



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE
151st ANNUAL CONVENTION EDITION - DAY 5, NOVEMBER 11, 2017

Talent on display at Evening of Excellence; Youth Ambassadors, Young Patron named 4 take final pies to the face including National President



Photo Credit: Tacy Currey

BY JOSH BETHANY
Communications Fellow

The Grange Evening of Excellence was a huge success tonight, with an array of performers, a new National Youth Team elected, and a series of pie-ings.

The talent show kicked off with Eric Sable's Harmonic Beatbox and ended with Kasey Vann's rendition of "Jesus take the Wheel," with other acts ranging from classical piano pieces to a father-son comedy skit. Each contestant was given \$100 for participating in the event. The audience in the INB Performing Arts Center and those who watched the live-stream on the National Grange Facebook were then able to participate by voting for their favorite acts in different categories. Winners from each category were awarded an additional \$100.

After the entertainment portion of the night was over, Youth Ambassadors and Young

Youth Ambassador and Outstanding Young Patron candidates and the outgoing class stand on stage at the Evening of Excellence, held at the INB Performing Arts Center on Friday after the close of the 151st Annual National Grange Convention.

Patrons from several different states took the stage and were introduced. Some were recognized for different achievements during convention prior to the naming of 2017-18 male and female Youth Ambassadors and the Outstanding Young Patron: Tessa Taft, New York; Jacob Gwin, Washington; and Jenn Nauss, Pennsylvania, respectively. Jacob Gwin follows his twin sister, Kennedy Gwin who is the outgoing female Youth Ambassador and Nauss comes from a Grange Legacy family, following in her mother's footsteps as she said she was crowned National Grange Princess 40 years ago at convention.

To cap off the night, we had our last series of serial pie-ings to round out the major Grange Foundation Youth Fund fundraiser "Pie in the Face" that raised

more than \$10,000 this year.

First, outgoing Young Patron Mandy Bostwick took a pie to the face, thrown by National Grange Communications Director Amanda Brozana-Rios who was excited to have the fun experience with one of her bridesmaid's from her wedding earlier this year.

Next up, Duane Hamp's ticket was pulled to pie his wife, National Lecturer Chris Hamp.

The top two states to raise money for the fundraiser were Oklahoma and Pennsylvania, whose presidents were given the opportunity to pie the top two tier individuals – outgoing National Grange Overseer Jimmy Gentry and National Grange President Betsy Huber.

Pennsylvania Grange Presi-

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Photo Credit: Tacy Currey

At the close of the Evening of Excellence, National President Betsy Huber was pied as part of the Youth fundraiser by Josh Bethany, Florida.

EVENING

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dent Wayne Campbell said the state would not have been successful in their efforts without one of their own state's Young Patrons, Phil Vonada, championing the cause, and gave Vonada the opportunity to pie Gentry. The capstone of the evening was the pie-ing of Huber.

In order to raise more money for Junior Grange, who received the proceeds from the week of raffle tickets sold and pulled for pie-ing, Oklahoma State Grange President Billy Shufeldt said he would defer and allow someone who purchased a raffle ticket to pie the National President and encouraged ticket sales prior to the start of the pie-ing.

As they called the winning ticket number, and this writer looked down, it was indeed an honor to jump on stage and prepare to put whipped cream and sprinkles in the face of Huber, who began to run away. She was captured and indeed pied on livestream and to the delight of the audience.



Photo Credit: Tacy Currey

National Lecturer Chris Hamp looks at the pie her husband, Duane, is about to smash in her face on Friday at the close of the Evening of Excellence in Spokane.



Photo Credit: Tacy Currey

Daniel Greer, right, and his son, Billy, both of Colorado, performed a comedy routine Friday at the Evening of Excellence program called "You might be a Millennial if... You might be an Old Fart if...".

New initiatives part of Junior make-over

BY ELIZABETH HINER
Senior Communications Fellow

The Junior Grange had a very good year under the new Junior Director Samantha Wilkins. Samantha accepted the offered directorship at the 150th National Convention in Washington, D.C.

