

THE KANSAS GRANGER
Volume 61 Number 4 – December 2012

PRESIDENT'S NEWS

It was an honor for me to represent and to serve as your delegate at the 146th Annual Convention of the National Grange, which was held this past November in Boise, Idaho. I am happy to report that, although withdrawn, one of the Resolutions submitted by us resulted in, what I feel to be, a positive change in current National Grange Policy. Other Kansans present were Roger and Melanie Bostwick, Kevin and Jamie Klenklen, and Molly Newman. I will be reporting more on my experience as a Freshman Delegate at a later time.

As the holiday season is well underway and we say hello to friends and family, I challenge you to stop and ask yourself how can a Grange membership be of benefit to these people. Are they familiar with the Grange, or have they ever been a member? Don't be afraid to ask them and offer them to a meeting or tell them about an E-membership and the member benefits it includes.

Statistics show when someone is told about the Grange or asked to join 2% of the time that individual will sign-up for membership right then. No, that is not a very high percent but let's look at it on a larger scale. We have roughly 300 members across the state, if everyone asks five people during this holiday season, we should gain 30 new Grange Members by the New Year. When is the last time our state has seen an increase like this in less than a month's time, or even for the entire year. Let's gear down and focus on membership, I will be reporting more on this at a later time.

Let's let this upcoming year be that we focus on growing membership, community service, and advocating efforts of the Grange. There are several new Department Directors and Committee Chairpersons, as members, let's do our part to help them help us succeed into the future. I know that there are many activities, and other items, that are no longer done let them, or me, know what you would like to see done. More information on this at a later time.

So by now I'm sure you're wondering, "when is this later time going to be?" All this and other information of the upcoming years will be presented at Cadmus Grange Hall on February 9th for a Leadership / Membership Conference, we will be joined by the National Grange Membership Director, Michael Martin. We will start at 10:00 in the morning and this is geared to be an all day event. Lunch will be served, but please feel free to bring something for afternoon snacks. For more information on this or anything else please email me at nathan.strawder@gmail.com or call me at (316)680-6045 and leave a message.

Fraternally yours,
Nathan Strawder, President

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!
FEBRUARY 9, 2013
LEADERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE
CADMUS GRANGE HALL

THANK YOU

Dear Kansas State Grange,

Thank you for the beautiful plant, and for all the expression of love and remembrance from our Grange family.

Your kind words, thoughts and prayers have helped to ease our pain.

There are those whose lives death cannot diminish. Their love radiates forever in the hearts of family and friends. We felt that love in your thoughtfulness. Thank you so much.

The family of Naoma Kincaide

Jim Kincaide, Linda & Eldon Rothwell, Lois, Andy, Max & Jim Barber

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CHAPLAIN'S CHARGE

"All things work together for good for those who love God." -- Romans 8:24 (NRSV)

Greetings:

The Annual Kansas State Grange Convention was held September 21-23 in Lawrence. The Holidome was a nice facility to host our convention. The charter was draped on September 21 in memory of Brother Doyce Bates and Sister Naoma Kincaide. I appreciate being re-elected as State Chaplain. The job is never easy when we lose our "good and faithful" grangers. The Memorial Program was held on September 23 in memory of two Past National Grange Masters, our State Steward, our past State Pomona, and all other Grangers that we lost during the past year.

Let us remember Sister Naoma May (Ellis) Kincaide, 85, of Gardner, who passed away on September 16, 2012 at Olathe Medical Center. Funeral services were held September 24 at the First Presbyterian Church, 138 E. Shawnee, Gardner, with burial at Gardner Cemetery. Visitation was held on Sunday, September 23, at the Bruce Funeral Home in Gardner with a Grange Funeral Service ceremony.

Sister Naoma served as Pomona of the Kansas State Grange from 1962 to 1976. Jim and Naoma were honored as the Kansas State Grange Young Couple of the Year in 1957. They were honored as King and Queen of the Kansas State Grange in 2000. Sister Naoma was a past Master and a 65-year member of Gardner Grange #68.

Sister Naoma is survived by her husband Jim, both daughters and their husbands, Linda and Eldon Rothwell and Lois and Andy Barber, twin grandsons, Max and Jim Barber, step-grandson, Alex and wife Cagney and a step-great-grandson on the way. A floral tribute was presented by Lois Barber and Jeremy Douglass during the Memorial Program. We will dearly miss our Sister Naoma.

