



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

BE THE REASON SOMEONE HAS A GOOD DAY!



GIVE A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION OR
START YOUR OWN TODAY FOR JUST \$16

FOR PRINT EDITION: NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/GOODDAY

FOR DIGITAL EDITION: ISSUU.COM/GRANGEGOODDAY



August 20, 2021

Change in the Grange Office

By Betsy Huber, National Grange President

The National Grange staff today says goodbye to Communications Manager Kennedy Gwin. During the six and a half short months Kennedy has worked with us she has greatly improved our social media outreach and initiated several video projects documenting the 2021 regional conferences and Grange Revival. Thank you, Kennedy, for your work and dedication to the Grange and we look forward to continuing to see you advance to the next chapter in your Grange journey at home in Washington state. Best wishes!

Only 17 more days until the earlybird deadline for National Grange convention in Wichita, KS, November 9-13. Register now and save \$5 on each registration until September 6 at www.nationalgrange.org.

Granges and their Local Fairs

By Pete Pompper, National Grange Community Service Director

Summertime, Grange, and local fairs all seem to go hand in hand. It is exciting to see Granges have been setting up displays this year across the country. Many of them have very positive “we are back” themes welcoming fair goers back. What an opportunity to showcase what your Grange is doing in the community (free advertising). I have seen where several Junior Granges have also put up displays featuring their activities and projects.

I think back to my days helping Fenwick Grange set up our booth at the Salem County Fair and the “friendly” competition between the Granges in the county. It was a good time between picking the theme, making the backdrop, collecting items to display and trying to remember how the display actually fit together the first time. Then listening to the comments from the fairgoers about all the displays and how they looked forward to seeing them each year. Of course, bragging rights if your Grange won.

This year Granges are including more information on what they are doing in the community. This is a wonderful way, after the past year, to show we are still an active viable organization in the area. Think of the number of people who walk by the fair booth each day-- truth be told, probably more than just once. Are we taking advantage of this opportunity to brag

about ourselves? Is there information about your Grange available for them to pick up and take with them? Granges are doing amazing projects and you need to let the world know.

Keep up the good work and I look forward to seeing what Granges do next.

Local Granges Claim Your Prize

Just about one month ago, the National Grange mailed to every local Grange a step-by-step guide to prepare families for the possibility a family member might hear their doctor say, "You have cancer." The enclosed thumb drive and paper templates are a perfect community service presentation to your local Grange and to your local community. We hope you've already given this presentation at least once.

On the introductory letter from the National Grange President Betsy Huber and Community Service Director Pete Pompper, a number appears in the red box in the lower right corner of the letter. All numbers have been pooled and winners have now been drawn. Check here to see if your number is among the local Grange winners listed below.

BMS00715
BMS01053
BMS01071
BMS00781
BMS00121
BMS00518
BMS00376
BMS00214
BMS00706
BMS00893
BMS01276
BMS00219
BMS00931
BMS00670
BMS00658
BMS00196
BMS00965
BMS01410
BMS01066
BMS01065
BMS00974
B MS01301
BMS01405
BMS00840
BMS00667
BMS01231
BMS00955

If your number is listed here, email Burton Eller at beller@nationalgrange.org to claim your prize. Congratulations!

Secretaries Haaland and Vilsack Announce Implementation of New Pay Initiatives for Wildland Firefighters

Courtesy of the USDA

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17, 2021 – Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the implementation of President Biden’s pay initiatives to recognize and support federal wildland firefighters. The initiatives will increase the amount paid to approximately 3,500 firefighters with the U.S. Department of the Interior and more than 11,300 firefighters at the USDA Forest Service to ensure all firefighters are paid at least \$15 an hour

"As climate change brings longer fire seasons and more extreme fire behavior, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to wildland fire preparedness and response. The brave women and men on the frontlines deserve fair pay for their work to protect our families, our communities, and our lands from the increasing threat of fire," said Secretary Haaland. "By improving pay, we will not only support our wildland firefighters in a challenging year but also improve our ability to hire and retain top talent."

