



Oregon State Grange BULLETIN

February/March 2026

News About the Grange

Volume 126 No. 1

Join Us!

2026 Grange Day at the Legislature

When: Wednesday, March 4
Time: Starting at 9am
Where: Oregon State Grange office
643 Union St, NE
Salem, Oregon

- Meet at OSG office at 9am for coffee and donuts.
- Carpool or (weather permitting) walk over to the capital to tour the capitol, observe (if they're in session), or drop by legislators' offices.
- Return to the OSG office around 1pm for lunch and conversation.

> Lunch is included and will be paid for by the OSG Legislative committee
 > Order lunch through Little Lois catering - <https://littleloiscatering.com/ordering-optional/>
 Contact Mark via phone or email for the order code.
 > Or, if you just want a basic sandwich (turkey, ham or roast beef on sourdough, wheat, or white bread) Mark will put that order in for you.

Because 2026 is a short session it is unlikely that legislators will have time to drop by and visit with us this year but if we can line up a speaker it will be in the afternoon. If you would like to meet with your own legislator specifically you will need to make an appointment.

Carpooling is encouraged as there is limited parking at the OSG office. Additional parking is available around the corner from the office on both Church St. NE and Cottage St. NE. People can come and go as they see fit, of course.

Please RSVP by March 2nd to ensure you will have a lunch!
 Mark Noah, OSG Legislative Director
 541-553-4155 or marknoah0@gmail.com
 1407 Medoc St - Springfield OR 97477

In March Idaho Hosts 2026 Western Regional Leadership Conference

The 2026 Western Regional Leadership Conference will take place from March 26 to March 28, 2026, in Boise, Idaho. Grangers from Washington, Montana, California, Oregon, Alaska, Nevada, and Idaho are especially invited to participate, and members from other states are also welcome to attend.



Advocacy board, will be presenting the National Advocacy program.

Workshops and activities for all ages and Grange experience will be held including leadership workshops designed to enhance skills and knowledge, sessions focused on advocacy and volunteer engagement and special activities for Junior participants. More information will be shared via email and on the Western Regional Facebook page.

Registration opens on Thursday at 5pm at the conference hotel. The evening will begin with pizza and get-acquainted activities. All meals are included with the registration.

A tour of the Wassmuth Center and the Old Idaho Penitentiary is included in the registration fee. Additionally, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about Basque food and culture. Leroy Watson, Chairman of the National Grange

The conference will be held at the Best Western Vista Inn, located at 2645 W Airport Way in Boise. The hotel offers a complimentary breakfast and has an airport shuttle for guests. The room rate is \$145.77 per night for a room with two queen beds. Other rooms may be available. To book your stay, call 1-208-336-8100.

Registration Fees are \$90 for adults by March 6. After that it is \$100. Juniors aged 13.5 years old and under are \$45 and after March 6 rise to \$50. Registration is due by March 6, 2026. Register online at <https://forms.gle/bAtHn91TxD2TXvSaA>. Registration can be paid by check to the Idaho State Grange or with PayPal and Venmo. Details available on the online registration form.

The conference is hosted by the Idaho State Grange. For questions, idgrangepresident@gmail.com

Granges With Insurance to be Rewarded

Community and Pomona Granges in Oregon will be rewarded for providing the State Grange office with their insurance company name, agent's name and contact information. Earlier this year, the Oregon State Grange recovered money that was owed to Grange Mutual Insurance Company (GMIC), which was dissolved in bankruptcy in the early 2000s, and all remaining assets became the property of the Oregon State Grange.

At the November 2025 state Executive Committee meeting, it was decided this recovered money would be used to support Community and Pomona Granges who are purchasing insurance by providing a \$125 credit on the second quarter report (or, for qualifying Pomona Granges, by adding \$125 to the dues sent to Pomona Granges).

In order to qualify, a Grange must send a copy of the form that was mailed to Granges with their 4th Quarter report, titled 'Insurance Dues Credit' along with a copy of the Grange's 2026 building or li-

ability insurance declaration. The insurance document must state the name of the insurer, the name of the insured, and must be active at the time of filing. No credit will be issued without this document.

The deadline for this submission is **March 31, 2026**. All claims must be received by this date.

If you have any questions regarding the form or what is needed, please contact the Oregon State Grange office.

At the November 2025 state Ex-

Inside

2026 Conv. Hotel/Camping Info	9	Legislative Update	14
Agricultural Report	5	Grange Day @ the Leg.	1 & 14
Chaplain	4	2026 Grange Scholarship	8
Community Service	6	Granges Celebrate the Holidays	10-11
Deaf Awareness/Family Health	7	Government Affairs	15
Education Committee	9	GROW Club	12
Ex. Committee Minutes	19	GWA	12
		In Memoriam	14
		Lecturer's Column	3
		Membership Matters	13
		OSG Officer Nominations	16-17
		President's Column	2
		Upcoming Dates/Deadlines	13
		Upcoming Pomona Meetings	15
		Veterans	17
		Western Regional Info	1
		Youth/Young Adults	18

Office Hours:
Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday
8am - 4:30pm

Bulletin Deadline
for the
April/May 2026 Issue

March 10, 2026

The President's Column

Sonny Hays-Eberts
 president@orgrange.org
 President - Oregon State Grange



Wow, time flies! It seems like I just wrote my column for the last issue, and its already time to work on the next one.

Again, I'm going to look forward to when this will arrive in your mailbox and intend to make it topical for that time. Before I start on my theme, I want to mention two important things first, so they are not missed hanging out at the bottom of my message.

Your Community or Pomona Grange should have received a notice from the State Grange stating that we will provide you with \$125 credit on second-quarter dues if you provide proof of current building or liability insurance. I think the letter mentions "rider", but it is the declaration we want. We do not need the entire document but must see that your hall or Grange is the insured party, the name of the broker, and the name of the insuring party. Our goal is to ensure our Granges are insured, and to build a list of brokers and companies to help Granges that are having issues obtaining insurance.

The 2026 Western Regional Conference will be held March 26-28 in Boise. I encourage our members to attend. It is a wonderful way to meet Grangers from the western region and network with them and learn more about the Grange. There is additional information about this conference and about hotels and registration in this issue. It would be wonderful to have a large contingent from Oregon. And think of the miles you could earn for Geo-Grange!

February is renowned for Valentines Day, a celebration of love, and

Note From the President

Filming the First Four Degrees

I have received permission from the National Grange for Oregon to film the first four Degrees of the Grange. It could be shown at the Convention, prior to the Fifth and Sixth Degrees and allow interested members to watch on their own time.

These Degrees are still presented, but very infrequently, and they contain important lessons about Faith, Hope, Charity and Fidelity that lead to a deeper understanding of the Grange.

If you are interested in video filming, video editing and production, have an interest in acting or would like to design sets (the Tableaux of each degree), please contact the

I'd like to focus on love, and not just the romantic love idealized on Feb. 14th.

Did you know the ancient Greeks had many words for love? While there are more than the six, I will list, these encompass the primary categories. *Xenia* denotes hospitality, or 'ritualized love' and it was a social construct focused on generosity, gift exchange, and reciprocity. *Eros* is the name for sexual and romantic love, and the love associated with Valentines Day. *Philautia* denotes self-love, and in its extreme can become a moral flaw, but when observed in a healthy manner should result in a proper regard for one's own happiness and well-being. *Storge* denotes the love of parents, and a parent's love of their children.

While some of the four I mentioned already find some place in the Grange lessons, the final two, I feel, are what I think the teachings of our Order stress. *Agape* translates as 'to greet with affection' and was described by Thomas Aquinas as 'to will the good of another.' *Philia* is an affectionate regard and friendship between equals, or loyalty to friends, family, and community. Aristotle stated it requires virtue, equality, and familiarity.

Our ceremonies speak to our love of the land and animals, our love of God and our love of family. It is my impression the Third Degree is focused on Agape and Philia and strives to promote the importance of such. It is in part why we refer to each other as Brother or Sister and regard the Grange as one large family. The Sixth Degree Oath indicates that we will work for the betterment of all members. These

lessons are deeply embedded in our ceremonies.

Like any family, conflict can arise, and if left unchecked, can lead to more than simple disharmony. Granges have gone dormant because members have become more focused on personalities and conflicts, and it is a trap we must all remain vigilant for.

The Grange was founded as an agricultural organization, but as fewer and fewer Americans practice agriculture, the Grange has moved toward becoming a community organization, with agricultural roots. Yet, regardless of focus, the Grange ceremonies have always been focused on providing lessons to its members that give them the tools to become better people. All our ritual implements serve this purpose. For example, the hoe is intended to break up the soil but also symbolizes breaking the heavy soil of ignorance.

The third degree, one of my favorites, focuses on love and charity, and I encourage all of us to rededicate ourselves to practicing those lessons. We should not view other Grange members as opponents, or even worse, enemies. They are our friends, and our family. Even when they disagree with us, or upset us, we need to keep our love for them in the forefront of our thoughts.

I have touched upon some of these concepts in prior columns, but I think these teachings on love are some of the most important our Order provides, hence my revisiting them.

We will become better people and our Order will become a better organization if we strive to practice them. We owe it not only to the Grange members who came before us and developed these lessons, or our fellow members, but also to ourselves. I encourage you to heed the wisdom of our Founders.



Geo-Grange Program

Just a reminder that the Geo Grange program deadline is coming up soon. Point totals and miles must be sent to the Oregon State Grange office postmarked no later than March 31, 2026. Winners will be announced at the 2026 State Convention in Baker City. Please include your contact information and Grange name and number.

L: Bulletin editor, Suzy Ramm and her travel buddy Bucky.



Oregon State Grange Bulletin

Official publication of the Oregon State Grange since 1900

February/march 2026
 Volume 126 Number 1
 Published by the Oregon State Grange
 643 Union Street NE
 Salem, OR 97301-2462
 503-316-0106
 Fax: 503-316-0109
 www.orgrange.org

Editor-in-Chief
 Sonny Hays-Eberts

Editor
 Suzy Ramm
 gbulletin@orgrange.org

State Officers

President
 Sonny Hays-Eberts
 president@orgrange.org
 master@orgrange.org
 541-230-8224

Vice President
 Steve Kroeker
 kroeker_s@hotmail.com
 541-974-1724

Lecturer
 Susie Kroeker
 sjones1273@hotmail.com
 541-974-1723

Steward
 Phil Van Buren
 pcvb48@gmail.com
 541-281-0075

Assistant Steward
 John Fine
 johmandpeggyfine@charter.net
 541-673-0369

Lady Assistant Steward
 Stacy Brown
 clute_stacy@gmail.com
 971-808-6431

Chaplain
 Cookie Trupp
 truppecookie@gmail.com
 541-686-0583

Treasurer
 Linda Helm
 lahelm7251@aol.com
 541-944-9612

Secretary
 Mark Noah
 marknoah00@gmail.com
 541-953-4155

Gatekeeper
 Patrick Dearth
 soudad21@gmail.com
 541-520-5383

Ceres
 Amanda Puls
 amandapuls@rocketmail.com
 541-646-1272

Pomona
 Roberta O'Dell
 robbert@wvi.com
 503-859-3445

Flora
 Jessie Jo Guttridge
 guttridge.jessie@gmail.com
 971-291-7402

Executive Committee Position #1
 Susan Noah
 susannoah6@gmail.com
 541-953-6724

Executive Committee Position #2
 Joyce Parker
 jerp0323@gmail.com
 503-502-6188

Executive Committee Position #3
 Vickie High
 vick189@aol.com
 541-591-1019

Musician
 Linda Wetzell
 wetzells@aol.com
 541-579-6182

Webmaster
 Sonny Hays-Eberts
 webmaster@orgrange.org
 541-230-8224

Subscriptions

Members:
 Minimum annual dues of \$56 includes \$1.90 for 1-year subscription per Grange family

Non-members:
 \$50 per year/2 years \$85

U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 SALEM, OR
 PERMIT NO. 598

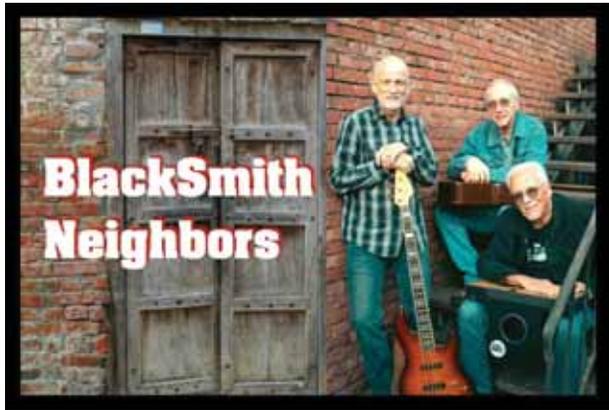
Sunnyside Grange Reaches 90 Years Celebrate With Them

Sunnyside Grange #842, Clackamas County, is celebrating their 90th Anniversary on Sunday, April 12 starting at 2pm. Oregon State Grange President, Sonny Hayes-Ebert will be the featured speaker.

Several membership awards will be presented and a fun, informative program is being planned. Cake, coffee, and punch will be served after the program.

The Grange hopes you can come

and help them celebrate 90 years of Grange service to the community!



BlackSmith Neighbors to Play at McMinnville Grange in March

On Friday March 27th McMinnville Grange #31, Yamhill County, will be sponsoring an evening of music by the BlackSmith Neighbors, an Americana band hailing from the Willamette Valley. In addition to live music and dancing, food and drink will be available.

The evening starts at 7:30pm and will run for three hours. Cost is \$7 for Grange members and \$10 non-Grange members.

For more information check out the McMinnville Grange Facebook page.



Live Bluegrass at the Multnomah on February 14 and March 14

Multnomah Grange #71, Multnomah County, is providing sweet bluegrass music on Valentine's Day evening, Saturday, February 14 at 7pm with two great regional groups: Back Up and Push, and Ash Creek. Back Up and Push, from Welches, Oregon appears for the first time on the Grange stage. This six person band features mandolin, guitar, bass, ukelele, fiddle, and banjo. Ash Creek, based in Portland, explores the frontiers between bluegrass, folk, and traditional country music. The band includes Gene Alger on banjo, Larry Ullman on bass, Tim Howell on guitar, and Clayton Knight playing mandolin and fiddle.

