



# Oregon State Grange BULLETIN

*Election Issue*

March 2024

News About the Grange

Volume 124 No. 1-a

## Is the Lack of Nominee for President Rare or Never?

*When it became apparent that several Oregon State Grange office positions, including the President would not have any nominations accepted and as such no office list on the ballot, OSG President Jay Sext reached out to the author of the new Oregon State Grange history book for some historical information.*

*The below response comes from Sister Marilyn Reiher of Winona Grange and author of "Oregon State Grange: Serving Communities For 150 Years."*

Oregon State President asks, "In your historical research has there been an OSG election when the presidency has had no nominees and had to be nominated from the floor?" I replied "No." My answer probably should have been "Not exactly."

In 1930 members voted to re-elect State Master George Palmiter and the delegates affirmed his election. It's not clear from newspaper articles, but the *Grange Bulletin* may clarify exactly when Palmiter resigned because he had accepted a managerial position with Farmers Automobile Insurance Company, a new insurer that had recently opened an office in Portland. (*Editor's note: Brother Palmiter resigned during convention after the report of the Election Committee was read and adopted, affirming his re-election.*)

Seven brothers were nominated from the floor.

- F. M. Gill of Pinecrest #504 in Wasco County had served on the Legislative Committee from 1908 to 1912 and the Executive Committee from 1924-26. He was a brother of Ray Gill, who later became State Master.
- M. A. Schrock of Milwaukie #268 was Clackamas County Pomona Master. He was elect-

ed to the OSG Legislative Committee in 1930.

- C. C. Hulet of Myrtle #289 in Coos County had not held a state office but was a State Deputy.
- H. E. Keeney of Haystack #495 in Jefferson County was a member of the Executive Committee in 1927-28.
- F. H. Edwards of Mayville Grange #203 in Gilliam County was likely related to J. W., Sarah, and/or W. J. Edwards who had served as Assistant Steward, Ceres, and Executive Committee member.
- Albert Slaughter of Salem #17 who was subsequently elected to the State Executive Committee in 1932 and served two terms.
- Walter M. Pierce of Blue Mountain #345 in Union County was elected to the Executive Committee in 1930 and served two terms.

The *La Grande Evening Observer's* headline speculated that Walter M. Pierce would be elected. He was not. Pierce was Oregon's 17<sup>th</sup> Governor, serving from 1923 to 1927. Before completing his law degree, he was Umatilla County Clerk and Superintendent of Public Schools. He was a well-respected breeder of Hereford cattle, founder of the Oregon Farmers' Union, and served on the Oregon Agricultural College's Board of Regents for more than 20 years. He also founded the Public Power League and supported prohibition; both causes of the Oregon State Grange. But he was also controversial. He advocated eugenics (selective mating to breed out disease, disabilities, and undesirable characteristics), was antisemitic and anti-Catholic, opposed anti-lynching legislation which gained him the support of the KKK. Despite this, Pierce was later elected to the U. S. House of Representatives where he

served from 1933 to 1943.

Reverend Charles Clair (C.C.) Hulet, a Presbyterian minister, was elected. 1930 was his third State Session. He undoubtedly was outgoing and a good speaker. The Executive Committee had no problem with C. C. delivering his favorite sermon at churches in towns he visited on Grange business. He usually stayed the night in the parsonage, which helped with expenses. But when he announced that he was running for U.S. Congress, they pressured him to resign. There was speculation that the Executive Committee was not happy with his work, and that this was a convenient way to end his term. It proved to be a wise decision because two of Hulet's positions differed from State Grange policy. He endorsed a 2% sales tax and favored referring prohibition to a vote of the people. The latter probably caused the end of his marriage because his wife Minnie was a leader in the Women's Christian Temperance Union in every town they lived.

As newspapers predicted Hulet came in third in a four-man race for U.S. Congress. Overseer M. C. Glover served as Master for 77 days before returning to the Overseer's

station. In 1932 Ray Gill was elected Master and served with distinction for ten years. (*Editor's note: Master C. C. Hulet resigned, effective April 1, 1932 and Overseer M. C. Glover took over as Master until Brother Gill was installed on Friday, June 17, 1932.*)

*The candidate statements in this issue were placed below the office heading in the paper in the order the acceptances were received at the State Headquarters.*

*Candidate statements conclude with member's name, primary Grange, affiliate Grange, Grange county and town of residence as required by Oregon State Grange Bylaws.*

### PRESIDENT

*No nominations were accepted for the office of President of the Oregon State Grange. Nominations for this office will be accepted on the floor on second day of the annual Oregon State Grange Convention in Tillamook*



### OSG Legislative Forum Zoom Meeting

When: Wednesday, March 27th @ 7 pm PDT on Zoom

The OSG Legislative Committee will lead a discussion on proposed measures and petitions we are following, answer questions about resolution writing and deadlines, and talk about issues of interest. Resolution deadline for Subordinate/Community Granges for the 2024 OSG Convention is April 17th.

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

### Inside

2024-26 State Officer	
Candidate Statements	2-5
National Grange Policy Statements	
AG	7-8
Citizenship & Taxation	4
Conservation	3
Western Regional Info/Reg.	6

State President Office	5
Grange Month	2

### Bulletin Deadline

June/July Issue  
May 10, 2024

### 2023 National Grange Policy Statements

In this issue there are several of the National Grange Policy Statements adopted at the 157<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the National Grange held in November 2023.

If your Grange wants to change or strengthen the policy now is the time to write resolutions. The deadline for submitting resolution for consideration at the Oregon State Grange Convention in June is April 17th for Community Granges

# Candidate Statements For 2024-26 OSG Officer Elections - Vote At Your Community/Subordinate Grange Meeting In April

The Oregon State Grange elects officers in even years. Below are the names of those members who accepted the nomination of Subordinate/Community Granges for the offices. No member may be a candidate for more than one office. Subordinate/Community Granges shall vote on state officers at any regularly held meeting in April and send in their results to the state office. The report must arrive at the Oregon State Grange office no later than **May 5th at 5pm**. Results must be reported on the Certified Ballot Report with the signature of the President/Master and Secretary as well as the seal of the Grange and number of members present at the meeting in the envelope provide with the ballots and report. An Election Committee will tabulate the votes with results being published in the June Bulletin.