"With the growing threat of climate change, severe droughts and longer, more intense fire years, we must have more resources to protect communities, infrastructure and the environment we all depend on," said Secretary Vilsack. "Supporting our brave firefighters with pay, benefits and career opportunities that reflect the importance and danger of the work that they do is critical to facing the mounting wildfire threat."

Interior currently employs roughly 5,000 wildland firefighters across the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service. Approximately 3,500 of those employees will receive \$7.6 million under these initiatives. The USDA Forest Service employs 14,500 wildland firefighters and, under these initiatives, more than 11,300 will receive an additional \$24.3 million. The pay increases and awards will appear in firefighter paychecks on or around August 24, 2021.

The pay increase will go into effect immediately, and wildland firefighters will receive a minimum of \$15 an hour with a backpay date of June 30, 2021. To ensure the pay increase happens immediately, the Departments will provide pay awards to all frontline firefighters that earn less than \$15 an hour to ensure their pay will meet that minimum. In addition, all temporary frontline firefighters will receive a \$1,300 award and all permanent frontline firefighters up to GS-9 will receive an award equal to 10% of six months of their base pay.

The Biden-Harris administration is working with Congress on much-needed, longer-term support, benefits, and work-life balance improvements for federal firefighters as well as wildland fire preparedness. President Biden’s Build Back Better Agenda would help better prepare communities and ecosystems against the threat of wildland fire, including investments made by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Act contains \$600 million for federal wildland firefighter salaries, expenses and the development of a distinct “wildland firefighter” classification series, as well as historic investments to restore and leverage nature-based infrastructure to protect communities and the environment.

The Departments recently outlined updated wildland fire management goals, including supporting science and research into the effects of climate change on wildland fire, modernizing the firefighter workforce while creating good jobs and protecting the safety, and long-term wellbeing of wildland firefighters and incident responders.

Both Departments are also investing in developing a stable, professional, permanent firefighting workforce capable of suppression activities and fuels management work on a year-round basis. In Fiscal Year 2021, Congress appropriated \$29 million for Interior's workforce transformation initiative. The initiative will continue in Fiscal Year 2022 with the conversion of more than 700 positions from seasonal to fulltime or from temporary to permanent and with the creation of an additional 235 positions. Over the last two years, the USDA Forest Service has converted 500 firefighting positions from temporary to permanent and plans to continue that year-round workforce growth.

The western United States is currently experiencing extreme wildfire conditions, driven by ongoing, severe drought in the region. On July 14, the national wildfire preparedness level was raised to its highest level, PL 5. This is only the third time over the past 20 years that it has reached this level by mid-July. The fire outlook continues to predict drier, warmer conditions for the remainder of the summer and into the fall, which will continue to propel the severe wildfire season. This new normal, characterized by longer and more extreme fire seasons, increases the risk to firefighter safety and mental health.

Learn more about the U.S. Department of the Interior's wildland fire workforce at the Wildland Fire webpage. For more information about how the USDA Forest Service manages fire, visit the Fire Management webpage.

LOW PRICE GUARANTEE ANNOUNCEMENT – Hear In America

After a year of quarantines it seems like it is time to come back to life in more ways than one. Over the winter there have been some good things developing, and one is a new benefit from Hear In America Hearing Plans.

A Low Price Guarantee is a welcome new feature. If you find the exact same hearing aid, warranty, follow-up service and batteries at a lower price than Hear In America's, they will not only match that price, they will give you an extra 5% discount! That way you can have the confidence that you can get the hearing help you need and be sure of getting the best value.



