



Kansas Granger

American Values, Hometown Roots

Volume 66, Issue 1

Spring Edition

March 2017

Important Dates:

- **April** is Grange Month
- **April 15:** Brey Scholarship Application Deadline
- **April 21:** Great Plains Registration Deadline
- **May 31:** Great Plains Hotel Reservation Deadline
- **June 23-25:** Great Plains Regional Conference
- **August 13:** Distinguished Grange Application Postmark Deadline
- **August 17:** Distinguished Grange Online Submission Deadline

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Outstanding Patron Visits D.C.

As National Grange Outstanding Young Patron I traveled to the East Coast March 18th - March 21st with the National Grange Youth Team. We started our time in Pennsylvania at Brubaker Farms in Mt. Joy, PA discussing this year's events and what we would like to see as a team. I am excited to say that we came up with energizing ideas and we all have a positive outlook on the future of the Grange and the youth department. Watch our social media outlets for the events throughout the year.

We then traveled to Washington, D.C. on Monday to the National Grange Headquarters where we had a quick legislative lesson with Burton Eller, National Grange Legislative Director, before heading to Capitol Hill to talk about various Ag policies with our Senators and Representatives. I talked with Senator Pat Roberts' and Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins' Agriculture Legislative Assistants about the need for rural broadband in our areas, rebuilding the rural infrastructure and different parts of the Farm Bill. Both conversations were informative.

Tuesday started off early with the National Ag Day Panel Discussion on Smart Farming: Producing Sustainable, Nutritious Food for Life. We listened to four panelists discuss how they are using the latest technology and methods to produce more affordable, abundant, wholesome food with less impact on our environment. Ray A. Starling, Special Assistant to the President for Agriculture,

Trade, and Food Assistance National Economic Council, read the administration's declaration of National Ag Day. This is the first time in over 16 years that a President has declared National Ag Day. Later that day I was able to speak with Senator Jerry Moran's Agriculture Legislative Assistant, and was very pleased with the response that I got from him.

Continued on page 3...



Mandy Bostwick, National Grange Outstanding Young Patron in front of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

President's Column



Greetings Grangers,

I'm sure most everyone is preparing for Spring when they receive this issue of the *Kansas Granger*. I would also like to think that they are preparing for Grange Month 2017. If your Grange is in need of ideas or materials for Grange Month, there are many useful items you can download from the National Grange website.

Also your Granges need to be thinking about your applications for the Distinguished Grange Award. The award for Distinguished Grange is presented annually at the National Grange Convention. The requirements to receive the award this year are focused more on your Grange's involvement within your communities than in previous years as well as participation in National Programs. The 2016-17 Distinguished Granges will be honored for their work done from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The postmark deadline to submit your materials to be considered for Distinguished Grange is August 13, 2017 or at 11:59 p.m. EST on August 17, 2017 for electronic submissions. Applications are available on the Kansas State Grange Website.

If you are interested in applying for the Distinguished Grange award, you will notice a requirement of **"Hold a Grange DO-ers Event"**. This is part of the **"I'm a DO-er"** campaign that was launched at this year's National Grange Convention by National Grange President Betsy Huber. The campaign, which is aimed at getting people involved in their communities and civic organizations in their area, is connected to Huber's nationwide tour that begins in 2017.

The I'm a Do-er movement will also focus on getting more people involved in civic organizations, not just Grange, so any partnerships with other organizations on community service projects this year is highly recommended. Overall, what we need most from is for Grangers to get out into the community, tell people about Grange and meet the needs in their community in the name of DO-ing.

