



December 2020

Colorado State Grange Master/President's Newsletter

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National 2021 – Wichita, KS

November 9-13, 2021

Colorado is one of the five states in the Great Plains region who will be hosting the 2021 convention with Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas.

For many attending a National Grange convention is a once in a life time experience. It's a great opportunity to connect with Grange members from around the Nation. Every Grange member can sit in the National Grange meeting and enjoy the debate and process.

There are usually workshops to participate in, exhibits to look at, awards given, Evening of Excellence (Talent Show), and an opportunity to take your seventh degree, the degree of Ceres. The sixth degree is also presented for those who haven't had the opportunity to take it. One will need to have the fifth degree before being able to take the 6th and 7th degrees.

The ***Peterson Brothers*** have been requested to come to the convention to the Ag Luncheon, do some Youth workshops and a concert which will be open to the public. Details on cost to Grange members is being worked out.

Master verses President, Overseer verses Vice President

A few years ago the National Grange delegates voted to allow the use of President and Vice President when talking with non-Grangers or the media. Therefore each Individual Grange can decide which terms their membership is more comfortable using. Members should continue to address the chair as "Worthy President" or "Worthy Master." Those of us who have been members forever will automatically continue to use the old terms because it's second nature and old habits die hard.

National did not approve a round table format. The recommendation is that if a Grange cannot open utilizing the floorwork for whatever reason that they use the words from the traditional opening or the alternative opening that is in the most current Grange manual. This manual is available from the National Grange for \$10.00 per book. Colorado State Grange has approved a round table format which is available for the asking, It's been sent out numerous times, but if you can't find that copy and want to use it please contact me and I'll see that you get it.

NATIONAL GRANGE MAILINGS

If you are not on the national Grange's e-mail list you may want to make sure that you get on that list so that you will receive their mailings. The View From the Hill and the National Master's Patrons Chain newsletters are free and sent to anyone on their e-mail list. You can sign up on the National Grange web site at

www.nationalgrange.org.



National 2021 Continued...

Hosting also carries responsibilities and opportunities for Grange members to serve. At some point in time there will be a “sign up genius” on-line for individuals to select a time to help out. For those of you who are computer literate you can do this on your own, for others if you want to volunteer but need assistance you’ll be able to contact Cindy Greer or Elizabeth Hiner and we will get you signed up. So what are the opportunities to help out.

Hospitality room – each state will be responsible for the Hospitality room at least one day, but since there are only five states we may have to help at additional times. The times the Hospitality room will be open will vary on what the hotel allows. It’s usually only for snacks between meals. Right now Colorado will host the Hospitality room on Wednesday, we may need donations of cookies and snacks, but that too will depend on what the hotel allows.

Deputies – when the National Grange is in session (open for business) 2 to 4 individuals will be needed to “guard” the doors, making sure that only member or special guests permitted in the meeting. Tuesday is the only day that the deputies need to be seventh degree members. The remainder of the days and evening community Grange members can serve as deputies as the National Grange opens in the fourth degree (Community).

Seventh Degree preparation Team – several members are needed to launder and iron costumes for the seventh degree, which has been taken care of Tuesday and Wednesday.

Overseeing the Exhibit Rooms – two members per shift are needed to oversee the exhibit rooms and making sure that none of the exhibits are removed, without permission, from the room.

Registration Team will help all the Grangers who attend the convention with registration. Each Granger registered receives a name tag, schedule and tickets that have been pre-ordered. One may need to know how to type or make name tags.

Sixth Degree officers – The host region is responsible for putting on the sixth degree. Officers will be needed and expected to dress as requested by Texas who is in charge of the degree. Texas has a rose drill team and is planning on filling the Master’s/President’s office. Parts do not have to be memorized but should be read with expression and smoothly. Officers will be doing an entrance drill, so marching is required.

So mark your calendars and plan to take a few days to participate in the National Grange convention in Wichita. Colorado State Grange has set aside some funding to help member who volunteer to help at the convention with expenses. We’ll let you know what you need to do to receive some of those funds.

GROWTH THROUGH ACTION

This is a program that the National Grange Membership director, Joseph Stefenoni offered in September and October as a ZOOM. We'll cover sections in this newsletter and in upcoming newsletters.

Section 1 has each Grange accessing it's condition, what you've done in the past two years, and what the condition of the community is.

