



PAVE THE “ROUTE TO THE FUTURE” AT THE 160TH ANNUAL CONVENTION



Registration for the **160th Annual National Grange Convention** officially opened on August 1, and Grange members from across the country are encouraged to join us in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, November 9-14, 2026.

Whether you’re attending your first National Convention or returning as a longtime delegate, this year’s event promises an unforgettable week of learning, fellowship, and celebration. Convention is

where the Grange comes together to conduct the business of the organization, exchange ideas, recognize outstanding achievements, and build friendships that span the country.

Registration includes daily hotel breakfasts, the Welcome Dinner, Celebration Banquet, a convention tour, workshops, limited-edition Convention swag, and access to a full week of programming. Attendees will hear inspiring speakers, explore Oklahoma hospitality, and help kick off the National Grange’s year-long celebration of its 160th anniversary.

Don’t wait to reserve your place. Hotel rooms and special activities are expected to fill quickly, so registering early is the best way to ensure you don’t miss out.

Visit the National Grange Convention webpage to register, review the schedule, make hotel reservations, and stay up to date as additional speakers, workshops, and activities are announced. We can’t wait to welcome you to Broken Arrow this November.

Head to www.nationalgrange.org/160thconvention to learn more and register today!

Read more about National Convention starting on page 2!

IN THIS ISSUE

Pave the “Route to the Future” at the 160 th Annual Convention	1
National Convention: All are Welcome!	2
Accepting Nominations for Foundation Advisory Board	3
New President Elected in Texas	4
Welcome Indiana’s new President	5
Grange Heirloom for August	5
Burns Grange hosts local historian & author	6
Eller joins panel on FDC proposal	6
2026 Quilt Day - for everyone! A Share Your Project’s Story Submission	7
Hamp Watch: Where is our National Grange President?	8
This National Immunization Awareness Month, Make a Plan to Stay Up to Date on Your Vaccines	10
August 15 is National Relaxation Day. Here’s How to Celebrate It	10
Recipes from the Heartland	11
Grange Member Benefit: Pharmacy Savings	12
Grange Store: Guidelines for Grange Leaders	12



**CONVENTION
COUNTDOWN:
87 DAYS**

NATIONAL CONVENTION: ALL ARE WELCOME!



160th National Grange Convention November 2026 - Broken Arrow, OK



Sun. 8

- Officer & Delegate Meeting
- Welcome Dinner with Speaker: NREA

Mon. 9

- Official Opening of the Convention
- Game Night: Bunco

Tue. 10

- Workshops & Activities
- Cowboy Poet

Wed. 11

- Veterans Day Wreath-Laying & Tour
- Workshops
- Evening Karaoke for All

Thur. 12

- Opening by Youth Officers
- Chief Standing Bear
- Memorial Program & Installation of Officers
- Movie Night

Fri. 13

- Group Tour: Route 66 Historical Village
- Conferral of Seventh Degree
- Workshops & Activities

Sat. 14

- Leadership Lab & Grange Academy
- Tour: Woody Guthrie & Bob Dylan
- Junior Tour
- Celebration Banquet



Register:
nationalgrange.org/160thconvention

NATIONAL GRANGE HONORS NIGHT

Friday, November 20
8:30 pm ET / 5:30 PM PT
streamed live on Facebook & YouTube



Help Shape the Future of National Grange Conventions

The future of our National Grange Convention starts with YOU!

Do you have experience in event planning, budgeting, member engagement, marketing, promotions, or program evaluation? Or do you have great ideas and a passion for creating meaningful experiences?

The Convention Management Team (CMT) is looking for Grange members from across the country to help design not only this year's convention in Broken Arrow, but the future of National Grange Conventions for years to come.

If you're ready to make an impact, we'd love to hear from you!

Interested? Contact CMT Chairpersons Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron at convention@nationalgrange.org to learn more.

Volunteer at Convention

The National Grange Convention would not be possible without the incredible volunteers who step up to serve!

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help make this year's convention a welcoming, successful, and memorable experience for everyone attending. Whether you can help greet guests, assist with events, support activities, or simply lend a helping hand where needed, your time and talents can make a huge difference.

Volunteering at Convention is a wonderful opportunity to:

- Meet Grangers from across the country
- Build connections and friendships
- Serve the organization we all care about
- Be part of something meaningful and memorable

No matter your experience level, there is a place for you to get involved. We encourage members of all ages to join us in helping make Convention a success.

If you are interested in volunteering, we would love to have you on the team! Please fill out the [volunteer form](#) to express your interest.

