



KANSAS GRANGER

- Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Grange -



A MESSAGE FROM THE KANSAS STATE GRANGE PRESIDENT

Greetings Grangers,

Hello Grangers! The 151st Annual Convention of the Kansas State Grange will be here before we know it! I would like to formally invite each and every one of you to attend the convention which will be held from October 14- 16 in Gardner, at the Hampton Inn by Hilton Gardner Conference Center. This will be the first time State Session has been held in Gardner. We have met as close as Olathe 10 times in a century and a half.

If you have not yet made hotel reservations sure you use the link <https://group.hamptoninn.com/bax73y> or call the Hampton Inn in Gardner direct at (913) 856-2100 and mention "Kansas State Grange" to get our event rate. Limited spaces are available!!

I am pleased to announce that National Vice President Chris Hamp and her husband Duane will be attending this year's convention as our National Representatives. Chris has previously served as the Lecturer, Lady Assistant and Pomona of the National Grange. Duane is a past President of Washington State Grange. Please read the Bio which occurs later in this newsletter.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

On July 21, the Olathe Historical Society presented a program about the Grange at the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm historic site for its members. The staff had worked on periodic costumes and Grange regalia of the 1870's for the presentation. The Mahaffie family were among the charter members of Olathe Grange # 118. Alice Ficken, Vice President Kansas Grange and President of Gardner Grange, and I were also in attendance. We have invited Tim Talbott, Site Manager, and Katie Lange, Daily Programs Manager and Collections Manager to be guests at our Session. They have supplied a link to the program on youtube if you would like to view it. <https://youtu.be/9fqRWU0FtkA>. We are looking forward to having them and the Hamps at our session. More information on Session is located in the newsletter.

Hope to see you there.

Fraternally,

Roger



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.com

GRANGE ORIENTATION KIT

This Orientation Kit includes new brochures to help recruit and introduce new and prospective members to the Grange. The seven brochures allow Granges to introduce the organization to potential members.

Brochures include information on benefits and responsibilities of membership, Degrees and Symbols, and more!

Get your copy by ordering online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.com or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

225
FULL-COLOR PIECES
\$30.00
PLUS SHIPPING

2022 EDITION
DIGEST OF LAWS
National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry

NEW & UPDATED!

The newest edition of the *Digest of Laws*, with an expanded index and updated chapters. This binder also includes the National Grange Constitution and By-Laws, for the governance of your Grange.

\$20 + shipping

Get your copy by ordering online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.com or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

Note: **Members** can also access a free PDF version of the Digest by logging into your account at nationalgrange.org.

YOUTH YAMMERINGS

Greetings Grangers!

I'm hoping this newsletter finds you all well and ready for Fall! It's been a busy summer and I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at State Grange in a few short weeks.



GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL CONFERENCE

In June, Kansas hosted the Great Plains Regional Conference in Manhattan. We had around 45 attendees present including 11 Kansas Grangers.

On Friday evening, attendees assembled cards for the C.A.R.D.S. project, participated in the National Youth Leadership Team's workshop and enjoyed fellowship together during the Pool Party.

Saturday included several workshops from the National Staff and Junior/Youth teams. A highlight of the day included the Quilt Block workshop where attendees were able to work on Quilt of Valor or Wonky Star Quilt Blocks. Saturday afternoon, Youth and Junior attendees participated in Grange Baseball. Bradley Ballenger won 1st place in Grange Baseball Junior Division and is invited to attend National Grange to compete as well. Following dinner on Saturday, we had a surprise addition to the schedule with a Tornado Warning and taking cover in the hotel restaurant. This cancelled the Sign-A-Song and Speech Contests for the evening but we still were able to enjoy fellowship at the "Game On With The Grange" dance.

Overall, I think we had a successful conference! We look forward to hosting again in 2026. The 2023 Great Plains Regional Conference will be held in Texas. Information regarding this conference will be shared when it's available.



STATE GRANGE INFORMATION

I encourage Kansas Youth and Young Adults to look at the Lecturer's programs and participate in the contests available for State Session this year. Program updates can be found on the Kansas State Grange Website. I also encourage you to look into participating in the youth programs and contests at the National level. I'd love to see more Kansas representation at National!

