

# MISSION STATEMENT ::



Uniting Communities by Strengthening  
Families, Enriching Lives and Developing  
Leaders for a Better Tomorrow

## :: GRANGE \* NOT PARTISAN

The Grange is not a partisan body, but an Order devoted to the greatest good for the greatest number. Every member retains full rights and duties of citizenship, free to act within any party for the cause of justice and truth. We hold that honest differences of opinion are no crime, but that fairness, protection for the weak, restraint upon the strong, and the just distribution of power are the essence of American independence. Renouncing sectionalism, we recognize no North, South, East, or West, but labor together in unity for the welfare of all.

## STATE & POMONA GRANGE ::

The Grange is organized into four levels of hierarchy. Primary membership and activities take place at the local, or Subordinate, Grange. Pomona Granges unite several local Granges within a region, reviewing resolutions and serving as a step toward State contests. The State Grange represents all Granges within its boundaries, while the National Grange provides services to all members and establishes the uniform rules followed by every Grange.

**Together, We Can Make a Difference**



# THE GRANGE

## New Member Guide

# KEY TERMS & OBJECTIVES ::

- ▶ **OFFICERS:** Each Grange is guided by sixteen officers. The President, also known as Master, and the Vice President, also called Overseer, are joined by the Gatekeeper (also known as Greeter), Lecturer (also known as Program Director), Steward, Assistant Steward, Lady Assistant Steward, Chaplain, Treasurer, Secretary, three Executive Committee members, and the three Graces—Pomona, Flora, and Ceres—who embody the fruits and flowers of agriculture.
- ▶ **STAVES:** Four officers—the Steward, Assistant Steward, Lady Assistant Steward, and Gatekeeper bear Staves, tall poles crowned with emblems that signify their office. Each emblem carries meaning, and members are encouraged to inquire of the officers to learn more of their symbolism.
- ▶ **DEGREES:** The Degrees of the Grange are short presentations set on the farm, each teaching a moral lesson. The first four Degrees, designed to welcome new members, follow the seasons and instruct in Faith, Hope, Charity, and Fidelity. Historically, members had to witness these four before voting or holding office; today, members receive full rights immediately but are encouraged to see or read the Degrees in the Subordinate Grange Manual. The manual, which also contains the Oath of Membership, may be borrowed from an officer before applying. Altogether, there are seven Degrees: the Fifth at the Pomona level, the Sixth at the State level, and the Seventh at the National level, each building on the lessons of the first four.
- ▶ **SALUTATION:** At the close of each Degree, members learn a sign that embodies its lesson. Taken together, the first four signs form the Grange salutation: “A good Patron places Faith in God, nurtures Hope, dispenses Charity, and is noted for Fidelity.”
- ▶ While an American flag and an open Bible are required at a legal Grange meeting, other flags and holy books may be displayed at the request of the membership.

# ::: BUSINESS MEETINGS

Granges meet at least once a month for fellowship, mutual support, learning, and business. Meetings are conducted with order and respect for members' time, following parliamentary procedure of motions, seconds, and votes. The President presides with fairness, ensuring civility and that all voices may be heard. Minutes are faithfully recorded by the Secretary and adopted by the members, serving as essential records for history, internal transactions, and dealings with outside institutions.

When the President raps the gavel three times, all stand. One rap means all are seated. Two raps mean only officers of the Grange stand. The group may sing National Anthem or say the Pledge of Allegiance.

# ::: FELLOWSHIP & GROWTH



A special time is set apart in each meeting for the Lecturer's Program, a time of education, inspiration, or entertainment that fulfills our charge to help members grow to their fullest potential and offers the community an opportunity to share in our work. The Lecturer directs this program but may call upon members or outside speakers to broaden the knowledge of all, including those not yet of our Order. Fellowship is likewise central to Grange life, with social hours and potlucks held before or after meetings, and in some cases an additional monthly gathering devoted entirely to activities, entertainment, and community enjoyment.