National Grange
of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry

Journal of Proceedings

142nd Annual Convention
Cromwell, Connecticut
2008

Journal of Proceedings
of the
National Grange
of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry

142nd Annual Convention
Cromwell, Connecticut
November 11-15, 2008

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THE GRANGE MISSION

The Grange provides opportunities for individuals and families to develop to their highest potential in order to build stronger communities and states, as well as a stronger nation.

The Grange will accomplish this mission through:

FELLOWSHIP

- We give our members the opportunity to meet with and get to know their neighbors in a safe, family-friendly atmosphere.
- We provide a place where children, youth, and adults can grow, develop their talents and social skills, and learn leadership techniques.

SERVICE

- We provide our members with the opportunity to discover and solve community needs.
- We give assistance to individuals in crisis.
- We provide a great place for community networking.

LEGISLATION

- We have a grassroots approach to local, state and federal legislative change.
- We give our members a voice in state and federal government forums.

NATIONAL OFFICERS- 2008

Master	Edward Luttrell	1616 H Street, NW Washington, DC 20006	202-628-3507
Overseer	Jimmy Gentry	1734 Wilkesboro Highway Statesville, NC 28625	704-878-000
Lecturer	Judy Sherrod	333 Crossfield Drive Knoxville, TN 37920	865-637-3780
Steward	Jay Pfeiffer	505 FM 474 Boerne, TX 78006	830-537-4330
Assistant Steward	Roger Bostwick	9578 110th Street Ozawkie, KS 66070	785-876-2751
Lady Ass't Steward	Beth Merrill	107 West Street Antrim, NH 03440	603-588-6615
Chaplain	Jim Foster	3 Depot Road Chichester, NH 03258	603-798-5783
Treasurer	Joe Fryman	14512 County Rd. P16 Blair, NE 68008	402-426-5773
Secretary	Henrietta Keller	955 Keller Lane O'Fallon, IL 62269	618-632-4322
Gatekeeper	William Narvel	911 S. Governors Avenue Dover, DE 19904	302-734-4653
Ceres	Nancy Swainston	1810 Village Lane Dorr, MI 49323	616-262-9928
Pomona (Pro Tem)	Phyllis Wilson	643 Union Street NE Salem, OR 97301-2462	503-316-0106
Flora	Linda Chase	491 Hollis Street Dunstable, MA 01827	978-649-7184

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Betsy Huber *(2008)*	362 University Road Lincoln University, PA 19352	610-932-4387
Secretary	Phil Prelli *(2009)*	12 Alexandria Drive Barkhamsted, CT 06063	315-462-3067
	Marty Billquist *(2008)*	5980 Galen Road Anaconda, MT 59711	406-563-7891
	Pete Pompper *(2009)*	63 Pecks Corner Road Salem, NJ 08079	856-935-0395

ASSEMBLY OF DEMETER

High Priest of Demeter	John Valentine	7034 W. St. Rd. 26 Portland, IN 47371	260-726-2337
Priest Archon	Daniel Bascom	123 Franklin St. Rochester, NH 03867	603-332-2164
Priest Annalist	Bruce Croucher	2514 County Road 25 Clifton Springs, NY 14432	315-462-3067

DEPARTMENT HEADS

National Grange Headquarters	(888) 447-2643
Controller	Amber Casey
Communications	Jennifer Dugent
Information Technology	Stephanie Wilkins
Legislative Affairs	Leroy Watson
Sales, Benefits, & Programs	Samantha Johnson

Junior Grange	Anne Kurburski	9278 Middle Village Dr. Harbor Springs, MI 49740	213-526-7102
Membership	Rusty Hunt	1845 Road 14 NE Coulee City, WA 99115	509-632-5600
Youth Activites	Charlene Shupp Espenshade	213 Black Swamp Road Bainbridge, PA 17502	717-361-2844

ELECTIONS

The delegates elected the following National Officers on November 13, 2008:

Executive Committee	Betsy Huber	Pennsylvania
	Marty Billquist	Montana
Chaplain	Phyllis Wilson	Oregon
Pomona	Linda Lewis	California

DELEGATES

AK	Gaye Hunt, PO Box 111897, Anchorage, AK 99511
CA	Randy & Linda Lewis, 3830 U Street, Sacramento, CA 95817-1345
CO	John & Trudie Hagan, 3150 Weld CR 87, Roggen, CO 80652
CT	Robert & Marge Sendewicz, 2 Cole Place, Danbury, CT 06810
DE	William & Barbara Narvel, 4201 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808
FL	Ruth Gray, PO Box 714, Wiersdale, FL 32195
ID	Donald & Jeannie Billmire, PO Box 367, Meridian, ID 83680-0367
IL	David & Mary Donley, 3157 East B St. Rd., Belleville, IL 62221
IN	Gordon & Lucille Groves, 16105 CR 22, Goshen, IN 46528
IA	Dwight & Kathy Baldwin, 2606 Highway 224N, Kellogg, IA 50135
KS	Roger & Melanie Bostwick, 9578 110th Street, Ozawkie, KS 66070
ME	James Owens, 567 Main Street, Madison, ME 04950
	Rick Grotton, 40 West Street, Gardiner, ME 04345
MD	Maurice & Donna Wiles, 5543 Buffalo Road, Mt. Airy, MD 21771
MA	Calvin & Linda Chase, 491 Hollis Street, Dunstable, MA 01827
MI	Christopher & Connie Johnston, 1730 Chamberlain Way, Haslett, MI 48840
MN	Richard & Claire Field, 8249 Country Club Old Rd., W.Byron, MN 55920
MT	Marty & Joyce Billquist, 5980 Galen Road, Anaconda, MT 59711
NE	Joe & Tammy Fryman, 14512 Co Rd P16, Blair, NE 68008
NH	Beth & Arthur Merrill, 107 West Street, Antrim, NH 03440-3612
NJ	Pete Pompper, 63 Pecks Corner Road, Salem, NJ 8079
NY	Oliver & Karen Orton, 100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY 13045-1330
NC	Jimmy & Anita Gentry, 1734 Wilkesboro Hwy., Statesville, NC 28625
OH	Gary & Linda Brumbaugh, PO Box 121, Fredericktown, OH 43019-0121
OK	Yvonne & Kay Meritt, 20545 SW 15, Union City, OK 73090
OR	Phyllis Wilson, 643 Union Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-2462
	Mark Noah, 1407 Modoc Street, Springfield, OR 97477-4126
PA	Betsy Huber, 362 University Road, Lincoln University, PA 19352
	Elizabeth Downey, 317 Mountain View, Muncy, PA 17756
RI	Scott Sherman & Amanda Carsten, 9 Toppa Boulevard, Newport, RI 02840-2364
SC	John & Hazel Hammett, 134 Colonial Drive, Chesnee, SC 29323
TN	Judy Sherrod, 333 Crossfield Drive, Knoxville, TN 37920
TX	Jack & Margaret Smithers, 7361 Parkett, San Antonio, TX 78223
VT	Clyde Berry, PO Box 266 Wilder, VT 05088

Errol Briggs, PO Box 90, Barre, VT 05641

VA James Taylor, 12600 Bundle Road, Chesterfield, VA 23838

WA June & Jack Hendrickson, PO Box 1186, Olympia, WA 98507

WV Jim & Earlene Foster, Rt. 1 Box 105, New Milton, WV 26411

WI No Delegates

WY Dee Dee & James Loomer, 937 East Toad Road, Casper, WY 82601

John Trimble Youth - Tracey Blasingame (IL) & Trisha Browning (WA)

2008 CONVENTION COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE
Jimmy Gentry, NC*
Bruce Croucher, NY (H)**
Linda Lewis, CA
John Hagan, CO
Don Billmire, ID
Gordon Gibson, IN
Linda Chase, MA
Jack Smithers, TX
Jim Loomer, WY
Phil Prelli, CT (H)

CONSERVATION
Ruth Gray, FL*
Randy Lewis, CA**
Marge Sendewicz, CT
Roger Bostwick, KS
Beth Merrill, NH
Beth Downey, PA
Jim Foster, WV
Errol B., VT
Norm Keller, IL (H)

GRANGE LAW
Oliver Orton, NY*
Joyce Billquist, MT**
Rick G., ME
Arthur Merrill, NH
Pete Pompper, NJ
Betsy Huber, PA
Jack Hendrickson, WA
John Valentine, IN (H)
Dan Bascom, NH (H)

AUDIT & BUDGET
Jim Owens, ME*
Joe Fryman, NE**
Chip Narvel, DE
Dwight Baldwin, IA
Claire F., MN
John B., NJ
Judy Sherrod, TN
June Hendrickson, WA

EDUCATION & HEALTH
Gaye Hunt, AK*
Jeff Swainston, MI (H)**
Barbara Narvel, DE
Mary Donnelly, IL
Melanie Bostwick, KS
Karen Orton, NY
Amanda Sherman, RI
John Hammett, SC
Tracy Blasingame, IL (Y)

LABOR & JUDICIARY
Yvonne Meritt, OK*
Jimmy Taylor, VA**
Lucille Gibson, IN
Connie Johnston, MI
Trudi Hagan, CO
Maureen Prelli, CT (H)
Nancy Swainston, MI (H)
Sharon Croucher, NY (H)
Jay Pfeiffer, TX (H)

CITIZENSHIP
Clyde Berry, VT*
Calvin Chase, MA**
Tammy Fryman, NE
Anita Gentry, NC
Hazel Hammet, SC
Margaret Smithers, TX
Earlene Foster, WV
Bob Sendewicz, CT
Kim Bascom, NH (H)

GRANGE GROWTH
Phyllis Wilson, OR*
Kathy Baldwin, IA**
Jeannie Billmire, ID
David Donnelly, IL
Donna Wiles, MD
Marty Billquist, MT
Gary Brumbaugh, OH
Scott Sherman, RI
Chris Johnston, MI

TAXATION & TRANS.
Maurice Wiles, MD*
Mark N., OR**
Richard Fields, MN
Linda Brumbaugh, OH
Kay Meritt, OK
Dee Dee Loomer, WY
Henrietta Keller, IL (H)
Nancy Valentine, IN (H)
Trisha Browning, WA (YH)

**Chair*
*** Secretary*

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

7:00 am
Freshmen Class Breakfast

8:30 am
Opening of the 142nd Annual Convention in the Seventh Degree

8:45 am
Admission of Fourth Degree Members
Roll Call of Officers
Introduction of Staff
Roll Call of States
Partial Credentials Report
Adoption of Order of Business

9:00 am
National Master's Address
Reconvene Session in Fourth Degree
National Master's Internal Report
Directors Reports
Committee Reports & Action
Announcements
Veteran's Day Salute

12:00 noon
Session Closes

12:15 pm
Luncheon
Speaker: Woodrow Tucker

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Committee Meetings

9:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Committee Meetings

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

8:00 am
Salute to Agriculture Breakfast
Speakers: Henry N. Talmage,
Connecticut Farmland Trust
Terry Jones,
Connecticut Working Lands Alliance

9:30 am
Committee Meetings

10:30 am
Session Opens in Fourth Degree
Committee Reports and Action

12:00 noon
Session recess

12:15 pm
Luncheon
Speaker: Greg Gierer
Director of Policy & Research, PhRMA

2:30 pm
Session Reconvenes

4:30 pm
Session Recess

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Idea Fair & Showcase of Excellence Preview

6:30 pm
Youth – Orientation/Expectations

7:30 pm
Session Reconvenes
Youth – visit National Grange Session
Speaker: Mark Twain
(as portrayed by Ken Richters)

9:30 pm
Session Closes

8:30 pm
Youth Officers Practice

9:30 pm
Youth – Get Acquainted Party

10:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Committee Meetings

11:30 pm
Youth Vespers

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

8:30 am
Session Open in the Fourth Degree
Committee Reports/Action
Election of Officers
Speaker: Paul Johnson
Topic: Mediation

9:00 am
General & Youth Tour

10:00 am
Junior Grange Registration

10:00 am - 11:30 pm
Junior Activities Room

9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Idea Fair & Showcase of Excellence

12:00 noon
Session Recess

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Past Delegates Luncheon

2:00 pm
Session Reconvenes in the Fourth Degree
Committee Reports/Action
Past Delegate Recognition
Memorial Service – National Chaplain

4:00 pm
Session Closes

4:00 pm- 5:00 pm
Youth Workshop
Speaker: Paul Johnson
Topic: Mediation

5:00 pm
Youth Officers Practice

6:00 pm
Youth & Junior Pizza Party

6:45 pm - 9:00 pm
Junior Pajama Party

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Assembly of Demeter

8:00 pm
Youth Directors Conference

9:30 pm - 11:00 pm
Youth – Costume Party and Dance
Theme: 1960's

11:00 pm
Youth Vespers

11:15 pm
Youth Officers Practice

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

7:30 am
Youth Officers Practice & Pictures

8:30 am
Session Opens / Youth Opening Committee
Reports/Action

9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Idea Fair & Showcase of Excellence

9:15 am - 10:00 am
Junior Grange Membership Workshop
Speaker: Rusty Hunt

10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Youth Workshop
Speaker: Rusty Hunt
Topic: Your Mind's Eye

10:00 am - 10:45 am
State Junior Director's/Committee Workshop

10:00 am - 11:00 am
Communications Workshop
Presenter: Jennifer Dugent
Topic: Spreading the Seeds (Word)

10:45 am - 11:30 am
Combined Juniors & Directors Workshop
Crafts, Projects, Games and Activities

11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Women's /Family Activities Workshop
Presenter: Audrey Planer, NJ
Topic: Old Feed Bag
Presenter: Charles Martin, VT
Topic: Machine Quilting Demo

11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Legislative Workshop
Presenter: Ms. Bonnie Burr
CT Director, USDA Farm Services Agency
Topic: 2008 Farm Bill

11:00 am - 1:00 pm
7th Degree Walk through

12:00 noon
Session Recess

12:00 noon
Evening of Excellence Rehearsal

12:15 pm
Grow Club Luncheon

12:15 pm
Chair/Secretaries Luncheon

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Membership/Leadership Workshop
Presenter: Rusty Hunt
Topic: Is it Contagious?