We plan to bring back the gift basket auction at during our annual State Grange session again, October 14-16. We are asking each Grange to consider donating a basket or items for the auction. This will help us begin fundraising to host Great Plains in 2026 and other youth activities. When assembling your baskets, consider including a list of items included and a retail value of the basket if possible.

Thank you as always for your continued support of Kansas State Grange Youth and Young Adults!

Fraternally,
 Molly Newman
 Kansas State Grange Youth & Young Adults Director



Kimber Newman and Roger Bostwick work on a Quilt Block



Great Plains Regional Conference 2022 Attendees



Junior Grange Baseball Winners Bradley Ballenger (KS), Landon Knight (OK), Jayla Shufeldt (OK)

JUNIOR JABBER

Hello Juniors!

Summer is here and so are the butterflies! Bees too!

I've purchased a couple of lesson plans with tons of information and ideas for projects for your parents and leaders to help you learn more about these cool pollinators.

***Junior Leaders, please let me know if you would like the information and I'll purchase a license for you to access these lesson plans. There are lots of free videos and information about pollinators out there, I just found these lesson plans were more detailed and provided me clear plans for fun activities that I didn't have to think about. ***

There are many National Grange arts and crafts contests you can enter at National Grange this year. You can find information about those projects here: <https://www.nationaljuniorgrange.org/>

I will have a few pollinator-themed contests you can submit at State Grange also. They are:

1. Create your own bee/butterfly bath or bee motel
2. Create your favorite insect out of any materials, no larger than 12x12in
3. Create a poster board display about the life cycle of your favorite pollinator

Please label your entries with Junior Granger's name and grade.

I look forward to seeing your creations!

I think these materials about pollinators would make a great program (or several) for your Grange. We have made plans to start a pollinator garden at our local meeting place. The pollinator theme appeals to kids and adults. Please let me know if you need more information!

Jamee Funk



LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

LECTURER'S DEPARTMENT

Greetings from the Lecturer's Department. I hope you are having a safe and fun summer!

Good luck to everyone who entered the National Grange photo and publicity contests. If you are interested in entering a block in the National Grange quilt block contest, you still have time. The deadline has been extended to **September 1**. The pattern is a Wonky Star and can be found on the National Grange website (link follows). You can either mail your block and entry form directly to the National Lecturer or get it to me, Julie, or to an Exec. Comm. member before August 20th. Our goal is to have a photo display of the blocks made by Kansans. If you mail your block directly to National, please take a photo of it and email the photo to amy@jldurand.com.

Pattern and information: <https://www.nationalgrange.org/national-grange-quilt-block-contest/>

Don't forget about the Visual Arts contest and Photography contest at the convention. These items must be a physical item, but can be anything from paint and paper to a digital creation. See the program for details.

Any talent contest entries will be presented during the annual banquet.

Snacks? Yes, please!

We're excited about our new hospitality contest at State Grange this year. We will be awarding a people's choice award for your favorite snack mix or cookies. Start thinking about your favorites and what you want to share at state convention this year.

Crafting for a Cause

We're also excited about our new time of crafting for a cause. This is for everyone, of all levels of talent, to participate in at the state convention. We hope to use this time to be of benefit to others through community service; we hope to include education as we learn a new skill or improve upon our skill set; and we hope to make it a time of fellowship for our Grange family. This year's project will be making cards for the State Grange CARDS Project with Randee Farmer and Kristee Strawder facilitating. We look forward to seeing you there!

Amy Kramer, Lecturer

Committee: Julie Durand, Donna Bates & Janice Gatlin



2022 National Grange Quilt Block Contest

Sponsored by the National Lecturer

ADULT, JUNIOR AND MEN'S DIVISIONS
~~JUNE 30, 2022 DEADLINE~~

Visit [nationalgrange.org](https://www.nationalgrange.org)
for all details and entry sheet

Wonky Star

Star may be in any color family (solid or print) on white or light gray background.
Final size - 12 1/2" unfinished.

