



NATIONAL GRANGE AWARDS \$40,000 IN RURAL LIFE INITIATIVE GRANTS

*32 Projects Selected to Strengthen Hometowns
Across America*

by Philip J Vonada
National Grange Communications Director

WASHINGTON, DC - In late June, National Grange President Christine E. Hamp announced the nationwide launch of the Rural Life Initiative, a program designed to revitalize hometowns by funding community-based projects through local Granges. Following a year of successful pilot programs in seven states, the expanded initiative will support Granges making a difference in their communities.

The initial round of grants required applicants to include a focus tied to the National Grange's signature program, [Project Sustenance](#), which aims to address issues of food security, self-sustainability, and personal and community resilience. Additionally, applicants were required to identify at least one partner organization in their area to collaborate with, and also had to include a strategy for recruiting

new members.

By the July 31, 2025 deadline, more than 60 applications from 46 Granges were submitted. Thirty \$1,000 grants will fund projects to be completed by September 30, 2025, while two \$5,000 grants have an extended deadline of December 31, 2025.



"These grants are about action - helping Granges respond quickly and creatively to the real, immediate needs they see in their communities," Hamp said. "We hope they'll also inspire Granges to leverage this momentum into

securing outside funding and forge powerful partnerships that make a lasting impact in their communities."

A wide array of project ideas was submitted, ranging from community gardens and personal education classes to dances, school supply giveaways, and support for a 5K

continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

National Grange Awards \$40,000 in Rural Life Initiative Grants	1
2025 National Grange Contest & Program Deadlines	2
Support Grange Youth and Juniors with a Custom Cruise Door Hanger!	3
View from the Hill	4
Saving a Slice of History	6
7 Things Doctors Wish Families Knew This Back-to-School Season	7
Your Voice Matters: Help Protect Rural Kidney Patients	8
This National Immunization Awareness Month, Protect Your Health - So You Don't Miss the Moments That Matter	8
Have you Registered?	9
You could be chosen to take part in the closing of National Grange session this November	10
Recipes from the Heartland	11
Be a Grange or State President in Action!	11
Grange Benefit: Wyndham Hotels ..	12
Grange Store	12

GRANGE STRONG



2025 National Grange Contest & Program Deadlines

September 1

Agricultural Awareness Project (Juniors)

Cape of Honor (Juniors)

Community Service: Coastal Clean-Up (Juniors)

Creative Art (Juniors)

Creative Writing Contest (Juniors)

Creative Writing Contest (Lecturer)

Design-a-Program Contest (Lecturer)

Distinguished Grange

Distinguished Youth Program

Garden Design Contest (Lecturer)

Grange in Action

Grange Hall of Fame

GROW Club Travel Scholarship

Junior Grange Ambassador (Juniors)

Junior Mentor Award (Juniors & Youth)

Pen-in-Hand (Lecturer)

Public Speaking (Youth - open to 14+)

Quilt Block Contest (Lecturer)

Sign-a-Song (Youth - open to all ages)

Social Media & Reels Contest (Youth)

Sticker Design (Youth)

Virtual Photography Contest (Lecturer)

Wib & June Justi Community Service Award (Youth)

October 1

Junior Grange Community Service Contest (Juniors)

Ocean Farm Discovery Wreath (Juniors)

Ocean Farm Journey Placemat (Juniors)

Learn more at nationalgrange.org

Please note:

Some contests and programs from previous years are not part of this year's program guide. If it isn't listed here, please check with us before submitting an entry for an old program or contest.

RURAL LIFE INITIATIVE GRANTS

continued from page 1

fundraiser for local students. All applications were reviewed by National Grange staff and partners, with Granges receiving notification in early August.

The two \$5,000 grants were awarded to:

- **Little Lake Grange #670 (CA)**
– for support for their Grange Garden and Grange Garden Education Project
- **Dry Creek Grange #646 (WA)**
– for support for veterinary science classes for youth in the community

The \$1,000 grants were awarded to:

- Copake Grange #935 (NY)
- Eagle Grange #1 (PA)
- Harraseeket Grange #9 (ME)
- Lacombe Grange #907 (OR)
- Little Deschutes Grange #939 (OR)
- Matlock Grange #357 (WA)
- Meyersville Grange #188 (NJ)
- Mica Flats Grange #346 (ID)
- Mount Lookout Grange #339 (CO)
- Nyah Grange #133 (MT)
- Otter Creek Grange #1493 (KS)
- Pine Grove Grange #115 (WA)
- Pleasant Grove Grange #475

