



Oregon State Grange **BULLETIN**

February/March 2025

News About the Grange

Volume 125 No. 1

National Grange Launches Project Sustenance

All Granges urged to take part in 'signature program'

by Amanda Brozana

National Grange Membership & Leadership Development Director

Food security, personal sustainability and community and individual resilience: Grange programming and outreach across the nation have for generations focused on these areas. In 2025, these efforts and innovative new projects, programs and outreach focused on these topics, will be celebrated under the banner of a “recognizable signature” program called **Project Sustenance**.

The initiative was first discussed by National Grange President Christine Hamp during her addresses at the 158th Annual National Grange Convention in November. In those speeches, Hamp noted that while each Grange meets the needs of its community through different programming and service activities so many currently fall under one of these three pillars of the Project Sustenance banner, making it an idea “recognizable signature” program of the Grange.

“This signature initiative will allow most Granges to build on already established programs, (and) allow members to showcase skills and knowledge...,” Hamp said.

“In addition to making strides to eliminate food insecurity in our hometowns, I feel it’s important that we also offer members, and our neighbors who have not yet joined us, the opportunity to invest in themselves, the tools to pull themselves

up by their bootstraps, and the knowledge and skills to chase, capture, and live out their American dream.”

A series of resources and a toolkit for Granges to use, complete with recipes for success – descriptions of programs, outreach, services and projects Granges have taken on to improve food security, self-sustainability and resilience – are rolling out over the next several months on the National Grange website, social media and in publications like *Grange Today* and *Good Day!* magazine.

“Granges across the country are doing amazing things, and we must ensure our good work is not siloed – we must share our good works among our Granges so one of our most precious resources – volunteer time – is maximized,” Hamp said.

She also noted that the National Grange will work to “establish partnerships, seek grants and sponsor dollars, and promote our deep connection with personal sustainability and food from farm to fork for every American.”

More resources and information about how your programs, projects and outreach initiatives can be featured as part of Project Sustenance will be coming soon and will be sent to each State Grange in 2025 for inclusion in newsletters and other correspondence with local Granges.



L-r: Oregon Grangers attending the 158th National Grange convention were OSG Bulletin Editor Suzy Ramm, OSG Legislative Director Mark Noah, NG Executive Committee member Susan Noah, OSG Young Patron JC Junkman, Toni Hoyman of Willamette Grange, OSG Membership Director Jay Sexton, and OSG President Sonny Hays-Eberts.

Oregon Grangers Attended National Convention in Iowa

It was an exciting week for Oregon Grangers at the 158th Annual Convention of the National Grange in Bettendorf, Iowa. Business of the National Grange was done including setting policy (*see how Oregon’s resolutions fared on page 15*), the election of two National officers as well as recognition of Granges and Grangers across the country.

Oregon was represented by State President Sonny Hays-Eberts and Past State President Jay Sexton as the voting delegates.

One of the exciting items was the induction of the first Oregonian into the National Grange Hall of Fame. Clara Humason Waldo, a charter member and the first Master of Macleay Grange #293 in Marion County, along with four additional Grangers were recognized on Wednesday evening. (*See page 12*

for her story and information on the other new members.)

Past state President Susan Noah was re-elected to another two-year term on the National Grange Executive Committee and lots of Oregon Granges and Grangers were honored throughout the week. These included Distinguished Granges and Grange in Action award recipients (*page 16*).

But it did not stop there. Oregon Granges and Grangers were recognized in Garden Design (*page 5*), Photography (*page 3*), Publicity/Communications (*page 16*) and Legislative Grassroots Advocacy (*page 16*).

The 159th annual convention will be held November 8-16, 2025 as the Grange takes to the seas aboard the Carnival Horizon.



Inside

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 2025 Grange Scholarships | 8-9 |
| Agricultural Report | 5 |
| Chaplain | 4 |
| Community Service | 6 |
| Deaf Awareness/Family Health | 7 |
| Education Committee | 8 |

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Foundation | 9 |
| Government Affairs | 13 |
| GROW Club | 15 |
| GWA | 10 |
| In Memoriam | 4 |
| Juniors | 11 |
| Lecturer’s Column | 3 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Legislative Update | 13 |
| Membership Matters | 14 |
| National Grange Hall of Fame | 12 |
| President’s Column | 2 |
| Upcoming Dates/Deadlines | 4 |
| Upcoming Pomona Meetings | 14 |
| Youth/Young Adults Officer App | 15 |

Bulletin Deadline
for the
April/May 2025 Issue

March 10, 2025

The President's Column

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



As I write this column, New Years Day has just passed, and the season is filled with recaps and talk of resolutions.

We'll start with a brief recap of 2024. While Quarter four reports are not yet in, we gained 87 members in the first three quarters. Despite our years of consecutive growth, the number of community Granges continues to decline. I'd love to see an increase in community Granges; more so, I'd like to see our struggling Granges re-vitalized. Our membership Director, Brother Jay Sexton, does a phenomenal job in both regards, and I hope the promotion of cross-Grange visitations in 2025 provides some extra energy to Granges and Grangers.

The 2024 annual Convention resulted in a change of Officers and Directors. We have ten changed Officers. Regardless of the level of Grange, changing officers builds a stronger Grange as more people are exposed to the duties and responsibilities of office. Additionally, there is danger in having institutional knowledge limited to a small pool. While the large number of changed positions sounds encouraging, the overall picture is not completely positive. There are five new faces, although some of those may have served in an officer capacity before my limited time. While that is still good, I think the State Grange would be well served by having a wider pool of people seek office, as most offices are uncontested races.

Oregon was represented at National and Regional conferences and con-

ventions, and events in the state. We did attract some new volunteers to assist with the State Fair, and I hope they enjoyed meeting other Grangers and representing the Grange. Just as with membership and officers, however, a focused look shows potential issues. Again, the pool of people who volunteer for the State Grange is limited.

A successful Grange interacts with its community, involves its members, and plans for the future. One of the goals of the 2025 Visitation program is to build excitement and involvement. I hope having an Officer and three Directors providing a variety of ideas and plans for the year provides a wider and clearer message for those attending to bring back to their community Grange.

2024 was a good year for the Oregon State Grange, yet there is room for improvement. I do not think we should settle for good when great is within our reach, which is where the resolutions come in.

The word 'resolve', from which resolution comes, has two distinct meanings. To decide firmly on a course of action, and to settle or find a solution to a problem, dispute, or matter. For individuals, the decision on a course of action is often simple. The effort of enacting the solution through effort and willpower is the challenge. If one carefully evaluates the challenges involved in a resolution, it is more likely to succeed. One of the most obvious examples is the common 'I resolve to lose weight this year' made after the Thanksgiving to Christmas food

feasts. It takes willpower, planning, a willingness to change schedules and habits, and a strong commitment to make the resolution a reality.

In addition to New Year's resolutions, there are resolutions brought forth by community Granges and possibly presented at the annual State Convention. They begin because a community Grange has decided an issue, law or cause deserves attention, and they present a course of action to the voting body in order to work toward a solution. Unlike an individual resolution, these are discussed by members at both the community and State level, and the variety of input often leads to a stronger end result. Our Grange resolution deliberations can be contentious yet should always be courteous. They are an ideal example of how governmental deliberative bodies should act.

If your Grange wishes to submit a Resolution – please follow the process listed in Bylaw 1.17.4. With the State Convention opening June 22, this means the deadline for resolution submission is April 23; and for Pomona Granges meeting after that deadline, they may submit resolutions by May 22. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact the State Office.

I would like to ask all our members to make an additional resolution this year: To improve and strengthen the Grange. From the simple act of representing your Grange at events or attending a meeting, to more involved steps of recruiting members or encouraging members to return to serving as an officer or volunteering for the State Grange. We cannot continue to rely on a small group of people at either the community or State Grange level. It is not a long-term solution, and we need your involvement to ensure a long-term healthy Grange.

Should your Grange Have a website? by Sonny Hays-Eberts

Twenty years ago, this would have been a silly question, of course you should! As the internet has developed, social media platforms have increased in traffic, while websites have seen a decrease. The question is no longer so simple to answer.

If your primary goal is to promote events and the messages of your Grange, social media platforms are more useful. I am IT savvy, yet I am of the Facebook and Twitter/X generation. Phil Vonada, the National Grange Communication Director has spoken about the exploding number of platforms, and how they correspond to different age demographics. While I cannot speak to the specifics as well as he can, I would strongly urge Granges who want to use social media to utilize your Youth and even Juniors. They will know what will reach

people and can help craft messages that will be receptive to that audience. Getting them involved will also help them contribute to your Grange.

Why would you still use a web site? There are things not easily presented on social media, such as rental calendars. Social media also often uses a page where the newest, most popular, or perhaps a pinned item is shown at the top of the page. This makes things like having a specific link to a donation link challenging, or a mission statement. Long term storage and presentation of newsletters may also be easier on a web site, as well as providing downloadable forms and information. While the State Grange website takes this concept to the extreme, a community Grange may wish to provide a vendor form to download, for example.

There are many website choices and the National Grange offers a free WordPress site to every Grange. There are a wide variety of hosted choices, of varying cost and requiring different skill levels.

Each Grange should decide if the technical skill required are available, if the cost of hosting is worth it, the commitment to maintaining and updating is in place, and if it meets demands that are best filled by a web site before starting a website.

Granges wishing to design a web site, and use WordPress, the State Grange has an Elegant Themes Divi license that can be used. If your Grange is interested, please contact the OSG webmaster for more information and to see if it can work for you.

Oregon State Grange Bulletin

Official publication of the Oregon State Grange since 1900

February/March 2025

Volume 125 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
 johnandpeggyfine@charter.net
 541-673-0369

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

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

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

Secretary
 Vacant
 office@orgrange.org
 503-316-0106

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 \$50 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

With Every Christmas Card I Write

Eagle Point Grange #664, Jackson County, held a successful musical show in December. "With Every Christmas Card I Write" included

both live and multimedia segments celebrating the magic of Christmas including familiar holiday song and memories.



