

# GRANGE



# Today!

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A publication of the National Grange

## MEET US AT THE RIVER!



As you read this, the National Grange Staff, State Grange Presidents and delegates, and many guests and friends are on their way to Bettendorf, Iowa for the 158th Annual National Grange Convention.

In addition to completing the work of the National Grange, establishing policy and charting a path forward for the Grange, many attendees will have the opportunity to attend workshops

and tours, and all there will get to enjoy the Fellowship of the Grange.

Although pre-registration has completed, the option to register on-site is available starting Monday, November 11, though no meals will be available to purchase. In addition, there are still some spaces left in tours and workshops that require pre-registration. If you've already registered for Convention, but want to add more, visit <https://grange.biz/158registration>.

If you aren't able to make it to Bettendorf, we are thrilled to bring parts of the convention to you! The Communication Fellows will be livestreaming several portions of the convention, including the President's Address, speakers, and more. Check the image below for times (Central), and you'll be able to watch on the National Grange's Facebook page, X (Twitter), YouTube, or LinkedIn. Additionally, many of the convention workshops

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## UPCOMING

**November 11-16**  
158th Annual National Grange Convention  
Bettendorf, Iowa  
*follow along on National Grange social media channels*

**November 28**  
Thanksgiving Day

### 158th National Grange Convention Livestream Schedule

All times are Central Time Zone

#### Tuesday, November 12

11:00 pm - **President's Address**  
by President Christine E. Hamp  
12:45 pm - **Advocacy Lunch**  
**Speaker:** Phil Lehmkuhler, Midwest Regional Director, NTIA

#### Wednesday, November 13

12:50 pm - **Salute to Agriculture Lunch**  
**Speakers:** Halei Heinzl, Alice in Dairyland & Hon. Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of Agriculture  
7:30 pm - **Quilts of Valor presentation**  
**Celebration of Remembrance**  
**Grange Hall of Fame presentation**

#### Friday, November 15

3:00 pm - **Installation of Officers**  
7:30 pm - **National Grange Recognition Night**

Watch on



@nationalgrange

#ng158



The Grange Store will be open online through the National Grange Convention, however items purchased will not be shipped until Nov 20. *No items will be shipped from November 6 to 19.*

# FIVE MILE PRAIRIE GRANGE HOSTS INAUGURAL CROCK-TOBER SOUP SHOWDOWN

submitted by Anita Eccles

Five Mile Prairie Grange #905 (WA)

On October 7th, Five Mile Prairie Grange #905 in northwest Spokane invited our neighbors to share their favorite slow-cooker soups and compete for the Golden Ladle.

Celebrity judges, all with connections to our Grange, tasted and evaluated the entries. They did a seriously great job and loved every minute of it. Our judges, pictured from left to right, represented Mead School District, Spokane Library District, Edible Inland Northwest magazine, Ace Hardware (owner, longtime partner and supporter), and Sengsational Cuisine (restauranteur).

Laura Hann earned the Golden Ladle for her Chicken with Rice soup, and Joe Seng took home the People's Choice Award for his Khao Poon. Other delicious entries were Tomato Plum, Sausage Corn Chowder, a second version of Chicken with Rice,



The judges pose at the first annual Crock-tober Soup Showdown at Five Mile Prairie Grange.

Photo provided

South of the Border Chicken, Healthy Hamburger, Vegetable, and Green Curry Chicken Noodle (GF).

A great time was had by all. We will definitely be hosting a Second Annual Crock-tober Soup Showdown in 2025.

## STERLING GRANGE MARKS 150 YEARS

by Ken Cleveland

reprinted from The Item (Clinton, Massachusetts)

STERLING - A century and half ago, in an era when life was more agricultural than industrial, the Sterling Grange was founded.