## VICE PRESIDENT

**Steve Kroeker**



Thank you for your nomination for Vice President of the Oregon State Grange.

It has been an honor to serve the membership of the Oregon State Grange this past term. I enjoy working with the Executive Committee to strengthen the Grange and its outreach throughout the State.

I am a member of Crow Grange #150 in Lane Co. I am currently Lane Pomona Assistant Steward. At the State level I have served as Assistant Steward and Youth Director, and on various Committees.

At the Subordinate level I have served as President/Master, Vice President/Overseer, Assistant Steward and as an Executive Committee member. At the Pomona level I have been Vice President/Overseer, and the Assistant Steward.

I have been a Grange member for 40 years joining in 1983. I live in Albany with my wife Susie and have 2 grown step-sons.

Fraternally,

Steve Kroeker  
Crow Grange #450  
Lane County  
Albany, Oregon - Linn County

**Jim J. Dumolt**



Hello Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Jim J Dumolt, not to be confused with my grandfather Jim Dumolt. I am a fourth generation Granger and have been a part of the Grange my entire life. I am twenty-nine years old, joined the Jr. Grange at five, and became a member at thirteen and a half. I am currently the President of Clarkes Grange #261 in Beaver creek, OR, and have held multiple offices there since joining. I had the pleasure of being the Assistant Steward for Clackamas County Pomona #1 for a couple of different terms, participated in the county youth program growing up, and am currently the Clackamas County Deputy.

Jim J. Dumolt  
Clarkes Grange #261  
Clackamas County  
Beaver creek, Oregon

## LECTURER

**Susie Kroeker**



Thank you for the nomination of Lecturer of the Oregon State Grange. I am a member of Crow Grange #450 in Lane County, I live in Albany in Linn County with my husband, Steve and have two grown sons.

I have been a Grange member for the past 35 years and have held offices at the Subordinate, Pomona, and State levels. I am currently on the State Lecturer's Committee and have served as the Clackamas County Pomona Lecturer.

My favorite job as Lecturer is preparing educational programs that keep members entertained. I hope to help other Lecturers with the process of planning programs that engage our membership as well as increasing participation in State contests.

Fraternally,

Susie Kroeker  
Crow Grange #450, Lane County  
Albany, Oregon - Linn County

## STEWARD

**Phil C. Van Buren**



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I wish to thank you for the nominations for the office of 'Steward of the Oregon State Grange'.

The duties of the Steward are important ones to fulfill. From setting up the meeting room; with the help of the Assistant and Lady Assistant Stewards, to being in charge of the regalia and also meeting and greeting guests and having an important part in exemplifying the sixth degree.

It has been my privilege to serve you in this capacity for the last two years and if you wish I will continue to do so.

Thank you for your continued support and consideration.

Sincerely & fraternally,

Phillip (Phil) C. Van Buren  
Jasper Grange #532  
Springfield, Oregon  
Lane County  
Midland Grange #781  
Klamath County  
Klamath Falls, Oregon

**Alex Coe**

No photo and statement received for this publication.

Alex Coe  
Phoenix Grange #779  
Jackson County  
Medford, Oregon

### Grange Spirit Week April 14th - April 20

*How does it work? It's incredibly easy to join! Each day has a different prompt or theme. All you have to do is post a picture of how you are celebrating Grange and sharing your #grangestory to your Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or other social media account. Use the hashtag #grangemonth24 in your posts!*

**Grange Month 2024**  
**Grange Spirit Week**

April 14	April 15	April 16	April 17	April 18	April 19	April 20
#GrangeStrong Day	<b>Rooted Day</b> Show off your Grange's roots in the Community	<b>Resilient Day</b> Show how your Grange has helped overcome obstacles	<b>United Day</b> Show how your Grange unites members & your communities	<b>Grange Shirt Day</b>	<b>Grange Project Day</b>	<b>Grange Future Day</b> Share what you hope your Grange looks like in the future!

Share on Social Media with #grangemonth24 and #grangestrong

## ASSISTANT STEWARD

No nominations were accepted for the office of Assistant Steward of the Oregon State Grange. Nominations for this office will be accepted on the floor on second day of the annual Oregon State Grange Convention in Tillamook

## LADY ASSISTANT STEWARD

**Stacy Brown**

No photo and statement received for this publication.

Stacy Brown  
Forest Grove Grange #282  
Washington County  
Amity, Oregon  
Yamhill County



## Conservation Committee Policy Statement

We encourage the responsible stewardship of our natural resources from all who own or use them. We define responsible Stewardship as a balance between use, preservation, and the environmental standards appropriate to the regional needs. Our organization has been a strong advocate for land stewardship. We believe that protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources are vital. We further believe that education of the public regarding the importance of our natural resources is an absolute necessity. We support current federal guidelines on the control of air and water quality.

The National Grange should continue to advocate for conservation programs. These programs should encourage farmers to operate in an environmentally sound manner, focusing on scientific and technical assistance, research, education, loans, and cost-share programs.

Climate change is receiving attention not only in our nation, but across the globe. The National Grange understands agriculture is a part of the total picture on climate change and the efforts to accomplish Net-Zero greenhouse emissions in the United States. We demand American Agricultural Data, rather than worldwide data, be used to provide a more accurate picture of greenhouse emissions in our nation and that consistent sources of data be used. The National Grange supports the use of Best Management

## CHAPLAIN

**Cookie Trupp**



Brothers and Sisters,  
I accept the nomination for Chaplain of the Oregon State Grange. I would be honored to have the opportunity to perform such a role that shares my faith with others. I see the role of Chaplain as being inspirational as well as fulfilling. Thank you again for considering me for this important office.

