



NATIONAL GRANGE HONORS VETERANS WITH QUILTS OF VALOR

by Molly Newman
Communication Fellow

On Wednesday evening, November 13, the National Grange welcomed eleven deserving veterans for a Quilts of Valor presentation at the Waterfront Convention Center. The ceremony was led by Midwest Host Quilts of Valor Chairperson Kathy Baldwin, who read each recipient's profile, while Doug Baldwin and Dwight Baldwin displayed and presented the quilts. Though four recipients were unable to attend, they will receive their quilts at a later date.

Quilt recipients were:

- Mark D. Zellman - Poplar Grove, IL, U.S. Army, 1987-1993
- David A. Hildebrandt - LeClaire, IA, U.S. Army, 1986-1994
- Michael Chitwood Sr. - Muscatine, IA, U.S. Army, 2010-2014
- Cameron Jon Farmer - Brooklyn, IA, U.S. Air Force, 2011-Present
- Joseph E. Edelen - Brooklyn, IA, U.S. Air Force, 1967-1971
- Brian Robert Edelen - Brooklyn, IA, U.S. Air Force, 2002-2005
- Scott C. Chitwood - Davenport, IA, U.S. Navy, 1986-1990
- Terrance Kronfelt - Bettendorf, IA, U.S. Army, 1970-1978

Continued on page 2

THURSDAY WORKSHOPS

- * Getting Grants for your Grange
- * Self Care isn't Selfish
- * Insurance 101/ Look inside a career as an agent
- * Grange Oral History & Hall of Fame
- * Weather Forecasting
- * Using Associate Membership as a tool
- * Who wants to be a millionaire?
- * Agriculture Careers
- * Crops in Wisconsin
- * First Aid
- * Fundraising 101
- * Internet Safety- Teens & Adults
- * Dungeons & Dragons (14+)
- * Game Night

Submit your stories,
events, and ideas to...



<http://grange.biz/grangetodaysubmit>



WELCOME NEW DELEGATES

by Diana Echavarria

National Grange Communication Fellow

Continuing our series on Delegates new to serving the National Grange, we welcome new delegates Crystal Allen, North Carolina, and Sonny Hays-Eberts, Oregon.

Allen is a member of Corriher Grange #627 and is the state's Lady Assistant Steward. She has been active since childhood and has been selected to serve on the Citizenship Committee. Her work experience as a Critical Incident Stress Manager has allowed her to research various options and resources for prison staff. With her background, Allen hopes to bring her expertise to the committee and help the Grange tackle national bills and resolutions regarding citizenship and its effect on staffing and ranch help.

Hays-Eberts is the state's President, a member of Mary's River #685. He has been an active member of Grange for nine years and has been selected



to serve on the Conservation committee. Though his work experience is in the field of Information Technology, he is familiar with wildlife conservation and land protection. Hays-Eberts hopes to use that familiarity of that knowledge to help the committee with government resolutions so that citizens "remain good stewards of the land."

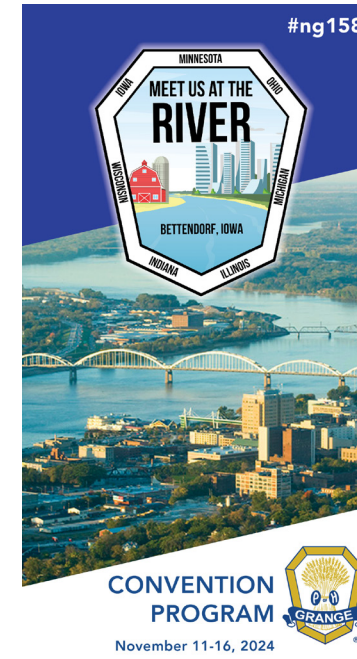
QUILTS OF VALOR CONTINUED

- James Craig Benjamin - Davenport, IA, U.S. Army, 1986-1992
- Myron C. Peterson - Janesville, WI, U.S. Navy, 1970-1991
- Anthony Neal Hartman - Riverdale, IA, U.S. Navy, 1997-2001
- Ross John Hendricks - Bettendorf, IA, U.S. Army, 1982-1985
- Charles Anthony MacDonald - Bettendorf, IA, U.S. Army, 1985-1989
- William Wesley Tuman - Muscatine, IA, U.S. Army, 1987-1990
- Joshua John Gilliam - Davenport, IA, U.S. Marine Corps, 2000-2005

These recipients were honored for their dedicated service and commitment to their country. The Quilts of Valor ceremony is a small token of gratitude for their sacrifices, and we are proud to recognize their contributions. Full profiles of each recipient will be available in the January issue of Good Day Magazine.



