



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

March 18, 2022



Nearly three dozen attendees from around the country took part in the Washington DC Experience from March 12-15. The group got to visit the plaque for the Seven Founders on the National Mall on Sunday evening, as well as many other monuments and memorials around DC. Read more about the DC Experience in this issue!

Washington DC Experience brings excitement and education to HQ

By [Betsy Huber](#), National Grange President

More activity and excitement were happening this week in the Grange building than for the last two years, with 30 people in attendance for the Washington DC Experience organized by the Youth and Junior Departments.

Others in this issue will give you more details on the event; I'll just say that the youth were very interested, engaged, and enthusiastic about learning from the speakers and passing the knowledge along to their Senators and Congressmen's staff. We're very proud of them.

Burton enlisted some really great speakers—I don't know how he will top this at next month's Fly-in, but I'm sure he will! ([Sign up now for the Fly-in!](#))

We were very grateful and honored to have Jeff Winton, the founder of [Rural Minds](#), fly in personally to speak to us. This is a wonderful new organization created to "serve as an informed voice for mental health in rural America and provide mental health information and resources." To learn more about the reason for its founding and find lots of resources, check out the website [Ruralminds.org](#) and be sure to watch the video there.

We hope to cement a close relationship with Jeff and encourage programs in every Grange to combat the stigma of mental illness, depression and suicide in rural areas. The suicide rate is 25% higher in rural America than urban—a terrible statistic that we hope to assist in reducing. Stay tuned for more information on this partnership.

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ!

Effective immediately, all Years of Membership pins are now available from the National Grange office. You can no longer order them through Monroe Classic's Grange store.

Available are pins recognizing 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, and 80 years of membership. Photos and pricing information will be added to the Grange Supply Store at www.grangestore.org as soon as possible over the next few weeks. If you have questions about the pins, contact Loretta Washington at 202-628-3507 ext. 109 or lwashington@nationalgrange.org. Please be patient while we re-stock the items and organize our processing.

Also available are Past Master, Past Lecturer, Past Secretary, and Past Junior Master pins, and various Degree charms. Check the website for more information

Training Young Advocates for Rural America

By [Samantha Wilkins](#), National Junior Grange Director

From Saturday, March 12 through Tuesday, March 15, young Grange members from across the country came to the Nation's Capital to receive vital training on how to be young advocates for Rural America and their own communities.

Throughout the week we took time to learn, have fun, and adventure around Washington DC. Juniors, Youth, and parents all took part in workshops, briefings from partnered advocacy groups, congressional meetings, and tours.

Before we kicked off our jam-packed schedule, we took time to visit the National Museum of American History and take a moonlight monument tour.

Our speakers and presenters included **Sean O'Neil**, National Grange Legislative Assistant who spoke on the basics of government and the art of persuasion; **Jessie Aucoin**, [National Postal Museum](#), who spoke on the history of the USPS, including the Grange's involvement in Rural Free Delivery, and about an important bill that was recently passed in the federal government; **Jon Conradi**, [Connect Americans Now](#), who spoke about rural broadband and expansion issues and the challenges communities in America are currently facing; **Carrie Cochran McClain**, [National Rural Health Association](#), who discussed the importance of advocating for more medical support in rural areas; **Selena Shilad**, [Alliance for Aviation Across America](#), who spoke on the importance of private aviation in rural America; **Jeff Winton**, Founder and CEO of [Rural Minds](#), who discussed the growing rates of suicide in rural communities and why we need to be advocates in our communities for those suffering from mental health issues; **Mandy Bostwick**, National Grange Youth Director & **Philip Vonada**, National Grange Communications Director, who gave a demonstration on properly shaking someone's hand and greeting them; and **Amanda Brozana Rios**, National Grange Membership Director, who spoke about applying the lessons learned to their home communities.

Juniors and Youth took all the lessons learned and then prepared to meet with their congressional leaders. From coast-to-coast, young Grangers came together and marched up to the United States Capitol and met with their Senators and Congressmen. They were advocating for their home, their states, and the rural communities across America.

One of the young members in attendance this week asked early on if her voice even had the possibility of making an impact, and without a doubt, we can say YES! While a lot of the topics were heavy at this second-ever Washington DC Experience, the impact that they had on participants was significant. Juniors and Youth were able to learn in a new way about how the

Grange's grassroots process works and learned that they have a voice even at their local Grange. The impact from the lessons they learned about during this experience could have significant actions taken in their hometowns.

A full detailed briefing will be in the next issue of [Good Day!](#) Magazine, set to hit mailboxes in June. But in the meantime, consider how you can be an advocate in your Grange community and how you can begin to make a difference in being a voice for Rural America.

Plans for the 2023 Youth & Junior Washington DC Experience are now in the works! We hope to see you there!