Kevin and I attended National Grange in Boise, Idaho on November 14 – 17. We enjoyed our trip. We attended the Past Delegates luncheon and the Grange Banquet. Next year the convention will be held in Manchester, New Hampshire.

As we look forward to the upcoming holidays, I hope you have safe travels and enjoy the time with family and friends. I also hope that we will continue to work for the good of the order. We have many fun activities planned in the coming year and look forward to participating in them.

Blessings to all,

Jamie Klenklen, Kansas State Grange Chaplain

COMMUNITY SERVICE

As the new State Community Service Director, I first want to thank Donna Bates for her leadership as our director the past few years. She truly has a heartfelt passion for Community Service and I sincerely appreciate the time we had for discussion at State Grange this year. I have enjoyed working with Donna over the years and look forward to many more. Thank you, Donna, for your continued service!

I will be making changes to the Community Service Report form to be submitted to me at the end of the Grange year. This form will be distributed to each Grange after the first of the year. It will also be posted on the Kansas Grange website. I hope that it will be easy for all to use. We encourage notebook reports with supporting pictures/stories, but PLEASE KNOW, returning only the form listing your Grange's activities is equally important. National Grange sends money back to State Granges each year, based on the percentage of reports turned in by Granges. We need to hear from all of you!

As I write this, I want to leave you with this thought. In the past month, my Subordinate Grange was made aware of more new community service opportunities to participate in than we could handle! I'm certain they were there for you, also. The needs are everywhere – we have only to be open to the possibilities and go for it!

Best wishes for safe and happy holidays!

Randee Farmer, 3506 Ridgecrest Road, Augusta, KS 67010 316-644-1871 farmermd13@cox.net

LECTURER'S REPORT

It's a Great Time to be a Granger and a new year is upon us. As your newly elected State Lecturer I hope to continue the great programs that have been a part of Kansas Grange history. The one change I would like to see is that as we educate with inspiration and we further use this as a chance to increase membership through public awareness and improve attendance at our local Grange meetings and events. We are truly an organization with American Values with Hometown Roots.

I want to further recognize those Granges that can communicate, educate, and accomplish this. I also want to further recognize the local Lecturers that have a program every meeting. Also I would like to see Lecturers lay out programs for the entire fiscal year. This gives members and the community a chance to get excited and involved. I will discuss how each will be recognized later but when you get your programs planned please send a copy of these to me.

Each Subordinate and Pomona Grange Lecturer should download the National Lecturer's Guide if you have not already done so. It can be located at:

<http://www.nationalgrange.org/?s=National+Lecturer+Program> and download the guide named Lecturer's Guide. It is entitled "Get Them Up and Learning, A Grange Lecturer's Guide." It gives plenty of examples of ways to get your Grange going and learning strong.

I also hope that each Grange has a special program planned for Grange Month. It might be a good time to brag about some of the benefits of Grange Membership. Call the local newspapers and spread some of these benefits.

Another activity that I would like you to push is the National Grange Video Contest. The guidelines are simple and it can be done by individuals or as a group. Check it out as it can also help educate and bring in new membership.

Fraternally,
Ed Bruns, Kansas State Grange Lecturer

Grange YouTube Commercial Contest announced

<http://www.nationalgrange.org/2012/09/grange-youtube-commercial-contest-announced/>

Each month, more than 800 million unique viewers visit YouTube to check out different videos.

Bloggers, news media outlets and social media users share their favorite clips for others to see.

Each year, the National Grange Youth department sponsors a Grange commercial contest that encourages Grangers to share their passion for our organization.

These commercials also show others what it means to showcase our "American Values, Hometown Roots."

This project can be done by individuals or by groups. It also can be done as a youth activity at youth camps, conferences or lock-ins.

Remember, the goal of the contest is to see how creatively Grangers can promote the values and benefits of Grange membership.

In addition to focusing on the National Grange tagline of "American Values. Hometown Roots." they can also utilize the National Youth Department tagline of "Grange Youth: the Leadership difference or other membership highlights such as grassroots advocacy, community service, and fellowship.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Kansas State Grange Youth & Young Adults, please be checking your email and/or Facebook for information on possible locations and ideas for a Holiday Get Together to be held sometime in January. We will be discussing programs and activities for this coming year. Hope everyone has a fantastic Christmas season with family and friends!