"It is always a fun time to work with kids and finding out what their interests are and what makes them tick! So this year being our 150th birthday of National Grange, I knew we needed a few things within the Junior Grange Department," Wilkins said. "We needed some new and exciting things, but we also needed to get back down to what our roots are."

Wilkins traveled across the nation and learned a lot about how Granges were functioning and working with Juniors.

"When I traveled, I learned that many people across the nation considered Junior Grange a fun time for arts and crafts," Wilkins said. "Those things are good but does that really pertain to what the Grange is or what it is about?"

Four new and major ideas were introduced to the Juniors, the first being the National Grange Legislative Fly-In during Grange Month in April. This is a way to introduce the Youth and Juniors to our government and the departments, which make it up.

The second is the Awareness Award where



Juniors are given an agricultural issue to focus on. Last year they chose Honeybee Awareness. Juniors planted gardens, talked with Beekeepers and made posters for their respective communities.

Each year going forward there will be a new theme. Next year's theme is pollinators.

Third is a yearly handicraft project - for 2018 the Juniors will have to create their own cross stitch pattern. They will also receive limited guidelines for this project, which is to promote creativity.

The final component is a focus on Grange history covering "what is the Grange/Junior Grange about; where did our roots begin and why?"

"There are a few other things here and there that I have tweaked or changed, but the overall response has been positive," Wilkins said. "And, as always, if anyone has question, I am always here!"

2 inducted into Grange Hall of Fame

BY LURAE BENZIO
Communications Fellow

The Hall of Fame Committee inducted two Grange members into the Hall of Fame during the 151st National Convention.

Charles M. Gardner is one of the honored members. He served as a Massachusetts State Grange Deputy and State Lecturer, and then State Master from 1909 to 1913. Following that, he was named High Priest of Demeter. He held that office until 1947, a period of 34 years, which is the longest term anyone has ever served in that position.

Eugene A. Eckert (1879-1955), Master of the St. Clair County Pomona Grange, he served as Master of the Illinois State Grange from 1919 to 1945 and then as a member of the Executive Committee from 1946 to 1953. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the National Grange from 1922 to 1946, serving as Secretary and Chairman.

The Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee, Gary Brumbaugh, Ohio, was pleased with the nominations but would like to see more.

"There are heroes of the Grange that need to be identified," Brumbaugh said. "We need to glorify and be proud of our patriarchs and matriarchs who laid some of the foundations of our Order."

Brumbaugh talked with National Youth Director Charlene Shupp Espenshade, and they want to involve the Youth Department and encourage them to help nominate members.

"The Youth are already researching and studying Grange history for the various contests. They would be a great resource to help grow this program." Espenshade said.

Brumbaugh suggested that the community, state and Pomona Granges start their own Hall of Fame and then suggest them for the National level.

Forms are available on the website.

OP-ED/LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Grange founders embraced change, advancements; we must as well

BY C.T.

Member Submission

Dear worthy Grange Brothers and Sisters, fellow Patrons of Husbandry,

I am a newer Grange member and have deeply enjoyed joining this family. I have seen the love and passion so many have given to our local, State and National Grange.

This letter is a call to action from a quiet ear that has overheard and been part of many conversations, each conversation amounts to nothing if it is only between one or two but if we can come together and talk openly about what is truly plaguing us we will persevere and therefore be stronger for the future.

I am a nobody in the "who knows who" and "who's side are you on."

I don't come with the legacy of having family members heavily involved in the Grange, and I am still learning as much as I can about this wonderful organization.

What I do know, is that Grange members are delighted to do the hard work, come together in times of need, and definitely love to share meals together.

Where we are struggling, is building for our future generations.

There is a new generation of young people that have drive to give their time.

They see the purpose of our rituals, and have the willpower to overcome the phrase many long time Grange members are often guilty of saying, "that's the way we have always done it." Or if they have a new idea, "that's not the way we have always done it."

In my short time as a Grange member, I have heard those words as much as I have heard "I'd be delighted!"

Change is unstoppable.

