



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

February 12, 2021

AMERICAN HEART MONTH



GRANGE CAN BE YOUR FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

According to the CDC, feeling connected with others and having positive, close relationships benefit our overall health, including blood pressure and weight. Having people in our lives who motivate and care for us helps, as do feelings of closeness and companionship.

Get ready for Grange Month; start planning now

By Betsy Huber National Grange President

In this issue we introduce the 2021 Grange Month materials to help you in planning your special activities for April. You probably were unable to hold any public Grange Month events last year because the pandemic had recently closed down all activities. That makes it even more important to plan something this year—even if it is unusual or virtual.

Part of these materials is a list of activities, community service projects, and fundraisers that Granges across the country have done this year. Study this list in your next Grange meeting and it will give you some ideas for what you can do to keep your name in the public eye. You probably cannot hold any events in your halls or meeting places, but you can plan a virtual open house or a drive-through public dinner or dessert. This list will help you brainstorm and encourage you to try something you haven't tried before—all these things have been successful in another Grange community.

Whatever you decide to do, contact your local newspaper and let them know. Post it on your website or Facebook page. Especially this year, people are looking for interesting things to do so they may be more likely to participate in your event.

A sample press release is included in the packet to help you write something the newspapers will print for you. The “old fashioned” way of putting up posters in the local stores can help too. The success of any event depends on letting people know it is happening.

Be sure to take photos of your event so you can enter them in “Grange in Action.” Information about this program is on the website www.nationalgrange.org. It is aimed especially at smaller Granges who think they can't qualify to be a Distinguished Grange, but still do great things in their community. It's easy—just print photos of 3 events on one sheet of paper! We're looking for lots of entries this year.

I encourage you to take a look at these Grange Month materials [CLICK HERE](#) – the proclamation, sample media alert, social media posts, Facebook page covers, activity and idea sheet and more – and share them with your Grange members, and plan now to have a special event in April to celebrate the 154th year of Grange!

Proclamation

GRANGE MONTH 2021



WHEREAS, The Grange strengthens individuals, families and communities through grassroots action, service, education, advocacy and agriculture awareness; and

WHEREAS, The Grange has played a major role in the development of rural America and passage of important legislation during three centuries; and

WHEREAS, The Grange continues today to be an active force in thousands of neighborhoods across the country, cultivating connections between people, communities, and organizations even in times of social distancing and quarantine; and

WHEREAS, The Grange provides leadership, motivation, and education to bring together rural and urban families and offers them opportunities for personal growth and individual expression; and

WHEREAS, The Grange emphasizes civic responsibility and the involvement of people in the legislative process, cultivating connections between citizens and their government; and

WHEREAS, The Grange offers opportunities for civil discussions among people of all viewpoints and opinions, serving as a safe haven for exploring important social and legislative issues of the day; and

WHEREAS, The Grange promotes service to the local community and volunteerism to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of its members and fellow residents; and

WHEREAS, Grange members everywhere wish to celebrate and express their pride in the legacy of their highly respected organization;

THEREFORE, I Betsy E. Huber, President of the National Grange, do hereby proclaim April 2021 as Grange Month, and further, I do encourage the participation of each Junior, Community, Pomona, and State Grange in this celebration of Grange past and future by planning and executing programs and activities that will highlight the Grange in every American community.

PRESIDENT
National Grange



To find more social media posts like this [CLICK HERE](#)

GRANGE MONTH PROGRAM IDEAS

Presented by National Grange Community Service Director Pete Pompper



FOR THOSE WITHOUT GRANGE HALLS

As we close in on one year without Granges being able to meet in person - or for that matter most organizations, groups or churches - there is an opportunity for Granges to reach out to those in their communities who might be homebound by choice or circumstances. During a Grange meeting, we are asked if there is a member sick or in distress. Usually a card would be passed around and signed by the members. Now is a time to make sure we are checking on our members either by phone or send cards. We should also take this a step farther and outside our "gates". Check in on others in the community that you may know who would appreciate a call or card. Most Granges used to have a "phone tree" to contact members. Is this a time to dust off that idea? I think so!