TAKE A LOOK INSIDE CONVENTION



Take a look at what is going on in the convention program. Scan the QR code below to take a look at what is going on inside the convention. This year's convention is also taking on some new and exciting things with every day loaded with workshops that chase a variety of topics from Grange initiatives to fun activities such as cookie decorating and rock painting. To take a look at what workshops are available visit <http://Grange.biz/158workshops>

Join us today for the Assembly of Demeter Annual Business Meeting, Youth party Hoedown, and the many

workshops that offer great training and insite to topics such as grant writing for your Grange, weather forecasting, first aid training, and the brand new creation of a Grange Dungeons and Dragons game!



HALL OF FAME INDUCTS 5 NEW MEMBERS

by Katie Squire

Communication Fellow Alum

On Wednesday, November 13, five new individuals were inducted into the Virtual Grange Hall of Fame, and changes were announced that would expand the scope of future inductions. This year's class of Inductees takes us from coast to coast and is a representative of the wide influence of the Grange on our nation.

Dosia A. Eckert, nee Tate (1881-1951), was a native of southwestern Illinois who devoted her life to the work of the Grange on both the local and national levels. She played a formative role in the development of the Juvenile Grange, which would later become the Junior Grange. She served the National Grange as Flora from 1921-23. As the second National Superintendent of the Juvenile Grange from 1925-28, the forerunner of the current National Junior Grange Director, she developed the first organized work program, helping the junior program grow and flourish. During her tenure as Superintendent, she compiled and issued the first Juvenile (Junior) Grange Handbook, which coordinated activities and created national projects.

Andrew Failor was born in Ohio in 1821. He started corresponding with O.H. Kelley in December 1867, after seeing some publicity of the December 4, 1867 organization of the National Grange. On April 17, 1868, he organized Newton Grange No. 1 in Jasper

County, Iowa. The Dispensation was not issued until May 2, 1868, as OHK did not receive the letters and fifteen drafts forwarded from DC until returning home to Minnesota on May 1, 1868. Kelley mentions in his book, *The History of the Patrons of Husbandry*, "The draft was immediately endorsed and sent to the Master of the Masonic Lodge in Madison, which closed the expenses of my trip and made a clean page. The Dispensation of this "God-send" Grange was issued the same day, May 2, 1868."

Eben Thompson was born in 1848 in Danville, Vermont. They resided there until he moved to Newton Upper Falls later in his life. He worked early on to expand the Grange into an international presence. From 1872 to 1877, he organized 14 Granges in Vermont, 14 in New Hampshire, at least one Grange in Massachusetts, 9 in Quebec, and 5 in Ontario, paving the way to the establishment of Dominion Grange, the Canadian equivalent of the National Grange. Several of the Granges he organized survive to



Continued on page 5

REVITALIZING OUR GRANGE COMMUNITIES: THE NEED FOR GROWTH AND INNOVATION

by Samantha Wilkins

National Grange Senior Communications Fellow

Grange communities have been a cornerstone of American rural life for more than a century, providing farmers, agriculturalists, and those wishing to build strong communities in rural areas with a place to gather, support one another, and advocate for their interests. For 158 years, the Grange has played a vital role in building resilient, close-knit communities and supporting the agricultural backbone of this country. However, as our world rapidly changes, many Granges are struggling to remain relevant for a younger generation and to meet the evolving needs of today's rural families.

It's essential that we find ways to grow and adapt in our Granges if we want them to thrive into the next century. This growth isn't just about increasing membership; it's about nurturing an environment of learning, support, and shared resources that can enrich life in ways that were unimaginable even a few decades ago.

