal outreach.

Now, how can we work on growing new leaders in your Grange? Leadership development is not about filling

"The Grange has survived for more than 150 years because each generation chose to invest in the next."

offices, it's about cultivating confidence, skills, and ownership. Every Grange can build a pipeline of future leaders with a few intentional practices.

Identify Your Potential Leaders Early

Look for members who show up consistently, ask questions, volunteer without being asked, bring new ideas, and it's always important that they connect well with others. These are your future officers, committee

chairs, and community project leaders.

Start With Micro-Leadership Opportunities

Not everyone is ready to be Master or Lecturer right away. Start small. Let them lead a short program or activity. Ask them to chair a single event. Invite them to co-lead a committee with an experienced mentor. Small successes build confidence.

Create a Mentorship Culture

Leadership grows through relationships, not assignments. Pair new leaders with seasoned members who can guide them. Encourage "shadowing" of officer roles. Share institutional knowledge openly—traditions, procedures, and the "why" behind them.

Offer Training and Skill-Building

Many members want to lead but don't feel prepared. It is up to us to help prepare them for success. You may do this by holding workshops on meeting procedures, public speaking, project planning, or Grange history. Encourage attendance at Pomona, State, and National Grange leadership events and

provide written guides for officer roles.

Let New Leaders Lead

Once someone is ready, give them real responsibility and trust them. You want to support their ideas, even if they're different and allow room for mistakes; growth requires experimentation. And of course, celebrate their leadership publicly.

Building a Grange That Thrives for the Next 50 Years

The Grange has survived for more than 150 years because each generation chose to invest in the next. Retention and leadership development are not tasks to check off; they are ongoing commitments that shape the culture and future of every local Grange.

A thriving Grange in 2076 will be one where new members feel welcomed and valued, leadership is shared, not hoarded, traditions are honored but not used as barriers, innovation is encouraged, every member sees a place for themselves.

The work begins now, in each of our local halls, with the choices we make about how we welcome, include, and empower one another.

Congratulations Winners!

New Membership Contest

• January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026 •

Congratulations to the following Grangers for bringing in 5 new members into your Grange. You will each receive the membership T-shirt.

T-Shirts

Duane Johnson – Addy #603	Debbie Witcher - Minnehaha #164
Frances Mansfield – Addy #603	Levi Helms – Skamokawa #425
Andrea Cotey – Black Lake #861	Mike Nestor – South Camano #930
Mike Gilmour – Fargher Lake #853	Janell Clark – South Camano #930

Congratulations to the following Grangers for bringing in an additional 5 or more new members into the Grange. After recruiting your first 5 members and receiving your t-shirt, when you bring in another 5 or more new 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.

\$25 Grange Bucks:

Andrea Cotey – Black Lake #861

CENTRAL GRANGE #831

100TH

anniversary



Est. March 10, 1926



COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



All events at our hall, located at 7240 Orchard Prairie Rd., Spokane

Grange Hall Dance

6-9 p.m. Saturday, March 14

With line dance lessons by Laura Bird
\$10 individuals | \$15 couples | \$5 Grange Members

FREE BIRD DANCE

1-3 p.m. Sunday, March 15

CELEBRATE WITH US!

Come for lunch & cake free

Local Students will Present History of Central Grange

For our big day, we're giving back! Help us collect boxes of birthday cake mix, frosting and candles for Mead Food Bank.

Thank you

Fund Raising Committee Created, Seeking Volunteers

The Washington State Grange Foundation, the charitable arm of the Washington State Grange, has approved the creation of a Fund Raising Committee to assist in creating financial stability for our Granges from the local to the state level. We are looking for experienced individuals who engage in fundraising to serve on this committee.



Please email me at tagwin@wa-grange.org if you are interested in working on this committee.



Fundraising Dinner in Trout Lake's Living Room

By Richard Lefever

When Trout Lake Community Grange #210 needed funding to perform some TLC to their 123-year-old Grange Hall they resorted to a tradition used by Grangers across the county for decades. They prepared a fundraiser feast which featured a generous portion of meatloaf, accompanied by mashed potatoes topped with creamy gravy, and served with crisp green beans. Following dinner guests were enticed to a table of delectable homemade pastries filled with lots of chocolate and sprinkled with Mt. Adams huckleberries. Nobody ever leaves a Grange meal hungry.

The dinner, held recently on a Saturday evening in Trout Lake—a city with a population

of fewer than 800 residents—was an outstanding success. Over 60 tickets were sold, and the event generated more than \$2,000. An especially good turnout considering a sold-out music concert was taking place at the same time only a few blocks away.

Trout Lake, Washington sits in the extreme northwest part of Klickitat County, just a brief drive from Gifford Pinchot National Park and at the base of 12,000-foot Mount Adams. The historic Grange Hall, constructed in downtown Trout Lake, in 1903 has often been referred to by locals as “Trout Lake's Living Room.” It serves the community year-round by hosting dances, concerts, community dinners, birthday celebrations, and various

educational events. Trout Lake's historic Saturday Market is held at the Grange. Providing generous scholarships to area graduates is an ongoing community service project.

Trout Lake Valley has a long agriculture history of dairying and beef cattle. Today it is best known for its organic dairies and herb farms.

The Trout Lake Community Grange #210 mission statement: a community organization based in Trout Lake, WA dedicated to fostering a sense of community and promoting local agriculture.

For details on how you can support the Grange or a list of events refer to the Trout Lake Grange FaceBook page or visit www.TroutLake.org.

Washington State Grange Offers Scholarships

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

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

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

The following scholarships are being offered this year:

- Grange Family Living Department Vocational Scholarship
- Grange Family Living Department Home Economics Scholarship
- Kegley Agricultural Scholarship
- Norm Buchholz Agricultural Scholarship
- Kittleson Memorial Agricultural Scholarship
- Delpha Goude Scholarship
- Horace Bozarth Scholarship
- Kiona-Benton (Koss Memorial) Scholarship
- Adrian & Betty DeVries Memorial Scholarship
- Martin & Grace Forry Scholarship
- Marion & Snowie Vanderpool Scholarship
- Riverview Grange Scholarship
- Fox Island Grange Scholarship
- Nob Island Grange Scholarship
- Ray & Marion Kammerer Scholarships
- Enga M. Anderson Scholarship
- Bear Creek Scholarship
- Rock Creek Scholarship
- French Creek Scholarship
- McCleary Grange Scholarship
- Pomona Villa Scholarship

Details on the requirements for each scholarship, along with applications forms, can be found on the Washington State Grange website, www.wa-grange.com. The online forms are set as pdf fillable, however a signature is still required from the applicant, and all recommendations must also be signed by the person making the recommendation. Completed applications and forms may be emailed, faxed, or sent via regular mail and are due by 5 p.m. on April 1.