Deadline Extended!
September 1

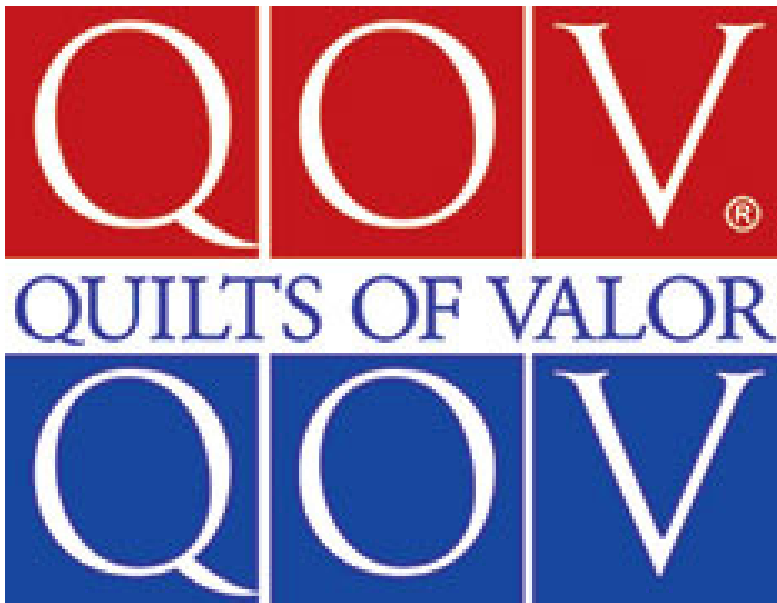
LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS (CONTINUED)

COMMUNITY SERVICE DEPARTMENT

QUILTS OF VALOR

The KS State Grange is pleased to be presenting our first three QOV quilts to Veterans at this year's Celebration Banquet at October's State Grange Convention. Please plan to attend this special presentation. Plans for next year's QOV project will be distributed at State Convention.

Best wishes,
Randee Farmer
KS State Grange Community Service Director
1210 State Street
Augusta, KS 67010
316-644-1871
farmermd13@cox.net



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The Patrons Chain
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

Stay up to date with the latest information, ideas and programs from the National Grange, delivered directly to your inbox every Friday morning.

www.nationalgrange.org/subscribe/

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

HAPPY SUMMER EVERYONE

I pray that everyone are doing well and survived the spring crazy weather. We had 4 tornados in our area in the middle of June in 1 week. We had very little damage to our property (Thank God) but the main tornado hit pretty hard just 5 blocks away. Many business' had major damage and we lost electricity for about 12 hours. I was at home alone with my grandson while Buddy was at work. My kids took Payton to Kansas City to see a concert for her birthday. I will admit that was the 1st tornado that I was that close to.

I have enjoyed spending quality time with my grandkids. SJ got to play baseball for the first time and really enjoyed it. I was privileged to attend most of his practices and all the games. The city pool had major cracks in the pipes, so we ended up purchasing a pool for the backyard.

Looking forward to State Grange in Gardner this year. It is so exciting to be able to see all my Grange friends again.

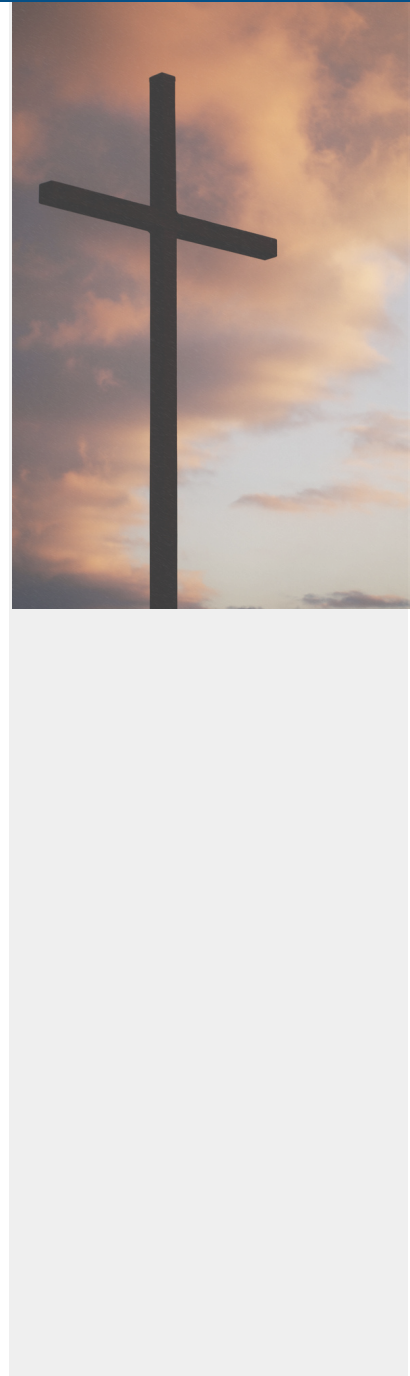
On a sadder note – I need to inform everyone that Marlene Bush passed away on May 22nd. I have sent cards to the family members and a plant was given from the State Grange. Marlene held many offices and was a 65+ year member. She will be truly missed by all,

If there are any other Grange members of family member that have that I should be aware of, please email me at sdthomas81756@yahoo.com. Or you can send me a text at 785-713-0254.

