



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE  
151st ANNUAL CONVENTION EDITION - DAY 2, NOVEMBER 8, 2017



Photo Credit: Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios

National Grange Ceres Claire Logan, RI, stands with the American flag facing the open Bible, while delegates and officers - including Brenda Rousselle, Lady Assistant Steward, VT, and John Plank, Assistant Steward, IN - sing the National Anthem at the opening of the 151st Annual Convention on Tuesday.

## Officers open session with spirit

BY ELIZABETH HINER  
Senior Communications Fellow

The 151st National Session-officially opened today in the 7th Degree for degree work, then re-opened in the Fourth Degree for attendees that have yet to receive the Seventh Degree.

After roll call of the delegates and officers, National President Betsy Huber was presented with a special gift from a National officer and his wife.

Roger Bostwick, National Grange Priest Archon, and Melanie Bostwick, presented the National Grange with an implement set. The hand-made wooden box and hand-made wooden implements were received warmly and immediately put to use for the session.

Huber then presented her internal and external addresses to



Photo Credit: Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios

A handmade implement set and box was presented to the National Grange after opening by Roger and Melanie Bostwick.

the Delegates and Grange attendees. The external address was live on the National Grange Facebook page and can be replayed but is recapped in a related story on page 2.

Following the speeches, the delegates started on the

resolutions submitted by the State Granges.

The Grange delegates and officers posed for a group picture after the session was recessed for the evening. The work of the Grange will continue over the next three days.

# National President offers policy notes, view of Grange future in addresses

BY JOSH BETHANY  
Communications Fellow

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."

National Grange President Betsy Huber used this quote to kick off her internal address and the 151st National Convention.

She went on to explain that the past year had many great successes; such as, Good Day! magazine's start, the Grange Legacy Family program, which already includes 80 families, and the Distinguished Grange program, which continues to have a great turn around.

The year also had its unexpected problems, starting with the chiller in the headquarters building in Washington, D.C., dying, then Huber's continued defusal of Grange "civil wars", and to cap things off two states lost their charter. Huber is determined not to let these things slow down the progress we are making as an organization and ended the address with more positive occurrences from 2017 and with these words, "keep the enthusiasm you will feel here in Spokane, and carry it home with you."

Huber's external address was a lot more extensive, delving into the larger scale Grange stances on policies such as WOTUS (Waters Of The United States).

"The agencies failed to listen to the affected parties and published the final rule as proposed in June, 2015."

Huber explained that President Trump issued an Executive Order to withdraw the rule in February of this year, and the Supreme Court is deciding whether the Appellate or District Court is the proper place to handle future challenges to WOTUS policies.

Huber also talked about the long standing issue of Rural Broadband and her role as the only agriculture representative on the Broadband Development Advisory Committee, which is tasked with making recommendations to expedite the process of establishing high-speed internet access for predominantly rural areas.

Unfortunately, the BDAC is only an advisory committee and the FCC has to choose to accept any recommendations made through their regulatory process. Huber was present at a white house event where the Vice President revealed a new administrative effort to reduce government overregulation.

Health care was also mentioned with the Grange continuing to be involved with legislature that deals with the Affordable Care Act,



Photo Credit: Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios

National President Betsy Huber speaks to delegates and attendees as part of her external address on Tuesday at the 151st Annual National Grange Convention.

but in the most recent budget resolution vote in the senate, all amendments failed. Huber also warned against using foreign prescription or over the counter drugs because of low priority monitoring and questionable safety.

Huber touched on tax reform as well saying, "I believe we need to reform the tax code so that it is simpler, more transparent, revenue neutral, and fair to farmers."

The Grange continues to support the repeal of estate taxes and continuing stepped up basis, and closely monitors the situation always looking for a chance to introduce Grange policy in the reform debate.

After touching on the agriculture workforce and discussing the Legislative Fly-In Huber ended the external address with a lookback on some of the big accomplishments of the Grange; for example, create the Department of Agriculture as a cabinet position, but also with a look ahead to the future Grange she envisions.

"...Still the community center, a place of social activity and learning, and a place for families to have fun together."

