



TOGETHER WE GROW: LEADERS GATHER IN NEVADA FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

by Philip J Vonada
National Grange Communications Director

Nearly 70 Grange leaders from across the country, with another dozen plus joining virtually, came together May 1-3 in Sparks, Nevada, for the 2026 National Grange Leaders' Conference, a weekend focused on strengthening leadership, sharpening strategy, and preparing the organization for the future.

Held at the Nugget, this year's conference centered on the theme **"Together We Grow,"** bringing that idea to life through a carefully designed agenda that balanced big-picture vision with practical, hands-on tools. Throughout the weekend, leaders were challenged to think boldly about the future of the Grange while remaining grounded in its mission of grassroots service and advocacy.

Sessions throughout the weekend explored what it means to lead and serve in a rapidly changing environment. Conversations on rebranding, evolving with purpose, and understanding the "new leadership landscape" encouraged attendees to consider how the Grange can remain relevant and impactful in communities of all sizes. The "Toolbox Series" offered tangible strategies leaders can take home – from strategic planning and team-building to responsible use of artificial intelligence and maintaining resilience in leadership roles.

Importantly, the conference emphasized that no Grange works in isolation. Discussions across the weekend created space for leaders to share State and Community Grange successes and challenges, reinforcing the idea that progress happens best when ideas are shared and adapted, not reinvented. Sessions focused on engaging families, supporting youth involvement, and building sustainable programs highlighted the Grange's continued commitment to growing strong communities from the ground up.



As the conference concluded, one message stood out clearly: the work does not end when attendees return home. The value of the Leaders' Conference lies in what happens next.

Grange members are encouraged to connect with their State Grange Presidents and leadership teams to learn more about the ideas, tools, and strategies presented during the conference – and to begin putting them into action in their own communities. From strengthening membership efforts and launching new programs, to refining how your Grange tells its story, the insights from this weekend are meant to be shared, adapted, and implemented.

Together, we grow. Together, we lead the way forward.

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IS YOUR GRANGE PROTECTED?

The National Grange will once again offer **bonding insurance coverage** to State, Pomona, and Community Granges for calendar year 2027. The National Grange *Digest of Laws* in Section 4.10.9 stipulates that all Granges are to be bonded or insured for employee dishonesty with coverage to include at least the Secretary and Treasurer of each Grange.

Coverage amounts are available from \$5,000 to \$500,000, at reasonable rates. Special circumstances may also be accommodated.

Contact your State Grange for information, rates, and forms. To be included in this insurance program, all payments and paperwork (if applicable) must be received by the National

Grange by December 1, 2026. Local Granges should act well before this date to get their payment and paperwork submitted on time.

Please do not wait for an unfortunate incident - get the proper insurance for your Grange. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact your State Grange or send an email to information@nationalgrange.org.

Note: This insurance policy, sponsored by the National Grange, is unfortunately not currently available in California or Alaska.

GRANGE STORE NOTICE

Beginning May 1, two changes took effect in the [Grange Store](#):

The price of **Golden Sheaf, Sliver Star, and 75-year Awards**, as well as **80- and 85-year letters** will increase to \$15.00 each *plus shipping*. [Click here](#) to download the updated order form for seals and awards, and [click here](#) for the member recognition form through Grange Engage.

If you submit a form that does not have the corrected prices, the National Grange office staff will reach out with a corrected amount.

Additionally, shipping rates, which have remained unchanged for nearly a decade, have increased as shown on the chart at right.

Thank you for understanding, and we look forward to continuing to serve you and your Grange's needs!

ORDER TOTAL	SHIPPING & HANDLING PRICE <i>effective May 1, 2026</i>
Up to \$10.00	\$6.00
\$10.00 - \$19.99	\$9.00
\$20.00 - \$49.99	\$10.00
\$50.00 - \$74.99	\$12.00
\$75.00 - \$99.99	\$15.00
\$100.00 - \$124.99	\$20.00
\$125.00 - \$249.99	\$25.00
\$250.00 and above	\$30.00

GRANGE HEIRLOOM FOR MAY

Use the **Grange Heirloom Program** to teach your members and the community about some of the key cornerstones of the Grange. Materials are available at <http://www.nationalgrange.org/heirloom-program>.