Cookie Trupp  
Spencer Creek Grange #855  
Lane County  
Eugene, Oregon

**Daniel W. Le Brun**



I am delighted to have been nominated by my brothers and sisters for the office of Chaplain of the Oregon State Grange. I would like to think the Granges that nominated me for that office and I accept the nomination.

I have been a Grange member for over 40 years and have held the following offices in Eagle Creek Grange, Assistant Steward, Lecturer, Master, Overseer, Secretary, and now serve as Chaplain.

In Clackamas County Pomona Grange, I have held the following offices: Chaplain, Executive Committee, County Deputy, Gatekeeper and now serve as Assistant Steward.

In the Oregon State Grange, I was the District Four Deputy, Education Chairman in District Four, and served as the Education Director, and was the Oregon State Grange Chaplain.

If elected I will work hard and send out get well cards, sympathy cards and help with the service when asked.

Fraternally,  
Daniel W. Le Brun  
Eagle Creek Grange #297  
Clackamas County, Sandy, Oregon

encourage agricultural producers to engage in best management practices in all aspects of their operations.

The National Grange supports coordination among Federal, State and Local Governments when developing land use management plans. We urge Congress to include voluntary incentive-based assistance for conservation practices by farmers, ranchers, foresters, developers, and landowners in future Farm Bills, which will maintain a commitment to conservation. In that light, we also urge USDA to ensure that they use only scientifically based research when crafting regulations to implement the conservation portions of the Farm Bill. The optimum result should be that the environment be protected with the least amount of prime, productive farmland taken out

## TREASURER

**Sonny Hays-Eberts**



Sisters and Brothers –  
Thank you for nominating me to serve as Treasurer again. I have served in this capacity since 2020, and always striven to fulfill the duties to the best of my abilities. I am honored that you have considered my efforts worthy of continuing and I accept this nomination.

I have always enjoyed the role of Treasurer, both in my community Grange, and at the state level. While there are few ritual demands on this office, the duties of planning the budget and assisting community Granges with questions regarding tax filings, non-profit status and more are ones I find enjoyable.

The past several years have been exciting, with a notable trend of increase in membership. I hope this not only continues, but leads to a more stable financial foundation where the State Grange may seek to create a funding model less subject to the whims of interest and earnings rates.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sonny Hays-Eberts  
Marys River Grange #685  
Benton County, Philomath, Oregon

of production.

Waters of the United States has emerged again through court rulings and legislative activity, which has the potential to overreach into our farms as it did before. The National Grange continues to stress that navigable waters remain in the definition of the Clean Water Act and will continue to monitor for developments as they occur.

Food waste is a problem to be addressed as approximately half of the food grown in the country is thrown away without being consumed. Environmentalists are concerned because the decay of food in landfills releases methane into the air. The Grange should be involved in efforts to reduce food waste while at the same time helping the environment.

**SECRETARY**

**Sarah Jenkins**



Brothers and Sisters,

I am honored to accept the nomination for Secretary of the Oregon State Grange. It has been a pleasure serving you as Secretary for the last eight years. As a volunteer for the Grange, I have participated in community activities throughout the state, as well as with my own local Grange. It's a delight meeting new people in my travels. Our OSG Executive Committee works diligently throughout the year to manage the organization, protect assets, advise members, and promote the Grange to the public. I'm currently an active affiliate member at Mohawk-McKenzie Grange in Lane County and Warner Grange in Clackamas County. Thank you for your confidence in me as a representative of the Oregon State Grange.

Sarah Jenkins  
Warner Grange #117  
Clackamas County  
Mohawk-McKenzie Grange #747  
Lane County  
*Residence withheld by request. Approved by State President*

**GATEKEEPER**

**Patrick Dearth**



I am honored to accept the nomination for State Gatekeeper.

I am beginning my fifth term as Master/President of Creswell Grange #496, and previously served as Lecturer for two years. I am proud that our Grange has been recognized as a National Distinguished Grange the past five years. This year, we received the Golden Distinguished Grange award.

I am an affiliate member at Crow Grange #450 and have served as Steward for five years.

Currently I am Steward of Lane Pomona Grange #14, and previously served as our Pomona's Gatekeeper.

I was a Creswell delegate to the State Sessions in Astoria, Molalla, Klamath Falls, Enterprise, and Rickreall, and served as District 2 Community Services Chair for two years.

I am a 24-year Navy veteran.

Patrick Dearth  
Creswell Grange #496  
Crow Grange #450  
Lane County  
Eugene, Oregon

**CERES**

*No nominations were accepted for the office of Ceres of the Oregon State Grange. Nominations for this office will be accepted on the floor on second day of the annual Oregon State Grange Convention in Tillamook*

**POMONA**

**Roberta O'Dell**



Thank you for nominating me for the position of Pomona of the Oregon State Grange.

I have been an active member of Santiam Valley Grange #828, since 1985. During that time, I held the office of Lady Assistant Steward. I am currently serving as Master. I am also an active member of Linn Pomona where I have held the office of Ceres and currently hold the office of Lady Assistant.

I have attended every State Grange session since I became a member. I enjoy all the rituals, the fellowship and meeting new members each year. If elected to the office of Pomona. I will perform the duties of my office to the best of my ability.

Fraternally,  
Roberta O'Dell  
Santiam Valley Grange # 828  
Linn County, Lyons, Oregon

**FLORA**

**Jessie Jo Guttridge**

Brothers and Sisters,

It is an honor to accept your nomination for Flora of the Oregon State Grange.

I am a member of Springwater Grange #263, where I currently serve as Overseer, and chair the Education and Scholarship Committee. I also currently serve as the Pomona for Clackamas Pomona #1. I have held several State Youth offices, and currently serve as your State Ceres.

The conferral of the Sixth degree is one of the most beautiful parts of any state session. If elected, I will strive to bring as much grace and dignity to the ceremony as the Floras I have had the privilege of observing over the last eleven years.

