The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

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In this Issue:

Recap of Presidents' Conference by Betsy E. Huber
Anxiety and Goals: Making your Grange welcoming to newcomers by Amanda Brozana Rios
Legislative Department provides testimony on RSV vaccine
Grange Month Shirt Fundraiser
March Heirloom
Grange Month Materials
Share your talent at "Date Night In"
Grange Supply Store: Raised Right Here Stickers
Grange Supply Store: Guidelines for Grange Leaders
Grange Member Benefit: Nationwide Pet Insurance

Recap of Presidents' Conference

By Betsy E. Huber, National Grange President



Your State Grange Presidents met on February 17 & 18 for the annual Presidents' Conference, held virtually this year.

The day began with a brainstorming session on "**Convention Reimagined**" – what we like about the annual National Grange Convention, what the essential purpose is, what would encourage more Grangers to attend, and how to reduce expenses for attendees as well as National Grange. National Vice President Chris Hamp is leading a committee that has been meeting for several months about this topic. They will present a report at this year's convention in Niagara Falls.

Next, a workshop was presented by Youth/Junior Director Samantha Wilkins on how to engage younger people in local Grange activities and National too. She said youth are saying, "Ask Me!" Personally, individually, with a specific request matching their interests—just ask them!

Communications Director Philip Vonada spoke about the many resources available from his department for states and local Granges to use in their publications and publicity efforts, as well as some information on copyrights and what can and cannot be used in your publications.

Stephanie Wilkins and Loretta Washington reviewed the National Grange website, showing the huge amount of information there for all members to use. (Check it out right now—www.nationalgrange.org!) Presidents were amazed at all the resources available that they were not aware of.

Inspired by the book *The Five Graces of Life and Leadership*, Amanda Brozana Rios presented a workshop that talked about gratitude, resilience, aspiration, courage and empathy and how each of these traits are part of the leadership puzzle and necessary for those we are leading to see in us.

I presented a couple workshops on chapters of the Digest - Sale of Grange Property and Conflict Resolution and the Judicial Process. State Presidents, as well as Community Grange Presidents, should become familiar with the Digest of Laws, which is available on the website.

Ask your State Grange President what they learned from the conference, and if they didn't attend, ask them why not! We will be presenting another Zoom conference for State Presidents in a few months.

Anxiety and Goals: Making your Grange welcoming to newcomers

By Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director



Recently in a leadership book I was reading, I came across this phrase: “Anxiety is energy without a goal.”

While I am still unsure of the individual to whom this quote should be attributed, I am sure it’s relevant and appropriate to reflect upon.

Some have called millennials and the generation following (Gen Z) the “anxiety generation(s),” because you will often times hear young people today saying their “anxiety is triggered” by things like talking to new people, being in crowds, calling to make an appointment, going to social settings alone, or even choosing their own outfits. These generations have also had highly structured and scheduled “leisure,” and experienced high pressure to excel in one or multiple things, be it sports, academics, or hobbies.

To me then, it makes some sense when looking through the lens of anxiety occurring when a goal is unclear, that young people (the 40 and under set specifically) feel uncomfortable to varying degrees when they encounter an opportunity but cannot clearly identify or articulate a desired or expected outcome.

What does this have to do with Grange?

Young individuals, especially, who come to see what Grange is all about or who join the Grange without a familial connection are more likely to feel anxious (i.e. uncomfortable, nervous, uneasy, apprehensive, or even fearful) when there is not a clear goal. This can be in relation to a single meeting, meetings over time or their own place in the Grange.

How, then, can we put these potential or current younger members more at ease?

Start with a clear outline/objectives for your meeting. Consider using the Sneak Peak brochure, or ensuring that newer members have a Manual or copy of the page of the Manual that includes the order of business. You could also make a more detailed agenda following the Grange order of business, and potentially noting some specific new and old business; make sure to include an “other” or “open to the floor” note so people know they are welcome to bring up topics that are not included in your prepared agenda. By providing this guide, the nervous energy that comes with attending a meeting that is not completely familiar to the new member can subside a bit. They have a direction – in this case a goal that is defined as an end point, and a map of how you will get there.

Use committees and subsequent reports of committees to establish a timeline and benchmarks for projects or programs. Even if the young or new member is not taking part or doesn’t have great interest in a specific project, providing benchmarks or other items that allow them to measure progress and feel a sense of purpose and movement will reinforce the Grange’s commitment to reaching a goal. This can also encourage them to get involved in a project of interest or propose something, knowing that the Grange takes achieving what they set out to do seriously – they will know they are affiliated with an organization that has it together.

Allow them to articulate things they would like to personally achieve (their own goals) and help them find ways to bolster their resume or make strides to improve or act upon something they are passionate about. When the new/young member’s energy can be funneled into something they care about and they can move toward a goal set by or with the consent of the Grange, feelings of unease or apprehension about their fit in an organization with great traditions and a sprawling mission will be greatly reduced.

I’d love to hear more about how you may have used goal-setting to reduce your anxiety and channel your energy in the Grange setting. Feel free to reach out to me at membership@nationalgrange.org.

Legislative Department provides testimony on RSV vaccine

On Tuesday, National Grange Legislative Director Burton Eller presented testimony to the FDA Vaccines and Related Products Advisory Committee regarding the need for RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) vaccine approval by fall of this year.