You are welcome to choose any of the **Grange Heirlooms** at any time. We are currently in "Year E," running through February 2027.

Use the hashtag **#GrangeHeirloom** when you share these important pieces of our work and history on social media.



President, First Degree

LET THE MODESTY AND USEFULNESS OF THE
HUMBLE GRASS BE TO YOU AN OBJECT OF IMITATION.

CONNECTICUT MEMBER AWARDED ERNESTINE KEISER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

by Amanda Brozana
Grange Foundation Associate



The Grange Foundation has named Bryn Miller of Woodstock, Connecticut, as a recipient of the 2026 Ernestine Keiser Memorial

Scholarship, recognizing her strong record of academic achievement, leadership, and service rooted in her Grange experience.

A member of Senexet Grange #40, Miller currently serves as Assistant Steward and has remained actively engaged even while away at college. From helping organize community events to supporting outreach and service efforts, her involvement reflects a lifelong connection to the Grange and the values it instills.

Now a biomedical engineering major on a pre-med track at the University of Vermont, Miller brings that same sense of purpose to her studies. She has earned a 3.95 GPA and stands out among her peers not only for her academic performance but for the way she leads and collaborates in the classroom.

Outside of her coursework, Miller stays deeply involved in service and leadership. She has held multiple roles on campus, including orientation leader and student organization

leader, and contributes to nonprofit efforts addressing global hunger and training service dogs. Across each of these experiences, her focus remains consistent: helping others and strengthening the communities she is part of.

“Bryn has lived her life to date as a model child, student and citizen,” wrote Amy Monahan, President of Senexet Grange. “Her bold confidence, fresh ideas, caring attitude, strong values and drive are sure to lead to a bright future.”

Those who have worked with Miller in higher education settings describe a similar impression. Faculty note her ability to connect with others, take initiative, and lead with both confidence and care.

Miller plans to continue her education through an accelerated master’s program in biomedical engineering while preparing for a career in medicine. Her long-term goal is to improve access to health care in rural and underserved communities—work that reflects both her academic training and the values she developed through the Grange.

In her scholarship essay, Miller connects her educational path directly to service, writing that her goal is to return knowledge and opportunity to communities like the one that raised her.

“The investment in my education



Bryn Miller, a member of Senexet Grange #40 (CT) and a biomedical engineering student at the University of Vermont, is the winner of this year’s Ernestine Keiser Memorial Scholarship from the Grange Foundation.
Photo provided

is not simply an investment in one student; it is an investment in the future health and strength of the rural communities the Grange was built to support,” Miller wrote in her application essay.

The Ernestine Keiser Memorial Scholarship honors students who demonstrate a commitment to leadership, education and community. In Miller, the Grange Foundation recognizes not only a high-achieving student, but a young leader already putting those values into practice.

Submit your stories and Grange successes to...



<https://grange.biz/grangetodaysubmit>

HANDPRINTS ON POTHOLDERS PROJECT

A “Share Your Project’s Story” submission

by Bonnie Mitson & Randee Farmer

National Grange Community Service Co-Directors



Thank you to Clear Creek Grange #692 for submitting the electronic **SHARE YOUR PROJECT’S STORY** form located at <https://www.nationalgrange.org/community-service-programs/>

Details of their Grange’s Handprints on Potholders Project are shared below.

It is our hope that by sharing a project’s story, details might be helpful suggestions to other Granges on future projects. Thank you and great work, Clear Creek Grange!

Project Name: Handprints on Potholders Project

Grange: Clear Lake Grange #692, Aitkin, MN

Approximate Hours Expended: 3 members / 76 hours per year

Expenses: Deducted from sale of potholders

History of a good idea. This “Handprint on Potholder Project” was started by a Grange member in 2005 and working with a non-profit, Aitkin Women of Today, the Grange continues to be a part of three children events held each year. Many community families have been participating in this project with their children then grandchildren over the years.

How the project is done. Grangers make the potholders using printed fabric for Easter, Halloween, and Christmas, with two layers of batting between print and muslin. At the three yearly events, potholders are sold. Children are helped while putting a handprint on the potholder. The hand is cleaned so it is moist, and then acrylic or fabric paint is brushed onto the hand and placed on the muslin side - held in place and pressed to place the handprint. The hand is then cleaned and the name of



Members of Minnesota’s Clear Lake Grange create potholders, which are then stamped with children’s handprints. Proceeds from the sales benefit local organizations that help children in region.
Photo provided

the child along with the date is written under the handprint with a fine point permanent marker.