God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause His face to shine upon us.

PSALMS 67:1

Sheri Dingus
State Chaplin



MAKE THIS A  *Good Day!*TM

\$16

Annual Subscription



**PRINT EDITION SUBSCRIPTIONS:
NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/GOODDAY**

**DIGITAL EDITION SUBSCRIPTIONS:
ISSUU.COM/GRANGEGOODDAY**



Marlene (Steffey) Douglass Bush, 88, of Topeka, entered the great Grange above Sunday, May 29, 2022.

Funeral services for Marlene were held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 7th, 2022, at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Topeka. A visitation was held from 5-7 p.m. on Monday, June 6th, 2022, at Highland Park United Methodist Church.

Marlene was a member of the Grange for over 65 years and was most currently a member of New Century #2007. Marlene served as State Lady Assistant Steward from 1962-1970, State Lecturer from 1988-1998, and Community Service Director from 1999-2007. In 1965, Marlene was part of the Young Couple of the Year and National Grange Runner-Up. She served on the National Grange Lecturer Advisory Committee for 3 years. From 1977 to 2005, she was in charge of the Grange Bus Tour. In 2009, Marlene was honored as the Kansas State Grange Granger of the Year.

Memorials contributions are suggested to Highland Park United Methodist Church, American Heart Association, Alzheimer foundation, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association or to an organization of donor's choice in care of Barnett Family Funeral Home, P.O. Box 602, Oskaloosa, KS 66066.

Our deepest thoughts and sympathy goes out to the entire family.

Cards and condolences can be sent to:

Todd (son) & Darlene Douglass - 24174 Bison Road, Paxico, KS 66526
 Pete & Angela (daughter) Watson - 412 E Cheyenne Court, Kechi, KS, 67067
 Dale Brey (companion) - c/o Karen, 3223 SW Tutbury Town Road, Topeka, KS 66614
 Gary & Janice (sister) Parker - 2606 Elm Street, Eudora, KS 66025
 Delvis (brother) & Jeanne Steffey - 9352 118th Street, Ozawkie, KS 66070



GRANGE UPDATES

GARDNER GRANGE #68

Gardner Grange is busy this summer with Gardner Farmers Market, Thursdays 4-7 (except during the fair.)The Chamber of Commerce honored us on June 2 with a ribbon cutting ceremony to start the season. Vendors have been steady and customers plentiful. Many of the Vendors say that this is their favorite market to attend. We have our "Grange Café" where we serve hot dogs and hamburgers, and the proceeds go to our Scholarship Fund. The VFW is hosting the food stand one Thursday each month. The market will continue through the middle of September.

Speaking of our Scholarship Fund, we awarded our Scholarship this year to Will Lewis of Lewis Farms. Will and his mother, Barb, came and spoke at our June meeting and told us how he started a retail flower & vegetable business all on his own. Last December he set up a Christmas light display in his yard and raised over \$6000 to aid a Gardner-Edgerton High School teacher who was battling cancer. In the fall he will plant around 5,000 mums for a Fall Festival and will also grow sunflowers & pumpkins. He hopes to one day own a large wholesale nursery. Will plans to attend Johnson County Community College in the fall and major in Horticulture and Business Management.

Gardner Grangers are excited for State Grange to be held in Gardner in October. The hotel is very nice, and we will undoubtedly enjoy the attached kitchen. We also plan to again host our Winter Market on the second Saturday of December.

(submitted by Lois Barber)



President Alice Ficken with Scholarship Winner,
Will Lewis



Gardner's Farmers Market Ribbon Cutting

GRANGE UPDATES

PLEASANT VIEW GRANGE

Pleasant View Grange members have been busy with community service projects, attending the Great Plains Regional Conference in Manhattan, and participating in the recent Virtual Grange Telethon. We draped the charter for Sister Marlene Bush, a 74-year member of our Grange, who passed away on May 29th.

