



a quarter's worth

A WORTHY WELCOME

Lecturers, and Grange members all,

grassroots

noun

1. the most basic level of an activity or organization.

- ordinary people regarded as the main body of an organization's membership.

You hear the term grassroots often in our organization. It is a great source of pride that the Grange has always been centered at the local, grassroots level. I believe that the strength and longevity of the Grange can be directly traced to this level – thanks to our members and our local, community Granges.

The Grange is not The National Grange. The Grange is not a collection of State Granges. The Grange is local community Granges and their members. The Grange lives and breathes through every single local Charter.

cont'd on page 2



Broadening horizons important for Granges, members

Submitted by Jackie Bishop

Lecturer, Michigan State Grange

The Lecturer's charge in the Alternate Installation Ceremony states that the Lecturer has the "responsibility to bring educational...programs to the Grange." It further states: "Look for interesting and timely topics for discussion."

In the past several years and especially in the past few weeks, there has been increased news media regarding racism and what inclusivity really means for society, especially as it might relate to immigration issues.

It is my belief that most Grangers would say "I'm not racist! All Lives Matter!" However, it is also my experience in the Grange that diversity is not to be found at our Grange meetings or in our membership.

I would like to challenge every Granger to step back and think about these topics.

It is extremely hard to find unbiased media posts in places like Facebook, so "stepping back" probably means checking out media that we may disagree with vehemently. This may also mean paying attention and listening to those that we are not like in race, religion, sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

continued on page 2...



National Lecturer's Challenge

I challenge EVERY member to pick at least one thing that YOU can do to make your community Grange better, stronger, more inclusive and to DO IT!

A WORTHY WELCOME cont'd... from page 1

The beauty of Grange policy is in the grassroots process from which it came – a single idea of a single member at a single Grange meeting can and does become not only National Grange policy, but U.S. policy. The oft-repeated act of engaged, educated and civil discourse is to me the foundation that makes Grange great. Consider the thousands and thousands of motions and seconds and discussions made and held in Grange halls across the country that have had and continue to have a daily impact on the lives of everyone in the community and in many cases the lives of every American. Powerful, powerful stuff.

This is why I Grange!



HORIZONS cont'd... from page 1

How can one make a decision on how they feel about these issues, with limited experience and knowledge?

We need to consider if our behaviors are truly related to our values.

As part of the learning process for each of us, one might read fiction and/or non-fiction books written by those of a different race in order to get the idea of what issues are important, and what we are missing when we only see the world through our own personal lens.

Some of the books currently available are hard to read, as they are quite graphic in their descriptions of scenarios that others have experienced. It is important to push through this discomfort so that we are not ignoring others' realities.

"Tears We Cannot Stop" by Michael Eric Dyson is an example.

Several churches in our area have sponsored study groups to read and discuss this book. I learned a lot when reading this book, and it opened my eyes with regard to everyday treatment of the Black community in the United States.

Dr. Dyson is a professor at George Washington University, and has written other books as well – "Long Time Coming" is another example. He writes of his experiences growing up and living as a Black male.

I also like to read about women and their accomplishments.

A book that I enjoyed and learned from is "The Three Mothers," by a young Black woman, Anna Malaika Tubbs. The book tells the story of the mothers of James Baldwin, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King Jr.

Shout Out

To Paula Atwood (ID), Jeanie Billmire (ID), Pearl Blackburn (WA), Carolyn Dubay (MI), Lois Evankow (CT), Sylvia Fahsel (NY), Ginny Mangel (PA), Kathryn Smith (OR), Mary Stirling (OR), Patricia VanLare (NY), Donna Walz (NY) and Karen Wilcox (NY) for being the first to get their 2021 Pin-wheel quilt blocks submitted.

For those that might like fiction, reading/re-reading "Uncle Tom's Cabin" might be an option. "The Indigo Girl: A Novel," by Natahsa Boyd, is another fiction book that takes place in the early days of enslavement in the South.

Although I have not read "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents," this is another non-fiction book that explores our society.

Its description on Amazon reads: "In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings."

After we individually become more knowledgeable about these key issues, what actions might we take?

In the Grange, this could mean cultivating new connections (to build off the National Grange theme).

This could mean considering new community service activities for/in communities of color near us by collaborating with organizations already working there.

It could mean having a brainstorming activity as part of a Lecturer's program to consider what opportunities your Grange has with regard to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

It could mean a book report during the Lecturer's program, followed by discussion.

What Happens to all those Quilt Blocks?

Submitted by Chris Hamp
National Lecturer

I am often asked, “What happens to all those quilt blocks?”

