



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

March 19, 2021

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"The Grange has always welcomed women, making it truly a social order."
-Grange Installation Ceremony

The Power of Op-Eds

By Betsy Huber National Grange President

As we prepare for Grange month and think of COVID friendly ways to continue to advocate for our communities and the Grange I can think of no better way do that than sending out op-eds to newspapers. This strategy has helped the Grange build its profile as well as get the word out about important issues that continue to impact our country.

My most recent Op-ed was about the need for agricultural workers to be vaccinated. Read it below. If you are interested in writing Op-eds to advocate for your state and local Grange reach out to kgwin@nationalgrange.org for help and more information.

Bare shelves, food limits in grocery stores and food chain supply lines backed up across the country.

That is what can be expected if agricultural workers do not receive vaccines in a timely fashion.

Sadly, it doesn't take much effort to imagine this outcome — in fact, we got quite a preview about a year ago as the pandemic began its long grip, severely disrupting the supply chain and leaving many Americans to wonder what was next.

In order to protect our food supply chain, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security explicitly listed agricultural workers as essential in their April 2020 memorandum. While the list was advisory and not technically a directive, it emphasized the important services that Americans depend on daily and the safety measures that could be used to protect those serving in a role "critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security."

Despite the recognition of the importance of agricultural workers when the food shortage occurred, these individuals are still undervalued and under-vaccinated.

While the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recognizes them as essential and places them in a category reflective of that, placing them in Phase 1B to receive their vaccine, each state ultimately makes its own determination —and most have determined our agriculture workers, our food chain supply and ultimately a nation of hungry citizens should be bumped down the line.

States like Iowa, Indiana and Ohio have divided Phase 1B into tiers and are placing agriculture workers below where recommended by the CDC and Homeland Security. Others like Maryland and Oregon have removed these workers altogether from this phase. For those frontline workers in our farms and fields in Minnesota, there is no plan at all - they are only

vaccinating Phase 1A individuals and have provided little information as to when or in what phase ag workers will be able to receive their vaccines.

In the agriculture industry, social distancing can be hard to maintain, and many agriculture workers stay in shared housing or use shared transportation vehicles or restroom facilities with suboptimal options to reduce potential virus transmission. Though efforts have been taken to reduce the risk, each of these factors directly increase workers' susceptibility to contracting COVID-19. Given too, that the food industry is experiencing dramatic labor shortages, protecting individuals that remain must be a priority as they are key links within the food supply chain.

The more we postpone vaccinations of agricultural workers, the more vulnerable our nation is to another food shortage. We must call on the Montana state legislature and Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to advance agriculture workers to their recommended status with other essential, frontline workers as we cannot risk an integral part of our economy or a hungry nation.

2021 Quilt Block Contest

By Amanda Brozana Rios

There's a month for everything, and while April is my favorite as Grange Month, March comes in a close second, celebrating my recently acquired hobby of quilting. For those of you who enjoy quilting – and your friends who have been bit by the bug, too – don't forget as you rummage through your stash to grab a few pieces of fabric and help celebrate by making this year's National Grange Quilt Block contest block – the pinwheel.

Many have already started rolling in and unlimited submissions are welcomed. Just remember, choose which you like best and want judged!

Get all the details at

<http://bit.ly/3eXK3IL>

Happy sewing everyone!



2021 National Grange Quilt Block Contest

Sponsored by the National Lecturer

ADULT, JUNIOR AND MEN'S DIVISIONS
OCTOBER 31, 2021 DEADLINE

*Go to nationalgrange.org
for all details and entry sheet*

Pinwheel pattern

Block may be any color on white background, finished at 14" x 14"

Deaf Awareness Grant

By Joan C. Smith, Grange Foundation Chair

DID YOU KNOW: Deaflympics was started in 1924 and predates the special Olympics and Paralympics. One of the rules for competing in Deaflympics is no hearing aids or cochlear implants are to be used.

DID YOU KNOW: The "huddle" was invented by a deaf quarterback in 1892 by Paul Hubbard who was a quarterback at Gallaudet University, WDC, and didn't want the opposing

teams to see his team's signs. Thus, the first huddle started, and since then the huddle has been a reoccurring part of many sports teams.

Did YOU KNOW: The National Grange Foundation Deaf Awareness Grant Application is due 1 May 2021 to the National Grange Foundation. If you are mailing it please send to National Grange Foundation, Attn: Deaf Grant, 1616 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20006 or email it to info@grangefoundation.org

DID YOU KNOW: The Grange Foundation 2020 winners were from Michigan and New Jersey. MI Project: Per Luanna Swainston, Chairman, in October 2020, 647 packets containing deaf/hearing posters and hearing protection plus a letter about the Grange were distributed to every school in MI. They have received requests for additional posters. - NJ Project: To enable NJ Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf (MKSD) Girls Basketball Players to participate in the Mid-Atlantic Deaf Basketball Camp. Chair/Coach Carolynne Reed, says the girls are very excited, and looking forward to participating in 2021.

