

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

151st

ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF THE

COLORADO STATE GRANGE



Held at the
Durango Masonic Temple
421 Turner Drive
Durango, CO
September 25-28, 2024

In Memory 2023-2024

Animas Valley #194
Coleen Bryce

Florida #306
Karen Ray

Marvel #479
Jean Ayers

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION INDEX

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OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

- Master/President****Christine Hamp**, Nine Mile Falls, WA
- Overseer**.....**John Benedik**, Flemington, NJ
- Lecturer****Tom Gwin**, Olympia, WA
- Steward****Christopher Johnston Durand**, MI
- Assistant Steward****Walter Hartley**, No. Scituate, RI
- Lady Assistant Steward****Kathy Gibson**, Worcester, MA
- Chaplain****Kay Hoffman Stiles**, Westminster, MD
- Treasurer****Joe Goodrich**, Middletown Springs, VT
- Secretary****Debbie Campbell**. Newport, PA
- Gatekeeper****David Allen**, Mooresville, NC
- Ceres****Cindy Greer**, Hesperus, CO
- Pomona****Barbara Foster**, Pennsboro, WV
- Flora** **Welina Shufeldt**, S. Coffeerville
- High Priest of Demeter**.....**Roger Bostwick**, Ozawkie, KS
- Priestess Annalist**.....**Martha Stefenoni**, Santa Rosa, CA
- Priest Archon**.....**Wm. Chip Narvel**, Dover, DE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Leroy Watson** –Walpole, NH **Lynette Shaeffer** Lebanon, IL **Betsy Huber**, Master, Lincoln Univ. PA
- Buddy Overstreet**, San Antonio, TX **Susan Noah** – Salem, Or **Chris Hamp**, Nine Mile Falls, WA

DIRECTORS AND NATIONAL STAFF

- Legislative Director**, **Burton Eller**, National Grange Headquarters, beller@nationalGrange.org
- Communications Director**, Philip Vonada, communications@nationalGrange.org
- Leadership/Membership Development Director**, **Amanda Brozana Rios**, Membership@nationalGrange.org

OFFICERS OF THE COLORADO STATE GRANGE

- Master** Gary Wardle, Arvada
- Overseer**.....Harry Greer, Hesperus
- Lecturer**.....B.J. Bushman, Castlerock
- Steward**..... Roger Ayers, Hesperus
- Assistant Steward** Mike Lackey, Arvada
- Lady Assistant Steward** Laura Anderson (Conifer)
- Treasurer** Sheryl Ayers, Hesperus
- Secretary**Cindy Greer, Hesperus
- Gatekeeper** Barry Willits, Hotchkiss
- Ceres** Yvonne Ludwig, Conifer
- Pomona**Dee Dee Ramstetter, Golden
- Flora**Terri Costeldia, Golden

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- John Cruz.....Chairman.....Arvada**
- Roger Ayers Hesperus**
- Tom Campion Hesperus**

Pianist for Session..... Ruth Wilson Francisco, Lewis

DIRECTORS

- Legislative Director**.....Mike Lackey, Arvada
- Co-Director of Family Activities**..... Idella Lewis, Wheat Ridge
- Co-Director of Family Activities**.....Karen Baxter, Bayfield
- Community Service Director**.....Lisa Mittan, Arvada
- Director of Membership Development**.....
- Director of Mandy Project**..... Cindy Greer, Hesperus
- Directors of Junior & Youth Grange Activities**..... Kathy Wardle, Arvada
- Director of Health Awareness**..... Louetta Phelps, Ignacio
- Director of PR/IC**.....
- Director of Real Estate**..... Mike Lackey, Arvada
- Historian**..... Jeanne Davies, Highlands Ranch



151st ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE COLORADO STATE GRANGE

Masonic Temple, Durango, CO

Wednesday, September 25, 2024 - Seventeen rectangle tables and 6 round Tables from Marvel Grange were hauled in to the Masonic Temple by Roger Ayers, with the help of Dave Mathias. Five tables were used in the meeting area. The Masonic Temple had several tables already set up in the basement, which we moved around for displays and added some from Marvel.

The officers and directors met for dinner at 6 p.m. The Greer's were responsible for preparing the meal which consisted of BBQ Beef, baked new potatoes, green beans, green salad and dressing, rolls, and pecan pie and apple pie, as well as beverages. Tom Gwin, National Lecturer was introduced to the group as our National Delegate this year.

Directors began setting up their display area.

The officers practiced the opening, closing and 6th degree following Dinner.

First Day, Thursday, September 26, 2024.

Committees met to review resolutions Thursday morning. Entries in Family Activities, Junior Grange and Lecturer were taken during the morning. Special thanks to Sandy Valencia, from Marvel who helped take entries for the Lecturers department and helped the judges for both Lecturer and Junior.

The hospitality room was open and had turkey and ham and chips donated by La Plata Pomona Grange available along with other items individuals had brought. Special thanks to Carol Thompson, Trish Corman, and others who helped set the items out. Special thanks to Sandy Valencia, from Marvel who helped take entries for the Lecturers department and helped the judges for both Lecturer and Junior.

The State officers marched in at 1:45 p.m. Special thanks to Amy Peterson, past LAS who designed the drill for this year. Worthy Master, Gary Wardle opened the 151st session of the Colorado Grange in the sixth degree. Honored Guests, Tom Gwin, National Lecturer; Cindy Greer, National Ceres and Past Master of the Colorado State Grange and Dave McCord, Past Master of the Colorado State Grange were recognized. Roll call of officers was taken with the following members acting as protem due to absences, Tom Campion for Steward, Carol Lackey for L.A.S., Jean Willits for Ceres, Idella Lewis for Pomona, Dee Dee Ramstetter for Flora, Ex committee David McCord for John Cruz and Kay McCord for Tom Campion. Roger Ayers moved the agenda be adopted.

Worthy Overseer, Harry Greer gave a partial report of the credentials report. The Grange was put at ease and Overseer, Harry Greer filled the office of Master while Master, Gary Wardle gave his annual address. Overseer, Harry Greer highlighted sections of the Master/President's address and Thanked Gary for the report. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted. Roger Ayers, Executive committee shared that all executive committee minutes are in delegate packets. He also shared that the board meets via zoom. Roger Ayers thanked John Cruz for chairing the meetings this year as the chairman. He was unable to attend this year's convention. We thank Larry Corman for sharing his zoom account with the State Grange.

Leadership Scholarship Foundation report is included. Master, Gary Wardle shared that the board needs people to get involved in the foundation. He shared the requirements for becoming a part of the foundation. There will be foundation meeting this evening at 7 p.m. Some will be attending via zoom. Master, Gary Wardle read the Leadership Scholarship Foundation report.

The Good of the Order committee partial report was given, with no resolutions needing to be considered. Tom Gwin, National Lecturer was recognized and shared information from the National Grange. The building was sold in February. The buyer is from Texas and is utilizing the top floor for his business. The National Grange has a three-year lease on the third floor, which allows the National Grange to examine their financial situation and make plans for the future. This year's convention is in Iowa with some new features and tours every day. Rural life Initiative information is available. The 2025 National convention will be a cruise out of Miami. Grange Revival will be in Torrey, Utah in July 25. They will possibly be touring Capital Reef National Park. *Good Day* magazine is available for subscription from National on a quarterly basis.

Washington State Grange is a big state with 215 Granges, 185 Grange halls. Some are well maintained and others not. Some have worked with their state legislature to receive grants for capital improvement. Thirteen Granges received \$990,000 from the state for capital improvement projects only. Their state Grange foundation is seeking a block grant this coming year. He encouraged every state to see if there is a capital funds grant request within the legislature.

They have had to look at how they treat their new members. They changed to having the Granges send in their new members when they join and not wait until the quarterly report which enables the state to get them information sooner. They

get a membership card, new membership packet and receive their Grange paper mailing list which is sent out 10 times a year. Part of their increase in membership is taking on the Youth Fair program. To be a 4-H leader one had to have a covid vaccination, which split the program in Washington. The Washington State Grange added a day to their convention and added a day for families. They had judging of animal classes for the kids and adults. He challenged us to think outside of what we have normally done.

Prior to being a full time employed Master in Washington, he managed the State 4-H Fair. He has been a Grange member since he was 14 and is close to being a 50-year member. He shared information about his family and subordinate Grange. Their state convention is in June before the Cherry Harvest season starts and other fruit harvest lasts that through November.

Announcements:

Enterprise Grange has a stocking project every year and they collect the hotel toiletries to put in the stockings, they would appreciate any that are not used.

Silent Auction for PICK is downstairs, raffle items are on display in the basement and tickets are available.

Idella Lewis announced the bake sale for the FA department will take place when the judges are finished judging.

Sheryl Ayers announced that the Alumni breakfast will be downstairs at 6:45 a.m. tomorrow morning, bring your tickets.

Cindy Greer shared information about the Grange emblem quilt on display. It will be part of the National Grange Foundation on-line auction which starts in November.

Gary Wardle shared information about the Grange Museum at the Plains Community Center – The City of Aurora is closing the museum and wants to get rid of the items that were there. If you have items that were donated or want, please let him know and they will make arrangements to get the items. Idella Lewis asked if there might be another museum that might be interested in some of the items.

The Grange was closed in the fourth degree at 3:15 p.m.

Leadership/Scholarship Foundation meeting was held at 7:20 p.m. Jim Miller, Nick Maydew joined the group via zoom. Others present were Gary Wardle, Roger & Sheryl Ayers, Harry & Cindy Greer, Tom Campion, and Jon Kullmann. Jim Miller called for nominations for President and Gary Wardle was elected, Shery Ayers was elected Treasurer and Nick Maydew will continue as Secretary. The group discussed requirements for membership and the need to rebuild the board and some of the things that need to happen. Jim will look at the current application and make recommendations for potential changes. Sheryl will be on the bank account and take over those duties immediately as we currently have several checks that need deposited.

PICK held their annual meeting following the leadership/scholarship meeting with Trish Corman joining the group via zoom. The report was in the packet as well as a budget for 2025. Those present: Harry & Cindy Greer, Sheryl & Roger Ayers, Tom Campion, Jon Kullman, Karen Baxter, Gary Wardle. Cindy reviewed the report and the proposed budget. Tom Campion was wondering if the state of Colorado has any grant possibility like the state of Washington. Cindy subscribed Pick to Grant Station. Sheryl asked what that did for us. Pick is doing two breakfasts at this session. Silent Auction is in progress. Sheryl Ayers said she was bothered that checks written to Children's hospital were not cashed for Mandy recipients. It would be interesting to know why? Cindy shared what she knew about the two. Colorado is hosting the Regional leadership conference and there might be some opportunities to utilize funds for that. As far as reaching out – we as members need to reach out to others. Meeting adjourned.

Friday, September 27, 2024

Alumni Breakfast

Sheryl Ayers chaired the breakfast in the absence of President, Lisa Mittan; and Vice President, Larry Corman. Sheryl recognized National Lecturer, Tom Gwin; and Gary Wardle as CSG Master/President as Skunks and gave them some air freshener. Breakfast was prepared by Pick under the direction of Harry & Cindy Greer. Sheryl gave air freshener to all the skunks. Larry Corman prepared a bingo game which Sheryl shared. Kathy Wardle and Barry Willits were bingo prize winners.

Tom Gwin, National Lecturer shared that Washington has a similar group called the "Has Beens" and they are called stinkers. When you become a has been you receive a cane and he shared that if you go out of office and back in you receive a crutch. He shared information about their conventions during Covid which lasted for 2 years. He encouraged us to keep working for the benefit of the Grange.

Gary Wardle, State Master welcomed everyone and encouraged all to go to the train museum and they have a room called the Grange.

There were 14 in attendance at the breakfast.