**Join the
DO-ers**

In her address, Betsy posed the question: What will remain when the DO-ers are gone? Her thought process was about all the volunteers that are part of a generation that joined and

contributed and even today continue to do for their country. They are DO-ers. And without them, the entire face of our nation could change. Community events won't exist without DO-ers. If you would like to read President Huber's address go to www.nationalgrange.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/ExternalAddress2016.pdf

I had the opportunity on February 23, to attend the first U.S. Senate Ag Committee hearing on the 2018 Farm Bill. The hearing was titled, "Hearing from the Heartland: Perspectives on the 2018 Farm Bill from Kansas." Nearly 400 gathered at Kansas State University's McCain Auditorium to listen to two panels of witnesses, the first consisting of 10 producers of crops and livestock and the second containing eight members of ag related organizations, farm credit, water boards, renewable energy, rural electric and communications, etc.

"Overall, what we need most from is for Grangers to get out into the community, tell people about Grange and meet the needs in their community in the name of DO-ing."

In Senator Roberts opening statement he said, "We start the journey to a successful and timely 2018 Farm Bill in the Heartland, because that is where it matters most...on our farms, ranches, businesses, and city and county halls across the countryside. Producers, agribusinesses, and our rural communities are the ones who sign up for programs, comply with regulations, and feel the pain first-hand of over-burdensome or under-supportive policies. So it is only right that we start this conversation here, with you. No one understands the impacts of Farm Bills or policies set in Washington like America's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. Your experience - your story - is what we need to hear before we start writing a new Farm Bill. You all understand it...Washington needs to as well."

The 2018 Farm Bill will be something to watch closely. Your thoughts and ideas would be greatly appreciated by our National Grange Legislative Department and good topics for resolutions for State Session this year. If you would like to read the testimonies of the panelist or watch the entire hearing go to www.agriculture.senate.gov/hearings/hearing-from-the-heartland-perspectives-on-the-2018-farm-bill-from-kansas

Have a great Grange Month and continue being **DO-ers** in your communities!

Fraternally,
Roger

Lecturer's Program News

Patrons,

I wanted to take a chance and let you know that an overview of the 2017 Lecturer's Program has been posted to the State Grange's website. Applications for the 2017-18 Claude and Ina Brey Memorial Scholarship have also been posted on the website. Applications must be delivered, or postmarked, no later than April 15, so if you plan on applying please get started today.

UPCOMING DEADLINE:

Claude and Ina Brey Memorial
Scholarship Applications are due
April 15th!

This year's program does offer some new contests and revises a couple of the contests offered in past years. One of the largest items coming back is the Talent Show during the state convention. Please be sure to share the word to other Grangers who may be interested in participating. The "Best of Show" will get the opportunity to travel to Spokane, Washington in November and participate in the "Evening of Excellence" during this year's National Grange Convention.

A couple of the other contests that I am excited for include the Brochure and the Display Board contests. These contests have been designed to allow Granger's to share their Grange experiences and to encourage others to become more active. Revisions have also been made to the Reading Program, so

please be sure to visit the website and explore the many programs offered this year.

I also wanted to let you know that I am looking at completing a fundraiser to help fund the Lecturer's program. The fundraiser will be possibly operating a fireworks stand from June 29 until the evening of July 4. The stand is located at BETO Junction, on the southwest corner of US Hwy 75 and Interstate 35 (approximately 40 minutes south of Topeka, or 20 minutes north of Burlington).

The fireworks stand has the potential to be very successful for this year and years to come, however it will not be able to happen without the support of other Granger's to help run the stand. If you would be interested in helping please let Mandee Strawder or I know. If there is not enough support, the fundraiser will not be held.

As always my intent is to offer programs that Grangers would like to participate in, I welcome feedback on the programs offered and any suggestions on programs that people would like to see offered.

If you would like contact me I can be reached by email at nathan.strawder@gmail.com, by phone at (316)680-6045, or by mail at 2244 W 138th Terrace Apt 247 Leawood, Kansas 66224.