Bluegrass at Multnomah Grange Second Saturday Concerts

Leave the dreary winter weather behind and come out to enjoy the Multnomah Grange #71's Second Saturday Bluegrass Concert Series, featuring the Tuesday String Band and Bootleg Jam on March 8.

Bootleg Jam, from Yamhill County, brings sweet harmonies and a high lonesome sound to the stage. The Tuesday String Band, a trio of young music professionals who met through the music program at Western Oregon University, play Americana, bluegrass and folk tunes with humor and variety in their set.

The Multnomah Grange #71's second Saturday concert series also host an open bluegrass jam in the Grange lobby starting at 6pm before the 7pm

show. Pickers as well as listeners are welcome to join in. The Multnomah Grange #71 is located at 30639 SE Bluff Rd, Gresham, 97080. Suggested cash donation is \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids under twelve. A snack bar sells hot dogs, home baked desserts, popcorn, and non-alcoholic beverages. For the full schedule of concerts through May, 2025 and more information, go to www.facebook.com/MultnomahGrange.



Above: Suzy Ramm's Honorable Mention winning photo of a Wigwam in the Abandoned Building category.

R: Suzy Ramm's 1st place winning photo in State/County/Community Fairs category.

The Lecturer's Column

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



Welcome to the new year Brothers and Sisters! Exciting things have been happening in the Oregon State Lecturer's department since I wrote the last column, and I am so happy to be able to share them with you.

The National Grange Convention was held in November and Oregon was represented with winning entries in the Lecturer's Virtual Photography Contest. Suzy Ramm from Springwater Grange in Clackamas County, received an honorable mention in Abandoned Buildings; and a 1st place in State/County/Community Fairs. Congratulations Suzy!

In the past, Best of Show entries at the state conventions were sent to the National Convention to be eligible to compete. This new virtual format not only eliminates the cost of shipping but opens the opportunity up for all Grange members to participate in the photography contest at the National level. Entries can be submitted online by September 1, 2025. The adult categories for 2025 are America the Beautiful; Agriculture/Farming; Say it with Flowers; and Bridges.

Another Contest at the national level is the Design-A-Program Contest. The categories for this contest are Internal Grange Program/Event for Adults (such as a Lecturer's program for your Grange); External Grange Program/Event for Adults (an event that you welcome the community to educate and inform, entertain, or to socialize); and Program/Event for Children (such as an egg hunt or Halloween party that encourages those with children to participate). All entries are to be submitted online by September 1, 2025.

I will be providing more details on these National Contests as I receive the rules and guidelines. I think many of our members are taking photos and creating programs for their Granges and I think it would be great if next year I could congratulate many of our Oregon Grange

friends on their wins at the National convention.

In November, the Lecturer's Committee met to discuss our plans for the coming year. One of our main topics was revisions to the Lecturer's contests at the State convention. We made a few changes which you will find in the Contests booklet later this spring. But I wanted to share a few new and exciting things that we have planned so you can all start planning how you would like to participate.

In the photography contest, we have added two new categories. This year we will have categories for Sunset/Sunrise and Floral.

In the Creative Writing department, we have created a new unjudged category called "My Grange Story." The idea behind this program is to encourage Grange members to write about their journey in the Grange. It may be a love story. It could be a story about how the Grange has helped you grow as a person, as a leader or as a volunteer. It might even be a funny tale about Grangers you met along the way. The real purpose is to share your Grange journey with other members. All submissions will be kept in a notebook to be displayed in the Lecturer's department each year and to be added to and shared with the membership over the years. Thank you, Linda Helm, for this fantastic idea!

Another big change at State session will be a change for the Talent Show to an Open Mic night instead. The National convention no longer holds a Talent show and as a result our winners are no longer sent to Nationals. We have also seen a sharp decline in entries in the Talent Show. This year we are opening the stage up to everyone, talented or not. We want as many people as possible to show us what they have got. I am encouraging past talent show winners, state officers, committee members, chairs, and everyone else to come and participate in an evening of entertainment. We are even planning on having a karaoke machine for those who would like that option. I am looking forward to a fun evening with all of you.

Sponsorship letters have been sent out for the various contests. I have received many of the checks at the state office. If you received a letter but haven't paid yet, please let me know if you are still planning to contribute.

There are so many things coming from our program, and we can't wait to have you all join us in the fun.



The Chaplain's Corner



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

As we begin a new year, remember the verse from Philippians 4:8-9: *“And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me – everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.”*

As the role of the Chaplain, one of the responsibilities is to send sympathy cards to our Grange members. As I was thinking of our members who have lost dear loved ones, this poem by Helen Steiner Rice came to mind and I wanted to share it here in my column:



*“A limb has fallen from the family tree.
I keep hearing a voice that says,
‘Grieve not for me.
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.
The good life I lived while I was strong.
Continue my heritage, I’m counting on you.
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.
Continue traditions, no matter how small.
Go on with your life, don’t worry about falls.
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin.
Until the day comes we’re together again.’”*

Helen Steiner Rice



In Memoriam

Florence Albertson
Westside #854

Richard Backlund
Warren #536

Leo Bergeron
Phoenix #779

Loriane Boatright
New Bridge #789

Majorie Brazil-White
Union Hills #728

Stormy Burns
Liberty #613

Beverly Christman
Milwaukie #268

Dave Emmenegger
McMinnville #31

Marial Gertz
Pine Forest #632

Cecelia Lovely
Wolf Creek #596

Patrick Murphy
Little Deschutes #939

Cathryn Paterson
Hurricane Creek #608

Clair Pickard
Eagle Valley #656

Arlawene Silvester
Lake Creek #697

Betty Stuber
Deer Island #947

C Ivan Vistica
Woodburn #79

Roxanne Wallace
Fern Hill #592

Sheryl Willey
Siletz Valley #558

*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.*



Past State Ceres Enters the Grange Above

Arlawene Silvester, a life member of Lake Creek Grange #697, Jackson County, and past Oregon State Grange Ceres passed away on July 30, 2024, in Medford, Oregon.

years. Arlawene was employed at Harry and David Corporation for 19 years.



Sister Arlawene and her husband Esper first joined Phoenix Grange in Jackson County in the third quarter of 1969 and where she became a Life Member in February 1990. She went on to be a member at Gold Hill and Bellview Granges before demitting to Lake Creek Grange in January 2001.

An active Granger, she served several years on the State Grange membership committee before being elected the Oregon State Grange Ceres in June 1986 where she served one term before returning to the Membership committee.

She was born September 30, 1927, in Indiana and with her family, moved to California in the early 1940's. On September 7, 1947, she was married to Esper C. Silvester in Glendale, California.

Esper and Arlawene moved to Oregon in the mid-1950s to start a dairy farm on acreage they purchased in Talent. Here they raised their three children through all their school

She is survived by her son Keith (Lauri) Silvester, daughter Bonnie (Mike) Knudsen, and her grandchildren David Silvester, Courtney (Philip) Silvester-Waugh, Erik Schwalb, Ryan (Andrea) Schwalb, and Megan (Charles) Sarmento. She is also survived by eight adoring great-grandchildren.

Lake Creek Grange held a Memorial Service and draped the charter for their only Life member on Sunday January 19th.

Upcoming Dates/Deadlines

- March 1** Deadline for first 2025 Matching Grant applications. Must be post marked by March 1 or if emailing, completed application must arrive by March 1 at the State Grange office.
- 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.
- April 1-30** Grange Month – theme: **Grange Strong**
- April 23** Resolutions for this year’s state convention from Subordinate/Community Granges must arrive in the State Grange office no later than April 23.
- April 26-27** Oregon Ag Fest - Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem – Volunteers needed.
- April 30** 1st Quarter Reports due to the State Grange office.

Deadline for Youth Officer applications.
- May 1** Oregon State Grange and Foundation Scholarship applications must be post marked no later than May 1.
- May 15** Deadline for submitting Convention Committee preference.
- May 15-18** Western Regional Conference Montana.
- June 1** Deadline to order Convention meal tickets.

Deadline for Convention pre-registration.
- June 21-26** Oregon State Grange Convention
Corbett Elementary School - Corbett, Oregon



Above: Joyce Parker's container herb garden.

Oregon Has National Garden Design Contest Winners

At National Grange Convention it was announced that two Oregon Grangers won awards in the National Grange Garden Design Contest. The Garden Design Contest is designed to share gardening experiences, large or small, that connect Grangers to the larger picture of agriculture, growing and nurturing plants for a variety of purposes. Entrants share three photos and a list of plants in their garden on the application which is entered digitally.

Joyce Parker, of Springwater Grange #263, Clackamas County, received the first-place award in the adult division of the container garden category with her herb container garden. She has several different size containers located on the patio right outside the back door where she grows herbs to use in meal

preparation.

Suzy Ramm, Springwater Grange #263, Clackamas County, received the first-place award in the adult division of the Raised Bed gardens. She has 81 square feet of raised beds where she grows a selection of vegetable for both fresh eating and food preservation along with miniature pumpkins and gourds fall decorating.

The National Grange Garden Design Contest is open to everyone. There are three divisions: Individual Junior Grange age, Individual Adult (age 14 +) and Group (all ages). Within each division there are three categories: Container Garden, Raised Bed Garden and Ground Space Garden. Deadline for the National contest is September 1.



Above: Suzy Ramm's raised beds garden in early summer.

Molalla Grange Member Rides the Fire Truck as an Elf

Howard Miller, a member of Molalla Grange #310, Clackamas County, volunteered as an elf to ride in the Molalla Fire Department's Operation Santa Parades on December 6th, 7th and 8th. Each night the parade covered a different area of the town. The parade is an area food drive, this year they were able to collect enough food to be able to fill three trucks of food for the Molalla area Food Pantry and other area food banks.



R: Howard Miller volunteered as an elf for the Molalla Fire Department Operation Santa Parades.



The Agricultural Report

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

In 1974, after living in Wallowa County and learning about the cultural ideals of the Nez Pierce Indians, I was inspired to paint "Live in Harmony with Nature" on the roadside of an old barn next to my house on the Lostine River Road. Of course, being a farming community, most locals thought it read "Live in Harmony with Manure" and thought it an obvious lifestyle.