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Junior Tour
Children's Museum

2:00 pm
Session Reconvenes/Installation

4:30 pm
120th Birthday of Junior Grange

5:00 pm
Youth A.O.L.E. Dinner

6:00 pm
Horizon Leadership Ambassadors Pictures

7:00 pm
Evening of Excellence

10:30 pm
Youth Program Hosted by the NE Region

11:30 pm
Vespers

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

8:00 am
7th Degree Final Preparations

8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Idea Fair & Showcase of Excellence

8:00 am
Junior Breakfast & Super JG Awards

8:30 am - 9:30 am
Dogs for the Deaf Demonstration
Presenter: Robin Dixon

9:30 am - 10:30 pm
Youth Workshop
Presenter: Carl Meiss
Topic: Membership

9:30 am - 11:00 am
Junior Grange Activities
Special Workshop: KJ

10:00 am
6th Degree Conferral

11:00 am
Youth Knowledge Bowl

11:30 am
Junior Grange Degree

1:00 pm
7th Degree Conferral

1:45 pm - 4:00 pm
Junior Grange Activities

2:30 pm
Junior Grange Auction with JG Dollars

7:00 pm
Grange Celebration Banquet
Entertainment: KJ
Following Banquet – Grange Dance

12:00 am
Vespers

DAILY RESUME

142nd ANNUAL NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

Early arrivers to the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, Connecticut for the 142nd Annual National Grange Convention were Executive Assistant/Meeting Planner, Margaret Maxwell; Director of Communications, Jennifer Dugent; and Programs Assistant, Molly Thompson to finalize plans and begin pre-convention activities. National Master Ed and First Lady Celia Luttrell (OR); Sales and Program Manger, Samantha Johnson; Marketing Coordinator, Beverly Mitchell; Legislative Affairs Director, Leroy Watson; Controller, Amber Casey; Membership/Leadership Director Rusty Hunt; and the Host Convention Committee members also arrived early.

The members of the Board of Directors arrived on Saturday, November 8. On Saturday afternoon National Master Luttrell met with the staff followed by a meeting of the Board of Directors.

PRE-CONVENTION RECEPTION AND MEETINGS
Sunday, November 9, 2008

National Master Ed Luttrell welcomed the first time Delegates of the 142nd National Grange Annual Convention on Sunday, November 9, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, Connecticut. Rusty Hunt (WA) Membership/ Leadership Director conducted a New Master's Workshop for the new Masters from Texas, Washington, Michigan, Idaho, Ohio, and Wyoming.

The National Officers and Delegates were welcomed at a reception beginning at 6:00 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m. committee chairs and secretaries met with Legislative Affairs Director Leroy Watson to discuss the session committee reports.

At 7:30 p.m. a Convention Overview for Officers/Delegates was held. National Master Ed Luttrell (OR) welcomed the Officers and Delegates. Marty Billquist (MT) asked the Delegates and Officers to rise and reaffirm the pledge of the 5th Degree. Master Luttrell explained the Grange Foundation and the different funds in the Foundation.

Master Luttrell updated the Delegates and Officers of the situation with Tyson Foods.

Master Luttrell and Sister Betsy Huber (PA) presented the budget to the delegates.

National Overseer Jimmy Gentry (NC) introduced the new Masters and assigned them mentors to assist them during the session. The New Masters are:

Chris and Connie Johnston (MI) and their mentors are Dwight and Kathy Baldwin (IA)
Jack and Margaret Smithers (TX) and their mentors are Randy and Linda Lewis (CA)
Donald and Jeannie Billmire (ID) and their mentors are Maurice and Donna Wiles (MD)
Gary and Linda Brumbaugh (OH) and their mentors are David and Mary Donley (IL)
June and Jack Hendrickson (WA) and their mentors are Oliver and Karen Orton (NY)
DeeDee and Jim Loomer (WY) and their mentors are Scott and Amanda Sherman (RI)

Sessions Committees began work on the resolutions.

PRE-CONVENTION
Monday, November 10, 2008

At 7:00 a.m. two buses of National Delegates and Officers traveled to Pfizer Pharmaceuticals in Groton, CT for a tour. Members of Ekonk Community and Quinebaug Pomona Grange #2 served a delicious turkey luncheon at the Ekonk Grange Hall. The group then departed for a tour of Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm.

The members of the Northeast Connection: Connecticut, Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York welcomed the delegates at a Host States Reception followed by a Host States Dinner. Brothers Phil Prelli (CT) and Russell Gray (CT), co-chairs of the 2008 Northeast Connection National Convention Committee, welcomed everyone. The Northeast Connection Chaplain Emeritus, Hugh Clark (NH) gave the Invocation. The Star Spangled Banner was sung with Sister Helen Coombs (CT) serving as pianist.

Following a delicious dinner, Brother Prelli (CT) read a Proclamation from Connecticut Governor, the Hon. M. Jodi Rell. He then introduced Past National Masters Robert and First Lady Dolores Barrow (MA) and Kermit and First Lady Margaret Richardson (VT) and High Priest Emeritus Woodrow Tucker (RI). Past voting delegates of the National Grange were recognized.

John Anderson, Retired Director of Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station was the guest speaker. He spoke about the work of the Experimental Station over the years including the work on hybrid corn and ecology of ticks and mosquitoes. He stressed that theory and practice march together for the betterment of people.

Sister Helen Coombs (CT) performed a piano interlude, which was enjoyed by all.

Worthy National Master Ed Luttrell (OR) welcomed all to the 142nd Annual Meeting and introduced the National Grange Officers and Staff.

Margaret Maxwell, Executive Assistant/Meeting Planner, was presented a gift from The Northeast Connection for her assistance in planning this convention.

Hugh Clark (NH), Chaplain Emeritus, offered the benediction.

Rehearsal of the National Grange Officers began at 9:30 p.m. Sessions committees met at 9:30 p.m. to continue working of the 2008 resolutions.

FIRST DAY
142nd National Grange Convention
Tuesday, November 11, 2008

The day began at 7:00 a.m. with the Freshman Class Breakfast.

John Valentine (IN), High Priest of Demeter, called the 142nd Annual Convention of the National Grange to order in the Seventh Degree at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 11, 2008. The session was held in the Grand Ballroom at The Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, Connecticut.

The National Officers marched in and formed an altar circle. The soloist for the opening was Sister Linda Brumbaugh (OH). Sister Edith Schoell (CT) served as the pianist.

National Master Ed Luttrell (OR) opened the Grange in full form in the Seventh Degree. High Priest John Valentine (IN) led the salutation of the Seven Degrees. The American Flag was presented.

There being no further business to come before the Grange in the Seventh Degree,

Priest Annalist Bruce Croucher (NY) and High Priest John Valentine (IN) were escorted from the hall to make preparations for the conferral of the Seventh Degree. The Grange was then lowered to the Fourth Degree and Fourth Degree members were admitted.

The Grange Flag was presented by Brother Jody A. Cameron (CT) and escorted by Brother Lewis Bryson (ME), Brother David Gregory (MA), Sister Allissa Estes (NH), Sister Sarah Gearing (NY), Sister Claire Logan (RH), and Sister Linda Sanderson (VT). "The Welcome Song" was sung.

Roll call of National Officers showed all Officers present with Sister Phyllis Wilson (OR) answering as Pomona protem.

The roll call of States showed all states except Wisconsin were represented as well as Potomac Grange #1 (DC) and John Trimble Legislative Representatives Tracey Blasingame (IL) and Trisha Browning (WA).

Roll call of the staff of the National Grange showed Leroy Watson Legislative Affairs Director; Rusty Hunt (WA) Membership/Leadership Director; Jennifer Dugent Communications Director; Beverly Mitchell Marketing Coordinator; Samantha Johnson Sales, Benefits and Program Manager, Molly Thompson Programs Assistant; and Amber Casey Controller present.

Chairman of Audit and Budget, James Owens (ME), gave a partial credentials report. A motion was made by Brother Marty Billquist (MT) and seconded to adopt the order of business as presented with the ability to change as necessary. Motion carried.

Worthy Master Luttrell reported he had received a communication from Sister Judy McCann (OK) submitting her resignation as National Pomona because of her new employment. He has accepted her resignation. Sister Betsy Huber (PA) moved we accept her resignation with regrets. Motion seconded and carried. Master Luttrell requested a card be sent to her thanking her for her service.

The Worthy Master requested Worthy Overseer Jimmy Gentry (NC) assume the Masters station as Worthy National Master Ed Luttrell (OR) gave his National Master's Address. The Master's address will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings.
Worthy Overseer Gentry (NC) assigned sections of National Master Luttrell's Address to the various committees.

Master Ed Luttrell gave his Internal Report. This report will appear in the Journal of Proceedings.

Worthy Overseer Gentry assigned sections of the Internal Report to various Committees.

After a brief recess the meeting was called back to order at 10:45 a.m.

Past Master Robert and Past First Lady Dolores Barrow (MA) and Past Master Kermit and First Lady Margaret Richardson (VT) were escorted to the Master's Station. Each said they were happy to be here and participate in their reunion. Sister Margaret said it is great to be here and renew friendship. She wished Worthy Master Luttrell and the delegates a successful session. Brother Richardson said he had a very special feeling while being escorted to the Master's Station. He stated we have much to be thankful for. He said local Community Grange is the place where the Grange is and even though the country is in trouble, this is a good time for the Grange.

National Lecturer Judy Sherrod (TN) and National Chaplain Jim Foster (WV) had a meaningful program honoring our Veterans. Sister Judy stated we must keep our troops in our prayers. Brother Jim Foster recognized Brother Donald Billmire (ID) as a Veteran of World War II. Brother Jim read a poem "American Veteran" by Chuck Hampe.

Jennifer Dugent, Communications Director gave her report. This report will be printed

in the Journal of Proceedings.

Leroy Watson, National Legislative Affairs Director, gave his report. This report will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings.

Samantha Johnson, Sales, Benefits and Programs Manager gave her report. This report will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings.

Amber Casey, Controller gave her report. This report will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings.

Rusty Hunt (WA), Membership/Leadership Development Director, gave his report. This report will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings.

All sang Happy Birthday to Brother Jimmy Taylor (VA).

The first day of the 142nd Annual Session of the National Grange closed in the Fourth Degree at noon.

A delicious luncheon was served at 12:15 p.m. High Priest Emeritus, Woodrow Tucker spoke on the "Importance of Grange Ritualistic Work."

Brother Woodrow Tucker stated if you follow the ritual of the Grange, you will be a better person. He also said if you doubt the ritual you should read it slowly and take it to heart.

The committees met to work on the resolutions during the afternoon and evening.

Thus concluded the first day of the 142nd Annual Session.

SECOND DAY
142nd National Grange Convention
Wednesday, November 12, 2008

A Salute to Agriculture Breakfast was held at 8:00 a.m. Gordon Gibson, CT State Grange Legislative Director, introduced Mr. Terry Jones from Connecticut Working Lands Alliance. He stated farmland is the foundation for a solid bedrock of America. CT Working Lands Alliance advocates and formulates policies for a better environment. Henry Talmage, from the Connecticut Farm Land Trust, said the mission of the Trust is to work with Connecticut farmers to protect their land for agricultural use by acquiring agricultural conservation easements and farmland, to share their expertise and technical knowledge to assist landowners, land trusts, town officials and state agencies in protecting agricultural land, and to promote farmland preservation education through presentations and outreach. The Commissioner of Agriculture from Connecticut, Phil Prelli was also in attendance.

Master Ed Luttrell (OR) opened the second day of the 142nd Annual Convention of the National Grange in the Fourth Degree at 10:30 a.m. following an entrance march by the National Officers. Sister Irene Fassett (NY) served as the pianist for the day.

Roll call of officers found all present and roll call of delegates found all states except Wisconsin and Virginia were represented, as well as Potomac Grange No. 1 and the John Trimble Youth Representatives Tracey Blasingame (IL) and Trisha Browning (WA).

The following resolutions were transferred: Resolution 223 (NY) "Toy Safety" from Citizenship to Education and Health and Resolution 704 (OH) "Health Insurance for Retired Employees" from Labor and Judicary to Education and Health.

James Owens (ME), Chairman of Audit and Budget Committee, presented a partial report. He reported there were two corrections on the Credential report. Montana and Indiana each receive one vote.

The time certain for the consideration of the 2009 budget will be determined after the completion of the Growth and Development Committee report.

Ruth Gray (FL), chair of Conservation Committee, gave a partial report.

Conservation Consent Calendar presented at 11:30 a.m.

Agriculture Consent Calendar presented at 11:47 a.m.

Taxation and Transportation Consent Calendar presented at 11:49 a.m.

Oliver Orton (NY), chairman of Grange Law, gave a partial report.

The session was recessed at 12:00.