(OR)

- Pleasant View Grange #1459 (KS)
- Rio Linda Grange #403 (CA)
- Rockford Grange #501 (OR)
- Russellville Grange #91 (PA)
- Saco Grange #53 (ME)
- Senexet Grange #40 (CT)
- Sierra Valley Grange #466 (CA)
- South Fork Grange #605 (OR)
- Spring Hill Grange #909 (WA)
- Stevenson Grange #121 (WA)
- Stranger Creek Grange #374 (WA)
- Sunflower Grange #162 (CO)
- Tranquility Grange #344 (ME)
- Vassalboro Grange #322 (ME)
- VilleWorth Grange #1300 (NC)
- Whelan-Ewartsville Grange #114 (WA)
- Williamsburg Grange #225 (MA)

“I look forward to seeing these Granges really capture the success of their programs,” said Nona Bear, who helped facilitate the National Grange’s GPS to Success webinar where the grants were announced. “I was impressed by the creativity, the adaptability, and the exciting opportunities the selected Granges included in their applications. It was

such a wide range of projects that show how Granges are staying in tune with what their communities need and trying to provide the solutions.”

As final reports are submitted, stay tuned to the National Grange’s *Grange Today!* newsletter and *Good Day!* magazine to see stories about the programs and the impact local Granges can make on their hometowns.

This will likely not be the only round of Rural Life Initiative Grants given this year.

“This is just the beginning for the Rural Life Initiative grants,” Hamp said. “We’re working to secure additional funding so we can open the door for even more grants – possibly with exciting new areas of focus. If your Grange wasn’t selected this time, don’t count yourself out. Each round will allow fresh ideas to have their chance to shine.”

Future grants will be announced on the National Grange’s social media and in the *Grange Today!* newsletter. Additional information can be found on the National Grange website at <http://www.nationalgrange.org/rural-life-initiative>.

SUPPORT GRANGE YOUTH AND JUNIORS WITH A CUSTOM CRUISE DOOR HANGER!



Grangers heading to the 2025 National Grange Convention at sea—or anyone who wants to show their Grange pride—can now preorder a custom 3D-printed door hanger to benefit the National Grange Foundation for Youth and Juniors!

These \$10 door hangers are designed with a magnetic back for cruise ship doors and include a hook for display after the cruise. Each one proudly displays your Grange affiliation and state, perfect for sparking conversation and showing off your Granger spirit during this

year’s convention aboard the *Carnival Horizon*.

Items are designed and created by Grange member Eugene Fletcher (MI), who operates his own 3D-print company, and has become known for his fidget toys at previous conventions.

Preorders are open through September 15 and can be picked up with your convention registration or shipped to your home if you’re not attending.

Ordering details:

- Cruise attendees: Use promo code **GRANGE2025** at checkout to waive the \$5 shipping fee.
- Not cruising? Leave the promo code blank and your order will be shipped directly to you.
- Multiple states? Just add one item per state to your cart.

Place your order today at: <https://www.3dgenedesigns.com/product-page/national-grange-door-decoration>

Questions? Reach out to 3dgenedesigns@gmail.com.

All proceeds support Grange Youth and Junior programming, while showing off your Grange pride.



NATIONAL GRANGE

OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

View from the Hill



NATIONAL GRANGE POLICY UPDATES & ISSUE NEWS

August 2025

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Congress needs to pass a “skinny” farm bill

The President signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act into law on July 4. It included several big-ticket farm bill items such as support for commodity programs, crop insurance, supplemental nutrition assistance (SNAP), dairy, sugar, and biofuels. However, there are many more sections to a farm bill that have not been addressed since the last farm bill in 2018. Congress hopes to begin debating the so-called “skinny” farm bill sometime this fall.

So what is left to do in the “skinny” farm bill?