Fraternally,

Jessie Jo Guttridge  
Springwater Grange #263  
Clackamas County  
Estacada, Oregon



**Citizenship & Taxation Committee Policy Statement**

The National Grange continues to support accurate broadband mapping, and funding to connect the unserved and underserved. The National Grange encourages State Grange presidents to establish a working relationship with their state broadband agency such as the Affordable Connectivity Program, an FCC benefit program.

The National Grange must continue to fight to protect family farms, ranches and businesses from over-regulation, government control that will inhibit operations and devastating changes in the Federal Tax Code.

The National Grange continues to

support the formation of an Office of Rural Prosperity to be housed in the Executive Branch of the President of the United States to coordinate and streamline Federal investments and foster public-private partnerships that strengthen communities and improve the quality of life and well-being of persons living and working in rural communities.

The importance of retaining a tax-exempt status for all qualified Granges must be maintained. We encourage the National Grange to provide State Granges with information on filing procedures for the necessary 990-N form.

The National Grange support a

comprehensive energy policy that includes all sources of energy.

The National Grange strongly encourages our Congressional leaders to engage in bipartisan cooperation.

The National Grange supports the passage of the Stop Stolen Valors for Service-Disabled Veteran-owned Small Contractors Act, or similar legislation.

The National Grange supports the continuance of availability of AM radios in all vehicles.

The National Grange strongly opposes the supplantation of printed currency with digital currency.

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**EX. COMM.  
POSITION #1***Susan Noah*

Brothers and Sisters,

Throughout my time as a Grange member, I have worked in many different capacities including the last two years as a member of the Executive Committee. During that time, I have attended all the meetings and tried to make the best decisions possible for the organization that I love. I believe my time working in our office and my continued work with the National Grange Executive Committee allows me to bring some specialized knowledge to this position and I am gratified by your continued support. If elected I look forward to serving the Oregon State Grange for another two years.

Thank you again for your support!

Fraternally,

Susan Noah  
Mohawk-McKenzie Grange #747  
Lane County  
Springfield, Oregon

**Linda Helm**

No photo and statement received for this publication.

Linda Helm  
Phoenix Grange #779  
Central Point Grange #698  
Jackson County  
Medford, Oregon

**OSG Ag Fest Volunteers Needed**

The Oregon State Grange has a booth at Oregon Ag Fest at the State Fairgrounds in Salem on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>.

OSG volunteers help children plant marigold and tomato seedlings into small peat pots to take home. It is a fun experience and helps connect children with the growing of plants, and the friendliness of Grangers.

**Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> Shifts**  
8:30 AM – 11:30 AM  
11:30 AM – 2:30 PM  
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM

**EX. COMM.  
POSITION #2***Joyce Parker*

It is an honor to be nominated for the position of Oregon State Grange Executive Committee position #2. I am a fourth-generation Granger and have held offices at the Subordinate/Community Grange, Pomona Grange and State Grange levels.

I am aware of the important responsibilities that fall to the Executive Committee and that sometimes very difficult decisions must be made to ensure that the Grange continues to grow and prosper in the future. The Executive Committee is charged with overseeing the Oregon State Grange finances and the invested funds. I have a Bachelor's degree in Business Management with a minor in accounting and by my nature, I am conservative with investments and custodial funds.

If elected I will do my best to represent the wishes of the members of the Oregon State Grange. Thank you for all of your past support.

Fraternally,

Joyce E. Parker  
Springwater Grange #263  
Harding Grange #122  
Clackamas County  
Molalla, Oregon



Each shift needs about 10 – 12 volunteers. To volunteer contact president@orgrange.org or call 503-316-0106 Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday with name, phone, address, and shift. Volunteers have free admission and parking, and can wander Ag Fest before or after their shift.

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER!!**

**Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> Shifts**  
12:30 PM – 3:00 PM  
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
3:00 PM – 5:30 PM

**EX. COMM. POSITION #3***Vickie High*

Fellow Grangers, it is my honor to accept the nomination of Executive Committee Member #3.

I have been a member of the Granger for 47 years. I have held many State, Pomona and Subordinate Grange positions.

Since being appointed to the position in September of 2023, I have learned the inside workings of the Oregon State Grange.

It would be my pleasure to serve on the executive committee for another two years.

Thank You,

Vickie High  
Midland Grange #781  
Klamath County  
Midland, Oregon

**Do You Want to Be State President?  
Do You Know Someone That Does?**

On the 2024 Preferential Ballot for state officers that the Subordinate/Community Granges will use to cast their vote in April there are several missing offices. Those are offices where none of the nominated members accepted the nomination. This coming State Grange Convention in June nominations will be taken from the floor for those positions. This is especially critical for the position of State President. If you are curious or have questions about this office, or any other open office please contact current State President Jay at 541-250-6662, anytime, or feel free to talk with past State Presidents, Officers, or the office staff.

Below is a brief description of what the job entails.

The President of the Oregon State Grange (OSG) has wide and varied responsibilities as the leader of our Oregon Granges. The State Grange office in downtown Salem has two part time employees, supervised by the President. The office team produces the Bulletin, State Roster, Proceedings, and the various mailings for Quarterly Reports, Bonding, and Trainings. The State Deputy is the fourth and final paid employee of the OSG and assists the President in visiting Granges in need.

The President recruits' volunteers for the Committee Director Positions, County Deputies, and various special committees, and supervises and encourages these volunteers. Special volunteer efforts like the Ag Fest Booth, Small Farms Conference Table, and the State Fair Log Cabin volunteers are currently coordinated by the President,

though this responsibility could be delegated to others. The work load and success of the office of the State President is highly influenced by the ability of the President to recruit volunteers.

The President answers questions and provides advise to members and Granges who communicate by letter, text, email, personal visits, and phone. Many of these communications can be done remotely. Some of the office responsibilities must be done in the office in Salem. The President often visits Grange Meetings, special events, and Pomona meetings across the State, often in evenings and on weekends.