That 1974 barn sign fairly represents Regenerative Agriculture's (R.A.) philosophy to utilize agricultural practices that work with, not against, Mother Nature's natural processes and rules. Grange.com defines R.A. as "a philosophy and dynamic approach to land management that aims to rejuvenate and revitalize farmland and ranches for healthier ecosystems, food, communities and their economy." Healthier soils, increased biodiversity, decreased emissions, improved nutrition, yield and profits which revitalize community economies are the benefits of Regenerative Agriculture.

Native American culture often refers to their lands as "Mother Earth", and R.A. is based upon the pursuit of healthier, more drought resistant soils using no-till farming, cover cropping, crop and pasture rotation, integrated pest management, and

other conservation practices.

But everyone who has a garden or pasture can implement these practices. I have seen vast improvement in my pastures since using electric fence netting and moving my sheep flock in a rotational grazing pattern across my farm. And this year, I am converting 60% of my produce market garden away from tillage, hopefully reducing weeding hours, and increasing soil moisture even in the increasingly hot summertime.

Crucial in my gardens, is gopher control. I use a pump to sprinkle my gardens, but I flood irrigate this farm and so I can periodically flood out the gophers using the furrows between my 4' wide garden beds. Every crop except carrots, parsnips, beets and potatoes with be a no-till garden bed crop, and because I have a large greenhouse, I will start all other crops into small pots which then are easily transplanted into the other beds, now beneath the winter's snow, that were bedded last fall with compost and mulch.

My farm lies just a few hundred feet up the Lostine River Road from that barn now long gone. I plan to set out a new sign along that road to once again declare that we should still "Live in Harmony with Nature".

Join Us At Ag Fest In April



Plan now to participate in the 38th annual Oregon Ag Fest! It will be held at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem, April 26-27. 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 26, from 8:30am – 5pm and Sunday, April 27, from 10am – 5pm. Admission is \$15 for those 16 and over; children 15 and under are admitted free; parking is also free.

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. Volunteers remember to wear your Grange attire.

Ag Country is the heart and soul of Oregon Ag Fest and is 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 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.



Community Service Involvement

Elizabeth "Liz" Dehne
dehneej@msn.com

OSG Community Service/Involvement Director



Happy New Year:

It will be an exciting year for the Community Service Department. National has two (2) new Community Service Directors and there are a lot of changes being made at the National level. Stay tuned!

As for the State Grange Community Service Community Granges books and Annual Report there are no changes. We will continue to do what we have been doing. There is a new report for the Pomona Granges that fills a requirement for the Distinguished Grange applications.

It is that time of the year that we take stock of what we have accomplished in **2024**. Grangers should be taking **pride** in the activities and community service they **accomplished** in the Grange and their surrounding community. I hope that all those activities and community services were well recorded and ready to add in to the Community Service Report to be submitted to the Oregon State Grange Office no later than **March 31, 2025**.

Forms and instructions are available on the Oregon State Grange website.

One of the many benefits of doing Community Service is it gets you out and involved in your neighborhood. This allows you to discover what is needed and how you can

fill that need by living the **Grange Mission**. You will meet new friends as well as gaining new members.

Remember:

Everything counts as volunteer hours when a Grange member works with another group for a common cause in partnership with the Grange. Also, hours count when 2 or more Grangers work together on a community service project.

Distinguished Pomona Grange:

In the last Bulletin we encouraged participation in this National program. The following is how you can submit your application.

Option 1 – Online

Please complete the application and attach all supporting documents using the online form, www.nationalgrange.org/distinguished

Option 2 – Email

Please complete the application and send with all supporting documents via email to distinguishedgrange@grange.org

Questions

If you have questions as to whether something your Pomona Grange has completed will qualify or meet a requirement, please contact distinguishedgrange@grange.org prior to the September 1 deadline.

Looking forward to getting your Annual Community Service report.



Goldson Serves Veterans Breakfast

On Monday, November 11th the members of Goldson Grange #868, Lane County, 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 Veterans start pouring in. It brings a smile and warm feeling to serve the wonderful men and women from our community. They even had a 99-year-

old WWII Veteran in attendance. They are so grateful to the Veterans that have served this country and love honoring them. Some are a bit less fortunate and it's heartbreaking to see. The fact that the Grange can serve them up a hearty breakfast of eggs, sausage, biscuits, and gravy, hashbrowns and coffee makes their efforts so worthwhile. This year's event had twice the number of attendees from last year. The Grange considers that a huge success.

Bellview Spreads Holiday Comfort and Joy

One of the most active Grange members at Bellview Grange #759, Jackson County, is Vice President Diane Nicoles. She came up with a great holiday idea! Let's bake dozens of delicious Christmas cookies and give them away to spread a little "comfort and joy" around their valley!

She and her cohort Barbara Broadbent decided maybe 200 bags with four cookies each would fit the bill. After baking, decorating, and bagging the cookies were boxed and donated to Rogue Food United where approximately 200 folks line up each week to get some good, local, and organic vegetables.

The Bellview Grange cookies used all Non-GMO organic ingredients as well and according to the worker bees handing them out were greeted with great appreciation and even "thrilled" to get their own little bag of sweet treats made with love at Bellview Grange #759. Each bag

was tagged with Grange's banner.

Helpers on the project included Grange President Wendell Fitzgerald, Diane Nicoles, Barbara Broadbent, Anya Kumara, Belle Bell, Karen Potts along with some other members that slipped in and out throughout the days to get a sample!



Above: Bellview members sharing some holiday comfort and joy.



Above: The busy cookie decorating crew.

Tigard Provides Residential Homes With Flowers

An outgrowth of Tigard Grange #148, Washington County's food pantry is their flower ministry to residents of nursing homes across their area. Flowers have been donated by Trader Joe's and over the summer and fall, two vendors at Tigard Farmer's Market gave the project unsold flowers at end of the market day. These have added up to 415 buckets of flowers (4000 bouquets) over 15 months. These were delivered to 25 different rehab, memory, hospice, and nursing homes in Beaverton, Tigard, Sherwood, King City, Lake Oswego, Newberg, and West Linn.

The facilities use flowers for flower therapy wherein the residents make bouquets for their rooms, common spaces, and to give them to residents who don't leave their rooms or are not able to make bouquets. Grange members have been thanked by residents, administrators, activity directors, and family members of residents who genuinely are de-



"The Flower Lady," Sharin Moznette

lighted at the difference these flowers make. Bringing flowers is like walking into a dreary space with a bucket of sunshine.

The Grangers have been warmly welcomed every place where they have delivered flowers; flowers that otherwise would have just been thrown away by grocery stores or growers. There are hundreds of nursing homes in Oregon who would welcome any who chose to duplicate Tigard's efforts.

Deaf Awareness and Family Health

Lilly Anderson

lillyinmeraldcity@gmail.com

OSG Deaf Awareness and Family Health Director



Hello Grangers and welcome back to the last installation in our three-part series on mental health. Previously, we talked about the most common mental health issues and the effects that stigma has on those coping with mental health disorders, and their loved ones. As we have touched upon before, there are multiple root causes for mental health disorders, from alcohol and substance abuse to early or chronic trauma, but today I thought we'd talk a little about the number one cause of depression, loneliness.¹

Loneliness is perceived as a global phenomenon. As part of a social species, human beings require social relationships for both our mental and physical well-being. Loneliness can lead to various psychiatric disorders such as depression, anxiety, alcohol and substance misuse, child abuse, sleep disorders and Alzheimer's disease.¹ Surprisingly, loneliness can also lead to various physical disorders such as diabetes, auto immune disorders like rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, obesity, hypertension, coronary heart disease, increased physiological aging, even cancer.²

Many experts believe that being in a prolonged period of loneliness compromises the neural paths in our brain that underly our cognition and memory centers, making lonely people more vulnerable to mental decline.² Research also indicates that loneliness, as a source of chronic stress, has been associated with impaired cellular immunity, and may be as bad for your health as obesity or smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Evidence also confirmed that individuals experiencing loneliness are more likely to suffer from feelings of hopelessness and suicide ideation.³ All experts agree that, left unchecked, loneliness can have serious consequences.²

The good news is that because loneliness can have such serious effects, it is also used as a measure for quality of life and social well-being, and there is a considerable body of knowledge on the subject. What we've discovered is it's not the quantity of relationships in your life that matters, but the quality. "Loneliness is caused by a lack of necessary relationships and a sense of purpose among those relationships."² In other words, we need relationships that matter. We need to feel bonded to each other. We need to feel we matter to others, and we need to let others know they matter to us.

Our strength, as humans, is our

ability to lean on each other. Our strength, as Grangers, is that we have a history of doing just that and providing support for each other for quite some time. With regards to this issue, we all either have mental health concerns or have loved ones who do, so the best thing we can do is to arm ourselves with knowledge and let go of hurtful language or stereotypes. It's time to lean on each other, and on that note, ***I'd like to announce the new Deaf Awareness & Family Health Committee Campaign, "Let's Visit!"*** DAFH committee members will be reaching out to Granges in their District and others as we try to visit everyone over the next two years.

I'd also like to remind everyone that the DAFH Committee is hosting a mental health fair on **February 22, 2025, from 11:00am to 2:00 pm at the Winona Grange**, and we would love it, LOVE IT, if you would come and visit us and be a part of the day. The Winona Grange is located at 8340 SW Seneca Street, Tualatin, Or. The goal of this event is to provide an opportunity to learn more about mental health conditions and to explore the vast variety of treatment options available. We have confirmed over a dozen different organizations and agencies who have volunteered to act as speakers and exhibitors and will be providing more information and contacts. We have free tickets for valuable door prizes including an overnight stay at an exciting Oregon vacation spot, and lunch will be available for purchase. Come sit in an electromagnetic massage chair or learn about the benefits of meditation and movement as stress management techniques, or how you are taking control of your diet can help. There will be a wide range of subjects to explore, and we'd love to see you there.