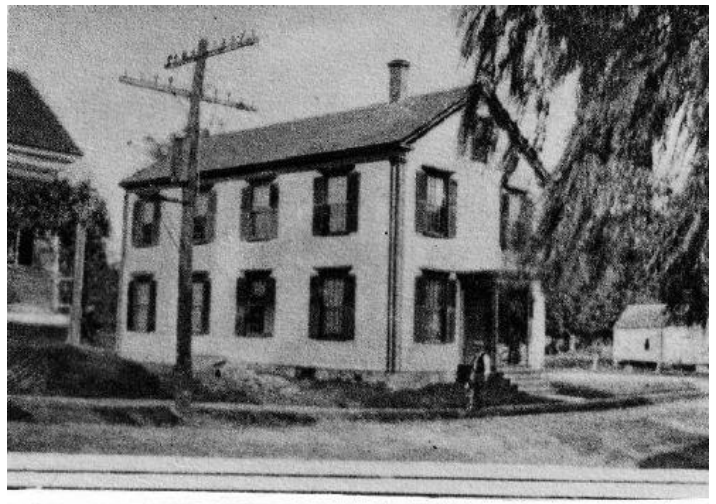
The organization continues and is celebrating 150 years.

A dinner and program April 27 was one mark for the group.

"The Sterling Grange brings people together to build stronger communities by encouraging agriculture and environmental sustainability, community service, and fostering future leaders," Sterling Grange President Janet Segur said, citing the Grange mission statement.

Granges used to be more active and prominent in communities and relatively few remain, but in Sterling and other communities in the area, the Grange continues its traditions.

"With Sterling predominantly comprised of farms during the 1800s (like most New England



MAPLE STREET:

GRANGE HALL c. 1906 - formerly a school-house in West Boylston - moved here when the Wachusett Reservoir built.

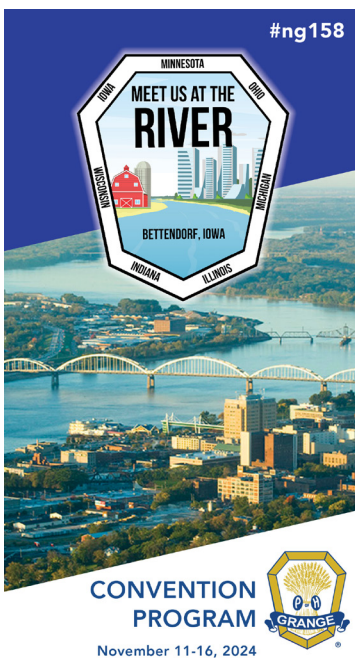
communities), it was relatively easy for the Order

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# NATIONAL CONVENTION

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will be recorded and released in the upcoming weeks.

The annual convention program is available at <https://grange.biz/158program> or at the QR at the end of the article, so you can stay up to date with everything happening “at the River,” and the workshop schedule is available at <https://grange.biz/158workshops> - each of these files may be updated as more information is learned or available.

If you’re registered for the convention, be sure to stop in the Showcase to shop at the “Oldies but Goodies” table where some unique

items from “days gone by” and Grange history will be available, the Grange Store, or visit some of our partner organizations, including the United States Patent & Trademark Office, the Federal Communications Commission, and others.



## GOLD SASHES UP FOR GRABS AT 158<sup>TH</sup> CONVENTION



An online silent auction and online raffle will be held for the opportunity to close the Grange at this year’s National Grange Convention, on Wednesday, November 13 around 9:30 p.m.

A silent auction is being conducted for the President’s sash and station, while all other officer sashes and positions are being raffled. Winners must be

on-site or select someone else present to have the honor of closing the Grange that evening. Winners of the silent auction or those whose name is drawn and select a speaking or action role for the closing should also be able to perform the duties well, either from memory or using a Manual.

For the remaining offices, an online raffle is being held, with a chance to win and select the office of your choice. Tickets, which are on sale now for \$20, can be purchased by any member in good standing. You can indicate the three offices in which you are most interested.

Winners will be drawn at 1:00 p.m. Central Time on Wednesday, November 13, at which time they will select the office of their choice.

As each is selected, the next winner will be given

the remaining options until all offices are filled. Winners should be available to be contacted to accept and select their office if necessary. If you will be flying at selection time, or otherwise unavailable, please notify Amanda Brozana to indicate your top 3 choices or provide the name and number of someone authorized to decide for you.