WHEN: Sunday, March 20 at 9 p.m. Eastern
WHERE: On Zoom!
Login: 833 7712 0738
Passcode: 969128
WHO: Anyone interested in Junior, Youth & Young Adult programming at the National level

Grange Month Events are here!

Grange Month 2022
Grange Spirit Week

RAISED RIGHT HERE™

April 3	April 4	April 5	April 6	April 7	April 8	April 9
Grange Shirt Day	Raised Right Here Day	Grange Mentor Day	Community Service Day	Grange Contest Day	Grange Friend Day	Grange Hall Day

Share on Social Media with #grangemonth22

During Grange Month, we encourage Grangers across the country to participate in spreading the word about Grange's advocacy for rural America, to participate in service projects, and to really take pride in being a Grange member!

This year, we are celebrating **Grange Spirit Week** April 3 - 9, with a different “challenge” each day. We strongly encourage your participation to help spread the Grange story... and there may be some surprises for Grange members who participate!

This year, we also have a whole slew of special events for you to tune into on Zoom! New Members and E-Members can check in with Membership Director Amanda Brozana Rios, Community Service Director Pete Pompper will be leading a Community Service Forum, Legislative Director Burton Eller will have a Legislative Roundtable, and so much more! Click the thumbnail of the calendar to get to the full-size version on the Grange Month 2022 page.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3 Grange Spirit Day	4 Rural Right Now Day Grange Spirit Week	5 Grange Member Day "Grange Today Party" 7:00pm - 9:00pm 8:00pm activities	6 Community Service Day "Spring the Earth" 8:50 join on zoom 9:00pm activities	7 Grange Center Day	8 Grange Fossil Day	9 Grange Hall Day
10 Grange Spirit Week	11 New Member Forum Zoom 9 pm activities	12 Community Service Forum Zoom 8:30 pm activities	13 Legislative Roundtable - Zoom 8:30 pm activities	14	15	16
17	18 State Secretary Initiative - Zoom 8:30 pm activities	19 Membership Initiative - Zoom 8:30 pm activities	20	21 Olive Tree Night Zoom 9 pm activities	22	23
24	25 Fly-In Virtual Day Legislative Fly-In	26 Champions of Rural America Honorees	27	28	29 E-Member Forum Zoom 9 pm activities	30

#GRANGESTORY
#GRANGEMONTH22
USE LINK: [BIT.LY/GRANGEMONTHZOOM](https://bit.ly/grangemonthzoom)

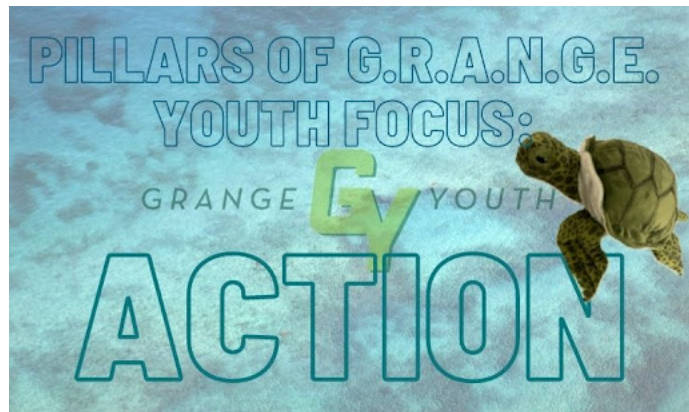
Check out everything we have ready for you for Grange Month – these materials can be used on social media, in your newsletters and local newspapers, as posters in your Hall or community, or more!

Visit the [Grange Month 2022 page here](#).

National Grange Youth Trash Pick-Up Challenge

By [Mandy Bostwick](#), National Grange Youth and Young Adults Director

The National Grange Youth Department is challenging State and Local Grange Youth to organize a trash pick-up day in their community during Grange Month (April) and in celebration of Earth Day. In the [linked Google Doc](#) you will find full details, a helpful link to start your organizing as well as a fill-in-the-blank press release to use after your event. Any event organized counts towards the G.R.A.N.G.E. Youth Pillar Projects that can be found in the 2022 Handbook and on the [National Grange Youth Website](#).



Please pass this information on to the youth in your state and with your local Granges. Be sure to send Mandy photos (and media releases) to be shared on our social media pages! I can't wait to see all of the amazing work put in and our Grange Youth in ACTION! This is meant to be a quick and simple way to get your youth involved in their community and can be planned easily via Zoom, Google Meets, etc.

Join us for the National Grange Legislative Fly-In – Register by April 1



Join Brothers and Sisters from around the country in promoting Grange policy priorities and participating in advocacy training. Then, put your training to use as you present your community's concerns to elected officials and their staff.

The Fly-In is one of the greatest ways members can engage in Grange advocacy and remind legislators and regulators of the unique grassroots way in which our policy is developed. Participants will help to tell the story of an organization that is relevant, vibrant, and speaks from and for the heart of America.

