



NOTE!

The General Tour will leave at 10:00 a.m. on Friday!



Keeping Us Going

The Fellows would like to send our deep appreciation to Cindy Greer (CO) for the cake delivery, and Allen and Kay Stiles (MD) for breakfast!



JOIN US TONIGHT

The doors to the Peterson Farm Brothers' concert will open at 7:00 p.m. in the Teall Theatre

Follow the Fellows on social media, and stay up to date with the happenings at Session.

Instagram:

n.grange_communication_fellows

Facebook:

National Grange

Twitter:

NationalGrange

PATRONS CHAIN

The Official Newsletter of the National Grange



Thirteen veterans from Kansas and Oklahoma received Quilts of Valor on Wednesday evening. Full Story on Page 2. | Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

Beam spotlights issues in rural America

BY ETHAN EDWARDS

Communications Fellow

Responding to stress within the agriculture community, developing local product markets, enhancing rural broadband and climate resiliency are among the most important opportunities facing the farm community, according to Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Mike Beam, who spoke Wednesday at the Salute to Agriculture luncheon at the 155th National Grange Convention.

While supporting the technical and economic demands of farming, Beam reminded the attendees of the impact of the often unrecognized emotional stress related to farming.

Unpredictable weather, heavy workloads and financial worries can create overwhelming stress, sometimes resulting in mental and emotional distress, substance abuse, anxiety, depression and even suicide.

“We realize that caring for health and wellness is just as critical as caring for the farm business,” Beam said

To address this need, the Kansas Department of Agriculture partnered with mental health and agriculture service agencies and institutions in Kansas and neighboring states to create the Kansas Ag Stress Resources Website (www.kansasagstress.org). “We provide resources that farmers and ranchers need to help cope with ag-related stress,” explained Beam. “It also includes a free 24/7 support hotline.”

Attendees asked for Beam’s thoughts on how to protect family farms. “I believe opportunity will lie in producers add-



Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Mike Beam addressed the delegates gathered at the Salute to Agriculture Luncheon. |

Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

ing value at the local level,” said Beam, highlighting Kansas Department of Agriculture’s success in distributing grants throughout the state.

Beam also addressed “hot topics” in rural communities. He shared the judgment that access to high-speed Internet is critical to rural America. “It isn’t something only nice to have,” said Beam.

“Particularly since the COVID-19 crisis, access to the Internet has become absolutely essential for access to health care, education, retaining young leaders, and especially to advancing the agriculture industry.”

Similarly, Beam acknowledged the impact of climate stress and resiliency. He noted that family farmers continue to act in the long-term interest of the land.

Finally, Beam shared his concerns about the impact of current social and political discord in the rural communities. He recognized that many of the foundational

Junior, Youth leadership teams reflect on year

BY ETHAN EDWARDS

Communications Fellow

The annual National Grange Youth and Junior Ambassador awards recognize excellence in leadership and service in young Grangers. A new cohort of winners will be announced on Friday evening of the 155th National Session, which provides a welcome opportunity to check in with the outgoing Outstanding Young Patrons, Youth Ambassador, and Junior Ambassadors about their experiences of the past year.

Mandy Bostwick, National Grange Youth Director, is particularly pleased with the National Youth team's activities over the last year. "I could always rely on them being ready to help out," Bostwick said. "They learned so much through all the opportunities for travel to Grange events."

Molly and Vince Newman of Oskaloosa, Kansas, were named National Grange Outstanding Young Patrons in November 2020.

In this role, they were able to present workshops at three regional Grange conferences in the Mid-Atlantic, Great Plains and Western Regions. "We discovered so much about ourselves and Granges throughout the country through these conferences and we are both thankful for the opportunity to serve the Grange at a National level," Molly stated. Completing their duties in their home state is a meaningful ending to the year.

The Newmans are members of Pleasant View Grange #1459 in Ozawiki, Kansas. Molly and Vince each serve as Kansas State Grange officers - Molly as Lady Assistant Steward and Vince as Assistant Steward. Molly teaches high school math and is student council advisor, while Vince is an HVAC installer and part-time EMT/volunteer firefighter. They have one daughter, Kimber, age 8.

Britney Mercado, of Stanfordville, New York, relished her experiences as Youth Ambassador.