First of all, rest assured that each and every quilt block submitted to me through the National Grange Quilt Block contest has become a part of something better – a quilt, a table runner, a wall hanging, you get the idea. Every single block has been sold to benefit Grange – some more than once!

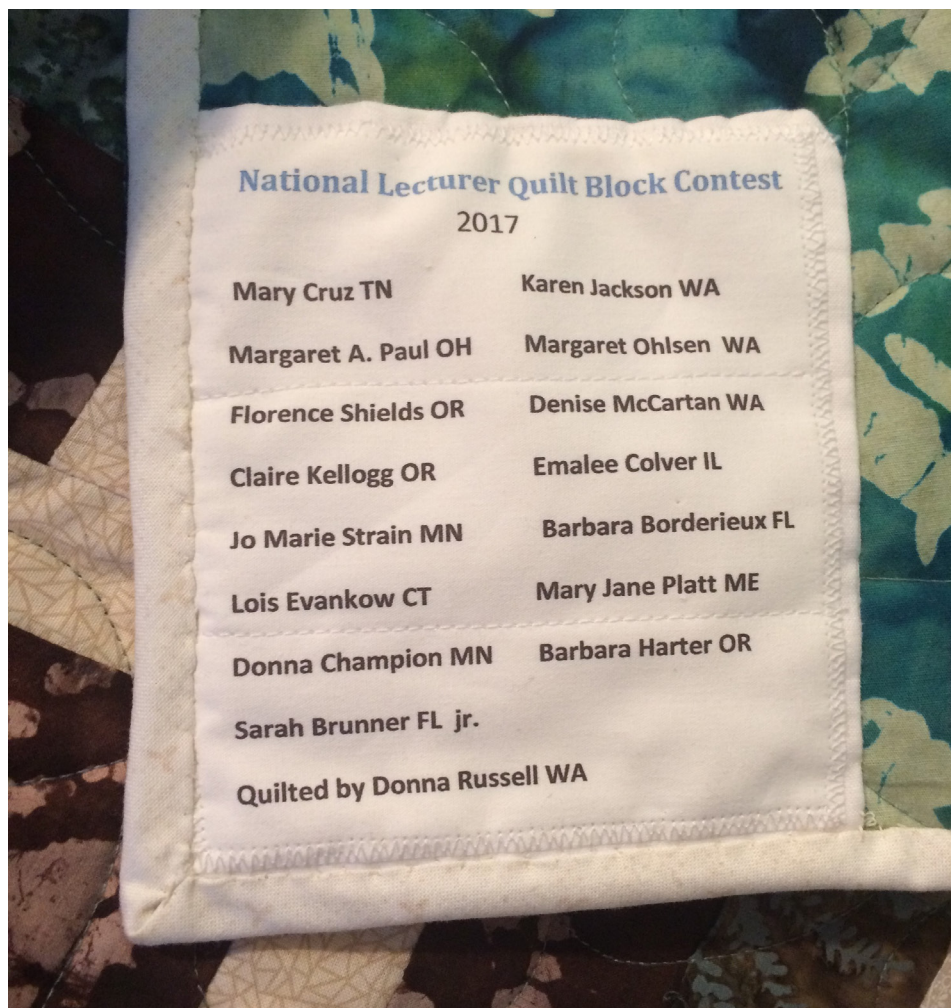
On the back of each quilt you will find a custom-made label that indicates the year and lists the names and states of the block makers (see photo).

The 2016 yellow and blue Dresden Plate blocks became a beautiful quilt for which we sold raffle tickets around the country and drew the winner at the 2017 convention in Spokane.

The 2017 Garden Path blocks were made into several quilts of varying sizes one of which one was raffled off at the 2018 convention in Stowe, Vermont and the remainder were sold to State Granges to use how they wished.

The 2018 Tender Heart blocks also became several beautiful quilts as well as other smaller items. One quilt was raffled at the 2019 convention in Minnesota and the remainder were either sold to State Granges or sold through the Grange Mercantile at the 2019 national convention in Minnesota.

The 2019 Pride of Quillisascut blocks were sorted into 13 batches of 35 and sold for \$100 on a first-



Quilts and quilted items are carefully put together and a label is placed on the back that acknowledges the makers of the blocks included in the item. / Photo submitted by Chris Hamp

come basis to State Granges and individuals around the country who were to finish the quilt and use it for a fundraiser. So far I have only seen two or three of these quilts finished and have received no information on their earnings.

The 2020 Shoo Fly (or Choice) blocks have all been turned into quilts, table runners, wall hangings, bags or hot pads and as much as possible were grouped by state. These items will be returned to the State Granges to use as they desire. There will be one quilt sold at the

national convention this year in Wichita, Kansas. The items that include blocks from multiple states are currently available for sale.