The President works with the District Hosting Committee to, organize the many various parts of the Oregon State Grange Annual Convention. Prior to the Convention the President works with various Grange volunteers to create the Convention's Schedule, Proposed OSG budget, Program of activities, OSG officer practices, and the Sixth Degree Ceremony. After the Convention the president works with various volunteers to implement the policies of the OSG, produce the Proceedings of the Convention, and prepare for the National Grange Convention where the OSG President and another member (often their spouse) represents Oregon in National Grange Policy deliberations.

For travel in the state to Granges and outside the state to Conferences and the National Convention the expenses for the President are paid, as well as the current annual salary of \$34,000.

# Western Regional Youth and Leaders Conference

Eight workshops, two tours, four meals and plenty of fellowship and fun awaits attendees at this year's Western Regional Youth and Leaders Conference April 25-28 at Terrace Heights Grange Hall, 3701 Birchfield Avenue, Yakima, Washington.

There will be tours on both Friday and Saturday. Friday will be the **Yakima Valley Bus Tour to Treveri Cellars and Bale Breaker Brewing Company**. Treveri Cellars is a family-owned sparkling wine vineyard opened in 2010. Their award-winning sparkling wines have been served at functions at the White House and the James Beard Foundation. They produce a wide array of sparkling wines including non-traditional varieties. They oversee the entire growing and production process, from vine to bottle. Several of their vineyards are farmed organically. The group is fortunate to have a private walking tour, tasting, and lunch at Treveri Cellars.

Bale Breaker Brewing Company is a family-owned brewery; backed by four generations of hop farming experience, Bale Breaker started in 2013. They are the fourth largest independent craft brewery in Washington. They operate a 30-barrel brewhouse at a 27,000 square foot facility. The family first planted hops in the Yakima Valley in 1932, the year before Prohibition ended. There will have a walking tour of their operation and a chance to socialize over a good glass of beer.

An alternate activity, "Making Sourdough" and "Strawberry Freezer Jam," will be available at the Grange hall for those not wanting/not old enough for the tour. Lunch will be provided.

Saturday will be an agriculture tour of **Kinsey Farms and Asparagus Processing Plant** followed by a visit to the **Central Washington Ag Museum** where a sack lunch will be wait along with a walking tour of the museum and the **Grange Library**.

Kinsey Family Farms is family-owned farm; they are third generation farmers in the Yakima Valley and started farming in the early 40's in the Sunnyside area where they still farm today. They grow a diverse product line producing both conventional and organic. The tour will be of their asparagus fields to observe harvest then to their warehouse to tour the processing. Kinsey Farms currently have around 200 acres in asparagus production. Greg Kinsey will be the host and guide for this tour.

Central Washington Agriculture Museum was founded in 1979. It is the largest museum of its kind in the Pacific Northwest and is home to 1000s of historic machinery and acres of exhibits that showcase farm life over the past 100 years. Lunch will be at the museum and then a drive through tour. Cheryl Reese Education Coordinator

will be the host and guide.

The Grange library is located at the C W Ag Museum and will be open for browsing and taking in the history of local, state, and national Granges. It also has several historical books, some written by founders Kelley and Grosh from 1875 and 1876. Liz Wade, one of the founding members, will be there to answer questions and guide the group through the past.

Eight workshops will be offered during the conference. Friday includes **"Preserving Your Grange Archives"** by Heather Ferguson. Heather has worked for 18 years in museum education, museum collections, and artifacts. She is currently a consultant for museums and historical groups. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Interior Design and her Master's Degree in Museum Studies. Heather is the Director of Junior Grange Activities for the Washington State Grange.

**"Finding the Gaps: How to Create and Conduct a Community Needs Assessment"** will be presented by Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director.

"Generational Differences" by Kent Hojem, a 40-year member of Newaukum Grange. Kent retired as the CEO of the Washington State Fair in 2022 after 17 years and serves as the facilitator for the Puyallup-Sumner Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Institute.

Saturday's workshops include **"Creating Sponsorship Opportunities for your Subordinate Grange"** presented by Jesse Taylor who is Legislative Lobbyist for the Washington State Grange. He also serves as the Executive Director of the Washington FFA Foundation, where he is responsible for fund raising for the Washington FFA organization. She will also be leading a workshop Sunday morning **"Making the Grange Legislative Process Work for You."**

**"Agricultural Careers - Your Future is Bright!"** will be shared by Jamie Sackman who grew up a dryland hog farmer and married an irrigated cow guy. They raising 4 kids (11- 18 years) in Grant County on Jeff's parent's farm where they manage the Registered Angus and Commercial Cattle Operation. Over the years, she has been involved with a variety of Agricultural organizations and events showcasing the future of Agriculture on the state and national level. As an "ag-vocate", Jamie enjoys talking to people about agriculture and encouraging people to share their passion about all aspects of feeding the world.

The 2023 National Grange Communications Fellows will be presenting a workshop on **"Effective Communication Styles in a Digital World."** What are the best practices when

communicating digitally? **How** can we communicate clearly? **Where** should we be communicating? **Who** is our audience? The answers to these questions are **Why** you need to attend this workshop.

At the same time there will be a panel discussion on the **National Grange Youth Fair program** from around the West with California State Grange President Joseph Stefanoni, Washington State Grange President Tom Gwin, Grant County, Washington Youth Fairs Program Coordinator Brittney Pittman, and Walla Walla County, Washington Youth Fairs Program Coordinator Rick Ferguson. Discussion will include the origins of the Grange Youth Fairs Program, goals and objectives, and how it intertwines with the fraternal Grange organization.

Other weekend activities include an Impromptu Speaking, sponsored by the Washington State Grange Youth Department for all ages and a Contra Dance Presentation with group participation by the Broadway Grange Contra Dancers.


During Saturday evening a live auction will be held to support the Western Region's National Convention Host Fund and the winners of the weekend's silent auction will be announced.

