



NEW &
POTENTIAL
MEMBER
HANDBOOK

SEQUIM PRAIRIE
GRANGE #1108
290 MACLEAY RD.
SEQUIM, WA 98382

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Where we came from:

In 1866 Oliver Hudson Kelly, who worked for the Department of Agriculture was sent to survey the farm conditions after the Civil War. He discovered that farmers were having trouble getting their product to market and getting a fair price. He came up with the idea of uniting the farmers of the North and South together through a fraternal organization. Kelly quit his job at the Department of Agriculture and with six friends and his niece who was his secretary, added that the only way it would work was to make it a family organization and allow women equal voice and vote. Working as a team the National Grange was formally organized. The Grange is still active today. Our focus is still on family, education with regard to agriculture and working in and serving our communities.

Where are we going?

While our precepts haven't changed, we are looking toward the future and our goal is to continue to work on issues that concern our neighbors and be an active participant in our communities. The Grange has accomplished much, in helping better those who live in rural areas and will continue to “fight the good fight” for our communities whether they are rural or urban. In order to do so, **WE NEED YOU!** In our legislative endeavors we have been able to bring changes to the law. Those of you who are concerned about the food we eat or are small growers and want to see regulations and changes made easier to get your product to market – the Grange is still here for you. Please consider this your invitation to visit us and consider joining us.

Why should you join?

This is a question that is often asked. Below you will see some of the programs and benefits members are offered:

- ★ We have come a long way since the 1800's and are working hard to make a difference in our communities.
- ★ We are a FAMILY & FRATERNAL organization where every member has a voice and a vote. WE have something for every member of the family. Junior Granges and camps, programs for youth, and lots of community service projects for everyone to participate in and educational programs at our meetings. Hearing, health and safety are very important to us. **The best benefit of all is fellowship with your neighbors and being able to work together as a family in your community.**
- ★ We hold contests each year, from talent, to baking, canning, photography, quilting, arts & crafts, just to name a few.
- ★ WE have great youth programs where they can win awards and learn how to be our future leaders.
- ★ We have fun activities and camps for juniors.
- ★ Grange member benefits include a variety of discounts (Please ask for a copy of the latest benefits brochure)
- ★ At **Sequim Prairie Grange** we have a large variety of opportunities to have fun and serve (Please ask for our Tri-Fold of Events for the current year)
- ★ Our Website is <http://www.grange.org/sequimprairiewa1108>
- ★ To receive our News letter electronically please send your request by Email to sequimgrange@gmail.com

Grange Degrees are learning opportunities for each member.

Each degree teaches us and makes us more knowledgeable through the symbols like the AX, Plow, Harrow, Spade, Pruning Knife and hoe. The first four degrees are based on the seasons of the year and are usually presented by a community (subordinate) Grange.

The First Degree: **In the spring**, men and women enter the grange seeking the opportunity to participate and become brothers and sisters in our fraternity. We learn that the Grange's highest and first objective is to “develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood”.

As a family organization, the Grange symbolically closes its doors during meetings to show our focus on the Grange meeting. To show respect to women and reverence to the Bible, members are asked not to pass between the Alter and the Graces except when instructed by the Grange manual.

The Second Degree: **In the summer**, men and women enter the Grange seeking advancement and education. We learn that in planning a project or progressing to a new state of life, one must prepare and plan well in hope of achieving the goal. The symbols of the second degree are the hoe, which represents the cultivation of the mind which destroys error and keeps the mind ready to learn and apply new skills; and the pruning knife, which directs us to remove “idle thoughts and sinful suggestions” from our mind.

We are reminded that a person's worth is not judged by wealth or status in the community but by moral and mental worth.

The Third Degree: In the autumn. Charity guides this degree and reminds us to care for the mind and body when reaping our rewards. “Gather the good seed, use judgment and let your example be such that others may profit by it”. As Grangers, we are again encouraged to study and share our knowledge with others. “Be faithful, be hopeful and be charitable”. All labor is good when we honor it, dignify it, and see through it to the advancement and happiness of others.

The Fourth Degree: In the winter, after all the crops have been harvested and stored, the family gathers in the home where the fruits of their labors are finally enjoyed. We are reminded to remain faithful to our obligation and fidelity to the Grange is expected. As fourth degree members we are encouraged to care for the children and teach them to love and understand life.

The Fifth Degree: The degree of Pomona is conferred by the County or Pomona Grange. The degree reminds us that success is achieved by perseverance.

The Sixth Degree: The degree of Flora is conferred annually at the State Grange Convention where representatives from all community and Pomona granges meet to set legislative policy for implementation.

The Seventh Degree: This degree is the highest level of our order. The national grange meets annually to adopt legislative and Grange policies and procedures.



What goes on at a Grange Meeting?

A Grange meeting has an opening ceremony where the Assistant Stewards open the bible; The Chaplin gives an opening prayer, the Lecturer (Program Director) announces a song; Master (President) leads the members in the grange salutation and members salute the flag. The closing is a short version of the opening.

The order of business is the Secretary reads the record of the last meeting. Committee chairs present reports, Secretary read communications that have come to the grange, financial reports are presented for approval. Unfinished and New business is discussed, and the Lecturer presents a program that may be educational or entertaining.

At the meeting, you will see people wearing sashes that indicate the office they hold and the grange (degree level) they hold those offices in. You will see **Blue**, for community (subordinate) Granges, **Green** for Pomona or County Granges, **Pink** for State Granges and **Gold** for the National Grange.

You will also see people carry staves, and each one has a meaning and this meaning will be explained to you if you ask.

More information on Grange Meeting cont'd...

The Grange meeting uses parliamentary procedure and “Robert's Rules of Order” to conduct our meetings. What that means is members who wish to make a motion or speak during a grange meeting need to stand and address the chair - “Worthy Master or President”, and when recognized by the chair may have the floor to speak.

You will also hear the gavel rapped, **once** to open and close the meeting, call attention to something, keep things in order and to seat members when standing. **Twice** is for the officers to rise. **Three** times means all will rise.

You will see the Bible opened at the beginning of the meeting and closed at the end. The Flag is presented or if unable to present the flag appropriately with the dignity it deserves, there will at the very least be a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

We want your visit to our Grange to be a pleasant one and if you see anything that you do not understand or would like more information about, please ask the conducting Master/President or the person who invited you to explain.

We want you to be comfortable and to come back!

*"In essentials Unity,
In non-essentials Liberty,
in all things Charity".*

For more information:

If you would like to organize a new grange or revitalize an old one....

You may contact the Washington State Grange Headquarters office @ 1-800-854-1653 or 1-360-943-9911
Website: www.wa-grange.org

You may also contact the State Membership Director, Shavanna Burlingame@
krftyldy923@gmail.com
360-978-4728 or Cell 360-304-3419

OR Your Local Grange
Sequim Prairie Grange #1108
Membership Chairperson
Bob Clark
clacha@olypen.com
360-683-4431

OR

The person who gave you this booklet

Name: _____

Phone #'s _____

Email: _____