If you have ideas for how to best utilize the 2021 Pinwheel blocks let me know.

As you can see we (trust me when I say we as there is a whole team of folks who turn these blocks into beautiful pieces) have worked hard to make sure every block is used and that the finished pieces are returned to our Grange community for benefit.

Pennsylvania hosts virtual leadership conferences

Submitted by Jenn Nauss

Lecturer, Pennsylvania State Grange

In 2019, the Pennsylvania State Grange departments, spearheaded by the Lecturer's department, started planning for a series of Regional Leadership Conferences. The plan was to present meaningful leadership training across a variety of departments and positions and to reach members and leaders in local Granges.

Meaningful leadership training is critical to Grange growth. Spreading the Grange word, appealing to potential new members, and welcoming them into our Granges must be followed through on with well-run meetings, high quality programs, and a variety of activities and service projects that engage our members and those in the community.

When planning for these reimagined regional meetings was in process, no one could have anticipated the appearance of a global pandemic or the impact COVID would have on our lives.

We were able to have one leadership conference in early March before the world "shut down." The conference was well-attended and seemed to resonate with the members who were present. We were excited that the two remaining conferences scheduled for later in the spring were also being well-received and anticipated by our members. Unfortunately, the last two conferences were canceled due to the pandemic, safety concerns, and related restrictions on gatherings.

Fast-forward to 2021 – with the

COVID pandemic continuing and gathering restrictions still in place, the Pennsylvania State Grange decided to go virtual with our Regional Leadership Conferences.

Rather than scheduling one long day of conferences, the Virtual Leadership Workshops have been scheduled on Saturday mornings throughout the months of March, April, and May, with a new workshop topic each week.

This has been a "team effort," with all of the State Grange Committees and Departments taking the lead on a workshop related to their work.

The meetings have been held on the video conferencing platform, Zoom, and recorded to be viewed later on the State Grange's YouTube channel. This has allowed members who may not have attended an all-day series of workshops in the past, or who may not have been available at the time of the workshop, to still engage in – and receive – this important information.

As we look forward to 2022, I anxiously await the time we can gather in person at Regional Conferences like we planned for 2020. But I think there are some lessons to take away from the time of COVID.

Using virtual platforms, which we needed to use because of the pandemic, allows us to reach others we may not have been reaching before.

Even as we can return to in-person events and activities, finding ways to use technology, even if we don't need to, may allow us to reach potential new members or engage our current members in new ways.

State Granges, as well as our Subordinate and Pomona Granges, must be flexible to adjust to the rapidly changing times.

The topic of the recent Youth and Young Adults virtual workshop was, "What if this IS the new normal?" I think that this is a very poignant question.

When we heard "two weeks to slow the spread" in March 2020, we envisioned a rapid return to "life as usual." But, as the pandemic has continued – now for more than a year – COVID has changed how we work, how we go about our everyday lives, how we connect with others, and how we "Grange."

Emerging from the pandemic will very likely not return us to the pre-2020 "normal." Our Granges must be prepared to embrace a "new normal;" we must think outside of the box to find new ways to reach our members and to connect with our communities in meaningful ways.

Change is hard but it is essential for growth and forward movement. And to continue to move the Grange forward, as we navigate what this "new normal" means for us, we must remember "why" we Grange, even if it means letting go of some of the old "how" we Grange.

Shout Out

To the moms! While Mother's Day has passed, we continue to celebrate your amazing strength and unconditional love.

Enjoy an evening of Storytelling at your Grange

Submitted by **Ethan Edwards**

Lecturer, Illinois State Grange

It is a perpetual challenge to come up with new ideas for the literary program for each meeting, especially when the same individual might be serving as Lecturer for a number of years. Bringing in outside speakers and creating programs around a particular theme are always good options. But there is another option always available that I think we tend to overlook: it is making use of storytelling by our members.

Storytelling is an ancient art form that has been making a resurgence in recent years with special radio programs and contests elevating the practice. But there's more to storytelling than just talking. Good storytelling educates, entertains, and builds community—all excellent goals for a Grange program. And with some preparation, it might provide a wonderful way to include members who might otherwise be disengaged.

Good storytelling does involve preparation and structure. It isn't something you want to treat too casually. If you do plan to seek storytellers from your membership, your whole program might benefit from you sharing some preparatory guidelines to help each story be the best possible.

A couple things first:

- Storytelling is interactive. Unlike theater, there is no “fourth wall” separating the speaker to the audience. The story should create reactions in the audience, and those reactions should become part of the storytelling as appropriate.