On March 14th another band new to the Multnomah Grange stage, Hood Mountain Band, will be teaming up

with the Tuesday String Band for a great show.

The Multnomah Grange's concert series also hosts an open bluegrass jam in the Grange lobby when the doors open at 6pm. Pickers with their own acoustic bluegrass instruments are welcome and encouraged to come by. A snack bar sells hot dogs, delicious home made deserts, popcorn and non-alcoholic drinks at this family friendly venue. Multnomah Grange #71 is located at 30639 SE Bluff Rd in Gresham. Suggested donation is \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids under 12, cash only, please.

For more information, including the list of bands performing through May, check the the Multnomah Grange #71's Facebook page.

The Lecturer's Column

Susie Kroeker
sjones1273@hotmail.com
Lecturer - Oregon State Grange



Welcome to a new year, Brothers and Sisters! This coming year promises to be an exciting one, as it is the 250th anniversary of the United States of America adopting the Declaration of Independence. This gives us a great opportunity as Lecturers and Grangers in general to focus on many national and patriotic subjects in our Lecturer's programs or community events.

For example, here are a few facts you may not know about the Declaration of Independence.

Is Independence Day really July 2nd?

Officially, the continental Congress declared its freedom from Britain on July 2, 1776, when it approved a resolution and delegates from New York were permitted to make it a unanimous vote. John Adams thought July 2nd would be marked as a national holiday for generations to come.

July 4th is when the Declaration was adopted.

After voting on independence, the Continental Congress needed to finalize a document explaining the move to the public. It had been proposed in draft form by the Committee of Five (John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert R. Livingston, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson) and it took two days for the Congress to agree on the edits.

Six people signed the Declaration and also the Constitution.

Franklin was among a handful of people who signed both historical documents. The others were George Read, Roger Sherman, Robert Morris, George Clymer, and James Wilson.

But they didn't sign the Declaration on July 4th!

Once the Congress approved the actual Declaration of Independence document on July 4th, it ordered that

it be sent to a printer named John Dunlap. About 200 copies of the Dunlap Broadside were printed, with John Hancock's name printed at the bottom. Today, 26 copies remain.

So, what if I stumble upon a lost version of the Dunlap Broadside at a flea market?

That's what happened in 1989 in Adamstown, Pennsylvania. It was tucked behind an old picture in a frame, and it cost the buyer \$4. That version of the Declaration was eventually acquired by TV producer Norman Lear for \$8.1million.

When was the Declaration actually signed then?

Most of the members of the Continental Congress signed a version in early August 1776 in Philadelphia. The names of the signers were released publicly in early 1777.

The Declaration and Constitution were hidden away during World War II.

Both documents were packed up about two weeks after Pearl Harbor. They were given military escort to Fort Knox in Kentucky, where they remained until late 1944.

I hope this example gives you some ideas for including education into the Lecturer's program about our nation's history. I am looking forward to hearing how the various Granges throughout Oregon will be celebrating this momentous occasion. Send me your Lecturer's programs and patriotic Grange events at sjones1273@hotmail.com and I will share them in an upcoming column.

And don't forget to take pictures of your patriotic scenes, historic landmarks, and patriotic meal celebrations to enter in the photo contests this year at the State Grange Convention in Baker City as we celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America.

The Chaplain's Corner

Cookie Trupp
truppcookie@gmail.com
Chaplain - Oregon State Grange



Make Every Second Count: Transform Your Day's 86,400 Seconds into Achievement

Each day offers us 86,400 seconds—a number that sounds enormous yet often slips away unnoticed. Time is one of our most valuable resources that the Lord has given us, and how we choose to spend it can shape our lives in powerful ways. The key to making the most of each day is to use every second with intention, rather than falling prey to procrastination.

It's easy to overlook the significance of a single second, but when you add them up, they become the building blocks of our day. Whether we're working, studying, spending time with loved ones, or relaxing, every moment counts. Treating each second as an opportunity to accomplish something meaningful in our time here on earth can help us move closer to our goals.

Procrastination is a common habit, often fueled by fear of failure, lack

of motivation, or simply feeling overwhelmed. However, postponing tasks can lead to more stress and missed opportunities. Recognizing why we procrastinate is the first step toward overcoming it and making better use of our time.

Choosing to act instead of putting things off brings a sense of accomplishment and reduces stress. It also opens the door to new experiences and opportunities that might be lost if delayed. By making the most of our 86,400 seconds each day, we can build the life we want—one second at a time.

"Time waits for no one," and the seconds lost to procrastination are gone forever. Start today by valuing each moment, tackling tasks head-on, living with intention, and giving the Lord all the Glory for every second we have.

Remember, every second is a chance to make progress, don't let it slip away.

AG Fest Essay Contest For Grades Three, Four and Five

The "What We're Made Of" essay contest, sponsored by Oregon Ag Fest, is designed to get students talking about the products that are grown and raised locally, and learn about the unique food, fiber and flora grown in their area. Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 are invited to submit essays of no more than 250 words to this contest. All applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, March 7, 2025.

- 4) Essays must include student's name, school, teacher's name, and grade level (3rd, 4th and 5th grade entries are accepted to accommodate split classrooms)
- 5) This contest is open to schools located in Oregon
- 6) All essays must be postmarked or emailed no later than Friday, March 7, 2025

Mail essays, along with teacher contact info (including email & phone number) to:

Oregon Ag Fest
P.O. Box 9141
Salem, OR 97305

or Email teacher contact and submissions to: info@oragfest.com

Winners will be announced by March 19, and teachers of winning essays will be notified via email. Winners receive a certificate, a portion of bus transportation costs* to the special Ag Fest event on Thursday, April 24, 2025, materials for the day, and snacks at the event. Activities for the day will include creating living necklaces, learning about locally grown food and nutrition, milling wheat, mini pedal tractor relays, petting farm animals, and much more!

For more information: Oregon Classroom Ag Resources <https://oregonaitc.org/events/oregonagfest/>

Check to see if your school is participating or ask your teacher if they will.

Contest Guidelines/Details:

- 1) Essays not to exceed 250 words in length and must contain information about the food and/or fiber and flora grown locally that will help educate others about agriculture in your area
- 2) Hand-drawn pictures that reflect the essay content along with a one-sentence caption are required. An illustration form should accompany each essay. There is space at the bottom of the form to include the one-sentence summary (i.e., cool fact, something unique, or key learning about the part of Oregon agriculture that is featured in the essay)
- 3) Teacher may submit up to five essays from his/her classroom



In Memoriam

Louise Austin
Walterville #416

Todd Barker
McMinnville #31

Joe Cawrse
Siletz Valley #558

Norman Chase
Siletz Valley #558

Carwin 'Guy' Fine
Hurricane Creek #608

Wendell Fitzgerald
Bellview #759

Wes Gates
Crow #450

Jim Hicks
Hurricane Creek #608

Carey Jones
Smith River #585

James Kjelde
London #937

Beverly Klock
Columbia #267

Marguerite Maznaritz
Columbia #867

Sandy McComas
Crow #450

Katherine (Kit) McLucas
Springwater #263

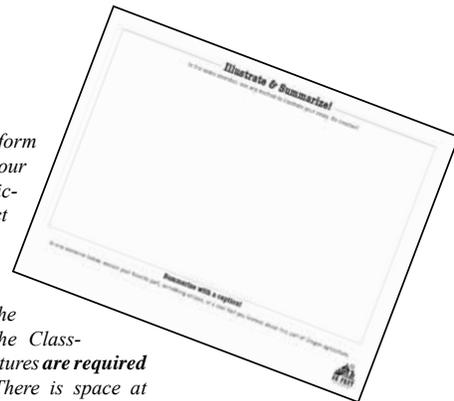
Hubert Murrill
North End #820

Bill Percy
Marys River #685

Dan Suing
Crow #450

Ronald Tompkins
Walterville #416

Download the form for submitting your hand-drawn pictures that reflect the essay content along with a one-sentence caption from the Oregon Ag in the Classroom website. Pictures **are required** for each essay. There is space at the bottom of the form to include a one-sentence summary.



Seen through the eyes of Faith,
we remember our Brothers and Sisters
not as ones dead,
they have only gone on before us
through the gates of the Grange above,
where dwells the Great Master of us all.

Good Day!
SUBSCRIBE FOR JUST \$16 A YEAR!
GIVE A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION OR START YOUR OWN TODAY
www.nationalgrange.org/goodday
Past issues of Good Day! are available digitally at www.nationalgrange.org/goodday

Save the Date!

2026 Literacy Project Kick-off Event!

Join us as we kick off the 2026 Literacy Project!
This year's featured book is *I Love Strawberries* by Shannon Anderson—a joyful story about Jolie, a curious girl determined to grow her own strawberries. Our activity will highlight the perseverance and planning it takes to be a farmer.

Saturday, February 28 @ North Willamette Research and Extension Center

Space is LIMITED. Purchase tickets now!

Celebrate Agricultural Literacy

Whether you are an educator, Ag advisor, OWA or FFA member, or just someone who is passionate about agricultural literacy, the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation invites you to the 2026 Literacy Project Kick-off event February 28th. Learn all about the berry industry of Oregon, as well as this year's book, *I Love Strawberries!* by Shannon Anderson.

Guests will hear from researchers and specialists in the berry field and enjoy a presentation and reading from the author, Shannon Anderson. Attendees of the event will also be the first to receive the 2026 activity as well as special bonus materials!

The event will conclude with a pie



Grangers help children plant seedlings to take home in the Oregon State Grange Activity center in AG Country.

social and raffle. Read on to learn more about this exciting event!

WHEN: February 28th from 1:00-4:00 p.m. PST

WHERE: North Willamette Research and Extension Center 15210 NE Miley Rd, Aurora, OR 97002

COST: Tickets are \$10.00 per person

HOW: Purchase tickets at <https://oregonaitc.org/product/2026-literacy-project-kick-off-event/> Each ticket admits one guest and also enters you into the raffle drawing for special, Oregon-themed prizes!

The Agricultural Report

June Colony
grassjune@hotmail.com
Agriculture Director - Oregon State Grange

It's January the 5th, 2026, and here in Lostine I can still dig a hole in the unfrozen garden. That is spooky. Never, in the 53 years of my mountain valley living has the ground been free of snow, and completely diggable on this date.

In my unheated greenhouse, the kale plants have continued to put on new, tender leaves. The stock tanks in my paddocks haven't required a tank heater to keep the thickening ice from forming

As our planet heats, the glaciers melt, the snowstorms turn into deluges of rain, and invasive insects that would die in frozen soils, now just wait till spring to plague our farms and orchards. Local farmers lean on trucks and share concerns over a low snowpack and a dry summer for flood irrigation.

Agriculture is based upon the certainty of climate. Planting and harvesting dates have held for years, creating a rhythm of work. Planting and harvesting, rainy and dry sea-



Join Us at Ag Fest In April

Plan now to participate in the 39th annual Oregon Ag Fest which will be held at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem, April 25-26. The Oregon State Grange is excited to again be a part of it and this is a great opportunity for you to share in. Hours are Saturday, April 25, from 8:30am – 5pm and Sunday, April 26, from 10am – 5pm. Admission is \$15 for those 16 and over; children 15 and under are admitted free; parking is also free.

But Grangers can get in free by volunteering to help in the Oregon State Grange Activity center in AG Country. Contact the state office for information on how you can help, including shift information. Watch for an event post on Facebook and schedule in the April Bulletin. And remember volunteers to wear your Grange attire.

Ag Country is the heart and soul of Oregon Ag Fest where the Oregon State Grange's activity center and display is located. Within Ag Country are over 25 hands-on activities and an agricultural scavenger hunt that will have attendees looking for clues in all the exhibits. Watch chicks hatch, shuck corn, dig for potatoes and so much more! Those attending will have the opportunity to plant

sons, snow up to your knees in the paddocks.

In a weird way, I am loving spring in January. The piles of wood usually covered by a foot of snow, are reachable for my wood stove which I damp down low on these warm winter days.

But my long-term happiness relies on a federal government who will prioritize renewable energy over fossil fuels. A government which understands that commodity support payments are not enough to stabilize our farmers. We need real climate change policies that reduce carbon emissions. Our Representatives in congress need to think beyond the fossil fuel lobbyist and give our grandchildren a chance to farm without big climate related challenges.

Contact your congressmen, and your Senators and tell them to support Renewable Energy projects.

Our farming futures depend on it!

seedlings, sample Oregon-made products, make a dirty baby or choose from an array of other activities that make learning about life on the farm fun. All activities are free of charge.

The two-day event is aimed to help families better understand where their food, fiber and flora come from and is a unique learning experience, where hands-on exhibits make learning about Oregon's vast agricultural industry educational and entertaining. The event strives to bridge the gap between urban and rural life, and to share the wonder and abundance of Oregon's bountiful and diverse harvest.

The Oregon State Grange is an official sponsor of the Oregon Ag Fest.



Community Service/ Involvement

Joanne McBride
joanmcbride8@gmail.com
OSG Community Service/Involvement Director



Joanne McBride has been appointed to fill the position of Community Service/Involvement Director through the term ending June 2026. She previously served as the District 5 chairman.

Non-Profit Status

Granges are considered non-profit. They are in the Order of Patrons of Husbandry and are legally recognized by the IRS as a 501c8 non-profit organization. To keep this non-profit status for your Grange, an annual community service report is completed.

This Annual Report is not a legally binding report. Neither the IRS nor National/State Grange will audit your report. However, please furnish accurate (even if estimated) and factual information. Documentation of community service work supports this recognition and justifies the tax-exempt status of your Grange.

You may find this report online at orgrange.org - select "Oregon State Grange" drop-down; select Committees drop-down; select Community Service; Scroll down; select the form. This report is due to the Community Service Director postmarked no later than March 31st. Keep a copy for including in your yearbook (entered at State Grange Convention by noon on Sunday of Convention.) Please note: the yearbook is not a requirement.