1. **Conservation**
 - a. Reauthorize the Conservation Reserve Program
2. **Rural Development**
 - a. Rural Broadband Programs
 - b. ReConnect Loans and Grant Program
 - c. Community Connect Grants
 - d. Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants
 - e. Community Facilities Program
 - f. Rural Business Development Grants - *These support small and emerging rural businesses through technical assistance and capital access*
 - g. Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)
 - h. Rural Renting Housing Loans & Self-Help Housing Grants
3. **Credit**
 - a. Direct and Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating Loans
 - b. Microloan Program
 - c. Beginning Farmer and Rancher Down Payment Loan Program
 - d. Emergency Loans
 - e. Loan servicing & restructuring programs
4. **Research, Extension and Related Matters**
 - a. Agriculture Food and Research Initiative
 - b. Competitive research grants
 - c. Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
 - d. Evans-Allen & 1890 Capacity Grants - *These support HBCUs and minority serving institutions*
 - e. National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and Economic Research Service (ERS)
 - f. Hatch Act and Smith-Lever Programs - *These support land grant universities and extension programs*
5. **Forestry**
 - a. Healthy Forests Reserve Program - *This encourages landowners to restore, enhance, and protect forests that provide habitat for endangered species and improve biodiversity*
 - b. Forest Legacy Program - *This helps states and private*

landowners protect environmentally essential forests through conservation easements

- c. Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program - *These assist local governments, tribes, and nonprofits in acquiring forests for public access, conservation, and education*
- d. State and Volunteer Fire Assistance - *This is funding and technical assistance for state-level forest management and wildfire preparedness*
- e. Urban & Community Forestry Program - *This supports the development and maintenance of tree cover in cities and towns; promotes green infrastructure and heat reduction*
6. **Energy**
 - a. Rural Energy Program for America Program (REAP) - *These grants and loans help farmers and rural businesses invest in renewable energy systems and energy efficiency upgrades*
 - b. Biorefinery Assistance Program - *This supports the construction and development of facilities producing advanced biofuels and renewable chemicals*
 - c. Biomass Crops Assistance Program (BCAP) - *This encourages farmers to grow and harvest biomass crops (switchgrass) for energy production*
 - d. Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels - *This provides payments to producers of eligible advanced biofuels made from non-farm feedstocks*
 - e. Carbon sequestration and renewable fuel pilot programs
7. **Horticulture/Specialty Crops/Organic**
 - a. Specialty Crop Block Grant - *This is funding to states to support projects improving specialty crop competitiveness*
 - b. Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program - *This expands local/regional food systems, including farmers' markets, food hubs, and farm-to-school efforts*
 - c. Organic Certification Cost-share program - *This reimburses up to 75% of certification costs for organic producers and handlers*
 - d. National Organic Program - *This is the USDA regulatory body overseeing organic production standards*
 - e. Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention - *This funds early detection and prevention efforts to combat invasive pests and plant diseases.*
8. **Miscellaneous**
 - a. Outreach and Assistance for socially disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers (2501 Program)
 - b. Office of Urban Agriculture and innovative production
 - c. Livestock indemnity and forage programs
 - d. Disaster relief and animal health infrastructure

Reorganizing the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins has announced a major reorganization of USDA to refocus on its core operations to better align with its founding mission of supporting American farming, ranching, and forestry. She says reorganization will:

- Ensure the size of USDA's workforce aligns with available financial resources and agricultural priorities
- Bring USDFA closer to its customers
- Eliminate management layers and bureaucracy
- Consolidate redundant support functions

The reorganization includes a phased plan to relocate much of its headquarters and National Capital Region USDA staff out of the Washington area to five hub locations around the country where the USDA already has a significant staff presence. These locations are Raleigh, NC, Kansas City, MO, Indianapolis, IN, Fort Collins, CO, and Salt Lake City, UT. In addition, USDA will vacate several building complexes around Washington and return the property to the General Services Administration. The USDA has been receiving feedback and comments from Congress and stakeholders during August.

Enforcing trade deals' ag provisions a top priority

The USDA and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative say that ensuring countries fulfill their commitments to increase purchases of U.S. agricultural commodities will be a top priority for the administration. Recent ag purchase commitments were included in trade deals with Japan and Indonesia.

AG WORKFORCE

Uncertainty continues around farm labor

As the detention and deportation of undocumented immigrants ramps up, thought leaders are beginning to suggest the U.S. has a choice to make regarding agriculture. It can import more people to tend crops and do other kinds of agricultural labor. It can raise wages enough to see if U.S. citizens and immigrants with legal status will take these jobs. It can import more food. Washington is beginning to focus on possible new programs for foreign ag workers with guest worker visas. President Trump says his administration is working on new rules to provide a legal pathway for migrant farm labor. This concept faces opposition among immigration hawks who view exceptions for one industry as a form of amnesty. Congress is expected to increase its focus on ag labor solutions in the upcoming months. The National Grange is a member of the Ag Workforce Coalition and will continue to work with the administration and Congress to find a workable ag worker solution.

