

## 2019 National Grange Policy Statement on Grange Growth and Development

Since our inception, our Grange has endeavored to improve the world around it through our growth to expand and influence change.

Civic engagement is an integral component of the Grange way. We encourage Grange Members to engage in local, state, and national government especially through Grange programs and activities like Legislative Fly-In. These programs are of particular value to our youth, who are the future of our Order.

Continued development of Youth and Young Adult programs are essential to the growth of the Grange. We view Youth and Young Adults as two distinct groups that require their own distinct programs and activities due to diverging interests. It is important that all leaders within the Grange recognize this fact, and we encourage the current and continued development of programs that meet the independent needs of both Youth and Young Adult age groups.

We encourage Subordinate, Pomona, and State Granges to continue to develop Agricultural based educational programs to include environmental topics such as ways to control nutrient runoff. A better effort must be made where possible to keep nutrients out of our water where it can be detrimental to our health and the health of our food system.

Two of the Grange's main focuses are family and community service. Along with these, attention should be invested to backyard farmers, farmer's market vendors, and people who desire to go "back to the land." These individuals and families are valuable prospective members that can carry on the original ideals of the Grange for the next 150 years.

The Grange is not a building, but the people working together for the good of their communities. We want our Granges to partake in the various benefits that the National Grange offers to celebrate our members and the great history of our Order such as *Good Day* magazine, Distinguished Grange Program, and Grange Legacy Family Program. We encourage the National Grange to recognize Champions of Rural America.

Communication is instrumental not only in contributing to the growth of the Grange, but also the basic stability of our diverse national organization. We encourage communication to travel throughout our established grassroots structure to disseminate the flow of information at all levels of the Order. We encourage conversations to be the lifeblood of developing new ideas into tangible results. We encourage conversations to be the venue for reviewing established programs and procedures to ensure relevancy to our members and organization in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We encourage conversations that are positive and constructive instead of destructive. We encourage conversations between Masters of the various divisions of the Order, while respecting the independence of individual Granges. We encourage conversations between Masters that take the form of

coaching and developing leadership as opposed to getting involved in internal politics. We encourage communication to sustain the Grange for the next 150 years.

Membership is the life blood for growth of our organization at all levels. It is important that Granges not only have a membership director – but a membership committee to which we all belong. One tool to increase our membership is the use of the One Plus program. We encourage all Granges to use this program. We need to publicize our efforts to inform the community of the actions of our Grange. Our visibility should be a priority. Granges on all levels are encouraged to work with our local news outlets to promote our projects and organization.

We are strongly in favor of the National Grange developing a fact sheet to be utilized in educating the public, other schools and organizations about the history, our roles and involvements in creating the numerous contributions that the Grange has been a part of.

Each age group has different interest, so we need to adapt our membership programs as we ask them to join us. We have to encourage our youth to become more active and offer them more responsibilities on all levels of the Grange to enrich their lives and ensure the Grange will be here for many years to come. We encourage the youth to have meetings during their Regional Conferences to develop resolutions that could be submitted through the standard process.

We ask that the National Grange Website be more user friendly and also provide a method of feedback to facilitate improvement of the website.