In her role, she attended regional conferences in the Southeast and



2019-2021 Junior Ambassadors, Bryce Danko (PA) and Brianna Gervais (CT)

Western Regions. The trips afforded many opportunities for making new friends, particularly with the youth of North Carolina and bonding with National Grange staff and the rest of the leadership team on their enjoyable road trips.

Mercado noted how warm and welcoming Grangers were. "The conference wasn't at all what I had expected honestly. I figured that it would be a lot more formal as a conference," she said. "Going to the Southeast Regional Conference was the highlight of my year as National Youth Ambassador, due to all the new friends I made."

Mercado is a member of Stanford Grange #808 and is a freshman at the University of Buffalo. She studies civil engineering, with the eventual goal of becoming a construction manager. She loves woodworking, reading and listening to a wide range of musical genres.

The National Junior Grange



2020-2021 National Grange Youth Team, Youth Ambassador Britney Mercado (NY), and Outstanding Young Patrons Vince and Molly Newman (KS)

AMBASSADORS
cont'd on Page 3

Quilts of Valor given to local veterans

BY SASHA SECOR

Communications Fellow

On Wednesday, November 10 the National Grange presented 13 Quilts of Valor at the 155th Annual Session, being held at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Wichita.

"What a fitting tribute to be able to hold this on Veterans Day Eve," said National Grange Lecturer Chris Hamp, who oversees this program.

For the first time, non-Grangers were honored, including members of the local Augusta Memorial Post 6746 - Veterans of Foreign Wars and Augusta Leonard Whitehill American Legion Post 189, who presented

the colors.

The youth of the National Grange assisted in escorting the veterans to the front of the room to receive their quilts.

Kimber Newman, daughter of National Young Patrons Molly and Vince Newman, assisted in giving the recipients thank you cards made by the fourth-grade class of her aunt, Mandy Bostwick, National Grange Youth Leadership Director.

Quilts of Valor are given to service members and veterans, to cover them with comfort and healing.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation



Members of Augusta Memorial Post 6746 VFW and August Leonard Whitehill American Legion presented the colors at the Quilts of Valor program.

was started in 2003 by Catherine Roberts when her son was deployed

VALOR
cont'd on Page 3

AGRICULTURE

from page 1

values of the Grange, such as aspiring to a higher manhood and womanhood, fostering mutual understanding, striving to secure harmony, goodwill, and brotherhood and suppressing personal, local, sectional, and national prejudices.

Beam was appointed Secretary

of the Kansas Department of Agriculture by Governor Laura Kelly in January 2019 and confirmed in April. He came to KDS following 38 years in association management for the Kansas Livestock Association.

He has dedicated his career to assisting farmers and ranchers to advance their policy and public relations needs and in building highly visible, responsive and respected organizations.

AMBASSADORS

from page 1

Ambassadors were announced in November 2019 and served a term of two years. The limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic shut down many of the opportunities normally available to Juniors, so it was not until their second year that they could carry out most of their duties.

“The Ambassadors were so fortunate to be able to participate in the DC Experience and the Legislative Fly-In in New Hampshire,” reflected National Grange Junior Director Samantha Wilkins.

“I was impressed how fully they engaged in the Regional Conferences they attended.”

Thirteen-year-old Brianna Gervais of Sterling, Connecticut, treasures the breadth of new experiences afforded by being National Junior Grange Ambassador.

“I especially loved traveling and meeting other Grangers,” shared Brianna. “Grangers were very nice everywhere that we went.” She appreciated the experiences she gained at regional conferences, the Legislative Fly-In in New Hampshire, the DC Experience and Pennsylvania’s Junior Grange Camp.

“I think that I liked visiting Idaho the best,” Gervais acknowledged. “It was the farthest that I had ever been away from home.”

Gervais has deep Grange roots, being a seventh-generation member. She is active in her home

Grange of Ekonk Community Junior Grange #101, where she has served in multiple offices, including Greeter (Gatekeeper), Lady Assistant Steward, Assistant Steward, Treasurer, Secretary and President.

She enjoys diverse hobbies, including reading, drawing, baking, playing piano and playing with her family’s goats. She also has an enterprising streak in which she grows cut flowers and makes relishes and pickles to sell.

Bryce Danko of Newport, Pennsylvania is sad his term as Junior Grange Ambassador is ending.

Danko was able to attend the Legislative Fly-In where he gained first-hand experience in the election process. At the DC Experience he talked to legislators about whole milk in school, guns, and volunteer firefighting.

