



NATIONAL GRANGE ELECTS TWO TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

by **Samantha Wilkins**
Senior Communications Fellow

On Thursday, November 14, at the 158th Annual National Grange Convention, delegates convened to make leadership decisions, resulting in two important elections for the Executive Committee. Susan Noah of Oregon was reelected, affirming the trust placed in her to serve another 2-year term. This marks Noah's fourth term on the Executive Committee, having served since 2018.

Noah states that she is "Honored to accept this position

for the next two years, and I look forward to helping guide the National Grange as we progress into the next chapter of the Grange."

Additionally elected to the Executive Committee is Joseph Stefenoni of California, who was elected to assume the second seat. Stefenoni is the current President and CEO of the California State Grange and served the 158th National Grange Session as parliamentarian.

Stefenoni's election marks a

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FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

- * Getting Grants for your Grange
- * Severe Weather & Storm Chasing
- * USPTO
- * Community Assessment- Developing your Grange's Purpose
- * Honor Flights
- * Youth & Junior Sign-A-Song & Public Speaking
- * Community Service Q&A
- * Using Grange History to Talk to Future Members
- * Internet Safety (Teens & Adults)
- * Homework Time for Youth & Juniors

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



<http://grange.biz/grangetodaysubmit>



ELECTION CONTINUED

transition as he succeeds Brother Leroy Watson of New Hampshire, whose long-standing service and dedication to the Grange have left a lasting legacy. Watson has been a steadfast member of the Executive Committee since 2014, and his commitment to the Grange spans many years in various influential roles. The National Grange extends its deepest gratitude to Brother Watson for his unwavering dedication and countless contributions to the organization over the years. Before his time on the Executive Committee, Watson also served the National Grange as Legislative Director and Special Director for Trademark Protection and Brand Management.

Watson tells us, "I am honored to have served the National Grange as a member of the National Grange Executive Committee for the past 10 years. I am grateful for all of the support and encouragement I received from Grange members across the country during my tenure. Our National Grange has made substantial progress, including several years of nationwide net membership increases. Grange is strong, growing, and attracting new people with new ideas to our fraternity in most of our 1,400 local chapters representing rural communities across the nation. I am pleased to have played a small role in those accomplishments. The future of the Grange is bright! *Esto Perpetua.*"

The election of Brother Stefenoni, alongside the re-election of Susan Noah, signals the arrival of a new generation of leadership. This change brings renewed energy, ambition, and a shared

commitment to serving the broader membership of the Grange while addressing the organization's internal challenges. As the Grange continues to evolve, this new leadership team aims to honor the rich traditions of the past while embracing the opportunities and responsibilities of the future.

Stefenoni says, "I am truly honored to be elected to the Executive Committee of the National Grange. It's a privilege to follow in the footsteps of dedicated leaders like Brother Watson, whose service has set a strong foundation for our organization. I look forward to working alongside my fellow Grange members to capitalize on opportunities ahead and to build on our shared commitment to strengthen and grow our community. Together, we will continue to honor our traditions while bringing fresh perspectives to ensure the Grange thrives for generations to come."

The National Grange Executive Committee elects two positions every year. Continuing to serve on the Board are Lynette Schaeffer (IL), who currently serves as Chairperson, and Buddy Overstreet (TX). The Executive Committee is tasked with protecting and guiding the National Grange, as well as having representation on the Grange Advocacy Board and the Grange Foundation Board of Trustees.

2025
National Grange
Convention
Host Region Sale

MIAMI ARUBA
15th Annual
National Grange
Convention
November 8-16
2025
BONAIRE CURAÇAO

Totes, Tumblers,
T-Shirts & Towels

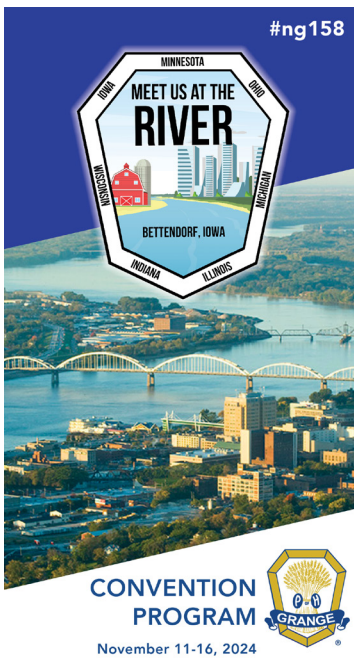
Available for purchase in the Showcase!