Section 2 has you focusing on the Future:

- A. Where are you going? Your vision for the future of the Grange is.....
- B. Reasons for the Grange to survive.
 - a. What makes your Grange important to the community?
 - b. What would be lost if your Grange ceased to exist?
- C. Membership Assessment
 - a. How many/what proportion of your members want to see the Grange grow and are willing/able to put in the work to make it happen?
 - b. How many/what proportion of your members want to see the Grange grow but are unwilling/unable to put in the work to make it happen?
 - c. How many/what proportion of your member have lost hope that the Grange can/will grow, but hope others can achieve success?
- D. Community Assessment
 - a. What are the needs/issues/problems in the community?
 - b. What role does the Grange play in the community?
 - c. How many other community/social/fraternal/service organizations are in the community?
 - d. Given the size & composition of the community, does the Grange fill a niche for the community?

SECTION 3: Resources, acknowledgement and Preparation

- A. Human Resources
 - a. Members
 - i. Available Skills that can be shared with the Grange?
 - ii. What needs is your Grange fulfilling for its members?
 - iii. Are Members enthusiastic about being a Grange Member?
- B. Community Resources
 - a. What opportunities are available for the Grange to interact with the community?
 - b. Identify community leaders the Grange has a working relationship with.
 - c. How can the Grange address needs/issues in the Community?
- C. Financial Resources
- D. Grange Hall (if applicable)

SECTION 4: Building an Action Plan

- A. Decide on a Vision
- B. Draft a Team
- C. Create Goals
- D. Create Benchmarks
- E. Implement
- F. Evaluate the Plan

Grange is always capitalized!

In every instance the first “G” in Grange is always capitalized. Because Grange is a proper noun.

It’s important to make sure of that in all of your flyers and announcements.

Grange is capitalized and you should tell any reporters or news outlets you encounter that it is capitalized.

Grange is a proper noun and a registered copyright.



The Role of the National Grange Digest in Your Grange

By: Joe Stefenoni National Grange Membership Director

The 2021 version of the National Grange Digest of Laws has recently been released with the changes adopted by the delegates to the 154th Session of the National Grange, but what is this book, and why does it matter to your Grange? The National Grange Digest of Laws (or ‘Digest’) is in short, the collection of laws, rules and procedures that govern our organization. Or in other words, it is the playbook that we all agree to use when we join the Grange, or are elected to serve as an officer, and helps to keep us all “between the navigational beacons”. The Digest can also be a resource to Granges and Grangers by answering any question that may arise. The Digest contains 13 chapters, which can be grouped into five sections; the Constitution, the Declaration of Purposes, the Articles of Incorporation, the By-laws and the Codes.

Chapter 1 of the Digest is the Constitution of 1986. The Constitution is the guiding document that lays out the divisions of the Order, its organization, regulation and administration, types of membership and other items considered necessary for the general guidance of the Order. Chapter 2 is the Declaration of Purposes which outlines the general objectives of our Order and provides specific objectives that we as an Order are seeking to obtain. Chapter 3 is the Articles of Incorporation of the National Grange. This chapter is the legal document that is filed with the District of Columbia where the National Grange is incorporated. The Articles of Incorporation lay out the legal structure of the organization with regard to its name, period of duration, objects, types of members and who are voting members of the corporation.

Chapter 4 contains the by-laws of the National Grange and is probably the most widely applicable chapter of the 13. The By-Laws are the laws of the Order that provide for the general operation of the organization. There are 18 different articles contained in the By-Laws which outline a variety of topics including the information to form, close or consolidate Granges, the dues/membership fees collected by the National Grange, the duties of offices and how to amend the by-laws.

Each of the remaining chapters are called the Code Chapters. They provide for more details than is provided for in the By-Laws. Chapters five through nine are the codes of the various divisions of the Order (i.e. Junior Granges through the National Grange) and provides for the organization and structure of the division of the Order. Chapter 10 is the Code of all Granges and provides for the items that pertain to and is common to all of the divisions of the Order. Chapter 11 is the Code of Ritual, Degrees & Regalia and provides for details about the ritual of the Order, including the Degrees and Regalia. Chapter 12 is the Code of Judicial Law and provides for procedures on how rulings (interpretations) are made and by whom, and the rules and regulations for Grange trials. Finally, Chapter 13 is the Code of Parliamentary Law which provides for the parliamentary rules of the Grange. In general, the sections of this chapter cover the instances when the parliamentary rules of the Grange differ from Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised. Whenever this chapter is silent on a topic or question, then Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised will apply.