The Importance of Expanding Membership and Inclusivity

At its core, the Grange has always represented unity among farmers and rural residents. However, as rural communities diversify, our Granges should strive to represent the entire spectrum of rural America. Increasing membership through targeted outreach to younger generations, small business owners, educators, and artists who live in rural areas could transform our halls into vibrant community hubs.



Today's rural families face different challenges than those of previous generations, and they seek community support just as much. For young farmers who may be struggling with mounting debt or lack of social connections, networking and financial guidance could be life-changing. For families new to farming or homesteading, mentoring and skills workshops could encourage their success and build a sense of community. For curious community members who may be embracing "old-fashioned" home economic skills like canning and preserving, classes could build a vibrant community and support system. By actively inviting people from various ethnic, socioeconomic, and identity backgrounds to join, we would not only broaden our membership but also enrich the culture and knowledge base of the Grange itself.

Embracing New Educational Opportunities

In a world of fast-paced technological advancement, the Grange can play an instrumental role in ensuring that rural residents aren't left behind. Grange Halls, in whatever form they take, can become centers of learning, offering workshops on sustainable agriculture practices, digital marketing for rural businesses, or even training in modern farm technologies. This could make the Grange an invaluable resource,

Continued on page 11

HALL OF FAME CONTINUED

this day, including the oldest in New England.

Woodrow W. "Woody" Tucker of Rhode Island, served his town of South Kingstown in many capacities - he was the 1st Probate Judge, a Town Moderator, and a Union Fire District Solicitor. He was an attorney for 50 years and co-owner and President of South County Real Estate Title Insurance Co. for many years before retiring in 1992. In addition, Woody was a founding member of the Washington County Fair and served on the Board of Trustees of the Big E. He was Master (President) of Perryville Grange #14, running their ice cream booth at the Washington County Fair for over 40 years, and served as Master (President) of Washington County Pomona Grange. On the state level, he served as the Rhode Island State Grange Master (President) for 4 years and was on the Executive committee for 5. But his passion for the Grange did not stop at Rhode Island's borders. Woody served 2 years as the National Grange Gatekeeper and 4 years as an Executive Committee member, before being elected High Priest of Demeter in 1981 and held the position for 14 years before becoming High Priest Emeritus until his death in 2017. As a National Grange Representative, he visited all but three states, sharing his love of the Grange and educating members about the ritualistic work of the Grange.

Clara Humason Waldo, of the state of Oregon, along with her husband and daughter, were charter members of Macleay Grange #293 on June 2, 1900, where she was elected Master (President) and within 1 year, the newly formed Grange had gained 91 new members. In June 1902, Clara was elected Oregon State Grange (OSG) Overseer (Vice-President), and two years later, she was elected OSG Lecturer, where she served until June 1908. She was the first woman in America to be named to the Board of Regents for a state institution of higher education as a member of the Oregon Agriculture College (now Oregon State University) Board of Regents from 1905-1919. She was the only woman working on the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial and American Pacific Exposition and Oriental Fair (a World's Fair) in Portland and served as the representative of the largest part of the project, the agricultural interests of Oregon. Clara supported equal suffrage and women's rights in Oregon. In 1905, she was elected second vice president of the Oregon State Equal Suffrage Association and spoke at the National

American Woman Suffrage Association meeting at the Lewis and Clark Exposition in the summer of 1905 on "The Influence of the Woman on the Farm."

The Virtual Grange Hall of Fame is expanding its scope. Nominees and Inductees, beginning in 2025, will be placed into one of two galleries, "Grange Mentors and Distinguished Patrons of Husbandry" and "Community and Society Influencers." Grange Mentors and Distinguished Patrons of Husbandry will be composed of Patrons of Husbandry, deceased and living, respectively, who have made a significant and sustained contribution to the Grange at the national level.

At the same time, Community and Society Influencers are for Patrons of Husbandry, deceased or living, who have made a significant and sustained contribution to American culture and/or society. These individuals may be politicians, founders of organizations or movements, celebrities, businessmen and businesswomen, or perhaps those with a significant social media impact, as long as it is national in nature and the impact reflects favorably on the Grange. In both cases, the Hall of Fame is looking for individuals with a national impact; some candidates may be best suited to be inducted into state or local Grange Halls of Fame, which we encourage Granges to establish.