References:

¹ Mushtaq R, Shoib S, Shah T, Mushtaq S. (2014). Relationship between loneliness, psychiatric disorders, and physical health. *Journal of Clinical Diagnosis Research*, 20; 8(9): doi: 10.7860/JCDR/2014/10077.4828

² Taking on the public health threat of loneliness and social isolation. The American Psychiatric Association: <https://www.psychiatry.org/news-room/apa-blogs/loneliness-and-social-isolation>

³ Loneliness and its relation to mental health in the general population. Klein E et al., 2021. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 4: 2021. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666915321000470>

NEW Geo-Grange 2025 - Visitation Fun

The Geo-Grange program is intended to encourage Grangers to visit other Granges in the form of a small game. This program is sponsored by the Deaf Awareness and Family Health Committee and is also a part of the 2025 visitation program of the Oregon State Grange. Basically, a player receives points for visiting a Grange hall, Grange meeting, Grange event, Pomona Grange meeting or State Grange event from January 1 – December 31, 2025. Bonus points are given for posting a picture of yourself on the OSG member forum.

Socialization is an important component of health and has suffered since 2020 with the enforced isolation of the pandemic. The goal of this program is to encourage Grange members to get out and visit other Granges. We hope this promotes more socialization and also strengthens the bonds between Granges.

This program was started by the California State Grange in 2024, and was so well received that two other states, including Oregon, felt it worth adopting. Soon your Grange will receive this same information and two Geo-Grange passports. You may request additional passports from the State Office at 503-316-0106 or shel-seac@orgrange.org.

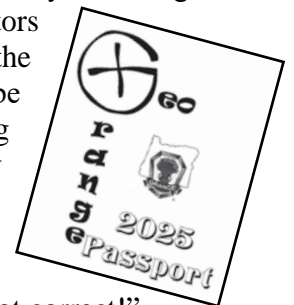
A small prize will be awarded for the most points and the most miles at the 2026 Convention. Addition-

ally State Officers, Directors and Deputies will be a separate category from members. The scoring system for points is detailed in the passport. Consider bringing a travel buddy (*a small stuffed animal*) and collecting Grange swag from your visits too!

We encourage you to post pictures on the Oregon State Grange member forum of you in this program and send pictures with details to the Oregon State Grange Bulletin at gbulletin@orgrange.org. It increases the excitement for this program and helps promote Grange events and Granges in general. Plus, it is worth an additional five points for your passport.

You can use the Oregon State Grange Find-a-Grange web page or the Roster to find Granges and meeting times. If you encounter any wrong information about meetings on the web site, please let the webmaster know at webmaster@orgrange.org.

We encourage all Granges to keep a small amount of Grange swag – pins, stickers, beaded crafts, seed packets or whatever fits your Grange to hand out to visitors throughout the year, and to be welcoming and friendly to all who visit.



"Connect, not correct!"

Washington-Yamhill
Pomona invites you
to join us!



Exhibition Booths
Massage Demos
Agency Reps Q&A
Valuable Door Prizes
Free Coffee & Treats
Lunch for Purchase

For questions:
info@winonagrang271.org

MENTAL
HEALTH
AWARENESS
FAIR

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 22
11AM TO 2PM
8340 SW SENECA STREET
TUALATIN, OR 97062

Andy Wallace, Washington County Adult Behavioral Services will speak to the strength that lies in vulnerability and why we need leaders who aren't afraid to be vulnerable..

Lacey Plasker, Yamhill County Adult Behavioral Services reveals how loneliness is the primary risk factor for depression and mental health decline.

Teana Edwards, a state certified Peer Wellness Support specialist, explains how facilitators trained in eCPR use past trauma to help others in crisis.

New Committee Member

Yea! I am pleased to announce the letters I sent out worked again. I have a new committee member, Georgene Barragan, Beaver Creek

Grange #276 for District #4. I am still in need of someone for District 5. If you are interested, please contact me.

The Education Committee

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



Differences In Response

Over the last few months two news articles got my attention. One made me sad on many levels. The situation with the Saint Helens School District sex scandal and the many levels of failure in how they handled it was depressing.

The other one was news about a former South Albany High School math teacher and coach that was arrested. Two years ago, when the Greater Albany School District (GASD) was notified about the coach, they placed the person in a non-student contact role and coop-

erated with the Albany Police.

When I was on the school board, I always thought about the students first. After everything I have seen the Greater Albany School Board do that I disagreed with, I still believe the school board and the teachers and staff of GASD are still keeping kids first in the things they do. I am not convinced that Saint Helens School District is there yet.

I hope that all your interactions with your schools are in a kids first mindset.



Rotary Places Little Library at Eagle Point Grange

Eagle Point Grange # 664 in Jackson County was honored recently by the Rotary Club of the Upper Rogue as a site for a Little Library. Little Free Libraries' mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book-exchange boxes.

The vision of the Little Free Libraries is to have a library in every community and a book for every reader. The belief being that all people are empowered when the opportunity to discover a personally relevant book to read is not limited by time, space, or privilege.



National Grange Foundation Offers 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, 2025**.

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.

Grange Insurance Association 2025-2026 Scholarship Program



2025 Application Deadline - April 30th

Grange Insurance Association (GIA) is thrilled to announce the launch of our **2025 Scholarship Program**, offering funding to students pursuing higher education in academic, vocational, and community pathways. This year, they are offering seven **scholarships**, each worth **\$2,500**, to exceptional students from their operating region (CA, CO, ID, OR, WA, WY).

Scholarship Categories

- **Academic Scholarship (5):** For students attending accredited post-secondary institutions, including universities and colleges.
- **Community Scholarship (1):** Exclusively for Rainier Scholars pursuing undergraduate studies.
- **Vocational Scholarship (1):** For students pursuing specific technical certifications or attending technical institutes focused on skill-based training in areas such as trade schools, apprenticeships, or vocational programs.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet one of the following criteria:

- Be a current GIA or Grange policyholder (or child of a policyholder) in California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, or Wyoming.
- Be a current GIA employee (or child of a current employee).
- Be a current GIA-appointed agency employee (or child of an agency employee).
- Be a Rainier Scholar student.
- Previous scholarship winners

Deer Island Now Taking Scholarship Applications

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, 2025.

They should be mailed to:

Don Coin Walrod Scholarship
64556 Columbia River Highway
Deer Island, Oregon 97054

are eligible to apply if they continue to meet one of the eligibility criteria outlined above.

Additional Requirements:

- Academic and Community applicants must maintain a minimum **3.0 GPA** (or 80% equivalent).
- Children or legal wards of GIA officers or directors are ineligible.

Submissions

Applicants are asked to submit a video using a common video platform (i.e. YouTube) to answer the below prompt that will be reviewed by GIA's Scholarship Committee. Submissions should be 3 minutes or less.

Prompt: How have you been forward thinking in your leadership? Use GIA's Core Values to provide further details. Tell us your goals for furthering your leadership capabilities.

Please be creative in these videos! Our Scholarship Committee will be selecting the scholarship recipients based on the content of your response rather than the quality of the video. Video length should be limited to 3 minutes.

Applicants unable to submit a video may write an essay in 500 words or less responding to the prompt. Specific examples of leadership are required.

Transcripts must be submitted for academic and community scholarships.

Application deadline is April 1, 2025. Application forms and more information is available at: www.grange.com/scholarships/



Oregon State Grange Secretary Resigns

Sarah Jenkins, Secretary of the Oregon State Grange, resigned effective January 13, 2025. An election will be held in June at the State Grange convention to fill the position.

In the meantime, the State Grange Executive Committee is looking to appoint someone to fill the position and serve until the installation of a newly elected Secretary at convention.

Sarah was first elected as State Secretary in 2016. She had previously served as State Treasurer from 2012-2016.

2025 Grange 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 Scholarship

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 Memorial Vocational Scholarship

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 an Oregon Grange member, who is or will be enrolled in a two- or four-year college or university or trade school. Check 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.**

Clackamas Granger Recognized by OSU Extension

Nominated by the Clackamas County Extension Service for the Oregon State University Cooperator Award was extension volunteer Rob Guttridge of Springwater Grange for his more than ten years of service. The OSU Extension Association has recognized Cooperators for more than 35 years. Each year, individuals and businesses are recognized for the significant contributions they have made to Extension programs. It is through these cooperators that Extension is able to accomplish so much.

It takes a village to coordinate year-round programs for Forestry and Natural Resources Extension and in Clackamas County, that village heavily relied on Rob Guttridge. Rob provided leadership and dedicated service supporting Extension programs. Since 2015 after retirement, Rob has served nearly every program, volunteer opportunity, and partner event, with records of him being involved going back to the 1990s. Over the years, his roles

ranged from student to volunteer, committee member to instructor, and more. Not only did Rob consistently show up, but he did so with a smile and positive attitude.

Rob has been involved with OSU Extension for decades – ranging from student to volunteer, committee member to instructor, and more. Just in the past couple years, Rob has completed the Master Woodland Manager certification, presented during the OSU Extension Fire Program's "Building community for wildfire resilience" webinar, served as the Exhibit Hall Manager for the annual Tree School program, participated on the hiring committee for the current Education Program Assistant II, and has been involved in countless other efforts. Whatever was needed, Rob is always one of the first with a hand-up to offer help.

Outside of forestry, Rob volunteers with his local Grange and serves on the five-member Budget Advisory



The Oregon State Grange Foundation is pleased to announce that 2025 will be the first year we award a **Malcolm Trupp Memorial Vocational Scholarship**. This is a \$500 scholarship and is for students studying a trade. See details elsewhere on this page of the Bulletin. Additionally, applications will be mailed to Granges in February or early March. The application form is also available on the Oregon State Grange website.

Additionally, the Foundation Board has created the **Robert Smith Leadership Training Fund** which will fund leadership training for Grangers. We hope to have applications available to award funds for the Oregon State Grange Convention and the Western Regional Grange Leadership Conference in 2025. Watch Facebook, Grange Bulletin and website for more information and application.

The process has started to amend the Foundation Articles of Incorporation to define more clearly what

we as a foundation support and are able to fund. The goals of this change will be to once again be able to help granges with securing grants for their hall repair and programs. As we complete these changes, and they are approved, we will start to work with Granges on grants again.