**Meals** - Lunch and dinner will be provide for Friday and Saturday

**Lodging** is available at several hotels in Yakima. Conference attendees need to make their own reservations. Oxford Suites 1701 E Yakima Avenue, Yakima

- 509-457-9000
- Baymont by Wyndham  
1603 E Yakima Avenue, Yakima  
509-654-9168
- Best Western Ahtanum Inn  
2408 Rudkin Road, Yakima  
509-248-9700
- Super 8  
2605 Rudkin Road, Union Gap  
509-654-9371
- Holiday Inn  
802 E Yakima Avenue, Yakima  
509-494-7000
- Comfort Suites  
3702 Fruitvale Blvd, Yakima  
509-249-1900
- Red Lion Yakima Center  
607 E Yakima Avenue, Yakima  
509-248-5900
- Fairfield Inn & Suites  
137 N Fair Avenue, Yakima  
509-452-3100
- Hilton Garden Inn Downtown  
401 E Yakima Avenue, Yakima  
509-454-1111

**Registration** - there is a \$35 registration fee per person for the conference. This will include lunch and dinner on both Friday and Saturday, both tours, and workshop materials. There are two options for registration. You may complete the registration form and mail it in or you may do online registration. Online registration is available on the Washington State Grange website [www.wa-grange.com](http://www.wa-grange.com). **Registration must be received by April 15.**



**WESTERN REGIONAL  
GRANGE YOUTH AND LEADERS CONFERENCE**

**APRIL 25-28-2024**

**TERRACE HEIGHTS GRANGE HALL  
3701 BIRCHFIELD AVENUE, YAKIMA WA**

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Grange Name/Number \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

For Youth and Juniors (only), name of Chaperone \_\_\_\_\_

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Transportation: \_\_\_\_\_ Auto \_\_\_\_\_ Air \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

If you are flying, do you need an airport shuttle? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Which Airport \_\_\_\_\_ Flight Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_

Lodging: \_\_\_\_\_ Hotel \_\_\_\_\_ Campground (see info on Sportsman Park) \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

If at Sportsman Park, will you need shuttle to the Grange Hall? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Meals - Please check which meals you will attend:

Friday, April 26	Saturday, April 27
_____ Lunch (part of winery tour)	_____ Lunch at 12 p.m. (at Ag Museum)
_____ Lunch (alternative activity)	_____ Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
_____ Dinner at 6 p.m.	

Please list any dietary restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

Tours - Please check the bus tours/activities you will attend:

Fri, April 26, 10 am to 4pm: \_\_\_\_\_ Winery Tour \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ Sourdough and Freezer Jam Activity

Sat, April 27, 8 am to 2 pm: \_\_\_\_\_ Agriculture - Asparagus Farm, Ag Museum, Grange Library

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Registration Fee: There is a \$35 registration fee that must accompany the registration form. Send registration form to: Washington State Grange, PO Box 1186, Olympia WA 98507.

Online registration will be available March 1. Go to the WA State Grange website: [www.wa-grange.com](http://www.wa-grange.com) to register for the conference. Credit cards are accepted.

# National Grange 2023 Agriculture Policy Statement

Agriculture is, as always, a foundation of America's economy, providing directly or indirectly through value-added processing, and is 1.264 trillion of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For over 150 years, the National Grange has been working to improve agriculture in America and the welfare of those who work the soil or care for the creatures of the field. Our roots are in agriculture, and our future is tied to our faith in the perennial cycle of planting and harvest.

Conservation of our soil, water and air quality remains a priority for the Grange, keeping in mind that all pertinent regulations should reflect local conditions. A key component of the future security of our water supply for both domestic and agricultural uses is the ability to store it. Challenges from environmental groups and climate change have brought progress in that area to a standstill. The Grange reaffirms its request to fund Conservation programs at adequate levels. The National Grange will continue to promote water storage projects that benefit agricultural and domestic needs while appropriately safeguarding fish and wildlife safety concerns. The NG encourages reviewing and revising existing water rate structures to ensure fair and affordable pricing, specifically tailored to agricultural activities in urban and rural food deserts. The Grange opposes the expansion of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) current authority to regulate our water supply. We oppose proposed changes to expand the definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS). We believe that the US Army Corps of Engineers should have jurisdiction only over navigable waters, as defined in the 1972 Clean Water Act, and non-navigable waters should be subject only to state Department of Natural Resources & Natural Resources Districts regulations.

Agricultural producers have been leaders in protecting the environment. The National Grange urges Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agencies to implement Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs). Good soil health, including proper nutrient management, is a priority, and we encourage all farmers to develop and follow a Nutrient Management Plan to ensure that no more nutrients are applied than are needed to grow the crop. As computer technology becomes more integral to farming and the equipment used, we encourage the use of precision agricultural technologies to benefit the environment and improve farm operational efficiency. The National Grange should engage in public relations efforts to showcase the work and leadership of farmers and ranchers in adapting to and utilizing best management practices. We support the research and development of alternative fuel sources for agricultural

use that will help to reduce greenhouse gases.

The National Grange encourages the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and State Departments of Agriculture to continue programs like the Farmers to Families Food Box Program. These programs enabled the purchase of foods that would have potentially been destroyed. The National Grange recognizes that other additional challenges facing producers is the fluctuation in commodity prices coupled with ever-rising cost of inputs and the yearly increases in property taxes. We will continue to work on solutions to help minimize their impact on the agriculture sector.

The COVID-19 pandemic helped us realize the need for local processing of our food supplies of beef, pork, poultry and dairy. More regional or local processing would have helped offset the devastating losses caused by the shutdown of large food processing plants. Closing down one plant, even for a few weeks, backs up production across the country, crashes prices paid to farmers and leads to huge surpluses at the farm and severe meat shortages for the consumer. The National Grange endorses the plans to fund the "Food Transformation Network" which will target the creation of regional food business centers, reducing food deserts, reducing food loss and waste, and help for fruit and vegetable growers to comply with food safety regulations.

