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# COSG Master's Newsletter

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## Delegates

Being a delegate of the subordinate and Pomona Grange to State Grange convention is a very responsible position. You have gained wisdom about the Grange from the day you were initiated into the Subordinate Grange. You have become a leader in your Grange and it is your responsibility and privilege to represent your Grange to work with others to develop the legislative policy of the Grange at the state and if it's a national issue you help develop the legislative policy of the National Grange.

Grange members of the past have been responsible for promoting the idea of rural free delivery of the mail. They have been instrumental in getting school lunch program started. Just to name a few. So what current event do you think the Grange needs to be a forerunner in? Currently the National Grange lobby's for broadband internet access in rural areas. The National Grange Legislative policy book is available on line if you are interested in learning what the current policy is.

How does all this get started?

At the local level with a resolution voted on and sent to the state convention for consideration by the delegates.



## RAFTING the Animas River

This year we will be having our annual fun event in the Durango area. We will be rafting Labor Day weekend on the animas river. We apologize that we do not have the costs ironed out for juniors just yet. This is due to not knowing exactly how many Juniors will be attending the event. We can say that the maximum it will cost is \$35 for adults over 12 and \$26 for children under 12 per person. As always, we welcome everyone to attend the rafting. We do need to get a guestimate to give to the rafting company if you could please RSVP by 8/15 it would be great. RSVP to Dan and Jenna Greer @ [djbnagreer@live.com](mailto:djbnagreer@live.com) or text: (970) 779-8232.

Also since this is a long weekend, if anyone is interested in anything else in the southwest corner of the state we will discuss this after our Saturday rafting trip? Canyon Lands, Mesa Verde, Silverton Mine, a lake day. Bring your ideas to the rafting trip, Jenna and I will leave our weekend open.

If you are traveling and would like a place to stay, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We would be more than happy to host.

We will have the 2020 planning meeting for our fun outing at state session. We look forward to seeing you there if you miss this awesome opportunity for rafting.

## General Ag Information from Ag in the Classroom about Colorado

- Nearly half of the state's total land area is used for production agriculture.
- There are more than 170,000 jobs in Colorado related to agribusiness, contributing more than \$40 billion annually to Colorado's economy.
- Colorado exports nearly \$2 billion in products. Canada, Mexico, Japan, Korea, and China receive the largest share of Colorado food products.

**COLORADO STATE GRANGE PARTNERS WITH RALI**

RALI is the Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative whose purpose is to address the opioid crisis. **FACTS:** In 2015: 12.5 million people in the U.S. misused opioids, particularly heroin mixed with fentanyl derivatives. More than 33,000 people died from overdosing on opioids. 15,281 deaths were attributed to overdosing on commonly-prescribed opioids. RALI will provide

Ag  
Commissioner  
to speak at  
State Session  
Saturday  
Morning.

## Prescription Drug Abuse

Prescription drug abuse and misuse is serious problem in Colorado and around the United States. In 2010, more than 38,000 people died from a drug overdose in the United States – one every 14 minutes. Nearly 60 percent of those deaths involved prescription drugs and, of those, 75 percent were opioid painkillers. In Colorado, the number of drug overdose deaths range from 250-500 per year; in 2010 it was just over 300.

The rates of misuse and overdose death cut across all demographics, though they’re highest among men, persons ages 20-64, non-Hispanic whites, and those in poor and rural areas.

A small percentage of providers prescribe the majority of controlled substances but providers who do prescribe these medications frequently inherently see more higher-risk patients and are more likely to have patients who are doctor shopping for opioids.

### **Community Service Project opportunity**

If your Grange is interested in distributing Medicine disposal Kits I can provide you with an order form. The cost to your Grange is absolutely nothing. You can order a box of 200. We plan to have bags at State Session for everyone to take and distribute. IF you order a box you will be asked to sign a notice of Memorandum of Understanding.

### **Colorado State Fair**

The Colorado State Grange will again be setting up a table at the Colorado State Fair in the Ag Pavilion. If you happen to attend the Fair we hope you will take time to stop by the table. You’ll be able to pick up a milk carton bank and RALI information. If the table appears to be lacking some giveaways the storage boxes with supplies will be underneath it, so please help us out and replenish the table.

2019 is Election year for Colorado State Grange Officers.

Lecturer, Kathy Wardle is termed out according to our By-laws, which means she is not eligible for re-election. After 8 years of service I’m sure she’s ready for a change.

Marlys Halbeisen has indicated that she does not wish to serve as Treasurer again, mostly due to eye sight issues.