



# PATRONS CHAIN

The Official Newsletter of the National Grange

## 6 new officers elected to serve National Grange

**BY PHILIP J. VONADA**  
Communications Director

On Thursday and Friday, Delegates assembled in Wichita elected officers for the National Grange. Each office is for a two-year term. Officers were installed on Friday afternoon.

Betsy Huber, who made history in 2015 after being elected as the first female President of the then 149-year old organization, was elected to her fourth term in office on the first ballot. “Thank you for placing your trust in me,” Huber said, “I look forward to continuing to lead the Grange.”

In her tenure, Huber has overseen legislative pushes including rural broadband and access to healthcare, led the Grange in celebrating its 150th anniversary and, more recently, has been guiding the Grange through tough decisions regarding the future of its headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Chris Hamp of Washington, who has served as National Grange Lecturer/Program Director since 2016, was elected to the office of Vice President. “I look forward to engaging our members at every level,” she said, “as we collaborate to grow the Grange in every community across the country.”



Betsy Huber takes the oath of office for her fourth term as President of the National Grange. | Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

On the Executive Committee, Lynette Schaeffer from Illinois was re-elected for a second two-year term and Buddy Overstreet from Texas was elected to his first term.

“It’s an honor,” Overstreet said. “There are a lot of issues facing the Grange right now,” he noted, stating that he is ready to work with the rest of the Executive Com-

**ELECTION**  
cont’d on Page 3

## Youth Officer Team opens Session



Youth and Young Adults from around the country opened Friday morning of the 155th Annual Session of the National Grange.



**NOTE!**

The GROW Club auction is closing in the Showcase on Saturday at noon. Be sure to get your bids in!

Tickets are available for the presentation of the Seventh Degree. You can get your tickets at the door!



**What’s the Buzz?**

Thank you to Duane and Chris Hamp (WA) for the coffee and breakfast sweets today - you know how to make us happy!

Follow the Fellows on social media, and stay up to date with the happenings at Session.

- Instagram:**  
n.grange\_communication\_fellows
- Facebook:**  
National Grange
- Twitter:**  
NationalGrange

# New Junior, Youth Leadership teams selected

**BY PHILIP J. VONADA**  
Communications Director

On Friday at the Evening of Honors, new Junior Ambassadors, Youth Ambassadors, and Outstanding Young Patrons were chosen to represent the National Grange through the 2021-2022 Grange Year.

The leadership teams will help set the course of the Youth and Junior Departments for the next year. They will receive training in leadership skills and will attend National Grange events to lead workshops and engage Youth and Junior members.

Ryleigh Hartsell and Cade Howerton, each of North Carolina, were selected as National Junior Grange Ambassadors.

National Junior Grange Director Samantha Wilkins says the new Junior Ambassadors “have worked hard and have plans for a stellar program in 2022.” She believes that this program will help them grow as leaders and anticipates a fulfilling

year with them.

Hartsell is from Mount Pleasant, North Carolina. She says she “is most excited to travel more places and meet new people” by being Junior Ambassador.

She hopes “to develop into a strong leader and to grow the department” over the next year.

Cade Howerton is from Roxboro, North Carolina. He has an interest in agriculture and has participated in building a large vegetable garden.

He says that “meeting new people” is what he is looking forward to as Ambassador.

He wants “to grow membership in both the Youth and Junior departments” over the next year.

Cole Settle (North Carolina)



Cade Howerton (NC), Ryleigh Hartsell (NC), Emma Edelen (IA), Amber Corll (OH), and Cole Settle (NC) were chosen to represent the Junior and Youth departments for the next year.

and Amber Corll (Ohio) were selected as Youth Ambassadors, and Emma Edelen (Iowa) was selected as Young Patron.

Mandy Bostwick, National Grange Youth and Young Adults Director, says she is excited to work with the new Youth Leadership Team. “They all bring different experiences that will build a well-rounded team.”

Amber Corll is from Berlin Center, Ohio and is a member of Dublin Grange #1409, where she is Flora as well as Family Activities Director.

## LEADERSHIP

cont'd on Page 3

## Point of Personal Privilege

I just want to take a moment to thank everyone who has given support to the Communications Fellows and the *Patrons Chain* during this year's National Session.