Washington Grange #82 Works On Visibility



Washington Grange #82 has been working on their visibility in the community. (Left 2 photos) Washington Grange #82 had new acrylic 10" letters installed on the side of our hall. They replace vinyl letters that were starting to peel off. They can easily be read from the street in front of the hall clearly letting passersby's know who we are. (Right 2 photos) How many of you remember the Burma Shave signs we used to see along the highways across America? Washington Grange #82 came up with a set befitting of our Grange. We have mounted the signs along a busy stretch of road that runs along the front of our hall. There are five signs: Join Washington Grange #82; Meet New Friends and Neighbors; Have a Voice in Local, County and State Issues; Washington Grange Meets on the 1st Wednesday of Each Month; Learn More at WAGR82.ORG.

Spotlight on Youth & Juniors

Youth

Looking For The Next State Grange Youth Ambassador



Jerry Gwin

By Jerry Gwin
Youth Grange Director

Our State Grange Youth Department is currently looking for youth Grangers, ages 16--20, to serve as the State Grange Youth Ambassador for 2026-2027.

The State Youth Ambassador will represent the State Grange at fairs, parades, and Grange activities throughout the coming year. They will have the opportunity to attend the National Grange Convention (November 2026 in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma) and the Western Regional Conference (Spring 2027 in Oregon). The State Grange Youth Department, through their youth raffle and fundraising events, will support the travel expenses of the Youth Ambassador. They will also assist with the State Grange Legislative Experience in

January 2027 and attend additional state and local Grange events.

The selection process for our Youth Ambassador is changing this year. Candidates will complete a one-page application form. The form will be available on the State Grange website by April 1 and will be due to the State Youth Director by June 1. All applicants will be interviewed via Zoom in the first two weeks of June. The Youth Ambassador will be selected and asked to attend this year's State Grange Session in late June for presentation to the delegates at the convention. The successful candidate will serve one year as the State Grange Youth Ambassador and will announce their successor at the June 2027 State Session in Yakima.

At the close of their term as the State Grange Youth Ambassador, the recipient

will be awarded a scholarship in the amount of up to \$1000 to be used to further their education. We will use the same criteria in distributing the funds as the State Grange Foundation uses to award their scholarships. The awarding of this scholarship is independent of other scholarships awarded by the Washington State Grange Foundation.

We hope that by changing our selection process and providing better incentives, we can increase interest in the Youth Ambassador Program. In addition to the scholarship award, the recipient will develop leadership skills, increase their communication ability, and create a stronger awareness of the Grange Youth Programs.

Any youth Grange members, ages 16-20, can contact me with their questions by emailing me at davona1242@outlook.com

Goldendale Grangers Receive FFA Creed

Goldendale FFA student Vida presented the FFA creed to Goldendale Grange members during our January meeting as part of her preparation for the District FFA Creed Contest. Best wishes Vida for success in your upcoming presentations.



Green Bluff Grange Hosts Game Night



Green Bluff Grange recently hosted a family-friendly Game Night featuring a variety of various board and card games for adults and children.

Juniors

Changes To Junior Grange Craft Projects



Jacob and Tessa Gwin

By Jacob & Tessa Gwin
Junior Grange Directors

As mentioned in our previous article, there are going to be some changes to Junior Granger's projects this year. All changes will be featured in the Junior Grange Handbook, which will be soon posted to the Washington State Grange Website.

The 2026 Junior Grange Craft Projects will be as follows:

Bookmark

Using any materials of your choice, create a bookmark that you can use for your favorite book! Not to exceed 3"x6"

Musical Instrument

Using materials of your choice, make a musical instrument of your choice. This can include, but is not limited to maraca, drum, guitar, wind instrument. Not to exceed 12"x12"x12".

Homemade Bag

Create a homemade bag to carry around books, groceries, electronic devices, whatever you may need to carry around! Please no kits, or premade bags allowed. Be creative! Not to exceed 12"x12".

Sculpture Project

Using play dough (homemade or store bought), clay, salt dough, or plaster of Paris, create a project of your choice. This can include, but is not limited to, cups, bowls, vases, animals, jewelry, ornaments, garden stone. Not to exceed 12"x12"x12".

Recycled Craft Project

Take an item that people would normally throw away and transform it into an object that can be used over and over again! Not to exceed 12"x12"x12".

Creative Writing

Ages 5-7: What is your favorite holiday? Why do you love this holiday?

Ages 8+: You get to make a new national holiday. What is it about and how do you celebrate?

Juniors will also still be able to enter general crafts for any crafts they have made throughout the year. Project cards will also be posted on the Washington State Grange Website to fill out with Junior Projects.

We would like to apologize for the later notice on projects for this year. Please feel free to participate/create any and all projects that you would like to enter. It is not required to enter a project for every category if you choose not to do so. We look forward to seeing the variety of projects that all our Juniors create this year!

Manson Grange Youth Fairs Holds Election Of Officers



The Manson Grange Youth Fairs program elected officers at their February 23 meeting. Pictured left to right: Vice President Spencer Schoenwald, Secretary Andrew Lyman, Treasurer Max Ascanio and President Claire Skouge.

