



The Capitol Granger

Weekly news from your Grange lobbyist

New lobbyist to expand messaging and influence for state Grangers

by Craig Loughridge
Assistant Director for Governmental Affairs

Greetings, fellow Grangers! I am extremely pleased to be stepping into the role of lobbyist for the Oregon State Grange, helping our members and state leaders keep informed about what legislators and other government officials are doing.

Thank you to state Master Susan Noah, Legislative Director Mark Noah, and Agriculture Director Jay Sexton for their time and interest in selecting me for this role.



My main thrust as our association's Capitol

promoter will be to gather as many facts as possible about proposed laws of interest to the Grange, and to monitor the activity of legislators and other interest groups in responding to those bills. This newsletter is expected to be the first of many, and will summarize that activity for our members throughout the state.

Another of my roles will be to help Grange leaders expand capacity for grassroots organizing and advocacy on issues that Grangers care about. We are diligently developing low-cost tools to reduce the time it takes the Grange to inform members about important developments. Look in future newsletters for helpful tips, and for more ways to connect with other Grangers about what's going on.

Read on for a summary of my background:

I belong to Clarkes Grange #261 in rural Clackamas County, where I have lived since 1993. My wife, Suzanne, and I have three kids in college and another who recently graduated.

I graduated from the University of Oregon with a bachelor's degree in journalism after four years in the Navy. I earned my master's degree in business management from Marylhurst University last year.

I'm a licensed real estate broker, and have worked more than 20 years in customer service, marketing and web design. My interest in politics grew out of my involvement on the government affairs committees of the Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtors and the Oregon Association of Realtors. Since then, I have served on the Clackamas County Emergency Medical Services Council, the Clarkes-Highland Community Planning Organization and the Molalla River School District Board of Directors. I have lobbied lawmakers on a myriad of issues, including property rights, real estate taxes, affordable housing, transportation infrastructure, school funding, and school mascots.



I love exploring the nuances and ramifications of variations in verbiage, a passion well-suited to my new Grange role. Regrettably, the post is only part-time, so catching up with a legislature that has been in session nearly three months will be tough. Nonetheless, feel free to email me at govaffairs@orgrange.org with questions about legislation or issues that the Grange is following.