Election of officers: President – Larry Corman, Vice President – Barry Willits, Secretary – Kathy Wardle.

The Second Day of the 151st Session of the Colorado State Grange opened in regular for at 8:45 a.m. Roll call of officers was taken. Final report of the credentials committee was taken, with 21 delegates present. There were 13 Granges represented.

Nominations for Ex committee were taken: Mike Lackey was elected to the executive committee. Nominations were taken for Assistant Steward: Larry Corman was elected as Assistant Steward.

Ag Chairman David McCord presented resolutions with the assistance of Sheryl Ayers.

AG#1 Proposition 127 was amended in committee and adopted on the floor.

AG #2 Oppose Ban on fur sales in Denver was adopted

AG #3 Opposes ban on Slaughterhouses in Denver was amended in committee and adopted on the floor. Approved.

Harry Greer, Highways transportation committee chairman read HW&T #1 which was amended and approved.

Roger Ayers moved that the minutes from yesterday's meeting be approved by the executive committee. Seconded and carried.

Roger Ayers, chairman of the Good of the Order committee reported on their committee's resolutions.

GOTO #1 – Junior Grange Dues to National – Adopted

GOTO #2 – National Grange Expense – rejected in committee – Sheryl Ayers moved we bring it back to the floor.

Seconded and carried. After much discussion a motion made to send back to committee for rewording. Seconded and carried.

GOTO #3 – rejected in committee. Sheryl Ayers moved the resolution be brought back to the floor. Seconded and carried. Sheryl Ayers moved we table the resolution until next year. Seconded and discussed and passed.

The Grange was put into recess for the Membership Lunch. Serious Texas pulled pork and turkey was served with coleslaw, potatoes, potato salad, chips and cookies with condiments and bread. Master Gary Wardle presented membership awards to the following Granges who had net gains in membership: Altona, Sunflower, Animas Valley, Mount Lookout, and Pikes Peak Grange. Each Grange was presented a certificate of achievement.

The Grange was called back to order, but in recess for the speaker, the Lecturer had us sing If You're Happy and you know it. James Henderson, Farm Bureau representative was introduced. James Henderson is a 5th generation farmer and rancher. Their ranch is in the San Luis Valley and has been in continuous family operation for over 140 years. They raise cattle, oats, barley, and other forage crops including alfalfa for use in the dairy industry. Henderson has served as the Vice President of Colorado Farm Bureau since 2020. He and his wife Kiley have 6 children and are active in their church and community. He spoke to the delegates about what farmers and ranchers need to do to be successful and continue. He also talked about Water issues in Colorado. Master Gary Wardle, thanked him for coming and presented him with copies of Colorado State Grange History and a cookbook.

The Bible was opened. Kathy Wardle, Grange Activities Chairman presented the following:

GA 1 – Contest deadlines – amended and adopted

GA 2 – Quilt Block contest – amended and adopted

GA 3 – Colorado Quilts of Valor – adopted

Announcements were made and the Grange closed in regular form.

The Memorial service was held at 6 p.m. under the direction of Chaplain, Amy Peterson. Amy draped the charter with the assistance of Trish Corman, A.S. and Carol Lackey, L.A.S. Ruth Wilson Francisco played the piano and sang. Amy read bios for Norman Brooks and Karen Ray, both of whom were past state officers. Cindy Greer, Sec read from the book of memories the members who had been recognized by others with a donation to the Leadership/Scholarship Foundation.

The Western themed Gala was held following the Memorial service under the direction of Lecturer, BJ Bushman. A Nacho bar, cobbler and ice cream was available for those in attendance. BJ Bushman presented Lecturers star awards and hobby corner awards. Gary Wardle presented the Community Service awards and Idella Lewis and Karen Baxter presented the Family activities awards. Marlon and Moana Greer entertained the group with many western songs and Marlon played his fiddle. A backdrop had been set up for photo opportunities which many took advantage of. The evening closed around 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 28, 2024.

Past Master's Breakfast, September 28, 2024

Presiding Past Master, Harry Greer welcomed the group of 11. PICK provided the breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage, muffins, yogurt, and fruit with beverages. Amy Peterson, State chaplain gave the blessing. There were wooden magnets on the table made by Karen Ray that everyone was encouraged to take home.

Order of business: Roger Ayers will be the presiding Past Master, Amy Peterson will move up to substitute Master. Nominations were taken for secretary. Sheryl Ayers was nominated and elected.

It was determined that Alan Caldwell still has the record book because he was going to digitalize it. There were no National Masters present; State Masters present - 4, Pomona Masters - 8, Subordinate Masters - 11, Youth masters – 5, Junior Master- 4.

Harry read a section from the Colorado History book about the Association of Past Masters. Several questions about Past Masters were asked, with some discussion. He asked people to name some of the past Master's association presidents and prizes were given.

The third day of the Colorado State Grange was opened in the fourth degree. Roll Call was taken.

Good of the order chairman, Roger Ayers, presented GOTO 2. The resolution was adopted.

Barry Willits of Redlands Mesa Grange presented a few pictures of Redlands Mesa Grange Activities. The Grange was put at ease in preparation for installation of officers.

National Lecturer, Tom Gwin installed Larry Corman to the Assistant Steward position. Mike Lackey was ill so will be installed later.

The Grange was called back to order and Larry Corman shared information about the CSG website.

Budget chairman, Larry Corman was called to present the budget. Questions were answered. Shelly Griffin moved the budget be accepted. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dave McCord shared greeting from Marge and Dave Sassman.

Sheryl Ayers showed some of the items from the PICK silent auction to encourage individuals to bid on the items as the auction closes immediately after lunch.

Secretary Cindy Greer reported that we missed having a name in the Book of memories which will be added. For a name to be in the book a donation needs to be made to the Leadership/scholarship foundation. Other comments were made and questions were answered.

Granges were encouraged to take the pamphlets from the state fair display home to use in their communities and informed that they can make arrangements to use one of the TVs.

Gary Wardle talked about the Leadership/scholarship foundation. He explained that one can be members of the foundation by making a \$500.00 donation. The foundation needs people or Granges to show interest. He covered some of the scholarship application requirements which are due April 15.

A round of applause was given to Larry Corman for his work on the web site.

United States 250th anniversary is coming in 2026 and the National Grange is looking for ideas for that celebration and how the Local and National Grange can be involved. Ideas can be submitted to Gary via email.

CSG Convention in 2025 discussion was held.

- Sedalia/Castlerock was suggested.
- People could investigate AIR B and B's or VRBO's which are often a lot less expensive than hotels.
- Masonic State Lodge is in Colorado Springs.
- A Retreat center might be used.
- Cortez has facilities, Elks lodge.
- Hotchkiss Fairgrounds facility.

Amy Peterson moved that the executive committee look for potential session places around Sedalia/Castlerock or Colorado Springs for 2025. Seconded and carried.

Kathy Wardle challenged that each Grange to send five resolutions to the State Convention next year.

Gary Wardle has been contemplating the creation of a committee to evaluate the schedule and activities for State convention. He asked what other types of things the delegates would like to do. The following was presented:

- Workshop on Grant writing or funding for Capital Improvements.
- Fund raising ideas
- Hall Rental workshop/discussion
- How the \$ raised affect their exemption and what we need to be aware of
- Tours and transportation

B.J. would like to encourage people take photos with their entries in front of the backdrop from the Gala before it is taken down.

Officers and Directors were reminded to turn in their expense reports as soon as possible.

The Grange was put at ease and the Chaplain closed the Bible on the Alter for lunch.

Kathy Wardle, Junior, and Youth Director welcomed everyone to the lunch. Amy Peterson, Chaplain offered a prayer. Mt. Allison Grange served Frito Pies, with all the fixings, cookies, and beverages. She had information about the Junior Plus 1 program on the tables and shared additional information. The participants were to write their name on papers using sign language. Awards were given for most creative, most useful, and most? Cindy Greer signed "Ancient Word" and then taught everyone God Bless America in Sign Language. Tom Gwin, a member of the National Junior Team shared some information about changes coming up that will be available at the Convention concerning the Photography contest and other Lecturers programs.

The Grange was called back to Order at 1:45 p.m. The Grange was raised to the 5th Degree without form and Harry Greer gave five candidates the short form fifth degree. After a short recess the 6th degree was presented by the State officers present to five candidates: Jon Kullman, Mike Francisco, Carol Thompson, Mark Wilson, and Kirk Ramstetter. The candidates were asked to introduce themselves after the feast. Special thanks to Dee Dee Ramstetter for filling in for Terri Costeldia, Flora, who was ill; for decorating the hall and serving as Flora for the session.

The group thanked those who worked to make sure this meeting was successful with a round of applause. (Gary Wardle, Harry & Cindy Greer, BJ Bushman, Idella Lewis, and the many hands that helped in one way or another). The Grange was lowered to the 4th degree and closed at 2:48 p.m.

Following the close of the Grange the rooms were cleaned up and the trailer packed with many hands helping.

Final Banquet

The Final Banquet of the Colorado State Grange Session was held on Saturday, September 28 at 6:00 p.m. Roger Ayers, Executive committee member presided over the banquet in the absence of John Cruz Executive committee chairman. Everyone in attendance was given half a playing card that was used for door prizes. Amy Peterson, State Chaplain offered a prayer and Tom Campion led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. We enjoyed the "Chow" catered by the Mt Allison Grange. The Menu included Roast beef, Chicken, green beans, salad, rolls, cake and ice cream and beverages. After the meal Roger introduced the special Guests: Tom Gwin, National Lecturer, Gary Wardle, State Master, Cindy Greer, National Lecturer & Past State Master; Dave McCord, Past CO State Master, and the CO Executive committee: Roger Ayers, Tom Campion, and Harry Greer.

National Lecturer, Tom Gwin shared a few words and presented a gift from WA to Gary Wardle. Gary Wardle presented Tom with a gift from Colorado.

Door prizes were won by: Kay McCord, Larry Corman and Kirk Ramstetter. The door prizes were provided by and made by Roger Ayers.

A short skit was presented about the Founders of the Grange. Special thanks to Marvel Grange for providing the skit. The actors included: Tom Gwin, Tom Campion, Larry Corman, Roger Ayers, Harry Greer, Jon Kullman, Dave McCord, Sheryl Ayers, And Cindy Greer.

At 7:15 the raffle drawing took place with Shelly Griffin winning the quilt, Tammy Marty of Hotchkiss winning the Wooden chest, Ruth Wilson Franscisco winning the Lords Supper Diamond painting.

Four Quilts of valor were presented: Ralph Phelp, a member of Mt Allison served in the army from 1953-1955, Otis Sikes a member of Lewis Grange served in the Army for 4 years, (Shelly Griffin accepted and will deliver the quilt) one year during Vietnam;, Marcus Chapman, Mt. Allison Grange served as a marine from 2018 – 2022 – his Mother Yvonne Chapman accepted the quilt; and Dylan Simon, Mt. Allsion Grange was in the Navy from 2007-2011 and in Reserves from 2014 -2017, His mother in law, Trish Corman Accepted the quilt.

The Outstanding Granger award was presented to Karen Baxter. She was presented with a certificate, special name badge, a small gift and gift cards for all she has done for the Grange over the years.

Roger Ayers thanked everyone for coming.

Cindy Greer, Secretary

PRESIDENT/MASTER'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

Gary Wardle

Brothers and Sisters of the Colorado State Grange, fellow Officers and Directors and National Grange Lecturer, Tom Gwin.

Welcome to the 151st Annual Convention of the Colorado State Grange in Durango, Colorado. It is my honor to serve as the President of the Colorado State Grange for the past two years. I want to thank you all for your support and work for the grange.

As we begin a new year, I hope you will continue to celebrate the 150 years of the Colorado State Grange. Thank you to all that had celebrations this past year. We need to make membership development a priority each year. Our community service projects could include cooperating with other organizations. Promote the events and have membership information available.