KANSAS STATE
GRANGE YOUTH

SHOWCASE
STORE

Purchases support the Kansas State Grange Youth & Young Adults to attend
Regional or National events. Cash or Venmo Payment Accepted!

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 loads of fun as the Youth and Junior Grangers open National Session, we take time to

honor Past Delegates of the National Grange, induct new members into the GROW Club, and recognize the accomplishments of many Granges during the National Grange Recognition Night.



DISTINGUISHED GRANGE

by Makayla Piers
Communication Fellow



The National Grange announced significant and progressive changes to its Distinguished Grange program for 2025.

Launched in 2009, this recognition program honors Granges that fulfill their service and advocacy missions and provide support for members and their community. The program encourages every Grange to complete as many requirements and optional activities as possible and improve their participation each year. This not only earns recognition but helps Granges build stronger connections in their communities and create meaningful experiences for their members.

Key changes include extending the application deadline to September 1st, giving Granges an extra month to gather their materials. The program has also added new categories and ways to earn points while keeping core requirements such as timely quarterly reports, state session attendance, and community service reporting.

“We’ve added more options to make the point value just a little easier to obtain,” explained Connie Johnston, the new Distinguished Grange program director. “It’s still an award that you earn, but we wanted to make it achievable.”

The “Golden” award, previously given for mental health programming, has been discontinued. However, mental health programs still earn points, showing the organization’s ongoing partnership with Rural Minds and commitment to addressing rural mental health needs.

In an exciting development, the organization is planning to create a new Distinguished Grange award specifically for Junior Granges. This idea came from Makayla, a member of Moosup Valley Grange #27 in Rhode Island, during a recent program discussion. National Grange President Christine Hamp demonstrated strong leadership by immediately embracing the idea, stating “Let’s make it happen.” This quick action shows how the organization listens to its members and makes positive changes.

“We’ll have to adjust it a little bit to make the points more achievable, but I think the Junior category would be really cool,” said Philip Vonada, National Grange Communications Director, who also helps in program administration. National Grange

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GRANGE AND PFIZER TEAM UP TO STRENGTHEN RURAL COMMUNITIES



A PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

Made possible through support from



As the National Grange marks its 158th anniversary and Pfizer its 175th, the two organizations are proud to introduce the **Rural Life Initiative** (RLI), a collaborative effort designed to bolster the well-being of rural communities across America.

This new initiative builds on a longstanding partnership between the National Grange and Pfizer, leveraging their combined heritage to enhance quality of life and

support the unique culture of rural America.

Since launching in April 2024, the Rural Life Initiative has received an enthusiastic response from rural communities. As of November 1st, the Initiative has supported, taken part, and been on display in scores of events and projects across the nation. From zucchini races and the biggest fairs in the United States to rural youth development programs and disaster relief, RLI has effectively addressed the real needs of rural communities.

“One of the guiding principles of the Grange is protecting the well-being of our communities,” said Christine Hamp, President of the National Grange. “Rooted in our mission to support rural life, we have expanded our efforts. This initiative not only aligns with our legacy but also actively meets the real needs of the communities we serve through health programs, capacity building initiatives, youth

activities, community service – through every meaningful idea.”

The RLI was rolled out this year in seven pilot states: Pennsylvania, Montana, North Carolina, California, Colorado, Ohio, and Illinois. The program aligns Grange traditions with the needs of rural communities and is poised to serve as a model for similar initiatives nationwide.

Looking ahead, the Grange aims to expand the Rural Life Initiative throughout the coming year, further enhancing lives across rural America. “We hope that this initiative will continue because it truly combines key elements that Granges across the country embody: fellowship, community support and service, and a focus on the values and strengths of rural America,” said Hamp..