## Speaker identifies Grange priorities as ‘on track’

BY TACY CURREY  
Communications Fellow

Senator Robert Nononi was the keynote speaker for the Legislative Luncheon. Nononi, a Grange member himself, took this opportunity to identify some key Grange priorities that are also legislative priorities of his own.

He discussed the need for critical infrastructure for rural needs in both health care and rural broadband. With limited access, cost increase as high cost uses like emergency services are used for basic care needs. The efforts to increase rural broadband are critical for equal access for many areas of life, within Idaho. The rural broadband effort has been advanced through equal access to education efforts.

While discussing the different employment opportunities in the state, Senator Nononi highlighted the advancements that have created higher wage jobs. With this progress, the importance of STEM education and advancing the workforce to be technically prepared to fill these advanced positions.

The importance of our natural resources from forested land management to appropriate water allocation and management



Photo Credit: Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios

Idaho State Senator Robert Nononi spoke Tuesday to attendees at the Legislative Luncheon.

was also an identified focus.

With his dry banter and congenial way, Nononi engaged our audience and provided insight and humor prior to the official opening of the 151st Convention.



Scanned Archive Record from Spokane Daily Chronicle from 1912 the first time the National Grange Convention was held in the city.

# National Round-up for 2017

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

BY JOSH BETHANY

Communications Fellow

National Grange Community Service Director Pete Pompper said he was very satisfied with this year's national community service efforts.

"National community service efforts" might be the wrong way to word it, because even Pompper admits there isn't a national community service project, as much as he'd love to have one it just wouldn't work because the individual communities have specific needs.

"You [as a Grange member] know what your community needs," Pompper said. "There is no way that those needs could be predicted at the national level."

Some examples of larger scale community would be the several California Granges offer-

ing up their grange halls as relief stations for fire fighters or shelters for livestock, or Cibolo Grange in Texas, providing disaster relief for the aftermath of the floods.

Thankfully, not every state needs a natural disaster to give back to their community however, this year marks the 3rd year that we've had the "of the year" program where you may nominate local people for the best of three categories: fire fighter, best teacher and best law enforcement.

Pompper reassured me that this year's numbers would show that local granges are still doing their part in their communities, he said it was particularly interesting the number of hours that non-grange members put in/donated. "it shows how much people value the organization, even if they aren't members."

## LECTURER/PROGRAMMING

BY JOSH BETHANY

Communications Fellow

Looking back on this last year National Lecturer Christine Hamp was very excited about an increase in the participation of grangers in the national contests.

The quilt block contest; for example, had an exponential growth in participation. After last year only received 33 submissions, there wasn't a huge expectation for this year. Needless to say, when there was a total of 311 submissions this year, Hamp was thrilled with the "outstanding participation." The quilt blocks were submitted from 24 different states with Cibolo Grange in Texas submitting 56. The blocks are put on display in the Grange Showcase every year and then sewn together into full quilts to be auctioned off to raise money for Grange Foundation.

The photography showcase also had a large number of participants, with about 20 states sending their best of show to be displayed in the Grange Showcase, they will be judged for first, second, and third place by an outside "expert."

This year also features a Quilt and Handicraft Expo, where donated goods made by Grange members from around the country will be sold to raise money for the Grange Foundation, that

is open to the public. The expo is being held at the convention center this year which means it is of no expense to the Grange. Because it is open to the public it serves to do more for the Grange than just bring in funds, "it is to raise awareness about grange and to raise awareness about handicrafts," said Hamp.

The year wasn't without its obstacles though, said Hamp.

"We are really bad at communicating. The contests change sometimes, it's the nature of the program and communicating those changes was not an easy thing due to the poor relay of information," Hamp said.

One of the first things that Hamp tried to do after she was elected National Lecturer was to contact all the state lecturers to get ideas and establish a relationship between the state and national levels.

"It took like four weeks to contact all of them," Hamp said, but she is very adamant that if we can increase our communication and make sure that all the information is being passed down the chain of command, the participation will continue to increase.

"Share the info, and let the members go from there."

## LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH

BY TACY CURREY

### Communications Fellow

Rural America has been a buzz word recently in the political arena. National Grange works to provide a voice, a magnifying lens to those areas with a smaller population. National Grange prides itself in not just speaking of rural american issues, but being the voice of their members with rural needs.

### Political Environment

The inauguration of a new president of the U.S. and the impact they have on the regulatory environment has always been of great importance. Combining this with the accelerating speed of change, Grange members will have the increasingly complex role of understanding the impact this turbulence will have on the political landscape, strategies and cultures. The principles of ethics and values will additionally become even more critical.

With change comes the task of new administration and the political appointee confirmation process. This has been a slow moving process this year which also slows the work progress within the agencies. As this undertaking is nearing completion, we are able to engage with new staffing and administration to meet local goals and needs.

### Health Care

Health Care has been a continued focus and need for our members with several critical elements. As Obamacare Reform has been discussed and debated, key component stand out as keystone elements within the rural landscapes of our nation. Medicare B which supports specialty drugs for treatments like cancer and diabetes and Medicare part D which is the low cost prescription drugs for older Americans under Social Security, are of specific need. As some misuse has been identified in these areas we encourage accountability without sacrificing the beneficial effects of these programs.

Rural services continued to feel pressures for facility closure. Keeping rural medical facilities operating as local lifelines to residents in small towns is integral to response time in emergent issues. Supporting funding to ensure these services are timely and responsive are literally life altering.

### Communications Infrastructure

Continued efforts in the expansion of communications within rural america started the year with National Grange President Betsy Huber being appointed to the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee by Federal Communications Chairman Ajit Pai. National Grange continues advocating for the expansion of broadband to reach communication parity in rural america. Along with this effort, identifying and highlight the continued need for the lifeline program for phone access for people on a low fixed income is equally as necessary .

### Ag Issues

As Farm Bill efforts begin to build, we look to identify areas in need of the largest change or support identified by our policies and members. Our policy positions provide flexibility in specific titles while focusing on the intent of the services and supports which is good as we move in farm policy arenas. Funding a new Farm Bill will be challenging as the Grange looks to balance farm programs, conservation initiatives, crop insurance and SNAP (food stamp programs).

### Tax Reform

Tax reform has been gaining momentum in the past months. As these changes to the tax system are identified, analyzing how they would impact Grange members and local communities for member to provide input to their representatives. The National GRange has strong policies supporting cash accounting for agriculture, tax deductions for interest paid for land, equipment and input purchases, and the repeal of the death tax.

## ENJOY CONVENTION ACROSS MEDIUMS AND ACROSS THE WORLD

*Several parts of the 151th Annual National Grange Convention will be live-broadcast through our Facebook page, National Grange, this week.*

*Also, daily reports and updates will be aired on Grange Radio at [grangeradio.org](http://grangeradio.org). A digital version of the convention newsletter will be distributed to our email list and posted to the National Grange website.*

***Tell your friends to tune in!***

# Committees tackle tough topics

BY TACY CURREY

Communications Fellow  
Agriculture

Kevin Cooksley, NE, is chairing the Labor, Judiciary and Transportation Committee. The Committee has been working through 40 resolutions from 17 states. There are several resolutions regarding organics, crop insurance, farm bill, milk and pesticide applications. Of note, a resolution regarding expansion of the farm bill to fund rural broadband will be considered.

## Audit and Budget

Duane Hamp, WA, is the committee chair who replaced John Benedik from New Jersey who couldn't make it due illness. The committee will be reviewing the budget provided to them by the executive committee and considering the executive committee's suggestion of cutting state Grange reimbursement for delegate travel expenses in half among other cost saving ideas.

## Conservation

Bob White, OH, is chairing the Conservation Committee. The Committee is looking at six resolutions from three states. The resolutions focus on Conservation Partnership Initiative, Waters of the State, Transfer of Public land, and directed conservation efforts.