I want to thank Grange Advocacy for their sponsorship. Amanda Brozana Rios for her guidance and mentorship. Thanks to Betsy Huber, Phil Preli, Chris Hamp, Chip Narvel, John Plank, Leroy Watson, Burton Eller, and all of the other officers and staff who took time to stop in to encourage us, give us quotes, or endow us with wisdom. I want to thank the former Fellows, guest editors, and the editorialists who provided content for *Patrons Chain*.

Most of all, I want to thank Lindsay Schroeder, Rob Beamon, Jenn Nauss, Ethan Edwards, Sasha Secor, and Chad Smith for being an incredible Fellows class. I'm honored that you were my “first” as Communications Director.

Finally, I am looking forward to serving the National Grange as Communications Director. You all have given me such a warm welcome, and I am excited to work with Grange members nationwide to get the name of the Grange beyond our own doors and into our communities.

Thank you. From the bottom of my heart.

**- Philip J. Vonada, Senior Communications Fellow, Patrons Chain Editor**

## Meteorologist visits Juniors



Chief Meteorologist Ross Janssen from CBS affiliate KWCH

On Friday afternoon, Chief Meteorologist Ross Janssen from KWCH, a local CBS affiliate.

Reagan and Ryleigh Hartsell from North Carolina summarized the workshop:

“High pressure is nice days. Low pressure is stormy

and windy.

Kansas is in the Tornado Valley.

A weather balloon gets bigger the higher it goes because it has less pressure - the balloon pops after 2 hours and a parachute brings it back down to the ground.”

Mr. Janssen joined the Junior Grangers to help introduce the 2022 Agricultural Awareness Project: “How Does Weather Affect Agriculture?”

# ELECTION

from page 1

mittee to help guide the Grange.

Stephen Coye of New York has served on the Executive Committee since 2017 but was not re-elected this year. "I think we did good work over the past four years, and made tough but necessary decisions," he said of his time on the Executive Committee. Coye is President of the New York State Grange and hopes to reverse the "slow leak" of membership in the coming years.

Several other newcomers were elected to offices. Minnesota State Grange President Ann Bercher was elected to replace Chris Hamp as Lecturer/Program Director. "I am greatly honored by the confidence of the Delegates, and I am excited to see where this leads," she said. Bercher is looking forward to continuing Hamp's wisdom and legacy as Lecturer and creating and fostering projects and programs nation-

wide. Other newly-elected officers leading the National Grange are Kathy Gibson (MA) - Lady Assistant Steward, Joe Goodrich (VT) - Treasurer, Debbie Campbell (PA) - Secretary.

Re-elected to their offices are Steward - Chip Narvel (DE), Assistant Steward - John Plank (IN), Chaplain - Barbara Borderieux (FL), Gatekeeper - Christopher Johnston (MI), Ceres - Cindy Greer (CO), Pomona - Kay Stiles (DE) and Flora - Welina Shufeldt (OK).

At the annual convocation of the Assembly of Demeter, High Priest Bruce Croucher announced that it was time to retire. "I would ap-

preciate very much if you would elect another deserving individual," Croucher said, noting that it has been a tremendous honor to serve the Grange in this position. He was originally elected as High Priest of Demeter in 2011.

Roger Bostwick, who has served as Priest Archon for several years, was elected to the High Priest position. "Thank you to the assembly and the Delegates for this honor. I will hold this position to the best of my ability," Bostwick said.

Phil Prelli, who served as Vice President of the National Grange, was elected as Priest Archon. Martha Stefenoni from California was

re-elected to her office as Priestess Annalist.

The Assembly of Demeter of the National Grange is responsible for organizing and presenting the Seventh Degree, as well as handling matters of Grange Law and ritual.



Delegates at the 155th Annual Session elected six new officers. Pictured are all officers for 2021-2022. | Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

## Gibson chooses hope in taking office

BY JENN NAUSS

Assistant Communications Fellow

When Kathy Gibson was elected Lady Assistant Steward, she was not expecting it – let alone to be nominated for a National office.

Gibson is a 33-year member from Worcester, Massachusetts, and is the First Lady of the Massachusetts State Grange; this is her third year as a delegate to the National Grange.

Her election this year is especially meaningful considering she is also in the midst of a health battle. This past August, she was diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer.