For more information about the Rural Life Initiative, visit <https://www.nationalgrange.org/rural-life-initiative/>.

ARTICULATED FIDGETS

GET YOURS BEFORE THEY ARE GONE!

\$5 EACH

MADE BY EUGENE FLETCHER, CALIFORNIA
PROCEEDS TO THE NATIONAL GRANGE YOUTH & JUNIOR PROGRAMS

SATURDAY, NOV. 16 FOLLOWING THE CELEBRATION BANQUET AT THE 158TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Team Trivia Challenge

Choose your team - must include representation by at least two different generations and two different states

DISTINGUISHED GRANGE CONTINUED

leaders were excited about the idea and offered to help modify the existing Community Grange application to fit Junior Grange activities.

The changes are already showing positive results. This year's program had one of its highest participation rates in recent years, with 38 Granges earning Distinguished status, including 36 Community Granges, two Pomona Granges, and four State Granges.

For more information about the Distinguished Grange program or to access applications, visit nationalgrange.org/distinguished.

OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE GRANGE

by Molly Newman

National Grange Communications Fellow

The host committee for the 158th Annual National Grange Convention here in Bettendorf, Iowa, organized a fantastic series of tours to showcase local attractions for Grange members and guests.

Tuesday kicked off with options for an indulgent Lagomarcino's Confectionery Tour or an informative Rock Island Arsenal visit. Lagomarcino's, a Quad Cities classic, has been delighting customers with chocolate and treats for over 100 years. Meanwhile, guests at the Rock Island Arsenal toured an active military base, featuring the Mississippi River Visitor Center with views of the massive Lock & Dam 15 and the historic Arsenal Museum.

Wednesday offered a creative experience at the Figge Art Museum's Off the Grid activity, where attendees worked together to complete a large, team-built artwork. Quilters could also enjoy a local Quilt Shop Hop to explore the area's rich selection of fabrics and crafting supplies.

Thursday took guests behind the scenes at John Deere Davenport Works, where they learned about the equipment manufacturing process firsthand. For those looking for a more relaxed outing, the John Deere Pavilion Museum offered exhibits on Deere's legacy and shopping at the John Deere Store. At the Davenport Distillery

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THE GRANGE HALL PODCAST



New episodes every other Wednesday

Listen on: Spotify, iHeartRadio, Apple Podcasts, YouTube, or PodBean

nationalgrange.org/grangehallpod

Craft Cocktail Class, guests could learn the art of crafting cocktails using locally sourced ingredients.

Friday's lineup is tailored for Juniors and the young at heart, with an engaging tour of Cinnamon Ridge Farms, a robotic dairy farm. Attendees will learn about the farm's innovative approach to dairy production and enjoy a farm-to-table lunch. Another exciting option for Friday is the Junior tour to Putnam Museum and Science Center, which will provide an interactive experience with natural science and historical exhibits.

There are still a few more tours to come! Register

For Sale **\$2 EACH**

GRANGE IN FOCUS LENS CLOTHS



Grange in Focus Clean your Lens

FIND A COMMUNICATIONS FELLOW OR VISIT THE LeCLAIRE ROOM TO PURCHASE!

158TH NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION: THURSDAY WORKSHOP RECAP

by Diana Echavarria

National Grange Communication Fellow

Day four of the 158th National Grange Convention, and so much has taken place, yet there is so much more to see and do! Today's events included workshops and tours of the John Deere Factory and a local distillery. Bottoms up!