I am happy to report that we did not lose any granges this past year. Again, this past year we had five granges with a net gain in membership, good work. I am working with a group of new grangers in Sterling Colorado to start a new grange, Platte Valley Grange. I hope they will have 13 members soon so they can get a charter. This year the State Grange received a grant from the Rural Life Initiative to help host our booth at the Colorado State Fair. The grant provided funding to man the booth for 8 days of the fair. The funding provided funds for lodging, food, travel, and monitors to show videos. Cindy and Harry manned the first four days of the fair and Kathy and I manned the last four days of the fair. The Rural Life Initiative provided a video and printed information to hand out at the fair. We also showed the video from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute or PCORI grant. Thank you, Cindy, for making the display and delivering it to Pueblo.

National Grange

In November, Kathy and I attended the National Grange convention held in Niagara Falls, New York. Congratulations to Cindy Greer for her work as the Ceres of the National Grange. The National Grange Executive Committee accepted a contract to sell the National Grange headquarters building. The sale was completed in the spring of 2024. The National Grange has signed a lease agreement to lease the Third floor of the National Grange building. The National Grange will continue to have a presence in Washington DC and be in the National Grange building. Kathy and I attended the Masters Conference in Myrtle Beach, North Carolina. We also attended the Great Plains Regional Conference held in Coffeyville, Oklahoma. Colorado will host the Great Plains in 2025. I hope you will plan to attend. The National Grange has received a grant from the Pfizer company, The Rural Life Initiative. This grant is to support granges that want to have a program promoting rural life but do not have the funding for the program. The grant will not just provide funding for capital building improvements but will provide funding to promote membership in the grange. The grant program is open to all granges. If you have a program you would like to complete, give the details to the State Grange and we will support sending the application to the National Grange. The information and video provided for the State Fair are available to show at your event.

Legislative

Thank you to Mike Lackey for his work at the Legislature this past year. There are measures on the ballot this year that the Colorado State Grange urges grangers to follow closely. One ballot measure will stop the hunting of Mountain Lions. We should all become knowledgeable on the ballot measures and vote in November. The National 2024 Farm Bill has passed the House of Representatives but will have a difficult time in the senate.

Colorado agricultural fact. Colorado is home to 946 species of pollinators, bees, butterflies, moths, flies, wasps, and beetles. Colorado ranks 6th in the US in peach production with over 2,400 acres of peach orchards. Peaches account for 75% of fruit production in Colorado. Colorado is #5 in the nation in growing potatoes, 2 billion pounds each year. 832,000 hogs are marketed across Colorado on 1,227 farms. Almost half of the land in Colorado is used for farming. The Ag industry brings in to Colorado 170,000 jobs and over \$40 billion every year.

I would like to thank all who assisted me this past year. Thank you to Cindy Greer for her assistance and work as secretary. I would like to thank the executive committee, Tom Campion, John Cruz, Roger Ayers, and Harry Greer for their work this past year. Thanks, to Sharyl Ayres for her work as treasurer. Thanks to the department directors, Dave McCord, Agriculture; Lisa Mittan, Community Service; Idella Lewis and Karen Baxter, Family Activities; Legislative/Real Estate, Mike Lackey; and Lecturer, BJ Bushman, and Health, Louetta Phelps. A special thanks to Kathy Wardle for assistance with Junior Grange and planning for the convention this year.

Fraternally,
Gary Wardle, President Colorado State Grange

Let us be ever mindful of our motto:
IN ESSENTIALS UNITY, IN NON-ESSENTIALS LIBERTY, AND IN ALL THINGS CHARITY

Treasurers Report

Sheryl Ayers

The Colorado State Grange investments allow us to continue to feel financially secure in continuing our Grange and community work. The funds are in good hands and are being watched carefully by the Executive Committee, your State Secretary, and the representatives of the various investment companies. The LPL Investments showed a decrease of about \$50,000 (down to near \$700,000) in November, 2023, but since then have increased quite steadily to over \$850,000.

As of the September 3, 2024, we have the following “cash” assets:

Community Banks checking	\$8,375.81
Community Banks Money Market	\$250,000.00
Community Banks Investment Fund	\$496,725.31 (Castlewood sale, etc.)
LPL Financial (Grandview sale)	\$390,485.74
LPL Financial (Invested)	\$461,560.20
Metrum Credit Union	\$3,038.78
Metrum Emergency Fund	\$9,141.72,

for a total of \$1,619,327.56 (\$138,311.75 more than last year).

Both accounts associated with Grange Hall sales are held by the State Grange for that Subordinate to use when they purchase/build a new hall. (The Grange, according to the *National Digest*, has safeguards in place for funds from Grange buildings/property being sold and for Granges surrendering their charter.) The “invested” funds in LPL are partially from the sale of the State Grange building years ago.

I am grateful to Cindy Greer, our State Secretary, for always having information I need and for being willing to work so well with me to help me do this job. Gary Wardle, State Master, and the Executive Committee members always are carefully considering our finances, asking good questions, and giving helpful suggestions, as well as being patient with last-minute reports from me. I thank you, fellow Grangers, for entrusting me with the privilege and responsibility of being your treasurer.

Fraternally,

Secretary’s Report

Cindy Greer

As Secretary this past year, I have continued to learn and grow in the role. While some tasks have become easier compared to my first year, we have realized that a few important items were overlooked from years before. Fortunately, Sheryl Ayers, your treasurer, and I have worked together to address these issues.

Most of the Subordinate secretaries are very cooperative. When I receive unclear reports, we usually manage to clarify them quickly. Maintaining the membership list is an ongoing task. I keep a spreadsheet on our computer and strive to keep the National database updated. We have two subordinate secretaries who do a great job of updating their Grange’s lists, but there are times when they forget to inform me about changes. While it is not perfect, we are close to accurate numbers. At the beginning of the year, I started sending information to new members promptly, but as the year went on, I fell behind, and a few have yet to receive their materials.

Granges must understand the critical importance of submitting their Exempt Property Report. This year, five Granges overlooked the notices to complete and return the report. Due to delays from the Department of Labor in sending me the reports, our turnaround time was particularly short.

While the Department prefers that we file all reports online, many of our Granges face broadband and internet access issues that make this challenging. After a second notice, four of the five Granges submitted their reports, but one is currently seeking forgiveness and working on filing theirs.

When a Grange fails to submit the Exempt Property Report by the deadline, the Department of Labor sends a notice of non-filing. If the second notice is also ignored, a registered letter is sent, stating that the Grange has lost its exempt property status. The property then gets classified as commercial, resulting in a tax bill. Because all Grange properties are tied to the "Colorado State Grange," the state office receives these notices if the correct address is on file. In this instance, the county had an outdated address, leading to a tax notice being sent to the Castlewood address.

The county then attempted to contact the "owner" and eventually found the secretary of the subordinate Grange, initiating the process to reapply for exempt property status. Thankfully, the county representative was familiar with the Grange and its community contributions, which facilitated our communication. We held a four-way call with him, the past and new secretaries, and myself. The new secretary completed the required forms, but due to lack of internet access, the copy she sent was unreadable. I found the form online, submitted it, only to discover it was the wrong one. After receiving the correct form from the state representative, I filled it out, and now the subordinate Grange is awaiting a decision from the Review Board in October.

I urge every Grange to complete and return their Exempt Property Report as soon as they receive it, as it is due by April 15. Keeping a copy of the forms can help ensure you know what to look for and prevent any issues that could lead to paying commercial property taxes.

Additionally, every Grange needs to file a 990N postcard with the IRS to maintain its exempt status. This process takes about five minutes and must be done online; the IRS does not send reminders, but they will notify you if you are late. For most subordinate Granges, this form is due now, as the IRS considers the Grange year ending August 31. You can miss a couple of years, but missing more than three in a row means losing your status and having to pay at least \$600 to regain it. Please prioritize these reports to avoid unnecessary complications and expenses. It is a simple choice: spend five minutes filing the report or face a \$600 fee and a complicated reinstatement process.

Many Granges have members who have achieved 25-year (Silver Star) or 50-year (Golden Sheaf) continuous membership status, yet these achievements are not being recognized. It is important to identify your 50-year members, as they pay reduced dues to the State, but the secretary needs to know who they are to acknowledge their longevity. While you are not required to order certificates from National—since they can be expensive—it is still essential to find ways to honor these members.

This year, I spent considerable time gathering and formatting articles for the Colorado Granger newspaper. We also collected feedback on how Grangers prefer to receive their paper, and I encourage you to review that report. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out—I am here to help!

I still face challenges with Granges sending more than four pictures with their articles. I would prefer that you select the four images you want included, rather than sending many and asking me to choose. In July, we attended the Great Plains Leadership Conference in Oklahoma, which was a valuable experience. Colorado is set to host the conference in 2025, and we hope many of you will participate, likely in June.

Harry and I set up the State Fair Exhibit on August 22. Thanks to a grant from Pfizer, the State Grange was able to expand the exhibit and cover most of the expenses. While the State Fair attracts around 500,000 visitors, the foot traffic in the ag building is noticeably lower. Still, I am proud of the presence we have maintained at the fair over the years. Putting everything together required a significant effort, especially given the tight timeline.

Overall, it has been a good year, and I want to express my gratitude for the hard work of your subordinate and Pomona secretaries. Please take a moment to thank them, as their role is not always easy. They must maintain communication with all members, ensure dues are paid, and send reports to me so I can forward them too National. Most of the time, I receive our quarterly reports on schedule, which is a testament to their efforts. Thank you to Harry for listening to my venting at times, and to Gary Wardle for handling things that I determined were part of his job. Thank you all for your support!

Granger Options Report

As a reminder, the resolution passed at State session last year states the following:

1. **RESOLVED;** that the Colorado State Grange require members to **OPT IN** to continue to receive the Granger in a paper format, and further be it

2. **RESOLVED;** that the Colorado State Grange require members to **OPT IN** to receive the Granger as an e-mail attachment by providing an e-mail address to the Colorado State Grange state office, and further be it
3. **RESOLVED;** That the Colorado State Grange Executive Committee continue to research other printing and layout options for cost reduction.

We created the **OPT IN** form for members to choose how they wanted to receive the Colorado Granger and it has been published in two consecutive Grange papers. The last form created was an OPT OUT form. This gave members three opportunities to choose how they wanted to receive the Colorado Granger.

We are currently putting the form for all options in the paper for new members to make their choice. If we receive an email for new members, we automatically add them to the email list otherwise we send paper copies.

- We had 135 opt in for email version.
- We had 135 opt in for Paper copies (Plus 10 for Sunflower Grange and 5 for the state office).
- We had 13 indicate that they did not want to receive the Granger.
- 305 households did not respond to OPT IN forms.
- Which means that we now mail out 578 copies (Sept 24) via USPS and 127 via email plus the National Officers and Other State Granges.
- As our Postage use has reduced slightly, even though the price of postage has increased. We did save a little on postage.
- Number of members 1008, includes junior +1.
 - Have email address for 588 (a little over half of our membership)

Date	Paper Cost	Postage	copies	copies reduced
10/31/2023	\$ 1,656.04	\$ 356.30	711	
1/15/2024	\$ 2,050.98	\$ 362.81	713	Includes Handbook
3/18/2024	\$ 1,622.90	\$ 268.22	627	
5/8/2024	\$ 1,578.67	\$ 261.13	608	
7/8/2024	\$ 1,575.25	\$ 252.18	587	
9/8/2024	\$ 1,575.03	\$ 279.70	579	132
Total for 5 months	\$ 10,058.87	\$ 1,780.34	3825	
Total Expense	\$ 11,839.21		\$3.09/issue	
Total Membership	1005	includes Jr. Plus 1		

Annual Agriculture Report
David H. McCord, Agriculture Director

Meetings:

Colorado Ag Council:

Wed. January 24

Wed. Feb. 7

Tues. March 19, Zoom, Colorado Ag Day, Ag Council, and legislators

Tues. Ap. 2

Note that the Ag Council's creative and dynamic energy is decreased over what it was pre-Pandemic. I do not know if CSG was sent a dues request to the Grange Treasurer.

