



Volume 2 | Issue 2  
December 2017

# COSG Master's Newsletter

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## **GUIDELINES FOR GRANGE LEADERS**

The National Grange has updated the Guidelines for Grange Leaders handbook. It can be ordered from the National Grange Supply Store for \$6.00 each plus shipping. The book gives helpful tips for Officers and committee chairmen. Contact the sales department at the National Grange office.



## **LEGACY FAMILIES**

Is your Grange made up of members who have had at least five generations of the same family as members? These families can be nominated to receive a National Grange Legacy award. You do have to provide dates of when individual joined the Grange. The family members do not have to have been members of the same Grange and one can include current Junior Grange members. I do have electronic forms available and can send paper copies when requested.

Guidelines:

1. Deadline is Monday, August 6, 2018. Any entry received after deadline will not be recognized in 2018.
2. Must have at least 5 generations of Grange members, including junior members
3. Anyone can nominate a legacy family
4. Families will be recognized at the 2018 National Convention in Stowe, VT.

## **Colorado State Grange Capital Improvement Grants end**

At least for now, the State Grange will not be awarding any more capital improvement grants to Granges in the state. Why? We've given out all the funds that were available for this program. We have invested funds from Granges that have given up their charters that must be kept by the State Grange for 7 (Seven) years. This is in compliance with the National Grange digest of laws for the Grange. The reason for keeping the funds for seven years is to allow for the possibility that the Grange dissolved is reorganized and they would have funds to begin their new journey.

This just means that we will have to look for other sources of funding for your capital improvement projects through PICK.

Fourteen Grants were given out beginning in 2005 to ten Granges in the state.

## **National Grange Foundation**

The 1 in 1,000 Club, introduced during the 151st Annual National Grange Convention in November and officially launched today, allows you to invest in the future of the Grange while taking your place at the table of an exclusive support club with a limited 1,000 spaces available.



To join, one must fill out a form to reserve your place in the 1 in 1,000 Club and choose to be invoiced or make a payment in full or payment plan to contribute \$1,000 to the charitable Grange Foundation - a contribution that may be tax-deductible; contact your financial or tax advisor. Club members will enjoy some exclusive benefits including invitations to special dinners and events, detailed correspondence about the Foundation's activities and more. Club members will also receive a pin and certificate to honor their status in the philanthropic circle.

There will only be 1,000 members of this group in perpetuity. When the member passes away, the membership may be first made available to an individual designated by the late Club member but will require a "renewal" payment of \$1,000 in order to keep the membership number. Should the designated individual wish not to renew the membership, it will be offered to the person at the top of the waiting list (or general membership if 1,000 are not already assigned). Groups (Granges, other Foundations, other organizations) who wish to become a member of the Club will require renewal every 10 years of \$1,000 in order to keep their number.

#### TAX REFORM NEWS from National Grange Legislative Director

Reforming the tax code under any circumstance is extremely difficult but this time around there are so many interlocking issues that cannot be ignored. Several Republican senators are concerned about the impact the tax plan could have on the deficit by adding up to \$1.5 trillion to the national debt over the next decade. The Senate plan would repeal Obama Care's individual mandate which requires most Americans to buy health insurance or pay a penalty, but not all Republican senators are sold on the idea; neither are the Democrats. The Senate will attempt to pass its tax package before attempting a budget deal to fund the government past December 8.

The National Grange is advocating for its adopted tax policies as tax reform moves through Congress. Some of the key provisions are:

- Simplify the entire code and close corporate loopholes, complexities and unfair practices so everyone pays fair share
- Lower the personal income tax rates to allow individuals and families to keep more of their hard earned pay
- Preserve cash accounting for small and mid-sized farms and family businesses so they are taxed only on what they produce and bring to market, not on their production inventory.
- Allow interest deductions for land purchases and production inputs
- Reduce capital gains tax rates so aging landowners have an incentive to sell to young and beginning farmers
- Repeal the death tax so families who have built businesses over several generations of hard work are not forced to sell to developers and others just to pay estate taxes
- Reduce the corporate business tax rate so American companies can compete in a globalized world and have the incentive to bring off-shore taxes back home
- Preserve the Section 199 deduction to allow farmer cooperatives to continue to reinvest in agriculture and rural communities

Tax reform has passed the House and is pending in the Senate. The Senate is debating tax reform and will attempt to pass its bill by December 1. The two bills have several major tax policy differences. A House-Senate conference committee will hash out these differences behind closed doors and will try to present a compromise package to both the House and Senate before Christmas for a final vote.