Showcase Your Grange at the 160th National Grange Convention

The 160th National Grange Convention in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, is shaping up to be a memorable event—and a wonderful opportunity to showcase your Grange while supporting the convention.

For the first time, sponsorship opportunities have been created to fit every budget, allowing State Granges, Pomona Granges, and local/community Granges to promote their organization by sponsoring an event

or activity during the convention.

Sponsorship opportunities include the Welcome Reception, Celebration Dinner, Youth Skate Party, educational sessions, refreshment breaks, transportation, and many other convention activities. Every sponsor will receive recognition for their support, along with the opportunity to provide promotional materials at their sponsored event.

If your Grange would like to learn more about these sponsorship opportunities, please contact Mark Gibbons (Potomac Grange #1) at mark@retiresafe.org to request a sponsorship information sheet. We encourage every Grange to take advantage of this unique opportunity to support the convention while highlighting the great work happening in your community.

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR FOUNDATION ADVISORY BOARD



The Grange Foundation will accept nominations for members of the Foundation Advisory Board through Close of Business on October 16.

Interested persons should submit a letter of intent, bio, and a headshot to ngfb@grange.org and champ@nationalgrange.org.

Election will occur on November 8 at the National Grange Convention in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED IN TEXAS



Samantha Wilkins was elected as the 20th President of the Texas State Grange in late July.

Photo provided

Samantha Wilkins, of San Antonio, Texas, was elected as the President of the Texas State Grange during their 92nd annual session held July 31-August 1, 2026.

Samantha joined the Junior Grange as soon as she was old enough and quickly became involved in its programs and leadership, serving in numerous roles, including Junior President.

At just 16 years old, she became President of Alamo Grange, beginning a lifelong journey of leadership and service at the local, state, and national levels. Today, she is proud to be a member of both Alamo Grange #1446 and Leon Valley Grange #1581.

Throughout the years, Samantha has served her local Grange in numerous capacities and has held several leadership positions with the Texas State Grange, including Lady Assistant Steward, Executive Committee member, State Secretary, and now President. She also served as the Texas State Junior Grange Director before being appointed National Junior Grange Director, a position she held from 2016-2024.

Her commitment to developing young Grange members continued through her service as National Grange Youth Director from 2022 through early 2024 and again from 2025-2026. Samantha also had the opportunity to serve the organization professionally, working full-time for the National Grange from 2019-2023 as Operations Coordinator. In that role, she managed operations of the National Grange headquarters building in Washington,

D.C., while also assisting with the planning and operations of the National Grange Convention and other organizational activities.

Outside of the Grange, Samantha works full-time for the MidTexas Conference of the Global Methodist Church, where her work continues to center around service, ministry, organization, and helping others answer their own calls to leadership.

Samantha and her husband, Glenn, are the proud parents of four very active boys. Their family calendar is rarely empty, with their boys involved in everything from sports and theatre to music, farming, church, and community activities. Samantha and Glenn believe strongly in giving their boys opportunities to discover their own passions while teaching the importance of hard work, service, leadership, and giving back.

The Grange has taught Samantha lessons that reach far beyond meetings and leadership positions. It has taught her the value of service, the importance of speaking up for what matters, and the power of bringing people of all generations together for a common purpose. Along the way, the Grange has given her mentors, lifelong friendships, an extended family, and opportunities that have helped shape the person and leader she is today. Having her own family involved and experiencing those same relationships and opportunities makes that legacy even more meaningful.

As President of the Texas State Grange, Samantha looks forward to honoring the history and traditions built by generations of Texas Grangers while helping the organization grow and adapt for the future. She is passionate about strengthening local Granges, developing new leaders, advocating for rural communities and Grange policies, and creating opportunities for more families to discover the community, service, and sense of belonging the Grange has given her throughout her life.

**Submit your
stories and Grange
successes to...**

GRANGE



Today!

<https://grange.biz/grangetodaysubmit>

WELCOME INDIANA'S NEW PRESIDENT

On July 18, Dwight "Steve" Plank of East Galveston, Indiana, was elected as the new President of Indiana State Grange, to finish the term of Jason Smith, who passed away on June 21. Steve had previously served as the Vice President of the Indiana State Grange.

Plank brings decades of leadership, agricultural experience and more than 60 years of Grange service to the office.

After completing a short course in agriculture at Purdue University in 1969 and serving six years in the Indiana National Guard, Plank returned home to farm full time with his father. Today, he farms alongside his son, raising corn, soybeans and processing tomatoes under contract with Red Gold. Their family farm is now in its fifth generation.