Ag related events attended: Colorado Farm Show in Greeley, National Western Stock Show, CSU Spur Campus (several events)

At the CSG Annual Session last year, Delegates voted to oppose initiative #91 to ban mountain lion, bobcat and lynx hunting and trapping. The #91 proponents obtained sufficient signatures to be on the ballot this fall.

In addition to initiative #91, I track two Denver only initiatives also important to Colorado agriculture. One would prohibit the manufacture, distribution, display, sale, or trade of animal fur products in the City and the second would ban slaughterhouses. The fur ban not only includes furs and hides but also fur products noting that cowboy hats are made of rabbit and beaver fur and would be banned for sale in Denver, especially important at the National Western Stock Show. The other would outlaw slaughterhouses inside Denver imposing a very harmful impact on our lamb producers. One Denver slaughterhouse remains that processes lambs for much of Colorado. There may be others of an ethnic need, Halal, Orthodox, Hispanic, ---.

Expect to see resolutions to oppose both. These initiatives are from a radical animal liberation group called "Pro-Animal Future" who successfully collected signatures required to secure spots on the ballot for Denver's election. Via popular vote they want to impose their vegetarian, non-meat, anti-fur lifestyle on the rest of us.

Needed: A Grange member who would be willing to track Colorado ag water issues – would include attending meetings of CAWA (Colo. Ag Water Alliance), an outgrowth of the Colo. Ag Council. Meetings are in person or via Zoom. We are a CAWA member but I have little time to represent the Grange and adequately participate. Also, willingness to receive email communications on water from other water entities.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES
Idella Lewis & Karen Baxter

It was another very successful year in 2023-24 for the Family Activities Department at the Colorado State Grange Session held in Brighton. Many Grangers entered the contest events and showed outstanding entries in the needlework and baking events, with a total of 94 entries. There are a lot of talented Grangers out there!

The quilt block contest is under the National Lecturer's Department. In Colorado this event is in the Family Activities Department. Several entries were sent on to the National contest from Colorado. This year the quilt block was the split back star pattern. Entries from across the country are made into quilts and displayed at the National Grange Session.

The following Granges had members who participated in the Family Activities Events and the number of entries from their Granges;

Golden Gate	28	Marvel	16	Mt. Allison	14
Maple Grove	13	Enterprise	10	Florissant	7
Lewis	4	Florida	1	Pleasant Park	1

Following the judging of the baking event, a bake sale was held with \$80 raised. This helps fund the prize money that is awarded to the winners. All who entered are winners just for entering!

Karen Baxter and Idella Lewis, Co-Directors

Mandy Project 2024 Report
Cindy Greer, Director

This year has been uneventful for the Mandy project. We had two that were previously awarded funds that checks were never cleared through the bank, so those funds were put back into the Mandy project.

As Grange members whenever we encounter a child with hearing loss, we can reach out to the parents to tell them about the Mandy project, so that when they have needs that arise, we can help. Children grow so fast and so much that ear molds must be replaced often and hearing aids wear out and new ones must be purchased to replace them to insure the child's continued success.

The Mandy project has tried to help 145 families for the last 26 years. You should be proud of your contributions to this project. It is the one way that we get the Grange name out to the public. Thank you for your continued support and promotion of this project.

Thank you to Amy Peterson, Audrey Maydew, and Ruth Wilson Francisco for serving on the committee to review applications. Email makes sending copies of the applications and information easy and that is how we discuss and make decisions.

I shared information about the Mandy project and the Deaf Awareness program that the National Grange had with a group of Grangers via zoom on the first Monday in September. The point of the discussion was to see if that group thought the National Grange (all Granges) needed one specific project that when people heard the name, they knew who sponsored it. Something like the Lions Club has or how St. Jude is associated with the Thomas,' or the Shriners with Pediatric hospital care, the list goes on and on. The Grange does not have one specific project that is really identifying.

I think the Mandy project started out that way, but people were too concerned that the need was greater than we could meet, so they limited the project so much that it did not get a good foundation and it was eventually dropped by the National Grange.

I cannot say that the Colorado State Grange is known because of the Mandy project, but that may be because we have not really promoted it since its beginning. In the beginning we did send out letters informing audiologists and schools about the project so that they could share the information with their clients or students in need. Some we delighted to receive the material, others had no idea what to do with it. Insurance has changed since we started the project and the insurance companies now cover more of the costs than they used to at least in Colorado. But there are still people who live in Colorado and insured in other states that the laws here do not apply. So, your promotion of the project is essential.

People Improving Communities and Kids (P.I.C.K.)

Cindy Greer, Secretary/Treasurer

Our goals are to **build:**

People by recognizing leadership abilities and encouraging talents.

Family by offering a family-oriented environment and emphasizing family values.

Community by working together in a team spirit, providing service and community outreach.

PICK has continued to offer opportunities for partnerships to apply for capital improvement grants or other grants. Animas Valley Grange is applying to Durango Friends of the Arts in hopes of getting \$10,000.00 to make repairs to the building. To me it does not seem to fit the DFA's vision but time will tell.

Last Year's silent Auction brought in \$301.00

ANNUAL REPORTS

PICK filed their two separate reports with the Colorado Secretary of State, as well as our yearly 990 with the Internal Revenue Service. This year we were eligible to file the 990N Postcard instead of the long 990 report (but we filled it out anyway just to have the information).

Mandy Project

This year the Mandy project did not receive any applications, and two that had been previously awarded never deposited the checks, so those funds were returned to the Mandy project.

Partner activities: We partnered with Billy Greer, (Marvel Grange member) who was working on establishing a rehabilitation and education center for raptors (birds of Prey). We received Grants but returned them because He could not find a container within his price range and he decided to join the Army as a diver.

Shanda Price (Mt. Allison Grange member) requested to partner with pick to work on obtaining funds for school cheerleaders. We did received funding from several donors and have granted them to the Escalante Middle School for the cheerleaders use and the funds were used to purchase uniforms and other items needed.

Capital Improvement: I know several Granges have capital improvement needs, but without information from them on specific costs, timelines, and their investment in the project we cannot apply for Grants.

PICK is catering two breakfasts at State Session this year and had purchased Grant Station for another year.

The Board communicates via e-mail. Thank you to Trish Corman, Karen Baxter, Lisa Mittan, Gary Wardle for their assistance this past year.

COLORADO STATE GRANGE LEADERSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Dear Delegates to the 2024 Colorado State Grange:

It is a pleasure to present to you this Annual Report. I am pleased to announce that the Foundation is in a strong position to continue our mission. That mission is providing financial assistance to deserving students of post-secondary education and technical training.

This year, the Foundation was able to offer four scholarships of \$2,500 each to the following students:

Ms. Ashley Hoery, attending Colorado State University
Ms. Paige Nicholas, attending Colorado State University
Mr. Ian Harlan, attending Metropolitan State University, and
Ms. Katrina Borsch, attending the University of Colorado.

It is also my pleasure to report that Colorado State Grange President Gary Wardle will also be serving as president of the Foundation, and Colorado State Grange Treasurer Sheryl Ayers has taken over the duties as treasurer of the Foundation as well.

It has been my distinct honor to have served as treasurer of the Foundation for these past several years as well as acting president upon the retirement of my very good friend, Jeanne Davies. Jeanne and I will continue to serve on the board of the directors as Founding Members of the Foundation.

Thank you, and warmest regards,

Jim Miller

Community Service

Lisa Mittan, Community Service Director

Community Service – 2024

Lisa Mittan

Four combined reports were submitted, with three additional reports submitted as stand-alone Community Service reports. There were a lot of good and worthy programs and activities described in the reports submitted, that would certainly merit recognition for community service. This year, we only had one report submitted that had a lot of great programs being reported, but that does not meet the requirements of National Grange to give the consistency that will allow it to be measured with the Community Service winners from other states. Our Colorado State Grange sends our winning Community Service report to the annual National Grange conference that is held later in autumn, following our annual Colorado State Grange session. National Grange requires the front page of the report to be the informational form and that there are no more than four exhibits (photographs, flyers, etc.) for each event reported.

These instructions are provided on the Combined Reports form, which is emailed to key members of each active subordinate Grange within the state of Colorado. The instructions are also provided in the annual Handbook included in the Colorado Granger newspaper and on the Colorado State Grange website. The Community Service director's contact information is also provided on the form, in the handbook, and repeated in articles within the Colorado Granger newspaper. Additionally provided are offers of assistance with understanding or using the forms, and an offer to mail paper copies of the Combined Reports Form upon request for any Grange with members who do not want to use a computer to report on their Community Service activities and/or participate in the Lecturer Star categories contests.

It does appear that many of the active Granges within the state of Colorado are conducting community service programs and events. It also appears that most of these Granges do not want to report on these programs at the State Grange level, regardless of the opportunities for recognition, including monetary awards.

First place went to Enterprise Grange

Second Place went to Anims Valley Grange

Third Place went to Marvel Grange

Lecturers Contests winners report

Hobby Corner

Holiday Items: 1st - Paulina Ford, Florida; 2nd - Cindy Greer, Marvel; 3rd - Merle Sachse, Golden Gate

Miscellaneous: 1st = Roger Ayers, Marvel; 2nd - Carol Lackey, Enterprise; 3rd - Roger Ayers, Marvel

Special Gifts: 1st - Roger Ayers, Marvel 2nd - Roger Ayers, Marvel 3rd - Cindy Greer, Marvel

Workbench Woodworking: 1st - Roger Ayers, Marvel; 2nd - Roger Ayers, Marvel; 3rd - Roger Ayers, Marvel:

Photography

Abandoned Buildings: 1st - Elizabeth Simons, Mt Allison; 2nd - Cindy Greer, Marvel; 3rd - Trish Corman, Mt Allison

Clouds: 1st - Larry Corman, Mt Allison 2nd - Trish Corman, Mt Allison; 3rd - Elizabeth Simons, Mt Allison

Monuments: 1st - Elizabeth Simons, Mt. Allison, 2nd Vickie Gallegos, MT. Allison

State, County, or Community Fair: 1st - Kirk Ramstetter, Golden Gate: 2nd - Vickie Gallegos, Mt Allison:

Pen in Hand: 1st Sheryl Ayers

Lecturers Star Awards were presented to the following Granges: Enterprise Grange, Florida Grange, Golden Gate Grange

Maple Grove Grange, Marvel Grange, Mt Allison Grange, Sunflower Grange, and Darden Pomona

Colorado State Junior Grange Contest Winners 2024

Nature Crafts: 5-9

First place: Sierra Phelps, Mount Allison Junior Grange

Second place: Ruger Phelps, Mount Allison Junior Grange

Third place: Henry Greer, Marvel Junior Grange

Nature Crafts: 10-14

First place: Jacob Greer, Marvel Junior Grange

Second place: Brianna Greer, Marvel Junior Grange

Miscellaneous: Under 5

First place: Phoenix Cordero, Enterprise Grange

Miscellaneous: Age 5-9

First place: Sierra Phelps, Mount Allison Junior Grange

Second place: Sofia Cordero, Enterprise Grange

Third place: Henry Greer, Marvel Junior Grange

Miscellaneous: 10-14

First place: Jeremiah Shields, Enterprise Grange

Second place: Brianna Greer, Marvel Junior Grange

Third place: Emmett Greer, Marvel Junior Grange

Work of Art: 5-7

First place: Elayna Simons, Mount Allison Grange

Second place: Elayna Simons, Mount Allison Grange

Third place: Ruger Phelps, Mount Allison Junior Grange

Work of Art: 10-14

First place: Zion Simons, Mount Allison Junior Grange

Second place: Abbey Koelske, Marvel Junior Grange

Third place: Zion Simons, Mount Allison Junior Grange

Holiday Decoration: 5-7

First place: Ruger Phelps, Mount Allison Junior Grange

Second place: Sierra Phelps, Mount Allison Junior Grange

Holiday Decorations: 10-14

First place: Zion Phelps, Mount Allison Junior Grange

Second place: Cayden Simons, Mount Allison Junior Grange

National Deaf Art: 5-14

First place: Brianna Greer, Marvel Junior Grange

Second place: Abbey Koeslke, Marvel Junior Grange
Third place: Henry Greer, Marvel Junior Grange