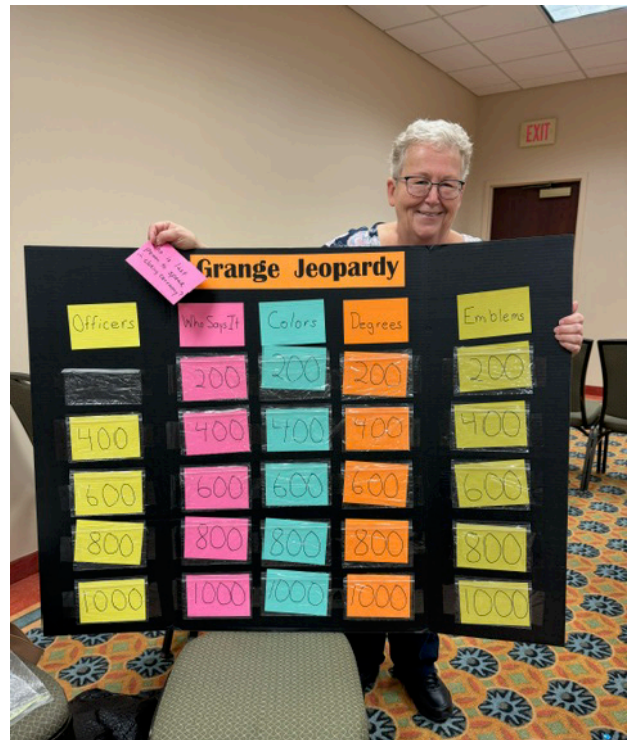
Today, Grangers started off the day with an opportunity to learn about various types of life policies and contract terms with American Income Life representative Travis Daniels as well as Self-care was in order with some Yoga and Reiki. Grangers also had an opportunity to attend the "Alzheimer's and Dementia Simulator and Workshop," which was presented by Eli Lilly Pharmaceuticals, who provided valuable insights for attendees to learn more about the disease.

An upcoming workshop that will take place Saturday, November 16 at 2 pm will be presented by Lynette Schaeffer titled, "Is your Grange House in Order?" where discussion of Grange Rituals will be conducted, including discussion of by-laws to "How your Grange handle money, fundraisers, expenses, etc.? Insurance: What do Granges need? What are liability, property, officers, and directors? "This will be an excellent opportunity for Grangers to join the know.

Thursday also offered informative workshops on "Grange Oral History Project & Financial Fundamentals with George Spies" from Tennessee Potomac Grange, "Exploring Ag Careers & Specialty Crops with Alice in Dairyland" presented by Helei Heinzl, Wisconsin's "Alice in Dairyland. Additional workshops included "The Dictionary Project," presented by Mary French. This project is one that Grange has participated in for 25 years and provides hardcopy dictionaries to Third Graders nationally. Good job Grangers!

Local Meteorologist of Good Morning Quad Cities, Andrew Stutzke, presented "Weather Forecasting Now & In the Future." He explained the methods and tools that meteorologists use every day, trying to stay one step ahead of an ever-changing

and dynamic atmosphere. Topics included Intro to Weather Patterns, Weather Forecast Tools, Weather Forecasting, and The Future of Weather Forecasting. Another teaching moment was with Illinois Grange member Adam Ellwanger, a firefighter and paramedic with the Belvidere Fire Department, held a workshop on First Aid and CPR Training. Thursday wrapped up with a game of Dungeons & Dragons, A Country Hoe-Down, and some down-home traditional board games.





WELCOME NEW DELEGATES

by Diana Echavarría
National Grange Communication Fellow

Continuing our series on Delegates new to serving the National Grange, we welcome New Delegates Donna Keeton, Oklahoma, Susan Hanks, California, and Mike Griffin, Maine.

Keeton is a Pleasantville #354 member and is the Treasurer of the state mutual insurance. She has been active for 45 years and has served in various positions at the local and state levels. She has been selected to serve on the Grange Growth Committee. Her committee will focus on the growth of Grange membership and develop plans to increase its growth. She hopes to bring her Grange experience expertise and help provide creative methods to increase membership.

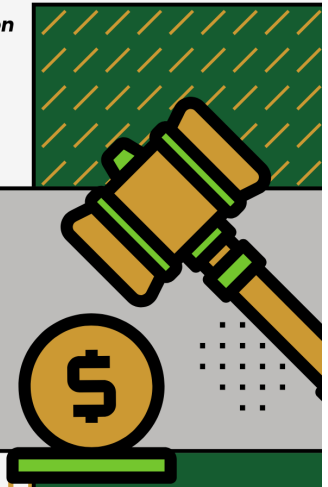
Hanks is a Rio Linda Grange #403 member and the state’s Lady Assistant Steward. She has been active for 16 years and has been selected to serve on the Audit & Budget Committee. Her work experience as a California State Grange Chief Financial Officer. With her background, Hanks is looking forward to utilizing her experience and assisting the committee in whatever capacity she is needed.