In the fall and early winter of 2022, the unprecedented rise of RSV cases added another dangerous condition to the challenges faced by remaining rural hospitals, as they tried to cope with the influx of patients needing care but with no space to offer them. Eller stressed that we could again face a quadruple respiratory threat from flu, pneumonia, COVID, and RSV during the coming fall and winter. The committee subsequently recommended approving Pfizer's RSVpreF vaccine for adults over 60. Additional RSV vaccines are in the pipeline from GSK, Bavarian Nordic, Johnson & Johnson, and Moderna. FDA's approval decision on the Pfizer vaccine will come in May, followed by the need for the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) to approve as well.





March Heirloom



The first and highest object of our Order is – to develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood. – Grange Lecturer, First Degree

Use the Heirloom Program to enhance your Grange's connection to the ritual and history of the Grange, and to also introduce your community to the work and background of the Grange!

Year B Brochure
Year B Social Media and Posters
Year B "Social Sharing" Calendar (*includes dates and suggested text to include with social media posts*)

Grange Month Materials

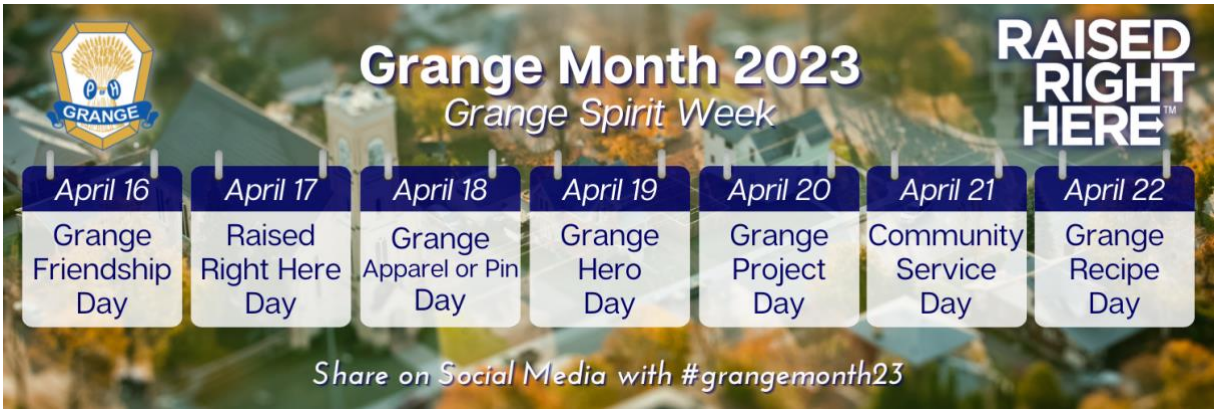


Grange Month is just around the corner – April will be here before we know it!

Over the next few weeks, keep checking the **Grange Month 2023** page on the National Grange website as more things will be added!

We are in year two of our "Raised Right Here," theme. This year, we encourage our Granges to use the theme to celebrate building strong communities – of all sorts! The network of the Grange community is strong, and we work to make the communities where our Granges function strong, too!

During Grange Month, there will be online forums and events with many of the National Grange officers and Directors – please encourage your Grange members to attend! That calendar will be available in mid-March.



Share your talent at "Date Night In"



We are planning for **Grange Month 2023!** One of our special events is a one-night-only return of "**Date Night In**," a favorite event from 2020!

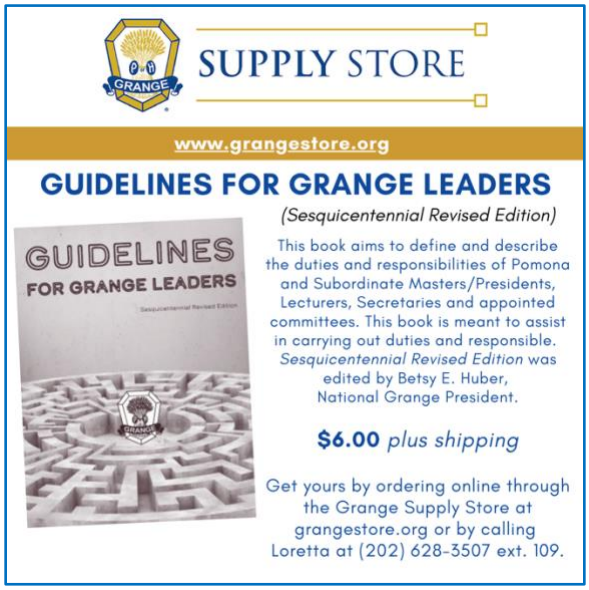
Do you have a special talent? Do you sing? Dance? Play an instrument? Are you crafty? Or do you have a hobby you'd love to share?

We are seeking 3-5 minute submissions from Grange members around the country to be a part of our Date Night In virtual talent show on April 14th.

Send your submissions to Ann Bercher, National Grange Lecturer by March 31 for consideration.

Date Night In will be live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook on April 14th!





Grange Member Benefit: Nationwide Pet Insurance



Nationwide Pet Insurance provides affordable pet health coverage from preventive care to significant medical incidents.

National Grange members are eligible for a 5% discount (or more for multiple pets) which makes this peace-of-mind protection even more affordable. Find out why Nationwide is the #1 choice in America for pet insurance.

Click on the link to enroll or get more information: https://benefits.petinsurance.com/national-grange



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