2026 Convention Info



JUNE 23 - 27, 2026
137th Annual Washington State Grange Convention
 at the
Skagit County Fairgrounds
501 Taylor St, Mount Vernon, WA 98273



Housing Around The Skagit County Fairgrounds For The 2026 State Convention

Making reservations early is really important, because everyone in the world will be coming to Mt. Vernon the same week. **Not joking** - that week includes people from both Vancouver, B.C. and Seattle attending the FIFA World Cup, the NW Firecracker Tournament, a cross-country biking group and the regular summer tourism accessing the Cascades parks. Some hotels have offered courtesy block rates or discount codes, but on a first come, first served basis. Others were reluctant due to expected extreme demand. (You could look in Bellingham too, which is 28 miles north) **Book Soon!**

→ **Days Inn by Wyndham Mt. Vernon**
 2009 Riverside Dr, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
 (360) 424-4141 - 2-star hotel
 Family/Oversized Rooms Available,
 Free Coffee & Breakfast Item, Free Parking
 Free WiFi, Pet Friendly, Pool - Outdoor,
 Restaurant, Rollaway Beds Available

BLOCK RATES:

one king bed 2 guests \$ 119+tax
 2 bed 2 guest queen bed \$129+ tax
 2 bed 4 guest queen bed \$145 + tax

→ **Tulip Inn**
 2200 Freeway Dr, Mount Vernon
 (800) 599-5969 - 2-star hotel

BLOCK RATES:

S Queen for M-Th = \$99/night plus tax
 F-Sat = \$110+ tax
 D Queen for M-Th = \$110/night plus tax
 F-Sat = \$116+ tax

→ **La Quinta Inn & Suites, Burlington**
 1670 S Burlington Blvd, Burlington, WA 98233
 360-205-9205
 Indoor and outdoor pool, hot tub,
 non-smoking facility

BLOCK RATES:

06/22 - 06/25 Group Rate: \$199+ (room & tax)
 06/26 - 06/28 Group Rate: \$299+ (room & tax)

→ **Clarion Pointe Mount Vernon - Burlington**
 300 W College Way, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
 (360) 200-8424 - 2-star hotel
 Pet Friendly* Free Hot Breakfast, Seasonal
 Outdoor Pool, Fitness Center

BLOCK RATES:

\$289.00 per night plus tax for one or two guests
 \$309.00 per night plus tax for three or four guests
 Maximum occupancy: four guests per room
 45-day cutoff date prior to arrival. (May 6)
 Full, non-refundable prepayment for the entire
 stay required at the time of booking. Reservations
 can not be canceled and are non-refundable.
 Early departures will not result in refunds.

→ **Quality Inn Mount Vernon**
 1910 Freeway Dr, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
 (360) 610-4329 - 2-star hotel
 Premium Free WiFi, Indoor Pool, Pet Friendly
 Free Hot Breakfast, Weekday Newspaper, Laundry
**No Block rates, but ask for Grange rate if
 available**

→ **The Kulshan Hotel**
 807 Trail Rd, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
 (360) 207-1369
 Complimentary Breakfast and Parking,
 Non Smoking Facility, Fitness Center

BLOCK RATES:

State Grange Convention - Discount Code for
 The Kulshan Hotel
 Queen Studio room = \$179.10/weekday night and
 \$269.10/ weekend night

→ **Three Rivers Inn Hotel**
 210 Ball St, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
 (360) 855-2626 - 2-star hotel
 Smoke-free property, Outdoor pool, Self-service
 laundry, Parking free, No pets, No breakfast

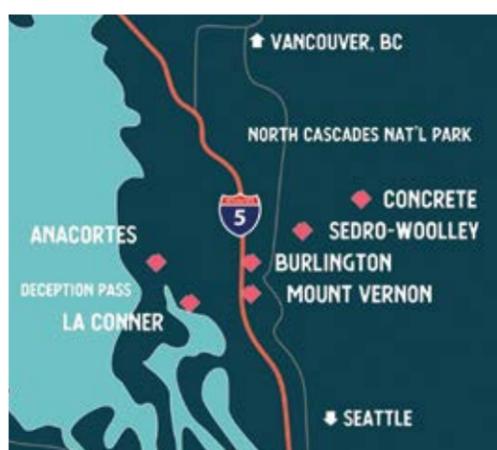
BLOCK RATES:

S Queen = \$91 with tax
 D Queen = \$101.54 with tax
 King = \$96.01 with tax

→ **Wingate by Wyndham Mount Vernon**
 2300 Market St, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
 (360) 342-6701 - 4-star hotel
 100% Smoke-Free Hotel, Free Bus/Truck Parking
 Free Breakfast Buffet, Free Parking, Free WiFi
 Laundry, Pet Friendly, Pool -Outdoor, RV Parking

→ **Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites**
 9384 Old Hwy 99 N, Burlington, WA 98233
 (360) 757-2717 - 2-star hotel
 Pool, Breakfast free, Free WIFI, Parking
 Smoke-free property, Activities for kids
 Pet-friendly extra charge.

→ **Motel 6 - Burlington**
 866 S Burlington Blvd, Burlington, WA 98233
 (360) 284-9485 - 2-star hotel
 Pets Allowed, Kids Stay Free, Restaurant Nearby



There are other housing options in the Burlington/Mt Vernon area, including numerous Airbnb locations, but due to the extreme demand in June, these may be hard to get. West of Mt. Vernon is LaConner, which may have some housing available. South of Mt. Vernon is Stanwood, Arlington and Marysville. Everett (34 miles) has many more hotels, but they too will have heavy pressure due to the FIFA cup.



Welcome to Skagit County

Nestled in the heart of Washington's picturesque Puget Sound region, Skagit County offers our Annual Convention attendees a warm welcome and a glimpse into the rich agricultural heritage that defines this vibrant area. Located just north of Seattle and south of the Canadian border, Skagit County has long been recognized as one of the Pacific Northwest's premier agricultural destinations, earning its reputation through generations of farming excellence and community stewardship. The county's fertile Skagit Valley, framed by the majestic Cascade Mountains to the east and the waters of Puget Sound to the west, provides an ideal setting for the 137th Annual Washington State Grange Convention. Whether you're visiting from the urban centers of Western Washington or the rural communities of Eastern Washington, Skagit County's blend of natural beauty, agricultural tradition, and small-town charm makes it an inviting destination for Grange members and their families.