Benefits the Oregon State Grange Foundation

www.fredmeyer.com/account/community-rewards/

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

Below l-r: Foundation members meeting at the State Grange office were At Large Trustee: Jesse O'Dell; Region 1 Trustee: Linda Helm; Financial Advisor: Wayne Cabler; Region 6 Trustee: David McBride; Region 2 Trustee: Cookie Trupp; OSG President: Sonny Hays-Eberts; Region 3 Trustee: Joe Peters; and Region 4 Trustee: Joyce Parker. Attending via Zoom were Region 5 Trustee Dean High and At Large Trustee: Sam Keator.



Committee for OSU Extension in Clackamas County, who oversee the \$14 million budget for all county Extension programming. He has also been an advocate for Extension funding at the statewide level, presenting before the state budget authority.

l-r: Sadly, Brother Guttridge passed away unexpectedly before the awards were presented. His brothers Tim Guttridge and Don Guttridge accepted the award in his memory at the December 4th awards banquet.





GWA

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

It's the middle of January as I write this and I am already looking forward to the spring! Once Christmas and New Years are past, I am always ready to have warmer weather and longer days, unfortunately I still have another couple of months before that dream is realized!

But for now, as we look forward to the renewal of spring, it's time to take stock of ourselves and our Granges. I imagine that many Granges have started their annual planning and I hope that the GWA committee is a part of that planning. Take charge of some programs for your Lecturer and bring in speakers to discuss family tasks and jobs. Speakers on retirement planning or budgeting might be well received by your members. Or as we start getting out into our yards gardening tips can be enjoyed by all whether they are planting a large garden or growing a few herbs in containers. Volunteer to partner with the Deaf Awareness and Family health committee to plan a program around mental health or help them plan a visit from the bloodmobile for your neighborhood.

In the next month or so the Contest, Awards and Scholarship guide should be coming out for 2025 and I encourage you to look through the GWA section as we have several new contests. For those of us who love Christmas time of year there is a new, decorated cookie contest. So how about celebrating a little Christmas in June and make some sugar cookies decorated as your favorite snowflake, Santa Claus, or Christmas tree? Or go with a spring/summer theme and use your

decorating skills to show off some spring flowers.

There are several other new contests this year and don't forget that the Grange with the most entries will win a cash prize as well as the member who enters the most items.

When my committee and I met last fall we also made a change to the GWA scholarship. This year we will make two \$750 scholarships available to a couple Grange members who are or will be enrolled in a two- or four-year college or university or a trade school. Scholarship applications will be mailed to Granges soon or they can be found on the OSG website.

As a final thought I have a book by Bob Welch that gives us little lessons from the movie "It's a Wonderful Life." In this book the author reminds us that no man is an island. When George Bailey tries to still the hysteria of the townspeople in the bank run scene, he reminds them that they can get through this but that they have to stick together. "We have to have faith in each other," he says. So, whether we are talking about family, a Grange, church or a community, its strength always depends on us understanding our commitment to one another. The individual is strengthened by their dependency on the group. As we go forward into the new year remember that the Granges real power rests in our willingness to stick together and to have faith in each other. Celebrate the new year and your Grange by working together to grow and improve your Grange.



Lane Pomona Grange Holds Monthly Luncheon

Each month the GWA members of Lane County Granges get together for a Pomona luncheon. It is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. January's luncheon was held at the Red Robin Restaurant at Valley River center as will be the Feb-

ruary luncheon starting at 12 noon.

All are welcome to come.

Above: Lane Grangers gathered for their monthly Pomona luncheon on December 18.

Two Oregon Granges Selected for Rural Life Initiative Grants

At the end of the October 30th National Grange Webinar "Shortcuts to Success: Add a little sparkle to your next event" which was part of the continuing work of the National Grange Rural Life Initiative that Pfizer has sponsored this past year, an announcement was made that there was still some money available in the way of \$500 grants to local community Granges around the nation. National President Chris Hamp made the announcement exclusively to those attendees at the webinar.

Both Little Deschutes Grange #939, Deschutes County, and Springwater Grange #263, Clackamas County, applied and received the grants to enhance currently planned events starting in November or December.



Above: a young child with her stuffed snowman on Santa's lap during Springwater's breakfast.

Little Deschutes Grange chose to enhance their "Open Door" Days held one Saturday a month from 10am-2pm. A multitude of activities may be going on including sewing, quilting, crafts, painting, Wii game, puzzle working, etc. The coffee pot



Above: Little Deschutes calendar which was available at their events, on their website and the state Grange website

R: Springwater's calendar on the tables at breakfast, was mailed to all their members along with the dues



will be on and there may be even some snacks available.

Springwater Grange chose to add to their December Monthly Breakfast which attracts many families for the opportunity to visit and take pictures with Santa Claus. Each child, twelve and under, was gifted with a snowman which was the theme for the publicity and table decorations for the event. Those five years of age and under received a small stuffed snowman; those ages six to nine, and ten to twelve received age-appropriate Lego Snowmen kits. Why Legos? At the Springwater Community Fair in September the Grange is adding a couple of Lego classes. Those receiving a Lego Snowman also received an invitation to bring their completed snowmen to the fair to receive a special prize. The fair will also include an area outside under a tent where families can make their own Lego creations.

Both Granges were required to produce a year long calendar showing their upcoming activities and describe how the calendars would be used, where in the community they would be posted and used on social media. They also had to complete a reporting form and send it along with a digital copy of their calendar and some photos to the Rural Life Initiative project.

To learn about similar grants, tune into the National Grange Zoom and Facebook Live events. To learn about these events, follow the National Grange Facebook page and/or signup for the National Grange twice monthly Grange Today email.



notice, mailed to the local churches, shared on the Grange Facebook page, and placed on community bulletin boards.

Ag Fest Essay Contest For Grades 3, 4 and 5

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.



- 5) This contest is open to schools located in Oregon
- 6) All essays must be post-marked 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!

Enter for the chance to win a **free** field trip for your classroom to a special school day at Ag Fest! **Entries are due Friday, March 7, 2025.**

For more information: <https://www.oragfest.com/participate/>

Oregon Classroom Ag Resources <https://oregonaitc.org/resources/oregon-resources/oregon-map/>

Santa Claus Came to Town Children’s Christmas Drive and Giveaway

On Saturday December 21, Morning Star Grange #311, Linn County, along with the Veterans Community Center welcomed children 12 and under to meet Santa Claus, partake in some fun activities, enjoy a selection of holiday snacks, and then select one toy and two stuffed animals. A total of sixty-six children from 27 families participated in the event.



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

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
- 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)

National President Appoints New Department Directors

Since the National Grange Convention in November, National President Chistine Hamp announced new Directors for the Junior and Community Service Programs.

National Junior Director

Rebekah Hodgson
Granger in Maine & Illinois
junior@nationalgrange.org

National Community Service Co-Directors

Bonnie Mitson
Granger in Idaho

Randy Farmer
Granger in Kansas
communityservice@grange.org

R: Santa (Morning Star Grange Chaplain David Solomon) and one of several of his elves.

Oregon Junior Grangers



Vickie Thorp
vickiethorp@yahoo.com
OSG Junior Director

Hope your New Year is off to a great start! to members of any age.

While many people make resolutions and look ahead to the upcoming year, this is also a time for reflecting on the year just past. Fond memories of family and friends, special milestones and achievements, maybe some lessons learned along the way and of time well spent.

So what do these things all have in common? Community dinners, cards and gifts for Veterans and shut-ins, Easter egg hunts, Mother-Son dances, Ag Fest, Poorly Drawn Pets, County and State fairs, Farmers markets, Lemonade stands, Haunted houses, Veterans’ Day luncheons, and Christmas dinners/programs.

These were just some of the many hundreds of activities that Grangers were involved with statewide in 2024. And even more specifically, Junior Grange members helped with all of these! They love to help and really enjoy the wide variety of special events the Grange can offer

I have reached out to the new National Junior Director, Rebekah Hodgson, and will be trying to coordinate our Junior contests so that the entries we receive at State Grange session can be sent on to compete at the National Grange Junior competition as well. With contests go ribbons and prizes, so here is a GREAT BIG THANK YOU! to Ada Grange for their wonderful donation to the State Junior program. Your donation will reward the Junior Grangers’ efforts in this year’s upcoming contests and events.

Planning for the Junior activities at State Session needs to start soon. It would be very helpful and much appreciated to have volunteers to serve on the Junior Committee. Volunteers from each district are still needed, so please reach out if you would like to be a part of the Junior Committee.

Be sure to let me know of any events or activities that your Junior members participate in so they can be recognized in upcoming bulletins.

Courtesy of: www.oragfest.com/wp-content/uploads/AgFactsJr.pdf

Word search! Find Oregon's Top 20 Agricultural Commodities

What is agriculture?
The process of producing food, feed, fiber, and ornamentals by growing plants, raising domesticated animals, and harvesting seafood.

What is a commodity?
A product of agriculture that is bought and sold.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | F | C | A | T | T | L | E | B | A | K | S | R | C | P | O | S | B | Y | V | I | G | L |
| A | O | Q | W | B | O | F | S | L | R | B | S | P | H | J | N | X | Q | M | L | E | F | U |
| X | S | R | A | E | P | Y | E | U | S | H | T | X | R | G | I | Z | I | K | G | S | N | M |
| C | P | A | B | R | B | Z | O | E | E | S | C | J | I | F | O | Z | T | M | R | T | H | P |
| D | U | J | H | D | T | Q | T | B | V | K | U | A | S | U | N | M | O | N | A | U | N | Y |
| W | I | H | G | G | Y | V | A | E | I | Q | D | P | T | C | S | I | G | R | S | N | V | K |
| F | I | P | G | L | Q | S | T | R | C | C | O | P | M | A | M | N | J | O | S | L | Y | Z |
| U | L | N | V | H | T | F | O | R | H | S | R | L | A | L | K | T | C | C | S | E | J | P |
| W | W | Y | E | C | Q | I | P | I | E | D | P | E | S | F | A | T | K | K | E | Z | V | G |
| P | H | I | D | G | Z | X | M | E | R | B | Y | S | T | S | B | B | R | Q | E | A | G | E |
| C | S | E | J | D | R | K | S | S | R | N | R | F | R | P | G | A | K | J | D | H | W | A |
| S | A | V | A | L | I | A | K | N | I | Q | E | E | E | O | U | R | L | D | R | B | C | P |
| G | T | C | M | T | L | C | P | K | E | P | S | B | E | H | D | C | I | O | O | J | C | W |
| G | Z | N | X | I | T | A | T | E | S | Z | R | H | S | S | E | M | M | E | I | W | W | E |
| E | W | B | I | I | J | C | E | F | S | P | U | Y | V | K | M | O | C | B | Y | N | K | X |
| M | A | M | A | H | A | Y | Y | J | G | Y | N | E | F | R | M | T | D | T | Z | K | J | G |

Can you find all of the top 20 agricultural commodities? Words are forward, backward, and diagonal.