FOR THOSE WITH HALLS

If your state or jurisdiction allows gatherings, that the opportunity to open the doors of your Hall (while following safety guidance) and allow other groups to use it. Some Granges have allowed groups that otherwise met in schools or other community buildings to use their hall, building a strong bond between the Grange and the community. As an example, Ringoes Grange in New Jersey was approached by a local Girl Scout troop about using in the Grange Hall for their meetings. This first meeting went so well, the Grange was asked if the other Girl Scout troops in the area could use the hall as well. The Grange name spread quickly and positively and you can bet people in that community will remember this kindness. What a wonderful community service opportunity this turned out to be because of a casual conversation. We have a chance to make an impact in our communities in so many ways just by opening our doors.

See a full list of ideas in next week's Patrons Chain and on the National Grange website starting Feb. 18

More Program ideas coming soon! Check back [CLICK HERE](#)



Sample Grange #4050

April is Grange Month. Celebrate with us as we continue Cultivating Connections.

MEDIA RELEASE

What: [Name of your event]

Where: [Event Location]

When: [Time, date of event]

Details: Everyone is welcome to join Sample Grange #4050 for a virtual potluck on Tuesday, April 6 starting at 6 p.m. Bring your own dinner, but be prepared to expand your culinary talents as several members share simple, award-winning or family favorite recipes you might see at an in-person gathering of the Grange.

You can register for the free event by going to www.grange.org/samplega4050. Space is limited to 80 logins (individuals or families on the same device) for the online event, so sign up soon.

The event will also feature a short presentation by Cathy Someone, chairwoman of the Some County Food Pantry, which has seen a 400 percent increase in individuals and families seeking food assistance since the pandemic began.

The virtual potluck is the kick-off to a food drive, sponsored by Sample Grange, to support the Pantry. Those able are encouraged to drop off nonperishable donations at the Grange Hall with volunteers from 4 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7 through Sunday, April 11. You may also contact the Grange Community Service Chairwoman Joyce Person by phone at (999) 888-7777 or email at joycegranger@gmail.com to schedule a no-contact porch pick-up sometime throughout April, which is celebrated throughout the country as Grange Month.

All donors will be entered into a raffle with prizes including a \$50 gift certificate to Local Eatery; a \$25 gift certificate to The Cupcakery or five free tickets to the Grange's Memorial Day Drive-Thru Chicken BBQ and a homemade pie, valued at \$60.

Monetary donations may be made to the Some County Food Pantry by check along with a note that references Sample Grange's food drive and includes your phone number or email address in order to be entered into the drawing. Drawing will be held live on Sample Grange's Facebook on April 30 at 7 p.m. and winners will be notified by May 1.



Media Contact: Barry Goodneighbor, President of Sample Grange, at (999) 555-3333 or by email at barrygranger@gmail.com

Ag Career Outlook Strong for All Skill Sets

By Donny Oleniczak National Grange Foundation Development Director

Residents of rural communities have the experiences that the agricultural industry is looking for today. The industry knows that a person who grew up around agriculture is more likely to stay, thrive, and live in the industry. As time passes, fewer people are growing up in agricultural communities and this shrinking pool of potential employees concerns the industry today.

Recent studies indicate that there will continue to be a high demand for all agricultural-related skill sets over the next five years, with no indication of it slowing down soon. The agriculture industry is actively seeking candidates from a wide range of skill sets to fill positions critical to its success. A one-stop place to locate current job openings is www.agcareers.com. This site lists open positions for all skill levels in Agriculture and Food Science across the United States and is free to use, with advice on resumés and an Ag Food and Career Guide that is available as a PDF. This guide includes instructions on how best to use Ag Careers and an application for a Career Success Kit that is an eight-part series with videos, infographics, and tip sheets. Agricultural and Food Science jobs at every skill level are posted on AgCareers.com. The need for skilled workers is clearly shown with just a look at some of the industry's offers. For example, the GROWMARK Foundation offering, not for the first time, a \$1,500 scholarship program for students in the United States and Ontario, Canada, pursuing two- or four-year degrees or trade school certification in an agriculture-related field. High school seniors or students at any level of higher education may complete the application, which can be found at www.growmark.com/about-us/corporate-commitments. Applications are due by midnight Central Time on April 15, 2021, and recipients will be notified by July 1, 2021.

John Deere has two offers for technicians. The first is a Registered Apprenticeship Program. It is a learn and earn program that is offered through participating John Deere Dealerships. In addition to on-the-job training experience, an apprentice will receive technical instructions and be assigned a personal mentor. Upon completion of the apprenticeship, he or she will receive a nationally recognized Journey worker certificate. The other offer is the John Deere TECH program. This program sponsors programs at 24 colleges throughout the U.S. and Canada. Participants completing this program earn an Associates' Degree and more details are available at www.deere.com. Caterpillar also offers a US Student trainee Program at www.caterpillar.com.