## Citizenship

Brenda Rousselle, VT, is chairing the Committee for Citizenship. The Committee is looking at 40 resolutions this year from 17 states, with Ohio leading the way with 11 resolutions. The resolutions cover topics from California's resolution regarding the use of clotheslines within an HOA to the several submissions regarding congressional term limits and health care. There are resolutions regarding Veterans and Voting issues, plus many other topics.

## Grange Growth

Joe Goodrich, VT, is the committee chair for Grange Growth. The committee is going to be reviewing 16 resolutions including resolutions on 40 year membership, honorary membership, and electronic device substitution.

## Grange Law

Chris Heath, NH, is chairing the Grange Law Committee who is looking at just six resolutions from five states. There are a couple of resolutions concerning Grange membership whether it be e-membership or concerning membership in dual states. There is also one concerning the election of officers at National Grange, which could become an exciting discussion since this is an election year.

## Education and Health

Wilber Heath, NH, is chairing the Education and Health Law Committee who is looking at 26 resolutions from 12 states. "Some of the resolutions are repeats and some are more state and/or local issues," Heath said. The Affordable Healthcare Act, which is a national topic in the media is sure to be a hot discussion during the committee meeting.

## Labor, Judiciary and Transportation

Jimmy Taylor, VA, is chairing the Labor, Judiciary and Transportation Committee. The Committee is looking at 23 resolutions from 14 states, with Indiana, Maryland, and New York tied with three apiece. There are several resolutions regarding car safety covering car lights, and daytime driving lights. There is a resolution on Foreign Law and Grange Support for Passenger Rail. "The most controversial resolutions could be the immigration reform and visa resolutions," Jimmy Taylor said.

# Code Reading Contest Slots Open

BY LURAE BENZIO

Communications Fellow

Are you ready to crack the code?

This year, the Assembly of Demeter and the National Grange Youth Department are sponsoring a code reading contest during the National Grange Session.

The contest is open to any Granger.

The three Priests of the Assembly of Demeter will be judging the contest. There are scheduled time slots for Thursday afternoon, after the Youth tour. The Assembly can also work to schedule an alternative testing time slot if needed.

"This contest is set up as a way to introduce an element of our Grange fraternal history to the next generation of Grange members," National Grange Youth Director Charlene Shupp Espenshade said.

There are several youth members who have signed up who will try to crack the code, but Espenshade said she would love to see others get excited. "Remember that this is not just for the Youth. Any Grange member can sign up and compete.," Espenshade said.

The Massachusetts State Grange generously funded the awards for this event.

# Are you up for a challenge?

BY JOSH BETHANY  
Communications Fellow

The newest piece of Grange memorabilia plays on a great heritage.

National Lecturer Christine Hamp has had 250 challenge coins minted and is selling them for \$20 each to raise money for the Lecturer's fund.

Challenge coins today are often associated today with a bar challenge – who has their coin and brings it out is challenging the other to either produce the same or “higher ranked” coin and if they cannot, the person challenged is on the hook to purchase a drink for their challenger, but if they do have the same or “higher ranked” coin, the requirement is flipped, making the challenger the buyer.

However, their rich history of use in the military, dating back to WWI that is fascinating.

At that time, a challenge coin was given to a pilot who flew planes for the U.S. in the European theatre. If the

plane he was flying was shot down, landing behind enemy lines, he would hope to retain the small leather pouch worn around his neck if captured by the Germans but lucky enough to escape. If he met with an ally, to prove his identity and spare his life, he would show them his challenge coin that was contained in the pouch and be identified as an American.

As Grange members, we don't really have to worry about proving our identity or facing death, but the challenge coin still serves a purpose – as proof that we are a part of something great, working to make the world a better place. Every time you show someone that coin, you are announcing “I am a Granger, and I am proud of it.”

Coins are on sale by seeing Chris Hamp directly or visiting one of the Communications Fellows.



Photo Credit: Tacy Currey,  
Communications Fellow

The front and back of the Lecturer's challenge coin shows the four founding principles as well as the DO-er campaign logo on a lecturer's scroll. They are available for \$20 as a fundraiser.