Her cancer was found early – thanks to a mammogram. Gibson's cancer battle is complicated by a preexisting hereditary autoimmune disorder. She has been traveling back and forth to Boston (about an hour's drive from her home) to



Kathy Gibson has been elected Lady Assistant Steward

meet with medical professionals to determine the best course of treatment. She noted, "when you find out you have cancer, it feels like getting hit by a ton of bricks. You feel hopeless at first."

But Gibson is choosing hope and determination over despair.

She is using her experience to stress the importance of early detection of breast cancer.

To spread this important message, Gibson had special cards and pins made to distribute to each delegate, featuring a Christmas tree wrapped in a pink breast cancer awareness ribbon.

Many others in a similar situation may have declined an opportunity to serve the National Grange as an officer; Gibson readily agreed.

She said, "there's so many things we put off, but we can't put things off. Don't put it off 'til tomorrow because there might not be one."

Just a quick note to let you know  
we miss you.

may our friendship be as firm as the stone itself

**"We Miss You"** cards are available from the Communications Office for \$5 per pack of 10.

These cards, based on the implement of Fourth Degree. This is a simple way to get lapsed or missing members re-involved in your Grange!

# How to Say Thank You: *Tokens of Appreciation*

BY AMANDA BROZANA RIOS, *Director of Membership and Leadership Development*

Small gifts go a long way to say “thank you.”

Many individuals most “hear” thank you when they receive something tangible, such as a certificate of recognition, a bar of their favorite candy or another item. While general gifts are good - such as a door prize that could go to anyone - they don’t say “I appreciate YOU” so much as

“we’re happy to have ANYONE come.”

A trinket or token you picked up that reminded you of them specifically will show that you truly care.

As you go through this week, make sure to take notice of the appreciation language of those around you and use it to cultivate stronger connections with one another.



## Editorial: Dense cloud obscures vision

BY JENN NAUSS

*Pennsylvania State Grange Lecturer*

On Friday morning, the delegates and members of the National Grange participated in an activity to answer several questions.

Each attendee was asked to write on a slip of paper one word that signifies what the Grange means to them or what the Grange’s purpose is.

To visualize the results of this “thought experiment,” a word cloud was created to show the variety and frequency of the 138 submitted responses. Words that were more common appear larger in the word cloud, whereas less common words appear smaller.

For example, many of the smallest words were submitted only once. Conversely, the largest word – **Family** – was submitted 49 times.

Ideally, an organization that has a clear, well communicated purpose should have an uncluttered word cloud with only a few large words because everybody knows what the group’s purpose is.

The word cloud created from this particular exercise is “busy” with many small words among the few larger words. Presumably, this is because the Grange means many different things to many different people. At one point, this was an asset.

At the peak of Grange member-



ship several decades ago, the Grange had the resources (people, finances, etc.) to be “everything for everybody,” offering high quality programming across a variety of areas.

As membership and financial resources have dwindled over the years, the Grange has struggled to maintain this level of service because of resources being spread too thin. What once was an asset could be a liability as the organization determines its priorities for resource allocation.

This exercise could be repeated with different groups of Grangers across the country and likely yield different results each time. For this particular group of Grangers – comprised of national leaders and other active members from across the country – family, friendship, fellowship and opportunities were identified as priorities.

Knowing what our priorities are as an organization can help inform our way forward. It also provides an opportunity for self-reflection.

If we see the Grange as a welcoming organization where relationships

are cultivated and nurtured, we should ask ourselves if we are extending this “Welcome” to potential new members.

Passing policies and resolutions which interfere with the “political or religious opinions of any member of the Order” (or potential new members), especially ones that exclude those who may

be different from us, does not create the welcoming, relationship-rich environment we want.

If we cannot replicate the “family” that we value for new members coming in, how can we hope to retain them as active members in the Grange?

I would urge Grange leaders at every level to be thinking about, and having conversations about what the Grange is and what its priorities are (or should be).

Membership/Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios referred to the Grange as the “Titanic” during her report to the delegate body on Thursday.

This organization we all care so much about is in trouble; membership numbers across the country continue to decline and with them, financial resources.

But it is not too late to “right the ship!” We can work together to change the trajectory. The first step in doing so is to know who we are and why we are here.

# LEADERSHIP

from page 1

She is a senior at Western Reserve High School and hopes to go into school to earn her RN.

“I’m excited to further my experience and meet new people,” she said.