The information collected is community service projects performed from January 1st through December 31st. At this point, you may be asking "What is Community Service?" Good question! Community service is work done by a person or group of people that benefits others. It is often done near the area where you live. You do not get paid to perform community service but volunteer your time. The Annual Report will ask you to enter a brief description of the project; the number of members participating

and how many hours was spent of the project; and the number of non-members participating and how many hours spent of the project by the non-members.

This is a lot of information that must be collected. Oregon State Grange has created a tracking form and it is provided on the orgrange.org website. Information can be collected individually or as a group; and can be collected daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly, etc. Hours that count towards a project are:

- fundraising benefiting other non-profit organizations
- holding an event to benefit others, such as Quilts of Valor or Emergency Preparedness
- implementing and keeping a community garden and providing food
- hours spent on volunteering for non-Grange events/projects

Hours not considered as community service include:

- simple maintenance such as mowing and cleaning your hall
- fundraising for your hall
- representing your Grange at a fair or parade

Looking for project ideas? Here are some to consider.

- Meals: supporting food banks, senior meals
- Life Skills: teach classes in cooking, sewing, carpentry, etc.
- Community service: cleaning roads and parks
- Veterans: honor veterans, write cards to active-duty members
- Schools: donate supplies
- Grangers in need: helping after a disaster, driving to medical appointments, etc.

I hope this information was helpful! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Community Service District chairman or Director.

Morning Star Welcomes Children for the Holidays With Toys and Fun

On Saturday, December 20, Morning Star Grange #311, Linn County, welcomed children twelve and under to meet Santa Claus, (who is Grange Chaplain David Solomon) Mrs. Claus (LAS Denise Emery) and a number of elves.

The children took part in some fun activities including coloring, enjoyed a selection of cookies served with hot cocoa in the basement of

the Grange and then selected a toy to take home.

A special guest this year was The Grinch (Steward Jason Destefano) at the event. A total of sixty-seven children participated in the event.



Porch Pantry Is the Latest Project of the Storied Parkdale Grange

By Vicki Hillhouse
Photos by Sandra Virgen

Started in 1913, the Parkdale Grange on Clear Creek Road has been a beacon of community activism and service, drawing families and volunteers.

When Judy Zimmerman and Mary Pellegrini set out in November to launch a neighborhood-based food pantry system, they knew just where they wanted it. "The Parkdale Grange is a community building a lot of people know," Judy says.

Their initiative fit perfectly with the mission of the operation at 7375 Clear Creek Road. For more than a century, the Grange has been a home to people and projects that strengthen the community. Started in 1913 as the nation's 500th Grange, [actually #500 in Oregon] the nonpartisan, nonprofit, fraternal organization has been a beacon of service and socialization in this rural community. Feeding people has long been part of its objectives with the organization's famous pie sales, monthly Sunday breakfasts, beloved cookbook, and more.

Judy and Mary set out this fall to create a pantry system on the front porch of the Grange building, along with a second location at Mary's business, Old Parkdale Inn Bed and Breakfast. Plastic bins with lids are filled with nonperishable items and tucked under the wooden bench on the front porch, where anyone who needs food can access it at any time. "You don't have to knock on the door," says Judy, a retired parish minister and Grange member. "Just come and help yourself."

Known as the Upper Valley Community Food Pantries, the porch services were conceptualized amid threats to food benefits through the federal Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, commonly known as SNAP. They complement a broader mutual aid food insecurity network anchored locally by the FISH Food Bank. Although not directly affiliated with FISH, the pantries can help those who may not be able to access the food bank's limit-



Started in 1913, the Parkdale Grange on Clear Creek Road has been a beacon of community activism and service, drawing families and volunteers.

ed hours in Parkdale or go to Hood River.

"Even though there are 15 to 20 miles from here to Hood River, if you're economically struggling, it's difficult to get there," Judy says. "A lot of working poor can't get away to get to the food bank between 3 and 5 o'clock. We have folks who live outside and walk to the food bank. What are they going to do between the limited service times if they need something? They're stuck."

A Picture of Perseverance

If there's an organization that embodies tenacity and ingenuity, it's Parkdale Grange. Founded on November 18, 1913, the Grange first met in what was McIsaac's Hall, above McIsaac's Store on Baseline Road.

It followed the national model as an advocate for rural America and its agricultural base, providing a space for activism and social gatherings. Just more than 16 years after it started, the building burned to the ground. Everything in it was lost.

While meetings continued temporarily at what eventually became Mt. Hood Town Hall, plans to rebuild at the original site were quickly put together. Within

six months, the new structure was hosting meetings. But it came with a separate challenge—whopping debt.

Continued next page

L: Covered bins under a bench on the Grange porch provide anyone with access to nonperishable foods at any time.



Deaf Awareness and Family Health

Lilly Anderson
lillyinemerlcity@gmail.com
OSG Deaf Awareness and Family Health Director



Cancer Continued: What should we look for and what comes next?

Part Two: Stages, types of treatment, signs and symptoms

Welcome back to part two in our discussion about cancer. Last time we discussed different types of cancer and where they form in the body. We also discussed how cancer risk and rates of cancer mortality are higher for rural populations due to a number of factors, including, lack of adequate medical insurance, lack of facilities and practicing medical professionals in rural areas.

Cancer staging is key to treatment and prognosis. Staging tells providers how advanced the cancer is and what types and schedule of treatments will be most effective. Typically, early-stage cancers involve less intrusive treatments and are more likely to be curable, while late-stage cancer treatments may focus on slowing the cancer spread and relieving symptoms.¹

The TNM cancer staging system uses numbers between 0 and 4. Higher numbers are used with more advanced cancer stages. Lower number stages usually mean the cancer is localized, like a tumor that can be removed, and surgery is the most common treatment for

this stage.¹ Sometimes, providers recommend ablation (removal by using extreme heat or cold), and the addition of radiation which directs focused beams of energy to the tumor area and can help kill any isolated cancer cells that weren't removed.

Cancer in Stages II or III, has grown directly into surrounding tissue or has spread to nearby lymph nodes.¹ In Stage IV or metastatic cancer, cancer cells have spread to distant parts of the body.¹ These more advanced stages of cancer require systemic treatments that involve taking pills or getting shots or infusions of chemo drugs on a planned schedule. Systemic treatments travel throughout the bloodstream and destroy cancer cells that have spread too far for the surgeon to manually remove.

Many cancer treatments are available, and the exact treatment or combination of treatments depends on each specific person. Primary treatments are aimed at completely removing the cancer, and adjuvant treatments are aimed at

killing cancer cells that remain to reduce the risk of cancer returning. Common adjuvant treatments include: **chemotherapy** which uses drugs that kill fast replicating cells, including cancer cells; **radiation therapy** which uses high-powered energy beams such as X rays and protons to kill cancer cells and can be administered from a machine outside the body or can be placed inside the body (brachytherapy); **immunotherapy** which uses the patient's immune system to recognize and fight cancer cells; **bone marrow transplants or stem cell treatment** which can sometimes be used to allow the oncologist to administer higher doses of chemotherapy and to replace diseased bone marrow.²

Finally, **palliative treatments** are available to relieve potentially debilitating side effects caused by both the cancer and chemotherapy, most notably pain, shortness of breath, and nausea. **Alternative medicines or treatments** have not been proven to cure cancer, but many may help to cope with side effects such as fatigue, nausea, and pain.² The doctor will discuss which alternative medicines may be safely used in each circumstance. For example, while we all relate antioxidants as cancer fighting agents, they can not be used while patients are in chemotherapy, as they could actually feed and nurture the cancer cells chemotherapy is trying to kill. Alternative treatments that have proven to be helpful with managing and alleviating cancer and cancer treatment side effects include acupuncture,

hypnosis, massage, meditation, relaxation breathing and yoga.

Cancer signs and symptoms vary from person to person and depend on the type of cancer and how advanced it is. General symptoms may include: fatigue, fevers (mostly at night), loss of appetite, night sweats, persistent pain, skin changes (particularly moles that change shape or size, or new moles), unexplained weight loss, blood in urine or stool, persistent coughing or gagging, coughing up blood, new lumps or bumps.² This list is not complete, and it's possible to have cancer for years without symptoms.

A cancer diagnosis can change your life forever, and each person needs to find their own way of coping with the emotional and physical changes this news brings. Learning more information now, rather than right after you have been diagnosed, can be much less stressful. In our next issue, we'll discuss what we can do to reduce our cancer risk and what types of screening can be the most helpful.

References

¹Cleveland Clinic
<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/12194-cancer>

²Mayo Clinic, Cancer Diagnosis
<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/cancer/diagnosis-treatment/drc-20370594#:~:text=Cancer%20stages%0A%0AOnce%20cancer%20is%20diagnosed%2C%20your%20doctor,options%20and%20your%20chances%20for%20a%20cure.>

Porch Pantry Project *continued*

Willing members worked doggedly to pay down debt. But as the Great Depression took hold, many could no longer afford their memberships. In July 1939, members had to relinquish claims on the building and property to the mortgage company.

Members Mr. and Mrs. Ed Renfro provided a ray of hope. They allowed meetings in a building on their land in exchange for repairs, including window replacement, roof repairs, and electrical wiring. Members got to work. With renewed energy, the Grange grew to 46 members, and the good times began to return over several suppers.

In 1942, Grangers got an opportunity to buy the current building, which was once a packing/storage house for fruit and later a Japanese American school. The white building with green trim stands today with a view of Mount Hood as a scrappy survivor of hard times that continues to unite the community.

Past President Jean Hardman remembers stories from the late Ethel "Tommy" Elliott about her childhood there. "When she was little, her folks took her to the Grange,"

Jean says. "They had mattresses on the floor, and the kids would go to sleep while the parents would play cards. They'd have potlucks and things like that. It was somewhere everyone could go."

In 2008, Tommy recruited Jean, who became treasurer of the organization when it was down to its last \$10. "They found out my background," Jean says. "They found out I was a cook and had owned a restaurant."

As always, members came together with plans for recovery. Grangers got to work. They hosted weekly turkey dinners for tourists coming by [train from the] paddlewheelers [on the Columbia] between Astoria and Lewiston. They hosted monthly Sunday breakfasts that drew community residents. They began baking sessions to stock a supply of pies for sale and in-home baking.

Building rentals also help support the activities and activism there. At \$150 for a day's rental for nonmembers—\$35 for members—the space is used for weddings, reunions, meetings, baby and bridal showers, birthday parties, and more. In

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Screen of Prevention

National Grange has partnered with Life Line Screening to provide convenient, preventive health screenings to help detect risk for stroke and cardiovascular disease at a special rate for our members.

4 Vital Screenings for \$135

- Carotid Artery Ultrasound
- Aortic Aneurysm
- Peripheral Artery Disease
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

Because you are a valued National Grange member, you also receive the DeluxeScreening screening for only \$10.

Call today for more information or to schedule an appointment. We're here for you.
1-888-787-3264 • Priority Code: 8HUS091

November, two baby showers and two memorial services were held there. One family rented it for their Thanksgiving celebration.

Now, it's a place of support for the hungry, too. "Granges keep communities vital and healthy and strong," Judy says. "There's this longstanding commitment with the organization in helping folks around agriculture and food." Even if SNAP benefits continue, there will be a need for food pantries, she says. "Parkdale is a small community," Judy says. "We're all one step away from having someone in common who is struggling."

Reprinted with permission from the

Hood River Electric Cooperative. Published in the Ruralite' Strengthening Communities January 2026.



The Education Committee

Lyle Utt
Lyle.Utt@gmail.com
OSG Education Director



After a conversation at the recent directors retreat about Khan Academy, (<https://www.khanacademy.org/>), I realized that many people don't know about the site and what it allows a person to do.

Khan Academy is a nonprofit educational organization that provides free online learning resources to students, teachers, and lifelong learners around the world. Its platform offers thousands of instructional videos, interactive exercises, and articles covering subjects such as mathematics, science, computer programming, economics, history, and test preparation. The content is designed to be self-paced, allowing

learners to study at their own speed and revisit topics as needed, making education more accessible regardless of location or background.

In addition to supporting individual learners, Khan Academy offers tools for teachers and schools to track student progress and personalize instruction. Educators can assign lessons, monitor performance through dashboards, and identify areas where students need extra help. The organization's mission is to provide a free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere, and it continually partners with schools and institutions to improve educational outcomes globally.

National Grange Foundation Educational Scholarship

The National Grange Foundation is accepting applications for **Ernestine "Ernie" Keiser Memorial Scholarship**.

The Foundation will present an annual \$1,000 scholarship to Grange members who are graduating high school seniors or continuing two-year community college, four-year college/university, or postsecondary vocational school students attending an accredited school. Students pursuing graduate degrees or higher vocational certifications are also eligible to apply.

The scholarship is available to full-time or part-time students. Students are eligible to apply for the scholarship every year, however, if selected they will only be eligible to receive the scholarship a maximum of two times. Along with an

application, the applicant will be asked to submit two (2) letters of recommendation, a maximum 500-word essay written on the applicant's choice from provided prompts and the Completed Grange Foundation Media Release. Applications are due **March 1, 2026**.

The application is available by visiting grangefoundation.org/ernestine-memorial-scholarship/. Granges are strongly encouraged to share this scholarship information with eligible members.

The Grange Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, supports youth development, promotes agriculture education and research, improves communities, and fosters culture, heritage, citizenship, and charitable activities.

Deer Island Grange's Don Coin Walrod Scholarship

The Deer Island Grange #947, Columbia County, is now accepting applications for the Don Coin Walrod Scholarship. This is a scholarship created for a Columbia County High School senior. Applicants may attend a trade school, community college, or university of their choice, but must major in agriculture, education, forestry, or animal science.

Applications are available from

each of the Columbia County High School Counselor offices and must be post marked by April 1st, 2026. They should be mailed to: Don Coin Walrod Scholarship, 3600 5th Street, Columbia City, OR 97018.