Skagit County at a Glance

- ▶ **Current Population:** Approximately 132,700 residents, making Skagit County the 11th largest county in Washington State
- ▶ **The Tulip Industry:** Skagit County is home to over 500 acres of commercial tulip fields, representing approximately 75% of all American commercial tulip production, generating approximately \$20 million in annual gross income.
- ▶ **Primary Industries:** Health Care & Social Assistance (largest employer), Retail Trade, Manufacturing, and Agriculture remain the backbone of the local economy.
- ▶ **County Formation:** Skagit County was officially established on November 28, 1883, and is named after the Upper and Lower Skagit Indian tribes, indigenous to the region.
- ▶ **County Seat:** Mount Vernon, the largest city in the county with approximately 33,000 residents.
- ▶ **Geographic Size:** 1,920 square miles total area (1,731 square miles of land and 189 square miles of water)
- ▶ **Agricultural Heritage:** The Skagit Valley is renowned for its production of tulips, blueberries, strawberries, and other specialty crops, maintaining a strong connection to the land and farming traditions

2026 Convention Info



Registration OPENS APRIL 1

Registration will open by April 1 online for all Delegates, Non-Delegates, Guest, Youth and Junior members. You will also have the opportunity to purchase your 6th Degree tickets and meal tickets at the same time.

Registration for ALL attendees this year will be \$30. The only exception to this is anyone under 18 years of age who will not serve as a delegate for their Grange and those attending to only receive the 5th & 6th degrees. Credential forms and Committee Questionnaires will still need to be mailed in for Delegates. These are due into State Grange no later than April 15.

WA State Grange Convention RV Information

RV Parking will be available for this year's State Grange Convention at the Skagit County Fairgrounds in Mount Vernon. The rate will be \$25 per night for water and electricity. Shower and restroom facilities are available. Camping is available beginning on Monday, June 22 and will end on Sunday, June 28. There will not be septic service available.

RV Reservation Form
2026 State Grange Session
Skagit County Fairgrounds – Mount Vernon

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Grange Name _____

Telephone (____) _____ Email _____

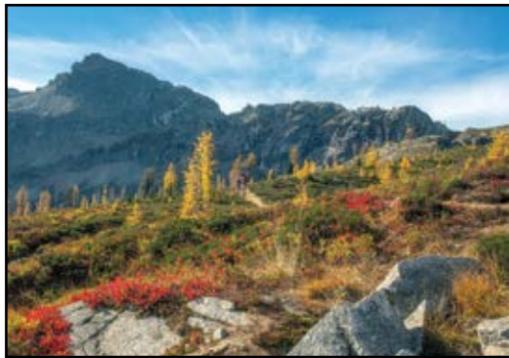
Date of Arrival _____ # of Nights _____

Please circle your RV Hook Up Choice: Water and 30-amp Service (\$25 per night)

Length of RV _____ License # _____

Total Amount Paid _____

Make checks payable to Northern District Grange Convention
Mail by June 1 to:
 Aaron Brand, 1318 Roland Street, Bellingham WA 98229



Grange Connection

Sequim Prairie Grange Hosts Successful Events

Community Turns Out for Valentine's Spaghetti Dinner at Sequim Prairie Grange

A warm plate of spaghetti, homemade desserts, and neighborly conversation were on the menu at the Sequim Prairie Grange as it welcomed the community for a special Valentine's-weekend Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, Feb. 13.

The dinner was served from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall, 290 Macleay Road in Sequim, continuing a long tradition of local gatherings centered on food, friendship, and community connection.

Guests enjoyed a full meal including spaghetti, salad, bread, beverage, and dessert in a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere. Organizers said the event offered an affordable night out while bringing neighbors together during the Valentine's season.

In addition to dinner, guests browsed a bake sale featuring homemade treats, with many items suitable for sharing with loved ones or taking home.

Grange members noted that an incredible amount of effort went into preparing the community dinner and expressed deep gratitude to everyone who attended the pasta feed. Special thanks were extended to the many volunteers and Grange members whose dedication and hard work helped make the evening possible and reflected the strong spirit of the local community.

Organizers also expressed gratitude for donations from local businesses, including Sunny Farms Country Store, 7 Cedars Casino, and On-Site Monitoring and Inspections, whose support helped make the event possible.



Successful Sequim Prairie Grange Community Pancake Breakfast Supports the Class of 2026

Sequim Prairie Grange was filled with the smell of fresh pancakes and the sound of conversation on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026, as community members gathered for their pancake breakfast fundraiser benefiting the Sequim High School Graduation Party for the Class of 2026.

The event, known as Pancakes for a Purpose, drew families, neighbors, and longtime Grange supporters to the hall on Macleay Road throughout the morning. Guests were treated to unlimited pancakes along with eggs, ham, applesauce, coffee, and orange juice.

Adding to the event's success was a bake sale featuring homemade goods prepared by Grange members and student family members. The tables of baked treats were a popular stop for attendees looking to take something home.

Proceeds from the breakfast will go toward funding a safe, fun, and memorable graduation celebration for Sequim High School seniors in the Class of 2026. The graduation party provides students with a supervised, alcohol- and drug-free environment to celebrate an important milestone, and organizers emphasized the importance of community involvement in making the event possible.

Grange members and volunteers worked behind the scenes and on the serving line to ensure the breakfast ran smoothly. Organizers expressed gratitude for the many volunteers who donated their time, as well as for the community members who came out to support local students.



Grange Connection

ADAMS COUNTY

Ralston Grange will sponsor a Easter Egg Hunt after a one-year hiatus on Saturday, March 28 at the Keppler Memorial Park in Ralston. The hunt will be followed by a pancake and sausage breakfast for all. Also planned this spring is the second edition of the Homestead Spring Fair planned for May, the annual John Wayne Pioneer Wagons and Riders dinner and auction also in May, and in June, a celebration of U.S.A.'s 250th Anniversary with a potluck picnic, fun contests and games for the whole family at the Keppler Park.

LEWIS COUNTY

Hope Grange was honored to celebrate with its members their milestone awards. Hope Grange recognizes and greatly appreciates the dedication each member has extended to our members and our communities.

Membership Recognition awards were presented to: 75 years – Richard Claussen; 70 years – Richard Dorothy; 65 years – Virginia Cook; 60 years – Kristine Carroll and Larry Carroll; 55 years – Susan Rosbach and Adele Carlson; 50 years – Terry Ojala, Minnie Calaway, Dennis Bowers, and Karen Etheridge; 40 years – Steve Caskey and Virginia Erkenbrack; and 20 years – Michael D. Porter.

PIERCE COUNTY

Fruitland Grange held a Valentine's Dance on February 7th for families. There was around 150 in attendance for dancing, cookie decorating and games.

There are lots of planned activities coming up: Bingo - every other 1st Wednesday of the month; Scuffed Boots Line Dancing 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month with a dance on the first Friday of the month; Diamond and Spurs Line Dances are on 5th Sundays; April 1st is the first Crafting Social; May 2nd is the Annual Tea Party - tickets required; and May 20th is a Pickling and Salsa Canning Class.