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------|
| 1. Nursery products | 6. Wheat | 11. Onions | 16. Crab |
| 2. Hay | 7. Wine grapes | 12. Christmas trees | 17. Eggs |
| 3. Cattle | 8. Potatoes | 13. Hazelnuts | 18. Mint |
| 4. Milk | 9. Blueberries | 14. Cherries | 19. Apples |
| 5. Grass seed | 10. Pears | 15. Hops | 20. Corn |

Based on 2019 data and estimates of value of production. See sources and more stats online: <https://oda.direct/AgStats> Created 2/2021

Clara Humason Waldo 2024 National Grange Hall of Fame Inductee



Inductee Ceremony Presentation

120 years ago, Sister Clara Waldo greeted the delegates of the National Grange and welcomed them to Portland, Oregon for the 38th annual session. Later that week Clara, her husband John and daughter Edith received the 7th degree.

Clara Humason was born May 23, 1858, in The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon Territory, to Judge Orlando and Phebe Humason.

She finished her high school education in 1876 at St Helen's Hall, a day and boarding school for girls in Portland where she was the Valedictorian of her graduating class. That fall she left to study at the University of California at Berkeley.

On October 8, 1877, in Portland, Oregon she married Judge John Breckinridge Waldo, fourteen years her senior. It is understood that John and Clara's father, Orlando, shared a law practice in Portland. When Orlando died suddenly in September 1875, John offered to help his widow with all the legal issues associated with the estate. The family has many letters from 1875 though 1877 which show that Clara quickly took over corresponding with John, and while they started out referring to each other as "Miss Humason" and "Mr. Waldo," this quickly changed to addressing each other as "Dear Friend" and eventually to terms of much greater affection.

Clara and John made their first home in Portland. By the early 1880s they had moved to the Salem area where he served as a judge on the Oregon Supreme Court and by

1900, they had moved to Macleay, an area just east of Salem.

On June 2, 1900, Clara Waldo along with her husband John and daughter Edith became charter members of Macleay Grange #293, and she was elected Master. By 1903 Macleay had 163 members, the second largest in the state with a gain of 91 members in the previous year. Under her leadership the first Juvenile Grange in Oregon, Macleay #1, was organized in 1904.

In 1902 after just two years of Grange membership, Clara was elected Oregon State Grange Overseer and two years later she was elected State Lecturer, where she served until 1908. In this position, she toured Oregon giving speeches on topics that applied specifically to rural communities and families in Oregon. In 1906 she and past State Master Jacob Vorhees tag-teamed through Eastern Oregon to establish Granges. She went into a community and delivered an entertaining speech, getting the crowd all fired up. Brother Vorhees followed up enrolling members, handling organizational details, and instructing new officers on their duties.

The Lecturer was also the editor of the Oregon Grange Bulletin and overlapping this time, she served as the first Oregon State Juvenile leader from 1904-1909. In her report to the state convention in 1906 she reported that she sent out over 100,000 pieces of printed matter and gave 63 public addresses in the past year. She often addressed the importance of the work of women

in rural households and advocated for the education of women in all fields in order to further their prospects both in work and in the Grange.

Sister Waldo was the first woman in America to be named to the Board of Regents for a state institution of higher education. On January 1, 1906, she officially became a member of the Oregon Agriculture College (now Oregon State University) Board of Regents serving until 1919 when she resigned in order to care for, in her words, "an invalid sister and a feeble mother."

In the fall of 1908, she left for a tour of Europe that had been "commissioned" by the Governor of Oregon for the purpose of gathering information on Agricultural practices and methods of teaching Domestic Science and did not return until early 1910. Upon her return, she worked as the Dean of Extension in Domestic Science at OAC with no compensation.

In 1905 she gave the primary commencement address at Oregon Agriculture College, the first woman to address a graduating class at the college and in 1907 Clara sponsored the construction of the first all-female dormitory at the college. It was named (and is still known as) Waldo Hall in honor of her work for the state of Oregon and the school.

In 1912 she provided funding for the Clara H. Waldo Outstanding Student Award, an academic award given to outstanding female students at the college. The award has a small monetary value but is among the

most prestigious awards bestowed by Oregon State University and the award is still given today.

Her volunteerism was not limited to just the Grange and the school. She was the only woman on the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial and American Pacific Exposition and Oriental Fair (a World's Fair) in Portland and served as the representative of the largest part of the project, the agricultural interests of Oregon. Clara supported equal suffrage and women's rights in Oregon. In 1905, she was elected second vice president of the Oregon State Equal Suffrage Association and spoke at the National American Woman Suffrage Association meeting at the Lewis and Clark Exposition on "The Influence of the Woman on the Farm."

On February 13, 1933, Clara Humason Waldo passed away in Ojai, California and on March 7, Macleay Grange draped their charter in her memory.

Clara would have been considered a remarkable woman today and even more so over a century ago. As noted by Governor Olcott upon her resignation from the Board of Regents, "I regret very much to lose Mrs. Waldo, as she has been broad-minded, fair and able in the consideration she has given to the affairs of the college. She has always shown that she had the best welfare of the school at heart and had contributed not only her own time, but liberally of her finances to the institution she has loved." And the same could be said of her commitment to the Grange.

NG Hall of Fame Inducts Five New Members

On Wednesday, November 13, five new individuals were inducted into the National Grange Virtual Grange Hall of Fame. This year's class of inductees went from coast to coast and is representative of the wide influence of the Grange on the nation.

In addition to Oregonian Clara Waldo, the first Oregon Granger to be so recognized, inductees included: **Dosia A. Eckert**, (1881-1951), from Illinois who devoted her life to the work of the Grange. She played a formative role in the development of the Juvenile/Junior Grange. As the second National Juvenile Grange Superintendent, she compiled and issued the first Juvenile (Junior) Grange handbook.

Andrew Failor, born in Ohio in 1821. He started corresponding with O.H. Kelley in December 1867, after seeing some publicity of the December 4, 1867 organization of the National Grange. On April 17, 1868, he organized Newton Grange #1 in Jasper County, Iowa, the first Grange in the state of Iowa.

Eben Thompson, born 1848 in Danville, Vermont. He worked early on to expand the Grange into an international presence. From 1872 to 1877, he organized fourteen Granges in Vermont, fourteen in New Hampshire, at least one Grange in Massachusetts, nine in Quebec, and five in Ontario.

Woodrow W. "Woody" Tucker of Rhode Island, served in offices in the Grange at all levels, including Master/President of Perryville Grange #14, Master/President of Washington County Pomona Grange, and as Rhode Island State Grange Master/President for four years and was on the Executive committee for five. On the National level, Woody served two years as Gatekeeper and four years on the Executive Committee, before being elected High Priest of Demeter in 1981, a position he held for fourteen years. As a National Grange Representative, he visited 47 states, sharing his love of the Grange and educating members about the ritualistic work of the Grange.



Government Affairs

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

Hello Grangers,

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025.

Here are some of the new laws that took affect January 1, 2025. As the clock struck midnight on Wednesday morning, Oregon ushered in not just 2025, but also a series of new laws aimed at improving residents' lives. Among the key measures passed during the 2024 legislative session are initiatives to simplify electronic device repairs, enhance access to affordable prescription drugs, improve school bus safety, and promote transparency in school boards.

Here are some notable laws that took effect on January 1:

Trenton's Law

Named after Trenton Burger, a 15-year-old killed in a 2023 e-bike accident, this law classifies electric bicycles into three categories:

- Class 1: Assists only when pedaling, max speed 20 mph.
- Class 2: Can be propelled without pedaling, max speed 20 mph.
- Class 3: Requires pedaling, includes a speedometer, max speed 28 mph.

Further regulations on e-mobility devices are expected in 2025.

Right to Repair

This law requires manufacturers to provide consumers and repair businesses with the tools and information necessary to repair electronic devices, offering a more affordable option for repairs.

School Bus Cameras

To combat drivers ignoring stopped school buses, this law allows districts to install cameras on buses to capture footage of violators, enabling police to issue citations.

Drugs on Public Transit

Drug use on public transportation is now a Class-A misdemeanor, allowing access to state-funded treatment for those convicted. Sen. Tim Knopp (R-Bend) was a primary sponsor.

Prescription Drug Access and Pricing

Two new laws aim to make prescriptions more accessible:

- HB 4012: Prevents health plans from requiring prescriptions to be filled at specialty pharmacies.
- HB 4113: Ensures all amounts paid for prescriptions count toward out-of-pocket maximums.

Animal Crush Videos

HB 4145 criminalizes the creation of videos depicting severe animal abuse as a Class C Felony, inspired by a 2023 case involving animal cruelty.

Worker Quota Reporting

HB 4127 requires transparency regarding productivity quotas for warehouse workers and protects them from punishment if quotas are not clearly communicated.

School Board Transparency

Public school and community college boards must now record and upload their meetings online, with exemptions for small districts and those lacking internet access.

Divesting from Coal

The state treasurer and Oregon Investment Council are required to divest from coal companies while minimizing financial losses, with some allowances for companies transitioning to clean energy.