Corn Art: 5-9

First place: Taven Koeslke, Marvel Junior Grange
Second place: Henry Greer, Marvel Junior Grange

Corn: 10-14

First place: Brianna Greer, Marvel Junior Grange
Second place: Jacob Greer, Marvel Junior Grange

Special Gift: 5-9

First place: Elayna Simons, Mount Allison Junior Grange
Second place: Henry Greer, Marvel Junior Grange and Taven
Koeslke, Marvel Junior Grange
Third place: Ruger Phelps, Mount Allison Junior Grange

Special Gift: 10-14

First place: Jeremiah Shields, Enterprise Grange
Second place: Zion Simons, Mount Allison Junior Grange
Third place: Abbey Koeslke, Marvel Junior Grange

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 7, 2023 Executive Committee Minutes

Tom Campion called the meeting to order following the Final Banquet at 8:10 p.m. Gary moved that John Cruz be elected as chairmen. The motion was seconded and carried.

Tom moved we pay the bills from State Session. Seconded. Gary reviewed the main bills. The motion was carried.

Discussion was held concerning Elizabeth Hiner's travel expenses. Roger Ayers moved that we pay her for miles from her Colorado Grange (Florida) which would amount to 800 miles or \$320.00. The motion was seconded and carried.

Question was asked as to where to apply the Hospitality room profit. Roger moved that the Hospitality room profit be used for State Session expenses. It was seconded and carried.

Gary Wardle suggested that we have a special meeting to talk about the Granger resolution and come up with a plan. After Discussion Tom moved that we investigate the cost of sending out post cards with return postage paid. It was seconded and carried. The secretary would put some numbers together to see how much Postcards would cost to send to each Grange family with the OPT in options and to find out what Return postage paid would cost. She will share other information that the committee had received in regards to reducing the number of printed copies of the paper.

The secretary reported that she had learned that several Colorado Granger were considering attending the National convention and that funds from the Raffle account could be used to help with their expenses. When the final total on the raffle is determined we will discuss and decide by e-mail.

Next meeting will be Monday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned.

Cindy Greer, Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING December 11, 2023

Those present: Roger & Sheryl Ayers, Harry & Cindy Greer, Tom Campion, Gary Wardle, and John Cruz

Call to Order: at 6:36 p.m. by Chairman, John Cruz.

Approval of Minutes: Tom moved the minutes be accepted. Seconded and carried.

Acceptance of Bills Paid: Gary moved the bills be approved. Seconded and carried.

Gary asked if we knew how much we spent on state session for future reference and then what the state session fee was – They are applied to offset the expenses.

Acceptance of Receipts: Question on income, were discussed and

Gary moved the deposits be approved. Seconded and carried.

Communication:

Thank you received from quilt of Valor recipient – Ralph Pautz

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment – letter informing us of rate we must pay the for upcoming calendar year for unemployment insurance.

Gary has been thinking about the paid officers being contract employees so that the state Grange and what and how that would affect the State Grange. Would change from a W-2 to a 1099.

EX Comm work done by email:

November 5 - Harry Greer moved the minutes from State Session be approved as corrected. Gary W Seconded the motion passed.

November 7 - Harry Greer moved that we utilize \$100.00 per member from the raffle account to assist with expenses in attending National Grange Session in NY for Elizabeth Hiner, Vickie Gallegos, Roger & Sheryl Ayers, and Harry & Cindy Greer. Seconded and carried.

Granges:

Lambert - Cassandra Shenk called to find out what dues they needed to pay. She will be Secretary and Pam Miller will be Master/president. Secretary of state registration expired, Gary will send her the information. They had a pie sale and raised a lot of money.

Lake Vista (AKA Lakeview) – Gary W shared that the property deed states that if the Grange does not exist that the property reports back to the owner. The property owner wrote a letter that the Grange was not meeting as a Grange and only utilizing the building for historical society storage. They still have their charter and a few members and are paying dues. Harry moved that Gary W contact the property owner stating that they comply and a legal active Grange. Seconded and carried.

Crescent (behind 3rd quarters in Dues) – Cindy shared that they had send in a report for the second and third quarter but only funds for one quarter. They had not sent in for bonding insurance and Cindy contacted them and they did send in money for the bonding.

Green Valley – They would like to no longer have the building, because they need a new heater and have a water leak. It is being winterized by a member. Their property reverts to the owner. They want to continue to be a Grange. Insurance costs them around \$250.00 per month. We do not know who the property owner is and some research needs to be done. Gary has sister cities wanting to rent the building for a Christmas party but with the heater out they had to cancel. Several quincinerias parties were held there. Discussion was held.

Gary will try to find out who the property owner is of the Green Valley Grange.

Old Business:

Metrum Accounts – It was decided advertise the opportunity to utilize Metrum Credit union in the next Grange paper to see if our membership is interested. At the next meeting we will discuss it again. Cindy will write an article for the Colorado Granger.

Review of books – Sheryl said that the books have not been reviewed. The problem, after talking to the accountant who had agreed that he cannot do it because the budget is not in quick books because the categories do not match. Tom Campion moved that we not proceed with an effort to proceed with the review of books for 21 and 22. Seconded, discussed and carried.

Granger opts in – Discussion was held and the resolution was read. Discussion held on quarterly publication. Tom moved we place a box in the paper asking people to respond to opt-in for paper or email with a deadline of Feb 1, and that we find out how other states do their publication. Seconded, discussed, and carried.

Harry moved we stay with the same rate of Bonding we did last year. Seconded and carried (\$25,000 for \$75.00)

New Business:

Zoom Tutorials suggestion from Larry Corman and financial help with zoom account that costs \$150.00 per year. Harry Greer moved we reimburse Larry Corman a minimum of ½ of the Zoom cost. Seconded and carried.

Raffle License renewal – Gary Wardle moved we renew the Raffle License. Seconded and carried.

State Session location – Cindy Greer contacted the Masonic Lodge and they were not willing to put us on the calendar this early because they are still on the market. Other locations were discussed, Pagosa Springs, Cortez and other locations in Durango were discussed. It was suggested to look at other locations. Concerns about people being willing to travel to Cortez were expressed.

Gary moved we support Ag in the classroom for \$60.00. Seconded and passed.

Sheryl reported that she sent an email with information about expenses and income for State Session.

Master's report – Gary Wardle reported that He Kathy attended the National session in Niagara Falls, NY. We have a good group attending.

He has been working with the Lake Vista issue, Green Valley Grange and this past week talked to Terri Costeldia from Golden Gate about one member's complaint. The member has not been following any rules and put a float in a parade that they wanted the Grange to pay for. The individuals had been using expired food and participants had gotten sick. There are two sides to the story. He did go to Crescent Grange for two of their programs. One was on the Sand Creek Massacre, the

next one is by a nurse on something to do with childbirth. He has been to Sunflower a couple of times and has met with BJ Bushman the new Lecturer.

National Grange is planning to send information to every Grange in the nation that helps Seniors with information on upcoming surgery. There will be some financial help for Granges. He talked to Altona Grange and take them a banner. He purchased five more banners that cost \$11.00 each. Oklahoma will host the regional conference in 2024 and Colorado will host the conference in 2025.

Overseer's Report – Harry Greer, shared that he had been to the Maine State Grange session and to National Session and did most everything the Wardle's' did. Otherwise have been working in the local Grange and attended one of Mount lookout Grange's board meetings.

Ex committee report

Tom Campion – Asked if there were still plans to initiate people at Lambert? Gary will make the contact and find out.

Roger Ayers – Attended National session.

John Cruz – Maple Grove had a meeting earlier this month with a gift exchange for those who attended.

Sec report – Journal of proceeding is printed and in envelopes ready to go out. Roster is almost ready to be printed and sent out. Will be sending fourth quarter dues notice in this mailing. We are set up to file our statement of ownership report online with USPS. I had filed the report on line, but then received notification that it had not been received so made a copy and sent it to Florissant. Which led me to check on changing that location but do not need to with being able to file online. Preparing for next Grange paper. Updated Roster information and sent to National. Resolution on Junior dues will be brought up at National next year as it was a two-year resolution.

Date of Next Meeting: February 26, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:16 p.m.

December 14, 2023 Gary moved the financial reports from mid-August through September be accepted. Motion was seconded and carried.

Executive committee Feb 26,2024

John Cruz called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Those present: Roger Ayers, Harry Greer, Cindy Greer, Sheryl Ayers, John Cruz, Gary Wardle, Tom Campion.

Gary Wardle moved the minutes of the last meeting be approved. Seconded and carried.

Roger Ayers moved to acceptance the report of Bills. Seconded and carried.

Harry moved the acceptance of Receipts report. Seconded and carried.

Email Actions

Feb 6 – Tom Campion moved the CSG donate \$100.00 to the National Grange Foundation in lieu of gifts to National delegates for 2023. Seconded and carried.

Communications:

Colorado Foundation for Agriculture – Ag in the classroom Thank you and donation receipt.

Police, Shop for a kid program email. Harry Greer moved we publish the information in the May Colorado Granger. Seconded and carried.

Granges

Green Valley – Gary shared that they want to get out of the responsibility of the building. Gary asked Mike Lackey working on finding out if there is an owner to revert to.

Lambert – Requested that they be excused from paying their 2nd and 3rd quarter dues for 2023. Discussion was held. Gary suggested we waive the state part and have them pay the National dues that were paid by the state Grange. Tom Campion moved the state Grange defer the state dues for one year. It was seconded. Tom amended the motion to state that we have Lambert pay the National dues immediately and allow them a year to pay the state dues. Seconded and further discussed and carried. The amendment was seconded and carried. The amended motion was seconded and carried.

Unfinished Business

State Session: Information about locations was shared. Tom Campion moved that we go to Pagosa Springs, CO. Seconded and carried.

New Business:

Gary Wardle shared that National said that we can utilize 10% of the interest from invested funds of Grange who have sold buildings. Castlewood Invested money interest was around \$1,916.66. The Grandview and Sunflower funds are in the invested funds and are more challenging to figure out. Sheryl Ayers shared information garnered from the information she had which resulted in 10% of the Grandview funds being \$651.17. She shared that a with drawl was made around Dec 20, 2021 but it may have come out of the wrong account and we would need to rectify that.

Gary Wardle moved that the CSG annually take 10% yearly of the interest earned from invested funds of Subordinate Grange building sales and use as needed. Seconded, discussed, and approved.

OPT in Form for the Granger will be extended to April 1. Discussion was held.

Masters Report – Gary Wardle reported that he and Kathy and Harry & Cindy attended the National Leadership conference in South Carolina. He shared that the Mission statement was updated. The Vision statement was long. The National Grange sold the building and had 30 days to move out of the top floors and the basement. He participated in the 100 days zoom meeting with the National President. The 2025 National convention will be a cruise out of Miami for 9 days. They have done away with most of the directors and they have a team of people to run the departments.

Westminster Grange sent an email about receiving a letter from the IRS about a new EIN Number. Cindy explained that this was a result of a request made.