RIGHT TO REPAIR

John Deere releases new repair tool

John Deere is rolling out a new digital tool to help customers diagnose machine problems and reprogram software. The new system, Operations Center PRO, comes as the company faces lawsuits from the Federal Trade Commission and several farmers who accuse Deere of unlawfully limiting farmers' ability to repair their own equipment. Operations Center PRO will be available to both independent mechanics and equipment owners. An owner's right to repair owned equipment and vehicles has long been a National Grange policy priority.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Broadband pole attachment rules updated

The Federal Communications Commission has released a new pole attachment order, adopted unanimously by the commissioners. The order will require utilities to respond within 30 days to broadband providers' requests to use new contractors to prepare poles for new communications gear. If utilities do not respond within that time, the request will be deemed approved. The FCC said the action was designed to encourage greater collaboration between communications companies and pole-owning utilities, a goal the National Grange has been petitioning the FCC to achieve for the past two years.

TRANSPORTATION

Legislation to update the Seasonal Ag CDL introduced

The National Grange, the Agriculture Transportation Coalition, and 63 agriculture and agribusiness groups are asking Congress to support H.R. 4601, the Seasonal Agriculture CDL Modernization Act, introduced by Kansas Representative Tracey Mann. The Act is designed to:

- Streamline the renewal process, saving time for drivers and state agencies
- Protect farm-related service industries from unnecessary restrictions related to the operation of agricultural equipment
- Enhance accessibility by authorizing online renewals
- Reduce administrative burden

VIEW FROM THE HILL

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PERSPECTIVES

"The word equality shows up too much in our founding documents to pretend it is not the American way."

- Martha Plimpton, American actress

"Equality is in the soul of liberty; there is, in fact, no liberty without it."

- Frances "Fanny" Wright, Scottish-American social reformer and philosopher

"Equality means more than passing laws. The struggle is really won in the hearts and minds of the community, where it really counts."

- Barbara Gittings, American author and activist

"I would like to be known as a person who is concerned about freedom and equality and justice and prosperity for all people."

- Rosa Parks, American civil rights activist

SAVING A SLICE OF HISTORY

by Lou Marzeles

Editor, The Goldendale Sentinel
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It still stands.

The flames were just a few yards away from the oldest Grange Hall in the state of Washington, one that predated Washington statehood. In minutes they would consume the building and consign it to history.

But not on Charlie Deach's watch.

Charlie was supposed to be gone. He was in a Level 3 evacuation zone in the Burdoin Fire, should've left days ago. But on the afternoon of July 18, seeing flames marching on the Columbia Grange Hall in Lyle, an impulse overtook Charlie. He probably just thought of it as natural instinct—you do what needs to be done. So he did. He hopped on a backhoe and, with flames only feet from him, created a fire break between the building and the fire.

He saved not only the Grange Hall but also a home to the north of the hall.

On August 13, a group of people came together at the Columbia Grange Hall to jointly attest that what Charlie did was much more than a garden-variety sense of duty. For them, Charlie exemplified the very heart and soul of the Grange institution, not to mention (which the group did) uncommon selflessness and valor in the face of imminent peril.

There were Grange officials from multiple levels of leadership there, including National Grange President Christine Hamp, who read a proclamation honoring Charlie. National Grange Membership/Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana was there. Rusty Hunt, vice president of the State Grange, was on hand. So was King County Pomona Grange No.13 President Bob McClean. And, of course, Klickitat County's own Grange President Claudine Mincks was there to welcome the gathering, which also included numerous other well-wishers.



National Grange President Christine Hamp (right) presents a proclamation to Charlie Deach (center) for his heroism in ensuring that the historic Columbia Grange Hall was protected from the Burdoin Fire in July. At left is Klickitat County Pomona Grange President Claudine Mincks.
Photo by Amanda Brozana

The proclamation was eloquent, reading in part, "In the afternoon hours of July 18, 2025, the fast-moving Burdoin Fire threatened and destroyed more than 44 structures and 11,000 acres of the landscape along the Columbia River Gorge near Lyle, where the historic Columbia Grange Hall stands... While others rightfully sought safety amid a Level 3 'Go' Evacuation Order, Charlie Deach chose to stay and fight—placing himself at great personal risk to defend the Columbia Grange Hall from the approaching fire... Deach's bravery and swift action were instrumental in protecting the Hall from what could have been total destruction, preserving not just a building, but a legacy, a gathering place, and a symbol of rural resilience and unity."