Groups or Granges may pool their money to purchase tickets but only one representative for the group may serve. If a winner is selected who is not on-site, they must choose someone in attendance to serve in their place.

Zeffy, the online platform chosen for this fundraiser, is free to the Grange but adds a 17% contribution by default. You can turn this off by “adding” \$0 to your ticket purchase price or silent auction bid. To eliminate the contribution to Zeffy, select the drop-down that shows a 17% contribution and choose “Other,” then make your contribution \$0.

All funds raised through the sash auctions will benefit the Grange Foundation.

**Note: no actual sashes are being auctioned, just the opportunity to help close the Grange at the National Convention.**

SILENT AUCTION LINK for the President’s office:  
<http://grange.biz/presidentauction>

RAFFLE LINK for all other offices:  
<http://grange.biz/officeauction>

# STERLING CELEBRATES

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of Patrons of Husbandry to be organized on April 30, 1874,” Segur said.

“The Grange movement began after the Civil War when Oliver Hudson Kelley, an agricultural agent for the U.S. Government, saw the destruction in the South. Kelley, along with six other founders, established the Grange in 1867 to advocate for and educate farmers and their families, along with encouraging social connections and the sharing of information,” Segur said.

Today, agriculture is a smaller piece of the economy, though everyone eats, which they can do only because of agriculture.

“As fewer people are choosing agriculture as their major occupation, the Grange has had to adapt as well. The organization still supports agricultural endeavors, but has expanded to educating members and the public in the importance of agriculture, conservation, and the environment. As consumers, people are concerned about where their food comes from and how it is produced,” she said.

The Grange remains a positive community group.

“If you ask community members when and where they see the Grange, they would probably tell you our events involve fundraising,” Segur said. “We are in the process of a major renovation on the Grange Hall, located at 14 Maple St.”

People see the Grange at food sales, “Supper to Go” during the John Powers Auctions on Tuesdays during three months, Pancake Breakfast and Shortcake sales at the Sterling Fair, public dinners and monthly pitch parties.

“Before COVID, we were



The community service prize won at the 2017 National Grange. Photo from The Item

doing agricultural education bus trips and/or workshops annually. This year, we are co-sponsoring a bus trip with Holden Grange, highlighting agriculture in southeastern Massachusetts on Oct. 19. More details will be available by the summer,” Segur said.

“Members meet at the Grange Hall once or twice a month to provide programs and/or plan events, but until ADA-compliant renovations are complete, our public events are held at other facilities around town. We are very thankful for the support we receive from the community.”

After seeing membership declines, Segur said, the Grange is again growing.

“The Grange membership had dwindled to six active

members before a revitalization began in 2013. For the last 10 years, membership has been growing steadily. People involved in other organizations, such as 4-H, joined because of our agricultural heritage; other people joined to be involved in the community, and all members credit the social aspect as an incentive.

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

**GRANGE**  *Today!*

<http://grange.biz/grangetodaysubmit>



# STERLING CELEBRATES

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The Grange exhibit at the 2022 Sterling Fair.

*Photo from The Item*

“The Grange is a family organization with membership open to anyone 14 years and older. Our members’ ages span the spectrum - youth and elderly all working together,” Segur said.

“Sterling presently has 40 members, some longtime members who cannot be active

Segur said.

Educating people about agriculture remains a tradition, highlighted in events such the Sterling Fair.

At the Sterling Fair, “In addition to the breakfast and shortcake sales, the Grange donates trophies for the champion of each