Pleasant View welcomed Penny Buek as a new member. She transferred from Carbondale Grange.

Our youth members have been very busy this summer, in serving as hosts for the Great Plains Conference and organizing the Telethon. Our recent service projects have been finishing up our Project Linus blankets for this year, working on CARDS Project cards, and a rodeo event fundraiser for our dictionary project.

Programs have been go-to-church Sunday and presenting membership awards to Susan Kramer (Golden Sheaf) and W.J. Kramer (65 years), a memorial program, and a picnic supper with water games for the Juniors.

(submitted by Julie Durand, secretary)



Ellen Durand and Kimber Newman pause their water balloon fight for a photo at the Ozawie City Park



Susan Kramer receives her Golden Sheaf Award from President Molly Newman

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT TO ATTEND KANSAS STATE SESSION



National Grange Vice President Chris Hamp and husband, Duane

Christine E. (Chris) Hamp, a fourth-generation Granger, was raised on a dairy farm homesteaded in the 1880s by her great-grandfather in Monroe, Washington. Chris joined Tualco Junior Grange #341 at the age of 5 and then Tualco Grange #284. Currently, Chris serves as Secretary at Five Mile Prairie Grange #905 in Spokane County where she is an affiliate member.

Of note, Chris was named the Washington State Outstanding Junior Granger in 1981, the Washington State Outstanding Young Granger in 1986, National Youth Ambassador in 1986 and President of the National Youth Officer Team in 1996. Chris also served as the Washington State Grange Lady Assistant Steward from 1990-1995, as a Washington State Grange Special Deputy from 1999-2011, as Pomona of the National Grange from 2011-2013, as the National Grange Lady Assistant Steward from 2013-2016 and as the National Grange Lecturer from 2016-2021. Chris now serves as Vice President of the National Grange.

Chris earned a Master of Public Administration degree from The George Washington University in Washington, DC; a bachelor degree in Public Policy & Administration from Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington; and an associate degree of technical arts in Fire Command Administration from Edmonds Community College in Edmonds, Washington.

While Chris earned her first million picking raspberries, she is currently employed by Spokane County Fire District 9 as the Division Chief of Administrative Services. She also serves the Fire District as a volunteer Lieutenant firefighter/EMT and is a Certified Fire Investigator.

Chris and her husband Duane, a past President of the Washington State Grange, live outside Spokane, Washington with their dog Lucy, the third member of the Hamp Gang.



151ST ANNUAL KANSAS STATE GRANGE 2022 PRE-REGISTRATION



- You may use one form per family/household planning to attend State Session.
- Complete the top section of this form to register for the Kansas State Grange Convention. Use the name(s) to be printed on the badge.
- Complete the bottom section of this form to indicate any meals you are planning to attend. If you do not plan to attend one, or any, of the meals, please indicate with a "0" so we know not to include you in the meal count.

Grange Name _____ # _____

1. _____ 2. _____

Name(s) 3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____ 6. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

MEALS

		<i>Please indicate # of meals</i>
Saturday, October 15	Luncheon	
Saturday, October 15	Annual Banquet	

Return no later than **SEPTEMBER 18th** to, Jamie Klenklen, 200 Delaware Dr., Ozawie, KS 66070



State Grange Use Only
Date Rcv'd

NATIONAL GRANGE NEWS

REGISTER FOR THE 156TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Western Host region is excited to invite Grangers and friends from across the country to the Silver State! We are just over 5 months away from the opening of the 156th National Grange Convention, set to be held in Reno-Sparks, Nevada from November 15 through 19, 2022.

Many new and exciting things are being planned by the Host region and you are sure to have a memorable experience in Reno! Visit the National Grange website to learn more about what's coming up at this year's convention.

Don't take too long to decide; catch the early bird registration and make plans to attend today by registering for the National Grange Convention by going to bit.ly/NationalGrange156

Early Bird Registration - \$32 is open until 9/9/2022

General Registration - \$37 is open until 10/19/22

Late Registration - \$42 closes for meal options on 11/1/22

Registration on Site - will be available at the late registration cost, however, you will not be able to obtain tickets to any meals



Last year, we made several changes in deadlines and moved some things around, so with all the potential confusion, I wanted to give everyone an opportunity to still submit applications for the Ambassador Program, Junior Historian Award, Junior Mentor, Ag Awareness, and the Cape of Honor. The deadline for each of these was August 15 but we will be extending it to September 1, 2022.

