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COSG Master's Newsletter

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Colorado State Grange Master

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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. National
Chaplain, Barbara
Borderieux from Florida
will be in attendance.
Animas Valley Grange will
make a presentation as our
Spotlight on Grange and
we will have a speaker
talking about Native Bees.

Utilizing the
National Grange benefits
with Choice Hotels or
World Wide Hotels might
help you get a better rate at
one of the hotels/motels in
Durango.

Please Order your meal
tickets by September 1.

WANTED: Delegates!

Are you aware that the Colorado State Grange Constitution states that *The representatives of fifteen (15) Subordinate Granges shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.* I am very concerned about this because last year we had delegates from 4 Pomona and only 15 Subordinate Granges. We have 40 subordinate Granges with charters, The State Grange needs your Grange to be represented. If you as the Master/President cannot attend, please seek out members that can attend and then make sure that your subordinate Grange helps them with their expenses. State session is one way you can connect with the State Grange and become part of the process of developing our policy and policy for the National Grange.

Below are words from a Grange member who attended part of the State convention last year: *"I attended the State Grange Assembly last fall. Your warmth and welcoming spirit, as well as getting to meet so many wonderful long time grangers changed something in me. Ever since, I have become deeply committed to the Grange organization as a whole, and hope to be an actively contributing member for life."*

Cindy Greer, State Master

RAFFLE TICKETS

Most of you have received Raffle Tickets, I hope that it was not a mistake to send them to Masters' instead of Secretaries. **Please distribute them to your members to sell.** We need your help with this!

Grange and Politics

"The Grange has always been non-partisan, but that does not mean we are not interested in government and politics," National Master, Betsy Huber in the Masters Corner of the Good Day Magazine.

The word "political" in Grange Law means partisan politics, and does not include or refer to general questions of political philosophy.

Officers of all Granges of the various divisions of the Order shall avoid the

*A dream written
down becomes a Goal
A Goal broken down
into steps becomes a
Plan
A Plan backed by
Action becomes reality
Author Unknown*

MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE

The National Grange launched a membership initiative in June with State membership and Communications Directors. The initiative is expanding in July to include Sub. Granges.

Some examples of ideas that have come out of the few calls that have already happened: a lesson/guide/PowerPoint on how to make short links to promote information you have on your website with a really long name; template flyers for events

Granges often have (ex. "Spaghetti Supper" flyer with blank spaces to fill in your Grange name, time, date and place of event); and more. If your local Grange doesn't have a Communications Director or Committee or a Membership Director or Committee, designate someone to schedule a call or become the contact for your Grange today on these important issues. Schedule a call today by at tiny.cc/GrangeCall18 If you don't find a time that works for you, feel free to emailcommunications@nationalgrange.org so that a time can be worked out.

appearance of using their positions in the Order in any manner to influence the opinions of others on questions at issue between political parties or on candidates for political office.

Politics and legislation in a way are two different things. Politics focuses on the party. Legislation focuses on the law.

The Grange Declaration of Purposes emphatically states that the Grange is NON-PARTISAN. But what does that really mean and how does that affect what the Grange does?

The Grange as an organization does not in any way support a political candidate for office. In order to protect our tax exempt status, the Grange must not in any way allow the Grange name or Grange property to be used in a way the might be viewed as supporting one political candidate or party. If the event is in the gray area – avoid it.

The Grange organization cannot donate money to a political candidate's campaign. The Grange cannot rent their building to one political candidate for a gathering that promotes his/her own political candidacy. If a political candidate wants to hold a town meeting at your Grange Hall, where no one person benefits from the meeting it is allowed. If your Grange sponsors or another group sponsors a Candidates Forum or a Meet the Candidates event where **all candidates are invited** regardless of party, it's considered educational.

Individual Grangers may support whomever they choose or however they choose, but one must be careful not to use their Grange membership in a way that might be viewed as the Grange. Over the years several State Grange Masters have at one time served in their state legislature. President Roosevelt was a Grange member, but he didn't jeopardize the Granges tax status in any way.

Granges can and should support candidate forums as long as all political parties are invited to participate.

*A Grange should never support any specific political candidate.

*Renting our Grange Halls to one political candidate inadvertently leaves others with the impression that the Grange supports that candidate, therefore a Grange should not rent their hall for a political candidate to raise funds or to even meet people in the community.

Senate Passes it's version of the Farm Bill

As you've probably heard by now, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry passed their farm bill, S. 3042, the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018.

Among the amendments adopted June 14 were:

- Sod-saver rules reducing crop insurance premium subsidies to farmers who break up native sod can now be expanded to more states upon each governor's approval.
- Authorization for USDA foreign market development funds to be used for ag trade promotion to Cuba.
- Increase the USDA limits on guaranteed loans to \$1.75 million from \$1.39 million, direct ownership loans from \$300,000 to \$600,000, and direct operating loans from \$300,000 to \$400,000.
- Create a "Micro EQUIP" program to that makes it easier for small farmers to receive USDA cost-share funds for working- farms environmental

July is

**National Ice
Cream, Hot Dog
and Picnic
Month**

Junior Grange
is celebrating
130 years.