New nominees will go through an online vetting process and through a short questionnaire; if the minimum requirements are met, a full description and justification of impact should be submitted. The Hall of Fame committee/team is ready and willing to help with the completion of the full application if assistance is needed.



158TH NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION: TUESDAY WORKSHOP RECAP

by Makayla Piers
National Grange Communication Fellow

The Grange convention offered a rich array of educational sessions today, focusing on rural healthcare, parliamentary procedure, and community engagement. Attendees had numerous valuable learning opportunities throughout the day.

The morning began with the “Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors Workshop” led by Joan Smith. Originally planned to include a Kahoot game (now rescheduled for Saturday at 9 PM), this session highlighted the National Grange’s successful Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors (RRSS) grant program. Now in its second year, RRSS aims to improve healthcare access in rural communities through resources like the Senior Surgery Guides website and comprehensive pre- and post-surgery planning materials. Participating Granges can receive compensation for their involvement - \$100 for local Granges and \$500 for State Granges - by completing three qualifying activities by May 2025.

Running parallel to this was Christina Webster’s “Running a Grange Meeting” workshop, where participants explored various meeting formats, from formal hall setups to informal table gatherings. Webster, a SHIPmate Class II from California, guided attendees through the fourth degree’s alternate opening and closing procedures, while addressing practical questions about candidate balloting and meeting minutes.

The afternoon featured several concurrent sessions, including connecting with homesteaders and discussions on food security. A highlight was the “Finding Hidden Potential and Empowering Members” workshop, which explored how Grange traditions can nurture leadership skills across generations. The session emphasized the organization’s role in developing members’ talents through traditional roles and mentorship opportunities.

The afternoon’s programming included several hands-on workshops in the hospitality room. Halei Heinzl, Wisconsin’s 77th Alice in Dairyland from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, led an engaging “Science of Butter” session where participants experienced the transformation of cream into butter firsthand. As Wisconsin’s current agricultural

ambassador, Heinzl brought special expertise to the demonstration as attendees enthusiastically shook containers of cream, watching with excitement as the liquid suddenly separated and formed into butter balls. This interactive demonstration brought the science of dairy processing to life.

Following the butter-making session, Heinzl continued with a creative “Charcuterie Boards” workshop with an unexpected twist - participants learned to make individual charcuterie cups instead of traditional boards. The session featured techniques for elegant food presentation, including how to craft beautiful roses from salami and pepperoni, adding an artistic flair to these portable appetizers.

The afternoon also featured a particularly popular “Board and Brush” workshop, where participants paid a \$40 registration fee for a unique DIY experience. The workshop allowed attendees to pick a design and create one-of-a-kind wood art pieces. As the organizers promised, “Our DIY paint workshops teach you the techniques needed to create a décor piece that looks professionally made and is worthy of your walls.” The session offered inspiration for farmhouse-classic, on-trend decorative pieces perfect for home or office



Junior Grange Members pose while making charcuterie boards with Alice in Dairyland’s, Halei Heinzl

GROW CLUB AUCTION IS LIVE

Christina Webster
National Grange SHIPmate
GROW Club Board

GROW is the acronym that stands for Go Right On Working. It is an alumni club made up of Grange members who served in the National Grange Prince, Princess, Young Couple, Young Patron, Ambassador, or Horizon Leadership programs or has served as Youth team members or as a National Grange Youth Director.

In 1976 at the National Grange Session in Atlantic City, New Jersey, a quick gathering was held on the last morning before attendees went home to discuss activities requested for alumni at future sessions. The next year in Greensboro, North Carolina the first meeting of the GROW Club was held under the leadership of Bill Steele, National Youth Director at the time.

Today your GROW club board, made up of one member from each of the National Grange regions, plus 1 at-large member, is responsible for organizing the annual event, running a silent auction at session, and using those proceeds to help fund travel scholarships to youth coming to the session itself. Last year we were asked to help select the National Youth Team and will be taking part in that selection again this year. Finally, we are honored to induct new members to the club each year.

At the Friday night GROW club social and meeting we will be voting on two members to fill board seats for three year terms. Midwestern Region (currently held by Samantha Hanson) and the At-Large position (currently held by Robert Beamon). If you are interested in filling one of these seats, be sure your name is called when we ask for nominations.