He and his wife, Patricia, were married in 1978 and will celebrate 48 years together this September. They have four children - Misty, Scott, Brad and Jeff - as well as nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren who help keep life busy when the farm work slows down.

Plank has always believed in giving back. Over the years, he has been active in 4-H, FFA and Indiana Rural Youth, and today serves as president of the Logansport-Cass County Airport Authority Board. He is also a lifelong member of Center Community of Faith Church.

His Grange journey began with his parents, who were longtime members themselves. Since joining 62 years ago, Plank has served in nearly every corner of the organization. Today, he is president of both Deacon Grange #2315 and Union Pomona Grange #50, while also serving as an Indiana State Grange deputy.

Along the way, he has served as Indiana State Steward and State Vice President, chaired the State Agriculture Committee, and, alongside Patricia, represented Indiana as the state's Young Couple in Spokane, Washington. Together, they later served as Indiana's Youth and Young Married Directors, helping encourage the next generation of Grange members.



Dwight "Steve" Plank has been elected to serve as the new President of Indiana State Grange, finishing the term held by the late Jason Smith.

Photo provided

With a lifetime rooted in farming, service and the Grange, Plank brings experience, steady leadership and a genuine passion for strengthening rural communities. He looks forward to continuing the Grange's mission of serving communities and supporting agriculture across the Hoosier State.

GRANGE HEIRLOOM FOR AUGUST



**CULTIVATION OF THE MIND... DESTROYS ERROR AND KEEPS OUR
THOUGHTS QUICKENED AND READY TO RECEIVE AND APPLY NEW
FACTS AS THEY APPEAR, THUS PROMOTING THE GROWTH OF
KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM.**

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.

BURNS GRANGE HOSTS LOCAL HISTORIAN & AUTHOR

submitted by Peggy Johnston
Burns Grange #160 (MI)

Burns Grange #160 in Bancroft, Michigan, welcomed friends, neighbors, and local history buffs on July 23, 2026, for a book signing with historian and author Sally Labadie.

The Grange Hall, located in the heart of the historic Knaggs Bridge area along the banks of the Shiawassee River, was the perfect setting to celebrate the release of Labadie's newest book, *Writings on the History of the Knaggs Bridge Area*.

People stopped in throughout the day to pick up copies of the book, with many purchasing extras for family members. The event quickly turned into a reunion of sorts, as neighbors shared memories of the Knaggs Bridge area and recalled the people, places, and stories that make the community special. Sally also enjoyed catching up with friends and former students from her years as a teacher and principal in the Corunna School District.

Making the event even more meaningful, Labadie is donating all proceeds from the book to the newly established Bancroft Historical Society, helping preserve and celebrate the area's heritage for future generations. With many attendees purchasing multiple copies for family members, the gathering proved to be more than a book signing—it was a celebration of local history, community, and the connections that keep those stories alive.



Above: Author Sally Labadie signed copies of her book about the history of the Knaggs Bridge area at Burns Grange #160. Below: Community members purchased copies of the new book, then stayed to share their own stories and memories of the community.
Photos provided



ELLER JOINS PANEL ON FDC PROPOSAL



At the end of July, National Grange Government Affairs Director Burton Eller joined a briefing panel, “When Treatment Choice Matters: Understanding the Patient Impact of CMS’s FDC Proposal.”

Burton brought the rural perspective, urging the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to approve subcutaneous injections as well as bloodstream infusion for certain types of cancer. This would save rural cancer patients lots of remote travel time and expense if they can go to the nearest doctor rather than a distant cancer infusion center for treatment.

Other panelists were Candice DeMatties, [Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease](#), and Anna Howard, [American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network](#) (ACS CAN).



2026 QUILT DAY - FOR EVERYONE!

A “Share Your Project’s Story” submission

by Bonnie Mitson McCann & Randee Farmer

National Grange Community Service Co-Directors



Thank you to Flint Hills Pomona Grange #49 (KS) for submitting the electronic **SHARE YOUR PROJECT'S STORY** form located at <https://www.nationalgrange.org/community-service-programs/>. Details of how this Pomona Grange-sponsored Quilt Day 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, Flint Hills Pomona Grange!

Flint Hills Pomona Grange #49 (KS) hosted a **Quilt Day** on March 7, 2026, in Burlington, KS, at the City Library. In attendance were 22 Grangers (including current and future Junior Grangers) and guests. Five Community Granges were represented from the northeast, southeast, and southcentral regions of the state. Flint Hills furnished potato soup and all others brought sides and desserts.