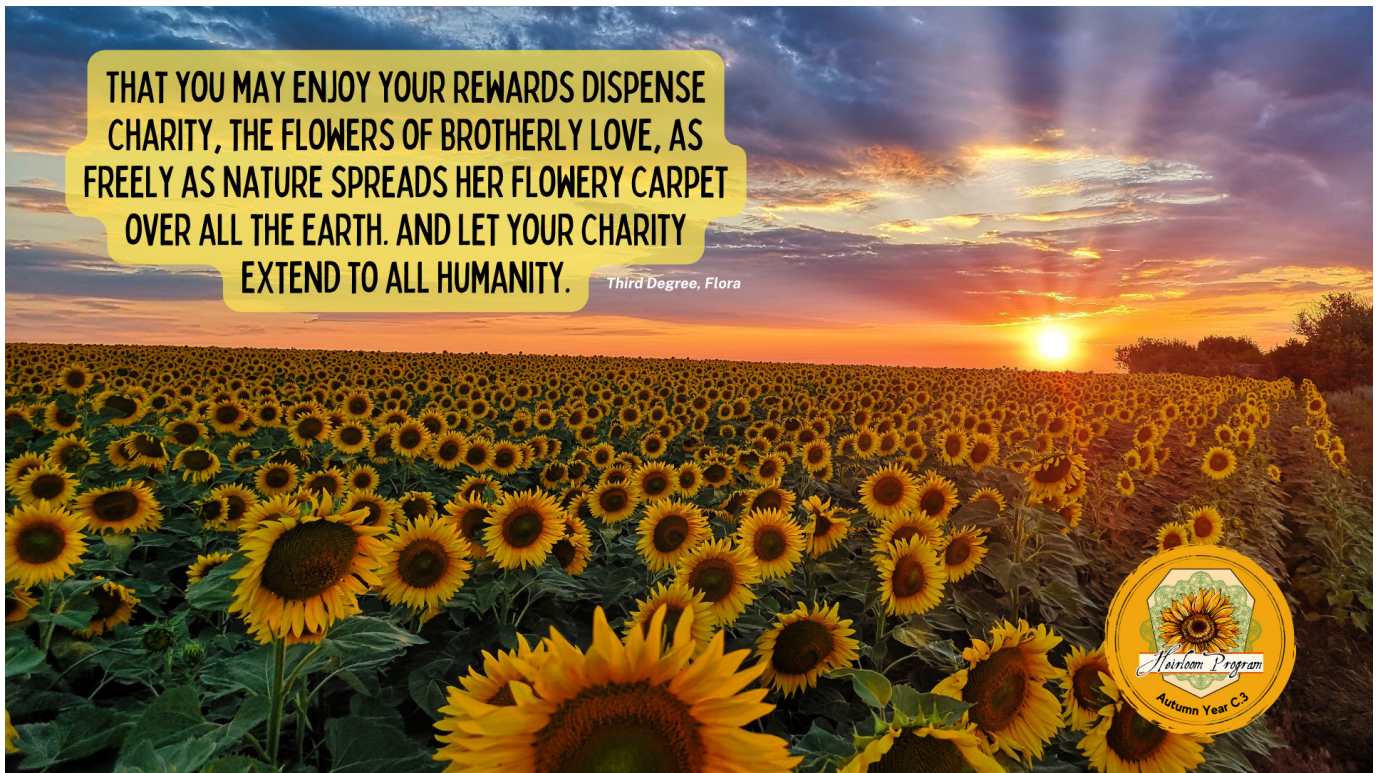
at this time, but still generously send in dues and donations. But we can proudly say 75% are very active. It’s nice to have members from diverse backgrounds who contribute their time and talent to a variety of activities appropriate to their interests,”

livestock division,” Segur said.

The Sterling Grange is often low-key, but it does earn recognition for its efforts.

“For the last nine years, Sterling Grange has been recognized by the State Grange for its involvement in the community and by the National Grange for two years,” Segur said. “Annual community service where we are not always in the public eye include a Quilt of Valor presentation, donation of awards at Chocksett Middle School graduation, donation of items to the Department of Children and Families, and more.”

At the April 27 Grange event, the program included a brief history of the Grange, presented by Mass. State Grange historians Amber and Randy Vaill, with dinner and entertainment.



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*Third Degree, Flora*



MAKE TODAY A  *Good Day!*™ **SUBSCRIBE:** [NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/GOODDAY](http://NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/GOODDAY)

# GRANGE MEMBER BENEFITS: WYNDHAM / STARTHEARING



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## NATIONAL GRANGE

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