2026 Grange Educational Scholarships

OSG Foundation Scholarships

Louise Angela Holst Memorial Scholarship

Given to an Oregon State Grange member with at least five years of active Community/Junior Grange membership who is between 16-40 years of age and can be used for any advanced education including 2-year programs, 4-year college or a vocational school. The scholarship amount will be \$500 and will be paid directly to the winner upon proof of enrollment and payment of tuition.

Marcel "Muzzy" Mandel Memorial Scholarship

For an Oregon Grange member or the child or grandchild of an Oregon Grange member who has graduated from high school or completed a GED. For undergraduate work while attending any institute for post-high school education. Amount is variable. Paid to the recipient with proof of enrollment.

Mary Helen Sauter Ramm Memorial

For a female Oregon Grange member undergraduate or graduate student who is returning or has returned to college after a break. Use at the school of your choice; priority will be given to students majoring in Education, History or Family History/Genealogy. A minimum of \$250 will be paid directly to the winner upon proof of enrollment.

Malcolm Trupp Vocational Memorial

For an Oregon Grange member or the child or grandchild of an Oregon Grange member who is or will be enrolled at a community college or a vocational school only. A minimum of \$500 will be paid directly to the winner upon proof of enrollment and payment of tuition and fees.

Oregon State Grange Scholarships

Charles E. Spence Memorial

An applicant must have been a Grange member in Oregon for at least two years. Scholarship can be used at applicant's choice of school. Value \$1000.

Grange Workers Activities (GWA)

Goes to Oregon Grange members, who are or will be enrolled in a two- or four-year college or university or trade school. Checks will be made out to recipient upon proof of full-time enrollment. (at least 12 hours at a college or university) Up to two \$750 scholarships will be awarded.

For all of the above scholarships: The application forms will be mailed to your Subordinate/Community Grange Secretary or can be downloaded from www.orgrange.org/scholarships/. The completed application must be sent to the Oregon State Grange office, 643 Union St NE, Salem, OR 97301 **postmarked no later than May 1 for all but the GWA scholarship which must be postmarked by May 10th.**

Oregon Granges Honored by National Grange

Several Oregon Granges and Grangers were recognized during the National Grange Honors Night broadcast on November 21st.

Recognized as Distinguished Granges were Redland #796 for the fifteen year, Springwater #263 for the tenth year, Marys River #685 for the eighth year, Creswell #496 for the seventh year along with Clackamas County Pomona Grange #1 for the second year.

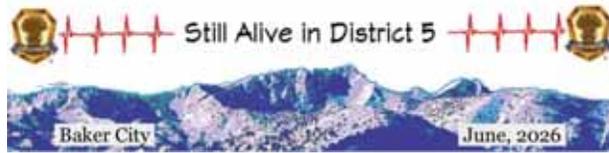
In the Lecturer's contests three Oregon Grangers received awards. In the Garden Design contest Joyce Parker of Springwater Grange #263, received the first-place award in the adult division of the container gardening category. Suzy Ramm, also of Springwater Grange, received the first-place award in the adult division of the raised bed gardening.

Oregon also had two award recipients in the Design-a-Program con-

test. Placing second in the Internal Adult Lecturer's Program category was Carolin Pettit, Lecturer at Creswell Grange. Her program was one she did last summer. She knew it was going to be the hottest day of the season, so far, and almost 100 degrees, so she built a program around popsicles, including their history and a popsicle for everyone to help them all cool down.

Placing first in the same category was Springwater Grange Lecturer Suzy Ramm with her April program using the theme: America's 250 Birthday - The Beginning, titled "April 18/19 - 24 Hours Make History" which covered Paul Revere's ride and the battles at Lexington and Concord which historians concur as the beginning of the revolutionary war.

In the Creative Writing Contest Mike Terry of Marys River Grange received an honorable mention with his poetry.



District 5 is Ready to Welcome you to Baker City! June 20 to 25, 2026

It is time to think about where you might stay while attending this year's 153rd Oregon State Convention. This year it will be at the Baker City High School. There are several options for those wishing to stay in motels. Please note that all of the places that the host committee talked to specifically stated you should book your dates as early as possible. Three months was the suggestion.

Baker City Hotels and Motels

Baker City Motel & RV Park

880 Elm Street 541-523-6381
<https://bakercitymotelandrv.com>

Best Western Sunridge Inn

1 Sunridge Lane 541-523-6444
https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.38183.html

Bridge Street Inn

134 Bridge Street 541-523-6571
<https://www.bridgestreetinnmotel.com>

Geiser Grand Hotel

1996 Main Street 888-434-7374
<https://www.geisergrand.com>

Knights Inn

2205 Broadway 541-523-6324
<https://www.knightsinn.com/us/or/baker-city/knights-inn-baker-city>

Motel 6

175 Campbell Street 800-307-5206
<https://www.motel6.com/en/home/motels.or.baker-city.8785.html>

Oregon Trail Motel

211 Bridge Street 888-523-5882
<https://www.facebook.com/oregontrailmotelandrestaurant/?fref=ts>

Quality Inn

695 Campbell Street 541-239-3409
<https://www.choicehotels.com/oregon/baker-city/quality-inn-hotels/or151?mc=llgoxxpx>

Rodeway Inn

810 Campbell Street 541-523-2242
<https://www.choicehotels.com/oregon/baker-city/rodeway-inn-hotels/or047>

Super 8 Motel

250 Campbell Street 541-523-8282
https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/super-8/baker-city-oregon/super-8-baker-city/overview?hotel_id=04015

Baker City RV Parks

Baker City Motel & RV Park

880 Elm Street 541-523-6381
<https://bakercitymotelandrv.com>

Mountain View RV Park

2845 Hughes Ln 541-523-4824
<http://www.mtviewrv.com>

A Frame RV Park

42534 N Cedar Rd 541-523-3236
<https://www.aframervpark.com>

Love's RV Hookup

200 Campbell Street 541-239-6009
<https://www.loves.com/locations/or/baker-city/loves-travel-stop-baker-city-569>

There also some short-term vacations rentals available in the area through www.vrbo.com, www.airbnb.com or others.



foundation@orgrange.org

The Board of Trustees of the Oregon State Grange Foundation is happy to announce that we are ready to start collaborating with individual Subordinate/ Community Granges and Pomona Granges to help them secure funding for programs and needed building repairs. The new program requires a Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement signed by both the Grange and the foundation. It will require a complete description of the program or planned renovation/remodel including plans, budget and timelines that will need to be submitted to the Oregon State Grange Foundation for approval before grants using the Oregon State Grange Foundation Tax Identification and 501c3 status can be used.

The process starts with a Grange contacting any of the members of the Board of Trustees either by telephone or email. The trustees will arrange to have a Fiscal Sponsorship packet sent to the Grange. We prefer to send this information via email so be ready to give the trustees a current email address. The packet will include a letter, application form, and information about how to put the plan together to submit back to the Foundation. Once a completed application is submitted to the Foundation it will be reviewed and either approved or rejected by the Board of Trustees of the OSG Foundation.

Granges with approved applications are then allowed to raise money by

donations, grants, and other means for the approved project. All money is sent to the Oregon State Grange Foundation and held until the Grange is ready to do the project. The Oregon State Grange Foundation will charge five percent (5%) administration fee for overseeing the funding of the project. The Oregon State Grange Foundation will track all money received and issue the appropriate donation letter to all donors.

If your Grange is interested in more information or to request a Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement packet contact any of the nine trustees or send an email to foundation@orgrange.org



Benefits the Oregon State Grange Foundation

www.fredmeyer.com/account/communityrewards/

Add/update the Community Organization on your account information page to Oregon State Grange Foundation - FM650

Volunteers Needed for Digital Archiving of Oregon State Grange Documents

The Oregon State Grange has set up a digitization workspace, through a Grant from the State Historic Preservation Office with the OSG Foundation as the fiscal sponsor to digitize the major printed documents of the Grange, including the Bulletin, the annual Convention Proceedings, and the Roster of Oregon Granges.



Volunteers will be needed at the Salem OSG Office to use the digitization equipment to create digital versions of these documents to preserve the history of the Oregon State Grange.

These digital copies will outlast the fragile paper originals, and be easier to access, not requiring a trip to our offices in Salem during our open hours.

The work is interesting, a few hours on a day can help a lot, and the system is easy with training.

If you are interested in helping out or have question, please contact:

Jay Sexton at:
 541-250-6662
[email: pawpawsexton@gmail.com](mailto:pawpawsexton@gmail.com)

Granges Celebrate the Holidays



Pleasant Grove Grange Rings in 2026

Pleasant Grove Grange #475 in Summerville in Union County, held their annual New Years Day Brunch with a full menu of scrambled eggs, roasted potato hash, sausage, ham, fruit, bread and cinnamon rolls. Grange members brought homemade breads and salads. Other members arrived early to help cook, greet and serve.

It was a full house with many repeat attendees as well as some new ones and many out of town visitors. Grange members were still fresh from their member Christ-

mas Eve potluck/white elephant exchange the week prior.

Humorous stories were still circulating at the New Years Day event. The members were so grateful for the many people who ventured out on that very cold day to share some neighborly chat and meet new friends and neighbors. Fostering a growing sense of community in this rural NE Oregon area is a priority goal for Pleasant Grove Grange and this event has 2026 looking very promising. Happy New Year fellow Grangers!



Above: Michelle Gregory spinning wool from her own sheep.

Corbett Holiday Craft Fair Brings Community, Creativity, and Local Craftsmanship Together

Columbia Grange #267, Multnomah County, hosted its annual Holiday Craft Fair on December 6-7, welcoming community members to two days of handmade goods, live music, and local connection. Featuring more than 30 local artisans across the weekend, the fair highlighted the creativity and self-reliance at the heart of Grange values.

Vendors offered a diverse selection of goods, all handmade by the individual artisans themselves, including pottery, fiber arts, textiles, woodworking, jewelry, herbal remedies, honey and preserves, candles, artwork, sewn and knitted gifts, wooden toys, and other locally made farm and personal care products. For many craftspeople, the fair

has become an important opportunity to grow their skills and confidence—over the past eight years, it has helped nurture and “level up” a strong community of makers.

The event emphasized community over commerce, with many artisans sharing stories behind their work and building new local connections. Live music, refreshments, and a welcoming atmosphere make the fair a seasonal gathering place as well as a marketplace. The Corbett Holiday Craft Fair started in 2017 and continues to be a celebration of local talent, collaboration, and the enduring role Granges play in strengthening rural and small-town communities.

Grange at Fair Lights

Hurricane Creek Grange #608, Friday, December 19, and continued every night through Sunday, December 28. Fair Lights began on



Above l-r: Elvaree Fine, John Shull, Kevin McBride and Lois Ensminger helped set up the Grange display for Fair Lights.



Above: Karen Potts, Assistant Steward, with the antlers, and Albert Pepe looking at a fun book on Chinese Herbs.

Bellview Grange Holiday Sale

Bellview Grange #759, Jackson County, members brought all kinds of new and used goods to share with the community at their holiday sale. From Catie Faryl's homemade pot-holders and quilts, to Botanicals by Maha Mushrooms. There was a lot of competition from all the other Christmas events, but the Grangers still had a good time and each cus-

tomer enjoyed optimal attention.

Hats off to Catie who pulled it all together including the deep pre-sale clean-up of the Grange hall and cleaning out the basement. Starting the new year fresh in more ways than one, as they have just elected a new President, Flavia Franco as their inspiring leader.

Goshen Holiday Christmas Bazaar

Goshen Grange # 561, Lane County, held a Holiday Christmas Bazaar on November 28, 29, and 30. They received a donation from Emma Rantf from Idaho, who stopped in on her way home.

She also set up a GoFundMe page for Goshen Grange and put the Grange in touch with an on-line news web site “Right Now Oregon” who did an article on the Grange,.



Above: Cindy St Clair from Mohawk McKenzie Grange and Liz Dehne, from Walterville Grange, helped out at the bazaar.

L: Emma Rantf with her donation.

Granges Celebrate the Holidays



Above: Walterville Grange members decorated the Christmas tree before their holiday open house.

Walterville Holiday Open House

Walterville Grange #416, Lane County, held their holiday open house on December 9th. All attending were asked to bring a dessert

and themselves. Everything else for the dinner was provided by the Grange.

Hurricane Creek Enjoyed Holiday Music and Taffy Pull

Hurricane Creek Grange #608, Wallowa County, held a fun evening of Christmas music with an old-time saltwater taffy pull on Sunday, December 14th. Special Christmas Music was provided by local musicians; the Caine Family and Heidi Muller led the Sing-along of favorite Carols.

Family fun was making home-made taffy to take home. Hot Chocolate, Coffee, and snacks were served to all.



Above: Grange member Kevin McBride tried his hand at pulling taffy



L-r Michaila, Kirsten & Michael Caine and Heidi Muller, local musicians, shared their talents.

Illinois Valley Grange Bake Sale



Above: Baked goods on the tables and canned goods on shelf along the wall.

Illinois Valley Grange #370, Josephine County, had their annual bake and canned goods sale on December 20th to help raise funds to replace the metal roof on their hall. The results were up from last year when they sold over \$300. This year sales were over \$500.



Ada Christmas Party With Santa

Santa made a visit to Ada Grange #570, Lane County, Annual Community Christmas Party on December 7th. All enjoyed hayrides and crafts and there were Christmas ornaments for all the children.



R: Santa with Ada Grangers, some decked out in holiday attire. Below: Santa with all the children.



Oregon State Grange Open House

The Oregon State Grange held their annual holiday open house at the state Grange headquarters in Salem on Sunday December 14th. Many

Grangers stopped by to say hi, see the headquarters building and enjoy some good food and fellowship.



Springwater Host Holiday Breakfast

Springwater Grange, #263, Clackamas County, always makes a special effort with their otherwise normal first Saturday of the month breakfast in December. Tables were set

up in the main hall and the dining room and were decorated with beautiful red Poinsettias, the flower of the season. Santa (Grange President John DeHaas) greeted the children with the help of Mrs. Claus (Peggy Hartwig) and families were encouraged to take holiday photos with them. Grange Musician Kathleen Souder played several hours of seasonal music.