Jamee Funk, Director

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BAYNEVILLE GRANGE NEWS

In October, we opened and closed in full form at our regularly scheduled meeting, followed by a Potato Bar dinner. Halloween jingles sung to Christmas tunes were enjoyed by all. We voted to adopt a child/children for Christmas.

In November, we made breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the election board working one of the local wards in Augusta on November 6. They loved it, and were the envy of other wards! We have met twice and made over 60 pounds of peanut brittle to sell at the Holiday Craft Fair November 24 in Augusta. We have attached business cards with Grange contact and organization information to each bag – we'll not only be making money for charity projects, but we'll be advertising the Grange! Members have been making items to sell at the fair as well. Several members will be setting up tables/chairs, providing/preparing food, and serving meals on Thanksgiving Day at the 1st Annual FREE Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Newly formed Generous Hearts of Augusta is organizing this effort, but no one organization is doing it all, community organizations/individuals are working together. It is estimated that we will serve over 300-400 people. This dinner is not only for those who have little, but for those who might be lonely or who would enjoy fellowship on Thanksgiving. Bayneville Grange is proud to be a part of this caring project, from the grass-roots start! Because of all the activities listed here, we will not have a regular meeting in November.

Because of the holidays, our next meeting will be December 30.

PLEASANT VIEW GRANGE NEWS

Pleasant View Grangers held a cook-out at Newman's for their November meeting, and a Christmas party for their December meeting with a white elephant gift exchange. Also, several members worked on raising funds for the new underlayment for the playground in the Ozawkie City Park. The project was a joint effort between Pleasant View Grange, Mt. Pleasant Grange and the Ozawkie Rebekah Lodge, and is almost complete.

Five Pleasant View members attended the National Grange Convention in Boise, Idaho. They are: National Assistant Steward Roger Bostwick, Melanie Bostwick, Great Plains Regional speech winner Molly Newman, and past national officers Kevin and Jamie Klenklen. Kevin was in the Seventh Degree.

Julie Kramer, Pleasant View Grange

NATIONAL GRANGE NEWS

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Due to budgetary constraints, the National Grange will not print and send an edition of the New Grange in 2013. However, the Communications Department is committed to providing information to all members and asks each of you to assist in this effort.

Please spread the word that the National Grange will produce and distribute e-newsletters on a regularly scheduled basis for all members who provide email addresses to swilkins@nationalgrange.org or abrozana@nationalgrange.org. Information can also be regularly found at www.nationalgrange.org.

If you know members who do not have email or the internet, please volunteer or find someone in your Grange who will print and distribute the e-newsletter editions to members.

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NATIONAL GRANGE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

The National Grange Legislative Department already has several irons in the fire for 2013. Obviously, with the new Congress coming into town, I'll spend quite a lot of time on the Hill getting to know the new legislators and their staff. I also plan to do quite a bit of fundraising in 2013 to help bring in some new money, which will also include writing a "fundraising guidebook" for the state and local Granges to use as well.

One of my top priorities for 2013 is to install a dedicated stream of communication between the National Grange and the state and local Granges. That includes writing more blogs, emails, newsletters and most of all- updating our Action Alert system. Grangers can't advocate for themselves if they don't know what's going on, and it's my job to see that they're aware of what's happening here in DC. Even more than that, I want to teach Grangers how to advocate for themselves and become involved members of their communities.

As part of my efforts to teach Grangers about advocacy, I've developed a program called Apathy Not Allowed that is aimed at teaching youth and young adults the vital importance of civic participation. Naturally, this includes teaching them the importance of voting, but I really want to show them how to influence public policy in other ways. Voter turnout for federal elections usually averages between 50 and 60% of eligible voters. I think that's a horrible number and explains many of the problems we're currently experiencing in this country. Democracy might be the best form of government, but it's still government and we as citizens always need to be mindful of what our government is doing. Public apathy towards government, politics and public policy is how government oppression takes root and we can never allow that to happen.

