

Application for Grange Life Membership or Memorial

I, _____ by a payment of \$ _____

Payable to Washington State Grange, apply for a:

Life Membership in _____ Grange # _____
 Memorial in the name of _____
For the benefit of _____ Grange # _____

Upon my death, I would like the distribution of interest to be (mark one box only):

all to my Subordinate Grange
 all to State Grange
 divided equally between by Subordinate Grange and State Grange

Applicant's address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature of applicant _____ Signature of Subordinate Secretary _____

*This application must be signed by your Subordinate Secretary

What are Life Memberships?

In 1986, the delegates to the Washington State Grange Annual Session adopted the Life Membership program. This is a voluntary program which may be instituted by any Washington Subordinate Grange by a majority vote of its members.

Choosing to become a Life Grange member entitles the Granger to important benefits. After paying the prescribed fee, the member never again has to pay Subordinate Grange dues; he or she is a member for life. If the Life Membership is taken in one's youth or middle years, there is every prospect that the member will save a substantial amount of money in dues.

Taking out a Life Membership also instills the peace of mind that the membership fee will continue to earn money for his or her Grange long after the member dies. All Life Membership fees are put into an interest-earning account which supplies needed income to the Grange forever.

Life members retain their right to demit to another Grange in Washington State if they so desire.

This program also has great potential for Subordinate Granges. Over the long range, Granges with a large number of Life members stand to see their financial condition improve greatly. Membership will be stabilized and the Secretary's workload will be substantially reduced.

How much does it cost?

In 2023, the delegates adjusted the amount of a Life Membership. Beginning July 1, 2023, a Life Membership will cost a minimum of \$500 regardless of the age of a member. The Grange may adopt a scale of fees which is greater than the minimum amount. Payment of the one-time fee frees the member from further payment of dues but not special assessments.

Since the Grange will not receive any income from the invested fee for at least one year following purchase of a Life Membership, the Subordinate Grange is urged to collect one year of dues in addition to the Life fee. If the member so desires, he or she may contribute more than the specified amount in order to provide additional income for the Grange.

All checks for Life Membership should be made out to Washington State Grange and the check, together with the application, should be given to the Subordinate Secretary who will forward it to State Grange.

Upon receipt of the application and fees, State Grange will invest the funds and notify the Subordinate Grange that the money is being held in trust for the Grange pursuant to the terms of the fund. The member will receive a certificate designating them as a Life member.



Memorials

Memorials of \$200 or more may be established in a Subordinate Grange in honor of a deceased member or a deceased married couple. If a member decides to set up a memorial, funds may be donated and transmitted to State Grange in the same manner as is done with Life Memberships. Memorial funds are then invested and income returned to the Grange. Memorials are not transferable to another Grange.

How is it administered?

When money for Life Memberships or memorials are received by Washington State Grange, it is deposited in a special fund which has been set up for this purpose. The interest from this fund is withdrawn annually and returned to the Granges.

The amount returned to each Grange depends, of course, upon the amount earned by the fund and the total amount of money invested by each Grange. Also, State Grange retains 5 percent of the interest each year as an administration fee. If a Grange dissolves, living members can demit to another Grange and their Life Memberships will follow them. Any other money left in the fund from the dissolved Grange will have its annual income added to the income from all other Granges participating in the fund.

What are my rights?

The holder of a Life Membership may voluntarily transfer to another Subordinate Grange in Washington. When the state secretary is notified of the transfer, a transfer on the books of the fund will be made so the new Grange will receive the income from that member's Life membership. Life Memberships cannot be transferred out of the State of Washington. Members who move to another state must leave their Life membership with a Grange in Washington.

The holder of a Life Membership is still subject to all the laws, rules, and regulations outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the National, State, Pomona, and Subordinate Granges. The loss of membership by suspension or expulsion shall automatically abrogate a Life Membership and any claim to any portion of the fee paid to the Life Membership. In the event of suspension or expulsion of a member, the last Grange to which the individual belonged will continue to receive income from the Life Membership.

**Help yourself,
Help your Grange:**

**Become a
Life Member!**

Washington State Grange

Life Membership and Memorial Program