It isn't meant to cast a shadow on the paths that got us to where we are today. It is meant to ensure we have a future.

Every living thing has a cycle of life, the grain, which we hold so dear in our Grange logo, is an

excellent example of change.

This week, we got a glimpse into the world of wheat and all the amazing advancements in its life cycle.

From cross-breeding the wheat to multiple cycles of wheat, from wheat that seeds to wheat that doesn't.

Our Grange members are the same. We have our legacy family members that have given us the roots to grow from and brought us to where we are.

We have our current Masters and the Executive Committee members that move us forward from year to year.

Much like our different cycles of winter and spring wheat, they change, have different purposes and cannot exist in the same field at the same time.

However, both have their place in the farmers field.

And last but certainly not least we have these new hybrids that speed up the process, or are more resistant to the ever changing weather conditions.

These are our millennial members.

We use technology and social media and a whole host of new ideas to have greater connection with one another and with potential new members.

We don't do it that way to insult what we have always done.

We are pushing because those long time members and mentors have taught us to advocate for what we feel passionate about.

That is the Grange Way!

If we are going to ensure that this organization can withstand the weather to have a presence in future communities, we need to be do'ers. We need to work hard to reinvent what our purpose is, and what our Grange can do within our communities.

My call to action is to stop saying "that's the way we've always done it." Instead, give it a try. Because the only way to fail is to stop trying. And I have no intention of stopping any time soon.

***We have a Snapchat filter. Just swipe left!
Don't forget our convention hashtag! #grange151st***



Photo Credit: Josh Bethany

Juniors who toured the Spokane Fire Department station as part of the 151st Convention in Spokane on Friday were able to have hands-on activities and learn about being a firefighter.

Juniors get fired up on tour Friday

BY JOSH BETHANY
Communications Fellow

Some Juniors in attendance at the 151st Annual National Grange Convention got to live out a dream on Friday during their tour of the Spokane Fire Department and training facility.

The Juniors were able to talk with firefighters and got to see a little of what it takes to get the prestigious job here in Spokane. The tour was set up thanks to National Lecturer Christine Hamp who is an administrative Fire Chief for the city's more than 350 person force.

An on-duty Battalion Chief told the Juniors that no matter what they want to be, they need

to make sure to get a good and well-rounded education, especially if they wanted to be in his position some day.

The Juniors then got to see the department's controlled burn building where they run approximately five live fire training scenarios every training course to prepare new recruits.

Juniors toured the fire truck and equipment on board before the one and only Smokey the Bear visited the group to talk about fire safety.

The children even got to do some hands-on "fire fighting" by taking part in firefighter training exercises. Juniors used the firehose to knock out target cones that represented fires.



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Photo Credit: Tacy Currey

Some caption about the photo inserted. This should be somewhat interesting.

Patrons encouraged to give Youth 'great opportunities' so they can grow

BY LURAE BENZIO
Communications Fellow

Grange Youth, representing eight different states, opened Friday's session with an outstanding drill to modern music.

Youth Master Brittney Oliver, Washington, first welcomed the Juniors as honored guests as well as the National Junior Director Samantha Wilkins and National Junior Ambassador Jomni Tarbell.

"What a great day to be a Granger!" Wilkins said during her report to the delegates. "Seeing all these young kiddos is promising of our future."

During her report, she shared four new ideas that she provided further details about at the Junior Breakfast on Saturday and will provide throughout the next year as programs develop.

Oliver then welcomed the National Youth Director Charlene Shupp Espenshade, Ambassadors Kennedy Gwin, Washington, and Asa Houchin, Ohio, and Outstanding Young Patron Mandy Bostwick, Kansas.

During her report, Espenshade referenced the movie "Miracle" starring Kurt Russell by saying, "Great moments are born from great opportunities."

She asked that the Youth continually be challenged to learn, participate and grow in our Order.

The Youth Awards were presented at the G.R.O.W. Club dinner, which was held prior to the Evening of Excellence.

Ambassadors Houchin and Gwin both thanked the various states who hosted Regionals and supported the many fundraisers.