Mike is the state’s Vice President and has been an active member of Grange since infancy. He has been selected to serve on the Audit and Budget committee. Mike has experience in helping with Grange installations for 25 years. He hopes to use that familiarity of that knowledge to help the committee with the Grange budget and funding within the organization.

When asked what a Granger needs to do to be considered for a committee selection or any Grange position, they all stated to “put yourself out there” and be ready to help with activities.

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
- Crocs
- Sweatshirts
- Antique Memorabilia
- Sewing basket
- Coloring/Art Set
- Coffee & Coffee Mugs
- Wyffels Bucket-O-Swag
- 31 bag
- Movie Night Popcorn Set
- All in one cooler mug
- Ruby Pendant
-and more

BID HIGH. BID OFTEN. BID HIGH OFTEN.

OPINION: INTRODUCE NEW COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

by Makayla Piers

National Grange Communication Fellow

For over 150 years, the Grange has been a pillar of Rural America, fostering community development and agricultural advancement through dedicated service to their communities and beyond. While we rightfully celebrate our Youth and Junior Grange members through the Community Service Awards, a glaring gap exists: we have no formal recognition for the tremendous service performed by our adult members.

If you take a moment to ask any long-serving Grange member why they dedicate countless hours to community service, they'll likely brush off the question with a modest smile. The majority of our members serve because it is 'the right thing to do.' Without notice or recognition, it is easy to see that to most Grange members their communities matter because service is woven into the very fabric of what being a Granger means. These committed individuals organize food drives, maintain community gardens, lead educational workshops, support local farmers, and so much more. Most members who are involved in community service projects are often dedicating decades to serving others quietly and without fanfare.

The Wib and June Justi Award, an award through the National Grange Youth Department, exemplifies our organization's values through its namesakes. Wib Justi was the very first National Grange Director of Youth Activities and his wife, June, together served young members for 18 years. The Justis were known for always responding "I'd Be Delighted" when called upon to help - a phrase that has carried through generations of Grangers to this day. Their dedicated service to young members became their life's calling, inspiring youth and young adults across the organization.

The Junior Cape of Honor Award celebrates our youngest members who exemplify extraordinary commitment to community service. Through this tiered

recognition program, Junior Grangers between ages 5-14 are challenged to "put on their capes" and serve their communities with distinction. Those who complete between 10 to over 300 hours of service are honored during the Night of Honors at National Session, with special recognition given to the Junior Granger of the Year who accumulates the most service hours. Like the Wib and June Justi Award, this program inspires young members to embrace service as a fundamental part of their Grange journey, nurturing the next generation of community leaders who go "above and beyond" in living our values of dedicated service.



To create a parallel recognition for our adult members, we can think of no better namesake than Richard "Dick" Patten. Patten joined the Junior Grange at age 5, and later served in various roles such as New Hampshire State Historian, New Hampshire State Grange President, and National Grange Community Service Director. Patten embodied lifelong dedication to our organization.

Patten was involved in many service areas but through his 49-year leadership of the Concord Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting he demonstrated how Grange members can become pillars of their communities through sustained, humble service.

I would like to propose that the National Grange implement the Dick Patten Award, to honor our adult members who demonstrate this same spirit of service

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Veteran Recognition Pins

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



GRANGE FOUNDATION TO LAUNCH ONLINE AUCTION

The National Grange Foundation is preparing to launch an online auction chock-full of amazing items up for bid.

From a once-in-a-lifetime fly fishing trip to Montana, to a week stay in a private home in Florida, to 4 game tickets and lots of San Antonio Spurs swag, quilts, handmade pieces of art and more. Items have been donated from members around the country and even folks who are friends of the Grange.

“This is a great way for Grangers to go holiday shopping for a cause,” said Grange Foundation Advisory Board Member Marty Billquist.

In total, there are more than two dozen items to bid on at various starting price points.

