



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

January 15, 2020

Master's Message: Mark your calendar and prepare for exciting changes to convention schedule in 2020

By Betsy Huber

In your National Grange Headquarters, we have just recuperated from the 2019 convention after a restful Christmas break. But right away the work ramps up for the 2020 convention, which will be held November 17-21 at the Valley Forge Casino Resort, Pennsylvania.

There will be several schedule changes this year, so if you are accustomed to coming to National for certain specific events, be sure to check the revised schedule before making your reservations. Some changes are still under consideration, but one big change is definitely set—the Evening of Excellence talent show will take place on Saturday, November 21, following the Celebration Banquet.

Public speaking and Sign-a-Song performances will remain on Friday evening as part of a new event—"National Grange Honors...." We wanted to set aside a special night to recognize all our awardees—Distinguished Granges, Legacy Families, National Youth Ambassadors and Young Patrons, Community Service winners—all the awards we present throughout the week will now be in a special program on Friday evening, November 20.

Also the general tour and the youth tour will now be on Friday, and the Junior tour on Saturday. The Seventh Degree will remain on Saturday at 1 p.m. following the Sixth Degree at 10 a.m.

All events, with the exception of tours, will be held in the Valley Forge Casino Resort and Conference Center, so once you arrive you won't need to leave the building at all unless you want to partake of all the local history.

Valley Forge National Park with a brand new visitors center is very close to the hotel. Downtown Philadelphia with the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, the Betsy Ross House, etc. are a short drive away. There are several museums, famous gardens and arboretums, science centers, and many other attractions, not to mention the King of Prussia Mall, which was the largest mall in the U.S. before the Mall of America.

I'm so excited to welcome you all to my home state of Pennsylvania, so I hope you will plan your vacation for November this year to join us for the 154th Annual National Grange Convention.

Phase I China Trade Deal Signed

President Trump and Chinese Vice Premier signed the first phase of a U.S.-China trade pact at the White House on January 15.

Documents released Wednesday confirm that China has agreed to purchase at least \$40 billion of U.S. farm products annually over the next two years.

Agriculture has anxiously waited many months for verification of the rumored purchase amount. In addition to food and agriculture, the trade agreement covers a number of longstanding concerns about intellectual property, financial services, currency and dispute resolution.

Lecturer's contest gets new name, new way to submit materials

National Grange Lecturer Chris Hamp announced this month in an email to State Lecturers and National Officers the name change to what was formerly called the Grange PR Contest.

Now the Grange Publicity Item Contest, any items created to promote the Grange, from newsletters to t-shirts are all eligible options to be submitted. Hamp said there is also a change to the way in which submissions should be made. All items or descriptions thereof should be submitted electronically. The deadline for submissions remains October 31.

All information about the Lecturer's programming and contests can be found at <https://www.nationalgrange.org/lecturers-programming/>

All welcome to attend online, monthly meetings focused on membership

Each month National Grange Membership Director Joe Stefenoni hosts a zoom conference to discuss various membership & leadership related topics and has an open discussion period.

Zoom meetings are held on the third Tuesdays of each month at 8:30 pm eastern time and last approximately one hour. All are invited to participate.

Go to tiny.cc/1867zoom or call (669) 900-6833.
Use meeting ID 525 965 930 to log in.

Photos, information about Quilts of Valor presentations sought

Please continue to send photos of your Quilts of Valor presentations as well as any other way your Grange is involved with the Quilts of Valor Foundation to the National Lecturer Chris Hamp.

Hamp said in an effort to better track the number of Quilts of Valor presented by Granges across the country, the Quilts of Valor Foundation has added National Grange as a selection on their reporting form.

A "How To" document on reporting QoVs awarded by Granges can be [DOWNLOADED BY CLICKING HERE](#).

If you have any questions or comments, contact Hamp by email at lecturer@nationalgrange.org or by phone at 509.953.3533 (voice or text).

Be proactive about your health with two great member benefits

Grange members can make sure they are proactive about their health with two great member benefits – Life Line Screening and American Hearing Benefits.

With Life Line Screening, members and their loved ones can get accurate, convenient and inexpensive health screenings that can provide them and their doctors information crucial to taking the next steps to a longer, better, healthier life. American Hearing Benefits allows Grange members to get free hearing consultations to learn how to best protect their hearing and if they need hearing aids.

Grange members can take advantage of a four-package Life Line Screening that consists of Stroke, Vascular Disease and Heart Rhythm screenings, for the special price of only \$135. They can also see significant discounts on hearing aids through American Hearing Benefits nationwide network of hearing professionals.

For more information or to schedule a screening, call Life Line Screening at 866-204-9860 or American Hearing Benefits at 888-461-3209 to sign up and be sure to mention you are a National Grange member.

You can also log onto <http://americanhearingbenefits.com/partners/grange> for American Hearing Benefits information and appointments.

Good Day! subscribers should have new issue in-hand

If you have subscribed to Good Day! and have not yet received your Winter 2019/20 edition (cover title: The Tie that Binds), please contact Amanda at communications@nationalgrange.org or call 301-943-1090 to report a missing issue.

We will check your renewal/subscription status and report any missing issues to the mail house so they can determine if there is a distribution problem. We may also provide you a letter to present to your local postmaster requesting them to review any issues with magazine distribution in their territory and be on the look-out for your future issues to ensure they make it to your mailbox.

If you are unsure of your subscription status, please contact Stephanie at swilkins@nationalgrange.org or 202-628-3507 ext. 101 to inquire about when your subscription is due for renewal.

Encourage each of your Grange friends to get their own subscription to this high-quality magazine and to share with those friends who have not yet joined the Grange. It's a great membership tool!

Think twice before flushing that medicine

RCAP, Stericycle partner to bring safe drug disposal solutions to rural communities

Stericycle, the leading provider of compliance-based solutions, including award-winning solutions for safe medication disposal, and the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP), a non-profit network focused on improving water quality for rural and small communities across the U.S., have announced a partnership to pilot a program focused on improving water quality and combatting the opioid crisis in rural America.

RCAP will be distributing 10,000 of Stericycle's Seal&Send medication mail-back envelopes to rural communities in multiple regions across the United States in the coming months. The envelopes can be used to safely and sustainably remove leftover medications from home medicine cabinets and the environment – allowing people to mail back their unused drugs for destruction and disposal by regulated medical waste incineration, thus removing potentially harmful pharmaceuticals from water systems and sources and landfills in these communities.

This first-of-its kind pilot will include an innovative approach to reaching and connecting with rural communities on the issue of safe drug disposal. RCAP will be working with its six regional partners to distribute Stericycle's Seal&Send envelopes, along with educational information about safe drug disposal, in water utility bills or other solid waste programs they are coordinating in these communities. RCAP regional partners are located in all 50 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and are launching this pilot to assess the viability of further expanding this program across the country.

If the pilot is successful, RCAP will be working with grant funders and regional partners to expand this water protection program to all 50 states across the United States.

Grange members in rural communities should look to their local water utility bills for more information in the coming months. The National Grange will also keep members informed on how they may request their water authority to become involved in the effort in an upcoming issue of the Patron's Chain.

Check Out Our New Items!
Grange Youth & Junior Items plus a lot more.
Insulated Grocery Totes, Pens with 10 different
ink colors! And many more new Wearable items.

Remember to Visit our Grange Store™ - www.promoplace.com/grange

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

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