Please also remember to stop in the Grange Showcase and bid on one of 48 items currently available for bid. We will be closing the auction at 5 on Friday and you can collect your items on Saturday morning. Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted.

We look forward to seeing you at the social.

Several items are up for silent auction in the National Grange Showcase. All funds from the silent auction benefit the G.R.O.W. Club. The silent auction closes at 5 P.M. Friday, November 15th.

G.R.O.W. CLUB

SILENT AUCTION

Items up for auction include:

- 3D Printed Stained Plastic Emblem
- Agate Trinket Box
- Dog Treat Basket
- Croce
- Sweatshirts
- Antique Memorabilia
- Sewing basket
- Coloring/Art Set
- Coffee & Coffee Mugs
- Wyffels Bucket-O-Swag
- 31 bag
- Movie Night Popcorn Sat
- All in one cooler mug
- Ruby Pendant
-and more

BID HIGH. BID OFTEN. BID HIGH OFTEN.



ALICE IN DAIRYLAND SHARES ABOUT MIDWESTERN AGRICULTURE

by Debbie Vine

National Grange Communication Fellow Alumni
Wisconsin State Grange, President

Attendees to the Salute to Agriculture luncheon were treated to a special guest on Wednesday, as Halei Heinzl, the 77th Alice in Dairyland, Wisconsin's agriculture ambassador, was the luncheon keynote speaker. Heinzl's goal as Alice is to educate audiences about the importance of Wisconsin's diverse agriculture industry, how it impacts our daily lives and the \$104.8 billion economic impact on the state's economy.

Heinzl told attendees about her unique connection to agriculture. She grew up in an urban area and felt disconnected from her food and the farmers who produced it. When she joined FFA in high school, she got her first taste of Wisconsin agriculture, quite literally, when she milked a cow for the first time at 17 years old. From then on, her life took a very different path. She fully immersed herself in all things agriculture, continuing her agricultural education into college at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Heinzl shared the history of the Alice in Dairyland program in the state of Wisconsin, the importance of agriculture to the community and economy of her home state, and her journey during her first 4 months of service as Alice in Dairyland. She also shared about the agriculture industry on a national scale.

She concluded her presentation on a high note, optimistic about the future of agriculture in the United States. "YOU are the past, present, and future of our agriculture industry!", Heinzl states. "You are the dreamers, the innovators, the movers and shakers of our agriculture industry. Whether you were raised on an 8th-generation farm or were a city kid like me, there is a place for you in the agriculture industry. So long as people need to eat, America will need farmers".

Multiple people came to talk with Heinzl after her presentation and others commented they enjoyed listening to her. "Her presentation was inspiring and educational", stated Kay Stiles, National Grange Chaplain. "I learned things about Wisconsin



Lynette Schaeffer, National Grange Executive Committee, Gayle Reyburn, National Junior Grange Ambassador, Halei Heinzl, Alice in Dairyland, Christine E. Hamp, National Grange President, Debbie Vine, Wisconsin State Grange President, pose together after the Agriculture Lunch.

Agriculture I didn't know, especially since they are a dairy state." Stiles went on to say that it was refreshing to know that young people are interested in the dairy industry as a career.

Alice in Dairyland is a one-year, full-time communications professional employed with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection. Since 1948, when Margaret Jean McGuire won the first competition, the department has been selecting a new Alice each year. The competition is composed of educated, well-versed young women who are all looking to promulgate the message of agriculture in Wisconsin. Each year, Alice in Dairyland travels more than 50,000 miles, promoting Wisconsin agriculture by conducting hundreds of media interviews, speeches, and school presentations. **Keep up with 77th Alice in Dairyland Halei Heinzl:**

Alice's Adventures in Agriculture
Blog: aliceindairyland.com
Instagram: @alicedairyland
Facebook: @DATCPAliceInDairyland
LinkedIn: Alice in Dairyland

GOLD SASH AUCTION WINNERS

President - Scott Lyle (WA) (final silent auction bid of \$600!)