Mr. Greg Giere, Director of Policy and Research, PHRMA, was the speaker at the 12:15 p.m. luncheon. Mr. Giere stated that because of drugs heart failure has dropped 50% since 1999. The PHRMA Platform for Healthy America is that there needs quality affordable insurance coverage. He said we must close the gap between what we know helps us and what we hope will help.

The session was called back to order at 2:30 p.m.

Brother Oliver Orton (NY), chairman of Grange Law, continued his report.

Brother Clyde Berry (VT), chairman of Citizenship and Public Affairs, gave a partial report. Citizenship Consent Calendar was presented at 2:48 p.m.

Brother Maurice Wiles (MD), chair of Taxation and Transportation, gave a partial report.

Sister Yvonne Meritt (OK), chair of Labor and Judiciary, gave a partial report.

Brother Marty and Sister Joyce Billquist (MT) donated thirteen CD's of the "1999 Montana Power Summer Symphony." These CD's are collector's items and they were auctioned with the proceeds going to "Tyson Defense Fund." CD's were sold for $100 each. The remaining will be sold on Saturday evening.

A recess was called until 7:30 p.m.

Delegates, Officers, and Guests previewed The Idea Fair and Showcase of Excellence beginning at 4:30 p.m.

The session was called back to order at 7:30 p.m. Master Luttrell welcomed the Youth and guests to the session.

The Labor and Judiciary Consent Calendar was presented at 7:35 p.m.

Brother Jimmy Gentry (NC), chairman of Agriculture Committee, gave a partial report.

Mark Twain (Mr. Ken Richters) interrupted our meeting and wandered toward the altar. From there he made comments about his observations of earlier life. He particularly talked about how God made a mistake when he created Dubuque, Iowa.

He talked of his dislike of math in school and the fact that he never met a square root again once he left school. He concluded by saying "you must hold on to the things you did as a child to keep you going in your old age such as laughter and a sense of humor."

Brother Jim Foster (WV) moved to release yesterday's business to the press. Motion seconded and carried.

The Consent Calendar of Education and Health was presented at 8:47 p.m.

There being no further business the second day of the 142nd session was closed in due form at 9:00 p.m. Committees met to continue work on resolutions.

THIRD DAY
142nd National Grange Convention
Thursday, November 13, 2008

The third day of the 142nd Annual Convention of the National Grange opened in the Fourth Degree at 8:30 a.m. following an entrance march by the National Officers. Brother Lester Gibbs (VT) served as the pianist of the day.

Roll call of officers found all present. Roll call of delegates found all states except Wisconsin were represented including Potomac Grange No. 1 and the John Trimble Youth Representatives, Tracey Blasingame (IL) and Trisha Browning (WA).

Master Luttrell addressed the issue of the person or persons who made some comments about the actions of a two-year child. He said that children are always welcome at the deliberation of the Grange. He further stated he demands courtesy for everyone.

Brother Marty Billquist (MT) was elected to a two-year term on the Executive Committee

Sister Betsy Huber (PA) was elected to a two-year term on the Executive Committee.

Brothers Bruce Croucher (NY) and Dan Bascom (NH) were appointed by Master Luttrell and Brother Jeff Swainston (MI) was appointed by Overseer Jimmy Gentry (NC) to serve as the tally committee for the election of Chaplain and Pomona.

Sister Ruth Gray (FL), chair of Conservation, gave a partial report.

Sister Phyllis Wilson (OR) was elected Chaplain.

Gaye Hunt (AK), chair of the Education and Health, gave a partial report.

Brother Jimmy Gentry (NC) moved to release last night business to the press. Motion carried.

A brief recess was called at 10:00 a.m. The Grange was called back to order at 10:32. The Grange was placed at ease.

Master Ed Luttrell introduced Mr. Paul Johnson a private mediator. He said mediation is listening and using common sense. Acknowledge what people say, do not judge, change negatives to positives and do not try to solve the problem.

Master Luttrell called the meeting back to order at 11:30 a.m.

Sister Gaye Hunt (AK) continued the report of Education and Health Committee.

Sister Linda Lewis (CA) was elected Pomona on the National Grange.

The session adjourned at 12:00 p.m. for the Past Delegates Luncheon. Sister Margaret Richardson (VT), former First Lady of the National Grange, was the speaker for the luncheon. She stated the job of the past delegates is not done but they just have a different assignment. Sister Margaret said they must help each other.

The session was called back to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Fourth Degree.

Fifty six former delegates were recognized.

Sister Phyllis Wilson (OR), chair of Grange Growth and Development, presented a proclamation to Sister Hannah West honoring the late Brother John West, former National Grange Chaplain.

Brother Marty Billquist (MT), a member of the Executive Committee, said John Valentine (IN), High Priest, has donated 34 letters and cards from 1967. These items were auctioned at $150 each with the proceeds going to the fund to preserve our name in the Tyson Foods case.

Sister Gaye Hunt (AK), chair of Education and Health, continued her report.

An impressive memorial service was held under the direction of National Chaplain Jim Foster (WV). Henrietta Keller (IL), Secretary, along with State Masters and representatives of the states of the deceased members assisted with the service. Amy Whitcomb, Connecticut

State Grange Chaplain, Sister Nancy Weissmuller, and Sister Thurlow Coats sang a duet. Brothers Ronald Purinton and Dan Mulchler preformed a harmonica and flute duet.
The Conservation Consent Calendar was adopted.

Agriculture Consent Calendar was adopted as amended
Taxation and Transportation Consent Calendar was adopted.

Citizenship Consent Calendar was adopted.

The Grange was closed in due form at 4:00 p.m.

The Convocation/Business Meeting of Assembly of Demeter (Seventh Degree) was called to order by High Priest John Valentine (IN) at 7:00 p.m.

FOURTH DAY
142nd National Grange Convention
Friday, November 14, 2008

The fourth day of the 142nd Annual Convention of the National Grange opened in the Fourth Degree at 8:30 a.m. following an excellent entrance march by the Youth Officer Corp of the National Grange.

The following youth served as officers:

Victor Salazar (CT) Master
Valentin Deleon (NC) Overseer
Arron Gwin (WA) Lecturer
Justephanie Chandler (OH) Steward
Andrew Kieffer (PA) Assistant Steward
Carrie Wade (IL) Lady Assistant Steward
Sarah Gearing (NY)Chaplain
Andrew Martin (NC) Treasurer
Jennifer Nauss (PA) Pianist
Miranda Panuska (WA) Secretary
Travis Kroger (CA) Gatekeeper
Marta Kroger (CA) Ceres
Heidi Henderson (NY) Pomona
Allissa Estes, (NH) Flora
Executive Committee:
Maggie Spencer (RH)
Alison Orton (NY)
Morgan Moore (NC)
Justin Schaeffer (IL)

The Youth Secretary, Miranda Panuska (WA), called the Roll of Youth Officers. Escorted to the Master's Station were the Youth Mentors Solomon Drake (NC) and Mary Joseph (IL), also escorted were National Youth Development Director, Charlene M. Shupp Espenshade (PA). Sister Espenshade gave her report. Her report will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings. Anne Kurburski (MI) gave her report it will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings. A short celebration of the 120th birthday on the Junior Grange was held. Birthday hats were presented to Worthy Master Luttrell and Worthy Overseer Jimmy Gentry.

Roll call of National Officers found all present.

Roll call of Delegates found all states except Wisconsin represented including Potomac Grange # 1 and John Trimble Legislative Representative Trisha Browning (WA).
National Chaplain, Jim Foster (WV), announced the passing of Past Maine State Master and Past High Priest Arthur Perkins. Chaplain Foster asked all to rise and have a moment of silence.

Master Luttrell asked Overseer Jimmy Gentry (NC) to approach the Master Station. Master Luttrell had an appointment with the media.

Brother Jim Foster (WV) moved to release yesterday's information to the press.

Motion seconded and carried.

The Consent Calendar of Labor and Judiciary Committee was adopted.

The Consent Calendar of Education and Health Committee was adopted.

Sister Yvonne Merit (OK, chair of Labor and Judiciary, gave a final report.

Ruth Gray (FL) chair of Conservation Committee gave a final report.

Brothers Marty Billquist (MT), Pete Pompper (NJ), and Phil Prelli (CT), members of the National Grange Executive Committee, presented white roses, a cape, and tiara to Sister Betsy Huber (PA) in appreciation for her leadership in the Executive Committee.

Brother Maurice Wiles (MD), chair of Taxation and Transportation, gave a final report.

Brother Jimmy Gentry (NC), chair of the Agriculture Committee, gave a final report.

Secretary Henrietta Keller (IL) read the correction in the minutes.

Brother Jimmy Gentry (NC) moved minor technical mistakes be corrected by the secretary and staff.

Brother Clyde Berry (VT), chair of the Citizenship Committee, gave a final report.

Sister Gaye Hunt (AK), chair of Education and Health, gave a final report.

Sister Phyllis Wilson (OR), chair of Grange Growth, gave a partial report.

The session recessed at 12:00 p.m.

The Grow Club luncheon was held at 12:15 p.m.

Rusty Hunt held a workshop entitled "Is It Contagious?" for the Youth from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Session reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

Sister Phyllis Wilson (OR,) chair of Grange Growth, continued her report.

Hon. Martha Attwell Baker, Assistant Secretary of National Telecommunication Information Administration was escorted to the Master's station. She informed us of the importance of getting a convertor box for our televisions. On February 16th full power television stations will shut off their stations. Everyone can get two coupons to purchase convertor boxes.

Brother D. Thomas McKern and his wife were escorted to the Master's station. Mr. McKern is the chair of Grange Insurance Association. He stated he and the National Grange are working together to set up a committee to see how we can be more supportive of each other.

High Priest John Valentine (IN) installed Sister Betsy Huber (PA) and Brother Marty Billquist (MT) to the Executive Committee, Sister Phyllis Wilson as Chaplain, and Sister Linda Lewis(CA) as Pomona. Assisting him were Brothers Tom Severance (MA) as Marshall, Dan Bascom (NH) as emblem bearer, and Bruce Croucher (NY) as regalia bearer.

Oliver Orton (NY), chair of Grange Law, gave a partial report.

A recess was called at 4:40 for the Junior Grange Birthday Party. We sang "Happy Birthday" to the Juniors and had cake.

Brother Orton (NY), chair of Grange Law, gave a final report.

James Owens (ME) chair of Audit and Budget gave a final report.

The Budget was adopted as presented. Thank you read. Entire Audit and Budget report was adopted.

Brother Marty Billquist moved to release information to media. Motion seconded and carried. A motion for the Executive Committee to approve the minutes for the fourth day was made, seconded, and carried.

The meeting was closed in due form at 6:45 p.m. with the singing of "God Be With

You Till We Meet Again."

At 7:35 p.m. the Evening of Excellence was held at the Welte Auditorium, Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT. Sister Judy Sherrod (TN) introduced the participants in the Talent Program and Sister Charlene M. Shupp Eispenshade (PA) introduced the Youth Mentors Mary Joseph (IL) and Solomon Drake (NC) who, in turn, introduced the Public Speaking, Sign-a-Son,g and 2008 Horizon Leadership participants.

The following workshops were held throughout the day: 9:15 a.m.– 10:00 a.m. Junior Grange Membership Workshop with Rusty Hunt (WA) as the speaker; 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Youth Workshop with Rusty Hunt (WA) as the speaker; the Communications Workshop with Jennifer Dugent as the speaker from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with her topic being "Spreading the Seeds;" from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. State Junior Director's/Committee Workshop; 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Combined Juniors and Directors Workshop with Craft, Projects, Games and Activities; Audrey Planer (NJ) and Charles Martin (VT) presented workshops on Women's/ Family Activities from 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 p.m.; and from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Ms. Bonnie Burr, CT Director USDA Farm Services Agency, presented the Legislative Workshop.

FIFTH DAY
141st National Grange Convention
Saturday, November 15, 2008

The Junior Breakfast was held at 8:00 a.m. Super JG Awards were presented during the breakfast.

Ms. Robin Dixon presented a Dogs for the Deaf Demonstration beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Brother Carl Meiss (PA) presented a membership workshop for the Youth beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The Sixth Degree was conferred courtesy of the Eastern State Granges.

The Junior Grangers from the Eastern States performed the Junior Grange Degree at 11:30 a.m.