The “handprint” of giving. Donations from the sale of potholders are made to: Easter - child abuse prevention; Halloween - domestic violence prevention; Christmas - Operation Christmas gifts for children.

Editor’s note: Do you like this kind of content? If so, be sure to check out Good Day! magazine which includes a “Share Your Project’s Story” in every issue. Please also submit your story online to the National Grange Community Service Team - the more stories that are submitted, the more frequently we can feature them. We know we can feature a story in EVERY issue of Grange Today!

TELL THE GRANGE STORY

Apply to be a Communication Fellow



Applications are being accepted for the next cohort of National Grange Communication Fellows, a leadership and professional development opportunity designed to help Grange members strengthen communication efforts at all levels. The selected cohort will serve through the conclusion of the 2027 National Grange Convention, focused

on storytelling, digital engagement, advocacy communication, and member outreach.

Communication Fellows will work alongside the National Grange Communications Department and other staff on a variety of projects while gaining hands-on experience in social media strategy, photography, writing, video, branding, and emerging digital

communication tools. Applicants of all ages and experience levels are encouraged to apply, with a special emphasis on welcoming participants who are eager to grow their skills and help tell the story of today’s Grange.

“Communication continues to evolve rapidly, and the Grange must continue evolving with it,” said Philip Vonada, National Grange Communications Director. “This updated Fellowship format is designed to help us better embrace digital communication, expand the ways we connect with members and communities, and ensure the Grange’s story is being shared in engaging and impactful ways across every platform.”

Previous Communication Fellows are welcome to apply again, though the National Grange strongly encourages first-time applicants to consider participating. Applications are due July 1. Learn more at <https://www.nationalgrange.org/communication-programs/>.

CELEBRATE 160 IN BROKEN ARROW

Every Grange member across the country is invited to join us in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, for the 160th Annual National Grange Convention, November 9-14, 2026.

While the Convention officially opens on Monday, November 9, Officers and Delegates of the National Grange should plan to arrive by Sunday, November 8, for pre-convention activities. All Grange members are also encouraged to attend the Welcome Dinner on Sunday evening as we kick off a memorable week of fellowship, learning, and celebration.

Registration for the 160th Annual Convention opens **August 1**, but there is already plenty to look forward to. In the coming weeks, we'll begin sharing previews of special events, featured speakers, workshops, entertainment, and more.

The Convention Management Team is preparing an exciting lineup of programming designed to engage Grangers of all ages and backgrounds. Attendees can expect opportunities to experience Oklahoma culture, participate in meaningful workshops, hear from outstanding speakers and guests, and connect with fellow members from across the nation. The week will conclude with the annual Celebration Banquet on Saturday, November 14.

This year's Convention will also mark the official launch of the National Grange's 160th anniversary

celebration, kicking off a yearlong commemoration of our organization's history, impact, and future.

Reservations are now open at our host hotel, the Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center. Reserve your room today: <https://grange.biz/160hotel>.

160th National Grange Convention
November 2026 Broken Arrow, OK

Sun. 8
2:00 pm - Officer & Delegate Meeting
Welcome Dinner

Mon. 9
9:00 am
Official Opening of the Convention

Tues. 10
Evening - Oklahoma State Poet Laureate

Weds. 11
Mini-Tours
Wreath-Laying Ceremony

Thurs. 12
Youth Opening
Chief Standing Bear

Fri. 13
Workshops
Presentation of the Seventh Degree

Sat. 14
Workshops
Celebration Banquet

visit **BROKEN ARROW**

All times Central

November 9-14, 2026
Broken Arrow, OK

visit **BROKEN ARROW**

160th National Grange Convention
ROUTE TO THE FUTURE
BROKEN ARROW, OK 2026

Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center
Secure your hotel room: <https://grange.biz/160hotel>

HAMP WATCH: WHERE IS OUR NATIONAL GRANGE PRESIDENT?

This monthly feature highlights where National Grange President Chris Hamp has been and what she's been up to. Do you want to see her in your neighborhood or at your Grange event? Email her at champ@nationalgrange.org. This week, we're looking back at April.