He and Kathy are moving in April, so will have a new address and the land line will no longer exist.

Elizabeth Hiner resigned as Publicity chair, he is looking for a replacement.

A member of Animas Valley had contacted Amanda Brozanna Rios about alcohol in Grange buildings. Gary will contact member as they are trying to raise funds for a new roof. He will suggest working with PICK. Sheryl Ayers suggested they apply to La Plata Electric.

Overseers report – Harry shared that he had been attending Subordinate meeting when there was not too much snow. Ex committee report

Tom Campion – shared that he had attended MS meeting for his daughter at the Riverbend Ranch. It has a nice meeting room a few miles north of Durango, has a kitchen. Does not have any sleeping quarters. Might be a possible meeting location in the future. He went to Lake Vista Grange and reported that pictures posted were accurate. The building needs some work. He had Attended subordinate meeting and Pomona when not cancelled.

John Cruz – Maple Grove has not had a meeting this year due to Covid and the weather. They are scheduled to have a meeting in March.

Roger Ayers did not have anything to add.

Treasurer – Sheryl said she is thinking about getting books reviewed and will be working on it.

Secretary Report – Cindy reported that Exempt property reports are being sent out after receiving, Quarterly report to National is ready to send in. The Granger articles were sent in to Publication Printers, a few days late due to being in South Carolina. Information was given to an individual wanting to rent the Lake Vista Grange. Currently fielding questions about IRS letter now.

Date of next meeting: April 29, 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: April 29

Call to Order: by Chairman John Cruz at 6:31 p.m.

Those present were: Roger Ayers, Gary Wardle, John Cruz, Harry & Cindy Greer, Sheryl Ayers, and Tom Campion

Gary moved the minutes of the last meeting be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

Harry Moved the bills be accepted. The motion was seconded and carried.

Sheryl shared that the Castlewood interest has not yet been transferred as it is earning a whole lot more in those accounts and she chose to leave the money in there until we need it. Harry Greer moved we accept receipts. The motion was seconded and carried.

Communication:

IRS – notification of no record of tax return for Dec 31, 2020 FORM 941, Sheryl sent in the paperwork.

Lake vista Grange has someone looking into grants for some building repairs. They inquired if the state needed to be involved. Cindy answered questions.

EX Comm work done by email:

March 17, 2024 – Harry Greer moved to approve Florida Grange request of \$1500.00 for Insurance bill. The motion was seconded and carried.

April 10, 2024 – Roger Ayers moved to approve Florida Grange request of \$6,000.00 to repair water pump. The motion was seconded and it carried.

Granges:

Green Valley – Building – Gary Wardle has been working with Mike Lackey. The deed stipulates that if the property is to be returned to some previous owner. The people who donated land may not have any direct relatives alive. Gary thinks we may need to involve an attorney. Green Valley is Paying \$300.00 a month for insurance. The attorney could tell us if we could file a quiet title change. Gary asked if the Executive committee would allow the state Grange to help with the insurance. Mike Lackey thinks the property is worth around \$500,000.00. A title Company gave us the information that the property needed to go back to the original owner. Tom Campion moved we authorize Gary Wardle to secure an attorney to resolve the Green Valley Building situation. The motion was seconded and carried.

Harry Greer moved that we help Green Valley with one month's insurance while we deal with the deed. The motion was seconded and carried.

Left Hand sent a note that they had sold the building so they would not have an exempt property report to send in. Gary Wardle shared that this might have happened several years ago and the new organization sold the building to another 501c3 last year.

Lambert – Gary Wardle will contact them again as we have not received anything from them for National dues for the two quarters in 2023.

Crescent Grange is two quarters behind in dues. They sent in the last two quarters reports but only included payment for one quarter. Gary will check with the officers to see what can be done.

Pleasant View – is one quarter behind in dues. They did not send a copy of exempt property report, they have probably filed on-line like last year and did not share that information with us. The son of one of their members called and said his father has passed away, Cindy notified the Secretary and treasurer.

Mount Lookout – has a new Secretary. John Cruz suggested that maybe we need a secretaries training via zoom each year, probably in January.

Old Business:

Review of books – Sheryl Ayers has contacted the accountant in Farmington and they have not yet set up a date. Gary Wardle asked about his fee and we will not know the fee until after he looks at the books. Sheryl Ayers feels we will get a really good rate.

Granger opts in – 130 responded for Paper format, 112 requested email formats. Sent out total of 600 papers. October postage was \$356.30, Jan was 362.81, March was 268.22. Jan issues included Handbook. Comparing Oct to March we have reduce the postage by \$88.08. New members are being added to list to receive via email if an email address is provided, otherwise we send paper. opt OUT opportunity was put in the upcoming issue of the paper for those who do not want to receive at all. We had two responds that way earlier. Sheryl Ayers shared that we will not be saving much by having the options. Cindy shared that she stopped having publication printers send five copies under separate cover and just added five copies to the print and mail list.

Property Exempt Reports - Altona, Lambert, Mount Lookout and Pleasant View Granges did not return copies of their report. Lambert and Pleasant View filed on line last year, so I expect that they have done that again this year, hopefully. Those filing late will have a late fee to pay.

Leadership Scholarship Foundation Board – Gary Wardle shared that Cindy, Sheryl and He had met with Jim Miller. Jim had sent in his resignation as Treasurer which left only the Secretary, Nick Maydew. The state President/Master and the Treasurer are on the board. Discussion was held on who should be on the board. John Cruz will talk to Maple Grove Grangers to see if someone wants to serve on the board. Gary Wardle will call Jim Miller to see what we can do to determine officers.

State Session – Gary W shared that the Pagosa Lodge numbers were much higher than we were initially told. So, he decided that we should check with the Masonic Lodge in Durango and we found it is available. They took the building off the market and if they put it back on the market and it sells, they will put in the contract that we have use of it in September. Cindy talked with the Masonic Lodge contact today and he will send a contract soon. He said they would charge us the same amount as last time, which was 1250.00 plus a 250.00 deposit. Harry moved we pursue the Masonic Lodge in Durango, Seconded, and carried. Cindy shared that the ladies of the Masonic Lodge may be interested in catering out meals.

National Representative was discussed. The new National President informed the delegates recently that She and National would not be involved, each state is to make their own contacts and invitations directly to the National representative requested. Sheryl was thinking that we might be able to get a couple of train tickets as a gift. Tom Gwin, National Lecturer was suggested. Gary will make the contact to see if he is available.

Gary Wardle said that there is a Legislator from Montrose who might be available for a speaker. He asked if there were other suggestions.

The Raffle was discussed. Purpose of Raffle will be to help Grangers attend leadership opportunities such as National and to help in hosting Great Plains conference in 2025. Items discussed for the raffle were: Quilt, “Last supper” Diamond painting, Gary will contact AIL about a donation, Roger has a small wooden cedar chest.

New Business:

Our website with Go Daddy encounter problems recently and was down. Larry Corman spent some time with Go Daddy getting it back up and running. Seems that Sunflower Grange’s website in WordPress might have created the issues. Larry Corman has been investigating and is leaning toward Web flow: CMS option (\$23/month). He has requested a team from Fort Lewis College to work on the new website. The school of Business received a major endowment so these students will be paid plus they will have access to professional consultants, as needed. He should find out in the next few days if we have been accepted.

State Grange website: below is the link Larry provided for what he is considering. <https://webflow.com/>

And here is the link to the pricing: <https://webflow.com/pricing>

Gary Wardle shared his thoughts and that perhaps if Fort Lewis college approves us, we could have them come to state session or Larry might be able to talk about it. Harry Greer moved we allow Larry Corman to pursue the Web flow web page. Seconded and carried.

Quick books desk top version is no longer going to be supported. What we lose will be tec support and there will be not updates on security. Sheryl Ayers would prefer to not do the web version. Gary asked if the concern was the speed of the computer. Sheryl thinks that the on-line is unnecessary. We do not use quick books to do payroll or payments. She does not use any online bank feed. On-line there is a monthly fee. She is more concerned about needing security if we have on-line version. Gary asked if Quick books fail, what would we lose? Sheryl A said she backs up the program frequently. Computer is working fine, but could probably be updated.

Master's report – Gary shared that he has a new address and no longer has a land line. Monday May 6 is their move date. Worked with Green valley and Lambert. He attended a program at Crescent Grange, and Enterprise Community night. He apologized for not being able to attend Marvel's celebration but with packing to move. He shared that the 2025 National session will be a Caribbean cruise for 11 days.

Overseer's Report – Harry Greer reported that they had attended Mt. Allison Visitation, Marvel's 150th celebration, Marvel's breakfast at end of last quarter and ready for next quarter. Looking forward to National this year and next year.

Ex committee report

Tom Campion – Marvel celebrated, forgot to go to Mt. Allison. He has been painting inside of his house.

Roger Ayers – Harry covered most everything. He is not currently planning on going to National

John Cruz – attended Maple Grove meetings, only meeting once a month. They are losing members and have not been able to generate new members.

Sec report – Quarterly reports sent out. Next Granger issue is ready to send out.

Date of Next Meeting: June 10 – 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: at 7:50 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: June 10, 2024

John Cruz Called the meeting to Order at 6:39 pm. Those in attendance were: John Cruz, Tom Campion, Harry & Cindy Greer, Gary Wardle, Roger & Sheryl Ayers.

Harry Greer moved we adopt the minutes of the last meeting. Seconded and carried.

Harry Greer moved we accept the bills paid report. Seconded and carried.

Harry Greer moved we accept the receipts report. Seconded and carried.

Communication: None

Granges:

Green Valley – It was reported that the Insurance bill was received, one month was \$278.00 which was paid. Gary has contacted an attorney (Burns) who managed the estate of the property owner and hopefully he will see if there are any heirs. If he cannot find any heirs we can go through a quiet title action. Harry moved we pay another month of the insurance. Seconded and carried.

Lambert – Gary Wardle reported that he is still trying to contact them.

Crescent – Cindy reported that they have not paid 3rd quarter dues, have not send in a report for the 4th quarter and 1st quarter of 24. We received a mailing back from one of their members, so Cindy sent them the membership list in hopes that this would prompt them to catch up.

Pleasant View- is two quarters behind in dues.

Pikes Peak Grange – They received a letter from IRS stating that they had lost their tax-exempt status. They tried to file an 1023EZ Form but IRS rejected it and sent their money back. Check was made out to CSG P of H, so we had to deposit and then write them a check. They were advised to call IRS and see what form to file. J Kelly can possibly help as they went through this a few years ago.

Pikes Peak Pomona – has received a letter stating that they have lost their tax-exempt status, but with only two members seems like a waste of time to try to get the status back and they have no property.

Golden Gate Grange – Gary shared that they had a member who is causing problems because they rejected his membership and sent his dues check back. He will most likely take the issue to the High priest of Demeter. In the meantime, Golden Gate must pay a fee to start the trial process the Grange has concerning this issue. At this meeting they had not made that decision.

Victory - Gary shared that they had an incident at the Grange and they will probably be meeting this next month to list the building for sale because they no longer have someone to manage the rental. We had notified our insurance about the issue, but to date nothing has been filed against the Grange.

Old Business:

Review of books – Sheryl will continue to find a source to review the books, as all her other contacts have not returned calls or requests.

Granger opts OUT – We had 11 that opted out and heard from a few more on their choices. Now we have 132 requests for paper form and 127 email. We are mailing 608 copies (which includes 10 for Sunflower and 5 for State Grange). Resolution resolved was read to remind us what the delegates asked for. We need to compile a report for state session. Cindy Greer will contact Publication Printers what the cost reduction would be for quarterly. Discussion was held on other options.

State Session

Roger Ayers moved the state session fee be \$30.00 this year for each Grange.