SPOKANE COUNTY

Green Bluff Grange's 2nd annual Mac and Cheese Cook-off was a very cheesy event with 7 entrees and very well attended. Congrats to our winners. All the proceeds of \$385 will go to the scholarship fund. Upcoming pancake breakfast is March 29. Where can you get all you want to eat for just \$6/adult and \$4/kiddo 5-12 years old? Upcoming Grange community events: March 3 @ 7 pm—Heirloom Seeds presentation and give away. March 31 @ 6:30 Bingo. April 19 is our 13th annual Keep GB Green Trash Pickup from 1-3 pm sponsored by our Jr. Grangers. The next issue of the

Green Bluff Gazette was posted online the end of February and is full of info about Green Bluff and other interesting articles. At the Feb.17 meeting under the direction of our Family Living Leader, we sang the Star Spangled Banner and had r/w/b Jello for a snack celebrating 250America. Some form of celebrating 250America will be done at each upcoming meeting this year.

THURSTON COUNTY

Prosperity Grange is excited to announce an essay contest inviting students living in their home school district, Griffin, to discover the history hiding in their own backyard. This year's contest theme is "The Grange Comes to Steamboat Peninsula" and focuses on the local social, educational, and economic conditions in Thurston County in 1909, the year that residents organized Prosperity Grange, and the reasons why residents might have wanted to start a local Grange in the area at that time. This contest is open to all students living in Griffin School District studying Washington State History at the 7th grade level. Winning essays receive cash prizes of \$50 for first place, \$35 for second place, and \$25 for third place. Additionally, their credited work may be included in future Prosperity Grange publications.

South Union Grange held their regular meeting on February 16. The meeting was preceded by a snack-style potluck to celebrate Presidents Day. It was reported that we collected 114 pounds of food during our winter food drive for Thurston County Food Bank. The food, along with many clean, reusable plastic grocery bags, has been delivered to the food bank. The Territorial Seeds fundraiser sale is underway and will close at the end of February. It was announced that the charter will be draped for Myrna Conine at the May 18 meeting.

Violet Prairie Grange contributed children's winter coats & snow boots to the local Presbyterian Church's "God's Closet" program in January. Prior to Feb.'s regular meeting, a junior 4-H member, whose club meets in our grange, came to share about his first meat goat project. Our members voted to contribute an "add-on" to his endeavor. And we are also reaching out to the "Anywhere Library" service (the "Book Mobile" of yesteryear!) to partner with our ongoing monthly "Mercantile Market".

Glenwood Grange #94 Hosts Informative February Meeting



By Linda Williams
Glenwood Grange #94 President

Glenwood Grange #94 met on Sunday, February 22, welcoming special guests from the Washington State Grange. In attendance were Washington State Officer Tom Cullen, State Steward, and Lucille Bevis, former Washington State Deputy Director of Klickitat County.

The meeting featured an informative presentation on the Constitution and By-Laws of both the Washington State Grange and the National Grange. Glenwood Grange President Linda Williams also shared a brief history of the local Grange, originally written in 1988 by Juanita Rolph. The historical account was both humorous and insightful, offering members a meaningful look at the organization's past.

A special highlight of the meeting was the presentation of a 50-year membership certificate to Larry Williams. The certificate was awarded by State Steward Tom Cullen in recognition of Larry's long-standing dedication and service to the Grange.

Following the meeting, members and guests enjoyed food and fellowship together.

Samish Valley Grange Receives Grant For Hall Renovations



Samish Valley Grange 926 in Sero-Woolley, WA received a grant through the Washington State Department of Commerce for a new roof, gutters, insulation and electrical repairs. We are in the process of completing this work. The electrical work and roof are complete. The gutters and insulation will be completed when this news goes to press.



With these improvements, our Grange will be here for generations to come for the community and members to enjoy. We want to thank all our Legislative representatives for supporting us to insure our Grange will live on.

Garden City Grange Hosts Valentine's Breakfast Party



By Catherine McPhail

Garden City Grange #280 in Snohomish, WA held a Valentine's Party Breakfast Meeting on Sunday February 15th. The Grange members were quite creative with their 'Valentine Box' designs and the cards exchanged included candy and roses... how sweet can that be!



Grange Connection



Meridian Grange Hosts Sour Dough Bread Event

By Donna Rohde

Meridian Grange in Kent had a great second Community event called “Learn to Make Sourdough Bread” on January 10th.

We had a wonderful turnout of 126 attendees and 14 Grange members participating with 83 cars in our parking lot!

This event was presented by Tiffany Richard with help from her husband, Matthew and her dad, Andy Garboden. We also received help from Grange members in getting the hall set-up and ready for this many people!

As everyone was being checked in at the door, attendees were sampling slices of sourdough bread enjoying the various



butters: Regular, Garlic, Honey, and Texas Road House.

Tiffany gave out a small booklet to each person filled with great information on “Glossary of Terms,” “How to Feed a Starter,” “Her Sourdough Recipe,” and “Tips & Tricks”!

Tiffany did an excellent presentation in instructing people how to make sourdough bread and how to feed and keep a sourdough “starter” alive over the years, as well as, demonstrating step-by-step her favorite sourdough bread recipe.

Tiffany began her presentation with showing everyone the tools she uses to make her bread: food scale using grams, various bowls, small towels, a special tool for stirring the dough, a dutch oven, a cutter for scoring the bread and a serrated knife for cutting the bread.

With help from Matthew and Andy, Tiffany began making her bread using the starter and adding flour, filtered water

and salt. Then began the demonstration of stretching and folding the dough and placing it in a bowl covered by the towels which is done several times throughout the day.

There were many questions asked by the attendees. Tiffany and Andy were wonderful in repeating each person’s question to the large audience so they could hear Tiffany’s response to each question.

Each person received a raffle ticket when they signed in at the door and throughout the presentation, door prizes of the various tools were given out to many winners with one lucky person winning the ultimate prize of taking home a “dutch oven”!

After the presentation, attendees all went home with a jar of sourdough “starter” to have the joy of making their own sourdough bread in their home.

A fun and memorable experience was had by all.