- Samantha Wilkins, National Junior Grange Director
Originally Published In August 26th, 2022 Patrons Chain



Youth Officer Team T-shirt Design Contest

1. Designs must be no more than two colors and front design only.
2. Designs and release waivers must be submitted in a .PNG or .JPEG image via email to the National Grange Youth Director (youth@nationalgrange.org) no later than **September 10th**.
3. Voting will take place from September 15-22.
4. Any Youth or Young Adult Member (aged 14-35) may enter a design. Need not apply to be on Youth Officer Team to enter.

Winning Designs will be announced on Sept 30th in the Patrons Chain and on Facebook.



NATIONAL GRANGE NEWS (CONTINUED)

NATIONAL GROW CLUB APPEAL LETTER

The G.R.O.W. Club would like to thank you for your support of our program. We are looking forward to an exciting year for our members. The G.R.O.W. Club is made up of Grange members who have participated in the National Grange Convention as a National Grange Prince or Princess, Ambassador, Young Couple, Outstanding Young Patron, Youth Team Member or National Director. Members are inducted into the club each year at a banquet during the National Grange Convention.

In 2021 we were able to award a travel scholarship valued at \$200. In addition to the Travel Scholarship, the G.R.O.W. Club covered the expenses for all new GROW Club member inductees to attend the GROW Club banquet. Earlier this year, we were able to award two Academic Scholarships totaling \$1,000.

This year the G.R.O.W. Club's annual fundraiser will be a silent auction held at the National Convention. New in 2023, the GROW Club will sponsor a Washington D.C. Experience travel scholarship. In order, to continue to support our youth and young adults we need sponsors from across the country for the silent auction. Sponsors can donate items or monetary gifts which will be used to purchase items in the hosting region. The funds raised will continue to allow us to award scholarships to youth and young adult members throughout the country. Monetary donations can be sent directly to the National Grange with "GROW Club" on the memo line.

In the past we have had the following items donated:

Grange Memorabilia, Jewelry, Gift baskets, Wine, and gifts from your home state. We hope you will decide to sponsor items to assist us this year.

Fraternally,

G.R.O.W. Club Board

Robert Beamon (Pennsylvania)
Samantha Hanson (Iowa)
Karen Overstreet (Texas)

Emily Hartsell (North Carolina)
Mary Jordan (Massachusetts)
Brittney Oliver (Washington)



Growing Hope Together

By Betsy Huber, National Grange President

Suicide Awareness and Prevention in Rural America

Rates for depression are higher in rural America than in urban areas, and suicide rates among people living in rural counties are 25 percent higher than those in major metropolitan areas. In response to this mental health emergency in rural communities across this country, the National Grange is partnering with Rural Minds to confront rural suicide with a program focused on suicide awareness and prevention.

Rural Minds (www.RuralMinds.org) is a new 501c3 nonprofit addressing mental health challenges in rural America by providing information and resources through strategic partnerships that include collaboration with the National Grange. Rural Minds was founded by Jeff Winton. Growing up on his family's multi-generational dairy farm in upstate New York, Winton was aware of local residents who were struggling with mental illness in silence. But it did not hit home until his 28-year-old nephew, Brooks, died by suicide.

A recent survey commissioned by the National Grange and conducted by Morning Consult polled 1,000 rural voters and found that 85 percent of respondents "Strongly Support" or "Somewhat Support" providing educational programs and materials for rural youth and residents to access resources and services available that address rural mental health challenges.

We are very pleased to be responding to this unmet need through our partnership with Rural Minds and the launch of the Rural Suicide Awareness and Prevention program in September - National Suicide Prevention Month. Inspired by a request from a National Grange leader, we are co-presenting a FREE webinar on Tuesday, September 13, at 6:30 pm PT / 7:30 pm MT / 8:30 pm CT / 9:30 pm ET featuring:

Presenters discussing the importance of confronting the higher risk of suicide in rural communities

Information to help prevent suicide

Free resources for rural mental health and suicide awareness and prevention

Speakers will include rural mental health counselor Monica Kramer McConkey and Nathan Lawson, a Kentucky farmer and rural suicide prevention advocate. We encourage you to register for the FREE webinar at: <https://bit.ly/3vXqdVS>. All recorded video and audio content will be archived and available on the program webpage. Help promote the webinar by printing and posting an event flyer with all the details that can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3pIWTEE>.