Their biggest fundraiser, "Pie in the Face" was a crazy idea that turned into a success, Bostwick said. More than \$10,000 was raised from that fundraiser alone with the top donations coming from Patrons who attended the State Grange sessions in Oklahoma and Pennsylvania.

The Youth Officer Team was:

Master: Brittney Oliver – WA

Overseer: Derek Snyder – PA

Lecturer: Katie Kurburski – MI

Steward: Adam Terrell – NH

Asst. Steward: Andrew Kudsk – WA

Lady Asst. Steward: Maggie Swartzendruber – OR

Chaplain: Olivia Yost – OH

Treas: Marcus Avendano – NC

Secretary: Morgan Browning – WA

Gatekeeper: Zac Mazag – NC

Ceres: Grace Wadsworth – PA

Flora: Melody Shufeldt – OK

Pomona: Margie Griffin – NC

Executive Committee: Jody Brenneman, WA; Baylor Howerton, NC; Emily Hartsell, NC; Sophia Ogden, WA.

Grangers excited for new name, broader focus of partner organization

BY ELIZABETH HINER
Senior Communications Fellow

Dogs for the Deaf, now called Dogs for Better Living, has been a long-time partner with the Grange, with many local chapters raising money for the nonprofit.

On Friday, representatives from the newly re-named organization were part of the National Grange Community Service Workshop led by Community Service Director Pete Pompper.

The organization's representatives said the re-branding reflects their move from just providing service dogs for the deaf, to include service dogs for autism and program dogs.

Dogs trained by the program work with people with autism, in some cases giving the child or adult someone to interact with that is non-threatening. The dogs are trained to react to the stresses, depression and anxiety these people feel in order to give comfort.

The program dogs have been available since 2011 and are trained to be used by adults in a professional area, including dog named Dallas who was placed with Sean, a teacher at Hillside Elementary School in December. Dallas is already making progress with the children in Sean's class.

Dogs for Better Living placed their first autism dog in 2016. They are only placing the autism-trained dogs in Oregon at this time. They are doing a few more test cases to see if their successful results are repeatable.

The staff at Dogs for Better Living is happy to attend Grange Conventions at the National and State level or have one of their ambassadors attend in their stead. They do take applications for ambassadors to represent them across the county. This program could be a good community service program for the Grange.

More information can be found on the organization's website at dogsforbetterliving.org.

Host committee thanked for service

BY ELIZABETH HINER
Senior Communications Fellow

Thank you to the Western Conference is hosting the hospitality room. They have given members a place to decompress before, during and after daily sessions. The hospitality room has also been a great place to meet new people and to catch up with old friends.

The Western Region states, which includes Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, and previously Alaska, each provided regional specialties

along with snacks. The hospitality room served a variety of foods and was enjoyed by those who partook of the repast.

The Host committee members at the registration desk helped with food tickets, directions, ordering flowers and whatever questions or problems the membership may have had. The host committee also helped attendees by providing a shipping service for packages and many other services throughout the week including shuttle service and more.

Shorter convention still yields good results

BY ELIZABETH HINER
Senior Communications Fellow

Burton Eller, Legislative Director for the National Grange, said this year's convention, shortened by one day, ran smoothly.

Eller said committees completed their work on resolutions a day and a half early in great part because of committees using the teleconferencing technology of Zoom meetings before convention.

"The committees cleaned up and clarified outdated policies. They worked hard on the revised policy statements, which will be sent home with the State Masters on the thumb drive," Eller said.

During session, the committees moved through business quickly because they had time to review what they would take action on and the discussion on the floor was informed and shorter, Eller said.

As the committees adopt new ways to approach their work, such as using Zoom, the delegates are also looking to the future.

A resolution passed that will allow a study to be conducted with the hope that we will have a near-paperless convention or committee meeting structure in the near future. Duane Scott of the National Grange Executive Committee will be conducting the study and providing the results to the board for review.

