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COSG Master's Newsletter

Cindy Greer, 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO 81326

Colorado State Grange Master

hcrdgreer@frontier.net 970-588-3386 970-749-8108

145TH ANNUAL STATE SESSION.

WHEN: September 27-
29, 2018

WHERE: Masonic Lodge
in Durango, 421 Turner
Drive. The Masonic Lodge
is a beautiful two story
building with an elevator.
We utilize their meeting
room for our meeting and
the basement (Kitchen) for
exhibits and most of the
meals functions. There are
a lot of motels in the
Durango area, with a wide
variety of prices. The
nearest Motels are Super 8,
Comfort Inn, La Quinta
and Homewood Suites
(Hilton). Super 8 is
probably the most
reasonably priced. Other
motels we have used are
Adobe Inn and Days End
(now Motel Durango)
which are located on Main
Street near the La Plata
County Fairgrounds.

Grange Health Surveys

Thank you to all who have returned their Grange Health Survey! And to those of you waiting for Grange month to be complete to fill those out, I look forward to receiving yours in the near future.

So now that you've filled one out what do you do? The purpose of the Health surveys was to give you a place to start to evaluate your Grange. I did notice that many failed to start with the 25 points allowed, so some of you actually had 25 more points than you thought. At the Master's conference we were given a sheet that helped us understand why each question was important. You probably noticed that a lot of the questions dealt with the current membership. Here are a few points.

- New People help to make sure that others are introduced to the Grange and that people don't get burned out, and You get different ideas as well.
- New people bring in fresh ideas and it shows that your Grange is welcoming.
- A Junior Grange or Junior +1 members show that you're passing the Grange on to a new generation.
- A fairly regular change in leadership/officers/directors is a sign of mentoring which leads to success.
- Being a Granger is great in so many ways, but if your Grange members bicker or complain about attending, it's hard to be enthusiastic about the organization. It is especially important that new members feel welcome and that they are in a place filled with fraternal spirit and fun.
- We all know the Grange and other organizations like it have challenges, from finances to membership, to feeling relevant to their neighbors. Focus on the positive and what you can do. You have to be meeting and doing something to bring in new members.
- Working with other youth groups such as FFA, 4-H, Boy or Girl Scouts is one way of helping them understand some of the Grange's work. Working with them might be as simple as allowing them to use the hall for their meetings, providing awards or helping with their projects.
- Every Grange needs to be trying something NEW. And removing statements like "That's the way we've always done it"/ "We can't do that, because we've never done it before." Everything changes. In order to be most effective for our communities and members, we must constantly work to adapt, change and broaden our horizons.
- We are an educational and service organization and as such we have so many opportunities to positively impact our communities.

Good Day! Magazine

Beginning **June 1** there will be a **\$2** processing fee added to the Good Day! subscription cost. National pays a fee for credit card or PayPal processing, and it takes a lot of staff time to process paper subscriptions, so they find it necessary to add this charge. Get your subscriptions in before June 1 to save \$2 !!! So instead of paying \$14.00, you'll be paying \$16.00.

Grange Membership Awards

Effective March 1, 2017 the **Golden Sheaf Award** now costs \$10.00 and the **75-year award** is also \$10.00. These awards can be ordered from the National Grange. All shipping and handling costs for these awards items will now be the same price as the Grange Supply Store shipping and handling.

- Communication is key to holding together a group and strengthening it. Keep in touch with your members, by phone, e-mail, newsletters, social media, or other methods.
- Each Grange needs an identity and a purpose. What is your Grange's identity and purpose?

Recognition Deadlines

August 6, 2018 is the deadline for Grange Legacy Family nominations and Distinguished Grange Applications. If you have Legacy families (Families who have five or more generations as Grangers and you can find the records, they can be nominated.) They don't have to all belong to the same subordinate Grange there has to be at least 5 generations or more. Both applications are available on the National Grange Website or you can contact me for a printed copy.

GRANGE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

GIA is going through a change in leadership. Ryan Dudley the current CEO is retiring. His replacement has been selected and they are sharing duties. I believe the new CEO is Steven W. Stogner who has been serving as Executive Vice President.

Norm Union, New Colorado State Grange Executive Committee member

John Hagen, Homestead Grange, passed away suddenly earlier this year. John was in his third year as an Executive Committee member this time around.

Norm Union of Rose Hill Grange has agreed to fill the position for the remainder of the year. Norm and his wife Janet own and operate Norm's Printing and typesetting in Commerce City, CO. Norm is currently the Master of Rose Hill Grange and has served as a delegate to State Session for several years.

Colorado State Fair

The Colorado State Grange is planning on participating in the State Fair this year by having a table and display with other Agriculture organizations. So if you are at the state fair Please take time to look for the display. It has been a number of years since we have participated in the State Fair. The price was right! There is no charge to have a table. The CSG has received \$500.00 for an OP-ED that was published and the Executive Committee has decided to use those funds to purchase seed packets with the Grange Logo for the display.

Colorado Grange History Update

The Colorado State Grange is celebrating its 145th year in 2018. A resolution was passed at State Session last year to update our History book. The Goal is to have that History complete by our 150th. I am enclosing a form with suggestions to help you get started. I suggest that you appoint someone from your Grange to start working on your history to update the History book for the past 45 years. Please try to have this information to us by June 1, 2019.

Cindy Greer, State Master