- Storytelling relies on words, but it should also include actions to enhance the experience, like vocalization, actions, and physical gestures. The storyteller inserts his whole presence into the act and encourages the audience to become part of it as well.

- Storytelling requires imagination. The listener must imagine the story. This is unlike theater or movies where the audience observes the story. Your words as a storyteller allow the listener to imagine what you are telling them.

It is important to plan out a story ahead of time. One

framework for storytelling that I find useful is to consider The Four P's: People, Places, Plot, and Purpose. There are, of course, far more detailed guidelines for telling a good story, but the simplicity of this structure is powerful and easy to implement.

People. Characters are what make us interested in a story. It is the people we tell about that build the emotional connection with the audience. Names, descriptions, backgrounds are all important elements that might on the surface seem irrelevant, but are often the specific details to catch the listener's attention. It is the rare story that doesn't revolve around a person, or at least a human situation. Sometimes a main character might be an animal or even a thing. One can imagine telling the adventures undertaken in a special car that could develop as a sort of character in the story. The character is the unifying thread throughout.

Places. Where the action occurs is a vital element in weaving tales. Especially if the story takes place in an exotic or unfamiliar location, details that add color and specificity can engage the imagination of the listeners. Take the time to make even an ordinary location specific and memorable. Sometimes the most important aspect of place could be “time.”

However you do it, you must paint a memorable and meaningful context for the story.

Plot. Story plots are almost always driven by conflict and ultimate resolution. It doesn't hurt to withhold

continued on page 6...

Shout Out

To Texas State Grange Master Karen Overstreet for a great Leadership Workshop and for sharing key components of the Grange Resource Binder with all the state officers and department directors. Fayerene Smith, Lecturer, Texas State Grange.

Quilt Labels

Submitted by Bonnie Mitson

National Lecturer Advisory Board Member

Lecturer, Idaho State Grange

Let's explore the whys of the Quilt Label.
You have just completed hours of work on your quilt.

You're done and you're so excited to give the quilt to that loved one you made it for.

The first thing that person does is look to see who it's from.

Like a card or letter they look at the return address, or who signed the card.

There is a moment of reflection about who sent the card.

The same goes for a quilt.

With much excitement they look for the label that tells them where this quilt came from.

The label is the story of the Quilter.

To my grandson with Love, Grandma.

Thank you for your service.

1929 – made from my school dresses.

USA Made! by mom, by dad, by brother, by sister, by your best friend.

You see the Quilt Label is not a story about the one receiving the quilt – it is for the receiver to understand the quilter.

A painter signs his/her work of art.

Please consider the importance of you signing your work of art – the quilt.

Labels can be hand written using a fabric pen.

Labels can be incorporated into the quilt block on the front.

Labels can be embroidered into the quilt.

Some quilters add a pocket on the back of the quilt and add a letter.

However you choose, please add a Quilt Label.

Even a jar of jam gets a label - 2021 Strawberry.



STORYTELLING cont'd... from page 5

some details until the end. You want the audience to keep listening for some payoff you have hinted at. Usually, you introduce the goal or conflict early, account for actions around that problem, and then resolve it. Conflict need not be violent or painful in any way. But there must be some sort of obstacle preventing the character from directly achieving the goal. The pleasure in a storytelling plot is the journey that you are taking with the audience.

Purpose. There needs to be a reason to tell the story: an outcome, a memory, a wish, an intention, an emotion that you hope to trigger in the hearer. It need not be grand or tragic or hilarious, or even that significant; it needs to be sincere and relatable to your shared existence. The best stories are not just that they are entertaining, but also let the listener discover or remember something of their own experience. Know what your purpose is, repeat it to yourself before you start speaking and guide the details you share toward that end.

An awareness of these facets of storytelling will elevate the significance for everyone if you were to have an evening of storytelling. Stories benefit from being concise and this guide helps to eliminate rambling and unfocused tales that do not hold the audience's attention.

Honey can be focus of sweet Grange

*Submitted by Gwendolyn Swenson
National Lecturer Advisory Board
Member & Minnesota State Grange
Women's Activities Director*

Did you know?

Honey bees visit 2 million flowers to make one pound of honey. This requires 768 bees. A worker honey bee will gather just 1/12 teaspoon of honey during its entire lifetime.

A honey bee flies up to 15 miles per hour and visits 50 to 100 flowers each time it leaves the hive.

Honeys differ in color and flavor depending on what blossoms the honey bees visit in search of nectar. Honey color ranges from almost colorless to dark amber brown. Its flavor varies from delectably mild to richly bold. As a general rule, light colored honey is milder in taste and

dark colored honey is stronger.