A full day of Highlights:

1. Four completed quilt toppers were presented. Three of these will be presented to Veterans at the Quilts of Valor Presentation during the Kansas State Grange Convention in September. The remaining topper, which includes blocks made by Grangers throughout the nation, will be available for raffle donations in celebration of our country's 250th Birthday, with proceeds to help with veterans projects. *A great start to support our Veterans!*

2. Blocks to complete two additional toppers were created during the day by those present and two more toppers were in process by individuals at homes. *Fantastic!*
3. Grange and quilting are family activities. Granddaughters as young as three were helping and learning from moms and grandmas! *Priceless!*
4. One member in attendance took this opportune day of sewing to make a weighted blanket for a child in need. *Thoughtful!*
5. At last year's Quilt Day, we incorporated a short educational presentation for those in attendance. This year, a Grange member shared the process of creating a non-binding baby blanket. Several blankets were then made by attendees and will be made in the future, we're certain. This type of blanket is, often times, used for [Project Linus](#). Lap quilts for nursing homes could be made easily using this idea. *A new technique to use helping others!*
6. We had a table set aside for the meeting of the minds (or so they want us to think!). Not to mention names, but could be Terry, Michael, Bob, & Kevin!
7. We welcomed Burlington Chief of Police Michael Roney and wife Kellie. Chief Roney was selected as Kansas State Grange Law Enforcement Officer of the Year 2025. Unfortunately, Chief Roney was on travel and unable to attend the award ceremony at our Annual Convention in September 2025 and we were honored to present him with a plaque on this day. *It is always a pleasure to pause and thank those with commitment to community.*



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!.

This collage of photos shows Grange and community members working together at the Quilt Day, as well as the final quilts and the presentation of an award to Burlington Chief of Police Michael Roney.

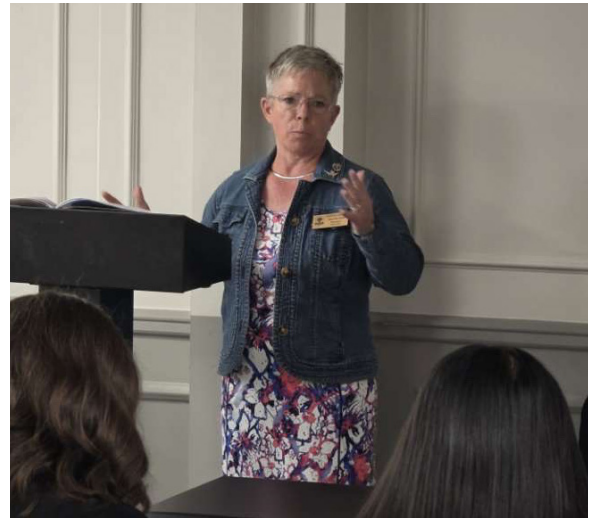
Photos provided

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 July.



July 4: America's 250th birthday was the perfect day to fly a new flag over Hamp Camp.



July 14: I had the opportunity to address the attendees of our first DC Ag Intern Network Lunch & Learn event. The energy in the room and promise for the future was exciting!



July 10-13: Duane and I travelled to DC for a planning retreat with the directors, staff, and interns of the National Grange.





July 15-17: Along with Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron, we transported more “Oldies but Goodies” items surplus to our archives and the day-to-day business of the National Grange to Illinois where Lynette and Don Schaeffer are storing them until November when they will make their way to Broken Arrow and our 160th.



July 18: We took advantage of being in the St. Louis area to do the walk-through with the staff of the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel for our 163rd annual session in November 2029. This saves a trip later.



July 18: We were fortunate to time our visit to Illinois with a barbeque dinner hosted by the members of Emerald Mound Grange #1813 (IL).



July 21: At the regular monthly meeting of Green Bluff Grange #300 (WA), I presented President Jim Lahde with their Citation of Commendation for 100 years of service to their community.



July 25: On July 25th, Windsor Grange #980 (WA) was the recipient of a plaque presented by the local chapter of E Clampus Vitus.