Similarly, I've also started to develop a new "mission" of sorts for the Grange: trying to get agricultural education back into our public schools. Currently, most public school curriculum is completely void of any and all agricultural education. We are raising a generation of kids who have no concept of where their food comes from or the methods by which it is grown. This has led to a general public that is easily swayed by anti-agricultural groups and the untruths they spread. Educating them at a young age, showing them all of the ways in which agriculture and rural America impacts their lives is the only way to ensure that our youth will come to value agriculture and possibly even choose farming or ranching as their careers one day.

However, this new mission isn't simply a business decision, but represents a higher calling necessary to the sustainment of an efficient and abundant food supply. The world population has doubled since 1960 and is expected to double again by 2050. Meanwhile, the number of people employed in agriculture has been cut in half since 1946 and now less than 1% of the population can claim farming as their occupation. In other words, the demand for food is rising at an alarming rate, and our ability to meet that demand has fallen by just as much. This absolutely cannot continue if we expect to enjoy the same safe and competent food supply we do now. As a community-based, nonpartisan organization, the Grange has a unique opportunity to begin this campaign and change the future for generations to come and I want to get started on that change right away.

Checkout Graces blog at <http://nationalgrangeviewfromthehill.blogspot.com/>

By Grace Boatright, Legislative Director

NATIONAL GRANGE COMMUNICATIONS

Like gravity in physics, communication has laws.

An essential one that we all should remember is that "One cannot not communicate." Double negative aside, the statement is poignant. No matter if we choose to create flyers, write articles, hang banners, publish newsletters, build websites, create social media profiles or give speeches or not, we are telling a broader public something about our organization.

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If we choose not to in some way spread the message of the Grange, we are sending a message that the Grange is not worth our efforts.

Because of this, it is important that every Grange and every Grange member make communicating positively about our organization and your local Granges a priority as we look to 2013.

As of early 2012, every Grange was provided a free website and email by the National Grange. We have also worked to encourage Granges to take advantage of free social networking sites such as Facebook to create pages (not profiles or groups) that are public and share the images, stories and details about our Granges with the communities in which we are a part.

Taking advantage of these mediums tells the public that the Grange is a place where things happen, people enjoy their interactions and want others to be a part of the fun. Without embracing new technologies, we tell others they are not welcome in our clique.

All Granges should create a communications plan for 2013 as a way to spread your message, our message and as a result, potentially bring in new members.

The Communications Department will offer many outreach sessions this year, in the form of communication weekend workshops in different areas of the country, monthly TeamSpeak meetings and more. We hope you will take the time to provide your ideas, suggestions and comments to the department including how we can best help your Grange. Please send comments and suggestions to abrozana@nationalgrange.org.

By Amanda Leigh Brozana, National Grange Communications Director

CALENDAR

Jan 5	12:00pm	Carbondale Grange - Carbondale City Hall
	6:30pm	Cadmus Grange - Cadmus Grange Hall
Jan 7	12:00pm	Mt. Pleasant Grange - Adams home in Ozawkie
Jan 10	6:30pm	Neosho Valley Grange - Kelly Hall, Burlington
	7:30pm	Pleasant View Grange - Ozawkie United Methodist Church
Jan 12	12:00pm	Osage Co. Pomona Grange
	7:00pm	Richland Grange - Farlinville Community Center
Jan 15	7:00pm	New Century Grange
Jan 19	7:00pm	Morning Grange – Morning Grange Hall
Jan 21	7:00pm	Fairplain Grange
Jan 27	5:00pm	Bayneville Grange - Augusta Senior Citizens & Friendship Center
Feb 2	12:00pm	Carbondale Grange - Carbondale City Hall
	6:30pm	Cadmus Grange – Cadmus Grange Hall
Feb 4	12:00pm	Mt. Pleasant Grange – Adams home, Ozawkie
Feb 9	7:00pm	Richland Grange - Farlinville Community Center
Feb 11	6:30pm	Gardner Grange – Gardner Grange Hall
Feb 14	6:30pm	Neosho Valley Grange - Kelly Hall, Burlington
	6:30pm	Pleasant View Grange - Ozawkie United Methodist Church
Feb 16	7:00pm	Morning Grange – Morning Grange Hall
Feb 18	7:00pm	Fairplain Grange
Feb 19	7:30pm	New Century Grange
Feb 24	5:00pm	Bayneville Grange - Augusta Senior Citizens & Friendship Center

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 25, 2013 at bwelsh2@cox.net