Happy Trails

Legislative Update

Mark Noah
marknoah00@gmail.com
OSG Legislative Director



The 2025 Oregon legislative session will consider some issues on which we already have established policy, but one that might not be among them is the question of fair use of existing domestic water rights. As I write this Alice Morrison from Friends of Family Farmers needs support just to get a bill introduced. Senator Golden from District 3 in Southern Oregon, the chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, has indicated he will not move the bill forward until there is agreement with water conservation groups who oppose the existence of domestic well exemptions overall. Those groups are refusing to even negotiate. We need to speak up and speak out to not just Senator Golden but each of our Senators and Representatives. We need to let them all know we are not asking for more water, just the right to use existing domestic well allotment—anything else goes. There is no reason for singling out small-scale agriculture like this, and there is every reason to encourage locally grown food resources. Changing this law will not grant any new water rights, and it seems unlikely that it will cause a sudden increase in overall water use. Drought-related restrictions on water use will still apply. Please contact Senator Golden and your own Senator and Representative and urge them to move the small farm water access bill forward.

The 2024 National Grange convention met in Bettendorf, Iowa and delegates considered 10 resolutions from Oregon. I'm listing our OSG number, then the National Grange re-number in parentheses. Our resolutions that were adopted included:

- LE-6 from Beavercreek, titled 'National Government Officials Age Limit', (CT301)
- EH-2 from Clackamas Pomona, titled 'Health/Health Care', (HE502)
- FA-1, Mohawk-McKenzie, titled 'Limit Medicaid Estate Recovery' (EH503)
- EH-1 from Beavercreek, 'Medicare and Dementia' (EH504)
- GO-1 from Mohawk-McKenzie, 'Disposition of resolutions at National Grange' (GL704). This last one was initially sent to Grange Law as GL704, then transferred to Grange Growth.

Resolutions lost included LE-25 (CT302), 'Pacific Standard Time', which the National delegates still insist is just a regional issue. A motion from Washington to substitute the resolution for the committee report failed. We're going to need to find compelling arguments to prove that this issue is National in scope.

Four other resolutions were determined by their committees to already be present policy of the National Grange, and under this year's procedural rules they are considered to have lost:

- TU-2 from Goldson, 'Oppose Dam Removal' (Con401)
- LE-7 from Beavercreek, 'Age Limit for Supreme Court Justices', (LJT801)
- LE2 from Irving, 'De-schedule Marijuana' (LJT803)
- LE-5 from Washington-Yamhill Pomona, 'Oppose USPS plan for LTO' (LJT804).

From my experience this year on the Labor, Judiciary and Transportation committee I can say it is very important to be specific and precise with language when we write our resolutions. If you want to change existing National Grange policy, do not assume that a new policy will automatically supersede an old policy; that is not how National Grange does things. Your resolution must cite the specific policy language you want to remove or alter. And just because we think a resolution should go to National, that does not mean the National Grange session committee will agree. State in the resolution why this resolution should be considered at National.

We are hoping to schedule a Legislative Day at the Capitol this year, but due to ongoing renovations we will not be able to use a room there. We plan to meet at the Oregon State Grange office and carpool (or walk, weather permitting) to the capitol building where visitors can still enter the house and senate office areas and also observe from the gallery if the legislature is in session that day. Look for more info in the next Bulletin and on Facebook.

Finally let me advertise once again our monthly Legislative Zoom forums, usually the 4th Wednesday of every month at 7pm. At least 50 Grangers are on the email invitation list and we frequently see 15 to 20 in attendance. Everyone is welcome, just get your email to me and I'll add you to the list. We have good discussions about current topics of interest and our lobbyist John DeHaas is usually in attendance to offer a report from Salem.



All Grangers are invited

OSG Legislative Forum Zoom Meeting

When: Wednesday, February 26 @ 7 pm PDT
Wednesday March 26 @ 7 pm PDT

Where: Zoom

The OSG Legislative Committee will lead a discussion on current legislative issues, ballot measures and Grange resolution developing.

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

Membership Matters



Jay Sexton
pawpawsexton@gmail.com
OSG Membership Director

During the winter months Granges install new officers and plan for the next year. We discuss event dates and preparations, and hall maintenance projects. Rentals, finances, and membership are common concerns.

In the last Membership column, I described two parts of membership development:

- 1) Promotion of your Grange: getting the word out that there is an active Grange in your community. Encourage Grange members to tell friends and strangers about your Grange.
- 2) Community Engagement: where you advertise your availability for rental, publicize your events, and reach out to participate in community parades, open houses, and donate to community efforts in the name of your Grange. This can also involve reaching out to partner with other groups to co-sponsor activities at your hall.

The next two parts of membership development are Constant Recruitment and Member Engagement.

Constant Recruitment needs some planning ahead and preparation. It does not “just happen.” One tool is a business card sized hand out that gives the Grange name, address, phone and email contact, website and/or Facebook address, and **the regular meeting day and time**. It is easy to set this up as a computer file to print on cardstock and cut to size – someone in a member’s family will have the skills to do this.

All your members can have a few of these cards to hand out to anyone who shows a little interest in a Grange activity. There should also be a stack of these cards in your Hall so that event attendees or renters will be able to take one home. Let people know our meetings are “Open To All,” because many people unfamiliar with Grange do not know that there even is a membership, and that there are regular meetings. Anyone can join!

That being said, the peace and respectfulness of the membership of a Grange is a valuable asset, worthy of protection. Granges do not have to accept everyone who applies, and if there is an applicant who is known to be disruptive in the community, it is reasonable to not approve their application without first explaining the importance of respectful discussion, and the

expectation of calm deliberation.

Now the hard part: in order to grow your Grange your membership must be willing, and dare I say eager, to encourage new membership and accepting of new people who may not be exactly like you. Granges have always transitioned through the generations. In over 150 years Granges have had several generations of membership pass through them, handing on the keys of the hall to those following us.

As I mentioned in the last membership column, Constant Recruitment also involves a Grange table at every Grange event, off to the side, with your friendliest Grange member there to answer questions. A sign that says “Our Membership Goal for 2025 is XX Members” should be displayed, along with the “What is a Grange” poster the Oregon State Grange distributed in 2024. (If you don't have, contact me.) The goal should be ambitious with at least two times your current membership. The goal is a soft way to start a conversation. Many will ask “How many do you have now?,” “Who can join?,” “What does it cost to join?” and this gives your friendly Granger at the table the chance to converse.

Member Engagement is the next important part of growth. New members (and old) should be individually asked to help out with some event or hall activity. This develops attachment and investment in your local Grange. “Hey Lisa, we are painting the bathroom next week and I was wondering if you might come help at 2 PM Sunday?”

The individual invitation is more likely to bring new members in to help. It also provides an opportunity for the small talk that builds friendships among members. The pride in a job or event completed creates a great bond between members. As an example, Marys River Grange #685 in Benton County recently did an ambitious remodel and upgrade of their “Junior Room”. The final product, with insulation, painting, windows, a new door, and other improvements, was striking, and eighteen individual members helped at one point or another. This connection and accomplishment strengthen the Grange. Smaller projects encourage beneficial connections.

These membership techniques have helped the five Benton County Granges grow from less than 100 total membership to over 250 members in 15 years. Let it be perpetual.

Oregon Recognized for Another Year of Net Gain in Membership

Thirteen State Granges including Oregon were recognized during the 158th Annual National Grange Convention in November as having posted a net gain in members for the 2023-24 membership year.

“It’s awesome to be able to celebrate so many Granges where growth is happening,” National Grange President Chris Hamp said. “Nearly half of all the State Granges in the nation are adding to their rolls and welcoming new members into the Grange.”

All the state Granges in the western region had net gains with California leading the region with a triple-digit net gain of 108 new members. Oregon had a net gain of 74, Washington had a net gain of 67 and Montana had a net gain of 53 and rounding out the region was Idaho which grew by 10 new members.

At the close of June 2024, which ended the 2023-24 membership year, there were 1,385 Granges open across the country in 37 states. Over the year, 11 Granges were organized or reorganized including Western Star #309 in Oregon.

“Our community Granges are where each of our journeys begin, and every community in the nation deserves to have a Grange,” Hamp



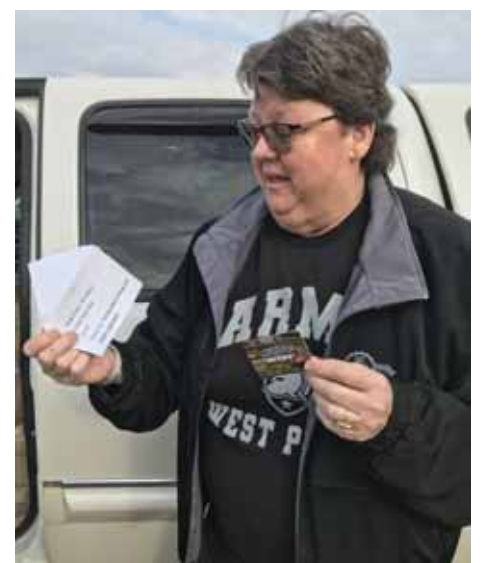
Above: Oregon Delegates Jay Sexton and Sonny Hays-Eberts with the pink banner Oregon received for a net gain in membership.

said. “Let’s double-down. Let’s pull out all the stops. Let’s commit to maintaining and strengthening every Grange. People all over the country are seeking an organization like ours – let’s share it and ensure we are living up to our founders’ vision: *Esto Perpetua* – may it live forever.”

Taken from an article by Amanda Brozana, National Grange Membership & Leadership Development Director which appeared in the January 2025 Good Day Magazine.

Woodburn Grange Honors Granger of the Year

Debbie Johnson of Woodburn Grange #79, Marion County, has been selected as their Granger of the Year for 2025. She has been a member since 2010 and has held many different positions with the Community Grange. She currently oversees the hall rentals and is co-chairperson for the monthly flea market.



No Grange project is too small or too large for Debbie to tackle. She sees a hinge that is loose and she fixes it; a new soap dispenser that would make cleaning easier, she installs it. She has managed projects from residing and painting the exterior of the hall to finding and repairing roof leaks.