Fraternally,
Nathan Strawder, Lecturer
Kansas State Grange

Outstanding Patron Visits D.C. (continued from page 1)

Senator Moran's Assistant informed me that the Senator has visited or is planning to visit every rural hospital in the state because he understands the importance of them. The Senator will continue to raise awareness of the challenges that farmers are experiencing in Kansas, and is still working towards improving crop insurance, supporting livestock producers and promoting additional demand for trade commodities. All of these things are addressed in the Farm Bill 2018. I also went to the Capitol Visitor Center for the Taste of Ag Reception. At the reception I talked about the Grange with members of WIFE (Women in Farming Economics) and also with

a correspondent of Outstanding Young Farmers. Both organizations thanked me for my time on the hill discussing agriculture with the members of Congress and Senate.

My time on the hill was an enlightening and educational experience. Thank you Kansas State Grangers for your continued support as I represent Kansas at a National level.

Fraternally submitted,

Mandy Bostwick

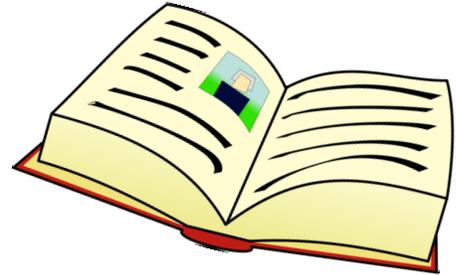
National Grange Outstanding Young Patron

Community Service News

Hello, Grangers!

As we “spring forward” into a new season, let’s re-energize and bring new life to the Grange’s commitment to community service.

The 2016-2017 CS program is being sent to each Grange in a packet from the State Secretary. It is also available on the Kansas State Grange website. If you need a copy or want it electronically, please contact me at my email address or phone number below.



Since the last Kansas Granger, the National CS Director sent out a document entitled **Suggestions for Grange Community Service Books**. As you prepare your CS year end report, please keep this helpful information in mind.

A comment from the National CS Director:

“There were some good projects in some of the larger books but they were difficult to identify because of the way the books were organized. More pages (fluff) or larger books are not always better. **Good organization is important.** This is not a history book of everything your Grange did in a year just the Community Service projects this was an issue the judges this year had to sort through. It is important that the name of your Grange is on the front of the book. A dinner/event held to maintain the building or pay bills is not a community service project. If you have to special order a bigger book it might be to “fluffy”.”

DO's

- Limit pages to no more than 4 (front and back) for larger projects and 2 (front and back) for smaller projects.
- Include 2 or 3 photos that demonstrate members (non-members if applicable) participation and items collected.
- 1 or 2 Thank You cards/letters for an event.
- Include a short (1 page) write up about your Grange and Community.
- An overall summary sheet listing continuing projects, new projects, larger and smaller projects and list of donations.
- Book organization:
 - Use a tab for each project include a short summary of that project.
 - Include any newspaper article or flyer about the event.
 - When holding a fundraiser dinner/event it is important to include where the monies were donated.

DON'Ts

- Don't include things like State session program book, officer and member rosters and meeting minutes.
- Don't include members or family obituaries because the family used your hall after the funeral.
- Don't include every thank you note/letter you get from a project.
- Mowing the grass at the Grange Hall is maintenance, not community service.



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Kansas Granger Awarded National Grange Teacher of the Year

The regular February meeting of Bayneville Grange was an evening of surprise.

As Jean Schif entered the building with her container of chili, it soon became evident that something was going on and would most likely involve her. Approximately 40 people including the State Grange Executive Committee and guests, Bayneville Grange members, and Jean's school principal, teachers and guests were in attendance.

The evening began with President Roger Bostwick presenting Jean with a plaque from the National Grange for 2016 Teacher of the Year. This award was announced at the National Grange Convention in November but Jean hadn't been officially recognized.

Jean is librarian at St. Mary's Parish Catholic School in Derby. Her nomination was submitted by Bayneville Grange as part of the Community Service Program, then she was selected by the State Grange and the nomination was forwarded to National for consideration.

All in attendance enjoyed a soup and sandwich supper. Following the meal, introductions of those in attendance were made and stories of Jean were shared. A library book entitled I Know a Librarian Who Chewed on a Word was presented to Jean by Bayneville Grange as a donation to her school in her honor. A brief program of guessing book titles from story descriptions was enjoyed by all. Decorated book-shaped sugar cookies with the same titles were also enjoyed.