The National Grange continues to monitor issues concerning GMO-related (Genetically Modified Organisms), Genetically Engineered (GE) and Bioengineered (BE) food production and labeling.

We endorse the recommendations of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation titled "Gene Editing for the Climate: Biological Solutions for Curbing Greenhouse Emissions, concludes with a set of policy recommendations urging governments around the world to accelerate the development and deployment of gene-edited climate solutions by acting to:

- Eliminate unscientific regulatory burdens and barriers that hinder the development of safe gene-edited products.
- Increase investment in research and development (R&D) priorities such as advancing Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) tools, enhancing photosynthesis, and improving methods to measure soil carbon.
- Improve coordination of existing R&D efforts within the United States and around the world.
- Expand incentives that will spur the rapid adoption of novel gene-edited technologies.

The National Grange supports voluntary labeling of Genetically Modified products. We further request that the National Grange Legislative Director share the latest reliable research on this subject with State Granges on a continual basis. As consumers become more concerned about where and how their food is produced, the National Organic Program (NOP) has become more popular. The National Grange supports the continued growth and federal support for the NOP, in order to meet the increasing consumer demand for organic food products.

Support for Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) is a long-standing position of the National Grange and is favored by consumers. We support food labeling programs that provide clear information about country of origin and processing, so that consumers can make informed choices about the food they feed their families. We believe that a food that is labeled "Product of the USA" shall be born, grown and processed in the USA.

Food safety continues to be a significant issue for Americans in light of the ever-increasing amount of our food that is imported. We believe the responsibility for all food safety inspection should fall under one federal agency, preferably the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The Growing Climate Solutions Act would create a USDA system for certifying third-party verifiers and technical assistance providers. Farmers and ranchers could receive assistance and incentives for implementing practices which reduce carbon emissions on their operations. In addition, they could sell excess carbon credits to commercial firms who exceed their carbon emission cap.

Healthy pollinator populations are critical to food production in the US. We are pleased that the USDA has information available to assist first-time beekeepers in learning how to begin production. The National Grange supports ongoing efforts to preserve proven pollinators' health practices, while identifying new pesticide crop treatments that are not harmful to pollinator's populations. Although Neonicotinoids are a critical component of seed treatments, their misuse via over-the-counter products has resulted in their increasing presence in water and wetlands. Their toxic effect on pollinator's populations has reached the point where we feel it is time to consider designating Neonicotinoids as a restricted use pesticide. We support additional education efforts designed to inform producers as to the toxic nature of Neonicotinoids that are present in treated seeds and the positive aspects of having untreated seeds available for planting.

The use of drone or UAV (Unmanned

Aerial Vehicle) technology is an important tool for agricultural production. However, privacy concerns have arisen as drones have become more popular. The National Grange supports the implementation of developed FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) regulations governing the use of drones, and will continue to work with USDA, FAA and other agricultural organizations to address issues related to drone use as they pertain to agriculture.

The National Grange continues to support extensive research by our Land Grant Colleges and Universities into both short-term and long-term effects on the environment and on human nutrition, of all new crops, whether Genetically Modified or traditionally bred. One of the major issues facing animal agriculture in our country are the efforts by certain "Animal Rights" groups to define "Humane Treatment" of animals. *The National Grange supports states' rights to regulate agricultural production practices, but limit states' rights to standards that are science based and will not substantially interfere with interstate or export commerce.* The National Grange should work together with other like-minded groups, to ensure that sound science is used in determining humane treatment of animals. The National Grange strongly supports agriculture education at all levels, including agriculture science as well as Cooperative Extension Service, and encourages the partnership between 4-H, FFA, Grange Youth Fair Program and Cooperative Extension Service to draw on and develop leadership abilities. Adequate funding of Extension must be continued and increased if we wish to ensure the availability of innovative practices and new tools beneficial to agriculture and society. We support educational programs, such as Farm to Table or Farm to School, that teach the importance of proper diet and nutrition. It is more critical now than ever to help consumers understand the basic food system, where their food comes from, and what, if any, genetic alteration was integral to its development. It is vital that we encourage the younger generation to enter into farming. We support programs or policies that will enhance the ability of young farmers to be successful as they pursue production agriculture as an occupation. Opportunities exist to expand agricultural tourism as an additional source of income for farm families. The National Grange urges government at all levels to remove unnecessary laws and regulations and work to pass legislation to limit liability exposure that hampers the expansion of agricultural tourism. As production agriculture becomes more dependent on computer technology, access to high-speed internet has become critical to farming and marketing activities.

*Continue on page 8*

Continue from page 7

High-speed internet access is also critical to the agricultural operations that desperately need it to enable their high-tech precision farming equipment that is used to grow crops using less water, seed, fertilizer and pesticides. The National Grange strongly supports expanded funding efforts necessary to develop high-speed internet access in rural area that are currently under-served.

The 2018 Farm Bill provided additional funding to help close the existing gap between feed costs and average milk prices. This, along with restructured premium rates, benefited small-to-medium sized dairy producers. The National Grange also appreciates the establishment of a new Foot and Mouth vaccine bank. These improvements and other provisions designed to provide equitable treatment for all commodities on all farm sizes in all regions of the country need to continue to be addressed. The National Grange also strongly supports retaining adequate levels of financial support for the USDA Risk Management Division and the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP), so that coverages accurately reflect cost of production and provides adequate price protection; yet ensure that premiums remain affordable. Disaster Relief programs are also a critical component of farm income safety nets. We also strongly urge that provisions are made to adequately address the needs for a reliable source of seasonal as well as year-round farm labor. Bills have been introduced, but none have been able to advance through Congress. This lack of action has been frustrating because the need for an affordable and adequate work force remains a critical agriculture issue. While many issues were resolved by the 2018 Farm Bill, plenty of challenges still remain to be addressed like more mental health programs for production agricultural workers, and the broadened work requirements for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

We urge continued work on the new Farm Bill in a timely manner but appears at this time there will be a one-year extension granted to create a new Farm Bill. Failure to adopt a new Farm Bill before it expires would cause cha-

os in the markets. While the National Grange continues to support Commodity Checkoff Programs, questions remain whether there is sufficient oversight relating to whether checkoff dollars are being properly used. We support additional efforts to ensure checkoff funds are properly spent.