Please consider
making a
donation to the
National Junior
Grange in honor
of this
achievement.

Donations should
be sent to then
National Grange
Foundation,
1616 H. Street.,
N.W.,

Washington,
D.C. 20006

practices.

- Reimburse dairy farmers for their cost of MPP premiums in 2015, 2016 and 2017.
- Restore mandatory biofuel and biochemical programs at their 2014 funding levels.

Contentious Senate floor amendments are expected to crop insurance, nutrition programs, SNAP, the sugar program and more.

National Grange issues statement on internet regulations and the rural impact

National Grange President Betsy Huber, on Monday, June 11, issued the following statement to mark the beginning of new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) rules governing high-speed broadband service: “For more than 10 years, the FCC and federal courts have fought over methods of regulating the Internet. This has done nothing to address America’s most pressing broadband problem: our national need to expand high-speed Internet access across rural and underserved areas. “People in rural and underserved areas deserve the same broadband choices and speeds as those who live in suburban and urban communities. Federal Internet policy must reflect the needs of every community.

“It is urgent that Congress recognize how the FCC’s constantly changing Internet regulations have acted as a brake on broadband deployment in small towns and rural communities. The 2015 regulations, in particular, caused an unprecedented slow-down in broadband deployment, including tens of billions in lost investment, that hit rural communities especially hard. “These 2015 regulations marked a bad day for the equity of the under- and un-connected across rural America. After three years of internet experience under Title II, small internet providers across the country say their efforts to deploy broadband have been hindered by the Title II regulations. Today’s fresh start offers hope for the good people the National Grange serves in the form of a welcome reprieve from stifling constraints in search of a problem. “For years, beginning with the Clinton Administration, there was strong agreement on the benefits of a ‘light touch’ approach to federal Internet regulation that protected Internet users while encouraging greater access. The National Grange urges Congress to continue on this successful path where everyone will benefit.”

National Deadlines Approaching

- Communication Fellows deadline Aug. 1, 2018, 9 a.m. Eastern
- Grange Legacy Family nominations now open. Deadline is August 6, 11:59 p.m. Eastern
- Distinguished Grange Application deadline August 6, 11:59 p.m. Eastern
- National JG Ambassador applications due August 15
- Super JG Award applications due August 15

Outstanding Granger Contest

Any initiated Colorado Grange member may be nominated for the Outstanding Granger Award.

This award is presented at the Final Banquet of the State Convention to the deserving person or persons.

Nominations can be made by any Grange member.

The nominations should be in booklet form about the nominee for the judges to use to make their decision. The booklet should contain:

1. Letters of Recommendation
2. Information about the person's Grange activities and achievements.
3. Articles
4. Pictures
5. Other supportive material (involvement with organizations other than Grange)

Entries are due in the State Grange office by September 1st. The State Master will appoint a committee to judge the entries. The winner is not announced until the banquet, and may be kept a surprise if the sponsor so wishes.

Writing Resolutions that Work

The Grange has a long history rooted in member participation in our policy development through our resolution process. Each Granger is tasked with addressing voids and surpluses in our policy and can propose to implement these changes by offering amendments to your local and State Granges. Drafting resolutions may seem like a daunting task at first, but if you follow three simple steps listed below, you will soon be on your way to writing a clear and effective resolution.

First, it is important to know the anatomy of a resolution. There are three main parts: the **Title**, the body or **Whereas** section, and the conclusion or **Resolved** section.

1. The Title should clearly state the issue to be addressed. For example, if you are drafting a measure to deregulate the postal service, your title should be something along the lines of:

Example:

Deregulation of the Postal Service rather than just Postal Service

2. The Whereas section is where you get to make your argument for why this resolution is necessary. This section does not become policy but explains to other Grangers why the issue is important and provides details, data, and other reference material so they can be better educated on voting for the issue.

Example:

Whereas, the federal government imposes unreasonable regulations and mandates on the U.S. Postal Service but no longer funds any of the organization's operating costs; and

Whereas, the U.S. Postal Service will continue to be forced to close local post offices and reduce services under such a business model; and

Whereas, the U.S. Postal Service could survive and compete if allowed to create its own business model free of Congressional oversight; and

Whereas, the National Grange has a rich tradition in helping to ensure the rural free delivery of mail; be it

3. The Resolved section must be a complete sentence which sums up what your resolution is trying to achieve and can stand alone without any of the supporting information.

Example:

Resolved, that the National Grange support legislation that creates an autonomous U.S. Postal Service which can set its own operating procedures and business model without the undue regulation of the federal government.

Writing Resolutions that Stand the Test of Time

In closing, make sure your resolution can stand the test of time. A good deal of Grange policy dates back 75 years or more and continues to be relevant because the ideals and concepts hold true today. However, we also have policy that is out-of-date and relates to issues that have been dealt with on the local and congressional levels. If you have a resolution that deals with an issue that is connected to a current event or particular bill, your resolution may be included in the committee of jurisdiction's policy statement for that year, rather than passed as a resolution. Rest assured that this is still very important and is actually a better home for your resolution. Good luck and happy policymaking!