Hear In America offers their benefits not only for you, but also for your extended family: parents, children, brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins are all covered, both for you and your spouse or significant other. They understand that if there is someone in your family with untreated hearing loss that can cause big problems for you. So spread the word, not just to your fellow members, but also to your relatives: help is available to them also, with the full range of Hear In America benefits:

- Easy enrollment, with no registration fees or premiums
- Free hearing screenings (*there may be a cost for additional testing)
- Low Price Guarantee on all styles of hearing aids from all major manufacturers
- Financing available (*with no interest up to 18 months)
- 45-day money back trial period for exchanges and returns
- Three year Complete Care (warranties, office service, and batteries)

To register for your benefits just call Hear in America at 1-855-614-5115 or www.hearinamerica.com

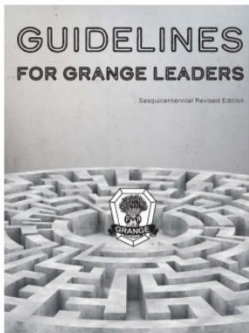
AWARDS **CUSTOM PRINTED** **RECOGNITION**
SIGNS & BANNERS **APPAREL** **MADE IN AMERICA**
 NAME BADGES
FUND RAISING LETTERHEAD * ENVELOPES * BUSINESS CARDS *DECORATIONS*
Union Printed **Market Umbrellas & Canopy Tents** **Union Made**

Visit our Grange Store™ - www.monroeclassic.com
Click on the Grange Member Store at the top of the page.
Order on line or call Monroe Classic, Inc. at 1-800-868-2330 or email sales@monroeclassic.com
APPAREL | PROMOTIONAL ITEMS | JEWELRY | REGALIA | FUND RAISING PROGRAMS



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.com



Guidelines for Grange Leaders (Sesquicentennial Revised Edition)

The purpose of this book is to define and describe the duties and responsibilities of Pomona and Subordinate President, Lecturers, Secretaries and appointed committees. This book is meant to assist in carrying out duties and responsible. Sesquicentennial Revised Edition was edited by Betsy E. Huber, National President

Cost is \$6.00 plus shipping

Early bird convention registration open until September 6th!
Register online on the National Grange website!



NATIONAL GRANGE & GRANGE FOUNDATION STAFF

Our HQ is located at 1616 H St. NW, 11th Floor, Washington, DC 20006 | (202) 628-3507

Publisher Betsy Huber, National Grange President, available to members at betsy@nationalgrange.org or by phone at (484) 459-1957

Editor Kennedy Gwin, National Grange Communications Manager, available by email at kgwin@nationalgrange.org or by phone at National HQ, ext. 106. Contact for assistance with publicity, to submit a story idea for the Patrons Chain or social media and more.

Membership, Leadership Development and Communications Amanda Brozana Rios. Contact to submit a story idea for Good Day! magazine at abrozana@nationalgrange.org or call/text (301) 943-1090. You may also contact her as Foundation Associate in regards to tax-deductible gifts for Grange Foundation.

Membership Recognition, Sales and Benefits Loretta Washington, National HQ, ext. 109 or email sales@nationalgrange.org

Free Grange Websites and emails, Good Day! subscriptions and renewals, Membership Database and more Stephanie Wilkins, National HQ, ext. 101 or email swilkins@nationalgrange.org

Lecturer Chris Hamp for program ideas, Quilts of Valor labels, contest details and more, by email at lecturer@nationalgrange.org or call/text (509) 953-3533.

Community Service Pete Pompper for project ideas, information about "Of the Year" awards and more by email at communityservice@nationalgrange.org or phone at (609) 820-6239

Legislative and Policy Issues Burton Eller for advocacy information and Grange priorities, contact him at National HQ, ext. 114 or email beller@nationalgrange.org.

Grange Youth Mandy Bostwick for contest, program and more information for young members at youth@nationalgrange.org or call/text (785) 250-7606.

Junior Grange Samantha Wilkins for Passport and other program and contest information at junior@nationalgrange.org or call/text (210) 838-7892.

Grange Foundation Joan C. Smith, Chairwoman, for more details about grants, programs and Foundation outreach at info@grangefoundation.org or (571) 662-7220.