Continued on next page

NATIONAL GRANGE NEWS (CONTINUED)

Growing Hope Together- Continued

This is one piece of the Rural Suicide Awareness and Prevention educational program to be housed on an expanding webpage to empower rural Americans with information and resources. Please join your fellow Grangers to support this life saving program and be part of the solution to help prevent suicide in rural America. Pass along this email to others in rural communities across the country, make copies to give to your family, friends, and neighbors, and watch the Grange weekly newsletter for more information and updates!

Originally Published In August 19th Patrons Chain



In January 2022, the National Grange partnered with Rural minds (www.ruralminds.org), a new nonprofit aimed at addressing mental health in rural America. This connection has already been beneficial to both organizations through increased awareness of the organizations and increased awareness and destigmatizing of rural mental health.

Addressing mental illness is a significant challenge in rural America due to unique barriers that include

- twenty percent fewer primary care providers than in cities, in addition to:
- A lack of psychiatrists in 65 percent of rural counties;
- A lack of psychiatric nurse practitioners in 81 percent of rural counties; and
- A lack of access to broadband internet at home (four times more likely than it is for urban residents).

Rural Minds serves the mental health needs of rural Americans by:

- **Listening** to and providing forums for courageous people to share their experiences with mental illness;
- **Connecting** rural Americans across the country with existing mental health resources, including crisis and suicide hotlines, via www.RuralMinds.org;
- **Identifying** gaps in mental health information and services;
- **Partnering** with community leaders and organizations on mental health initiatives;
- **Collaborating** with individuals and organizations to improve rural mental health including rural residents, donors and volunteers, large and small nonprofits, and socially responsible corporations with a strong interest in the health of rural Americans; and,
- **Developing** new educational resources and support services to address the unmet needs for mental health in rural communities throughout the United States.

Rural Minds Founder Jeff Winton was raised on his family's dairy farm in rural upstate New York. Growing up, he discovered that many of the families in his small, 500-person town had a relative or friend living with some form of untreated mental illness—depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety, schizophrenia. But their struggle was met with silence. There were few or no resources in the community for treating them or conversations about helping them. The stigma attached to mental illness was palpable.

In 2012, the suicide of his beloved 28-year-old nephew was a wake-up call for Jeff. In the eulogy he delivered, Jeff shared his family's continuing struggle with mental illness. After the service, many local families shared their own experiences and thanked Jeff for finally giving them permission to talk openly and freely. He realized that so much more needed to be done.

Since then, Jeff has focused the majority of his professional career aligning his expertise in the biopharmaceutical industry with his passion for helping rural families. That's why he founded Rural Minds, a nonprofit organization to serve as the informed voice for mental health in rural America, and to provide mental health information and resources.

156TH NATIONAL GRANGE SESSION



**Convention Registration and Hotel
Reservations** are open for the
156th Annual National Grange Session
in Sparks, Nevada.

November 15-19, 2022

Visit bit.ly/NationalGrange156
to register today!

Early bird registration closes September 9.



STAY CONNECTED!

Join National Directors on Zoom Meetings each month to get up-to-date information about their programming and upcoming events.

- Junior Jibber Jabber - 3rd Sunday of Odd Numbered Months at 8 p.m. CST
- Youth Yammerings - 3rd Sunday of Even Numbered Months at 8 p.m. CST
- Membership Matters - 3rd Tuesday of Every Month at 7:30 p.m. CST

151ST ANNUAL KANSAS STATE GRANGE CONVENTION



Hampton Inn - Gardner Conference Center
 151 S. Cedar Niles Road ~ Gardner, Kansas 66030
 Call (913) 856-2100 to reserve your room!



CONTACT THE EDITOR

You can submit pictures and articles to the following email:

Email: kansasgranger@gmail.com



DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT KANSAS GRANGER!

SEPTEMBER 25TH (PRE-CONVENTION)



ABOUT THE GRANGE

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.