Happy Valley Grange Holds Book Exchange Event



Happy Valley Grange held a Book Exchange on Feb. 17, 2026. (left to right) Jeannine Luce, Ruth Neilsen, Lecturer, Stephanie Algood and David Algood. For this event we brought books into the Grange and were able to exchange them for books of our choice. Leftover books are used to support “Joy of Reading” which started 15 years ago with a mini library for children in India. 70,200 books have been donated to this organization from the U.S. over the years. Stephanie Algood has been in charge of collecting books from our Grange.

Washington Grange Presents Candlelighting Ceremony



Washington Grange No. 82 held a candle light ceremony to start off the new year. The lecturer, Patti Tuller, changed the wording on some of the charges suggested by the State lecturer to included programs and activities particular to our Grange. It was a well thought out program enjoyed by our members and guest at our January meeting.

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.



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 _____

Visit us on the Web: www.WA-Grange.com

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

Pomona Connection

CLALLAM COUNTY POMONA

Clallam County Pomona Grange will hold their Lecturer and Family Living Contests at the Dry Creek Grange Hall on April 26. Entries should be dropped off between 10 am and 12 p.m. Items will be judged and then displayed at the Pomona meeting, which begins with a 3 pm potluck. The Pomona meeting will follow the potluck.

CLARK COUNTY POMONA

Clark County Pomona visited the Children learning center, Santa & Mrs. Claus handed out teddy bears and candy canes. The Clark County dairy princess handed out cheese sticks and stickers. Santa elves Janice, Ann, Becky, Mike & Vickie handed out coloring books & crayons, hat & scarf and a comfort toy to each child. We had 45 total children.

COWLITZ/WAHKIAKUM POMONA

Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Pomona will meet on March 21 at the Rose Valley Grange Hall and on April 18 at the Catlin Grange Hall. Contest entries will be due on April 17 to the Catlin Grange Hall between 9 am and 10 am.

EXCELSIOR POMONA GRANGE

Excelsior Pomona Grange will meet on March 28 at the Clayton Grange Hall. Baking and Photography Contest entries are due at that time. All remaining contests will be held at the May 16 meeting, scheduled to be at the Greenwood Park Grange Hall. Pomona meetings begin at 10:30 a.m.

GRAYS HARBOR/PACIFIC POMONA

Grays Harbor/Pacific Pomona met on January 11 at the Sharon Grange Hall. The Candlelighting Service was presented and plans made for the ensuing year. The next meeting is on Saturday, March 14 at the North Willapa Harbor Grange Hall at 10 a.m. Baking and candy contest entries are due by 10 a.m. Entries for all remaining contests will be due on May 8 to the Olympic View Grange Hall between 11 am and 1 pm. Entries will be judged and on display at the Pomona Grange meeting, scheduled for May 9.

KLICKITAT COUNTY POMONA

Klickitat County Pomona will perform the exemplification of the first four degrees on May 2 at the Centerville Grange Hall. The event begins at 11 a.m.

LEWIS COUNTY POMONA

Lewis County Pomona will

hold their Lecturer and Family Living Contests at the Newaukum Grange Hall. Entries are due on Friday, April 3 between 10 am and 12 pm, and will be on display at the Pomona meeting the next day.

MASON COUNTY POMONA

Mason County Pomona will join Grays Harbor/Pacific Pomona for their Lecturer and Family Living Contests. Entries will be due on Friday, May 8 to the Olympic View Grange Hall between 11 am and 1 pm.

OKANOGAN COUNTY POMONA

Okanogan County Pomona will meet on April 11 at the Molson Grange Hall. Lecturer and Family Living Contest entries will be due.

PEND OREILLE POMONA

Pend Oreille Pomona will have their Baking Contest on May 7 at the Camden Grange Hall. All other Lecturer and Family Living Contests will be on May 2 at the Fertile Valley Grange Hall.

PIERCE COUNTY POMONA

Pierce County Pomona will have the Sewing, Quilting, and Needlework Contests on April 4 at the McMillin Grange Hall. The Craft and Photography Contests will be on May 2 at the Waller Road Grange Hall. The May meeting will include exemplification of the Grange degrees.

SKAGIT COUNTY POMONA

Skagit County Pomona Contests will be on April 11 at the Fredonia Grange Hall. The May 6 Pomona meeting will include the Annual Memorial Service.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY POMONA

Snohomish County Pomona Grange will meet on March 21 at the South Lake Stevens Grange Hall. Entries in the Baking, Candy, and Canning Contests are due between 7:30 am and 10 am. The May 16 Pomona meeting will be at the Kellogg Marsh Grange Hall. Entries for the remaining Family Living and Lecturer contests are due on Thursday, May 14 between 2 pm and 4 pm.

SPOKANE COUNTY POMONA

Spokane County Pomona Grange moved their May meeting to May 9 at 10 am at the Five Mile Prairie Grange Hall. Entries for Lecturer and Family Living contests will be due on Friday, May 8.

THURSTON COUNTY POMONA

Thurston County Pomona Grange gathered at Brighton Park Grange on January 11 for the installation of officers. A contingent of Lewis County Grangers was also present and their officers installed as well. A time of food and fellowship was enjoyed by the nearly forty attendees following the installation. The February 5 meeting held at Violet Prairie Grange was preceded by a potluck dinner. Pomona Leadership Training was held at Black Lake Grange on February 19. Attendees were divided into groups according to their offices for a time of learning and sharing, then came together for a lively discussion of what happened in the groups, to ask questions, and to share thoughts and information on activities at their own Granges. Lecturer and Family Living contests (not including baking and candy) will be held at Brighton Park Grange on Saturday March 28. Entries will be taken from 9-10 am. Judged entries should be picked up between 2 and 3 pm. The April 2 Pomona meeting will be held at South Union Grange at 7 pm, preceded by a potluck at 6 pm. The baking and candy contests will be held there so bring your entries in prior to the meeting. The May 7 Pomona meeting will be held at Prosperity Grange at 7 pm with fellowship and snacks at 6 pm. The annual Memorial Program will be held at that meeting.

WHATCOM COUNTY POMONA

Whatcom County Pomona held their baking contest at their February 17 meeting at the Ten Mile Grange Hall. The next Pomona meeting will be on April 21 at the Rome Grange Hall. The April meeting will include all remaining Grange contests.