She says she hopes to learn how to show people the ways that Granges connect to their communities. She hopes to lead with empathy and compassion in order to build the Grange.

Cole Settle is from Elkin, North Carolina. A senior at Appalachian State University studying criminal justice. He attends Little Mountain Grange, and is President/Master

of the North Carolina State Youth Team, and also on the North Carolina State Grange Young Adult Committee.

“I’m excited, to get to work with a lot of other states - other than my own” he said. He wants to spend time with other Grangers to see “how they do it” in other states.

Settle notes that North Carolina has had strong success in Junior and Youth involvement, and wants to be able to take the skills he has learned in his home state out to Granges nationwide.

Edelen of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is a ninth-grade earth science teacher in Cedar Rapids Community School District. She is the Lecturer of both Chester Royal Grange #2181 and the

Iowa State Grange.

Edelen says she is “ecstatic for this opportunity” of being named Outstanding Young Patron.

“My hope is to find ideas and programming efforts to bring back to my home Grange and home State to help bring our Granges up. I want to see how communities are being positively affected” by Granges nationwide, she said.

She hopes that the new Youth Leadership Team can bring enthusiasm and fresh ideas and workshops to Grange youth across the country.

She wants to bring accessible workshops based on “lost skills” like canning, breadmaking or candlemaking to youth and young adults - “even Juniors,” she adds.

## Tours hit local stops

BY ETHAN EDWARDS

Communications Fellow

Nearly 50 Grangers experienced several of Wichita’s landmark attractions on the General Grange Tour on Friday. The group included delegates, past delegates, attendees and friends who were eager to get a closer look at the National Session’s host city.

Wichita boasts of its deep connection with the aviation industry; this fascinating history was fully on display at the Kansas Aviation Museum. Even before exploring the museum’s diverse collection of airplanes, visitors were impressed with the striking art deco design of the museum building.

Built in 1935 as a project of the Works Project Administration, the building was erected to serve as the Wichita Municipal Airport. During its heyday, Wichita boasted one of

the busiest airports in the nation, with planes taking off every 90 seconds.

A new airport was built for the city and control passed to the United States Air Force by 1954, and finally abandoned in 1984. The museum opened in 1991. In addition to preserving Wichita’s vast history in airplane manufacturing, the museum organization is systematically restoring this landmark building to its former beauty.

The informative tour included exploring the collection of planes from the earliest days of aviation, roaming the old tarmac to see larger planes such as a B-52 bomber and a commercial Boeing 737, climbing to experience the view from the control tower and learning from the other galleries.

The second stop was an entirely different sort of attraction that originated in Wichita at nearly the same time the terminal was built — The

Nifty Nut House. This third-generation family owned business offers a vast array of chocolate, candy, nuts and other snack items. Tour attendees left with impressive quantities of treats to take home as gifts or for their own enjoyment.

The last stop for the day was the Wichita Sedgwick County Historical Museum. The museum is housed in the former Wichita City Hall and now exhibits floors of galleries that interpret all eras of Sedgwick County’s 150-year history. Participants studied exhibits about settling the territory, details about the oil and aviation industries and items drawn from everyday life.

Dispersed throughout the museum are fully-recreated spaces from past eras, including a fully-decorated Victorian cottage, the Mayor’s office as it would have appeared around 1900, and vintage drug store, complete with soda fountain.



Grange Youth visited Botanica, the Wichita Gardens on their tour on Friday | Photo by Jess Horton



The Ingwersen and Schif families were recognized as seventh-generation Legacy Families at Friday’s Evening of Honors | Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

# Editorial: Rotate your crops to ensure proper growth

BY CHRIS HEATH

former Delegate, New Hampshire

Rotating of officers is like a garden, crops need to be rotated and so do the officers in the Grange.

The cold hard facts about being a leader is that we have a physical or organizational shelf life. Most leaders do not want to admit this realization, but no matter how difficult or painful this is to grasp, it is inevitable.

This view does not need to be a fatalistic or end to you and your leadership, but instead an inspiration behind your desire to find the next-generation leader.

The next-generation leader should be capable and prepared to boost the organization to success from your mentoring and guiding leadership transferral.

Most of us fear the thought of giving up the reins of our organization, especially when we have put many hours of blood, sweat and tears into it over many years.