The Seventh Degree was conferred at the Bushnell Center with a total of 328 candidates under the direction of High Priest of Demeter John Valentine (IN) and Priest Gary and Priestess Linda Brumbaugh (OH). The following cast exemplified the Seventh Degree:

High Priest – John Valentine (IN)
Priest Archon – Daniel Bascom (NH)
Priest Annalist – Bruce Croucher (NY)
Priest Treasurer – Joe Fryman (NE)
Priest Interpreter – Don Johnson (ID)
Priest Archivist – Maurice Wiles (MD)
Priest Hierophant – Mary Johnson (ID)
Priest Orator -- Dale Sanderson (VT)
Priest First Mystagogue – Calvin Chase (MA)
Priest Second Mystagogue – James Owens (ME)
Priest Conductor – Steve Verrill (ME)
Priest Messenger – James Taylor (VA)
Priest Herald – Kevin Klenklen (KS)
Priest Guardian – William Narvel (DE)

Priest Announcer – Richard Carncross (MI)
Priestess Ceres – Nancy Swainston (MI)
Priestess Pomona – Tammy Fryman (NE)
Priestess Flora – Linda Chase (MA)
Ceres' Attendants – Anita Gentry (NC) and Beth Merrill (NH)
Court Ladies – Connie Johnston (MI), Margaret Smithers (TX), June Hendrickson (WA), Jeannie Billmire (ID), Karen Orton (NY), Judy Sherrod (TN), Kim Bascom (NH), Henrietta Keller (IL), Lucille Groves (IN), Earlene Foster (WV), Beth Downey (PA), and Amanda Sherman (RI).
Trumpet Girls – Brenda Chamberlain (MA), Kristina Tully (MA), Angela Stuart (MA), Sarah Leclerc (NH), Jackie Turner (NY), Jill Turner (NY), and Caraline McGrane (CT)
Marching Candidates – J. Allen Cameron (CT), Gail Aylmer (CT), William Sanderson (VT), and Britany DuPrat (VT)
National Master – Ed Luttrell (OR)
Slide Illustration – Duane Scott (WI), Sacred Oracle
Video Technichian – Patty Dyer
Soloist – Glenna Bruno (CT)
Pianist – Irene Fasset (NY)
Directors – Gary & Linda Brumbaugh (OH)
Backstage Assistants – Harold & Carolyn Hill (CA) and Harold & Dorothy Eckert (OH)

The final day of the 142nd Annual Session ended with the Celebration Banquet. The evening began with the Invocation given by Worthy Chaplain Phyllis Wilson (OR). A delicious dinner was served.

A check for $5,000 was presented to the Kelley Farm. Ms. Robin Dixon from Dogs for the Deaf had the drawing of the raffle tickets that were sold during the convention. A quilt donated by Washington State was presented to the National Foster Parents Association. This quilt will be raffled and the money used for the Foster Kids Scholarship.
Brother Marty Billquist (MT) held an auction for the four remaining CD's that were donated by Brother Marty and Sister Joyce Billquist, 14 remaining letters from 1967 that were donated by Brother John Valentine, 11 Anniversary plates, and 12 Northeast throws. The proceeds from these sales are going to the fund to fight Tyson Foods.
The entertainment for the evening was KJ, a singer/song writer from Pennsylvania.

Membership/Leadership Director Rusty Hunt recognized the states that had a net gain in membership this year. They were North Carolina, Oklahoma, California, Colorado, New Hampshire, Alaska, Maine, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania.

A Grange dance followed the evening's festivities.

After the main Banquet as Grangers were saying their goodbyes the hotel fire alarm sounded, the entire hotel was evacuated during a steady shower of rain. The people were directed to the parking garage. After a short period of time the all clear was sounded and the people re-entered the hotel.

Thus ended the 142nd Convention of the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.

Respectfully submitted,

Henrietta Keller, Secretary,
National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry

COMBINED SEVENTH DEGREE
BUSINESS MEETING AND CONVOCATION
CROMWELL, CONNECTICUT 2008

The combined Convocation and Business meeting of the Seventh Degree was held in the ballroom of the Crown Plaza hotel in Cromwell, Connecticut on Thursday, November 13, 2008. Priest Herald Kevin Klenklen conducted the officers and cast to their proper stations. Priestess Hierophant Mary Johnson gave the opening prayer.

High Priest John Valentine opened the meeting in proper form. High Priest John Valentine explained the origin of the gavel and gavel block used in the meeting. Priest Archon Daniel Bascom has the Sacred Record, which can be observed by the members. This is the third Sacred Record. The original is still intact. The current Sacred Record was done in 1998. The current Sacred Record has 720 pages and was purchased by the North Carolina State Grange. Priest Andrew Croucher is donating two trunks for the Seventh Degree.

High Priest John Valentine introduced High Priest Emeritus Woodrow Tucker. He mentioned that he was asked for the meaning of the Seventh Degree word. Past Priest Archon Thomas Severance was introduced. Past Master of the National Grange, Kermit Richardson, was recognized.

Worthy National Master Ed Luttrell was introduced for remarks. He mentioned that the degrees should be held with expectation of excellence. We owe it to our members to put our best foot forward. Every Grange should perform the ritual with excellence.

Worthy High Priest John Valentine gave the meaning of the Seventh Degree word, "Watch and Abstain from Evil". Gary and Linda Brumbaugh are no longer able to serve as the directors of the Seventh Degree. Gary has been elected as the Master of the Ohio State Grange. High Priest John Valentine asked that we discuss the meaning of the passwords at Grange meetings. Words such as "Remarkable Fraternity" and "Devoted Builder" have great meaning. The passwords are given to members after their dues are paid. Let's stop using the excuse of the password for the lack of Grange growth.

Sincere thanks were given to Priest Gary and Priestess Linda Brumbaugh and Priest Bud and Priestess Carolyn Hill. They attend at their own expense. Priest Harold and Priestess Dorothy Eckert were also thanked. Priestess Patty Dyer was thanked for her work. All of the cast and support members were thanked for their work. Priest Scott and Priestess Jennifer Russell are the new directors of the Seventh Degree.

Priest Gary Brumbaugh was introduced and spoke of the challenges of becoming a new State Master. The transition to new directors is also an interesting process. He has great confidence in the new directors. He pledges his support for the new directors. The new National Officers were thanked for their dedication. The cast of the Seventh Degree was thanked.

Priestess Nancy Valentine asked the Worthy High Priest to announce the location of the 2009 National Grange Convention. The Michigan State Grange Master invited all to attend the next convention in Grand Rapids Michigan, November 17 – 21, 2009.

Priest Duane Scott was introduced as the narrator of the slide show.

The Seventh Degree this year will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday November

15 at the Bushnell Center in Hartford Connecticut. The building will open at 12:30 PM.

The High Priest, Priest Archon, and Priest Annalist are elected, the remaining cast members are appointed by the High Priest. The number of candidates will be entered in the Journal of Proceedings. The minutes were approved as amended.

The closing song was God Be With You. The meeting and convocation was closed in proper form.

Fraternally Submitted,

Bruce M. Croucher, Priest Annalist

Annual Address of the National Master
142nd Annual Convention
Cromwell, CT
November 11, 2008

National Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters,

The 142nd Session of the National Grange convenes this week in Cromwell, Connecticut. This is the fourth time that we have met in Connecticut and the first time in the Northeast Region since we started the regional hosting system.

In reviewing journals from those previous three Sessions in Connecticut it is obvious that many of the same issues remain important and prominent today. Growth of the Grange, food supply, conservation, and education are still items that demand our attention today.

While these issues remain relevant, the methods we use to face them are ever changing and reflect the world we live in today. It is critical that we face the realities of our world, keep faith with our principles and values, and move forward together as a great family.

Food Production and Prices

We live in a complex world filled with the ongoing challenge of producing affordable food for ourselves and the world. In 1960 it took 4 farmers to feed a hundred people and we exported 29% of our production around the world. Today 1.2 farmers feed a hundred people and we export 22% of our production to the world.

Farmers are faced with many challenges to produce the food, fiber, and fuel that our society needs. Increasing costs of production can make record market prices a breakeven point for the farmer. As fuel, fertilizer, chemical, and machinery prices escalate rapidly many farmers are quickly adjusting to the financial signals they are receiving. The USDA predicts that, as a whole, the agriculture sector will experience record net farm income of $95 billion this year.

Farmers are rapidly moving away from "high input cost" crops, such as cotton, rice, sugar beets, tobacco, and even corn and rapidly increasing plantings of lower input crops such as soybeans, wheat and hay/forage. More and more farmers are exploring alternative marketing strategies such as producing traditional as well as specialty food that is sold and consumed by local consumers instead of being sold into national and international marketing systems.

They continue to adopt new technologies such as GPS precision agriculture production practices and multi-stacked genetically modified crop varieties. They are employing double or even multi cropping and grazing strategies to increase total output per acre. Livestock producers are controlling costs by relying more on alternative feed sources such as forage/grass and distillers dried grains (DDGs), a by product of ethanol production.

They are using new risk management tools, strongly supported by the Grange, that were included in the 2008 Farm Bill that allow them to insure the market value of their production, the total value of their annual farm income or a combination of both. They are

taking a hard look at the costs of financing and particularly land rental and purchase costs to be sure that they keep their interest and rental costs under control. Today farmers have more tools and more choices to address the financial challenges they face than at any time in our nation's history.

The consumer is often influenced by misleading information distributed by a media that is focused on gaining readership or increasing viewership. Any commodity can drop in value overnight because of a news report on a single instance regardless of its relevancy or accuracy. The National Grange is committed to working with all willing partners to educate reporters and editors alike on the realities and effects of inaccurate or incomplete reports that harm both producers and consumers. We can show consumers that when producers are harmed by alarmist stories, they can lose local or American produced choices in their food supply.

This past year, stories that ethanol corn production is responsible for driving up food prices around the world have circulated throughout the media. While this is one of many reasons for escalating food prices, it is not the main reason. The National Grange attended a round-table discussion with a Senate discussion group with the goal of working with those who make the news. Agriculture needs to focus on educating and working with policy makers and the media if we wish to avoid or even to minimize potential damage created by the next study or news blast.

Other players in the food distribution chain often blame the farmer for price increases. They should remember that the farmer remains the only piece of the food chain that puts his labor and money into the production of food, fiber, or fuel with few assurances that he will have a crop to harvest or that there will be a market interested in his product at the price he needs.

Ag Awareness

Is the American farmer becoming a figure of mythology? While some may laugh at such a question, many of us are concerned about what the average person actually understands about the production of food, fiber, and fuel. Many agricultural, forestry, and wildlife management practices have been presented to the public as cruel to animals or destructive to the environment. Occasionally a person operating contrary to accepted practices is shown to the public and it is either implied or stated that this is the way things are done in order to change or even ban certain common practices. The further the American public get from agriculture the more important it becomes for the average person to understand what agriculture really is. When people are two, three, or more generations removed from the farm, they often have little understanding of what a modern farm truly is. Even worse, many do not understand the significance American agriculture plays in our economy or its importance by providing a safe and plentiful source of food.

It is up to all organizations interested in agriculture to band together and share ways to educate each citizen about our industry. Farm to City events, Ag in the Classroom, and other educational activities must be strengthened and improved. New concepts and ideas must be tried if we are to reach and educate the people who make decisions in our democratic society. Whenever possible, we must partner with those businesses which depend upon the health of the agricultural and natural resource industries to increase our ability to get our message out to the public.

The greatest danger that we face is the well-funded vocal extremist groups that can

buy influence and take advantage of our democratic process to attempt to regulate portions of agriculture out of existence. This can happen if we choose not to cooperate with each other in agriculture. The Endangered Species Act, Environmental Quality, and many other acts are used by groups to sue various Federal, State, and even local governments to require them to change their policies and actions. While this process is perfectly legal, some organizations choose to exploit the system to achieve goals that our Congress and State legislatures will not pass into law.

The introduction of wolves into Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho is one example of extremist organizations undercutting agricultural concerns. In 1995 wolves were introduced into these three states with the stated goal of removing the federally protected status of the wolves when there were 300 wolves with 30 breeding pairs. This year, due to a lawsuit filed by twelve environmental organizations, the plan to de-list the wolves so that the individual states could manage the population of approximately 2,000 wolves was derailed by a single judge's ruling in Montana.

Those States that have initiative processes have all had issues put before their citizens that had potential to harm or impede agriculture. Trapping and other management methods have been limited or banned in some states due to initiative measures and each ballot cycle brings new attempts to alter agricultural practices.

The National Grange believes in our democratic process. Our answer must be to join with all interested parties to educate the public about the realities of agriculture and the principles of nature. Legislators, judges, and our citizens need to understand how and why certain methods are used and how agriculture is an essential component in protecting and improving the environment.

The National Grange stands firm against the efforts of Tyson Foods to appropriate 141 years of good will and reputation by taking our name for commercial purposes. There are too few agricultural organizations and businesses for us to attack or harm each other. If we waste our energy working against each other, the only winners will be those who seek to harm or control agriculture. This organization is willing to meet with the CEO and management of Tyson Foods to seek a mutually agreeable solution. However, we will not be bullied and we will not surrender our good name. We've fought and won against large corporations before and we stand ready to do so again. Just as we've stood with our allies on a multitude of other issues, I anticipate that our alliances will remain strong in this battle. Most of agriculture realizes that we are all in this together and that we are stronger together than we are apart.

Energy

Our nations' economy runs on energy. When energy prices go up everything else goes up in cost as well. Basic economic common sense tells us that we cannot significantly reduce the amount of energy we use without a corresponding increase in prices as that energy becomes scarcer and more expensive. However, we must be good stewards of our resources by conserving energy wherever practical while additional or new sources are brought on line.

Biofuels are part of our answer to energy independence. Ethanol production from corn has proven itself. Other crops such as sugar beets should be utilized whenever practical and feasible. The best way to produce ethanol should not be a political decision. National Grange's support for Bio-diesel is strong and ongoing as it has demonstrated its viability.

When cellulosic ethanol becomes a proven and cost effective alternative to current ethanol crops, it will increase our internal fuel supplies while increasing food supplies that we can export throughout the world. We encourage all companies and research facilities working on the challenges of cellulosic ethanol to continue their efforts until successful.

Alternative and renewable clean energy sources must be explored and used as much as possible. Nuclear energy is clean, safe, and the only technology available today that could replace a large percentage of fossil fuels as an abundant source of electricity. Nuclear energy will not negatively impact the environment provided that we use existing technology to recycle spent fuel rods rather than burying the 90 to 95 percent of each fuel rod that can be recycled. All that is needed for recycling is for a late 1970's presidential executive order to be rescinded or overturned by Congress.