The proclamation observed that Charlie's "selfless act exemplifies the very spirit of the Grange—service above self, love of community, and a deep reverence for the institutions that bind us together across generations." It concluded, "the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry does hereby formally and gratefully recognize Charlie Deach for his heroism, his commitment to the preservation of Grange heritage, and his enduring example of leadership, courage, and service. Let it be known that Charlie Deach's actions on that day reflect the highest ideals of the Grange, and he shall ever be remembered as a guardian, not just of a building but of the spirit of our Order."

The hall does still stand. So, too, does the essence of service and selflessness, the willingness to go the extra mile in the face of impossible odds for a higher good, personified in Charlie Deach.



UNCOMMON COURAGE: A security camera caught a picture of Deach on his backhoe creating the fire break.

Photo courtesy of Columbia Grange Hall

7 THINGS DOCTORS WISH FAMILIES KNEW THIS BACK-TO-SCHOOL SEASON

Courtesy of StatePoint

As you prepare children to return to the classroom this fall, the American Medical Association (AMA) has seven tips to help your family have a healthy school year.

“As you purchase school supplies and prepare the students in your family for academic success, you can take concrete steps that prioritize physical and mental health, too,” said AMA President Bobby Mukkamala, M.D. “A healthy start can set the tone for a strong, successful year ahead.”

1. **Ultra-processed foods are associated with health risks.** Many busy families rely on ultra-processed foods due to their convenience. However, consuming these foods regularly increases the risk of health complications, including cardiovascular disease, certain cancers, obesity and type 2 diabetes. Read nutrition labels carefully with attention to sodium, saturated fat and added sugar, shop the perimeter of the grocery store where fresh, whole foods tend to be located, and prepare meals that prioritize whole foods, including fruits and vegetables, for growing children and adults.
2. **Eating disorders are misunderstood.** This silent epidemic affects people of all ages and backgrounds, striking at the core of their physical and mental well-being. Despite its widespread impact, the gravity of eating disorders often remains private, leaving many to battle the condition silently. If you believe your child or teenager has an eating disorder, their physician can direct you to helpful resources.
3. **Ensure your vaccinations are up to date.** Vaccinations help protect you and your family against severe disease and disability, and save millions of lives each year. Check with your physician during the back-to-school season to ensure everyone in the family is up to date on vaccinations. When respiratory virus season starts later in the fall, get up to date on the influenza vaccine to help reduce time away from school or work.
4. **Norovirus is very contagious, but preventable.** It seems everyone has experienced the sudden turn of the stomach, causing a mad rush to the bathroom due to vomiting, diarrhea or both. And, unfortunately, remaining near the bathroom may be the only plan for the next day or two. The most likely culprit is norovirus, and it can happen to anyone. When buying school supplies, stock up on cleaning supplies as well so you can keep



Photo (c) Paperkites / iStock via Getty Images Plus

- frequently touched surfaces sanitized. Model good hand-washing habits for your children. Keep children with norovirus symptoms home from school for at least 2 days (48 hours) after symptoms stop to help prevent the spread of the virus.
5. **Too much screen time is bad for health.** People are on their devices more than ever before. But too much screen time can have negative mental and physical health effects and increase feelings of loneliness. The start of a new school year is a good time to replace screen time with other activities, such as after school clubs and sports, playdates, quality family time and sleep.
 6. **Eye health is essential.** Don't take eye health for granted. Fall is a good time for an ophthalmologist checkup. If your tween or teen wears contacts, be sure that they wash their lenses and lens case and take their lenses off at night. Frequent computer breaks, wearing sunglasses, and a healthy diet can also promote good eye health.
 7. **Sleep is important for overall health.** From school stress to illnesses, many factors can interfere with a good night's sleep. Instituting a consistent sleep routine for the entire family is a good start. For teens, 8-10 hours of sleep is recommended, and children aged 6-12 should be getting 9-12 hours of sleep. Consider consulting a physician for persistent sleep issues to determine whether they're caused by a sleep disorder and to get help.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS: HELP PROTECT RURAL KIDNEY PATIENTS

Rural Americans work some of the hardest jobs in the country – on farms, in fields, and in factories that keep our economy running. But those same conditions, including long hours, heat exposure, and contact with chemicals, are fueling a quiet crisis: rising rates of kidney disease in rural communities.