Traveling around the nation for regional conferences, Bryce was able to share his Ag Awareness Presentation on ecosystems. Meeting new Grangers has been a consistent treat. Danko captured the core of his experience succinctly: “This has been an amazing two years.”

Danko is currently 16, a high school junior and a member of Oliver Grange #1069.

His interests include volunteer firefighting, volunteer ambulance assistance, hiking, hunting, and fishing. He is particularly looking forward to participating in parliamentary procedure competitions.

New Youth and Junior leadership teams will be announced on Friday evening during Grange Awards Night.

Peterson Farm Brothers will present agvocacy workshops

Known for their viral social media videos parodying popular songs to make them ag-related, the Peterson Farm Brothers will make appearances at the 155th Annual Session of the National Grange tomorrow, November 11.

Melanie Bostwick, Co-Chair of the Great Plains Host Committee, is excited to have them join us. “They’re so fun,” she said, “I knew them from their videos and we are so lucky to be able to have them here.”

The Peterson Farm Brothers are three brothers (Greg, Nathan, and Kendal) from central Kansas who create social media content to promote agriculture. Their videos have received over 150 million views and they have just over 1,000,000 followers on all of their social platforms put together. The brothers grew up and still work on a family farm near Assaria, KS.

The Brothers will present two workshops about agriculture advocacy (also called “agvocacy”). They aim to help dispel myths and misconceptions about farming and to educate the public on “where food comes from.”

The first workshop will be at 1:30 p.m., targeted to the Youth and Juniors in attendance at National Session. The second workshop begins at 2:45 p.m., and is open to the general public.

On Thursday evening, the Peterson Farm Brothers will present a concert at 7:30 p.m.

A limited number of tickets and post-show meet & greet tickets to the concert are still available, and can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/155-peterson>



Brothers Kendal, Greg, and Nathan Peterson will present two workshops and a concert on Thursday.

Showcase displays best of Grange

BY SASHA SECOR

Communications Fellow

The National Grange Showcase will be open from 5:30 to 7:00 on Wednesday night and maintain varying daily hours of operation through the end of the convention. The Showcase is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, and from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Displays include Grange staples such as the National Youth Officer biographies and photos, The Grange Foundation display boards, Com-

munity Service books, the unquilted quilt blocks submitted from Grangers across the nation, lots of candy, and much, *much* more!

The National Grange Telethon that originally aired June 5, benefitting the Juniors and Youth is looping on monitors for those who missed out when it originally aired.

The annual G.R.O.W.

Club silent auction is loaded with items for this year's Grangers to bid on.

With more than 60 auction pieces, ranging from chocolates to wine, the G.R.O.W. Club has quite a few more items than usual up for auction.

The auction closes at 11 a.m. on Saturday



Quilt blocks on display in the Showcase, located in RedBud C



Items in the G.R.O.W. Club silent auction are waiting for you to place your bids

Hall of Fame inducts new members

BY CHAD SMITH

Communications Fellow

Delegates, officers and guests were privileged to witness the induction of two noteworthy Grangers of the past into the Grange Hall of Fame tonight.

Albert S. Goss and Ira E. Shea, both members from Washington State Grange, found their way into the Grange Hall of Fame this evening. They were inducted by Chris Hamp, National Grange Lecturer.

A Washington state resident, Ira E. Shea became associated with the Grange in 1921, at the age of 26.

While his accolades read like a work of epic fiction, he is perhaps best known for his skill and commitment to organizing Granges throughout the land.

“My first love was the actual work of organizing a new Grange,”

Albert S. Goss, the other Washington native, was also added to the Grange Hall of Fame. Born in 1882, Goss became the manager of the Grange Cooperative Wholesale in Seattle at the age of 38. In 1922, Goss elevated to the Presidency of the Washington State Grange, and in 1924 he became a member of the

morning.

The G.R.O.W. Club is also selling a variety of commemorative plates for the set price of \$15.

Be sure to stop by the Showcase room up in RedBud C before noon on Saturday.

Answer Key to Puzzle on Page 6

- 1 Patron
- 2 In All Things Charity
- 3 American Values
- 4 Obligation
- 5 Values
- 6 Community
- 7 Member
- 8 Fraternal Order
- 9 Grassroots
- 10 Essentials
- 11 Friend Of The Farmer
- 12 Degrees
- 13 Resolutions
- 14 Faith
- 15 Fidelity
- 16 Hometown Roots
- 17 Non Essentials Liberty
- 18 Husbandry

National Grange Executive Committee. He chaired that esteemed

position from 1929 until 1933.