Solar, wind, tidal, and geothermal energy should provide a significant source of additional electricity to power our country. However, without stable predictable sources such as hydro, nuclear, coal, or natural gas production facilities we would be plagued with power spikes and brownouts. Wind and other fluctuating sources of electricity are an important part of the answer we need for our future, but they are not the sole answer to our energy needs.

Good stewardship of our earth requires us to look at new technologies as long-term solutions, not short term fixes. We cannot and should not start planning to use many of the technologies that are being promoted until they have demonstrated that they actually work as advertised. As an example, we may be forced to abandon the incandescent light bulb in 2014, the technology basically unchanged from Edison's invention, for the compact fluorescent bulb that contains mercury and poses a significant hazard when the bulb breaks. In this instance we are trading energy efficiency for already known environmental dangers. All new technologies must be encouraged and tested, but adopting or mandating them before proving them safer and better is foolishness at best. We must always look at the entire picture, not just one aspect if we are to be good stewards of the earth.

Competition from other countries for oil and other energy sources will continue to drive up the cost of fossil fuels. We should not blame other countries for wanting to achieve a standard of living that is comparable with ours. At the same time it is foolish for us to ignore oil and gas reserves that sit beneath our feet. Drilling and transportation technology has improved to the point that we can access these reserves with minimal impact to the local environment.

In spite of recent and welcome reductions in the price of crude oil, over the long term, our nation will continue to face dramatic energy price increases, or even energy shortages, until we make the commitment to an energy policy that ensures a domestic energy supply that is adequate to supply our needs. We need to use our oil and coal reserves while producing as much renewable energy as practical. It is crucial that we continue to explore and develop new technologies that will replace fossil fuels in the future. The National Grange asks our lawmakers to resist creating policies that mandate or eliminate any technology until it has been proven successful or not feasible.

Education

Education is a crucial element of the long term success of our nation. In order for our country to remain competitive around the globe, our nation's children must receive a world-class education. To accomplish this, we must do two things.

First, we must encourage our youth to excel. It doesn't matter if they plan to go to college, a trade school, or enter the work force, they need to understand the world around them. A thorough understanding of math, english, history, civics, science, and our natural world will benefit every person as well as to improve the decisions we make as a society. A good education opens minds to new possibilities, it doesn't indoctrinate the student. A quality education encourages students to think for themselves. They should question their teachers rather than just accept whatever they are told.

Second, we must encourage our young people to learn and grow in school in the direction and the speed that they have the ability to move at. Adolescence is a relatively new concept. For centuries as soon as you were big enough you joined your parents in the fields. Our own Grange tradition extended full voice and vote to those who were 14 years of age because 140 years ago that was the age when many individuals left formal schooling and began their apprenticeship in their future trade or profession. During the industrial revolution a new middle class decided that they did not want their children working in factories so they chose to increase the time they spent in education. Today in the information age we have an extremely structured educational system that often has trouble recognizing and adapting to the different paths and goals of each unique student.
As an example, when you look at highly successful people often you find that most people who build their own companies started working as young teenagers. They were not content to just play with their friends; they wanted more. Let's recognize this energy and encourage young people to learn and grow at the speed they are capable of. In the Grange we treat young people age 14 to 18 as adults and our organization often reaps the benefits of these young members' leadership talents and energy. Why don't we apply the same lessons to our education system? If a student can meet the educational requirements to graduate in three years, could we provide them with one year of college or trade school education? If they are motivated to move faster than their peers, why should we not reward them and give them the opportunity to prove themselves?

In order to accomplish both of these concepts, we must return the power of education to the parents, teachers, and local school boards. School boards and teachers must be given authority to give each child the best opportunity to learn and grow. Parents must be made an essential part of the decision process as they are closest to the child and hold the most responsibility. Mandates from the State and Federal levels may set minimum standards, but should not set methods or timetables. In addition, we must find ways to reward those teachers who encourage and empower their students to become successful.
Additionally, our society must be prepared to give our young people the opportunity to achieve success by giving them the options they need when they are ready. We need to avoid the situation of a young person being denied an opportunity because they are a certain age, even though they have achieved all other requirements.

In this age where the world is always changing, we must explore how we can create a society that is constantly learning. Each member of the family needs to learn new things every day. Technology affects how we live our lives and we are often called upon to cast our "ballot" for or against ideas that didn't exist a few short years ago. The day when a father could teach a son everything he needed to know is long gone. Today both need to be constantly learning just to keep up with the world.

Organizations like the Grange have the opportunity and obligation to become informal centers of education within each community. We need to ensure that our communities have partners who provide education to all interested people just as we partnered with the

Extension Service many years ago to bring needed education to rural America. Today's educational need is not just a rural issue. It affects every American regardless of where they live or what occupation they have. The Grange must once again take the lead in providing educational opportunities to every member of the family in every community.

Health Care

Health care is a complex issue that many lawmakers seek to find simple solutions for. Bumper sticker solutions are not going to resolve the issue that we face. There must be an open debate on health care as any changes to our current system will impact virtually every person in some manner.

It is obvious that there is a difference of philosophy of how to provide health care in our nation. There is a socialized medicine approach and a free market approach. Our current system is a blend of the two approaches, with Medicare, Medicaid, government health care benefits provided to active duty military dependants, the Veterans Administration, publicly owned hospitals, billions of dollars of tax payer funded "basic" research into causes of disease and even the Public Health Service being our version of socialized medicine. Private insurance companies, health maintenance organizations, employer provided health insurance benefits, private and non-profit hospitals, billions of dollars of risk capital in applied research to bring valuable new medical technologies and new treatments for disease to market, and hundreds of thousands of small and medium sized doctors, dentists and other entrepreneurial health care businesses provide privacy and freedom of health care choice to a large segment of our society. We must look at the strengths and weaknesses of each system and see how each should be improved.

One of the crucial but hidden parts of our system is the new medicines and new procedures that are developed each year. Nations that have adopted the socialized medicine system are producing few of these, but the private sector of our nation's medical system continues to develop many new medical tools, new procedures, and new medicines each year. It is clear from the example of laser vision correction surgeries that a private component works well and brings much needed economies and improvements to medicine.

The question of how to get everyone contributing into the health care system is the challenge. Too many people choose not to insure themselves and their families or find insurance unaffordable and rely on emergency services rather than preventative care for their health care. Mandatory health insurance, public and private partnerships, government programs and increased freedom for patients to shop for competitively priced health insurance that meets their needs all offer different options. We need an open public debate on each option. The Grange urges our policy makers at the Federal and State level to put aside politics and enter into an open debate to ensure that all Americans have viable options for their health care. We need to debate and work together because demonizing those with a differing view does not create or advance good public policy.

Current Affairs

Our constitution's second amendment was reaffirmed by the Supreme Court this year. The District of Columbia had its effective ban on handguns struck down as being unconstitutional. The National Grange has always supported the second amendment and

will continue to advocate against those seeking to undermine it.

Bans of handguns, rifles from single shot to semi-automatics, and shotguns or the ammunition these weapons use accomplishes nothing but to take from citizens the right to defend themselves. Our freedoms exist because our forefathers fought and sometimes died to earn them. Our freedoms continue to exist because our citizens are still willing to fight for them if necessary. That willingness to stand up for what we believe in is what keeps in check those that would seek to take some of our freedoms from us.

Digital Television or DTV conversion is an issue because the Federal government has mandated the conversion of TV signals from analog to digital next February. While it will have little impact on those who use cable and satellite services, it will impact all Americans who use antenna's to get the free signal broadcast by their local stations. The National Grange has joined with other groups and organizations to educate and inform people about this change and how to take advantage of coupons to save on DTV converter boxes.

Conclusion

It has been 141 years since seven men and one woman had the audacity to form a national organization focused on the American farmer and his family. We meet here at the 142nd Session of the National Grange and look back at our glorious history. Our Grange predecessors have changed the very face of America on several occasions. They created the history we now look at with such pride. Our duty is to continue their legacy and adapt to a new world, one in which traditional American principles and values still have meaning and purpose. Each Community Grange is a crucial part of our National Order and the issues of the future will be faced just as fearlessly as we've dealt with challenges in the past

In 2009 the National Grange will continue to remember its roots in agriculture and will move boldly into a rapidly changing and evolving world. The fundamental importance of family and community must never be lost to our nation and the Grange is the one organization that will lead in the effort to preserve and protect the American family and the communities those families live in.

Fraternally Submitted,

Edward L. Luttrell, National Master

National Master's Internal Address
142nd Annual Convention
Cromwell, CT
November 11, 2008

National Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters,

This report is designed to share with you the health and condition of our organization. It will also include some of the challenges facing us, and some possible solutions. It has value only if you read, reflect upon it, and then act to improve our Order. This report should be shared with every member as each has a vested interest in the future of our Grange. The focus and purpose of this report is our future.

2008 has been one of change and adapting to meet the challenges we've encountered. I am pleased with the teams we have built and all the successes of this past year are due to their efforts. The foundation that will lead to our future achievements has been laid this year and it is time to move forward with confidence and determination.

Priorities

This past year your Executive Committee adopted five priorities for the National Grange. These priorities are:

1. Increase active membership and participation at each Community Grange.
2. Develop new leaders and give them opportunities at each Community Grange.
3. Revitalization of Community Granges being a State Priority.
4. New Community Granges.
5. Re-emphasize and strengthen the family structure through the Junior and Youth programs.

The reason we adopted these priorities is to give clear focus and direction to our efforts at the national level. All of these priorities are based upon the simple fact that our structure requires healthy Community Granges in order to have a growing Order. This is definitely a back to basics approach.

In 2008 I visited all 36 of our State Granges. In many of these states more members attended than the State Master believed would. I estimate that I met nearly 3,000 members and traveled over 100,000 miles.

During my visits I found enthusiasm for National Grange's direction and our members asked many challenging questions. Those members who came to the meetings were optimistic and expressed their desire to make a difference in their Community Grange. My confidence and optimism have been re-enforced by what our members shared with me.

Growth

Our focus is on the activities, attitudes, and actions that will create the opportunity for a net gain in membership. Our local Grange members must be doing activities that are important to them and to their communities. Their attitude must be positive and looking forward into their future. Most importantly, they must be doing something. Our

members are always at their best when they are getting their hands dirty in service to their communities.

We have a serious issue within some of our Community Granges. These Granges do not have any active members who believe that they have a positive future as a Grange. These members believe that no one will join or become involved and their prophecy becomes self-fulfilling over time. We must believe in our future! We must always have hope, because without hope and belief in our future we will not make and then implement the plans that will lead to success.

I would urge each State Grange to seriously look at the condition and health of each of their Community Granges. There are a number of factors that should be recognized as reasons to be concerned about the health of a Community Grange. These factors include Granges that are dependent upon one member for their activities, have small membership numbers, or are meeting in members' homes. When we determine which Granges are potentially in need we can then ask them if they want help. Those that desire ideas, members, or other assistance are the ones we need to focus on. We need to determine where our resources will generate the greatest chance of success. No Grange should be ignored, and each should have the opportunity to receive aid if they choose to ask for it.

While this step will be a challenge, an even bigger challenge for most State Granges will be building teams to help those Granges that want assistance. We need to continue to improve the sharing of information, methods, and successes amongst all of the States. National Grange will strive to continue to provide new methods to become a better clearing house for information. Teams are creating excitement among the members in the states where they are being implemented. We can meet this challenge by improving our partnership to provide effective team-based training for each Grange.

This fall the Executive Committee, the Membership Director, and myself evaluated each State Grange on its current condition and potential for growth. In this evaluation we found some States in crisis condition, which means that we are concerned about their short-term future. We also found many States that have the leadership and resources to move forward and create growth, with National Grange providing some training and aid. We also identified several States that seem to be fertile ground for growth. We will be working closely with them to accomplish this objective.

It is crucial that we face the reality of growth in our Order. If we do not regularly and consistently organize new Community Granges and reorganize Granges that have become inactive, we will have great difficulty in achieving sustainable growth year after year.

I urge each State to set the goal of increasing their number of Community Granges by one each year. Each State Grange needs the energy, enthusiasm, and new ideas that members of new Granges bring to our organization.

In 2009 the National Grange will be aggressively working to start at least 1 new Grange in a minimum of 2 states that do not have a State Grange. I am proud to recognize Brad Keeton who is our Deputy for Arkansas and Jessica Newton who is our Deputy for Georgia. They are working with every lead we can find to organize Granges in those two States. We are looking for more members who have the time and ability to serve as a Deputy in other states that currently lack a State Grange. In addition, we will also be assisting our State Granges in any way possible.

This year we put into practice the principles of teamwork for organizing purposes. When the Alaska State Grange asked for help I asked the Masters of California, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon if they would assist. Our goal was to organize at least two new Granges. All of these western states agreed to help by working with Rusty Hunt to accomplish our

task. With Gaye Hunt and her team coordinating the local efforts Rusty made three trips to Alaska, Ted and Zula Bryan from Washington made two trips, Bob McFarland from California, and I each made one trip to assist. This effort has generated one new Grange and two more could yet be formed. Without this team effort we would not have been as successful.

Here in Connecticut this week there is a Grange growth pledge poster on the wall. I ask each State Grange Master to commit to how many Community Granges they will organize, re-organize, and revitalize during 2009, as well as how many Junior Granges they will start, and then to sign their pledge.