DID YOU KNOW: The little blue characters, "The Smurfs" was the first animated show to have a character use Sign Language. "Smurfing In-Sign Language" is the episode that introduced the wood-elf Laconia. She taught the Smurfs, and many of those who watched the show, some sign language. This was revolutionary as the technicality of producing signs in animation was not something that had ever been done before.

DID YOU KNOW: Any State Grange is eligible to apply for a grant to assist with a worthwhile project that may be planned within the state. Community Granges can apply through their State Grange. Grants may be awarded for any project that enhances deaf education. Preference will be given to high-quality activities that involve significant numbers of individuals. Creativity and uniqueness of the projects will also be factored into the selection process.

DID YOU KNOW: A maximum of two Grange Foundation Grants will be awarded. Grants up to a maximum of \$1,000.00 will be awarded to each approved application and will be awarded to the State Grange. The State Grange will have the option of transferring those funds to the Community or Pomona Grange conducting the deaf activity included in the grant application. Go to www.grangefoundation.org, Deaf Awareness tab for the application requirements.

March is National Kidney Month

Courtesy of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has indicated that about 15% of adults in the United States have chronic kidney disease (CKD). CKD and its two primary risk factors – diabetes and high blood pressure – disproportionately affect minority groups. Data shows that in the United States, kidney disease is most prevalent in Black Americans (16%), Hispanics (14%), non-Hispanic whites (13%), and non-Hispanic Asians (12%).

Knowing how to address CKD is especially important during the ongoing public health emergency. According to CDC guidance, CKD could make the immune system less able to fight infections and more susceptible to contracting COVID-19. As a result, those with CKD should take extra precautions to minimize exposure to the virus. For resources on how to better protect yourself or your patients from COVID-19, please visit the [CMS OMH](#) and [From Coverage to Care](#) (C2C) COVID-19 webpages.

Below are resources aimed at helping partners better manage kidney disease among those they serve:

- [Guide to Reducing Chronic Kidney Disease Disparities in the Primary Care Setting](#): This guide about CKD and its disparities tells health care providers how they can help patients with CKD. It also includes resources for primary care teams to use to treat vulnerable populations.
- Learn more about diabetes – one of the main risk factors for CKD – and how to tailor treatments for vulnerable and minority populations with the [Diabetes Medication Management: Directory of Provider Resources](#), [Culturally and Linguistically Tailored Type 2 Diabetes Resources Inventory](#), and [Managing Diabetes: Medicare Coverage & Resources](#).
- [Chronic Kidney Disease Disparities in Medicare Fee-For-Service Beneficiaries](#): This data snapshot provides information on the disproportionate impact that CKD has on various racial and ethnic minority groups.
- [Chronic Kidney Disease Often Undiagnosed in Medicare Beneficiaries](#): This data highlight compared kidney disease stages between lab tests and diagnoses finding that CKD is often under-recognized in Medicare populations and that later stages are more likely to be recognized.
- Visit C2C to learn more about [prevention resources](#) that are available at little to no cost under most insurance plans.

To learn more about CMS OMH, please visit go.cms.gov/omh. If you are interested in receiving additional updates, subscribe to the Minority Health and C2C [listservs](#).

A Few Great Mentions

The Grange has been hard at work these last two weeks! Here are some links to some of our more popular articles about the Grange in action. Take the time and check out what is happening both on the National and State level. If you have any news highlights you would like to share with the Grange community email them to kgwin@nationalgrange.org

Moses Lake Grange ends Bazaar hiatus, (Columbia Basin Herald, Moses Lake, WA): <https://columbiabasinherald.com/news/2021/mar/16/moses-lake-grange-ends-bazaar-hiatus/>

Missoula, MT, Agricultural Workers are Not Receiving Vaccines as Scheduled by the CDC (appears in full at the start of this issue of the Patrons Chain) (The Missoulian, Missoula MT, and the Spokesman Review, Spokane, WA): https://missoulian.com/opinion/columnists/agricultural-workers-are-not-receiving-vaccines-as-scheduled-by-the-cdc/article_741a370f-fb98-5a31-a21d-f6daea0d2c53.html

Savings in Full Bloom!

Save up to 60% off

While supplies last!

 Free Shipping



Lenovo®

Spring into Action with Lenovo Innovations

Take advantage of budding deals on tech that will spring you forward! Save up to 60% off all month long. Plus, reward yourself with MyLenovo Rewards, it's free!

Visit: www.lenovo.com/us/en/lsp

NATIONAL GRANGE BENEFIT



RV Camping on Wineries, Breweries, Farms and More!