We, as leaders, need to realize that there are some basic questions we ask ourselves, like what will the new leader look like? How will the new leader act? How will they interact with others within the organization? Most importantly, will this new leader be able to build the success and continue the vision of the organization?

Too often we, as leaders, think that our replacement should look like the person in the mirror staring back at us. If this is you, then you are not looking for your replacement but in fact you are looking for a clone... you in another body. If this is you then my advice is to go look somewhere

else.

The genetic, chemical and neurological facets of your being are woven together to make the leader you are but, rest assured, this can not be replicated.

All the *meta* and *micro* attributes combined to create you, the leader, are not easily duplicated to create your replacement.

Some leaders are just confident enough to think that more of themselves will mean more success to the team or organization. They set out on a quest to copy their leadership by finding individuals who maintain the same physical, mental or duplicative traits without understanding that divine intervention has built them uniquely. In the end, the ill-fated adventure leads to one result.

So, what leaders need to understand is that when the organizational blues and purples foreshadow the twilight of your leadership career, it's time to seek the individual that has a blend of physical, emotional, intellectual and interpersonal traits along with the forward vision to potentially have what the organization needs.

The person should have the gleam in their eye and a clear path forward for the organization. Most likely this person will lay awake at night thinking about the future, bound only by their imagination and not what they should do to follow your lead.

Be careful not to choose the functional expert who can produce in a pinch or meet that impossible deadline.

Leaders need to ask themselves these questions:

Are you developing and strengthening your organization to survive

after you are gone?

Do you take the time to invest in someone that can own the position and work beside you?

Are you taking the time and energy to transfer your knowledge to the next generation or peer who is looking to advance?

Do you have a proper succession plan and have you taken the time to train your replacement?

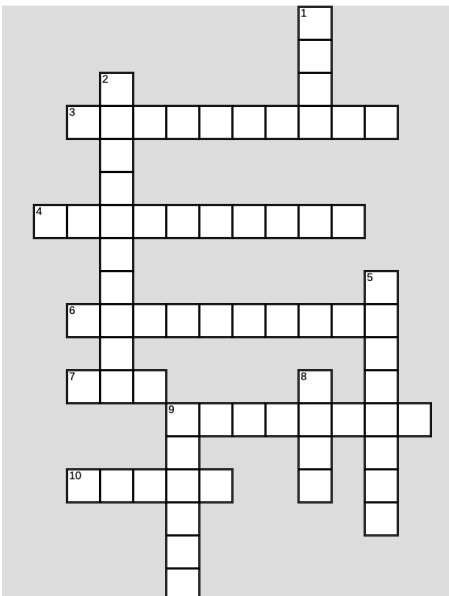
Are you making sure that the next person will be able to perform the duties of their office?

Training your replacement doesn't have to be a hard task, it just needs to be thought out and planned.

Remember that you may still fail in this training of your replacement. Some things you should do to assist with this task include creating a book with all the tasks that will be required of them when they take over. Start training at least six months before the transition to the leadership role. Work with them and answer any and all questions that they may have concerning the operations and requirements of the office. Remember that they will find their own way to do the tasks and as long as they reach the final result, there is success.

Here are seven ethical steps to take when training your replacement. Provide a list of duties or training manuals. Introduce new material at a comfortable and steady pace. Teach them the proper way and not "your" way. Be prepared to answer questions and clarify instructions. Demonstrate how it is done. Stay in a professional mode. Keep your opinions to yourself and make introductions.

## DAILY PUZZLE



### Across

- 3 This nickname is the official state slogan of Nevada. It recalls that Nevada was admitted to the union in 1864, during the Civil War.
- 4 The name Nevada comes from a Spanish word that means \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 With an average of 201 sunny days per year, this town is the sunniest town in Nevada.
- 7 Largest county of Nevada.
- 9 Governor of the State of Nevada.
- 10 The last name of a man remembered most for buying a Senate Seat and who left his last name to the County the Las Vegas calls home.

### Down

- 1 The Biggest Little City In The World.
- 2 State Capital of Nevada.
- 5 In Death Valley, the \_\_\_\_\_ Rat can live its entire life without drinking a drop of liquid.
- 8 Though Nevada is nicknamed 'Silver State', it is actually the largest producing state in the U.S of this precious metal.
- 9 60,000 pounds of this seafood is consumed a day in Las Vegas — higher than the rest of the country combined.