Until recently, patients could get critical phosphorus-lowering medications filled quickly and locally under Medicare Part D. Now, because of a federal rule change, those same medications are bundled in a way that cuts off local pharmacy

access. Patients are being forced to wait, travel long distances, or go without treatment altogether.

Washington needs to hear from rural America. Help us fight for common-sense deregulation that restores access and keeps care close to home. Submit your comment today and help us roll back this harmful rule: [Submit Your Comment Now](https://x7b9q2.quorum.us/campaign/128690/) (<https://x7b9q2.quorum.us/campaign/128690/>)

Let's make sure rural communities aren't left behind.



NATIONAL GRANGE NIGHT
A MONTHLY ZOOM PROGRAM



Junior Grange Takeover!

*with members of the National
Grange Junior Advisory Team*



September 9, 2025

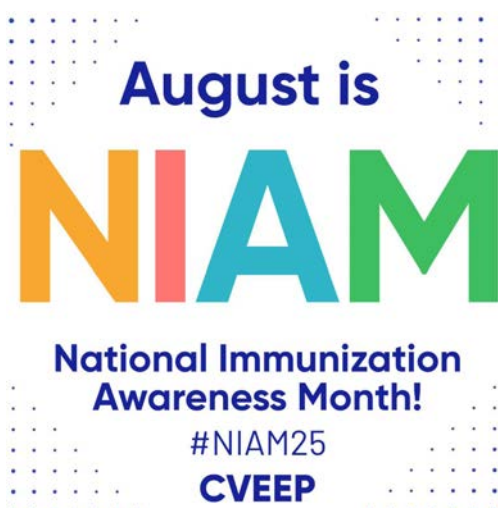


Submit your
stories, events,
and ideas to...

GRANGE  *Today!*

<http://grange.biz/grangetodaysubmit>

THIS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH, PROTECT YOUR HEALTH – SO YOU DON'T MISS THE MOMENTS THAT MATTER



August is
NIAM

**National Immunization
Awareness Month!**

**#NIAM25
CVEEP**

August is National Immunization Awareness Month, and a reminder that vaccination is your best protection against severe illness due to respiratory diseases like flu, COVID-19, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), pertussis (whooping cough), pneumococcal disease, and measles.

While National Immunization Awareness Month is a timely reminder of how important vaccines are for your health, it's essential to remember that vaccinations work year-round to protect

people of all ages – especially those at higher risk – from severe respiratory illness.

Vaccines also help you show up for the moments that matter. Whether it is spending time with friends and family, going to school or work, or keeping up with the hobbies you enjoy, vaccination is a preventative measure to help keep your life uninterrupted.

Visit cveep.org to learn more about the importance



Have you registered?

159th Annual National Grange Convention

November 8-16, 2025

The 159th Annual National Grange Convention will be here before you know it!

Sailing from Miami to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao, this one-of-a-kind convention blends business with fun, fellowship with learning, and so much more.

Whether you're a longtime Granger or a friend or family member, this unique setting offers unforgettable opportunities to connect, grow, and be inspired. With engaging workshops, meaningful meeting times, and moments of celebration - *not to mention everything Carnival has to offer* - there's something for everyone on board. You'll leave energized with fresh ideas, lasting friendships, and a deeper connection to our mission. Don't miss your chance to be part of Grange history on the high seas!

Updates are being posted regularly on social media and on the main information page. So visit today to be sure you're registered.

Visit: <https://www.nationalgrange.org/159ngconvention> today!

Reserving your cabin does not register you for the convention. Make sure to do both!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Some National Grange Events*</u>	
Saturday, November 8	Miami	Saturday, November 8	Wednesday, November 12
Sunday, November 9	At Sea	• Registration of all attendees	• Conferral of the Seventh Degree & Assembly Convocation
Monday, November 10	At Sea	• Sail-Away Party	Friday, November 14
Tuesday, November 11	Aruba	Sunday, November 9	• Election of Officers
Wednesday, November 12	Bonaire	• Opening of Session	Saturday, November 15
Thursday, November 13	Curacao	• President's Addresses	• Opening of Session by Youth Officers
Friday, November 14	At Sea	Tuesday, November 11	• Installation of Officers
Saturday, November 15	At Sea	• Assembly of Demeter Business Meeting	
Sunday, November 16	Miami		

**registration required*



THIS COULD BE YOU!