20% Off for National Grange! Code: GRANGE

WWW.HARVESTHOSTS.COM/JOIN-NOW/

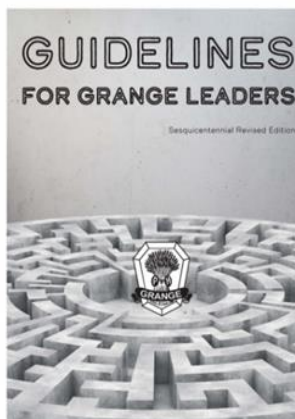
HARVEST HOSTS, A GRANGE BENEFIT PARTNER, ENCOURAGES GRANGERS TO LOCK IN THEIR RATE - AND SAVE 20% USING CODE GRANGE IN CHECKOUT - BEFORE THEIR MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASES IN APRIL.

NEW MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE INCREASING \$20 THIS APRIL, LOCK IN YOUR RATE WHEN YOU SIGN UP TODAY. HARVEST HOSTS OFFERS RV CAMPING AT 1,600+ WINERIES, BREWERIES, FARMS, AND MORE! SIGN UP BEFORE MARCH 31ST AND GET 20% OFF THE CURRENT PRICING WITH CODE GRANGE. CODE WILL STILL WORK AFTER MARCH, BUT YOU WILL SEE A RATE INCREASE.



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.com



Guidelines for Grange Leaders (Sesquicentennial Revised Edition)

The purpose of this book is to define and describe the duties and responsibilities of Pomona and Subordinate Master, Lecturers, Secretaries and appointed committees. This book is meant to assist in carrying out duties and responsible. Sesquicentennial Revised Edition was edited by Betsy E. Huber, National Master.

Cost is \$6.00
plus shipping



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021

Speakers from Capitol Hill, the Biden Administration, issue coalitions, National Grange leadership and staff, and more



REGISTER BY APRIL 6TH 5Pm EST

- Retractable Grip Pen - \$.75 ea
- JG Lunch Bag - \$3.00 ea
- Magnet, 4.25" W x 4.75" H, .03 thickness - \$2.50 ea
- Front Line Hero Pins - \$2.50 ea
- Playing Cards - \$8.00 ea
- Stuffed Cow or Duck - \$12.00 ea



Click Here To See These Items And More!

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

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

JOIN US FOR

JUNIOR JIBBER-JABBER


All are welcomed to join us as we focus on different topics related to Junior Grange Activities and provide resources for our leaders

WHEN: 3rd Sundays of Odd Number Months
9 p.m. Eastern (6 p.m. Pacific)

WHERE: ZOOM!
Meeting ID: 833 7712 0738
Passcode: 969128

BEGINNING IN MARCH 2021!

FIND MORE INFO ON JUNIOR GRANGE
CONTESTS AND PROGRAMS
WWW.NATIONALJUNIORGRANGE.ORG



NATIONAL GRANGE & GRANGE FOUNDATION STAFF

Our HQ is located at 1616 H St. NW, 11th Floor, 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 Kennedy Gwin, National Grange Communications Manager, available by email at kgwin@nationalgrange.org or by phone at National HQ, ext. 106. Contact for assistance with publicity, to submit a story idea for the Patrons Chain or social media and more.

Membership, Leadership Development and Communications Amanda Brozana Rios. Contact to submit a story idea for Good Day! magazine at abrozana@nationalgrange.org or call/text (301) 943-1090. You may also contact her as Foundation Associate in regards to tax-deductible gifts for Grange Foundation.

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

Free Grange Websites and emails, Good Day! subscriptions and renewals, Membership Database and more Stephanie Wilkins, National HQ, ext. 101 or email swilkins@nationalgrange.org

Lecturer Chris Hamp for program ideas, Quilts of Valor labels, contest details and more, by email at lecturer@nationalgrange.org or call/text (509) 953-3533.

Community Service Pete Pompper for project ideas, information about "Of the Year" awards and more by email at communityservice@nationalgrange.org or phone at (609) 820-6239

Legislative and Policy Issues Burton Eller for advocacy information and Grange priorities, contact him at National HQ, ext. 114 or email beller@nationalgrange.org.

Grange Youth Mandy Bostwick for contest, program and more information for young members at youth@nationalgrange.org or call/text (785) 250-7606.

Junior Grange Samantha Wilkins for Passport and other program and contest information at junior@nationalgrange.org or call/text (210) 838-7892.

Grange Foundation Joan C. Smith, Chairwoman, for more details about grants, programs and Foundation outreach at info@grangefoundation.org or (571) 662-7220.

Foundation Strategic Partnership Director Donny Olencziak with corporate giving and grant leads at donny.olencziak@grange.org or (229) 288-6111.