In 1938 the Master of the Arkansas State Grange reported that he had pledged to organize 25 new Granges that year. He reported that they had not achieved that goal as of National Session, but he expected to make the goal before the end of the year. In that year's report, Arkansas organized 22 Granges, and reorganized 3. As we look back at the years when the National Grange met in Connecticut we find that in 1907 there were 293 Granges organized or reorganized. In 1934 there were 469 Granges started. 1972 saw nine Granges organized or reorganized. This year, eight Community Granges were reported by our State Granges and an additional seven have been reported since June 30. As each of you think about your goals, ask yourselves, "Am I thinking big?" Are we building for the future? Will future leaders look at our goals and our resulting actions and be inspired?

I challenge each of you to set goals that will be difficult but that you believe you have a chance of achieving. You are the leaders of your states. If you think big your members may occasionally wonder about you, but they will follow. When you start implementing programs and activities designed to move your State forward toward your goal, your members will believe that the goal is possible. That is the moment that your dream of success starts to become reality. The National Grange is committed to helping you to meet your goals.

Pennsylvania deserves recognition for starting a Grange on the campus of Penn State. In light of their success we need to use all our potential tools to aggressively pursue opportunities to reach young people. Therefore I recommend that a committee be appointed to suggest changes to the Digest so that Student Granges have continuity and consistency from state to state. We need these young people to have a positive exposure to Grange during their college experience.

The Youth program is not only near and dear to my heart, but it has proven itself over the decades as a source of leadership for our Granges. In many states half of their State Officers are current or past participants in the Youth program. Of your 17 National Grange officers 15 or about 90% are past Youth and/or Junior members.

What better reason could we have to promote and build this program? Let us remember the fact that young people are going to be joiners and participants in our society in a fashion we haven't seen since the World War II generation. These youth need us and our principles as much as we need them and their ideas and energy.

The Junior Grange program celebrates 120 years of developing children into young leaders this year. This program needs our active support as it is a source of future members and leaders. The weakness in this program is how we train and support the leaders of Junior Granges throughout the country. We have a great program, but we need to plan for its success and build it to become the program we know it can be. I recommend that the Grange Growth and Development Committee look at how we can build more support and training into the Junior Grange program. We need more Community Granges to sponsor Junior Granges and they need effective leaders to ensure success.

We will be working to make the process of organizing Junior Granges easier for the Community Grange in this coming year. We must organize and reorganize Junior Granges in every state.

Our Name

Tyson Foods is in the process of trying to take our good name for their commercial gain. While we may not know exactly why they chose our name, I believe that it is because of our 140 years of service to thousands of communities in nearly every state. We have earned our good reputation and while some may not know who we are today or what we do, they believe our organization is good for communities and they trust us. We must protect our name and emblem if we are to maintain our reputation and if we truly wish to see our Order prosper and grow. Our name and reputation are our most valuable assets.

This battle that Tyson Foods has initiated against us is on a similar scale as our fight with the railroads in the 1870's and 80's. Once again David takes on Goliath. The first time, we challenged those who controlled transportation of our crops, goods, and families. Now we are faced with Goliath calling us out because we have something he wants. The National Grange calls on all our partners and associates to stand with us, because this battle is about honesty and integrity. Once again we are in the right and will not back down from anyone seeking to take what is ours.

I call on each member to contribute what talent, skill, and time that they have in this effort. We will coordinate our strategies with each State Grange and strive to keep each member informed about what is happening during this fight. Together we will emerge victorious!

We must work together when we find someone using our name. We can license them to use it or we can demand that they cease using it, but we cannot ignore them. I ask that when any member sees someone using the Grange name, please send as much information as possible to your National Grange. Also, if you have the opportunity to talk with someone using our name, please conduct yourself in a manner that will bring respect to our organization.

Finances

Your National Grange has a lean budget. Your Executive Committee has worked hard this past year to make the budget easier to understand and more transparent to the delegates. We are attempting to increase the level of service to our members. Some of this increase is being accomplished by use of new technologies, such as internet usage.

The fuel spike this year had a substantial effect on the budget. Cheap flights became quite rare. Just as with every one of our members, we are adjusting to the financial realities of our changing world.

The biggest impact on our budget is the large increase in attorney fees, especially due to our fight with Tyson Foods. We are in a fight with a business that may have as many lawyers on staff as we have staff, but we will emerge triumphant in this battle.

Cooperation and Harmony

Our Declaration of Purposes repeats the principle of cooperation and harmony among our membership repeatedly throughout the document. When William Saunders drafted this fundamental document he understood the importance of working together for a common goal. Today, as we near 150 years of existence, the principles that are outlined in the Declaration of Purposes are just as necessary for our success as they were when originally written.

The members of each Community Grange must view themselves as a part of a vast National organization. While each Grange is unique and will resemble the community that is home to their members, each Grange is part of a State and National organization that can multiply their effectiveness. We are a community-based organization with a national presence.

A significant portion of a National Grange and State Grange Masters time is spent dealing with dissension and personality conflicts. This year several proposed changes to the judicial code have been made due to problems we've encountered. I ask that the Grange Law committee take the time necessary to ensure that we address the deficiencies in our judicial code this session.

The challenge that we all face is how to educate our members that they have power within our Order. Unlike many organizations we give only limited power to our elected leaders. The true power always rests with the voting members of each Grange. When a Grange allows a leader more power than our rules give them, it is almost always a negative experience for that Grange. I urge each State Master to continually educate their members and leaders of their Granges about how our organization is required to function.

Our goal must be to encourage more Community Grange members to become leaders, and then to get those leaders to participate at the State level. We must expand the size of each State Grange team with new individuals to ensure success into the future.

This past year the realities of the world became very apparent with the Tyson Foods action against our organization. We need to bring our reporting processes up to date for this century. We need more sharing of information in order to protect our Order, our individual Granges, and even our members. Membership data, financial information, and activities of each Grange must be shared easily and inexpensively between the divisions of our Grange. We need to be looking out for each other and preventing or avoiding problems rather than waiting until attorneys are needed to find a solution. While we need our legal representation, we should be utilizing modern technology to make our officers duties easier and to avoid costly legal battles wherever possible. In addition, we need to work together to ensure that government regulations, such as the IRS 990-N filing, are met by all our Granges.

I recommend that a committee be appointed to review and explore options to improve the accurate reporting of crucial and important information between all levels of the Grange.

Pomona Grange

A sign of a healthy Pomona Grange is when they have their own programs to serve the members and Granges within their jurisdiction. Many of our Pomona Granges have lost their focus and purpose. Meetings, reports, and social activities are not the main purpose of a County or District level Grange. Action on issues, benefiting our membership, assistance to Community Granges, and developing members into leaders are the purposes that each

Pomona Grange needs to focus on. I urge each member to review the purposes of a Pomona Grange in the Digest. Take the time to reflect on if your Pomona is meeting any of these purposes as outlined in 7.8.1 and 2.

Each level of the Grange should serve as a multiplier for the efforts of our members. This approach requires our Pomona Granges to be reactive to our members concerns and interests. All Pomona Granges need to be listening to the members and then acting in the best interests of the members of the Community Granges within their jurisdiction. Each Pomona needs to reach out and meet some of the needs of the members who are not currently showing up. We can not just focus on those currently attending meetings. This is one time you should not need to be present to win. The more we do that positively impacts our members the more likely it is that they will take the time to attend and participate at the Pomona level. We must not waste their time, energy, or resources if we want them as involved members beyond the Community Grange.

In our geographically larger states, a Pomona should serve as a regional level of our organization to assist our Granges and help empower the individual member. They must become a partner with the State Grange to aid their Granges rather than just provide another meeting.

I recommend to the Grange Law Committee that they put into the Digest a minimum number of Community Granges to apply for or keep the charter of a Pomona Grange.

Over the past decade I've heard delegates and members suggest eliminating the Pomona Grange. It is time to review the purpose of the Pomona Grange and revitalize our Pomona Granges in the same manner as we've addressed our Community Granges. I believe that our Pomona structure has value and potential to benefit our Order. I recommend that the Grange Growth and Development Committee consider methods and processes that would encourage and aid our Pomona Granges to meet their purpose or to propose changes to that purpose.

I also request that each State Grange explore ways to encourage and assist their Pomona Granges to become assets to our Community Granges. When you find solutions that are working, let's share them so that others can see how you've created success.

Staff and Volunteers

We would be remiss if we did not recognize the importance of our National Grange staff and the many volunteers who give of their time and efforts on behalf of the National Grange.

Your staff is a highly skilled professional group who function as a strong and talented team. Leroy, Jennifer, Rusty, Charlene, Ann, Margaret, Samantha, Amber, Sandor, and Stephanie are my staff leadership team and accomplish more for our members than most realize. We could not accomplish what we do without Beverly, Elijah, Molly, and Leon performing their duties as part of our team. Please take time this week to thank them for their service.

The volunteers who serve on the Historical Committee, the Youth Virtual Committee, and some of the special committees ensure that our membership has direct input into our programs and areas of concern. Each of these volunteers has my respect and thanks.

Benefits

The greatest benefits to membership in the Grange are the intangibles that we often take for granted. The friendships, the fellowship of extended family, the opportunity to make a difference, and the prospect to grow and develop as a person and leader to reach your full potential are benefits that are never outgrown and give real and lasting value to each member.

The material benefits of the Grange include all the discounts and services provided by the National Grange, each State Grange, and even some from Community or Pomona Granges. Your National Grange will continue to regularly evaluate the value of each benefit we provide and to search for additional benefits that will increase our service to our membership.

In Memorial

This past July we lost Brother John West, who had served as our National Grange Chaplain in an outstanding fashion. Brother John exemplified the principle of caring about his fellow members. He started the fraternal concerns email notification program and took his duties seriously. His greatest contribution was his incredible optimism. He believed in the best of everyone and looked forward to a bright future. We will each miss his presence and counsel.

As we recall the past delegates and members who have passed away since our last Session, we need to remember the positive contributions that they each made to our Order. Their legacy is the organization that we have today and they have entrusted this Grange to us. The best memorial that we can leave to each of these cherished members is a healthy, growing Grange that continues to serve the communities that each of these members lived in.

Conclusion

There is one person whom I depend upon most. Her patience when I'm traveling or when I'm sitting at my desk instead of helping her with chores is more than I should expect. Celia gives support, advice, and energy to my life and makes what I do possible. She often comes home to a dark house and a lonely dog as I travel the country. Celia, thank you for all that you sacrifice and for all that you give to me and to our Grange.

This past year has been one of team building and planning so that our goal of growth will be possible. Working with the State Grange Masters, the National Officers, and your staff has been exciting, challenging, and very rewarding.

Every member is important to our goals. Each Grange has a part to play in what we will achieve together. Let's move forward today while the prospects and opportunities for our organization offer such great potential. Each member is an important part of creating our bright Grange future.

Fraternally Submitted,

Edward L. Luttrell, National Master

REPORTS OF THE STATE MASTERS

Alaska

Worthy National Master, Officers, Fellow Delegates, Patrons, Honored Guests, and Staff, our annual state meeting is in early May, therefore, this report covers the period of May 2007 – May 2008.

Community involvement remains strong with the tried and true programs such as the Harvest Dinner & Auction, a fundraiser for 4-H and FFA jointly hosted by the Grange/Farm Bureau/Kiwanis, Easter Egg Hunt with the help of Key Club students, Haunted House with proceeds going to the North Pole High School Choir who double as "monsters", First Friday Art Shows, community clean-up and pancake breakfasts, and care packages for overseas military. North Star #10 hopes to be working with HUD and Alaska Housing to acquire land for another Grange initiated park in Fairbanks.

Politically, we've been quiet this past year but did pursue a resolution at state level. Membership remains stable at about one hundred; however, we have plans for holding organizational meetings in several communities on the Kenai Peninsula. Homer, on the Kenai Peninsula, is 225 miles south of Anchorage. To give you an idea of distance, Homer is 605 miles from Two Rivers #3, which is our northern most Grange. That's about the same distance as Amarillo to Corpus Christi, Texas (but the roads aren't as good as in Texas).

Speaking of Two Rivers #3, it will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2010. Consequently, we will be holding our annual meeting there in May 2010 (home Grange of the McKee 2007 Family of the year) and enthusiastically invite you to attend our celebration.

On a personal note, your kind words and get-well cards were greatly appreciated during my difficult recovery from double knee replacement. I still "hobble" a bit but am not in as much pain. Thank you for thinking of me!

Fraternally Submitted,
Gaye Hunt, Master

California

National Officers, Delegates and members of the Grange it is indeed my pleasure to be able to report the activities of the California State Grange during the past year. We have been extremely busy, but it was also a highly productive year and I am happy to tell you a little about some of the highlights.

On November 20th following the National Grange Convention in Reno, we moved into our new office space. The remodeling of our old Wisteria Hall took approximately eight months and provided us with a new and efficient space to conduct business. Colonial Van and Storage was able to complete the move across the parking lot in five hours, which was amazing when you realize we were in our old office for more than 46 years. Then a few months later we had the parking lot of our complex

resurfaced and re-striped. The property is now in very good condition and is a valuable asset for our members to be proud of.