Jean Schif,
National Grange
Teacher of the
Year, pictured
with her family.
Left to right:
Baylee Schif,
Jacob Schif, Jean
Schif, Aaron Schif,
Ashlee Schif, and
Bob Schif.

Bayneville Grange News

In January and February, Bayneville Grange #1810 members stuffed and sewed 10 weighted blankets for Rainbows United of Wichita, an agency who helps children with special needs. This brings our total made this Grange year to 20. We have orders for 6 more going into March so our mission continues. Constructing one blanket is approximately 5 hours of labor of love.

Dictionaries have been ordered for nearly 200 3rd graders in the Augusta School District. We plan to make deliveries following Spring Break later in March.

At our February meeting, we hosted the Kansas State Grange Executive Committee and their guests at our facility.

Morning Grange News

Morning Grange members held our annual Turkey Dinner and Bazaar in November. We served about 130 people and changed to a silent auction this year. The new format was big success. In prior years, when we started the auction people started leaving. This year, the hall was full from start to finish.



Marianne Harra sorting and boxing donations and Mission Southside.

Morning Grange has been busy working on community service projects. Four Grange members and several members of the Prairie Moon 4-H club spent an evening working at Mission Southside. The members helped unload a truck containing donated food and spent the remainder of the

evening sorting and boxing donations in preparation for delivery. At the end of our shift, one of the founders told a story about family that Mission Southside had helped. It was a nice way to help everyone understand how important the work we are doing impacts people in our local community.

In February, the Morning Grangers also made Valentine Cards for the American Stroke Foundation's Annual Card Drive. The cards will be delivered by

ASF to Kansas and Missouri Meals-on-Wheels kitchens, nursing homes, assisted living complexes, senior citizen centers, soup kitchens and homeless shelters.

In addition to working, Morning Grange has taken some field trips. We started this program in 2015. A field trip consists of lunch\dinner and an activity. The Grange pays for the activity and the members pay for their lunch or dinner. Members and guests are welcome. Since starting the program we have visited the Agricultural Hall of Fame, The World War I Museum, Steamboat Arabia Museum and the Overland Park Arboretum Luminary Walk. Our latest trip was to the Pompeii Exhibit at Union Station in Kansas City.

Submitted by Lance Harra



Members of Morning Grange at The Pompeii Exhibit

Pleasant View Grange News



Jamie Klenklen and Sarah VanHouse work on a Project Linus blanket during an Ozawie Rebekah Lodge outing. Pleasant View works with the Rebekahs to make blankets for Project Linus.

Charter subscribers of the National Grange's "Good Day!" magazine hopefully enjoyed the article about National Grange Young Patron Mandy Bostwick and her family. Mandy serves as Chaplain of Pleasant View Grange.

Pleasant View members have been working on making blankets for Project Linus and starting a new project: knitting/crocheting rectangles that will be made into blankets for Warm Up America. We've completed our annual distribution of dictionaries to Jefferson County schools.

Several members were able to travel to Augusta to see Jean Schif receive her National Grange Teacher of the Year award. Congratulations Jean!!

Julie Durand
Secretary, Pleasant View Grange

Executive Committee Member Lois Barber

Lois Barber is serving her 7th year on the Executive Committee. She has also served as the State Ceres and State Youth Director. Lois is a member of Gardner Grange #68 where she currently serves as Secretary. She has also served as Master of Gardner Grange and is a lifelong, 4th generation Grange member.

Lois is a retired Deputy Sheriff from the Johnson County Sheriff's Office where she worked for 31 years. She now enjoys spending her time crafting, sewing, crocheting, quilting and coloring. Lois also cheers on the Kansas City Royals any chance she can.