Above: Santa and Mrs. Claus with the gifts for the adopted families.

On the stage under the tree were all the gifts purchased for the two local families that the Grange had adopted to provide gifts for the holidays. There were a total of nine children from age 10 months to seventeen in the two families.



Santa and Mrs. Claus with the kitchen crew.



GWA

Susan Noah
susannoah6@gmail.com
OSG Grange Workers Activities Director

2026! The promise of a new year is always a time for reflection and a time to make a fresh start. For the State GWA committee that means assessing the programs we present and working to bring more to our membership. We have made a few changes to the contests we offer and have discussed some new ideas for presentations at the State convention in Baker City.

One of the new ideas this year came from the California State Grange convention in October. We are holding an apron auction (including some first-class men models!) with the money going to The Baker Relief Nursery. The Baker Relief Nursery works to prevent child abuse and neglect by assisting vulnerable families and promoting the health and safety of children in Baker County and the community of North Powder in Union County. We will be looking for apron donations for the auction. Handmade or purchased

aprons will all be accepted and auctioned. Got an extra Grange apron? Maybe a grilling apron? A frilly dainty one? The more the merrier and the more money we can raise for families and children in Baker County. Don't forget the GWA has an Apron contest, so make one to be entered and allow us to auction it!

On a community level have you worked with your Grange to bring in and implement new ideas? This is the time of year for Granges to hold planning meetings that will guide members throughout the coming year. Work to make sure that your Grange is a vital part of your community. Our Granges that show consistent growth are the ones who are active in their community, the ones who invite friends and neighbors to events. And remember non-members can take part in all the GWA contests!

Happy New Year!

Granges Hold Pie Auctions

Goshen Grange

Goshen Grange #561, Lane County, will hold its 10th annual pie auction, social and open house on March 14, from 2-4 pm at their hall at 85628 Dillard Rd., Eugene.. Pie eating social, which is free, will start after the auction at 3pm.

All proceeds support the Goshen Grange new floor fund. Come, buy a pie, eat pie, and have fun and visit.



Springwater Grange

Springwater Grange #263, Clackamas County, invites you to a fun filled evening of dinner and pie benefiting their scholarship fund. The evening starts with a potluck dinner at 6 pm followed by auction at about 7 pm on Friday, February 27th.

All proceeds go to the Grange's scholarship fund which annually awards the Joseph Z Guttridge scholarships for college students and the Donald and Barbara MacKinnon Elementary Education Impact Grants which are awarded to elementary educators working in the Estacada and Colton School Districts.



GROW Club

"Go Right On Working"



Mark Noah
OSG GROW Club President
marknoah00@gmail.com

GROW Club? What's That? I've heard of it, but sure don't know what it's all about.

Those of you who are curious, please check out past articles in this publication! I am sure that I am not the only one getting the above comments, or something like it. NOTE: past issues of the bulletins are available on the Oregon State Grange website orgrange.org.

A couple of years ago we published the National Grange and the Oregon State Grange definitions of the G.R.O.W. Club and their functions. Over the last couple of years various members of the GROW club have submitted their written accounts of their journey to membership in this club which is set once they represent Oregon through participation in a program in the Youth Department at the National Grange.

Over the years since the late 1940's, we have had many incredible Grangers represent Oregon, some still active at the highest levels. It is quite an honor to be a member of this 'club,' and the great thing about these members, we love some Friends of Grange Youth aka FOGY folks as well. Many of our events or ritual support teams include GROW

Club members AND friends.

Besides the now famous ice cream socials that have been auctioned off at the annual State Grange convention, the GROW club has also made themselves available to Subordinate/Community Granges across the state for events and rituals such as Installation of officers, Fifth Degree, basic floorwork assistance, Welcoming ceremonies, etc.

Recognizing that we have the serious stuff covered, that being ritual and ice cream, we are looking to expand our horizon to include social events or outings. Yeah. Remember Fun? Some ideas that have been suggested are a Day at the Oregon Zoo, attending a 'local' baseball game (think Hillsboro Hops, The Pickles, or Keizer Volcanos). We, being the board of directors for the GROW club would LOVE to hear from you to gather ideas of FUN things that we can do together. The first might just be an informal gathering at a park to play frisbee, eat BBQ picnic foods and visit... and plan the next FUN thing to do.

Just remember that we are all just trying to Go Right On Working... GROW. Let's do it together and have fun at the same time.

Ada Grange #570 Member to Run Boston Marathon

Brian Schofield, a member of Ada Grange #570, Lane County, since 2010, qualified for the Boston Marathon after running the Light at the End of the Tunnel at North Bend, Washington in June of 2025 and was accepted to run the marathon in April of this year. Brian qualified in 2023 but wasn't chosen to participate in the marathon that year.

Brian participated in track and cross-country for four years at Siuslaw High School and two years at Lane Community College. He is now one of the assistant coaches for the cross-country teams at Siuslaw.

At the Rhododendron Festival Rhody Runs in Florence, Oregon in 2024 he got first place in the 5K and in 2025 he got 1st place in the 10K. In 2024 he got 1st in the Death by 5K where the competitors must run ten 5K's in 24 hours. Already this year he has run the Newport Res-



Ada Grange's Brian Schofield, at the Light at the End of the Tunnel, celebrating his Boston Marathon qualifying time.

olution 10K getting 1st place. Ada Grange plans to donate some of its Bingo profits to help Brian and his wife Katie with expenses for their trip to Boston for the marathon.

Does Your Grange Want Copies of the Bulletin?

Requests for copies of the paper are continuing. We have come up with a couple options for Granges to get copies of the papers.

- **Option one** is 5-10 copies of every issue which will be mailed in the name of the Grange for the Grange to use at their monthly events, i.e., breakfasts, dinners, Bingo or the like. The Grange name will be added to the mailing list and the Bulletin will arrive like clockwork every two months. So far Buell, Goshen, Hurricane Creek, Illinois Valley, Irving, Marys River, Morning Star, Redland, Siletz Valley, Spencer Creek, Springwater, Warren, and Wickiup are taking advantage of this plan. It is significantly less expensive to have them mailed from the printer than from the office.
- **Option two** is copies for individual events like an open house or your county fair. Let the office know by the deadline for the issue you want and numbers needed and they will be added to the count being printed. Once they arrive back from the printer they can be picked up or shipped to you.

Please let the Bulletin Editor know if you want to take advantage of either of these options.





Clackamas Pomona Plans Degree Day In February

Clackamas County Pomona Grange #1 invites all Grangers to witness the exemplification of the first four Degrees of the order on Sunday February 22, 2026, at Sunnyside Grange, 13130 SE Sunnyside Rd, Clackamas, OR 97015.

The first four degrees will be exemplified in the afternoon with potluck finger food refreshments during the break between the second and third degrees. Candidates for the first four degrees are requested

to arrive between 1:30 - 1:45pm with the degree work starting promptly at 2pm.

Clackamas Pomona Grange will exemplify the Fifth degree in September.

Questions? Contact Degree Team Captain Jim A. Dumolt 971-244-2628 jdumolt@hotmail.com or Pomona Master Joyce Parker, 503-502-6188, jerp0323@gmail.com.

Upcoming Dates/Deadlines

March 1	Candidate acceptance and statements for Oregon State Grange Officers must arrive at the state office by 5pm
	Deadline for first 2026 Matching Grange applications. Must be post marked by March 1 or if emailing, completed application must arrive by March 1 at the State Grange office.
	Deadline for National Grange Foundation Scholarship application
March 31	Honor Grange Applications must be postmarked and sent to the State Grange Office
	State Community Service Reports due. Send to the state Grange office, post marked by March 31
March 26-28	Western Regional Leadership Conference Best Western Airport ~ Boise, Idaho
April 1-30	Grange Month – theme: Grange Strong
April 22	Resolutions for this year's state convention from Subordinate/Community Granges <u>must arrive</u> in the State Grange office no later than April 22.
April 25-26	Oregon Ag Fest – Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem
April 30	1 st Quarter Reports due to the State Grange office.
May 1	OSG Foundation and Spence scholarships applications must be postmarked no later than May 1
May 5	Community/Subordinate Grange Ballots for State Officers must arrive at state office by 5pm
May 10	GWA scholarship applications must be postmarked no later than May 10
June 1	Deadline to order Convention meal tickets
	Deadline for Convention pre-registration
June 20-25	Oregon State Grange Convention District 5 – Baker High School, Baker City
November 10-14	160 th National Grange Convention Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
November 2027	161 st National Grange Convention Sparks, Nevada



Membership Matters

Jay Sexton
pawpawsexton@gmail.com
OSG Membership Director

Many Granges are installing their new officers in January. The success of every Grange depends on sharing the needed tasks of the Grange for continued success. Members stepping up to fill the officer roles of the Grange is essential to that success.

New members often have little understanding of our order, organization, and the way things work in Grange. The Installation Ceremony of the Grange officers is an important teaching moment for members of every "vintage," new and old. Having an Installing Officer from another Grange come to preside over the ceremony adds a note of solemnity to the event, emphasizing the importance of the charges to each officer, and briefly explaining the duties and symbolism of the Grange.

My Granges display the sashes, staves, and symbols of each office during the ceremony, and we take a photo of the new officer assembly after the conclusion. Applause from the membership shows our appreciation for the willingness of these members to take on these responsibilities for the benefit of our members and the community.

The Installation Ceremony takes 20 – 30 minutes and is one of the few ceremonies that are still common in our Halls, now that the first four degrees are infrequently performed. Many of the lessons of the first four degrees have never been experienced by the members who have joined in the last 20 years.

One way for a Grange to experience these lessons is for the lecturer to have a "table read" of the degrees, without the traditional marching of a full production. The language of the first four degrees is in the Manual, available from the Oregon State Grange office, and also from the National Grange. During a table read each member reads a part of one of the characters in the degree, allowing the members in attendance to hear the lessons associated with the miniature tools within the Implement Case, opened at every Grange meeting. Each of the first four degrees can be table read in less than 20 minutes.

Grange has survived these 150 plus years by serving their community, not aligning itself with any religion or political party, and helping members achieve their highest potential through cooperative action. Each Grange membership can connect with the lessons of the Grange through the Officer Installation Ceremony, and the other ceremonies of the Grange.

One of the barriers to membership in the Grange has been misunderstandings about our traditions and ceremonies, and when we, ourselves, do not understand them it is unlikely that we can explain our own organization to curious community members, who might join our fraternity. Each of us should attain some familiarity with our traditions so that we can clearly encourage membership in this organization which we value.



L-r: new members Phyllis Hense, Anthony Giltner, Alanna Boutillier-Skene, Carol McIntyre (Grange Master), April and Michael Shelnut.

Vernonia Welcomes New Members

On Sunday January 4, 2026, Vernonia Grange #305, Columbia County, Oregon State Grange Deputy Carol Everman, Columbia County Deputy Eva Frost and Teresa Cernac of Warren Grange assisted

Vernonia Grange in conferring the Welcoming Ceremony for five new members.

Vernonia Grange is so excited to have these new members join them.

Legislative Update

Mark Noah
marknoah00@gmail.com
OSG Legislative Director



The short session of the Oregon Legislature is upon us, and though I expect much time will be taken up with revisiting long-term ODOT funding, the current issue is that the Fall quarterly revenue projection issued by DAS was down slightly from the numbers the legislature used for budgeting last June. Rebalancing the budget, the primary reason for interim 'short sessions' to begin with, will most likely require cuts to agencies and government services. Follow legislative activity on the OLIS website, and for a general overview of information such as contact lists for all legislators, their committee assignments, and more check out the OLIS citizen engagement page: [outhttps://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Pages/data.aspx](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Pages/data.aspx)

Grangers have expressed concern about a proposed ballot measure, IP28, that would appear to ban animal husbandry, fishing/hunting, and impose drastic limits on the meat and poultry industry. While it seems so outlandish as to be cartoonish, still the forces behind this idea seem to be well-funded and able to gather signatures. And the fact is, we do not have specific policy statements in support of farming, ranching, animal husbandry, even hunting and fishing. This is something your legislative committee will be addressing, but we welcome your suggestions and resolutions.

Another issue is the Oregon State Parks Commission's attempt to limit the disabled veteran Special Access Pass (SAP). Currently Oregon's SAP allows any veteran with a service-connected disability to

camp 10 days per 30-day window, up to 120 days per year. The pass also offers free parking in any state-day-use area. The Oregon State Grange does not have specific policy regarding the SAP pass or any specific benefits to disabled veterans, but we did advise the Parks Commission, the Governor, and the members of the legislature via email that many of our members have advised us of their concerns regarding this issue. This is a rules decision by State Parks and may not come up during the legislative session but a number of legislators responded to our communication expressing their interest and thanking us for ours.

State Grange Convention in June is almost half a year from now, but for Grangers that meet only once a month the deadline for submitting resolutions is really only a couple of meetings away. If you have ideas for resolutions but need a little help, email anyone on the OSG legislative committee or drop in on our monthly Zoom forums. Not on the list? Just send me your email to receive the invitation info. Our plan is to send meeting notes to everyone on the list and my goal is to make that happen regularly. We will also occasionally send out items of interest via this list, so even if you don't want to Zoom you can sign up and receive info.

Finally, we will be having a Grange Day at the Legislature again this year! The date is March 4 and the schedule and further info can be found elsewhere in this Bulletin. Let's make the capitol aware that Grangers are here and paying attention!



All Grangers are invited OSG Legislative Forum Zoom Meeting

When: Wednesday March 5 @ 7 pm PST
Wednesday March 25 @ 7 pm PDT
Where: Zoom

The OSG Legislative Committee will lead a discussion on current legislative issues, ballot measures and Grange resolution developing. The next few months Granges should be busy writing resolutions to be considered at state convention.

Contact: Legislative Director Mark Noah
login information
marknoah00@gmail.com



2026 Grange Day at the Legislature

The Oregon State Grange Legislative committee is hosting Grange Day at the Legislature on Wednesday, March 4, starting at 9am at the Oregon State Grange office in Salem.