If you'd like to get more information for a Lecturer's program, contact the National Honey Board at PO Box 2189, Longmont CO 80502 or 303.776.2337 or www.honey.com. You can also invite in a local beekeeper. Check out your county and state fair as there may be competition for cooking with honey or entering your honey.

Here's a recipe that you might like to try to go with your chicken strips or nuggets.

Honey Mustard Sauce

2 T. butter

1 cup water

2 T. honey

1 T. flour

1/3 cup Dijon mustard

1/2 tsp salt

2 T. horseradish

Melt butter, stir in flour and salt. Slowly add water. Add mustard, horseradish, and honey. Stir and cook until sauce thickens.



Q3 DEADLINE

Deadline for submissions for A Quarter's Worth, Third Quarter edition is August 1.

Send ideas, tips, shout outs and other content options to National Lecturer Chris Hamp at lecturer@nationalgrange.org or contact her by phone at (509) 953-3533.

FOLLOW-UP

Photo Safari was great fun for members

*Submitted by Scott Nicholson
Lecturer, Montana State Grange*

Just a quick follow up on the Spring Photo Safari in Montana. We had 2 Granges participate as an organized activity and we had several photo entries from participants that went out on their own.

Some very interesting photos were submitted. We will be following up with a virtual and in-person slide show presentation.

Those who participated have been discussing the possibility of doing another photo walk/hike in the near future.

This is a fun and safe activity that can be used as a tool to help get folks back into doing group events.



Honor long-time members with candlelighting ceremony

*Submitted by Diana Nordquest
Lecturer, Ohio State Grange*

Narrator: Tonight we come together to honor those who have given of their talents in service to the Grange on the occasion of their membership milestones.

First Reader: (*Lights silver candle*) 25 years. We congratulate all members of the Silver Star group. You are builders. Yours is the task of carrying much of the work in the years ahead so this great organization, our beloved Grange, will go onward, rendering service to generations yet to come.

Second Reader: (*Lights red candle*) 40 years. The world was full of color and expression when you joined our Grange. You have had the opportunity to learn from those who came before you. You have the responsibility to guide and work beside those who are younger than you. May you continue to gain and share knowledge with your fellow Grangers.

Third Reader: (*Lights gold candle*) 50 years. 50 Years ago you were the youth of our Grange, filled with youthful enthusiasm, courage, hope. Now with mellow enthusiasm, courage, and hope you are reaping additional rewards. And your influence – consciously or unconsciously – continues to be a factor in making life more meaningful for all members of our Grange. You are also a force which helps our Grange better serve our community, state and nation.

Fourth Reader: (*Lights green candle*) 55 years. Through the pleasures and trials of the years, these members have remained loyal. They have borne their share of the labors in the Grange. They have been liberal with their strength, time and tal-

ents. You are now reaping some of the abundant harvest of Grange benefits. May you continue to reap for many more years.

Fifth Reader: (*Lights white candle*) 60 years. Fruits of brotherly love and kindness have gladdened our neighborhood and the entire community because of these patrons. Their devotion has remained strong throughout the years.

Sixth Reader: (*Lights purple candle*) 65 years. You are among those of our order who labored unselfishly for principles of right. We want you to know that your efforts are appreciated – in the past and today. We still need you.

Seventh Reader: (*Lights blue candle*) 70 years. These faithful members have contributed to growth in thought and action, in good cheer and laughter, in understanding and development, to help the Grange fit its community in this changing world.

Eighth Reader: (*Lights silver candle*) 75 years. These patrons have lived in the world of change. They

have seen candles and kerosene lamps replaced by the wonders of electricity; the horse-drawn vehicles give way to machines which travel faster than sound. In all this change, the Grange has fitted in as a great family and community organization.

Ninth Reader: (*Lights yellow candle*) 80 years. We thank you for all the help and encouragement, which you have given us. We shall continue to depend on you for help and guidance. We urge this Grange to further honor you by securing new members to assist in carrying out all the good works of our order.

Narrator: These years represent a golden sheaf of bountiful harvests. These Patrons have kept their sickles bright; they have separated the wheat from the chaff; they have shared the abundance of the years, they have kept the Faith.

This ceremony contains excerpts for the 1976 edition of the “Ceremonies” booklet from The National Grange. Compiled by Diana Nordquest, Mile Branch Grange #933, Ohio.

Recognition certificates now available for newer members at your favorite price!



Don't wait decades.
New members want to
know they're valued, too!

The National Grange Membership Department is offering FREE downloadable certificates for 5, 10, 15 and 20 year members. Request the PDFs from Amanda at membership@nationalgrange.org then fill out and print to present!