



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

April 9, 2021



CELEBRATING GRANGE MONTH

Since 1867, Grange has found a way to bring people together. And together has never sounded so good. We know the way, and we welcome you to join us.

National Grange Legislative Fly-In goes Virtual

By Amanda Brozana Rios, National Membership Director

On Wednesday, April 7, members from around the nation gathered digitally to participate in the 2021 National Grange Fly-In.

Unlike the event of years' past, no flight was actually necessary for those in far-flung reaches of the country hoping to hear from speakers and get a better understanding of the organization's issues of interest and ways in which members can advocate.

Instead, the more than 100 people registered to attend were given tools to better understand the budding and over-ripe issues the preeminent rural organization is watching and working on through outreach, coalition work and more.

Members heard from Senator Debbie Stabenow and staff member of the Senate Agriculture Committee Patrick Delaney, Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson, White House staff member Will McIntee, National Health Council CEO Randy Rutta, US Telecom Vice President Mike Saperstein, Farm Credit Council Senior Vice President and lead of the Rebuild Rural Coalition Robbie Boone as well as National Grange President Betsy Huber, Legislative Director Burton Eller and Legislative Assistant Sean O'Neil.

The three-and-a-half hour event included questions and answers from the audience and panelists respectively. It is now available to view at <https://bit.ly/3fQMyNp>

Fly-In Success

By Betsy Huber National Grange President

After a very successful virtual Fly-in this week with over 110 people participating, your thoughts should be centering on current issues in our Capitol and in your state and community. Now is a great time to put those thoughts into a resolution or two and submit them to your next local Grange meeting.

ATTENTION GRANGERS

DO YOU HAVE A HALL AND A WANT
TO STOP COVID IN YOUR
COMMUNITY?

NOW IS TIME!
HOST A LOCAL
VACCINE CLINIC IN
YOUR HALL.
CONTACT YOUR
STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND LET
THEM KNOW YOUR
GRANGE IS
WILLING TO HOST



State Sessions begin in two short months and November’s National Grange session will be here before we know it. While the information you learned in the Fly-in is fresh in your mind, put it down in resolution form and discuss it at your Grange. If you need help writing resolutions look at www.nationalgrange.org/writing-grange-resolution for information.

You should also check the current National Grange policy (“What We Stand For”) to make sure your position is not already covered in adopted policy. Often we receive resolutions at National that are already part of our policy, and it wastes everyone’s time to send them through the process only to have them declared “present policy” by the session committee. If you have questions don’t hesitate to contact Burton Eller at the Grange headquarters.

Take the time right now to write those resolutions before you get too busy in your gardens or with Grange activities as we open up again. Exercise your civic responsibility and Grange privileges by making your voice heard.

Ut enim ad minim veniam

HAS YOUR GRANGE BEEN MENTIONED IN THE NEWS LATELY?

Email kgwin@nationalgrange.org to have your stories highlighted in the latest Patrons Chain and on social media. All submissions welcomed

APRIL IS GRANGE MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					9 Cultivating Connections: Political Power Hour 8:30 PM EST	10
11	12 Good Day! Spring Preview with Amanda Brozana Rios 8:30 PM EST	13 Cultivating Connections with Retire Safe and Grange Interns 8:30- 9:30 PM EST	14	15 Cultivating Connections Chronic Pain Management 8:30-9:30 PM EST	16	17
18 Youth Yammerings 9-10 PM EST	19	20	21	22	23 Cultivating Connections Grange Benefits 9-10 PM EST	24
25	26	27	28	29 Cultivating Connections Community Service and You with Pete Pomper	30 Trivia night with the Grange 9-10 PM EST	

How to Plan for a Future Vacation

Courtesy of Family Features

After a long year stuck at home, many people are dreaming about when they can travel once again. While counting down the days may feel like torture, planning and booking a vacation for later this year can give you something to look forward to.

Now may be the perfect time to start thinking about your next adventure. Consider these tips for planning a future trip - even if you're not certain exactly when you'll take it.

Research Travel Restrictions

For any kind of travel, it's important to make sure you're up to date on any restrictions your potential destinations may have in place. Though the vaccine may help lessen restrictions in some places, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention maintain updated guidance and travel warnings based on the risk level of certain areas, which can help you make decisions. Once you've booked travel plans, it is prudent to check in frequently as your trip approaches and prepare a backup plan.

Account for High Demand

Many hotels, vacation rentals and resorts may already be booked for summer in popular locations due to optimism around the vaccine, increased demand for domestic travel and families planning multiple trips this year. In fact, travelers are locking in private Vrbo vacation homes at top summer destinations earlier in 2021. Less than half of vacation homes in some locations are still available for July, which is a more than 25% increase in demand year-over-year. To better your odds of securing your desired travel dates, accommodations and activities, booking earlier can help off-set the increased demand.

"In years past, we've recommended families book their summer vacations by late April to stay ahead of the curve, but this year there are several reasons why families are eager and ready to book," Vrbo President Jeff Hurst said. "These signs are telling us families should start looking for the perfect vacation home now before options become more limited."

Take Advantage of Deals with Longer Stays

Many sectors of the travel industry offer special deals for reserving trips in advance, and some of the best deals can be found by bundling airfare and lodging or booking extended week- or month-long stays. These longer vacations can lead to fewer available dates to choose from, but some travel companies offer search filters that help travelers find discounts for staying longer periods of time.

Opt for Flexible Booking

If you're eager to plan a vacation right away, be sure to review and understand cancellation policies for your preferred accommodations, airline and activities. Many have changed their policies due to the pandemic, so be sure to know how long you have to cancel or change dates

without incurring additional fees or penalties. For example, when booking a vacation rental through Vrbo, where hosts set their cancellation terms, you can use the "free cancellation" filter to search for properties with flexible policies, some of which allow cancellations up to 14 days before check-in for a full refund.

Start Saving Now

While it may not be practical for everyone to save money amid uncertain times, setting even a small amount aside for your vacation can be worthwhile. Consider setting up a dedicated travel savings account or directing the change from each transaction made with your debit card to a separate account. Being able to periodically check the balance of the account can also help increase excitement for your upcoming adventure.

Wanna Get Away? Save by using these returning benefits

Grange members always receive up to 25% off AVIS rentals when using the code AWD# B291044. With a complimentary membership in Avis Preferred®, you'll travel better, save time and gain access to exclusive offers. Skip the counter and paperwork at many locations and go straight to your car. Visit <https://bit.ly/2RhRvoq> or call 1-800-331-1212 to make a reservation.



Grange members save up to 25% off Budget base rates with offer code (BCD) R198144. With a complimentary membership in Budget Fastbreak, enjoy a fast, easy rental experience. Visit <https://bit.ly/2OuGoau> or call 1-800-527-0700 to make a reservation.



Grange Mission Statement Poster

Help celebrate Grange Month with The National Grange Mission Statement poster (size 11x 17) Every Grange Hall, every Grange member needs a mission Statement poster

**For Grange Month only -
Special is 2 poster for \$6.00
Plus Shipping April 1-30, 2021**

LIMITED EDITION
GRANGE T-SHIRT SALE

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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.