Charcuterie boards, a hand-thrown French butter dish, a wooden etched planter and so much more are part of the selections.

The auction opens on Saturday at the close of the Celebration Banquet and runs through December 4th. Learn more at grangefoundation.org/auction.



GRANGE FOUNDATION AUCTION

November 16 - December 4, 2024
9pm ET 9pm ET

Gifts & Goodies for all Grangers & friends, including:

- A week stay at a vacation home in Florida
- Child's nighttime reader basket with gift card for books and a handmade quilt
- Grange logo-engraved Waterford Crystal clock
- Quilts
- Artwork of various mediums including watercolor, stained glass, metal, and cross-stitch
- Fishing-themed Christmas Collection
- Little League World Series Baseball autographed by Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson
- *and more!*

Bid at <http://www.grangefoundation.org/auction>

OPINION CONT.

year after year. Implementation of this award could mirror the Wib and June Justi Award structure: Subordinate and Pomona Granges would make recommendations for the award to their State Committees, while State Presidents and State Community Service Committees could submit nominations. All applicants would receive a certificate of appreciation, with the winner's name placed on a plaque at National Grange Headquarters and receiving a personal award.

With minimal costs and existing infrastructure through the youth program, this award would yield substantial returns: increased member engagement, enhanced community impact, and a stronger organizational culture of service across all age groups.

The Dick Patten Award would create a complete recognition pathway from Junior Grangers all the way to adult membership, demonstrating that service remains at the heart of our organization throughout a member's entire Grange journey.

The time has come to complete our recognition system - not because our adult members seek the spotlight, but because their quiet example of sustained service deserves to be lifted as an inspiration to future generations. Through the Dick Patten Award, we can honor both his memory and the countless Grangers who, like him, dedicate their lives to serving others through our beloved organization.



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

Foundation Auction



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

QUILTS OF VALOR

SHOWCASE DISPLAY



Visit the Quilts of Valor Showcase on the concourse of the Conference Center! Take a moment to sign a quilt block that will be included in a future Quilt of Valor, or pick up a block-to-build kit to create your own contribution. Feel free to grab a few kits to share with friends! Fabric panels are also available for purchase at the display for \$10.

BENEFITS OF National Grange MEMBERSHIP



Educational Programs

Access to free online webinars, workshops, and a YouTube library with topics relevant to local Granges and communities.

Public Relations

Enhanced Grange profile and influence through professional partnerships and media relations.

Trademark Protection

Legal protections for the Grange name, brand, and reputation.

National Convention

An annual grassroots policy-focused National Grange session, which also provides resources for members nationwide.

Grange Month Resources

Provides a theme and resources to promote Grange visibility.

Volunteer & Leader Training

Programs like SHIPmates and Communication Fellows for local leadership and professional development.

Fraternal Network

A nationwide network of members sharing talents, skills, and experiences to develop each others' greatest potential

Website Services

Free website and email for Granges, plus a "Find a Grange" locator listing.

Consistent Governance

Charters issued and reissued to standardize Grange governance.

Skill Preservation Programs

Celebrations of folk arts and homemaking skills to preserve traditional knowledge.

Legislative Engagement

Annual Legislative Fly-In event in Washington, D.C., where members can advocate directly to lawmakers.

Historical Preservation:

Management of historical documents, including 19th-century agricultural records and artifacts not found in other collections.

Membership Recognition

Professionally created certificates, pins, and awards for recognizing member contributions and accomplishments.

Unified Identity

A cohesive "brand voice" uniting urban, suburban, and rural communities nationwide.

Policy and Advocacy

A full-time nonpartisan lobbyist in Washington, D.C., representing Grange policy issues, with updates on lobbying efforts and current legislative and rural issues.

Communication Updates

E-newsletters and the *Good Day!* magazine, which highlights member and Grange achievements.

Conference Support

Help with organizing state and regional conferences, including arranging speakers and experts.

Discount Programs

Partnerships with service providers offer substantial discounts to members.

Community Resources

Collaboration with organizations to provide local resources, such as mental health support and grants.

Learn more at www.nationalgrange.org