College graduates with degrees in Agricultural Sciences will continue to be in demand. A new report, released in December 2020, by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and Purdue University, shows a strong job demand for new college graduates with degrees in agricultural programs. U.S. college graduates can expect approximately 59,400 new job opportunities annually between 2020 and 2025, reflecting a 2.6 percent growth from the previous five years. This means that employer demand will exceed the supply of available graduates with a bachelor's degree or higher in agriculture-related fields for the next five years. The opportunities for employment are diverse, including food science, renewable natural resources and the environment, business management, science, engineering, education, communication, government, animal sciences, agricultural education, agricultural communication, veterinary medicine, agricultural engineering, forestry, agronomy, and crop science. Additionally, there will be a strong demand for graduates with expertise in data science across all disciplines. Expect to see secure employment for specialists in marketing, e-

commerce, field technical service, water quality and environment, climate and invasive species, food technology, and environmental and rural policy.

All of the opportunities, as numerous and exciting as they are, have no value to you without the addition of a special ingredient on your part. Action. I urge you to reach out to your local County Extension Office, Ag-Retailer, Veterinarian, John Deere Dealership, Feed and Fertilizer salespersons. Talk to anyone and everyone that you can network with and learn from. More often than not they will be impressed with your interest and eager to provide assistance. Once you have secured a meeting, be prepared. Make a list of questions for your time with these individuals that hold the knowledge and experience you seek. Some examples include: How did you get started in your job? When you look at the industry what do you see happening in the future? My interest lies in this area of the industry, who should I talk to next? If you were me where would you look for a career? And afterwards, always remember to send a thank-you email, text, or letter. I encourage you to take advantage of this advice, you will learn with every contact you make.

The future is bright and it will take a diverse, motivated, and action-oriented workforce with skill sets at all levels to support the Ag Industry of the future and to feed the world.

OPEN TO ALL GRANGE MEMBERS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS REGARDLESS OF REGION

FRIDAY, MARCH 19 & SATURDAY, MARCH 20 | \$10 REGISTRATION FEE



MID-ATLANTIC GRANGE LEADERS' CONFERENCE

WORKSHOPS FOR AGES OF ALL MEMBERS, PLUS SERVICE OPPORTUNITY, SPEAKERS & MORE!

PLUS ROUNDS OF BINGO THROUGHOUT THE EVENT WITH \$300+ PRIZES!

SEE SCHEDULE AND REGISTER ONLINE AT [BIT.LY/MAGLC21](https://bit.ly/MAGLC21)

WEB ADDRESS IS CASE SENSITIVE | REGISTRATION CLOSES FEB. 23, 2021

IENT
Both units
d 1 bath.
completely
currently
ants are
each unit is
id \$450.

ANS
ations on
y types:
uction

D O W N
purchase

NONPROFIT SEEKING AFFIRMATIONS

We are building a new website and would like to include testimonials from individuals who have benefited from programs and funding of the Grange Foundation, including those who were able to participate as Grange Youth Officers or Ambassadors. Have you been a recipient of the kindness of Grange Foundation donors? Please, tell us what it meant to you to have the experience you were granted.

Send your 100 word or less testimonials to communications@nationalgrange.org by Feb. 28



2 bed/2 b:
condo com
charming l
Now only



BY

The suite
Bedrooms
dresser
Fully equi
bathroom

RENOV.
This great
finished be
new paint,



FLASH CONTEST!



DESIGN A GRANGE MONTH SOCIAL POST

- Using the website [canva.com](https://www.canva.com) (or software of your choice), create a social media post (size 1080x1080 pixels).
- Posts should be a positive reflection of the Grange, tie to our 2021 theme - Cultivating Connections - and must contain the Grange Month 2021 Logo and the web address nationalgrange.org.
- Submissions must be sent, along with name and Grange affiliation, to communications@nationalgrange.org by February 28.



- You may submit multiple designs, but each must be submitted individually.
- Posts selected for excellence in design and messaging will be shared with all Granges on the Grange Month 2021 page!

What Partners Need to Know Now about Medicare Fraud

Courtesy of Center of Medicaid and Medicare Services

As COVID-19 vaccines begin rolling out across the country CMS is taking action to protect the health and safety of our nation's patients and providers and keeping you updated on the latest COVID-19 resources from HHS, CDC and CMS.