## **NEW GRANGE® BRANDED ITEMS GO ON SALE THIS MORNING AT 9AM HERE AT CONVENTION IN THE LOWER LEVEL EXHIBIT ROOM**

*2017 Convention Pins • Curvy Insulated Tumblers • Embroidered Beanies  
USB Flash Drives now with **16 GB of Memory!***

*Limited Number of Convention Backpack/Tote Bags*

*Limited Number of Youth Birthday Fund Raiser T-Shirts*

*Newly Designed Playing Cards • Fedora Hats • Pre-thread Sewing Kits  
Stuffed Animals (Ducks & Cows)*

*Proud To Be A Granger Buttons • Grave Markers*

*White Kraft & Matte Laminated Paper Gift Bags*

*12-Can Cooler Bags • Mop Topper Cell Phone Holders*

*Bottle Openers • Clip On Pocket Screwdriver Flashlights*

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To order, call Monroe Classic, Inc. at **1-800-868-2330** or email [sales@monroeclassic.com](mailto:sales@monroeclassic.com)  
Check out our Grange Store™ by Monroe Classic at <http://www.promoplace.com/grange>



Archive Photo

Summer interns Mandy Bostwick, Kansas, Outstanding Young Patron; Ben McEvoy, MA; Ferderica Cobb, MS; Cait Cady, CA; and Kennedy Gwin, WA, Youth Ambassador, stand outside the Capitol in Washington, D.C., with their 150th birthday celebration t-shirts this summer that were sold as a fundraiser for the Youth Department.

## Party shirts helped fund Youth

BY LURAE BENZIO  
Communications Fellow

We want to party like it's 1867!

The National Grange has been celebrating their 150th birthday for the past year.

The Founders of the Grange would perhaps be humbled to see their faces on a limited-edition birthday t-shirts sold by the National Youth Team.

The birthday t-shirt was the brain child of Kennedy Gwin, National Female Youth Ambassador, who designed it as a joke.

"All of our Grange shirts have our Grange logo or simple design of our Grange symbol," Gwin said. "Designing a t-shirt with faces of our founders wearing silly party hats is out of the norm, and I thought it would appeal to the Youth."

To Gwin's surprise and the rest of the Youth Team, the t-shirt was a hit with all ages. If you are one of the Grange patrons who supported the fundraiser and packed your birthday shirt, be sure to wear it this week when you attend the Youth Costume Party.

### WHAT'S 'THE GRANGE WAY'?

National Grange President Betsy Huber announced today the 2018 Grange Month theme: "That's the Grange Way," so we thought we would find out from some members what 'The Grange Way' is in their minds. Enjoy!

- "The Grange way is mind-set that makes you think about things larger than just yourself, it encourages you to place yourself in spaces with people of varying ideas in hopes to reach the single goal of making the world a better place."
- - Kennedy Gwin, National Youth Ambassador, Hump-tulips Grange #730, WA
- "The Grange way embraces our agricultural past as we help be stewards for the future." - Loree Lampke, Wyandotte Grange #495, CA
- "The Grange way is the timeless way several generations of people come together to pass on to future generations. How to come together as small communities and as an entire nation. It is about the cards and love sent to members going through sickness or hard times, to the meals shared conversing about conventions from days gone by." - Christy Tatum, Orangevale Grange #354, CA
- "A time tested way of doing things." - Martha Stefenoni, Bennett Valley Grange #16, CA
- "Volunteerism. Whether it's in your community, your church, or your local Little League." - Marty Bilquist, Avon Grange #125, MT

# Messy fun will be had starting tonight thanks to successful Youth fundraiser

BY LURAE BENZIO  
Communications Fellow

Charlene Shupp Espenshade, National Youth Director, has had an exciting year with two fundraisers that were a hit with Patrons from all over the country.

Since last year's Convention, Espenshade and her Youth Committee announced a special and creative way to raise funds for the Youth Department. Pies! Not baking them to sell or baking them to eat – but throwing them in the faces of a list of VIP Grangers.

The National Grange Youth Team set out to raise \$10,000! Every time a certain goal was reached a new person would get a pie to the face, i.e. If \$250 was raised, National Grange Gatekeeper, Chris Johnston, would get a pie thrown in his face. If \$5,000 was raised, National Grange Lecturer, Chris Hamp, would get a pie and so on, up to Betsy Huber getting the pie if \$10,000 was raised.