Meals – Mt Allison Grange has indicated an interest in catering some of the meals.

Speakers – Gary had talked to BJ Bushman about a state Representative. Tom Campion suggestion contacting the Train for possibly giving Grangers a tour of the Museum.

Schedule will be basically the same as last year.

National Rep – Tom Gwin has agreed to be our National Representative, he is the Lecturer

BJ Bushman, Lecturer is trying to put together a bus for 15 people to come from Denver Area. Cost might be \$100.00/person. If the bus gets put together Gary asked if we could use the state officer mileage to help with the cost. No one objected.

Raffle Tickets – Cindy shared that they are in the works. Gary reported that American Income Life has not responded to our request for an item to raffle.

Lodging – Gary called the Super 8 (800) number and they thought the Super 8 would be \$98.00/night but he has not heard back from her yet. (Quality Inn) was \$120.00

5th degree – Harry G is willing to do the short form 5th.

John Cruz will purchase the Fruit for 6th degree

Harry Greer will make arrangements to us the PA system.

We need to check to see if the Masonic Lodge still has a piano

Roger Ayers moved that the mileage reimbursement be \$.40 mile and a maximum of \$300.00 for lodging and \$50.00 for the second person in the family for Officers and Directors. Seconded and carried.

New Business:

Rural Life Initiative- Chris Hamp contacted Gary Wardle & Cindy Greer and Pfizer has given the National Grange \$300,000.00 to help Granges with programs. They do not want to use the funds to repair Grange Halls. They seemed to want to support local projects to increase awareness of Grange. National is working on format for funding. The question was does Colorado want to be a part of the Pilot project? Discussion was held. Funding process and time line was sent and we will send it out to Granges. Gary was hoping to utilize the funds for leadership opportunities. Harry Greer moved that CSG participate in the pilot project. Seconded and carried

State Fair Display - was discussed and we might be able to utilize the Rural Life Initiative funding to help with the display and manning it.

Master's report – Gary has been moving to a new house. Participated in Enterprise events, Working with Green Valley and Victory Grange on their buildings, and Golden Gate about their membership situation. And working on State session events.

Overseer's Report – Harry participated in La Plata Pomona and Marvel events. Looking forward to the Great Plains conference in Claremore, OK in July.

Ex committee report

Tom participated in Pomona and Marvel events.

Roger said Tom and Harry have it covered.

John – Maple Grove had people come who wanted to lease a portion of their right away for fiber optics. They will have a picnic in July and meet in August.

Sec report – Planning on going to Great Plains and working on articles for the Newspaper.

Treasurer – Community Banks checking account did not transfer the 10% of the Castlewood interest yet until we need it, as it earns more the way it is. Community Banks funds were shared as well as other funds. Gary asked if any were maturing and needed reinvested. Tom asked about the Metrum accounts – Gary explained why we have kept them. Discussion held.

Date of Next Meeting: Budget meeting: August 19, 6:30 p. m.

Meeting Adjourned.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - August 19, 2024

Attendees: Harry & Cindy Greer, Gary Wardle, Roger Ayers, John Cruz, Sheryl Ayers, Tom Campion.

John Cruz called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Gary moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

Acceptance of Bills Paid: There were questions about a bank service fee. Sheryl Ayers will investigate with the bank. Harry Greer moved to approve the bills paid. The motion was seconded and passed.

Acceptance of Receipts: Gary Wardle asked if the \$7,000.00 from National for the Pfizer Grant had been received. Sheryl Ayers had not seen it yet but will check during the meeting. Gary will send her a copy of the budget for reference. Roger moved to approve the receipts. The motion was seconded and passed.

Communications:

- The publication printers informed us of a finance charge increase to 24%.
- The Colorado Department of Revenue notified us of unpaid withholding taxes for 2020, 2018, and 2019. The Treasurer has confirmed the information. Penalties for the last year were forgiven, but not for the previous years due to statutory laws.

Executive Committee Actions via Email:

- On June 18, Harry Greer moved to approve the suggested meals for the State Session. The motion was seconded and passed. The meal suggestions are as follows:
 - Mt. Allison Grange will cater lunch and dinner on Saturday: Lunch will be Frito Pie for \$10.00, and the Banquet will feature Chicken Marsala and Roast Beef or Brisket for \$25.00.
 - PICK (Cindy & Harry) will provide breakfasts for \$10.00.
 - Friday's lunch will include meats (Pulled Pork and Turkey) and coleslaw from Serious Texas for \$12.00; we will provide beverages, dessert, and paper products.

Granges:

- Green Valley: Gary is investigating if there are any family members left with the attorney. No bill has been received yet. Gary reported vandalism and a broken window and hopes Green Valley will address it. Gary will call Green Valley. Harry Greer moved to continue paying the insurance for Green Valley until the matter is resolved. The motion was seconded and passed.
- Lambert: The state Grange received a registered letter from the Colorado Department of Labor regarding Lambert's failure to file an exempt property report, resulting in the loss of tax-exempt status. The Grange has been informed and plans to initiate officers and members in late September or October. Gary will contact the Lambert Grange secretary to arrange a date and time.
- Crescent: Sent quarterly reports and membership list, all current.
- Pleasant View: Has paid 2023 dues but nothing yet for 2024.
- Victory: Faced a lawsuit related to an alcohol incident at their hall. The matter has been turned over to the insurance company, and results are pending.
- Platte Valley Grange: In formation. Gary and Kathy Wardle have initiated 7 members and installed a Master and Secretary. They are working on increasing membership. Dave Castoe, the Secretary, also works for a cattle feed sales company and is involved in the Masonic Lodge.

Old Business:

- Sheryl Ayers provided a flash drive to a CPA in Farmington, NM for book review but has not yet received feedback.
- Cindy Greer noted the need to rent 8 round tables for the State Session in Durango. Consensus was to proceed with the rental. The schedule was discussed and adjusted.
- Leadership Scholarship Foundation meeting and banking were discussed. Gary Wardle will speak with Jim Miller.
- Granges that failed to file exempt property reports received delinquent notices. The secretary contacted each Grange to explain the late fee and mailed the reports. Pikes Peak Grange was mistakenly included in the list; the secretary sent proof of filing to the Department of Labor.

New Business:

- Colorado is set to host the Great Plains Regional Leadership Conference in 2025. Gary Wardle is considering a venue in Colorado Springs. Roger Ayers moved to host the conference in 2025. The motion was seconded and passed.
- The budget was reviewed and prepared for presentation at the state convention.

Reports:

- Master's Report: Attended events at Enterprise, Maple Grove, Wheatridge, and Darden Pomona, worked on the Green Valley issue, and assisted with the Platte Valley group.
- Overseer's Report: Attended Marvel Grange and Pomona Grange meetings, Pomona did concessions at the County Fair, and is preparing for the State Fair.
- Executive Committee Reports:
 - Roger Ayers: Assisted Sheryl with the County Fair.
 - Tom Campion: Missed some Marvel Grange meetings but attended the Pomona Picnic.

- John Cruz: Attended as many Maple Grove meetings as possible; they have a new secretary.
 - Secretary's Report: Attended the Great Plains Conference in Oklahoma, finding the workshops engaging. Organized Marvel's ice cream social in July, which was moved to the Grange Hall due to rain risks, and honored three veterans. Worked on the Colorado Granger paper.
 Sheryl noted that Cindy made quilts for the veterans. Sheryl has been busy counting cash for Pomona and the La Plata County Fair.
 Next Meeting: To be held after the State Session Banquet.
 Meeting Adjourned.

**LIST OF RESOLUTIONS
 2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION
 COLORADO STATE GRANGE**

Committees are identified as follows:

Agriculture, Cooperatives & Water Resources.....	AG
Legislation & Taxation, Ecology, Health, Education & Welfare.....	L/T
Ecology, Health, Education, Welfare.....	EHEW
Highways and transportation.....	H/T
Good of the Order.....	GOTO
Grange Activities.....	GA
Budget.....	B

TITLE	DELEGATE ACTION
Ag 1 – Propose opposition of proposition 127.....	Adopted
AG 2 – Oppose ban on fur sales in Denver.....	Adopted
AG 3 – Oppose Ban on slaughterhouses in Denver.....	Amended & Adopted
GA – 1 Contest Deadline.....	Amended & Adopted
GA – 2 Quilt Block Contest.....	Amended & Adopted
GA – 3 Quilt of Valor.....	Adopted
GOTO 1 – Junior Grange Dues at National.....	Adopted
GOTO 2 – National Grange Expenses.....	Amended & Adopted
GOTO 3 – CO State Grange Convention.....	tabled to 2025
GOTO 4 – State Session date change.....	Amended & Adopted
HWY&T 1 - Support wildlife highway over and underpasses and fencing.....	Amended & Adopted

Oppose Proposition 127
 to outlaw hunting and trapping of mountain lion, bobcat and lynx

1. WHEREAS the animal rights extremist, Cats are not Trophies, proponents of Initiative #91, to outlaw hunting and trapping of mountain lions, bobcats, and lynx (lynx are protected and not hunted or trapped), gathered enough signatures to place the initiative, now Proposition 127, on our November 5 ballot, and
2. WHEREAS approval of Proposition 127 would remove Colorado's time-proven, successful, and science-based wildlife management of mountain lions, bobcats, and lynx, and replace it with so called "ballot box biology" (think about the voter approved wolf introduction proposition, now problematic), and
3. WHEREAS the \$400,000+ annual income to the CPW from mountain lion license sales to hunters will cease and instead, the CPW will be tasked with removing problem cats at taxpayer expense, and

4. WHEREAS over half of the \$865,000 raised by proponents of Proposition 127, is from out-of-state advocates including Center for A Humane Economy, \$284,000 from Maryland and Animal Wellness Action \$265,000 from Washington, DC, (run by former head of HSUS), and
5. WHEREAS per the Proposition, mountain lions would no longer be classified as big game and game damage statutes only pay for damage done by big game, so ranchers, farmers and others would not be compensated for livestock losses due to lions and bobcats, and
6. WHEREAS at the 2023 Colorado State Grange Session, delegates voted to oppose Initiative #91, therefore be it
7. RESOLVED that Colorado State Grange urges voters to vote no on Proposition 127 on the November 5, 2024 ballot.

AG 2

Opposes ban on fur sales in Denver

Resolution to oppose Denver’s initiative to ban the sale of fur and fur products in the City and County of Denver.

1. WHEREAS the group Pro Animal Future via initiative has secured a question on the ballot for Denver voters for this fall that if approved would prohibit the manufacture, distribution, display, sale, or trade of animal fur products in the City and County of Denver, and
2. WHEREAS cowboy hats, animal fur, and hide products are marketed and sold at the National Western Stock Show and at the Sportsmen’s Expo in Denver every January, and
3. WHEREAS vendors at the National Western Stock Show depend on sales of cowboy hats as their product line, and
4. WHEREAS cowboy hats are an identifiable fixture in Denver’s long history of western wear, cowboy culture, and livestock heritage, and
5. WHEREAS the ban would also preclude the sale of fly-fishing flies and fly materials made from animal fur, and
6. WHEREAS a claimed exclusion of Native American practices over fur is not clear, therefore be it
7. RESOLVED that Colorado State Grange opposes the initiative to ban the manufacture, distribution, display, sale, or trade of animal fur products in the City and County of Denver.

AG 3

Opposes ban on slaughterhouses in Denver

Resolution to oppose proposed ban on slaughterhouses in the City and County of Denver.