Grangers will meet at OSG office for coffee and donuts. Then either carpool or (weather permitting) walk over to the capitol to tour the capitol, observe (if they're in session) or drop by legislators' offices. Then come back to the OSG office around 1pm for lunch and conversation.

Because 2026 is a short session it is unlikely that legislators will have time to drop by and visit with us this year but if a speaker does get lined up it will likely be in the afternoon. If Grangers would like to meet with their own legislator specifically they will need to make an appointment.

Carpooling is encouraged as there is limited parking at the OSG office. Additional parking is available around the corner from the office on both Church St, NE and Cottage

2026 Sunsetting Policies

In the October/November 2025 Grange Bulletin on page 15 is found a complete list of the current policies of the Oregon State Grange that will sunset at the end of June unless action to retain them happens during this year's state convention.

There is a total of eighteen policies scheduled to sunset. They include in the Agriculture section policies on Farm practices, in Education - School Expenses and Funding Problems and the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program as well as "The Promise of Oregon."

In the Environment And Ecology section are policies on the Endangered Species Act and shooting of coyotes or wolves. In Natural Resources, policies on the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Wild Horse and Burro Laws as well as Owyhee Canyonlands Monument.

In the Legislation section, up for retaining is the Grange's long-time support of the Initiative and Referendum process and the use of the Emergency Clause.

These are just some of the policies that will sunset unless action is taken. Check out the October/November 2025 Bulletin or contact the State Grange Legislative committee members for more information.

St, NE. People can come and go as they see fit, of course.

Lunch is included and will be paid for by the OSG Legislative committee. You may order lunch through Little Lois catering - <https://littleloiscatering.com/ordering-options/> Contact Mark via phone or email for the order code. Or, if you just want a basic sandwich (turkey, ham or roast beef on sourdough, wheat, or white bread) Mark will put that order in for you if you let him know.

Please RSVP by March 2nd to ensure you will have a lunch:

Mark Noah
541-953-4155
marknoah00@gmail.com
1407 Modoc St
Springfield OR 97477

Lodging

Those attending from a distance must secure their own lodging. There are many hotels in the Salem area and Grange members get a discount through the National Grange at Choice Hotels. To take advantage of the discount, book your room through their website at choicehotels.com or by phone (800) 288-2847 and use promo code #00211660. This code is good anytime you travel including state convention.

Metal Grange Town Marker Signs Available

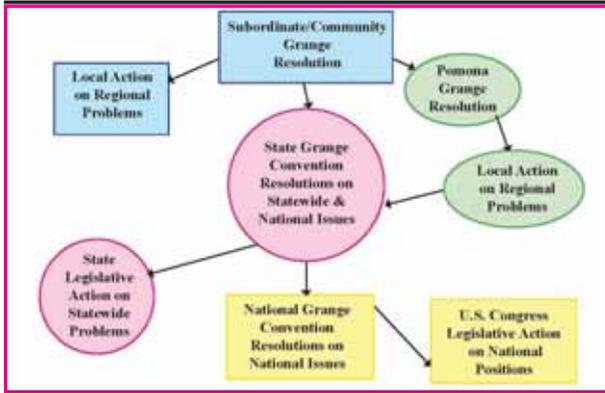


There have been several inquiries recently about the Grange Town Marker Signs. Did we have them, could we get them, are they still available? The answers are no, maybe and yes.

The Oregon State Grange does not stock them. We can get them but the shipping charges to the office and then to the Granges is cost prohibitive.

The best option is to order them directly from Monroe Classic, Inc.'s Grange member store www.monroeclassic.com. It is item #9343 and cost \$40.00. Currently shipping and handling is \$22.50.

Contact Mike at:
sales@monroeclassic.com
1.800.868.2330



How Our Policy is Developed

One of the basic precepts of the Grange is its adherence to “grass roots” policy development. Nearly every policy statement issued by National or State Grange Presidents or their legislative representatives begins in a local Grange meeting. The above chart shows how Community/Subordinate Grange resolutions result in action being taken on local, state, and national levels.

The Oregon State Grange Legislative Committee has developed a brochure to help you out and be certain that your important ideas receive the attention and action they deserve. It is available on the OSG website or requested from the state office.

UPCOMING POMONA GRANGE MEETINGS				
<i>Pomona Secretaries are to send in meeting information to the Bulletin Editor as soon as date, time, and location are determined and/or changed.</i>				
Pomona	Date	Time	Meeting Place	
Baker #24	May 2	10:30 AM	TBA	
Benton #36	April 18	10:00 AM	Summitt Grange	
Clackamas #1	April 25	9:30 AM	Clarkes Grange	
Columbia #18	May 2	10:00 AM	TBA	
Deschutes #25	May 9	11:30 AM	TBA	
Douglas #13	April 19	4:00 PM	Riversdale Grange	
Josephine #20	May 30	10:00 AM	Fruitdale Grange	
Lane #14	April 11	10:00 AM	Spencer Creek Grange	
Lincoln #10	Feb 21	10:30 AM	Salmon River Grange	
Linn #12	April 11	10:00 AM	Lacomb Grange	
Polk #3	April		TBA	
Tillamook #9			TBA	
Wallowa #22		5:30 PM	TBA	
Washington-Yamhill #2	April 18	10:00 AM	TBA	

Lane County Sheriff Recognizes Granges' Help With K-9s

At the January 10th Lane County Pomona Grange meeting awards from the Lane County Sheriff's office were given to nine Lane County Granges who made donations to the K-9 Blue cause. The top dona-

tion was given by Creswell Grange #496 for \$1650. Other Granges contributing were Goldson, Ada, Walterville, Spencer Creek, Santa Clara, Irving, Goshen, and Central. Over \$5000 was donated.



L-r: Representatives from Lane County Granges received certificates from the Lane County Sheriff's office. Creswell Grange - Patti Scott, Goldson Grange - Mary Beckman, Ada Grange - Loni Schofield, Walterville Grange - Paula Herrick, Spencer Creek Grange -Cookie Trupp, Santa Clara Grange - Ken Schwieger, Irving Grange - Peggy Jillson, Goshen Grange - Linda Wetzell and Central Grange - Levana Appletree.



Government Affairs

John DeHaas
 lobbyist@orgrange.org
 Lobbyist for the Oregon State Grange

Hello Grangers,

Oregon introduced new laws in 2026 covering consumer protection, healthcare, worker rights, and safety, reflecting Democratic priorities amid budget challenges.

Tenant protections expanded as well, with landlords now required to offer alternatives to traditional keys—such as access codes, fobs, or key cards—giving tenants more modern security options.

Consumer Protections and Hidden Costs

Online purchase transparency became a major focus, with Senate Bill 430 requiring sellers to include all required fees and charges in advertised prices rather than revealing them at checkout. Similarly, House Bill 3167 cracked down on ticket seller practices by prohibiting bot software that circumvents purchase limits and banning websites designed to mislead buyers about venue affiliation.

Personal Safety and Digital Crimes

House Bill 2299 strengthened laws against non-consensual intimate image distribution by including AI-generated deepfakes in the definition of prohibited. The crime escalates to a felony for repeat violations, with victims receiving enhanced protections.

Additional safety measures include increased restrictions on nitrous oxide sales, with House Bill 3447 requiring age verification (18+) for in-store and online purchase and House Bill 3865 limiting telemarketing calls to between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., with a maximum of three contacts per 24-hour period.

The Budget Crisis Looming

While these laws reflect Democratic priorities to protect working families, Oregon legislators face a stark fiscal reality. Federal tax code changes are expected to reduce state general fund revenue by \$890 million in the current budget cycle, forcing lawmakers to choose between disconnecting from federal tax law (effectively raising taxes), laying off state employees, or slashing services when the legislature convenes in February.

We will keep you informed as to any other changes that may come.

Happy Trails



We Want Your Email

The Oregon State Grange would like to update members via email once or twice a month. This will be cost effective and allow us to notify members of immediate legislative issues and upcoming events from Community Granges and the State Grange.

We are missing email addresses for many of our members. To make this an effective strategy, we must update our member records with current, active email addresses.

Please send an email to:
 ShelseaC@orgrange.org
 Include your name, Grange and email address.

Healthcare Access Expansion

The new laws substantially expand health insurance coverage requirements. House Bill 3064 mandates coverage for perimenopause, menopause, and postmenopausal treatments, including hormone therapies and osteoporosis. Senate Bill 692 requires coverage of perinatal services including doula, lactation consultants, and lactation. Senate Bill 699 expands prosthetic and orthotic device coverage to include equipment needed for physical exercises like running and swimming.

Insurance protection also improved through House Bill 2130, which doubled the Oregon Insurance Guaranty Association's covered claim limit from \$300,000 to \$600,000, substantially reducing uncovered losses in rare insurer insolvency cases.

Worker and Tenant Rights

Striking workers gained new protections under House Bill 916, which repealed a previous law denying unemployment benefits during labor disputes. Workers now must wait one unpaid week before becoming eligible, with benefits capped at 10 weeks depending on the state's unemployment tax schedule.

Employer disclosure requirements increased under Senate Bill 906, which requires employers to provide new hires with written explanations of earnings and deductions on payroll statements, updated annually.

2026-2028 Oregon State Grange Officer Nominations

The Oregon State Grange elects officers in even years. Below are the **names of the members** who were nominated for offices by Subordinate/Community Granges followed by **their primary Grange and number and the Granges who nominated them**. To accept a nomination for an office, nominees must file a written statement (and optionally a current [5 years old or less] photograph) with the State Grange office no later than 5 pm on March 1. No member may be a candidate for more than one office. Statements and pictures will be published in a special election issue of the Grange Bulletin that will be mailed in mid-March. Subordinate/Community Granges shall vote on State Officers at any regular meeting in April and send their results to the State Grange office no later than May 5. An Election Committee will tabulate the votes, and the results will be published in the June Bulletin.

President

Sonny Hays-Eberts - Marys River #685

Abernethy #346, Buell #637, North Bayside #691, Riversdale #731, Winona #271

Martin McClure - Creswell #496

Creswell #496, Frogpond #111, Lorane #54, Redland #796, Springwater #263

Jesse O'Dell - Santiam Valley #828

Crow #450, Goshen #561, Santiam Valley #828, Spencer Creek #855, Warren #536

Susan Noah - Mohawk-Mckenzie #747

Marys River #685, Mohawk-Mckenzie #747, Silverton #748, Walterville #416

Mark Noah - Mohawk-Mckenzie #747

Willamette #52, Sunnyside #842

Joyce Parker - Springwater #263

Beavercreek #276

Teresa Cernac - Warren #536

Hurricane Creek #608

Vice President

Georgene Barragan - Beavercreek #276

Beavercreek #276, Creswell #496, Frogpond #111, Harding #122, Redland #796, Spencer Creek #855, Springwater #263

Steve Kroeker - Western Star #309

Buell #637, Forest Grove #282, North Bayside #691, Santiam Valley #828, Silverton #748, Winona #271

Jesse O'Dell - Santiam Valley #828

Marys River #685, Walterville #416

Jeanie Force - Sunnyside #842

Riversdale #731

Phil Van Buren - Jasper #532

Hurricane Creek #608

Martin McClure - Creswell #496

Mohawk-Mckenzie #747

Breanna Hays-McKay -

Abernethy #346

Warren #536

John Fine - Riversdale #731

Crow #450

Patrick Dearth - Creswell #496

Goshen #561

Lecturer

Susie Kroeker - Western Star #309

Abernethy #346, Beavercreek #276, Buell #637, Creswell #496, Crow #450, Forest Grove #282, Frogpond #111, Goshen #561, Hurricane Creek #608, Marys River #685, Mohawk-Mckenzie #747, North Bayside #691, Santiam Valley #828, Silverton #748, Spencer Creek #855, Sunnyside #842, Walterville #416, Warren #536,

Western Star #309, Willamette #52, Winona #271

Steward

Phil Van Buren - Jasper #532

Abernethy #346, Buell #637, Creswell #496, Hurricane Creek #608, Marys River #685, Mohawk-Mckenzie #747, North Bayside #691, Santiam Valley #828, Walterville #416, Winona #271

Patrick Dearth - Creswell #496

Beavercreek #276, Frogpond #111, Spencer Creek #855

Lexie Suing - Crow #450

Crow #450, Goshen #561, Sunnyside #842

Jesse O'Dell - Santiam Valley #828

Springwater #263, Western Star #309

Jim J Dumolt - Clarkes #261

Silverton #748

Courtney Gordon - Spencer

Creek #855

Warren #536

AS

John Fine - Riversdale #731

Abernethy #346, Buell #637, Creswell #496, Hurricane Creek #608, Marys River #685, Mohawk-Mckenzie #747, North Bayside #691, Riversdale #731, Santiam Valley #828, Walterville #416, Western Star #309, Winona #271

Jim J Dumolt - Clarkes #261

Beavercreek #276, Frogpond #111, Sunnyside #842

Steve Kroeker - Western Star #309

Crow #450, Warren #536

Sonny Hays-Eberts - Marys River #685

Willamette #52

Phil Van Buren - Jasper #532

Silverton #748

LAS

Stacy Brown - Forest Grove #282

Abernethy #346, Beavercreek #276, Buell #637, Creswell #496, Crow #450, Forest Grove #282, Frogpond #111, Goshen #561, Hurricane Creek #608, Marys River #685, Mohawk-Mckenzie #747, North Bayside #691, Riversdale #731, Santiam Valley #828, Spencer Creek #855, Sunnyside #842, Walterville #416, Warren #536, Western Star #309, Winona #271

Judy Hays-Eberts - Marys River #685

Willamette #52

Connie Suing - Crow #450

Silverton #748

Chaplain

Cookie Trupp - Spencer Creek

#855

Abernethy #346, Beavercreek #276, Buell #637, Creswell #496, Forest Grove #282, Frogpond #111, Goshen #561, Hurricane Creek #608, North Bayside #691, Riversdale #731, Santiam Valley #828, Spencer Creek #855, Sunnyside #842, Walterville #416, Warren #536, Winona #271