In April we held the first Officers and Directors meeting in our new Soquel Training Center. The meeting was well attended and we had the pleasure of hosting our National Grange Master, Ed Luttrell. Ed's interactive program provided our leadership an opportunity to express their opinions about the direction the State and National Granges should be going, in addition to setting priorities in California. By the end of the two-day session the Officers and Directors adopted all five of the priorities presented to them. Those priorities are: 1) to increase active membership and participation at each Community Grange; 2) to develop new leaders and give them opportunities at each Community Grange; 3) revitalization of Community Granges as a State Grange priority; 4) to form new Community Granges; and 5) to re-emphasize and strengthen the family structure through the Junior and Youth Programs.

Our Deputy Corp has done a terrific job around the state helping local Granges overcome the problems they are having. We hosted a conference for them in April and discussed many topics all targeted at providing the Community and Pomona Granges with assistance and support as we continue the "Revitalization" process. We were happy to have Rusty Hunt attend the meeting on Saturday and provide a program designed to help the Deputies understand our mission and how they could help implement those ideals within the Granges. I am encouraging the Masters and Secretaries to call us for assistance if they are having difficulties so we can have a Deputy visit and assist them.

We are continuing to develop our ability to provide leadership training and assistance to the Subordinate and Pomona Granges in an effort to encourage them to re-enter the communities they serve. If we are going to be successful in our attempt to repopulate the Grange it will be through these efforts. The Grange has always claimed to build leaders but for various reasons we have recently gotten away from that concept. A PowerPoint presentation has been designed and developed and we are now instructing Granges throughout the state. We have not reinvented the wheel with our program but merely knocked the dust off some old concepts and modernized them. During the year I had the opportunity to present the program several times and will continue as I believe it is vitally important we teach our leadership how to reintroduce the Grange into the community.

During the last year we reported to National Grange the chartering of four Community Granges. They are Mount Bolivar #218, Solomon Hills #480, Calaveras #715, and Coalinga #779. We also chartered six new Junior Granges during the past year as we see the Youth and Junior programs flourish. They are Solomon Hills #J237, Grover City #J238, Lompoc #J239, Calaveras #J240, Lookout #J241, and Coyote #J242. We have not completely stopped the decline in membership but I am certain with the programs we have in place and the activities beginning in our local Granges that will turn around very soon.

This year California had the pleasure of hosting the National Grange Western Regional Youth Conference in Sacramento. I want to thank Orangevale Grange for allowing us to use their beautiful hall for the program. Charlene Shupp Espenshade, National Grange Youth Development Director, and Anne Kurburski, National Grange Junior Director, were in attendance. One of the highlights of the conference was a trip to the Amador County Fair for the Junior Livestock Auction and breakfast. In addition to having an opportunity to see some of the exhibits and part of the auction, the attendees were really shocked, impressed, and totally amazed with the sea of Grange Youth red vests. We are very proud of our California State Grange Youth and their participation in local fairs.

Once again this year our Auditor, Bruce Sneesby from Boden Klein & Sneesby,

Certified Public Accountants, has completed the audits for 2007 on the California State Grange, the Asset Management Account, and the California Grange Foundation. In his report Mr. Sneesby states, "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the California State Grange and California Grange Foundation as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

The Public Relations Department and its Director Bob McFarland are to be commended for doing a truly wonderful job since we started them last year. They have turned out to be a real asset by providing information to the public about the legislative and community service projects our Granges are involved in throughout the state. The Department was instrumental in saving the Taylorsville Grange when all of the officers suddenly resigned their positions. We were able to provide information about the reorganization efforts to the public through a local newspaper and held an "Introduction to the Grange" meeting and presentation. As a result, when I attended their second meeting following reorganization, 25 active participating members from the community were involved and moving forward as a Grange. That is real success.

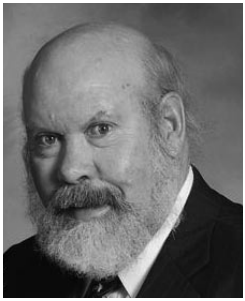
In December last year we held a meeting of the Legislative Committee Chairmen to discuss plans for the upcoming legislative session in Sacramento. Thirteen resolutions from the 2007 Convention were prioritized and merged into a working document and then submitted to the Legislative Council for drafting into law language. We had several of those resolutions introduced into legislation in the Capital and at the close of the session two California Grange Resolutions were chaptered into law. This may be the first time ever the California State Grange has had two resolutions passed at Annual Session turned into state law. They were AB 2855 (the Career Technical Education: Partnership Academies: Green Technology and Goods Movement) and SCR 86 (Local History Instruction). We are very proud of the efforts of the Legislative Department under the expert tutelage of Director Mike Greene, as well as all of our members for returning the California State Grange to legislative prominence in Sacramento.

During our annual convention last month the delegates approved us to move forward with a No Budget – No Pay initiative. We have started finalizing the initiative language, raising funds, set up a website to inform the California electorate and have the petition on the website to facilitate the gathering of signatures. The California Legislature has failed to pass a budget by the constitutional deadline of June 15th in 27 out of the last 31 years. We believe it is time for our legislators to start taking care of the business of the state and so are beginning the initiative process. We have had a tremendous response so far from the citizens of the state and anticipate this will bring in new members to assist in our programs.

Linda and I thank the National Grange officers and all members for the hard work you are doing to elevate our organization all over the United States. We feel extremely honored to be able to represent the California State Grange here in Connecticut. We thank the hosting states for their hard work in preparation for this session and wish everyone a safe journey home and pleasant holidays with your families and friends. May God bless you and God bless the Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,
Randall A. Lewis, Master

Colorado



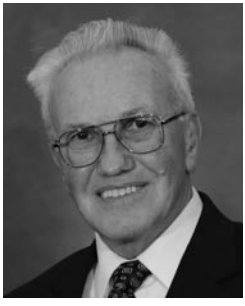
Colorado State Grange had a busy year in 2008, following the lead of National Master, Ed Luttrell, in retaining and building member numbers and revitalizing Granges.

Crescent Grange in Broomfield received the most attention in our current program. Six members remained in the Crescent Grange in a good building on the verge of major disrepair. Contacted by a local church group seeking a place to meet, Overseer Dave McCord and I met with the leaders of the group and started a mutual plan to revitalize the Grange and provide a steady meeting place for the church. From the first meeting in June through signing the agreement in October, Crescent Grange moved from a dim feature to one of hope and saved the building by a group of 10 new members with the skill and enthusiasm to "put Crescent back on the map." Still to come are lessons in meeting protocol and ritual under Marlys Halbiesen, Membership/Leadership Director of Colorado.

Successful convention #135 was held in October in Centennial, CO. National Assistant Steward Roger Bostwick and his wife, Melanie, were our guests for the convention bringing greetings from the National Master. A highlight of any convention is awarding an "Outstanding Granger" to one of our members, and this year was very rewarding, with the honor going to Miles Davies. Miles is one of my inspiring leaders in my years of Grange work. Installing officers, or leading the executive committee with a smooth, steady confidence, he set the tone for others to follow. Atta boy Miles!

Fraternally Submitted,
John Hagen, Master

Connecticut



Marge and I are pleased to welcome you to the Northeast Region and hope that your stay in Connecticut is a pleasant and enjoyable one. We look forward to working with old friends this year and are happy to meet the new ones.

We had just completed our 124th Annual Session, which was a productive one. Our delegate body handled thirty-five resolutions, three of which will be discussed at this National session. This also was an election year and as I am writing this report it means I was re-elected.

Over the last several years our children's camp, Camp Maude Isbell Berger, has been struggling and loosing money. Our Board of Directors studied the situation and developed a five-year plan to bring it back to a quality camp. This plan was presented to the delegates at our session with a favorable response.

Again this year we honored agriculture with presentations of awards and scholarships. We gave monetary donations to the FFA and the Heifer Project and we also gave three $2,000.00 scholarships to our Grange youth attending college. We also have a student loan fund, which lends money to any of our members for higher education.

On a sad note, two of our Community Granges closed this past year. I am working with the National Membership/Leadership Director to remedy this situation. On the bright side we re-organized a Junior Grange, Hillstown Grange #89. The youngsters are very involved and I think this Grange will grow.

The Connecticut State Grange continues to work with the other state Granges of our region through the Northeast Leaders Conference, Northeast Lecturers Conference and Northeast Youth Conference. The ideas that are shared here help us all succeed. We also continue a working relationship with most of the agriculture organizations in our own state.

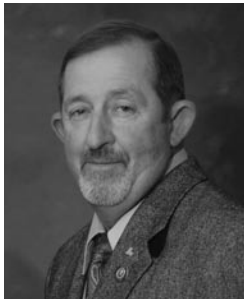
Our state committees are very active, as anyone who reads the articles in our fine state newspaper can attest to. Our agriculture and legislative committees team together to sponsor a booth on Ag Day at the State Capitol. This is where we get to work one on one with our State Legislator's. All of our committees have programs and contests that interest our membership.

One of the great duties of Master is that I get to travel throughout the state giving awards and anniversary certificates to the members and sharing in their celebrations. This year I was privileged to attend the awards ceremony of three of our Granges that celebrated 100 years of continuous service. They were North Stonington Community #138, Riverton #169 and Norwich #172.

This year we were again saddened by the death of one of our Past Voting Delegates. Sister Gertrude "Peg" Prelli passed away in September. She worked for many years on the staff of our Grange newspaper and was instrumental in setting up the trust fund that keeps our subscription rates low. We all miss her greatly.

Fraternally submitted,
Robert J. Sendewicz, Master

Delaware



Barb and I bring you greetings from the Delaware State Grange and the first state of our great nation.

We began our year with a planning session with the state officers and committee chairs to establish the dates and activities for the year. We also use this meeting to brainstorm for new ideas for programs and ways to help our Granges grow.

In February, Barb and I attended the National Masters' conference in Dallas, Texas. It was a great conference with our new National Master, Ed Luttrell, and new Leadership/Membership Director, Rusty Hunt. We had some very good workshops to help us get new ideas on how to make our Granges grow. It is a great time for the State Masters and their spouses to get together in a relaxed setting and to share problems and ideas.

In April, we held our annual Scholarship banquet. We presented six $1000.00 scholarships. The University of Delaware and Delaware State University each select two deserving recipients and submit them to the Delaware State Grange. We also present two scholarships to Grange members in their second year of college.

We work with the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension in the spring, which hosts an event called "A Day on a Farm." It is held at a local farm with various agricultural

related displays. The Delaware State Grange sets up our display and we sell scrapple sandwiches and talk to people about the Grange to try and get new members. The money we make from the sandwich sale goes to the Delaware State Grange youth fund.
Each April, our Family Activities Director, sponsors a spring luncheon and program. The program consists of a craft activity and a speaker and a covered dish luncheon.

The first Sunday in May, our Grange members gather together for a worship together service. Each year a different county hosts this event and it is followed by a covered dish dinner.

Each year, our big event is operating the Delaware State Grange Food Booth at the Delaware State Fair in Harrington, Delaware. We have been doing this for over fifty years. For the ten days of the fair, we sell chicken or ham platters, hot dogs and hamburgers. People wait in line for over an hour to eat our famous chicken platters. The platters consist of homemade potato salad, corn on the cob, and sliced tomatoes all purchased from local farms and prepared fresh every morning. It takes a lot of preparation time and help to prepare 450 lbs of potato salad, husk 23-35 crates of corn, and cook roughly 1000 lbs of chicken each morning. We couldn't do it without all of the help from the dedicated state Grange members, the FFA, and 4H members each day. We are very fortunate to have this event because it provides our Grange with the financial support we need to operate our Grange throughout the year.

Each year, we provide financial support to the State FFA and 4H organizations, and we also give the local chapters a donation based on the number of hours their members work at the Fair Food Booth.

We sponsor an animal birthing center at the Delaware State Fair so they can educate the public about animal reproduction.

We continue to help support the Delaware Ag Museum, sponsor a Farm Family of the Year, and Granger of the Year.

In August, our members attend the State Grange picnic. Each county takes a turn hosting this event. It's a nice chance to get together, relax, and have fun, great food and fellowship with the members after our busy fair.

In September, I was honored to represent National Grange as National Gatekeeper at the Iowa State Grange Session. Barb and I have known Dwight and Kathy Baldwin for many years as we served as Youth Directors and now State Masters. It is interesting to attend different State Grange Sessions and see the differences and the common issues we all face. The people were friendly and treated us very nicely.

Also in September, the Lecturer and the Family Activities Director hosts a fall program. Various contests are held, followed by speakers and a covered dish luncheon.
In October, we hold Sixth Degree Conferral so any new members can attend National Grange and receive the Seventh Degree if desired. We hold a baking contest and use the entries for our refreshments afterward.

In November, we of course attend National Grange Session. We look forward to meeting the new State Masters and their spouses, and seeing old friends we have met over the years. The committees and the delegates work hard during our meetings, listen to various speakers and programs, but also have opportunities to get together, share problems, ideas, and have fun. Right after we return from National Session, we must prepare for our State Session, which is held the first weekend in December. In preparation for this, we have a delegates meeting the end of November and everyone is placed on a committee to work on resolutions. This year is election year in Delaware.

As other states do, we continue to address the challenge of gaining new members and

educating the public about the importance of protecting agriculture in our country.

Barb and I are thankful for the opportunities that the Grange has provided us and hope that in some small way we have been able to give back to the Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,
William "Chip" Narvel, Master

Florida

It is a great honor that I bring you greetings from the state of Florida at this 142nd National Grange Convention.

I attended my third State Master's Conference in Texas in February and I am looking forward to my third state session as Master of the Florida State Grange in Ocala in January 2009.

Our main priority this year was to get new members. We have a Core Committee that is hard at work trying to help our Granges. We are planning to have a Leadership Conference with Rusty Hunt in February 2009.