Vice President - Victor Stevens (WA)

Lecturer - Nettie Hartley (RI)

Steward - Corey Spence (MA)

Assistant Steward - Garrett Phelps (NY)

Lady Assistant Steward - Katie Squire (CA)

Chaplain - Suzy Ramm (OR)

Treasurer - Christina Webster (CA)

Secretary - Naomi Fletcher (CA/MI)

Gatekeeper - Gloria Paddock (MT)

Ceres - Charlene Espenshade (PA)

Pomona - Sarah Strawder (KS)

Flora - Melissa Kudsk (WA)

Executive Committee - Theresa Kenney (MA), Richard Javaux (ID), Mark Noah (OR), Marisa O'Dell (IL)

A total of \$1500 was raised for the Grange Foundation through the "Gold Sash" silent auction and raffle. Thank you all for your support.



Bid during the live auction to win this one-of-a-kind 158th National Grange Convention Emblem made by Gene Fletcher of California.



MAKE TODAY A  **Good Day!** TM **SUBSCRIBE:** NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/GOODDAY

Veteran Recognition Pins

\$5 each in the Grange Store
located in the Showcase (Iowa Room)



NEW FOOD INITIATIVE SPARKS NATIONAL GRANGE DISCUSSION

by Dave Roberts
National Grange SHIPmates, Class 1

At the 158th National Grange convention in Bettendorf, Iowa, National Grange President Christine E. Hamp made a significant announcement that marked a new chapter for the fraternal organization. She revealed that the Grange would launch Project Sustenance to spotlight the talents and expertise of its members to address food insecurity across the United States. The initiative aims to harness the collective knowledge of other national partners, Grange members and their communities, particularly in the realms of homesteading, agriculture, and food production, to combat one of the nation's most pressing issues: hunger. During her national address, President Hamp said "No organization is better situated than the Grange to better our communities. I am calling on each Grange to make food security and nutrition a priority"

This new focus on food insecurity was highlighted in a series of seminars during the National Convention that featured Grange members sharing their knowledge and strategies. Among the speakers were SHIP-

mates Victor Stevens and Dave Roberts, who led two powerful sessions that directly tied into the Grange's overarching goal of using member expertise to alleviate hunger.

Victor Stevens, a homesteading expert, led the first seminar, teaching attendees valuable skills for self-sufficiency in food production. As a SHIPmate, Stevens is sharing his knowledge on how individuals and families can grow their own food, raise livestock, and develop sustainable agricultural practices. His seminar covered topics on critical skills for anyone looking to reduce their reliance on commercial food systems and ensure a steady, local food supply.

Stevens' approach to homesteading goes beyond simply teaching practical gardening and farming techniques. He emphasizes the importance of community-building and the sharing of knowledge. By empowering individuals to become more self-reliant, Stevens believes that people cannot only feed their own families but also contribute to the larger goal of increasing

Continued on page 12

WORKSHOP RECAP CONT.

settings, combining creativity with practical skills in a fun, social atmosphere.

Other afternoon sessions included a "Fidget Building" workshop, where participants learned to create marble mazes from fleece and felt as a community service project. Diana Nordquest from Mile Branch #933 in Ohio noted that participants ranged in age from 6 to 88 years old, beautifully demonstrating the Grange's strength as a true family organization. Naturalist Mary Blair led an engaging session on "Regional Seedballs & Pollinators," focusing on the importance of monarch butterflies and creating seedballs with native plants and milkweed specific to different regions.

The day concluded with Gene Edelen's fascinating presentation on "Finding History in the Mystery of the Grange," where attendees learned about valuable research resources and techniques for uncovering Grange history. Edelen, who manages the National Grange History page, shared insights

into documenting and preserving the organization's rich heritage.

The day's diverse programming reflected the Grange's commitment to education, community building, and intergenerational learning, while providing practical tools for both personal and organizational growth, from traditional crafts to culinary arts.



OPINION CONT.

especially for those who are interested in adopting more sustainable practices but need support to make that transition.

The Grange should also leverage the power of digital tools to expand its reach and facilitate remote learning. Webinars and resources on crop management, forums on rural policy, and other resources could draw in members from beyond the local area, connecting rural residents with experts and ideas that could improve their farms, businesses, and lives.