The Grange Hall of Fame has given Grangers a method of honoring exemplary members from the past, and to keep them alive in collective memory. The Grange should strive to live up to their excellence.

How to Say Thank You: Acts of Service

BY AMANDA BROZANA RIOS, Director of Membership and Leadership Development

Members whose preferred language of appreciation is acts of service “hear” thank you the best not by words but by deeds.

Typically busy people, these individuals know they are loved or appreciated when people offer - and follow through - on taking something off their plate. Consider offering to pick up something they normally would on the way to the Grange meeting or taking a frozen casserole to them that

can be used to feed their family on an especially hectic day. You may even provide assistance when they are taking on a project at their home or work life if you have the talents or skills they need at the time.

As you go through this week, make sure to take notice of the appreciation language of those around you and use it to cultivate stronger connections with one another.



Seven Reasons to take the Seventh Degree

SUBMITTED BY MARTHA STEFENONI, Priestess Annalist

1. To complete your journey through the Grange's philosophy and teachings.
2. To receive lessons you can use for self-improvement as an individual and a Grange member.
3. To join the ranks of over 300,000 of your Brothers and Sisters who have received this ultimate degree of the Grange.
4. To extract symbolism from ancient mythology to emphasize modern truths.
5. The Seventh Degree is unlike the previous six and is performed on a stage rather than in a Grange Hall.
6. To learn about how the ancient rites in honor of that noble agriculture are relevant to our lives and our Grange today.
7. To embody the Grange motto, *esto perpetua*, or "Let it be Perpetual."

The Seventh Degree of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry is the culmination of your esoteric journey in the Grange.

The Seventh Degree is intended to represent the ancient ceremonies conducted at the Temple of Demeter (Ceres) at Eleusis in Greece over two thousand years ago. This Degree was brought to the Grange from Italy by Francis McDowell, the first High Priest of the Assembly of Demeter, shortly after the Grange was organized in 1867.

Before the beginning of the First Degree, candidates are instructed that "the chief objective of the Grange is to build a better and higher manhood and womanhood, and to develop a mutual respect and concern through Brotherhood."

We encourage all Grange members who have received the preceding six degrees to witness the Seventh Degree to complete the journey of education of building a better and higher manhood and womanhood.

If you will be taking the degree, you can purchase your ticket at the registration desk near the session hall. You can also purchase your ticket prior to the Degree conferral.

If you have already taken the Seventh Degree, we invite you to attend the performance at 1:00 pm on Saturday, November 13 in the M.J. Teall Theater connected to the conference center.

The gates of the temple now open to you and the mysteries of the ages will soon be your possession.

Editorial: Go Right On Working, and be visible

BY ROBERT BEAMON

Go Right On Working (G.R.O.W.) Club is an "elite club" that is made up of Grange members who have participated in the National Grange Prince, Princess, Young Couple, Young Patron, Ambassador, or Horizon Leadership programs, have served as Youth Team members or as a National Grange Youth Director.

Members of G.R.O.W. Club Board are Robert Beamon (Chair), Emily Hartsell (Vice Chair), Samantha Hanson (Secretary), Karen Overstreet (Treasurer), Brittney Oliver, Mary Jordan, Mandy Bostwick, and Betsy Huber. So what does "Go Right On Working" mean? This is a question that is often asked of me.

To me, it means finding your niche as you transition from a Youth member to a leader in your Community, Pomona, and State Granges. I know that seems vague, but this is an opportunity to spread your proverbial wings. Whether your passion is becoming a state officer, writing resolutions or growing membership.

G.R.O.W Club is a way to grow in your Grange involvement. As your



Grange journey progresses that passion may change and you may become interested in other areas. The idea is to continue to implement Grange values and spread the word to others about the organization no matter what stage you are at in your journey.

Historically, the G.R.O.W Club has offered travel and educational scholarships. The travel scholarship offers an opportunity for youth members to experience the work of the National Grange at the National Convention.

Education

Grange journey progresses that passion may change and you may become interested

scholarships allow students to continue to pursue their post-secondary education and have real-world experiences. These scholarships also provide exposure to advocacy experiences with the Grange. While these scholarships are great, can the G.R.O.W. Club do more?