Connie Suing - Crow #450

Marys River #685

Randi Embree - Silverton #748

Silverton #748

Cindy St. Claire - Mohawk-

Mckenzie #747

Mohawk-Mckenzie #747

Priscilla Phillips - Goshen #561

Crow #450

Treasurer

Linda Helm - Phoenix #779

Abernethy #346, Beavercreek #276, Buell #637, Creswell #496, Forest Grove #282, Frogpond #111, Goshen #561, Marys River #685, North Bayside #691, Santiam Valley #828, Spencer Creek #855, Springwater #263, Walterville #416, Warren #536, Winona #271

Sonny Hays-Eberts - Marys River #685

Hurricane Creek #608, Mohawk-Mckenzie #747, Silverton #748, Crow #450

Steve Kroeker - Western Star #309

Willamette #52

Cookie Trupp - Spencer Creek #855

Lorane #54

Secretary

Mark Noah - Mohawk-Mckenzie #747

Abernethy #346, Buell #637, Goshen #561, Hurricane Creek #608, Marys River #685, Santiam Valley #828, Spencer Creek #855, Warren #536, Winona #271

Susan Noah - Mohawk-Mckenzie #747

Frogpond #111, Springwater #263, Willamette #52

Vickie Thorp - Myrtle Creek #442

#496, Crow #450

Louise McClure - Creswell #496

Mohawk-Mckenzie #747, Lorane #54

Suzu Ramm - Springwater #263

Silverton #748

Peggy Jillson - Irving #377

Walterville #416

Gatekeeper

Patrick Dearth - Creswell #496

Abernethy #346, Buell #637, Creswell #496, Crow #450,

Forest Grove #282, Hurricane Creek #608, North Bayside #691, Walterville #416, Warren #536, Winona #271

Steve Kroeker - Western Star #309

Goshen #561

Spencer Creek #855

Merle Allen - Willamette #52

Willamette #52

JC Junkman - Clarkes #261

Beavercreek #276

Martin McClure - Creswell #496

Marys River #685

Orrin Schnetzky - Tigard #148

Silverton #748

Georgene Barragan - Beavercreek #276

Mohawk-Mckenzie #747

Billy Shield - Santiam Valley #828

Santiam Valley #828

Ceres

Amanda Puls - Myrtle Creek #442

Beavercreek #276, Buell #637, Creswell #496, Crow #450, Frogpond #111, Goshen #561, North Bayside #691, Spencer Creek #855, Walterville #416, Winona #271

Ari Knight - Willamette #52

Willamette #52

JC Junkman - Clarkes #261

Springwater #263

Lexie Suing - Crow #450

Marys River #685

Tina Reynolds - Santiam Valley #828

Hurricane Creek #608

Sara Grigsby - Columbia #267

Warren #536

Margaret Clute - Forest Grove #282

Santiam Valley #828

Pomona

Roberta O'Dell - Santiam Valley #828

Abernethy #346, Beavercreek #276, Creswell #496, Crow #450, Forest Grove #282, Frogpond #111, Goshen #561, Marys River #685, North Bayside #691, Santiam Valley #828, Spencer Creek #855, Walterville #416, Western Star #309, Winona #271

Kathy Allen - Willamette #52

Willamette #52

Eva Frost - Warren #536

Hurricane Creek #608

Grace Merchant - Abernethy #346

Mohawk-Mckenzie #747

Connie Stauffer - Winona #271

Warren #536

Officer nominations continue on page 17

Ada Member Goes On Honor Flight

In September Ada Grange #570, Lane County, member/veteran Harold Johnson along with his grandson Christopher Johnson (guardian) and 59 other veterans and guardians participated in the South Willamette Valley Honor Flight to Washington D.C. All the veterans were from Lane, Linn, Benton, or Lincoln Counties.

Alaska Airlines designated a plane to fly the veterans, guardians and Honor Flight team which included team leaders, medical personnel, KVAL reporter and cameraman. There was no charge to the veterans and guardians paid a flat fee to go.

While there they visited the Marine Corp, Vietnam, WWII, Lincoln, Korean, and Navy Memorials. They also visited the Washington Monument, American Veterans Disabled for Life Monument, the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, and the Museum of the Army.

Harold is an Army Veteran, who was in Vietnam from 1965-1967.

Harold said the two places he really enjoyed visiting and which touched him the most was the Vietnam Memorial and the US Army Museum. A welcome home ceremony was held outside the Florence Elks Lodge when Harold and a veteran from Yachats returned.



Harold Johnson with his Grandson Christopher in front of a monument in Washington, DC.

Welcome home local Honor Flight participants at the Elks Lodge in Florence.



OSG Officer Nominations, continued

Flora

Jessie Jo Guttridge – Springwater #263

Abernethy #346, Beaver Creek #276, Creswell #496, Frogpond #111, Goshen #561, Harding #122, Hurricane Creek #608, Marys River #685, Mohawk-Mckenzie #747, North Bayside #691, Santiam Valley #828, Spencer Creek #855, Springwater #263, Sunnyside #842, Walterville #416, Winona #271

Roberta O'Dell - Santiam Valley #828

Warren #536

Executive Committee Position #1

Susan Noah - Mohawk-Mckenzie #747

Abernethy #346, Buell #637, Creswell #496, Crow #450, Hurricane Creek #608, Lake Creek #697, Mohawk-Mckenzie #747, North Bayside #691, Santiam Valley #828, Sunnyside #842, Walterville #416, Warren #536, Winona #271

Peggy Jillson - Irving #377

Beaver Creek #276, Frogpond #111, Springwater #263

Jay Sexton - Marys River #685

Marys River #685, Western Star #309

Cookie Trupp - Spencer Creek #855

Silverton #748

Linda Helm – Phoenix #779

Central Point #699

John Fine - Riversdale #731

Goshen #561

Executive Committee Position #2

Joyce Parker – Springwater #263

Abernethy #346, Buell #637, Creswell #496, Frogpond #111, Goshen #561, Harding #122, Hurricane Creek #608, North Bayside #691, Silverton #748, Spencer Creek #855, Springwater #263, Sunnyside #842, Winona #271

Teresa Cernac - Warren #536

Crow #450, Mohawk-Mckenzie #747, Warren #536

Eva Frost - Warren #536

Beaver Creek #276

Veterans

Patrick Dearth
soudad21@gmail.com
Oregon State Grange Veterans Director



Brothers and Sisters,

It's been a while since I've last written to you. I want to thank Suzy for keeping up the column during my recovery.

So I will briefly go over a few things and try to keep this short.

Oregon Parks and recreation department wants to implement a new policy on the (SAP). They want to change the amount of days that a disabled vet can stay in our parks, from 120 days to just 10 days a year. The Oregon State Grange has sent a letter along with Lane Pomona Grange to Parks and Recreation to give support for our disabled vets for not changing the current policy. The deadline was January 15th.

On a brighter note our very own Brother, Phil Van Burren was given the honor of being one of this year's flag bearers for the Albany Veterans Parade this past November. Congratulations Brother Phil, it is a great honor.

And finally it's that time of the year to start working on your nominations for Veteran of the Year. The Veterans committee will choose one vet from each district and present them with a quilt made by the wonderful ladies from Garfield Grange and a Grange Veterans pin. The application form is available on the state Grange website and will be mailed to each Grange along with

other convention information at the end of March.

Lastly, I would like to give all my Grange Brothers and Sisters a grateful thank you for all the warm wishes during my stay in the hospital; I'm grateful for you all and you helped me to get better. Your thoughts were very much appreciated.



Above: Brother, Phil Van Burren of Willamette Grange #52, Benton County, served as one of the flag bearers for the Albany Veterans Parade in November. Photo courtesy of The Oregonian.

Goldson Feeds Veterans Breakfast on November 11th

On Tuesday, November 11, 2025, the Goldson Grange #868, Lane County, members gathered early in the morning to prepare breakfast for their beloved Veterans. All hands were happily on deck! It is one of the Grange's favorite events because of the joy and camaraderie it creates when the Veteran's start pouring in. It brings a smile and warm feelings to serve the wonderful men and women from the community.

Goldson Grange loves serving up a hearty breakfast of eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, hashbrowns and coffee. They are so grateful to the Veterans that have served this country and love honoring them.



Dan Keeley – Maplewood #662

Marys River #685

Don Sether – Maplewood #662

Santiam Valley #828

Executive Committee Position #3

Vickie High – Hurricane Creek #608

Abernethy #346, Buell #637, Creswell #496, Forest Grove #282, Goshen #561, Hurricane Creek #608, Mohawk-Mckenzie #747, North Bayside #691, Santiam Valley #828, Spencer Creek #855, Sunnyside #842, Warren #536, Winona #271

June Colony – South Fork #605

Beaver Creek #276, Frogpond #111

Roger Wilson – White Eagle #683

Crow #450, Silverton #748

Edie Hanson – Little Deschutes #939

Springwater #263

Joann McBride - Hurricane Creek #608

Marys River #685

John Fine - Riversdale #731

Warren #536

Grange Youth & Young Adults



Amanda Puls
OSG Youth & Young Adult Director



Hello Youth and Young Adults,

We hope you and your families had a wonderful holiday season.

Please review the information in the bulletin regarding the Western Regionals and consider registering for this weekend of leadership development and fellowship.

The State Grange convention will be here before we know it, and we would love to see many of our Youth and Young Adults join us in

Baker City this June. As a reminder, please begin considering which contest you would like to enter for the State Grange Convention.

Thank you, and we look forward to a great year ahead.

This issue's column was written by District 4 Youth Chairman, Breanna Hays-McKay.



Be an Oregon State Grange Youth Office

Grange Youth and Young Adults

- Are you between the ages of 13.5 and 35?
- Are you considering attending all or part of the 2026 Oregon State Grange convention in June in Baker City?
- Would you be interested in serving as a State Youth officer?

If so, please contact the Oregon State Grange youth committee at office@orgrange.org

Goldson's 4-H/FFA Award Program

Goldson Grange # 868, Lane County is proud to sponsor scholarships to their youth said Sandra Rowell, Grange Lecturer, "We want to support agriculture, and the youth in our area who are involved."

Goldson Grange plans on offering the scholarships next year as well. If you are involved in agriculture, please contact the Grange at: goldsongranger@gmail.com to enter the 2026 4-H/FFA scholarship program.

Selected in the 5-12 age group were Jaxon Schultz, age 9 and Hunter Fowler, age 10.

Jaxon just recently completed his fourth and final year in the Cloverbud Program with the Junction City Community 4H Club. He is now old enough to take a market animal to the fair. "I joined the Cloverbud program so I could participate at the fair and not just watch my sister show her sheep!"

His projects in 2025 included raising three lambs that his granddad gave him to bottle feed: Moses, Athena, and Patty. He also enjoyed bringing his rabbit, Buddy, to the Cloverbud Show and Tell Day of the fair. Most of all he loves his new heifer, Caramel.

Hunter attends Crow Middle High. He completed his first 4-H market steer project with the Lucky H Cattle Club based out of Lorane. Hunter's market steer was a gentle Hereford named Chewbacca (Chewy for short), and weighed in at 1,386 lbs. at

fair. When Hunter purchased Chewy he weighed 495 lbs. Hunter was fortunate to board Chewy at his friend and fellow clubmate Haedyn's family barn. "My ultimate goal is to save enough to purchase a round pen so I can keep future projects at my own barn."

Selected in the 13-18 age group was Ruth Ann Schultz, age 13.

Ruthie shows lambs with the Junction City 4-H Club Her granddad is in the commercial sheep business and owns his own grass seed business, which ultimately sparked her interest in agriculture and leadership. Her recent project was a market lamb.

One of the new skills she developed is shearing. When she began shearing in 2024, she could only confidently shear the back of the lamb. During the week of fair in 2025, she did the full job on both her market and breeding lambs. Ruthie is grateful to have won this award. She will use the money towards purchasing a new lamb.



Above: Sandra Rowell, Goldson Grange Lecturer with Hunter Fowler. Center: Jaxon Schultz with his heifer Caramel and his award.

National Grange Welcomes Back Youth Director

by Philip J Vonada
National Grange Communications Director

In January, National Grange President Christine Hamp appointed Samantha Wilkins, a member of Alamo Grange #1446 in Texas, back to the role of National Grange Youth Director, where she previously served from 2022 to 2024. Wilkins steps back into the department which has been recently led by the Youth Advisory Team consisting of Jennie Gentry (NC), Jen and Ken Danko (PA), Samantha Hanson (IA), and Matt and Lynn Clark (NH) since 2024.

A lifelong Granger, Wilkins brings deep experience and a strong commitment to youth leadership, advocacy, and service. She has served the Grange at every level— from local and state leadership in Texas to multiple national roles— most recently as National Junior Grange Director from 2016 to 2024. Wilkins also served on staff at the National Grange as Operations Coordinator from 2019 to 2022 and currently serves as Texas State Grange Secretary.

"I am grateful and excited to return to this role," Wilkins shared. "This position brings together my love for the Grange and my commitment to investing in the next generation. I look forward to building programs that help our youth grow as leaders and advocates for their communities."

In the coming year, Wilkins plans to focus on leadership development, strengthening youth advocacy voices, and expanding youth engagement through regional youth ambassadors. Her priorities center on helping young members understand their leadership styles, gain confidence in civic engagement, and build meaningful connections across the organization. "Being part of their leadership journey, especially as they step into advocacy, service, and meaningful engagement, is incredibly energizing and rewarding," said Wilkins.

Wilkins believes that the Youth and Young Adult programs help strengthen the long-term sustainability of the Grange by intentionally developing informed, confident leaders who feel connected, valued and prepared to serve. She hopes to continue investing in youth leaders of all backgrounds to

build a pipeline of members who understand the Grange's mission, are committed to its future, and are ready to step into leadership roles and invest back into the next generation of youth members.

National Grange President Christine Hamp expressed her appreciation for the leadership that has shaped the youth program and her enthusiasm for Wilkins' return. "I want to sincerely thank the members of the National Youth Advisory Team for their passion, dedication, and countless hours of service on behalf of Grange youth across the country over the past two years," Hamp said. "I am delighted to welcome Samantha back into the role of National Grange Youth Director and look forward to the energy, vision, and leadership she brings as we continue investing in and building up the next generation of Grange leaders."