You could be one of the special guests chosen to represent a National Grange officer during the closing of the second day's business of the 159th Annual Convention on Monday, Nov. 10 at 4 p.m.!

HOW TO ENTER

Make a \$25 donation to the Grange Foundation General Fund between June 21 to Nov. 2, 2025, and you will have the opportunity to receive a priceless experience – serving as a National Grange Officer during the closing ceremony.

- 9 donors will be drawn. (Each individual \$25 donation counts as a separate opportunity for the drawing).
- You (or someone you choose) must be present at Convention aboard the Carnival Horizon to take part.
- Winners will be notified on Monday, Nov. 3 and have until Thursday, Nov. 6 to accept or notify the National Grange of their stand-in selection.
- If you are assigned a speaking or active role, you should be prepared to perform the duties either from memory or using the manual.

Why are there not 17 being chosen?

National Grange President Christine Hamp offered the National Officers the first opportunity to donate \$100 and give their sash to somebody of their choosing!

- The following officers claimed their sashes for mentors, friends and loved ones: President, Vice President, Lecturer, Assistant Steward, Lady Assistant Steward, Secretary, Gatekeeper, Ceres.
- The following offices will be chosen from new donors: Steward, Chaplain, Treasurer, Pomona, Flora, and four Executive Committee members.



**GRANGEFOUNDATION.ORG/
GENERAL-FUND**

Recipes from the Heartland

The America's 250th Grange Workgroup is celebrating our country's 250th Anniversary by "throwing back" to some classic recipes from Grange cookbooks. Do you have favorite recipes that evoke the American spirit which you would like to see published again? Send them to Lew Gaskill at olgaskill@comcast.net. Please include which Grange cookbook your recipes come from.

Brown Betty

Recipe courtesy of Barbara Staples, Whitethorn Grange #792, California
from the National Grange Bicentennial Year Cookbook (1976)

this recipe is more than 50 years old!

2 Cups crumbs from 3-day old bread
3 Tablespoons melted butter
3 or 4 medium apples
1 Tablespoon lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon grated lemon peel
1/2 Cup (packed) brown or white sugar
1/3 Cup hot water

Combine breadcrumbs and butter in skillet; cook over low heat until lightly browned, stirring constantly. Place 1/3 of the crumbs in greased baking dish. Pare, core and slice apples; arrange half the apples in layer over crumbs. Sprinkle with half the lemon juice, lemon peel and brown sugar. Add half the remaining crumbs over with remaining apples, lemon juice, lemon peel and sugar. Top with remaining crumbs. Pour water over crumbs. Bake in preheated 375-degree oven for 30 to 40 minutes or until apples are tender.

May serve warm with cream or lemon sauce.

Blackberry Dumplings

this recipe is more than 60 years old!

Yield: 4 Servings

1 quart blackberries
Sugar
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon lemon extract
1 1/2 Cup flour
1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
2/3 Cup milk

Mix blackberries, 1 Cup sugar, 1/4 teaspoon salt and lemon extract in square baking pan; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer while preparing dumplings. Sift flour, remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt, baking powder, 1 Tablespoon sugar and nutmeg into bowl. Add milk; stir until ingredients are just mixed. Drop from a teaspoon onto blackberry mixture; cover tightly. Cook* for 15 minutes without removing cover. Place in serving dishes; serve with additional milk and sugar.

**while no temperature is listed in this recipe, some sources suggest 400°F*

Recipe courtesy of Mrs. Charles Patterson,
Deemston Grange #1372, Pennsylvania
from the National Grange Bicentennial Year
Cookbook (1976)

BE A GRANGE OR STATE PRESIDENT IN ACTION!

As of August 19, the following submissions have been received for the 2025 Grange In Action! Don't forget, the deadline is September 1. Show us that YOUR Grange is a Grange in Action!

- Dows Prairie Grange #505 (CA)
- East Connecticut Pomona Grange #14 (CT)
- Collinsville Grange #2264 (OH)
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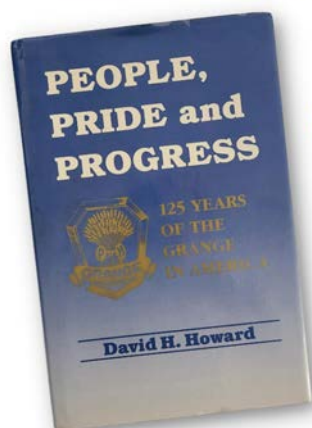
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