Speeches, signing part of Junior talent

BY LURAE BENZIO
Communications Fellow

Samantha Wilkins, National Junior Grange Director welcomed the many families and guests to the Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song Contest, and thanked the many contestants for participating in their regions and traveling to Spokane to compete.

There were speeches given and the topics including, "Stop That Bullying," by Carlie Covady, Oklahoma, which was the Best of Show at the Great Plains Regional; "Homelessness," by Sydney Bach, Virginia, which was the Best of Show in the Southeast Region. "The Importance of Ag in the Community," by Jomni Tarbell, New York. Gregory Lehmann from Massachusetts gave an entertaining speech uniquely titled, "My Gregory Speech by Blackie the Kitty."

For the Sign-a-Song Contest, contestants Tarbell and David Lehmann took to the stage to perform their songs.

Lehmann chose the silly kids song, "Found a Peanut." Tarbell's selection was more inspirational entitled "More," by Matthew West. Tarbell used sign language in Pidgeon



Photo Credit: Tacy Currey

Many supporters and alumni of the Junior Grange program wore red and white tennis shoes on Friday at convention.

form. Wilkins said both of the Juniors did a terrific job.

Samantha took some time to recognize any Junior Directors or Leaders in the room. She also asked for any Super JG members to stand. Samantha talked about the changes in a few contests that are outlined in the new Junior Handbook.

Contestants Gregory Lehmann and his twin brother, David, traveled with their parents from Massachusetts.

They have been Junior Grange members for six years and showed their red JG Sashes covered in merit badges.

"My favorite one was Badge #7 for Team Up America. I had to identify states on a map. I've been to 12 states so far," Gregory said.

"I've been to 13!" David said. "I competed at Nebraska a few years ago."

The Best of Show winner of the Public Speaking Contest was Gregory Lehmann.

The Best of Show winner of Sign-a-song was Tarbell.

They presented their speech and sign-a-song at the Junior Breakfast, Saturday morning.

New Junior Ambassador announced at breakfast

BY LURAE BENZIO
Communications Fellow

Red, or more specifically, dark red, is the color of Junior Grange and you could see plenty of it at the Junior Grange Breakfast held Saturday morning. National Junior Director, Samantha Wilkins, welcomed the Juniors, families, alumni and supporters to the breakfast and expressed her thanks for the support that everyone gives to the Junior Program.

Junior Awards for Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song were given. The Best of Show for Sign-a-Song was Jomni Tarbell and she performed for the crowd of about 100 guests. Tarbell is the outgoing Junior Grange Ambassador from New York.

Tarbell gave her farewell speech and told her

successor, Riley Reynolds from Oregon, that there is good news and bad news about being the next Ambassador.

"The good news is that you are the National Junior Grange Ambassador," Tarbell said. "The bad news is that you are the National Junior Grange Ambassador."

Tarbell traveled 10,000 miles and crisscrossed around the country, going to regional conferences to share her Grange journey. She thanked the many people who supported her long the way. She talked about how much she had learned but more important, grown as a person and leader.

After the breakfast, Juniors went to enjoy some activities and Samantha held a Junior Leader/Director meeting and gave an update on the 2018 theme, programs and contests.



Photo Credit: Tacy Currey

From right to left, Stephen Coye, New York, and Lynette Shaeffer, Illinois, were elected to the National Executive Committee, Phil Prelli, Connecticut, elected as Overseer and Cindy Greer, Colorado, and Welina Shufeldt, Oklahoma, were elected as Graces of the National Grange, Ceres and Flora, respectively.

5 elected to new national offices

BY AMANDA BROZANA RIOS
Communications Director

On Thursday, elections for the 151st Annual National Grange Convention began for National Officers with the reelection of National President Betsy Huber returning for her second term.

Phil Prelli, Connecticut, moved from his position as chairman of the National Grange Executive Committee to the second highest office, voted by delegates to be National Overseer. Jimmy Gentry, who had been in that office for several terms had previously announced he would not seek another term. Prelli's seat on the Executive Committee along with the one held by Joe Fryman, Nebraska, who had also not sought reelection, were up and delegate elected Lynette Shaeffer, Illinois State President and Steve Coye, New York State Presidents were elected into those positions.