April 3: Members of Five Mile Prairie Grange #905 (WA), myself included, helped present dictionaries to the third-grade classes at Prairie View Elementary School.

April 4: Five Mile Prairie Grange #905 (WA) held its annual Pancakes with the Easter Bunny and welcomed more than 400 into the hall for a fun and busy morning.



April 24: Day 2 found us at UMass Amherst, first for a meeting with State 4-H Director Meg McDermott, and then with William (Bill) Miller, Ph.D., and Associate Director for Program Development & Federal Relations for the Center for Agriculture, Food & Environment (CAFÉ). Next up was a conversation with Claire Morenon with Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) to learn about 'Buy Local' partnerships, followed by a visit to Guiding Star Grange #1 in Greenfield (where we also found amazing local ice cream).



April 23: Day 1 of our week with the Massachusetts State Grange began with a tour of the Wachusett Food Pantry, then to Sterling Grange #53 (MA) where we toured the Grange and met with Quilts of Valor representatives, finishing with an evening "meet and greet" at Rowley Grange #204 (MA). State Senator, and Rowley Grange member, Bruce Tarr presented me with an official citation in recognition of "your leadership, dedication, and diligence on behalf of the National Grange."



April 25: On Day 3, we were able to attend the 3rd annual Massachusetts State Grange Agriculture in Action Exposition, and I had the opportunity to speak with the youth organization representatives who were participating in the event. The day concluded with a second meet and greet with Grange members.



April 27: On Day 5, we visited the Massachusetts State Grange Library & Museum, where we met with Anne Gobi, Director of Rural Affairs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources Commissioner Ashley Randle. We also visited the Rutland Food Pantry. The evening found us at Holden Grange with members from Granges in the central part of the state.



April 28: Day 6 found us heading southeast with the first stop at Dartmouth Grange #162 (MA); then a tour of the Bristol County Agricultural High School; dinner in Plymouth; and wrapping up with a meet and greet at Norwell Grange (MA).



April 27: Day 4 took us on a road trip to the western part of the state, to include the Quabbin Reservoir, past Charles M. Gardner State Park, through the Berkshires, and to Pittsfield for a meeting of the Big Three Pomonas.



April 30: The Executive Committee met in person for our monthly meeting prior to the annual Leaders' Conference in Sparks, Nevada.

7 FRUGAL GARDENING TIPS AND TRICKS

Courtesy of Feature Impact

Gardening can be a simple way to beautify your yard, relieve stress, and save money on your grocery bill, but like any hobby, you can get carried away buying necessary equipment.

Fun, frugal and environmentally friendly, these tricks can help you create a cost-effective garden:

1. Use a yardstick and permanent marker to mark inches and feet on the handle of your rake, shovel, or hoe. The next time you plant, simply lay the marked handle along the row to create perfectly spaced holes for seeds.
2. Line the bottom of a clay pot with a coffee filter to keep soil from leaking out the bottom.
3. Use empty plastic water bottles or clear milk jugs to fill the bottom of large pots. They reduce the weight of the pot and require less soil to fill.
4. To test your seeds to see if they're still viable for this planting season, place a wet paper towel inside a zip-top bag, drop in 3-4 seeds, and wait a week to see if anything grows.
5. One way to help prevent weeds is lining your garden with a layer of newspaper. Just top two or three sheets of newsprint with a layer of pine needles, grass clippings, or dried leaves for an eco-friendly and inexpensive weed barrier.
6. Keep gardening twine handy. Nail a funnel to your potting bench with the spout pointing downward, feed



Photo by Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash

the twine through, and your string will never go missing. For a more portable solution, place a ball of twine inside a canning jar, make a hole in the lid, and feed the end of the twine through the hole. Now you can take twine anywhere, tangle-free.

7. There is no need to buy expensive potting systems for starting seedlings. Place several cardboard toilet paper rolls inside a clean plastic clamshell, like those used for premade salads. Fill each cardboard tube with potting soil and plant. Once your seedlings grow too tall for the clamshell, simply tear off the top lid.

Find more ideas for creating a garden without spending a bundle at eLivingToday.com.