The fundraiser got off to a slow start, but when October rolled, the final goal was met thanks in great part to help by Outstanding Young Patron Mandy Bostwick, Kansas, and National Junior Grange Director Samantha Wilkins.

A new challenge was put out that weekend to the 12 states holding their Session to raise money for the "Pie in your Face" fundraiser. Some states took the Challenge head on.

Oklahoma and Pennsylvania jumped in and went head-to-head on raising the funds needed to meet the final goal. Oklahoma raised \$3,231.41 and Pennsylvania came in second raising \$2,399.71. Michigan rounded out the top three states with \$477.77.

The Pennsylvania patrons raised their funds by offering the chance to throw a pie in the

face of some of their states' VIP's. State Master, Wayne Campbell received a pie as well as Junior Director Lurae Benzio. Both are attending the National Convention.

Some advice from Benzio to Huber would be, "Don't take a deep breath through your nose – you'll be smelling whipped cream all day!"

"It was a lot of fun raising money for a great cause – our Grange Youth," Campbell added.

The Pie "throwing," or smashing in the face, will take place during the National Convention beginning Wednesday evening with the grand finale occurring Friday at the Evening of Excellence with National President Huber on the receiving end. The event will be LIVE streamed so please share the word with other Grangers who could not attend this year's National Session.

Espenshade said she appreciates all of the Grange members and states who donated to the fund.

"The support of the state and national Granges, is an investment into the future of our Organization," Espenshade said. "Just look around the Convention at all the Youth members present. Many of them would not be able to be here without the support of these funds."

The goal was reached by a little over \$10,100, and even though she had hoped otherwise, Huber didn't dodge the bullet - or the pie!

Want to take part? Don't worry. This isn't just a spectator sport. People interested in potentially pie-ing National Officers and Staff and supporting the Junior Grange at the same time can see Samantha Wilkins to purchase raffle tickets for \$1 that will be pulled to determine who gets to put the pie in the face of those getting hit Wednesday and Thursday.

## WHO'S GETTING PIE'D

\$250 – Chris Johnston

\$500 – Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios

\$750 – Charlene Espenshade

\$1,000 – Asa Houcin

\$2,000 – Mandy Bostwick

\$3,000 – Kennedy Gwin

\$4,000 – Chip Narvel

\$5,000 – Chris Hamp

\$6,000 – Assembly of Demeter

\$7,500 – Jimmy Gentry

\$10,000 – Betsy Huber

Watch the pie-ing live on the National Grange Facebook page.

**WORD SEARCH: STATE PRESIDENTS**

D R H K S N B I C N B E T H Q G T  
 B O M C O M K O O O S A T A E C H  
 E U R A N S I T R H O A L G D Q O  
 N S H R M Y S T E D E K A D U J M  
 E S X O E N L L H H E R S V W X A  
 D E K F H H M I L L E R B L P I S  
 I L K O J A S W H I T E I Z E H N  
 C L J C N R E F F A H C S E U Y A  
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 S M I T H E N S B I D L N Y O N R  
 L L E B P M A C O T L S Y Q Y A A  
 R E C N E P S C X B O E B A E L H  
 R E E R G E Y J X N H V S F T P B

BALDWIN	BENEDICK	BORDERIEUX	BOSTWICK	CAMPBELL	COOKSLEY
COYE	ESHELMAN	FOSTER	GEGARE	GENTRY	GREER
GWIN	HARRIMAN	HEATH	JOHNSON	JOHNSTON	KOMSKI
LYNCH	MALASKEE	MILLER	NOAH	PLANK	ROUSSELLE
SCHAFFER	SHERROD	SHUFELDT	SMITH	SMITHENS	SPENCER
STILES	TAYLOR	THOMAS	WHITE		

**GRANGE TRIVIA****Day 1 A: Rutherford B. Hayes**

Who authored the original drill book? SEE ANSWER IN DAY 3.

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