I would like to see the G.R.O.W. Club become more visible throughout the year. I envision the club being present at Regional Conferences not only to sell raffle tickets, but to develop ideas on how the club can be relevant and beneficial to its members and the organization.



Editorial: If I was National Grange President...

BY KIMBER NEWMAN

Pleasant View Junior Grange #71
Age 8

If I was National Grange President for a day I would plan a lot of fun activities for all ages like making cards for all veterans and saying thank you and getting to go on a trip to a playground. The grown-ups will talk and meet some new friends, maybe a lot more friends like maybe all the people that come to Grange. I think Grange is a really good com-

munity for everyone like the trips, the people and activities and projects.

As Grange President, I would like to invite my friends to join the Grange with me. I would like to ask my friends if they would be the Vice President or Secretary of our Grange so we could plan fun activities. We could plan to ask the whole town and the whole world to pick up litter and join the Grange community. I would also plan with my friends an ice cream sundae party to celebrate

picking up the litter and cleaning up our world.

It would be so fun to be National Grange President for the day!!!! I would plan a lot of fun activities and make the world a better place. But, I could not do it without my friends and their help!

Editor's Note: This was Kimber's entry into the National Junior Grange Creative Writing contest

DAILY PUZZLE

Answer on Page 6

WORD JUMBLE

1. rapnot _____
2. ni lal thisng cirtyha _____
3. mcneArai easvlu _____
4. iolotnibga _____
5. uslave _____
6. tnmocymiu _____
7. ebmmre _____
8. erlatfnra erodr _____
9. rotrsssoga _____
10. tesnlsaise tunyi _____
11. fidner fo eht armref _____
12. dereseg _____
13. esiolotunsr _____
14. thifa _____
15. tfleidy _____
16. etnhwomo ortos _____
17. nno enteislssas teliryb _____
18. ahbnuydsr _____

VALOR from page 2

to Iraq.

Roberts had vivid and haunting dreams of veterans being physically encapsulated by the horrors brought on by what they had experienced in their time of deployment.

These dreams were what motivated Roberts start the Foundation.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor is to bring comfort and healing to those who have been touched by war.

Over 286,000 Quilts of Valor have been awarded since the start of the foundation in 2003.

The National Grange is an official Under Our Wings partner of the Quilts of Valor Foundation. This partnership enables the National Grange to honor veterans in a tangible way.

This partnership was formed by National Grange Lecturer/Program Director Christine

Hamp in 2017, when the National Grange first presented quilts at their annual session in Spokane, Washington.

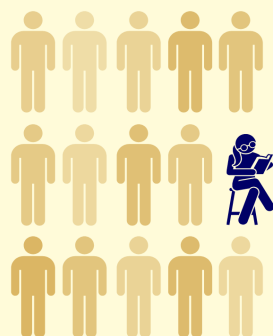
Hamp gave thanks to all of those who helped coordinate the event including

Lisa Conner, the Kansas State Coordinator for the Quilts of Valor.

The anthems of each military branch were played by John Noonan, with veterans standing up when the music of their branch was played to be recognized by the crowd.

2021 Quilts Of Valor Recipients

- Harlan Bartel (Air Force) 1971-1975, Bayneville Grange #1810 (KS)
- Richard Tennissen (Air Force) 1968-1972, Bayneville #1810 (KS)
- Larry N. Shafer (Army) 1958-1963, Cherryvale Grange #221 (OK)
- Allen S. Thomsen (Army) 2000-Present, Thompson Grange #352 (OK)
- Don Durlfanger (Navy) 1962-1992
- Sue Gregg (Navy) 1968-1971
- Mindy Heater (Army Reserve) 1991-1995
- Charles Heinrich (Army) 1965-2000
- Hump Hodge (Air Force) 1956-1960
- John Noonan (Navy) 1969-1973
- James Owsley (Army) 1964-1972
- Harold Roth (Air Force) 1975-1979
- Lisa Snyder (Marine Corps) 1986-1993



BE INFORMED. BE THE CONNECTOR.

DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERS FEEL DISCONNECTED FROM OUR NATIONWIDE FRATERNITY. STAY INFORMED ABOUT EVENTS, CONTESTS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR EVERY GRANGER BY READING OUR QUARTERLY MAGAZINE, GOOD DAY!, AND SHARE THE INSPIRING STORIES OF WHAT GRANGES ARE DOING AROUND THE NATION!

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