Registration is FREE and due by April 1 at <http://bit.ly/flyin2022>

Sunday, April 24

Welcome reception at the hotel

***Monday, April 25**

Overview of Washington, Congress and Federal Agencies

How to best work with elected officials and staff

Issue briefings

Speakers from the Hill, government agencies, private industry and think tanks

Tuesday, April 26

Capitol Hill appointments

Champions of Rural America Awards Reception

Wednesday, April 27

Complete Capitol Hill appointments

*Monday's events will be able to be accessed virtually!

Hotel Information:

Quality Inn Tysons Corner
1587 Spring Hill Rd, Vienna, VA
703-448-8020

"National Grange" rate: \$79/night plus tax by April 1, 2022

More information on the Legislative Fly-In can be found here:

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/national-grange-legislative-fly-in-2022/>

Wicker Calls for Oversight Review on COVID-19 Broadband Spending

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., ranking member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, today urged the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) to conduct an oversight review into pandemic-related spending to ensure broadband funds were used appropriately for assisting unserved communities and those economically affected by the pandemic.

As you have noted before the committee, “[t]he speed at which funds were disbursed [in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020], and the sheer amount of money involved, put the funds at high risk of fraud and misuse, making the work of oversight entities like the PRAC and IGs essential to a successful national recovery.” Indeed, the substantial funding provided for these programs, the process required to administer them, and the critical need to expand broadband access have created an opportunity for waste of taxpayer resources. Specifically, I am concerned that these funds could be used to overbuild existing broadband networks, duplicate existing federal investment, or provide subsidies to people who do not qualify. The federal government has struggled with similar programs in the past, in which funds were used to overbuild networks while doing little to close the digital divide. We are already finding fraud within these new programs: the FCC’s Office of Inspector General recently discovered that broadband providers have been fraudulently enrolling households in the EBB program. This sort of fraud will continue in the absence of proper oversight. Therefore, I ask that your committee prioritize these programs to protect them against waste, fraud, and abuse. Specifically, I ask that PRAC coordinate review(s) that, at minimum, provide responses to the following questions:

1. Ensuring that funds serve unserved communities:
 - a. Are state, local, and tribal governments using money from NTIA and Treasury for broadband infrastructure funding projects in areas with existing broadband networks or enforceable commitments to build new networks? If so, where is this occurring? What is the reported rationale for duplicating funding investments in these areas?
 - b. To what extent are NTIA and Treasury monitoring state, local, and tribal governments’ efforts to connect unserved households and locations?
 - c. What information is NTIA and Treasury receiving from state, local, and tribal governments about their broadband deployment projects?
 - d. What data sources about broadband coverage and availability were used to inform how and in what manner NTIA and Treasury distributed broadband funds to state, local, and tribal governments?
 - e. What level of coordination is occurring between FCC, Treasury, USDA, and NTIA to protect against overbuilding and duplication of funding awards?
 - f. What, if any, federal, state, or local regulatory barriers are impeding or increasing costs to broadband deployment funded by these programs?
 - g. What oversight measures are NTIA and Treasury implementing to ensure providers meet their buildout obligations?
 - h. What additional protections, if any, should Congress consider to ensure funds go to unserved communities instead of those that already have broadband?
2. Preventing waste, fraud, and abuse in the EBB program and its successor, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP):
 - a. Are there new cases of fraud within EBB/ACP?
 - b. Has the FCC adequately addressed the fraud uncovered by the FCC OIG in November 2021?

- c. What steps has FCC taken to confirm the eligibility of ACP recipients, and are these sufficient?
3. To what extent is PRAC planning to engage with FCC, Treasury, and NTIA on enforcement efforts for noncompliance?

Save the Date

Regional Leaders Conferences will be here soon!

Great Plains	June 10-12 Manhattan, Kansas	Midwest	June 24-26 Muscatine, Iowa
Eastern <i>Mid-Atlantic & Southeastern</i>	June 17-19 Washington, DC	Western	August 5-7 Eugene, Oregon

For Grange members of all ages

Registration information for all conferences will be available on the National Grange website



Registration information and links will be available in Patrons Chain next week, and on the National Grange website soon!

Advocacy Playbook

By [Sean O'Neil](#), National Grange Legislative Assistant

The Issue:

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, American and global supply chains have faced serious disruptions and delays. Early on in the pandemic many shutdowns in key logistics hubs beginning in China and then spreading around the world caused significant supply chain disruptions and even some shortages. As the pandemic dragged on consumers shifted their spending from services, which in many cases were closed by lockdowns, to durable goods putting even more strain on tight supply chains, particularly at ports. These have worked together to cause more long-lasting changes in American supply chains and markets with inflation hitting highs not seen this century and continued delays at ports and imbalances resulting in shipping containers either clogging up ports or being shipped empty. Furthermore, recent issues supply shocks resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine which have particularly effected commodity prices and agricultural input costs such as fertilizer and fuel have caused further harm to American agriculture exports.