Celebrate America250

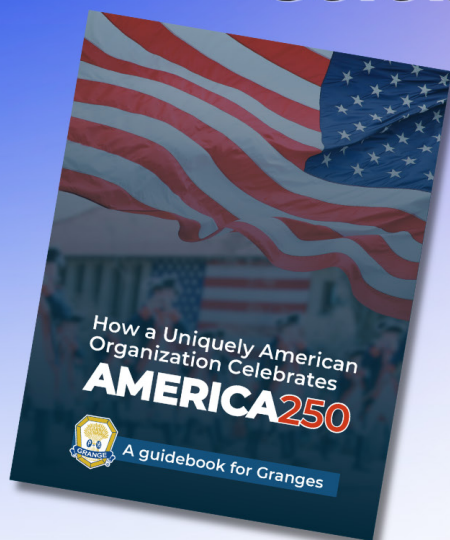


with the Grange

All Granges across the country are encouraged to participate in America's semiquincentennial - 250 years of patriotism, freedom, and shared values.

The *Guidebook for Granges* can be downloaded at

<https://grange.biz/America250>



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.

This week's recipes come from the Winchester Grange #74 (CT) **Commemorative Recipe Book; Celebrating 125 Years | 1888-2013**

Lew says these recipes might be a good addition to a Mother's Day table!

Shrimp Pea Salad

Courtesy of Ramona Fassio

1 pound cooked shrimp; shelled and deveined
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 hard-cooked eggs; chopped
2/3 cups sour cream
1/3 cup mayonnaise
1 Tablespoon lemon juice
1 - 10-ounce package frozen peas
1/4 cup sweet relish
1 large chopped onion
3/4 cup diced celery

Cook peas until barely tender. Drain and cool. Combine ingredients and add peas. Chill.

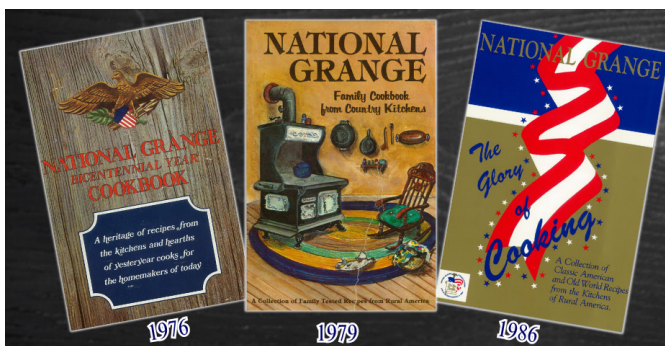
Filet Mignon with Green Peppercorn Sauce

Courtesy of Andrea Fancher

1-3/4 cups beef stock or canned broth
3 Tablespoons butter
4 (6-8 ounce) filet mignon steaks - 1 inch thick
1/4 cup chopped shallots
1 cup whipping cream
3 Tablespoons Cognac or Brandy
2 Tablespoons drained green peppercorns in brine

Boil stock until reduced to about 3/4 cup (about 7 minutes). Meanwhile, melt butter in large skillet over medium heat. Season steaks with salt and pepper. Cook to desired doneness. Transfer to plate (do not clean skillet). Add chopped shallots and sauté 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Add reduced beef stock, cream, cognac and peppercorns. Boil until mixture thickens to sauce consistency. Season to taste. Serve over steaks.

NOTE: The sauce is gray. It looks absolutely awful but tastes great.



Available through the Grange Store
for digital download



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.org

or

issuu.com/grangegoodday

GRANGE MEMBER BENEFIT: WYNDHAM HOTELS

WYNDHAM HOTELS & RESORTS

Planning your summer vacations?
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booking to receive discount. So start saving now.!

Call our special member benefits hotline 1-877-670-7088 and reserve your room today.

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BACK IN STOCK



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Are you looking to honor a veteran in your Grange or community? This special .75" pin combines honoring their service in the military as well as honoring their Grange membership. Perfect for adding to a Quilts of Valor presentation or Veteran recognition ceremony.



5 for \$25.00

PLUS SHIPPING

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SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.com

"THE GRANGE AND YOU"

This booklet provides an overview of the Grange and the work done at the Community Grange level - perfect for new members!



\$5.00

FOR A SET OF 10
PLUS SHIPPING

Order online through the Grange Supply Store at www.grangestore.com or call Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

NATIONAL GRANGE

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