With information coming from many different sources, CMS has compiled resources and materials to help you share important and relevant information on the COVID-19 vaccine with the people that you serve. You can find these and more resources on the [COVID-19 Partner Resources Page](#) and the [HHS COVID Education Campaign page](#).

We look forward to partnering with you to promote vaccine safety and encourage our beneficiaries to get vaccinated when they have the opportunity.

COVID-19 SCAMS

As the country begins to distribute COVID-19 vaccines, scammers are taking advantage of the coronavirus pandemic. [The HHS Office of Inspector General alerted the public about COVID-19 fraud schemes](#), with scammers using telemarketing calls, text messages, social media platforms, and door-to-door visits to perpetrate COVID-19-related scams.

Con artists may also try to get Medicare Numbers or personal information so they can steal identities and commit Medicare fraud. Medicare fraud results in higher health care costs and taxes for everyone.

What can you do to help prevent Medicare beneficiaries from being a victim of fraud?

Share this important information with Medicare beneficiaries to help them protect themselves from Medicare fraud:

[Medicare covers the COVID-19 vaccine](#), so there will be no cost to you.

- You will need to share your Medicare card with your health care provider or pharmacy when receiving your vaccine, even if you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan.

- If anyone else asks you to share your Medicare Number or pay for access to the vaccine, you can bet it's a scam.
- You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine.
- You can't pay to get early access to a vaccine.
- Don't share your personal or financial information if someone calls, texts, or emails you promising access to the vaccine for a fee.

Guard your Medicare card like it's a credit card.

- Medicare will never contact you for your Medicare Number or other personal information unless you've given them permission in advance.
- Medicare will never call you to sell you anything.
- You may get calls from people promising you things if you give them a Medicare Number. Don't do it.
- Medicare will never visit you at your home.
- Medicare can't enroll you over the phone unless you called first.

Learn more tips to help prevent Medicare fraud.

- **Learn How to Spot Medicare fraud.** Review your Medicare claims and Medicare Summary Notices for any services billed to your Medicare Number you don't recognize.
- **Report anything suspicious to Medicare.** If you suspect fraud, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.
- If you need to replace your card because it's damaged or lost, **log into (or create) your secure Medicare account** to print an official copy of your Medicare card. You can also use your Medicare account to access your Medicare information anytime, add prescription drugs to help you find and compare health and drug plans in your area, and more.

What role can partners play in fighting healthcare fraud, waste and abuse?

- **Become a HFPP partner.** **The Healthcare Fraud Prevention Partnership (HFPP)** is a voluntary public-private partnership that helps detect and prevent healthcare fraud through data and information sharing. Partners include federal government, state agencies, law enforcement, private health insurance plans, employer organizations, and healthcare anti-fraud associations.
- By working together, we can be more effective at preventing health care fraud, waste, and abuse. The Healthcare Fraud Prevention Partnership (HFPP) continues to expand nationally by encouraging participation by all eligible public and private health care entities. The insights and input of each member contribute to the overall **value of the Partnership.**

Share the Love this National Donor Day

Story Provided by StatePoint Media Wire

National Donor Day, aptly recognized every Valentine's Day on February 14, is an annual opportunity to share your love and compassion with friends, family and your community. Here are a few ways you can take part:

1. Register to be an organ donor. Registration is quick and simple and could save lives. To learn more, visit donatelife.net.
2. Contact a blood center. Communities are in constant need of whole blood, platelets and plasma to keep patients healthy. If you're eligible to donate, consider making an appointment, particularly if you've recovered from COVID-19. Your donation could help those with the virus fight it.
3. Spread the word. Talk to friends and family about the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation and your decision to become an organ donor, as well as the importance of donating blood.



ENJOY THIS HEART HEALTHY RECIPE FOR AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Ham and Broccoli Frittata

Recipe courtesy of Know Diabetes by Heart

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 25 minutes

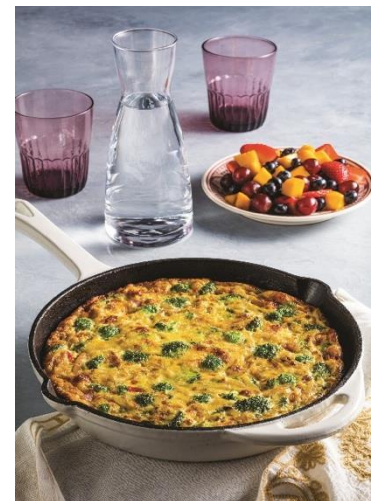
Servings: 4 (1/4 frittata per serving)

Ingredients:

- 2 c. frozen fat-free potatoes, thawed
- 6 oz. small broccoli florets, rinsed in cold water, drained but not dried
- 8 large egg whites
- 1 large egg
- 4 oz. lower-sodium, low-fat ham (uncured, nitrate/nitrite-free), cut into 1/4-inch cubes
- 1/4 c. fat-free milk
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

Steps:

- Preheat the oven to 400 F.