Lois resides in Spring Hill with her husband, Andy. She has twin sons, Max and Jim, a step-son, Alex, and wife, Cagney, and 2 grandkids, Gavin and Grace. With her husband, Andy, Lois plans to drive the length of the Mississippi River. Last summer they drove the stretch from Dubuque, Iowa to Quincy, Illinois.

Lois' favorite Grange memory is her days as a Youth member. She most specifically recalls Degree and Drill team with Ruth Esther Shorthill and the Spirit Teams with Eva Jeanne and Delvis Steffey.



Assistant Steward Wilbur (Buddy) Dingus



Buddy and his wife, Sheri, reside in Spring Hill, Kansas.

Buddy Dingus is the current Kansas State Grange Assistant Steward. This is his first year serving as Assistant Steward after being elected during State Session in October. Buddy has also served as Gatekeeper for 2 terms and Steward for 2 terms.

Buddy is a member of Gardner Grange #68 and has been a Grange member for 49 years. One of his favorite Grange memories is all the fun had during Past State Officer Tours.

Outside of Grange, Buddy is a School Bus Driver for Apple Bus. He enjoys camping, taking pictures, and fellowship with friends and family. He is also an avid collector of cookie jars and belt buckles.

Pomona Penny Buek

Penny Buek is the current Kansas State Grange Pomona. This is her second term serving as Pomona. Penny is a lifelong member of Carbondale Grange.

Outside of Grange, Penny works at Gage Bowl in Topeka. She has 2 sons and 2 daughters, plus 2 grandchildren. Penny spends her free time volunteering at a horse rescue in Auburn. She attends church and serves lunch to a senior citizens club one a month.



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The Summer Edition of the Kansas Granger will be printed in June. Please submit articles to the editor no later than June 1st.

Are You Online? We Are!

It seems like everyone is online these days! Make sure to stay connected with the Kansas State Grange by liking us on Facebook.

You can also visit our website at ks-grange.org. Program books, various documents and previous issues of the Kansas Granger can all be found online.



Find us on
Facebook

The Grange was founded in 1867 and is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, fraternal organization that advocates for Rural America and Agriculture. With a strong history in grassroots activism, family values, and community service, the Grange is part of more than 2,100 hometowns across the United States.



The Grange was the first national organization to give full voice and vote to women, 50 years before Congress adopted the same. Our passionate style of grassroots vigor has ensured that the average citizen is fully represented in public policy dialogue for nearly 150 years.

Family and community are the foundations of the Grange. Family values are promoted, taught, and woven into Grange activities and events. We are proud to have generations come together to learn from one another and build a stronger America, one community at a time.

Youth & Young Adults News

Kansas is the host state for this year's Great Plains Leadership Conference June 23-25. The conference will be held in Lawrence, Kansas, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel.

Registration fees are as follows:

- \$75 for ages 14 and up
- \$30 for ages 13 and below.

Registration deadline is April 21. Grange Youth/Young Adults. The conference includes workshops for Youth, Juniors, Lecturers and Membership. The Youth will be participating in challenge course activities at Adams Campus. The National Youth Director will be conducting a workshop and there will be other workshops on Code Reading and the 150th celebration. The Sign a Song, and Public Speaking contests will be held Saturday evening.

The DoubleTree by Hilton rate is \$109 per night plus tax. Additional information will be available later. Hotel reservations must be made by May 31. Mention Kansas State Grange when making reservations.

The registration form is available on the National

Grange website. Online registration is also available.

I am also asking for donations from Kansas Granges for the Hospitality room at Great Plains. It will be similar to the one that we have at State Session, but we will also need breakfast type foods (cereal, pastries, etc.). I will be sending a letter to each individual Grange with more details. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me by email at mandybostwick@gmail.com.

Youth and Young Adult members are encouraged to join the Kansas State Grange Youth Facebook page. Updates on meetings and links to our zoom meetings are included on this page. If you are already on the page, please add anyone that has not been added yet.



Fraternally submitted,

Mandy Bostwick
Youth/Young Adults Director
Kansas State Grange