Woodburn Grange #79 is lucky to have this amazing lady as a member!

| 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 3 | 10:30 AM | New BridgeGrange | |
| Benton #36 | Apr 19 | 10:30 AM | TBA | |
| Clackamas #1 | Apr 26 | 9:30 AM | Sunnyside Grange | |
| Columbia #18 | May 3 | 10:00 AM | Fern Hill Grange | |
| Deschutes #25 | May 10 | 11:30 AM | TBA | |
| Douglas #13 | Apr 12 | 6:00 PM | Smith River Grange | |
| Josephine #20 | Mar 29 | 10:00 AM | Fruitdale Grange | |
| Lane #14 | Apr 12 | 10:00 AM | Row River Grange | |
| Lincoln #10 | Feb 17 | 10:30 AM | TBA | |
| Linn #12 | Apr 12 | 10:00 AM | Lacomb Grange | |
| Polk #3 | Apr 8 | 6:00 PM | TBA | |
| Tillamook #9 | | | TBA | |
| Wallowa #22 | Apr | 5:30 PM | TBA | |
| Washington-Yamhill #2 | Apr 19 | 10:00 AM | Fernwood Grange | |

Oregon State Grange Youth Officer Application
Emailed or Postmarked to the State Office by April 30
osg.youth@gmail.com
643 Union St NE ~ Salem OR 97301

Name: _____
Age (on Jan. 1, 2025) _____
Address: _____
Grange: _____ Pomona: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

What, if any, financial aid do you request from the Oregon Youth Activity Fund?? (Depends upon the availability of funds. Any financial aid acceptance implies you will participate in ALL youth activities.)

Will you accept banquet meal tickets? Yes No
At this time, have you been designated as a delegate by your Grange? Yes No

To assist the state youth team in making youth officer assignments, please share your preference for which offices you wish to be considered for

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____

Briefly explain your first choice _____

List current Grange Office(s) or Committee(s) held. Includes Community and Pomona, please acknowledge any committee chairs. _____

List previous Grange Office(s) or Committee(s) held. Includes Community and Pomona, please acknowledge any committee chairs. _____

What Grange contests/activities have you or are you planning to participate in? _____

I agree that if I am selected to be a Youth Officer, I will attend all scheduled practice sessions and be prepared to open State Grange Convention on Wednesday morning. I further agree that if I have a speaking part, I will have it fully committed to memory UPON ARRIVAL AT THE State Grange Convention. I will also wear the proper attire for the opening of the Oregon State Grange on Wednesday morning. You are expected to participate in the youth activities (delegate work is the priority) and lend a helping hand to any task requested.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date _____

I affirm the first 4 degrees or welcoming ceremony had been received when this application was signed. (initials) _____



GROW Club
"Go Right On Working"



Mark Noah
OSG GROW Club President
marknoah00@gmail.com

Go Right On Working. That is the meaning of G.R.O.W.

As I mentioned in the December 2021/January 2022 issue of the Bulletin, members of this 'club' have earned the right to membership through the honor of representing Oregon as Ambassadors of the Grange through different programs throughout the decades. Although the programs have changed over the years, the privilege and honor is only achieved by earning it.

Since 2022 you have read several G.R.O.W. Club memebtrs stories. In this issue I ask Joyce Parker to write the column.

I had been active in Grange and attended State Grange as a Junior Granger but in my middle school and high school years I stopped attending the state convention and being active in Grange outside of Hood River County as a member of Parkdale Grange #500. I concentrated more on my FFA livestock: sheep, chickens, and rabbits. But in November 1981, I attended the National Grange Convention at Spokane, Washington with my sister Suzy Ramm, Oregon's contestant in the National Princess contest, and a whole world of Grange opportunity opened up to me. I decided then that I was going to apply at the June 1982 Oregon State Grange convention for Outstanding Young Granger.

From the time of my selection in June 1982 until October 1983, when my National Grange Princess contest notebook was due for National Grange judging, I travels over 8,133 miles, visited the Washington, Idaho, and California State Granges along with fifteen counties in Oregon talking about the Oregon State Grange and the State Grange Youth Program at meetings, booster nights and fairs. I was in a position where I could accept almost every invitation that came along so I did.

To prepare for competition at National Grange you studied for a test - Grange History, Ritual, the Declaration of Purposes and current policy. Additionally, you prepared a notebook that showed your Grange work in FAFRLSM – Fellowship, Activities, Fun, Recognition, Leadership, Service, and Membership. My notebook was three inches thick and filled with Grange memories.

The 1983 National Convention was held in San Antonio, Texas. It was an interesting city to visit, and I was able to stay for two extra days after convention and just be a tourist. The

Oregon State Grange Young Couple for 1982-83 were Scott and Barbara Haskett of Rogue Valley Grange #469 in Josephine County and we enjoyed a close friendship and representing the Oregon State Grange at the National Convention.

In 1992 I was selected as a National Grange Youth Representative Award Winner and I attended the Vermont State Grange convention representing the National Grange Youth department. It was interesting to see a much smaller state, about the size of Clackamas County, do a state convention. Lots of it was the same but just on a much smaller scale. To be able to visit Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont in October was a treat as they have fall colors of leaves that are truly special. All the Masters of the bordering state Granges; New Hampshire, Maine, and New York attended the convention, so it was an opportunity to discuss youth activities on the West coast with them and the differences in the Grange from coast to coast. The workshop I presented was an overview of the Oregon State Grange Youth Program and it was so surprising to the youth in Vermont that we had to travel long distances for our regional conference each year.

I do believe that had I not gone to the National Convention in Spokane and then gone on to participate in the Grange youth programs at the state and national level, my Grange story today would be significantly different.



Joyce (Ramm) Parker at the 1983 National Convention in San Antonio, Texas.



Oregon at the 158th National Grange Convention Highlights



Above: Installation of Susan Noah (OR), who was re-elected, and Joseph Stefenoni (CA), who was elected, to two-year terms on the National Grange Executive Committee at the 158th Annual National Grange Session in November.

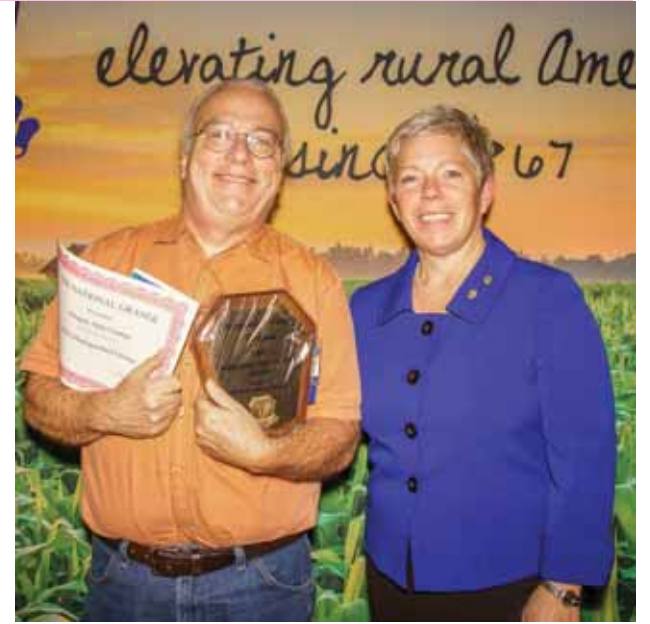
R: Oregon State Grange President Sonny Hays-Eberts received Distinguished Grange awards and Grange in Action Awards for several Oregon Granges from National Grange President Chris Hamp.

Distinguished Granges

- Oregon State Grange – 7 years
- Clackamas County Pomona #1 - 1 Year
- Redland #796 - 15 Years
- Springwater #263 - 9 Years
- Marys River #685 - 7 Years
- Creswell #496 - 6 Years
- Lorane #54 - 1 Year

Granges in Action

- Clarkes #261
- Siletz Valley #558



L: Scholls Grange received a National Grange Connector Award for their use of YouTube to advertise their events. Recipients are selected by National Grange Communications Director Phil Vonada.



National Grange Advocacy in Action was awarded to Clackamas County Pomona #1 for the second year in a row and Dan Keeley of Maplewood Grange #662 in Clackamas County received the individual award.

L: Clackamas County Pomona Grange Treasurer, Suzy Ramm, picked up two Grange Advocacy in Action awards from National Grange President Chris Hamp.



Above: Oregon State Grange President Sonny Hays-Eberts accepted the first place Publicity Contest award for In-house Designs from National Grange President Chris Hamp for the 2024 Oregon State Grange Convention logo.



Above: Participants in the Gold Sash Auction and Raffle closed the Grange.

The chance to wear an officer's Gold sash was up for grabs at the 158th Convention and with it the opportunity to close Wednesday's session of the National Grange. The wearer of the President's sash was given to the winner or their designated person from the results of an online silent auction, while for all other officer sashes and positions an online raffle was held, with a chance to win and select the office of the winner's choice. Most of the winners had purchased their own tickets but several tickets were pur-

chased and offers position given to someone else.

- President - Scott Lyle (WA) (final silent auction bid of \$600!)
- Vice President - Victor Stevens (WA) ticket purchased by Scott Lyle
- Lecturer - Nettie Hartley (RI) ticket purchased by Scott Lyle
- Steward - Corey Spence (MA)
- Assist. Steward - Garrett Phelps (NY)
- Lady Assistant Steward - Katie Squire (CA)
- Chaplain - Suzy Ramm (OR) ticket purchased by Joyce Parker
- Treasurer - Christina Webster (CA) ticket purchased by Naomi Fletcher
- Secretary - Naomi Fletcher (CA/MI)
- Gatekeeper - Gloria Paddock (MT)
- Ceres - Charlene Espenshade (PA)
- Pomona - Sarah Strawder (KS)
- Flora - Melissa Kudsk (WA) ticket purchased by Brittney Pittman
- Executive Committee - Theresa Kenney (MA), Richard Javaux (ID) ticket purchased by Eileen Javaux, Mark Noah (OR); Marisa O'Dell (IL) ticket purchased by Karie Blasingame



Above: Oregon's Suzy Ramm and Mark Noah



Above: Oregon Young Patron JC Junkman (L) along with other Young Patrons and Youth Ambassadors were inducted into the G.R.O.W. Club during the G.R.O.W. Club reception at the National Grange Convention.

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