- Lightly spray a medium ovenproof skillet with cooking spray. Heat over medium heat. Remove from the heat. Put the potatoes in the skillet. Lightly spray with cooking spray. Cook for 4-5 minutes, or until potatoes are golden brown, stirring occasionally.
- In a microwaveable bowl, microwave the broccoli, covered, on high for 3-4 minutes, or until tender-crisp. Drain in a colander. Stir the broccoli into the potatoes.
- In a medium bowl, whisk the egg whites and egg. Whisk in the ham, milk and pepper. Pour the mixture over the potatoes and broccoli; stir well.
- Bake for 15-18 minutes, or until the eggs are set.

Nutritional information per serving: 180 calories; 30 calories from fat; 3 g total fat; 1 g saturated fat; 0 g trans fat; 0.5 g polyunsaturated fat; 1.5 g monounsaturated fat; 60 mg cholesterol; 460 mg sodium; 570 mg potassium; 17 g total carbohydrate; 2 g dietary fiber; 4 g sugar; 1 g added sugar; 18 g protein; 210 mg phosphorus. Choices/Exchanges: 1 carbohydrate, 2 lean protein.

A FEW GREAT MENTIONS

This is a new section we will include each week with a few of the links to articles in which the local, State or the National Grange have been mentioned or our statements have appeared.

Is your Grange doing amazing things in your community? Let us know! We love sharing all your work and want to continue to highlight your accomplishments! Send them to communications@nationalgrange.org



Because pets are family too.
Members can save more on pet insurance!



Go to poi8.petinsurance.com/benefits/national-grange or login to your member account at nationalgrange.org for more benefit information



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.com



Grange Music Kit

Music Kit - We understand that many Granges no longer have a piano or pianist, but know how important music is to meetings and members. Now there's a solution!

Music Kit Includes:

1 - Grange Songbook CD
Grange 1- Pianist Songbook

1 - Junior Songbook

Get all three for just \$14.35 plus shipping



Youth Sling Backpack
\$12.00 ea
Insulated Grocery Tote
\$5.25 ea
Silicone Cooking Spatula
\$3.50 ea
Two-Tone Windsock
\$15.00 ea



Click Here To See These Items And More On Our Website Today!

Grange Store™ by Monroe Classic - www.promoplace.com/grange or www.monroeclassic.com
Order on line or call Monroe Classic, Inc. at **1-800-868-2330** or email sales@monroeclassic.com

APPAREL | PROMOTIONAL ITEMS | JEWELRY | REGALIA | SIGNS & BANNERS | PLAQUES & AWARDS

National Grange HQ | 1616 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20006 | (202) 628-3507

Publisher Betsy Huber, National Grange President, *available to members at betsy@nationalgrange.org or by phone at (484) 459-1957*

Editor Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Communications & Development Director. *Contact to renew your subscription to Good Day! magazine, submit a story idea or request assistance with publicity by email at abrozana@nationalgrange.org or call/text (301) 943-1090*

Membership Recognition, Sales and Benefits Loretta Washington, National HQ, ext. 109 or email sales@nationalgrange.org or ext. 109

Free Grange Websites, Emails, and Membership Database Stephanie Wilkins, National HQ, ext. 101 or email swilkins@nationalgrange.org

Leadership/Membership Joe Stefenoni, (707) 328-0631 or send an email to membership@nationalgrange.org

Lecturer Chris Hamp, lecturer@nationalgrange.org or (509) 953-3533

Community Service Pete Pompper communityservice@nationalgrange.org or (609) 820-6239

Legislative and Policy Issues Burton Eller, National HQ, ext. 114 or email beller@nationalgrange.org

Grange Youth Mandy Bostwick, youth@nationalgrange.org or (785) 250-7606

Junior Grange Samantha Wilkins, junior@nationalgrange.org or (210) 838-7892