



The Sesquicentennial Year of the Grange! One hundred fifty years of Grange work in America-- what a milestone! This year should be filled with celebrations in every Grange, coast to coast, especially during April, Grange Month! We have a proud history of supporting, educating, advocating, and entertaining rural Americans. Very few organizations last for 150 years so this is our time to celebrate.

What do you think of when I say “That’s the Grange Way”? I think of American Values. Hometown Roots. Traditions and history. Honesty, trustworthiness, fidelity. Caring about others, helping our communities, helping others even far away. Civic participation. Interest in legislation and our government, from local to national. Holding leadership positions in your community. Using our hands to make things for others—Quilts for the Brave, premie caps, mittens, the hundreds of items that Grangers everywhere make. Teaching others how to make or grow things. Being Doers. Teaching Sunday School or 4-H clubs or Scouts. Being proud of our history. Trying new things, but staying true to our roots and ritual.

This is our theme for 2018 Grange Month—“That’s the Grange Way.” Following up our Doers theme from 2017, it’s the Grange Way to be doers, to volunteer and give and contribute to life where we live. To be outstanding citizens and be the bridge between two sides who won’t compromise. To teach the world how to get along, what faith, hope, and charity really mean in everyday life. How to love others even if you don’t like them or don’t agree with them. We want to tell the world what the Grange Way means, and why they should care, why they should want to join us and help with our efforts to improve lives from the grassroots up. In our nation where people are more sharply divided and combative every day, the Grange Way is needed now more than ever. It’s up to us to spread the Grange Way among our neighbors, friends, strangers, people who don’t look like us.

I hope you will take time to think about the Grange Way, discuss it in your meetings, and hold an open house to demonstrate it to others who will want to join the cause. The Grange has been an advocate for rural America for 150 years. Let us celebrate this year and work toward the vision for the next century!

Fraternally,

Betsy E. Huber
Master