In the coming year, Wilkins plans to focus on three key areas: Helping youth identify their individual leadership styles and equipping them with opportunities to put skill into action; working with youth members to develop their legislative and advocacy voices; and building regional youth teams to help strengthen programming across the country.

For current youth and young adults, Wilkins has an important message to share: "Step forward - even if you're unsure. Leadership doesn't require having all the answers; it begins with a willingness to learn, serve, and grow. Your voice, your ideas, and your passion matter, and the Grange is a place where you can discover your strengths, try new roles, and make a real difference alongside people who will support you. Say yes to the opportunity, trust the process, and know that the Grange is stronger when you are involved."

Wilkins can be reached by email at youth@nationalgrange.org

Reprint from the January 9, 2026 Grange Today



R: Ruth Ann Schultz with her award certificate.



OSG Executive Committee Meeting Minutes - August 3rd, 2025

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 by President Sonny Hays-Eberts. Members present: VP Steve Kroecker, Sec Mark Noah, EC Susan Noah, EC Joyce Parker and EC Vickie High. Visitors: Dean High

Prior Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of the May 23, 2025 EC Meeting were read and approved as corrected

Financial Reports

- Loan and membership reports reviewed and discussed. Pleasant Valley Grange is 2 quarters behind in dues to State Grange and President Hays-Eberts has sent a letter warning them of possible suspension of charter. Overall, OSG membership this quarter shows slight increase, offsetting Q1's reported losses and trending towards a potential for positive gain for the year. We also discussed Terrebonne Grange's past sale of part of their property and the disposition of those funds.
- VISA Bill was reviewed and there were no objections
- Accounting Statement—investment earnings are up from last time and trending positively. Legal expense included final cost of Salmon River litigation.
- Charles Schwab Report (waiting for Scott to attend)

Old Business

- Russellville –Signed offer, now waiting for closure. There was a slight delay due to the need to document the State Grange's legal authority to sell. Sale price was \$710k. This Grange has been dormant for several years.
- Myrtle property sold. Seller and buyer are happy. Sold at \$70k. This Grange has been dormant for 7 years already.
- Vale – no interest so dropped price from \$209k to \$199k. Our agent there says the real estate market is very soft in Eastern Oregon. We may need to go lower. Vale was declared dormant in 2022.
- Rogue Community/Ophir – some interest at a lower price point but we will not carry the paper ourselves. This property is listed at \$350k.
- Triangle Lake – School and Grange still seeking a solution, proceeding, but slowly. No word from them recently. There is an entirely new school board and they seem inclined to come to some agreement.
- Salmon River – we have received the promised \$30k from the settlement with their contractor (we sued the contractor's bond on Salmon River's behalf for work not completed).
- Rickreall – loan increased by \$8,500, payment schedule changed, monthly payment increased. Bathroom replaced and porta-potty is gone.
- Moss Adams audit completed.

Now this firm is called Baker Tilly due to a merger or acquisition. Umpqua Bank has merged with Columbia Bank and we have been notified that they will assume the name Columbia Bank.

- Reviewed a draft template of a Request For Proposal for new audit firms. We would send to our current firm, Baker Tilly. Joyce has a list of potential firms too.

Scott Barker joined the meeting at this point with Charles Schwab report

- In spite of turmoil in the past 6 months, we have done well. Reviewed the performance of individual segments of our portfolio, and the factors impacting those outcomes. Discussed advantages of actively managed funds vs index funds. International finance is currently unpredictable and the resulting chaos seems to be favoring the index fund approach. We have two funds that are currently actively managed and Scott recommends moving at least one of them to index. Steve moved to change Goldman Sachs fund to index. Joyce seconded, and the motion carried.
- Scott reports we are close to balance regarding our investment policy allocations between Equities, Bonds and Alternatives and will have the opportunity to rebalance with incoming funds in the near future.

Old Business (continued)

- Continued discussing the RFP for audit firms. The current draft meets with approval without objection. We have a list of around 8 or 9 firms to whom Sonny will send this RFP.
- 990 restorations – Cherry Park working on 1024 form. Pay \$600 filing fee? They caught up with past dues, and that was significant. Sonny is working directly with one of their members on the 990 restoration; it appears Oregon State Grange can submit the paperwork. Cherry Park, Bandon, Roxy Ann, Multnomah, Fairview have all lost their non-tax status due to not filing 990s. Only Cherry Park has responded to Sonny's communication so far, re their 990 status, but he is attempting to work on it with them. Vickie moved that OSG will pay the \$600 filing fee for all 5 of the Granges currently in this situation, with the funds coming from the reverted Grange account. Susan seconded. Additional discussion ensued. The motion carried.
- Additional discussion about title restrictions on Grange properties. Most Granges have a notation on their titles that states the property cannot be sold without permission of the Oregon State Grange. This was not filed on some Granges and we need to follow through on the stragglers.

New Business

- RFP for Ag Fest—Sonny is working on an RFP to send to local farmers so they can bid on providing tomato and marigold seedlings for Ag Fest. RFP will require delivery to Ag Fest.
- Past Officer pins – still looking, emailed several companies in July, finally found a company in San Diego willing to make these pins for us. This company says the price for 10k gold would make this pin cost over \$500, so they recommend gold-toned silver with a diamond chip instead, keeping the cost at \$180 per pin. Our previous supplier charged \$150, so this seems reasonable. There will be a \$200 design fee to finalize the pin design, then production cost at \$180 per pin. Vickie moved to authorize the \$200 design fee. Steve seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Office Grounds – tree pulled down, cleaned up. Hire landscaper for barking, pruning, beautification? General discussion, the consensus is that the President and staff have the authority already to proceed with bids and hire this work done, money to come from the building maintenance fund.
- Log Cabin – Interim committee being established. Dan Keeley is Chair, several others have been contacted to serve on the committee including Jay Sexton, another Maplewood member with building experience, Jim Dumolt and Jeff Kleiner. Joyce says Bill Hood's former business was refurbishing log homes, Sonny will check with him also. The group using the log cabin for the Marion Co Fair indicated the possibility of a roof sponsorship by Marion County. Sonny and Steve fixed the door issue for Marion County Fair this year. The question is, how much longer will this building last, what should we do about maintenance or reconstruction? The named committee will report at the next state session.
- Sonny is formulating a document outlining all the specifications to host a convention. All meeting needs, everything involved.
- Convention sound. Both the mixer Sonny donated to OSG and David Wallace's have experienced some damage; David's might have been due to storage conditions, but the cause of damage for ours is unknown. Bruce Wallace agreed to accept only \$100 for use for Fern Hill sound and donate \$400 toward purchase of new mixer. Sonny studied options and recommended a Yamaha MGU20, 20 channel, much smaller footprint, over the repair of GB-2. Anticipated cost is \$750. We discussed how this all would work, the suggested mixer would match our existing tech. Susan moved to purchase the 20 channel mixer, Vickie seconded. After additional discussion the motion carried. This expense will be assigned to the state convention

sound system line item

- Oregon Dairy Princess – speakers gift and scholarship contribution? The suggestion of \$250 for each was made. This could be expensed to the membership/leadership account. Susan so moved, Vickie seconded and the motion carried.
- Bylaws printed and mailed. There have been significant issues with the formatting of the document, especially the use of section breaks and headers, impacting column continuity. The previous formatting tried to include documentation of changes in a header, but due to formatting issues these headers quickly became disconnected from the actual changes made. Sonny will make changes to the formatting. Current changes will continue to be underlined; this action will just eliminate the headers but keep the underlining meaning each year the past changes will not be identified, only current changes will be identified.
- Morningstar loan application. They are asking for \$19,586. The application seems complete and they discussed a payment plan of \$200/month. They do have CDs but do not want to incur early withdrawal penalties. Vickie moved to approve this loan, Joyce seconded. Their provided minutes indicate the original request was for \$15k, subsequently their executive committee met and amended the request to the \$19,586 stated. Sonny will verify with the Grange that this executive committee action was known. Motion carried.

Email Business

- Authorize payment of appealed lien balance of \$14,201.28 to City of Portland to settle outstanding lien
- Authorize Transfer of \$20,000 from CS to cover Russellville Lien payment
- Authorize Release of \$80,000 in Custodial Funds to Tigard Grange.
- Authorize Transfer of \$80,000 from CS to cover Tigard Custodial disbursement
- Accept offer for Russellville of \$780,000 with \$30,000 escrow holdback, 120 days for funding.
- Approve Weds Journal with corrections.

Joyce moved to ratify all decisions made by email; motion was seconded by Steve and carried.

Presidents Report

Sonny gave his President's report on current issues.

Additional:

Steve reports that our latest Bulletin mailing cost \$1967.10, this was an increase of around \$400.

Next Meetings:

November 23 @ OSG
We will discuss subsequent meeting dates at the next meeting.
Meeting adjourned 12:07pm

National Grange Announces Rural Life Initiative: “Bridging the Gaps”

by Philip J Vonada National Grange Communications Director

The National Grange continues its commitment to revitalizing rural communities with the launch of a new competitive grant cycle through the **Rural Life Initiative**.

On January 13, during a webinar entitled “From Ideas to Impact,” National Grange President Christine Hamp announced the start of the “Bridging the Gaps” grant cycle through the Rural Life Initiative (RLI), a program designed in partnership with Grange Advocacy to strengthen rural communities through health, wellness, agriculture, and community projects and events.

Bridging the Gaps allows Commu

nity and Pomona Granges to identify unmet, underserved, or under-attended needs in their areas, and to create projects, programs, or events to assist in meeting those needs.

“We want to help give Granges the results to show that they can be a change agent in their communities through partnerships that haven’t been possible before,” said Hamp. “This is about building capacity and resiliency in local communities.”

To date, more than \$175,000 has been distributed to State and Community Granges through previous Rural Life Initiative grants and programs.

The grant is as follows:
\$1,000 Bridging the Gap Grants (40 available)

- Applications reviewed as received. Must apply by February 28, 2026.
- Projects must be completed by August 31, 2026, with final reports submitted by September 30, 2026.

While the grant amount is fixed, additional incentives are available for each verifiable new member Granges gain through their projects.

Because RLI aims to build stronger communities across the country, there are a few main components to the grants:

- Events must address a disparity seen within your community.
- The goal of the **Rural Life Initiative: Bridging the Gaps** grant cycle is to get Granges active, encourage flexibility, and help place Granges at the forefront of **educating the community and addressing and mitigating a local disparity** within your community.
- You must include at least one partner organization beyond your Grange.
- You must submit a current membership list with the application proposal using the template provided by the National Grange.
- You have the flexibility to choose topics based on local needs, but:
 - Projects cannot involve building improvements or equipment purchases unless they’re essential to carrying out the project.
 - All projects must include a plan for recruiting and engaging new members.



with each other and building bridges to future success and lasting impact. The Rural Life Initiative is an essential lifeline for community resiliency in towns of all sizes nationwide.”

During the January 13 webinar, presenters Beth Westbrook and Nona Bear outlined several ways the **Bridging the Gaps** grant could be used by Granges, walking participants through every step. They encouraged attendees to “dream big” and think outside of the box.

The tips and tricks presented also encouraged Granges to pursue other community-based grants, always aiming for success.

“By giving Granges—and Grangers—the tools to succeed, the permission to think big, and some grant funding to get started, we are sure to see meaningful, engaging, life-changing programs and events,” said Nona Bear, one of the webinar presenters and a longtime advocate for rural communities.

Two additional webinars in the **Strategies to Strengthen Our Communities** series will be held on February 10 – “Lessons Learned: Success Stories from 2025,” and March 10 – “Engaging New Energy.”

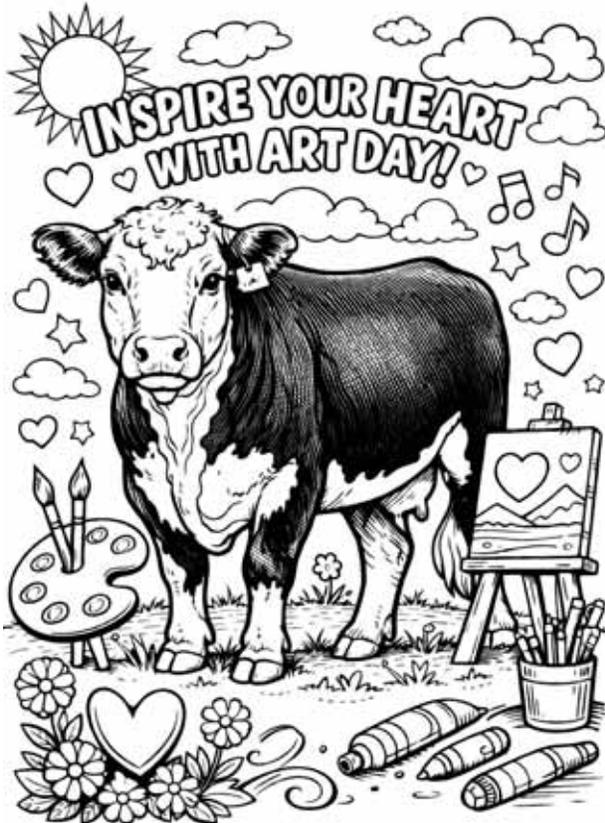
“We encourage you to stay engaged – you never know what’s coming next,” teased Hamp.

“We have seen Granges come alive through the previous grant cycles,” said Hamp. “Granges are thinking bigger and getting engaged in their communities again at a time when this kind of connection and involvement is crucial. They are connecting

To watch the full announcement, visit the National Grange YouTube channel, view the full grant requirements, and submit your applications at the Rural Life Initiative page on the National Grange website.



Junior Grange Activity Sheet



Your Name: _____ Moving? Let Us Know.

Old Address: _____ New Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Grange Name/Number: _____

Please provide name of any Subordinate/Community Grange office/Committee Chairman positions currently held.

Mail to: Oregon State Grange
 643 Union St NE
 Salem OR 97301-2462
 gbulletin@orgrange.org