WHITMAN COUNTY POMONA

Whitman County Pomona will meet on March 21 at the Whelan Ewartsville Grange Hall at 10 am. The meeting will include the baking contest, followed by a bake sale. The April 18 meeting will be held at the Colfax Library, while the May 16 meeting will be at the North and South Palouse Grange Hall. All remaining contests will be held at the May meeting.

YAKIMA VALLEY POMONA

Yakima Valley Pomona Grange will meet on April 13 at the Fruitvale Grange Hall. All Lecturer and Family Living contest entries are due.

Pomona Calendar

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

CHELAN	May 9 – will hold Lecturer and Family Living Contests at Bee Hive, beginning at 10 a.m. May 16 business meeting at Chumstick, 10 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck. Lunch at Smitty's Restaurant in Wenatchee at 12 noon on March 19, April 16, and May 21.
CLALLAM	April 26 at Dry Creek, 3 p.m. potluck, 4 p.m. meeting. Entries for Lecturer and Family Living Contests accepted 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
CLARK	March 11 and April 8 at Manor, 7 p.m.
COLUMBIA	to be announced.
COWLITZ/WAHKIAKUM	March 21 at Rose Valley, 1 p.m. potluck, meeting to follow. April 18 at Catlin, 1 p.m. potluck, meeting to follow. Contest entries due April 17 to Catlin, 9-10 a.m.
DOUGLAS	to be announced.
EXCELSIOR	March 28 at Clayton, 10:30 p.m. Will include baking contest. Photography entries due.
FERRY	March 9 at Malo, 6 p.m.
GRAYS HARBOR/PACIFIC	March 14 at North Willapa Harbor, 10 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. lunch. Baking and candy contest entries due by 10 a.m. May 9 at Olympic View. All other contest entries due on May 8 10 Olympic View between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
ISLAND	to be announced.
KING	to be announced.
KLICKITAT	April 25 at Columbia, 12 p.m. potluck, 1 p.m. meeting.
LEWIS	April 4 at Newaukum, 12 p.m. lunch, 1 p.m. meeting. All Lecturer and Family Living Contest entries due on April 3, 12 p.m. potluck, 1 p.m. meeting.
MASON	March 21 at Matlock, 11 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck.
OKANOGAN	April 11 at Molson, 10 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck. Will hold Lecturer and Family Living Contests.
PEND OREILLE	May 2 at Fertile Valley, 10 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck. Will include all contests, except the baking contest.
PIERCE	March 7 at Fruitland, 10 a.m., will include baking and canning contests. April 4 at McMillin, 10 a.m., will include sewing, quilting, and needlework
SKAGIT	April 11 at Fredonia, 6:30 p.m. meeting with potluck following, will include Lecturer and Family Living contests.
SNOHOMISH	March 21 at South Lake Stevens, 10 a.m. CFA Baking, Candy and Contest entries due 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
SPOKANE	May 9 at Five Mile Prairie, 10 a.m. Contest entries due on May 8 to Five Mile Prairie.
STEVENS	to be announced.
THURSTON	March 5 at Black Lake, 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. meeting. April 2 at South Union, 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. meeting, bring candy and baking contest entries. May 7 at Prosperity.
WHATCOM	April 21 at Rome, 6 pm potluck, 7 p.m. meeting. Will hold all contests, except baking.
WHITMAN	March 21 at Whelan-Ewartsville, 10 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck. Will include the baking contest and bake sale.
YAKIMA VALLEY	April 13 at Fruitvale. 5 p.m. potluck, 6 p.m. meeting. Will include all Grange contests.

Home & Family

March/April News From Your Family Living Director

By **Debbie Fisch**
Family Living Director

“Winds of March, we welcome you, there is work for you to do. Work and play and blow all day, blow the winter wind away.”

~ Anonymous

Many of you will start holding your Pomona Contests. Which means there is work for all of us! Be sure to have fun while you plan and execute your Grange Contests. If you have a chance, please send me the date of your Family Living Contest(s) so I can add it to my calendar. I love to know when they are happening! Once you have held your Pomona Contest, please send your purple winner results to me so that I can get entry tickets ready for State in June. You can find my email and address in the paragraph below.

I am happy to still be receiving 2025 reports as they trickle in. I love receiving them and getting to know everyone. It amazes me how many activities individual Granges hold and the Community outreach is amazing! If you haven't sent yours yet, it's not too late! If you have lost your copy, please go to www.wa-grange.com, under Departments, then Family Living Department, Forms and reports. You can either email

them to fisharosa@msn.com, or mail them to Debbie Fisch, 4035 Squilchuck Rd, Wenatchee WA 98801.

The biggest change this year is that Washington State Grange will not be mailing out the 2026 program to each Grange/Pomona Grange due to budget constraints. If you need a copy of the Family Living handbook and other forms, you can find it online at the State Grange website. Go to www.wa-grange.com, then look for the black bar and hover your mouse over Departments, click on Family Living, then look for the Family Living links on the left-hand side, click on Family Living Forms. You should find everything you need there. The contest information is called “Family Living Program Handbook.” You will also find the new judging sheets/forms. I will be adding more judging sheets for Needlepoint – Knitting, Crochet, and Tat as well as Sewing – Wearable Art. Eventually there will also be more baking judging sheets for Biscuits, Muffins, and Decorated cupcakes-cookies-cakes. And let's not forget Food Preservation, I will have some judging sheets for Canned Fruit-Tomatoes-Vegetable, Canned Salsa, Home Canned Specialties (Soups, stews, spaghetti sauce, sauces, juices, syrups), Canned

pickles and pickled products, Mixes in a jar, Canned meat-seafood-poultry, and Canned fruit spreads. Please keep checking back on the website for new judging sheets. You can also email me requests for them and I will email them to you. If you have old forms to use up, please feel free to use them at your Pomona Contests. We will start integrating the new forms into the State Contest this year.

Be sure to mark your calendar! Family Living and Lecturer Departments will have more joint zoom meeting via Zoom. Be sure to join us March 26th, April 21st, May 11th, and June 15th. They will all be at 6:30 p.m. The zoom link can be found on the home page of the State Grange Website, on Facebook, or in the front part of this newsletter.

I would like to invite everyone to the Family Living Luncheon at State Convention. Mark your calendars for June 25th for the Luncheon at the Skagit Valley Fairgrounds. Meal sign-up should be in an upcoming Grange News and available for sign up on the Website at some point.