Why it matters:

All of these supply chain issues have combined with increased inflationary pressure to inject serious risks and pressures in the American agriculture economy. More than twenty percent of total American agricultural production is exported, meaning that many farmers and ranchers depend significantly on global supply chains to get their goods to market and earn a living. Beyond the immediate financial risk to American agricultural producers if they are unable to get their goods to market in a timely and cost-effective manner, if these supply chain problems persist, they may risk losing the long-term market share that has been fostered in many countries over the past few decades. If American agriculture loses its prominent position

in global commodity markets, not just will America's producers lose out but so too will rural economies in general and American consumers who will be faced with higher prices and lower quality at the grocery store.

What you can do about it:

The stakes of fixing America's supply chain troubles are incredibly high for American agriculture and rural economies. While no one bill or regulation will be able to totally remedy the ongoing issues throughout the supply chain, the bipartisan Ocean Shipping Reform Act seeks to remedy challenges at American ports by modernizing practices, requiring that ocean carriers offer fair terms to exporters, and decreasing the number of shipping containers leaving US ports unfilled. To get involved in supporting the bill, one useful action you can take is to reach out to your member of Congress and state level. Whether you plan to call, send an email, or write a letter to your member of Congress, it is useful to include a story about improved American port infrastructure will affect you, your family, and your community. Each call, email, and letter an office receives is tallied up and considered when your elected officials are deciding whether or not to support a specific bill and extra weight is given to those contacts which include personal stories. By lending the voice of Grangers across the country, together we can push our lawmakers to support needed improvements to America's ports and supply chains.

Join us on Zoom for this informational program

Solving the Puzzle of Long-Term Care and Estate Planning

with John T. Griffin, Esq.

April 6

8:30pm Eastern

Open to ALL Grange Members

Presented by



Meeting ID: 853 2615 8138

Passcode: 864678

Or Dial In: (301) 715-8592





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SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.org



JUNIOR GRANGE SONGBOOK & MANUAL

The **JUNIOR GRANGE SONGBOOK** includes songs to use in meetings.
\$1.50 plus shipping

The **JUNIOR GRANGE MANUAL** has instructions for running a proper Junior Grange business meeting.
\$5.00 plus shipping

Order online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.org or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

National Grange Member Benefit – Office Depot

Give Your Workspace a Refresh

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Whether you're in charge of the entire workplace or just your own workspace, spring cleaning is the annual opportunity to break out the cleaning products, get organized, and declutter for a healthier work environment.

Your Grange Office Depot Savings Program can help you rejuvenate your space, and keep you stocked up on the essentials you need to stay productive.

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Visit: officediscounts.org/grange to shop online.

More Ways to Save: Use the following coupons to maximize your savings and take up to \$30 off on your next qualifying delivery order.** Get these deals before they're gone! Coupons valid through 3/28/22. Exclusions apply, see coupon for details: bit.ly/ODCoupons

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NATIONAL GRANGE

Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach Grange Month 2022, we are excited for the chance to come together in showing our pride and love for our great Order. As we emerge from two years of a pandemic that kept so many of us apart, it is time to reunite in fellowship and service.

For two years, we celebrated the importance of “Cultivating Connections” with one another, encouraging Granges to find ways to reach out and unite with one another in large and small ways. It was inspiring to see the myriad ways in which this theme was used, becoming more important than we ever would have thought possible.

This year, I encourage you to use the 2022 theme “Raised Right Here” in your Grange Month programming. There are many ways to interpret this theme – and do so as you see fit! The Grange grew from a place of taking pride in building our agricultural roots, our hometowns and the people who live there. Consider using this theme to show your Grange’s pride in the things, people, and places that make your town great, a 21st-century reinterpretation of the way we started.

- Celebrate education and agriculture, local resiliency and sustainability through the word “Raised.”
- Celebrate American freedoms, local leaders, and proper moral character through the word “Right.”
- Celebrate your hometown, local community members, the things that make your region great through the word “Here.”

Our longstanding tradition and purpose is to make our community and world a better place to be, but we are not in this alone. Everywhere you look, there are organizations, people, restaurants, stores, schools, farms and other agricultural institutions are making your community better, too. During Grange Month, invite them to be a part of your meetings or your programming, as a partner or as an honoree.

We are coming together to celebrate the 155th year of service from the nation’s oldest agricultural and rural service fraternity, and what an honor it is to be a part of it. I encourage you to share your Grange stories, your “Raised Right Here” successes and more on social media, in person or wherever you can.

Fraternally,

Betsy E. Huber

National Grange President