



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

HAPPY JUNIOR GRANGE MONTH!



DID YOU KNOW THAT JULY IS JUNIOR
GRANGE MONTH?

HOW ARE YOU CELEBRATING THE JUNIORS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



July 16, 2021

Broadband in Latest Infrastructure Package

By Betsy Huber, National Grange President

Last week we wrote a letter to sixteen members of Congress who are working on the bipartisan infrastructure package where \$65 billion in additional broadband funding is being proposed. That is a lot of money! Many broadband providers with a plethora of broadband technologies will be competing for a piece of that broadband pie. In the letter, we reiterated the points the National Grange has championed for the past two years in its efforts to reach the last mile and last acre of rural America with high speed broadband. These are:

- The highest priority for these funds should be to connect the truly unserved areas first, such as farms, ranches, their households and their neighbors who have historically been unconnected.
- The minimum speed must be at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload speeds, but higher speeds are preferred where available.
- A mix of technologies and broadband providers must be considered eligible for these funds if we are to reach the last mile and last acre of rural America while funding is available.
- It will be absolutely necessary to secure access to rights-of-way and pole attachments for broadband providers. This will involve negotiations with federal, state and local agencies as well as private entities such as rural electric cooperatives. Some kind of mediation process may need to be established to achieve this crucial access.

With the money that has been allocated for expansion of broadband in the last year or two, we are very hopeful that our rural residents will soon be able to connect as well as those in urban areas now can.

Hope and Persevere

By Pete Pompper, National Grange Community Service Director

“Are all their hopes, then blasted? Is there no way in which they can gain your favor? There is ---one way. What is it? **Hope and Persevere.** In what respect? All through life! Let it be a lesson, never to be forgotten, that success in a good cause is gained only by perseverance. Never be discouraged. **Hope and Persevere**”.

I find this discussion between the Assistant Steward and the Spector to be relevant today as Granges get back to doing what we do. So many of you have shown such perseverance during the past year and a half. Granges and Grangers have not given up but you found ways to continue helping your communities.

As I have said many times no Granges gave up but through hope and perseverance you moved on and came up with different and unique ways to give back. In return Granges have seen the community give back to them.

Fund raising dinners are selling out, vendor fairs are busier than ever and attendance at events have exceeded expectations. It doesn't matter the size of the Grange either, large to small Granges are all doing great things.

In fact there are a couple of Granges who were not doing well and were close to closing but the membership went outside of the comfort zone and held new community programs. These new ideas have revitalized the Grange and have not only increased membership but reintroduced themselves in a positive way to the community. These Granges are now partnering with other community groups which is leading to more people being involved.

Now is the time for Granges to get back to doing what we do best, either giving back to our communities, or teaching our younger members leadership skills.

These skills will be invaluable in the future as they grow. A way of teaching these skills is getting them involved in your community service projects. Let them plan, organize and run a project; we need to support them in their ideas.

Speaking of this, 2 years ago we (NG Youth and Community Service) started the Wib and June Justi Youth Community Service award. This is an opportunity for a Grange or Granger to nominate a Youth member who is doing outstanding community service work. The nomination form is on the NG website in the Youth Department section. If you have any questions feel free to contact me or Mandy Bostwick.

Hope On Persevere Ever.

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|  <p>Was \$12.00 Now \$4.00</p> | <p>CLOSEOUT JUNIOR GRANGE ITEMS! Polo Shirts, Baby Bibs, Onesies, Stickers and Buttons</p>  <p>To See All Items - Click Here</p> |  <p>Was \$10.00 Now \$4.00</p> |
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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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Enroll in Healthcare Coverage today

Courtesy of CMS

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services is offering from now until August 15th 2021 a new special enrollment period for healthcare coverage. This offer is available to residents in 36 states. Fill out your application online at [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov), after filling out the application you have 30 days to enroll in a plan, and your healthcare coverage will start on the 1st of the next month.

Many people can qualify to save money, did you know that 9 out of 10 people who enroll are eligible for savings? People can now find plans with much lower premiums due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the COVID relief law. 4 out of 5 can find a plan for \$10 or less after

the savings. This period also doesn't require you to have a special life plan such as childbirth or marriage to enroll in a marketplace plan. With this plan, you may qualify for more coverage than your existing plan, before changing make sure you consider how much you paid towards a deductible. You can learn more at HealthCare.gov and start an application. Remember you only have until August 15th, 2021 to take advantage of this health coverage opportunity.

BMS Project is Live and in your Mailboxes

By Claire Loker, National Grange Intern

This week at the National Grange we are in full packaging mode getting all the BMS packets put together to be mailed out this week to all state and local Granges. Be on the lookout for these packets in your mailboxes in the next couple of weeks. The BMS (Bristol Myers Squibb) What To Do With a Cancer Diagnosis project is now available on the National Grange and Retire Safe websites. This Project includes a six-part presentation giving you next step advice if you or a loved one are to ever get news that you have cancer. Information includes different treatment options, how to prepare medical documents, self-advocating, and a medical checklist. Hearing that you have cancer can come as a shock and you may not know where to begin in finding the right medical treatment or how to prepare if things take a sudden toll.

Granges will be receiving a packet containing a paper copy of a press release to announce to the community about this presentation, a letter explaining what the project is and a USB drive containing all documents in the packet and the six-part presentation. This project is not only for Grange members but also for communities. In the United States 40% of Americans will receive a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime so the chances of you knowing someone who will be diagnosed are high and this presentation can help you help them.

On the bottom of the letter that is included in the package is a BMS number. In a few weeks, we will be drawing numbers and if your Grange's number is drawn you will win a prize! Stay on the lookout on Facebook and in the Patrons Chain for the winner announcement and give us a call if your Grange is the lucky winner. Packages are on the way so be on the lookout for yours in the mail.

Grange Benefits

Grange members can now enjoy 20% off their membership with Harvest Hosts, which has more than 825 partner sites across the U.S. and Canada that allow members with RVs to stay one night free on the property of an agriculturally-oriented business. In addition to the ag-based destinations, individuals can add to their membership the "+ golf" option that includes more than 350 golf courses.

There is an app associated with Harvest Host that provides maps of the destinations, trip routing and planning



RV Camping on Wineries, Breweries, Farms and More!

20% Off for National Grange! Code: GRANGE

WWW.HARVESTHOSTS.COM/JOIN-NOW/

and much more. Members of Harvest Hosts can also enjoy other RV-oriented savings.

Grange members with RVs are encouraged to check out Harvest Hosts at harvesthosts.com and use the code GRANGE at checkout.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

GRANGE PRIDE T-SHIRTS WITH JUNIOR, YOUTH AND GRANGE LOGOS!

AVAILABLE IN 3 COLORS

All Adult sizes (S-6XL) \$20
All Youth sizes \$15



PROCEEDS BENEFIT NATIONAL JUNIOR GRANGE FUND

Order online at bit.ly/jrts21

ORDERS OPEN JULY 1-31

Early bird convention registration open until September 6th!

Register online on the National Grange website!



Subordinate/Community Grange or Pomona Sash \$99 each.

State Officer Sash or State Deputy Sash \$170 each.

National Delegate Sash (Assembly of Demeter) \$170 each.

Price includes one letter on Officer Sashes. Shipping & insurance are additional.

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

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SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.com



Grange Promotional Kit

Grange Promotion Kit helps you and your Grange recruit new members! Promotion Kit come with: (25) Declaration of Purpose brochures (15) Junior brochures (10) Youth brochures (25) Adult Members brochures (10) E member brochures (25) Recruiting brochures (25) Rip Card (25) A Grange Story Comic book

Cost \$12.00 plus shipping

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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.