Debbie Fisch



Crock Pot Chili

Great for Potlucks and for keeping people warm during the cold months!

Ingredients:

Seasoning Mix

4 Tbsp Chili Powder
2 ½ tsp ground coriander
2 ½ tsp ground cumin
1 ½ tsp garlic powder
1 tsp oregano
1 tsp cayenne pepper

Chili

1 ½ lbs. ground beef
1 Tbsp minced onion
1 (28 oz) can diced tomatoes
1 (15 oz) can tomato sauce
2 (15 oz) cans kidney beans
or three bean mix

Directions:

- Mix together the seasoning mix
- Store in an airtight container in a cool, dry place. (This makes more than needed, save the rest for next time!)
- In a skillet, cook ground beef until no longer pink
- Drain any liquids
- Add minced onion and 3 tsp seasoning mix
- In Crock-Pot, add tomatoes, tomato sauce, one can of beans and 2 tsp of seasoning
- Place the other can of beans in a blender and process until smooth
- Add processed beans and meat to the crock pot
- Stir together
- Cook on low for 6 to 8 hours.
- Serve with shredded cheese, chopped fresh onions, and sour cream. Tortilla chips or Fritos are also a great side.

Community Service

Community Service Awards and Recognition

By **Leslie Wells**
Community Service Director

Although it is only March, it's not too early to be considering members and non-members for nomination by your Grange for the various Community Service awards that are part of our department. Participation in this activity is a wonderful way to showcase your Grange's involvement and benefit to your community. The reporting year for community service is June 1 to May 31, annually.

POMONA GRANGE AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

The Pomona Award for Public Service is presented by a Pomona Grange to either a member or non-member individual or group.

SUBORDINATE GRANGE COMMUNITY CITIZEN AWARD

This is an excellent opportunity to promote your Grange to reward an individual or group in your community for their involvement or outstanding achievements. The Community Citizen Award is presented by a Subordinate Grange to a non member individual or group.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM: *LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER* *FIREFIGHTER/EMT* *TEACHER* *VOLUNTEER GROUP* *GRANGE MEMBER COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER*

At the state level, we will recognize an “Outstanding Community Volunteer Group”, “Outstanding Grange Member Community

Volunteer”, “Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer”, “Outstanding Teacher” and “Outstanding Firefighter/EMT” each year.

Groups may not be Grange groups, but Grange members may be members of the group. There is a one-page nomination form on the Community Service Department page of the WSG website: wa-grange.com. All nominations for the state award are due by June 1 to the WA State Grange Office. Awards will be presented at the State Grange Convention.

I look forward to being able to present the Volunteer Recognition Awards to the recipients at our State Convention in Mt Vernon in June.



Leslie Wells

Grange Historical Committee Seeks Photos From 2014

The Washington State Grange Historical Committee is asking each Grange to send one photo of something they did at their Grange in the year 2014.

The photo can be any activity, celebration, picnic, drill team, fair booth, recognition dinner, fundraiser, meeting swap, etc.

Items required:

- where it is being held
- what is happening in the photo
- who (name of Grange and number)
- any additional information you feel is important

Photos should be sent to the WA State Grange Office, Attn: Historical Committee, PO Box 1186, Olympia WA 98507.

Thank you!
Helen Gardner
State Grange Historical Committee

SAVE THE DATE!

Upcoming State Grange Events

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

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| MONTHLY New Member Reports due to the State Grange Office | MAY 20 Pomona Lecturer Contest Report due to State Lecturer |
| MARCH 26 Lecturer and Family Living Joint Zoom Meeting (hosted by Claudine Mincks and Debbie Fisch), 6:30 pm via Zoom | MAY 20 Creative Writing Contest entries due to State Lecturer |
| MARCH 26-28 Western Regional Grange Leaders and Youth Conference in Boise, ID – hosted by the Idaho State Grange | JUNE 1 Grange Community Service Reports due to the State Grange Office |
| MARCH 31 First Quarter Secretary Reports Due to the State Grange Office | JUNE 1 Nominations for Volunteer Recognition Program (Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter/EMT, Teach, Volunteer Group, and Community Volunteer) due to the State Grange Office |
| APRIL GRANGE MONTH | JUNE 1 Entries for State Grange Youth Contests Due to State Youth director (Youth & Young Adult Ambassadors, Sign-a-Song, Prepared Speeches, Spirit of Youth Award, Youth Achievement Award, Youth Community Service Award, and Junior Mentor Award) |
| APRIL 1 State Grange Foundation Scholarship Applications due to the State Grange Office | JUNE 1 Applications/Nominations for all Junior Grange Awards due to State Junior Directors |
| APRIL 1-30 State Grange Standing Committee Meetings held via Zoom | JUNE 1 Lecturer and Family Living Joint Zoom Meeting (hosted by Claudine Mincks and Debbie Fisch), 6:30 pm via Zoom |
| APRIL 15 Credentials forms due to State Grange Office | JUNE 5-7 Grange Camper Association Fun Rally at Ocean Shores |
| APRIL 15 Committee Questionnaire due to State Grange Office | JUNE 24-27 137th Annual Washington State Grange Convention at the Skagit County Fairgrounds, 501 Taylor St, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 |
| APRIL 21 Lecturer and Family Living Joint Zoom Meeting (hosted by Claudine Mincks and Debbie Fisch), 6:30 pm via Zoom | NOVEMBER 11-15 160th Annual National Grange Convention at Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center Broken Arrow 200 W Albany Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74012 |
| MAY 11 Lecturer and Family Living Joint Zoom Meeting (hosted by Claudine Mincks and Debbie Fisch), 6:30 pm via Zoom | |
| MAY 15 Grange Hall Improvement Contest Entries due to the State Grange Office | |
| MAY 20 Pomona Family Living Contest Report due to State Family Living Director | |



Welcome New Deputies



Janelle Lierman, new Deputy for Snohomish and Island Counties



Steve Dalton, new Deputy for Snohomish and Island Counties



Andrea Wilbur, new Deputy for Pierce County



Donna Russell, new Deputy for Stevens County



WA State Grange President Tom Gwin and newly appointed State Deputy for Clallam County Emil Moilanen after presentation of the deputy sash.



Butch Ogden, new At-Large Deputy for Southwest Washington