The National Grange continues to support the principle that only those foods from mammalian sources should be allowed to use the term "milk." The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) should not allow the labeling of nutritionally-inferior plant or artificial substitutes as "milk," "yogurt" or "cheese". The USDA must retain the authority to regulate the emergence of the efforts to grow cultured protein ("meat") in a laboratory setting. The Grange supports the principle that the term "meat" can only be used to describe animal protein derived from harvested production livestock, poultry, seafood or wildlife, wild or domestic. We firmly support the clear and accurate labeling of all non-meat alternatives to reduce consumer confusion at the market shelf.

Small farm operations have dwindled over the last 50 years and small farms and farmers fail when bureaucracy and regulations become burdensome. The United States Department of Agriculture classifies a small farm to have \$350,000 or less of gross income per year and a demographic of farm operators exist where a more realistic annual income for them is \$150,000 per year. We encourage the USDA to reevaluate the income threshold levels for the classification of small, medium and large farm operations and if necessary, adjust them to be more reflective of the range of income levels in the agriculture sector.

Milk prices to the farmer have failed to keep up with inflation continued to drop over the past 20 years, while production costs have continued to climb. The Grange must continue to work to educate consumers on the positive qualities of whole milk and lowering the unacceptable level of waste of our food that currently occurs on a daily basis in this country. Education efforts such as these will lead to more demand for our domestically-produced

milk, thus leading to higher prices for our producers. Less waste of food will make more food available for government-assistance food programs.

Food security includes everyone having enough to eat of course, but it also involves farmers earning enough to stay in business; government not overregulating normal agricultural practices; advancements in scientific research and reliance on sound science not popular opinion. It includes reducing food waste, preparing for, and adapting to climate change, water and soil conservation, and animal welfare. There is great concern that foreign governments, individuals and other entities are purchasing agricultural land, endangering not only food security but also national security. We urge that this issue be addressed. Food security was identified by National Grange delegates several years ago as a top priority and it will continue to be a focus in the coming years.

We were excited that the White House held a Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health after more than 50 years, but production agriculture needs to be part of the conversation, both the nutrition side and the production side. We see local food initiatives such as farm markets, farm to school programs, and local processing and butchering expanding to meet a growing demand. The food as medicine concept will expand as more research is conducted on the effect of diet, particularly on chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, etc. As demands on agriculture increase, the need for adequate funding for mental health issues is necessary.

Individual incomes in developing countries are rising, leading to changes in diet that will increase demands on the world's food supply even as population growth adds its inevitable impact. The National Grange supports new and progressive trade pacts that lower trade barriers and promote fair trade. Farmers prefer fair trade for their products rather than government payments.

National Grange encourages the recycling of all twine and netting and supports educational programs to educate farmers and other users of twine products for the proper disposal of twine to prevent the endangerment of raptors and wildlife.

National Grange urge the federal government to give preference to domestically grown horticultural products for display in domestically located US gov-

ernment-owned facilities and buildings.

National Grange encourages all State Granges to be aware of government regulations on agri-tourism in their state and to work to stop the reclassification of value-added and agri-tourism buildings to commercial buildings.

Cooperative nonpartisan effort is the "Grange way," and an understanding of the direct relationship between science and the natural world. The words written by National Master Oliver Wilson in 1919 are appropriate today, in that the time has come to simply classify agriculture as one of the great industries that make up our economic structure, and the need to treat agriculture as a vital part of that structure. Over one hundred years later we are still facing the same struggle, still selling products at less than the cost of production. We have the choice- pay the farmer a fair price or import our food. "No nation can prosper whose agriculture deteriorates." We endorse the Global Agricultural Productivity Report from Virginia Tech released October 3rd, 2023, which states that "only by working together will agricultural productivity meet demand."

The National Grange supports the use of agrivoltaics in conjunction with agricultural land and supports efforts to develop responsible regulations governing such efforts, that would result in minimizing the amount of Class I-VII soils allowed for this dual-use. The National Grange continue to support its current policies on clean energy but also include:

- Supporting regulations that ensure the safety and viability of farmlands, rural areas and the people, animals and wildlife that live in or transit the area.
- Support studies and recommendations that can help assure that animals and wildlife are not compromised in any way and are protected from long term exposure.
- Support bonding to protect landowners and the corrections to the land that may need to be made at the end of the lease.
- Support environmentally safe options that avoid hazardous materials that are not recyclable.
- Support regulations that ensure the safety of consumers and utility workers when adding stored energy into the power grid.

# GRANGE MONTH

APRIL 2024	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Kickoff to Grange Month 8:30 p.m. western Live on Facebook & YouTube (not Zoom)	2	3	4	5 Fellowship First Friday 8:30 p.m. western	6
7	8	9	10 Long Term Care and Estate Planning sponsored by In-2000 Club 8:30 p.m. western	11	12	13	
14 #GrangeStrong Day	15 "Rooted" Day	16 "Resilient" Day	17 "United" Day	18 Grange Shirt Day	19 Grange Project Day	20 Grange Future Day	
21	Grange Spirit Week		24 Membership Matters 8:30 p.m. western	25	26	27	
28 What's New? with Phila. Vowels 8:30 p.m. western	29	30 Leifur's Forum with Tom Gove 8:30 p.m. western					

Event dates/times subject to change - check out the National Grange Facebook or [nationalgrange.org/grange-month-2024](https://nationalgrange.org/grange-month-2024) for updates

#GrangeStory  
#grangemonth24  
use link: [bit.ly/grangemonthzoom](https://bit.ly/grangemonthzoom)

**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**  
[gbulletin@orgrange.org](mailto:gbulletin@orgrange.org)