At a later meeting of the National Grange Executive Committee, Shaeffer was elected as secretary, taking over for Duane Scott, Wisconsin, who remains part of the board.

All other officers were re-elected with the exception of two graces - Ceres and Flora.

Cindy Greer of Colorado was elected to take the place of Claire Logan, Rhode Island, as Ceres, and Welina Shufeldt of Oklahoma was elected Flora. Marie Nicholson of Montana previously had served in that position for six years.

On Thursday evening, the three Assembly of Demeter officers were each reelected. Bruce Croucher, New York, is High Priest; Roger Bostwick, Kansas, is Priest Archon and James Owens, Maine, is Priest Annalist.

National Executive Committee members, including the Overseer and Master automatically serve as officers to the Grange Foundation board as well. Fryman exited the board, vacating the space for Shaeffer, and Coye had already served the board as President and an at-large member. He was reelected as President and Melanie Bostwick, Kansas, was elected to the open seat. The Board also voted to add one more seat, and is seeking resumes of interested applicants by December 5, which should be sent to Huber or Coye.

See you in Stowe in 2018!

BY LURAE BENZIO
Communications Fellow

Make plans now for the 152nd National Grange Convention being held at the Stoweflake Mountain Resort and Convention Center in Stowe, Vermont.

The resort sits at the base of the pristine Green Mountain and is only a few miles of the famous VonTrappe Family Lodge.

Other local attractions are Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream headquarters, about 10 miles away, as well as Alchemist Brewery, Cabot Creamery, and other sites including covered bridges, museums, shopping and more.

The 152nd Annual National Grange Convention Coordinator Jody Cameron,

Connecticut, and assistant coordinators Walter Hartley, Rhode Island, and Laura Magrun, New York, had a table display in the Showcase and gave passers-by crochet or tatted snowflakes made by Grange members from the Northeast region.

Cameron is excited to have Grange members from all over the country travel to Vermont and enjoy the beautiful scenery, attractions and more.

"We have tours planned for officers and delegates and we will have shuttle service available to take them to local restaurants," Cameron said.

The Convention will be held from November 13 to 17. Attendees are encouraged to book early.



Photo Credit: Tacy Currey

Grange members from around the Northeast Region, excited to host the 2018 National Grange Convention in Stowe, Vermont, crocheted or tatted handmade "snowflakes" that were given to people who visited the 152nd Convention booth in the Showcase.

NC, NY Youth best competition for Parli-Pro

BY LURAE BENZIO
Communications Fellow

The Youth Department Parli-Pro Competition was held Saturday morning.

The purpose of this contest is to encourage Grange youth and young adults to learn to effectively participate in a business meeting and to assist in the development of their leadership, public speaking, and problem solving skills.

This years winners are:

First Place – North Carolina with high chair Katie Leonard

Second Place – New York with high test score Matt Horton

The other Contest that the Youth participated in was the Grange Jeopardy.

Grange Jeopardy is an exciting event that brings together youth and young adults interested in Grange trivia and history. Individuals have the opportunity to gain knowledge about the Grange, its history and impact on rural America.

First Place Jenn Nauss, PA.

Second Place Mandy Bostwick, KS

Third Place Matt Horton, NY

4 words stand between top finishers in Code Reading

BY LURAE BENZIO
Communications Fellow

There were five participants in the new and challenging Code Reading Contest. The contest was a partnership between the Youth Department and Assembly of Demeter. This is the first year for this contest.

There are two categories, Notice and Patron. All the participants who are first time Code readers begin in the Novice level.

The competition came down to two Youth

members, who tied with 100 percent and had to be challenged with a tie-breaker. The difference between first and second place was just four words.

Philip Vonada and Jenn Nauss, both from Pennsylvania, and competing in the Outstanding Young Patron contest were the two going head-to-head. Jennifer Nauss was awarded first place and was asked to read from the codebook the use of the gavel to the room full of officers, delegates and Patrons.