Building Partnerships to Serve the Community

Rural communities often lack access to essential services, from healthcare to high-speed internet. Granges, with their established networks and community spaces, could help bridge some of these gaps by partnering with local, regional, state, or federal organizations and businesses. By acting as a bridge between rural residents and service providers, the Grange could make a lasting impact on the well-being of its communities.

For example, hosting mobile health screening or vaccination clinics, providing space for telemedicine, or organizing wellness fairs could address critical health needs in rural communities. Additionally, Grange halls could become hubs for local artisans, small farmers, and craftspeople to sell their goods, bringing economic support and enhancing the visibility of local talent.

Fostering Local Resilience Through Community Building

Grange communities have always been about resilience. In a time when rural America faces unique economic and environmental challenges, local Granges can once again take the lead in strengthening community resilience. This could include organizing cooperatives that allow local farmers to share resources, from machinery to storage facilities, reducing costs and fostering solidarity. Granges can also play a role in addressing local environmental issues, like water management, by bringing experts together to create actionable plans that benefit the community.

More than ever, we need spaces where people can gather, share, and support each

other. If we invest in our Grange communities with a vision toward inclusivity, diversity, education, and service, we can transform them into vital resources for rural America, both now and in the future.

A Vision for a Thriving, Modern Grange

The Grange has a powerful history of community, advocacy, and resilience. By embracing change and fostering growth, we can breathe new life into this venerable institution. Through strategic partnerships, inclusive membership, and forward-thinking educational opportunities, the Grange can continue to be a force for good in rural communities, offering support and resources in an increasingly complex world.

Our rural communities deserve a future where they can flourish, adapt, and overcome the challenges they face. By investing in our Grange halls and the people within them, we aren't just preserving history—we're creating a legacy of unity and growth for generations to come.

FOOD INSECURITIES CONT.

food security at a regional level. His seminar encouraged Grangers to form local networks of homesteaders, where people could trade goods, share resources, and offer advice to one another.

Following Stevens' seminar, National At-Large SHIP-mate Dave Roberts took the podium to offer a follow-on presentation focusing on the broader issue of food insecurity. As a longtime advocate for sustainable food systems and a fourth generation Grange member, Roberts brought his extensive experience in addressing hunger at both the community and national levels. His seminar delved into the root causes of food insecurity, discussing economic, social, and environmental factors that contribute to hunger in rural and urban areas alike.

Roberts stressed the need for a multifaceted approach to solving food insecurity, one that includes not only local food production but also policy advocacy, resource distribution, and support for food banks and other community organizations. He highlighted successful models of food cooperatives, urban gardening projects, and local food hubs, encouraging Grange members to consider these solutions as part of their broader efforts to combat hunger at the lo-

cal level. Roberts highlighted that every county in the United States has residents facing food insecurity.

The partnership between Stevens' homesteading seminar and Roberts' session on food insecurity exemplifies the Grange's new focus on community-driven solutions to hunger. By providing practical skills and encouraging broader systemic change, these seminars served as a call to action for all Grangers to become more involved in addressing food insecurity in their communities.

President Chris Hamp's announcement and the subsequent seminars made it clear that the National Grange is committed to leveraging its collective expertise and resources to address hunger in the U.S. With dedicated members leading the way, the Grange is poised to play a significant role in creating sustainable, long-term solutions to food insecurity across the country.



Wreaths Across America

This year the National Grange Community Service Project is supporting Wreaths Across America in the form of a donation.

Connie Jonston (MI) has worked with Eugene Fletcher (CA) to make unique 3D printed pins designed to combine the National Grange and Wreaths Across America logos.

Limited supply! The first 200 people who donate will receive a pin as a token of appreciation.

Be sure to stop by the Wreaths Across America table outside the Quad Cities room to show your support!



REMEMBER HONOR TEACH

WREATHS
across
AMERICA



GO CHECK OUT VARIOUS ITEMS FROM THE NATIONAL GRANGE BUILDING! TAKE A PIECE OF HISTORY HOME WITH YOU!

LIMITED QUANTITIES
OLDIES, BUT GOODIES
AVAILABLE IN SHOWCASE - IOWA ROOM