THIS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH, MAKE A PLAN TO STAY UP TO DATE ON YOUR VACCINES

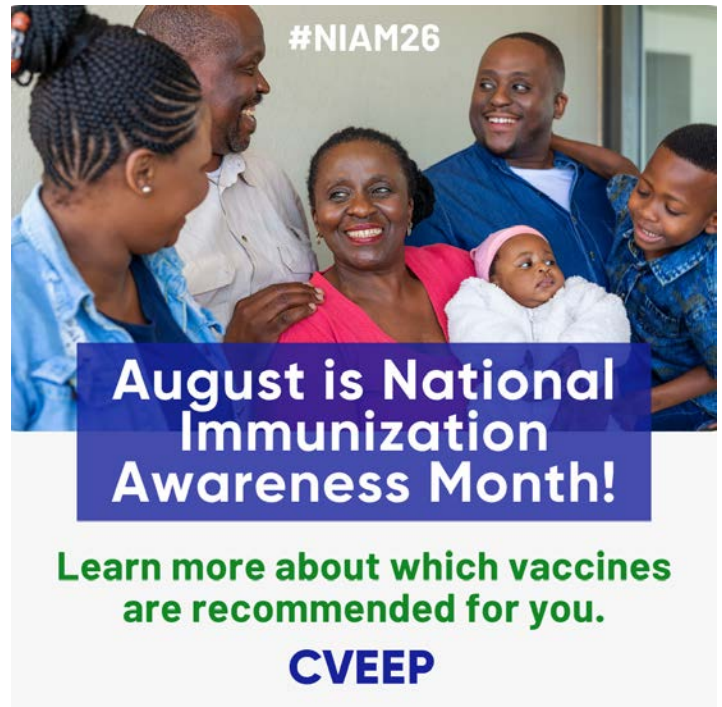
Courtesy of Champions for Vaccine Education, Equity and Progress (CVEEP)

August is **National Immunization Awareness Month** and a reminder that now is the perfect time to prepare for respiratory illness season. Knowing which vaccines are recommended and covered for you, as well as where to get vaccinated, can help make staying protected simple.

Vaccine recommendations vary based on factors like your age, health conditions, and vaccination history, so talk with a healthcare provider or pharmacist about which vaccines are right for you.

Vaccines are available in many healthcare and community settings, including doctor's offices, clinics, pharmacies, community health centers, and local and state health departments. For most people, recommended vaccines are covered at no cost through private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, or the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

Visit cveep.org to learn which vaccines are recommended for you, understand your coverage, and find a vaccination location.



AUGUST 15 IS NATIONAL RELAXATION DAY. HERE'S HOW TO CELEBRATE IT

Courtesy of StatePoint Media

National Relaxation Day, celebrated every year on August 15, is an annual celebration of self-care. Because reducing stress can have positive effects on your mind and your overall wellness, it's important to take time to relax, no matter how busy life gets.

While these days, you may find yourself reflexively reaching for your devices during downtime, there are much better ways to actually reduce stress and feel rejuvenated.

Here are five alternatives to scrolling:

- ★ Calling a friend
- ★ Going for a stroll
- ★ Practicing breathing exercises
- ★ Reading a book
- ★ Listening to calming music



Editorial image via AdobeStock

Feeling overwhelmed, anxious or stressed is common, but taking time for yourself can help you cope and feel your best.

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 are from
National Grange Family Cookbook from Country Kitchens
A collection of family-tested recipes from rural America (1979)

Banana Split Salad

Courtesy of Francine Fortune, C.W.A.
Porterville Grange #718
Porterville, California

Salad greens	Watermelon balls
1 16-ounce carton cottage cheese	Green grapes
1 banana	Bing cherries
Lemon juice	Fresh mint
Nuts, finely chopped	1 8-ounce carton strawberry-flavored yogurt
Honeydew melon	
Cantaloupe	

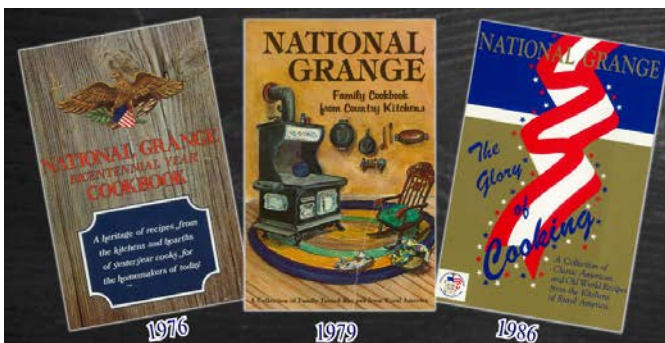
Arrange salad greens on serving dish. Space three mounds of cottage cheese on greens. Cut banana in half; cut each half lengthwise. Dip in lemon juice. Arrange only banana at each end of serving dish; sprinkle with nuts. Cut 6 thin slices from each melon; arrange around cottage cheese along with watermelon, grapes and cherries. Garnish with mint. Blend yogurt with fork until smooth. Serve separately to spoon over salad. **Yield: 3 servings.**