1. WHEREAS the group Pro Animal Future via initiative has secured a question on the ballot for Denver voters for November 5, 2024 that if approved would ban slaughterhouses in the City and County of Denver, and
2. WHEREAS the measure titled “Prohibition of Slaughterhouses” would outlaw “the construction, maintenance, or use of “slaughterhouses” in Denver beginning Jan. 1, 2026”, and
3. WHEREAS Superior Farms is the one remaining slaughterhouse in Denver (unknown if there may be small ethnic operations – Halal, Hispanic, Orthodox), and
4. WHEREAS Colorado has the third largest sheep and lamb inventory in the United States and is second nationally behind California in terms of slaughter-ready lamb inventory, and
5. WHEREAS 160 workers of the employee-owned facility are at risk of losing their livelihoods if the ballot measure passes and threatens more than 2,700 jobs, and
6. WHEREAS at least \$215 million in direct economic benefits would be lost and indirect losses of as high as \$861 million would occur if Superior Farms is closed, therefore be it

7. RESOLVED that Colorado State Grange opposes the initiative to ban slaughterhouses in the City and County of Denver.

**GA 1
Contest Deadlines**

1. WHEREAS, the Colorado State Grange year runs from September 1 to August 31; and
2. WHEREAS, having report deadlines before the end of the Grange year can result in missed opportunities to report on activities; now therefore be it
3. RESOLVED, that all Colorado State Grange directors and officers set all contest report deadlines to be postmarked or emailed by September 3.

**GA 2
Quilt Block Contest**

1. WHEREAS, Colorado State Grangers have consistently contributed quilt blocks for the National Grange quilt block contest and occasionally for state quilts; now therefore be it
2. RESOLVED, that the Colorado State Grange Family Activities Committee add two quilt block contests, open to members and non-members. One would be a Colorado-themed block and one a Quilt of Valor block. The blocks should measure 12 1/2 inches unfinished. The Colorado-themed block must prominently feature the entrant's Grange name, either embroidered or written; and be it further
3. RESOLVED, that the blocks submitted to these contests will be owned by the Colorado State Grange and will be utilized to create quilts, one for potential raffling and the other designated as a Quilt of Valor to honor a veteran; and be it further
4. RESOLVED, that the Family Activity directors will select the patterns and publish the contest rules and patterns in the handbook and *The Colorado Granger*.

**GA 3
Colorado Quilts of Valor**

Establishing a Nomination Process for the Quilt of Valor

1. Whereas, the Colorado State Grange currently lacks a defined process for nominating individuals to receive a Quilt of Valor; now therefore, be it
2. Resolved, that the Colorado State Grange establish a clear and formal process for identifying and nominating recipients for the Quilt of Valor for presentation at the State convention; and be it further
3. Resolved, that nominations must be submitted to the State Office by September 3rd, and each nomination should include the branch of service, rank, age, and contact information (Name, phone number, address) of the nominated recipient. And be it further
4. Resolved that the family activities department select the recipients and the State Office contact the recipient(s).

**GOTO 1
Junior Grange Dues to National**

1. WHEREAS, the National Grange has been dedicated to the education and personal growth of children through community involvement since 1888, emphasizing self-confidence, responsibility, and respect; and

2. WHEREAS, reporting discrepancies in Junior Grange membership numbers arise from differing practices among state Granges, resulting in inconsistent data submitted to the National Grange; and
3. WHEREAS, Section 4.8.2 of the *Digest of Laws* of the National Grange mandates a minimum annual dues requirement of \$1.00 for both active and honorary Junior Grange members; and
4. WHEREAS, Section 4.6.6 of the *Digest of Laws* of the National Grange provides for a family dues structure for subordinate members; and
5. WHEREAS, many Junior Grange members are children of subordinate members, who are already covered under the family due's structure; now therefore be it
6. RESOLVED, that the Colorado State Grange opposes the imposition of a separate dues requirement for Junior Grange members being sent to the National Grange, given the existing family membership dues structure.

GOTO 2
National Grange Expenses

1. WHEREAS, officers of the National Grange serve in essentially volunteer roles; and
2. WHEREAS, the National Grange budget has suffered a loss of income due to the ending of office space rental income from the former National Grange building; and
3. WHEREAS, dues collected should cover the services provided by the National Grange; and
4. WHEREAS, the employees (staff) of the National Grange are critical to the organization's survival and operation; now therefore be it
5. RESOLVED, that the elected officers of the National Grange take a reduction in their salaries before any reductions are made to the pay of appointed or hired employees; and be it further
6. RESOLVED, that the National Grange retain the staff responsible for the programs of Youth development, Junior Grange, membership, communications, marketing and benefits director, and congressional legislative liaison.

GOTO 3
Colorado State Grange Convention

1. WHEREAS, the Colorado State Grange currently holds its convention for three days (Thursday through Saturday); and
 2. WHEREAS, there are a low number of resolutions received, as well as high costs associated with the extended stay in hotels or motels for delegates and officers; now therefore be it
 3. RESOLVED, that the Colorado State Grange annual meeting (convention) be shortened to two full days (possibly Friday and Saturday).
4. Adopted by Marvel Grange #479
 5. September 6, 2024
 6. Additional thoughts and suggestions:
 7. Set-up, officer practice, committee meetings and accepting of entries could be done the evening before opening.
 8. The schedule for day 1 could include the Past Masters' breakfast, membership lunch, speakers, reports, resolutions for consideration, election (after lunch), and maybe the 6th degree in the evening.
 9. The day 2 schedule could include the alumni breakfast, speakers, resolutions, possibly a lunch, the memorial service, installation of officers, and the banquet with all awards given.

Good of the Order #4
Changing the Dates of the State Session

1. **Whereas**, Hotel prices are seasonal on the Western Slope of Colorado, and
2. **Whereas**, the hotel prices on the Western Slope of Colorado during State Session are increased due to the increased tourism for fall foliage viewing, and
3. **Whereas**, Hotel prices in the Montrose, Salida, and Durango areas increase by almost 200%¹ between the end of April and the end of September and
4. **Whereas**, these hotel prices can result in many Grangers from the Front Range not coming to State Session on the Western Slope now therefore be it
5. **Resolved**, The Colorado State Grange Executive Committee study implementing a change to the Colorado State Grange session dates and make a recommendation back to the 2025 State Grange Session.

				Total stay including taxes		
Front Range or Western Slope			April 24-27	Sept 26-29	Change in Price	
FR	Fountain	Super 8	\$ 181	\$ 195	108%	
FR	Brighton	Holiday Inn Express	\$ 518	\$ 518	0%	
WS	Durango	Super 8	\$ 326	\$ 608	187%	
WS	Montrose	Super 8	\$ 293	\$ 547	187%	
WS	Salida	Baymont	\$ 343	\$ 708	206%	

HWY & T #1
Support wildlife highway over and underpasses and fencing

1. WHEREAS, there are 4000 wildlife vehicle collisions in Colorado each year, and
2. WHEREAS, every year 2% of our big game population is killed on highways (9000 are mule deer), an
3. WHEREAS, wildlife collisions cost \$66.3 million annually in human medical expenses, and
4. WHEREAS, there is serious fiscal impact of lost revenue to CDOT and Colorado Parks and Wildlife from road kill, and
5. WHEREAS, predators and scavengers are attracted to roadside kills after a collision placing them and drivers at risk, and
6. WHEREAS, the habits being formed by young wildlife following or browsing near roadside continues to place them at risk from learned behavior, therefore be it
7. RESOLVED, that Colorado State Grange supports the CDOT/CPW program for highway over and under passes and fencing to improve vehicle safety and protect wildlife from harm.

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE DELEGATES FOR 2024

POMONA GRANGES

La Plata Pomona #10..... Harry Greer & Cindy Greer

SUBODINATE GRANGES

Enterprise #25.....Carol Lackey & Mike Lackey

Florida #306.....Amy Peterson

Golden Gate # 451.....Kirk Ramstetter & Dee Dee Ramstetter

Lewis #406.....Mark Wilson & Sherry Griffin

Maple Grove #154.....Idella Lewis

Marvel #479..... Roger Ayers & Sheryl Ayers

Mt. Allison #308..... Larry Corman & Carol Thompson

Pleasant Park #156.....Jon Kullmann

Redlands Mesa #487..... Barry & Jean Willits

Sunflower #162.....Cherry Ellis & Dick Ellis

Victory #452..... David McCord & Kay McCord

Wheat Ridge #155..... Gary Wardle & Kathy Wardle

Colorado State Grange Budget 2025

ACCOUNT TITLE	9/1/23-8/31/24 (LAST 12 MONTHS)	2025 PROPOSED
INCOME		
Interest	\$ 1.08	\$ 2.00
Convention Meals	\$ (2,802.83)	\$ 1,900.00
Convention Assessment	\$ 1,290.00	\$ 900.00
Corporate Contributions	\$ 8,004.00	\$ 1,000.00
Items for Sale	\$ 76.00	
Degree Fees	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
Subordinate/Pomona Bonding	\$ 866.00	\$ 700.00
DUES:		
Subordinate/Pomona	\$ 34,267.41	\$ 27,000.00
National Grange Supporting	\$ 19,130.62	\$ 14,250.00
Other (miscellaneous) income	\$ 1,500.00	
Investment Transfer	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 68,347.28	\$ 55,767.00
EXPENSE		
SALARIES		
State Master	\$ 12,534.32	\$ 12,890.00
State Secretary	\$ 20,208.00	\$ 20,490.00
Total Salaries	\$ 32,742.32	\$ 33,380.00
<i>Colorado Granger</i>	\$ 11,357.15	\$ 12,000.00
Donations (within Grange)	\$ 661.00	\$ 200.00
Donations (outside Grange)	\$ 60.00	
Dues & subscriptions		
National Grange dues	\$ 10,419.50	\$ 9,200.00
National Convention assessment	\$ 2,058.00	\$ 981.00
Total <i>Granger</i> , dues, etc.	\$ 24,555.65	\$ 22,381.00
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
Community Service Committee	\$ 225.00	\$ 450.00
Executive Committee		\$ 100.00
Family Activities Committee	\$ 743.00	\$ 600.00
Junior Grange activities	\$ 308.25	\$ 250.00
Lecturer activities	\$ 590.67	\$ 650.00
Legislative Committee		\$ 200.00
Membership Committee	\$ 7.86	\$ 800.00
Public Relations Committee		\$ 100.00

Youth Committee		\$	400.00
Total Program Expenses	\$	1,874.78	\$ 3,550.00

BUSINESS EXPENSES

Bonding (State)	\$	75.00	\$ 50.00
Bonding (Subordinate/Pomona)	\$	866.00	\$ 700.00
Business registration fees	\$	46.34	\$ 60.00
Insurance (liability, D & O)	\$	2,081.00	\$ 2,100.00
Payroll Taxes (CSG responsibility)	\$	3,058.18	\$ 3,060.00
Other			
Total Business Expenses	\$	6,126.52	\$ 5,970.00

CONTRACT SERVICES

Accounting			\$ 1,000.00
Legal	\$	10.00	
Equipment rental, maintenance, purchase	\$	686.90	\$ 1,000.00
Total Contract Services	\$	696.90	\$ 2,000.00

OFFICE

Printing & copying	\$	355.36	
Postage & shipping	\$	683.76	\$ 350.00
Supplies	\$	240.49	\$ 3,000.00
Telephone/telecommunication	\$	1,886.51	\$ 1,200.00
Total Office Expense	\$	3,166.12	\$ 4,550.00

TRAVEL & MEETINGS

State session officer expense:			
Lodging	\$	3,783.36	\$ 4,000.00
Travel	\$	2,796.80	\$ 2,300.00
Supplies	\$	(798.01)	
Master's Natal Convention expenses	\$	1,555.00	\$ 2,100.00
Other travel & meetings	\$	1,770.67	
Total Travel & Meetings	\$	9,107.82	\$ 8,400.00

Other (miscellaneous) expense

TOTAL EXPENSE	\$	78,270.11	\$ 80,231.00
NET INCOME	\$	(9,922.83)	\$ (24,464.00)