Montana Sombremos

Courtesy of Thelma Warfield, Pomona C.W.A.
Walla Walla Co. Pomona Grange #27
Walla Walla, Washington

1 cup chopped onion	1/2 teaspoon thyme
2/3 cups chopped celery	2 6-ounce cans tomato paste
2/3 cups chopped green pepper	Dash Tabasco sauce
3 teaspoons fat	2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
2 pounds ground beef	2 6-ounce packages corn chips
2 to 3 teaspoons chili powder	2 cups shredded process American cheese
2 teaspoons salt	
1/4 teaspoon pepper	

Sauté onion, celery and green pepper in fat in electric skillet. Add remaining ingredients except corn chips and cheese. Add 2 cups water. Simmer for 1 hour, stirring occasionally. Serve meat sauce on corn chips. Top generously with cheese.



Available through the Grange Store
for digital download



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.org

OR

issuu.com/grangegoodday

GRANGE MEMBER BENEFIT:

LOOKING FOR PHARMACY SAVINGS?

The National Grange is proud to share resources that help members save on prescription medications. Through trusted partners like SingleCare and GoodRx, individuals and families can access free prescription discount cards accepted at major pharmacies nationwide.



Free & Easy: No registration or eligibility required! Just download it in your app store



Big Savings: Save up to 80% on most FDA-approved prescriptions



Nationwide Access: Use at thousands of pharmacies including CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, and more

LEARN MORE AND GET YOUR FREE DISCOUNT CARD AT:
SINGLECARE.COM
GOODRX.COM



CONTACT INFO@NATIONALGRANGE.ORG TO LEARN MORE

GRANGE STORE: GUIDELINES FOR GRANGE LEADERS



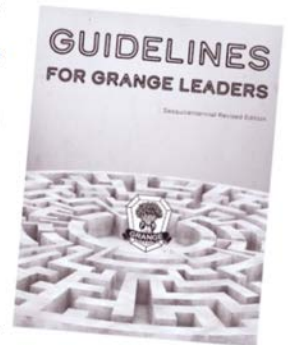
SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.org

GUIDELINES FOR GRANGE LEADERS

(Sesquicentennial Revised Edition)

This book aims to define and describe the duties and responsibilities of Pomona and Subordinate Presidents, Lecturers, Secretaries and appointed committees. This book is meant to assist in carrying out duties and responsibilities.



\$6.00 plus shipping

Get yours by ordering online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.org or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

NATIONAL GRANGE

HEADQUARTERS: 1616 H ST. NW, SUITE 300, WASHINGTON, DC 20006 | (202) 628-3507

Publisher - Christine Hamp, National Grange President. Available to members at champ@nationalgrange.org or by phone at (509) 953-3533

Editor - Philip J Vonada, National Grange Communications Director. Contact to submit a story idea for *Grange Today!* or *Good Day!* magazine, request assistance with publicity, business cards, social media, and more. Email pvonada@nationalgrange.org or call/text (814) 404-7985

Leadership Training & Membership Development - Amanda Brozana, National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director. Contact us to learn more about membership recruitment or how to start or reorganize a Grange, leadership training, and more. Email abrozana@nationalgrange.org or call/text (301) 943-1090

Legislative and Policy Issues - Burton Eller, Government Affairs Director - *National HQ*, ext. 114 or email beller@nationalgrange.org

Membership Recognition, Grange Supply Sales, Grange Programs and Member Benefits - Loretta Washington, *National HQ*, ext. 109 or email Lwashington@nationalgrange.org

Free Grange Websites, Emails, *Good Day!* subscription questions, and Membership Database - Stephanie Wilkins, IT Director. *National HQ*, ext. 101 or email swilkins@nationalgrange.org

Lecturer - Dr. Richard Stonebraker, lecturer@nationalgrange.org or (301) 606-1221

Junior Grange Programming - Katie Girtler, Director - junior@nationalgrange.org

Grange Youth & Young Adult Programming - Samantha Wilkins, Director - youth@nationalgrange.org

Grange Youth Fair Program - grangeyouthfairs@grange.org

National Grange Community Service - communityservice@grange.org

Distinguished Grange - Connie Johnston, Administrator distinguishedgrange@grange.org

Grange Foundation - John Benedik, Chairperson ngfb@grange.org