We are continuing our project to make baby hats and baby blankets for our area hospitals. A great number of our Grangers do volunteering to help our communities such as hospitals, soup kitchens, senior centers, schools, etc. Some of our Granges have participated in the Dictionary Program.

Florida still remains one of the leading agricultural states and there are about 40,000 farmers who produce more than 250 different crops. Florida produces a large amount of the following products such as oranges, grapefruit, snap beans, tangerines, sugarcane for sugar and seed, tomatoes, bell peppers, cucumbers, and watermelons.

Due to the economy crisis the tourist industry has dropped some this year, new housing has slowed down, and many homes are being foreclosed on.

Remember whenever you come to visit the Sunshine State, we would love to have visitors anytime at our Grange meetings.

I join with the other Delegates in expressing my appreciation to the Northeastern Granges for hosting the 142nd National Convention.

Fraternally Submitted,
Ruth G. Gray, Master

Idaho

It is with pleasure that Jeannie and I, as the newly elected Master and First Lady, bring you greetings from the great state of Idaho. We have just successfully completed our 100th session of the Idaho State Grange hosted by Canyon County Pomona in the city of Nampa and look forward to meeting everyone at the National Convention in Connecticut.

It was an honor to have National Master, Ed Luttrell, and First Lady, Celia, as our National Representatives for our session. Master Luttrell presented the National Grange priorities and the delegates put forth a resolution to adopt these priorities. The priorities will also be distributed to all community Granges across the state for implementation.

Our Former Master and First Lady attended both the Master's Conference in February and the Grange Insurance meeting in Seattle in March.

Again this year as part of our Community Service Program, we honored a foster family with six children (all in the process of being adopted by this family) at our state session. Irene Lee, our Community Service Director, noted in her report that there were 11 Granges that entered the program and of those 11 granges 16,361 hours of community service was performed. Janet Stout, director of Outreach Programming from the State School for the Deaf and Blind reported on the progress of the school and thanked the Idaho State Grange for their continued support of the school. We also give four college scholarships annually.

In order to take advantage of the programs offered by the National Grange through the technology they are currently using, we are planning to upgrade the technology in the State Grange office. We see a need for assisting Granges and Grangers in the use of these electronic capabilities to fully utilize what National Grange has available.

Since we live in Coeur d'Alene, 400 miles from the State Grange Office in Meridian, we plan on being present in the state office two and a half weeks out of each month. Don Johnson, Idaho State Grange Overseer, has graciously agreed to cover the responsibilities of the state office in our absence.

We are looking forward to this new opportunity with enthusiasm and hope to build new relationships with other State Masters and their spouses as we all work together for the good of the Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,
Donald Billmire, Master

Illinois

Greetings from Illinois! Mary and I are privileged and honored to represent the Grangers in the "Land of Lincoln" at the 142nd Session of the National Grange. We are most pleased to report that Illinois had a net gain in membership this past membership year – the first time in more than a decade. Yes, there were Granges that had a loss of members, but on the positive side, there were some Granges with significant gains.

Our 137th State Grange Session was held in Fairview Heights with St. Clair County Pomona as host. Since our workshops at previous annual sessions, held outside the session, were not well attended, we held two workshops as part of the session this year. The Ohio State Grange Program Director, Dorothy Eckert, presented an inspiring and informative workshop on programming. The Pennsylvania State Grange President and Chairman of the National Grange Board, Betsy Huber, facilitated a workshop on the State Grange Priorities established by our leadership team during the National Grange President, Ed Luttrell's, visit in April. Attendees were divided into five groups. Each group discussed ideas of how best to accomplish one of the priorities – the top two or three of those ideas were later presented at our Grange Resources and Information Training (GRIT), formerly our

Educational Conference. The Community Granges were urged to implement at least one-half of the ideas that best apply to their Grange.

Our Legislative Department was really active when the Illinois Governor proposed drastic cuts in all state support to the University of Illinois Extension, Illinois Council on Food and Agriculture Research (CFAR), and the Soil and Water Programs. Five members attended the Illinois Agriculture Legislative Day in the State Capitol and personally contacted over 20 state Senators and Representatives and expressed our concern that funding for the state's number one industry was being reduced so much. Later, a number of letters and emails were sent to nearly one-half of the state Senators and Representatives as well as the Governor and Legislative leaders. Our efforts, and those of many other similar groups, resulted in CFAR funds being restored to almost the same level as last year, only a ten percent reduction in the funding for the University of Illinois Extension programs and a smaller reduction to the Soil and Water Program.

We obtained a couple of leads for new Granges at our booth at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield. We supported the Farm Family of the Year Program of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and recognized a prominent farm family from northern Illinois – the John Mulholland Family of Leroy Community Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,
David L. Donley, Master

Indiana

Lucille and I bring greetings from Indiana. We thank the Northeastern States for hosting the 142nd annual session of the National Grange. We thank the National Grange for sending Bruce and Sharon Croucher to our 138th annual session in October. They created a lot of enthusiasm and made many new Grange friends.

We had a successful 138th annual session, with our delegates working diligently on our resolutions.

Pat Plank, a member of our Executive Committee and the editor of our quarterly newsletter, has done a great job.

Lucille and I attended the Michigan State Grange session for the 8th year and had a great and relaxing time with our Michigan neighbors.

We attended the Mid-West Leaders Conference at Elkhorn, Wisconsin, but had to leave early to get to our Indian State Grange Picnic. We also attended the State spring meeting at Deacon Grange. The meeting with our National Master was held in Kokomo. We appreciated his discussions and workshops to give us some guidance for the future. We attended Pine Lake Grange's pancake breakfast and also New Tamarack Grange's monthly dinner meetings. I represented the Grange at the meeting to elect a state fair director, Perdue Extension Awards Banquet, and the annual Indiana Farm Bureau Banquet.

We are also involved with the dairy shows at our Elkhart County 4-H Fair and also at the Indiana State Fair. Lucille is also involved in the women's building at our county fair. I also worked at the Indiana State Grange Elephant Ear Stand at the Cass County Fair. (This is a money making project for our State Grange departments).

We had three Granges with a net gain in membership this year, and I have again challenged our members to each get one new member. If this would happen we would

double our membership.

Lucille and I wish each state Grange a successful year and a net gain in membership. Words cannot express the fun and fellowship we receive from our Grange family.

Fraternally Submitted,
Gordon Groves, Master

Iowa

It is with great pleasure that Kathy and I bring greetings from the members of the Iowa State Granges at this 142nd Annual Convention in Cromwell, CT. We thank the Northeast Region State Granges for hosting this National Grange Convention.

The 139th annual session of the Iowa State Grange was held in Grinnell, IA on September 6th and 7th. Poweshiek Pomona Granges hosted the session. We were honored to have the National Gatekeeper William "Chip" Narvel and his wife Barb in attendance.

I wish to thank the officers and delegates of the Iowa State Grange for their dedication in making our session a productive one. Our state Lecturer was busy with programs within the state this year. She is in the process of doing a new cookbook of favorite family recipes. The Legislative Director worked to keep us all informed on the legislative front during this very important political year in our nation. Our Youth and Junior Department had a good camp with 28 campers taking part in crafts, ritualism, swimming and many other activities. The Youth and Juniors of the state also served two breakfasts at the Grange Camp to earn money to support their activities.

Once again the Iowa State Grange sponsored the Iowa State FFA Creed Speaking contest at their state convention.

Membership continues to be a problem for Iowa. We need to continue to work on retaining old members and getting some new ones. I have confidence that we are going to see some good things happen in the coming year.

We have a Youth member on the National Grow Club Advisory Committee. The Youth still remain this organizations future. We need to make a serious effort to do everything we can to keep them involved in this organization.

It has been a trying year in Iowa this year. With the ice storms and severe snow storms last winter, followed closely behind by the tornados and floods of the summer, many of our members were affected by Mother Nature and it continues to be a problem to try and complete harvest this fall. I want to thank all the other Granges and states that expressed concern for the residents of Iowa and our members. Some of their own states also were affected by the drastic winter and summer, but they still showed concern for others. It just shows you how great this organization is.

Once again I extend our thanks to the Northeast Region Granges for hosting this Annual Session of the National Grange. We appreciate the work that goes into this convention.

Fraternally submitted,
Dwight Baldwin, Master

Kansas

The Kansas State Grange sends greetings to the Officers, Delegates and Guests of the 142nd National Grange Convention in Cromwell, Connecticut. Our sincere thanks go out to the members of the "Northeast Connection" Grange states for hosting the Annual Convention. I would also like to thank the delegates from the 141st National Session in Reno, Nevada for giving me the opportunity to serve as the Assistant Steward of the National Grange.

It wasn't long after the installation of National Officers that I knew that the delegates had made a wise choice for our new National Grange Master. Immediately following the installation, Brother Ed called for a meeting of the State Masters. We, as a team, brainstormed to determine the direction that we, as the National Grange, need to be headed.

Many of these ideas were again discussed at the Master's Conference in Dallas, Texas in February. National Master Luttrell and Leadership/ Membership Director Rusty Hunt focused on the need for Grangers to have a new attitude about our great organization and for every Grange to "Move forward with the Grange." Many of the ideas that were presented at the Master's Conference I incorporated in the Kansas State Grange Leadership School that was held in March. We focused on what direction, we as Grange leaders, need to be headed toward to build our organization. One of the ideas that came out of that Leadership School was the idea for a banner or poster similar to the 4-H clubs pledge. We felt that we needed a way to show others what our Grange principles are. The idea was presented to the National Master who presented it to the High Priest, a suitable idea was agreed upon and the idea became a reality. It is this kind of forward thinking that the Grange is in need of today.

We were fortunate that we were able have the Leadership School in March. It fell between the severe winter and spring weather storm seasons. Kansans once again found themselves in the center of disastrous weather. The state experienced extensive damage as a result of severe winter storms that produced rain, ice, sleet, snow, and frigid temperatures. The storms caused widespread power outages and damage to homes and businesses. Thousands of homes across the state were without power for several days.

In July, National Master Luttrell visited Kansas to present the priorities of the National Grange. I am proud to announce that the members in Kansas adopted all of the priorities for the State Grange as well. There were several members of Cadmus Grange unable to attend who were celebrating 135 years of organization the same weekend with their annual Grange picnic. Congratulations to Cadmus Grange.

Kansas is selected to be a finalist for the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) on the campus of Kansas State University in Manhattan. Supposedly this top bio-security research laboratory will keep our country's people and animals safe against biological and agricultural threats. The Grange is understandably opposed to any development of an animal disease research facility on the United States mainland that works with live strains of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) viruses as well as other virulent foreign animal diseases anywhere near existing concentrations of commercial livestock. Kansas would be one of the most potentially dangerous sites for this facility.

National Master Ed and Celia Luttrell were the National Representatives to the Kansas State Grange session in September. It was a joy to have them as our National Representatives. We were able to set up a Teamspeak session one day during the convention.

The Nebraska State Grange was meeting the same weekend and were also able to join in with the Teamspeak session. This was the first time for most of our members to experience the valuable communication tool for the Grange. Many thanks go to the Worthy Master for arranging this session and for installing our State Grange Officers. Melanie and I also had the opportunity to travel to California and Colorado as National Representatives. Once again Grange hospitality cannot be beat. We congratulate both states for successful sessions and wish to express our thanks and gratitude to those grangers who made our visits special.

In reflecting over the many articles and musings I receive from other State Granges it appears that most Grangers hold the same concerns and issues we hold for the Granges of Kansas. We hear the echoes of the desire to have worthwhile programs for all ages and the desire and need for us to grow. It is certainly evident here in Kansas that we like and agree upon the principals the Grange was founded on.

Fraternally Submitted,
Roger Bostwick, Master

Maine

It is a pleasure to bring you the greetings from the Pine Tree state. We just completed our 135th annual session in the City of Ellsworth. The session was well attended with twenty seven candidates taking the Degree of Flora. Our special guests were Brother John Valentine, High Priest of Demeter, and his wife, Sister Nancy Valentine. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed having them as our National Grange representatives.

This last year has seen some changes in our State Grange office. The Maine State Grange owns an old mansion in the heart of our capitol city, Augusta, within walking distance of the legislature. We rent out part of our building to help pay expenses, with the remainder of the building consisting of an apartment for the State Master, our office space, and storage plus an auditorium, which was originally built as a ballroom. During the last year we have constructed a new office out of unused space in the building for the State Grange, replaced our computer, and put in a new heating system. This should add convenience as well as comfort for all concerned.

Our membership has kept busy with such events as attendance at the Northeast Leaders' Conference in New Hampshire, manning membership booths at various fairs, and putting together agricultural displays at fairs across the state. Members have also provided items for sale and display, as well as working at the New England Grange Building at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Many Granges have provided dictionaries to schools during the year as one of many community service projects.

We have lost a few Granges this year. One Grange, which closed, has now been reopened this last quarter. Two Junior Granges were reorganized during the year with the possibility of more being established. We now have a team of members actively working on organizing, reorganizing, and revitalizing subordinate Granges. We are hoping to see real positive results within the next month, which will provide encouragement to all of our Patrons.

State Lecturer Sherry Harriman and the Maine State Grange hosted a most successful

Northeast Lecturers' Conference in August of this year. Following the conference, our National Grange Membership Leadership Director, Rusty Hunt, stayed a few more days and conducted some very interesting and informative conferences in different parts of the state. Right on top of Rusty's visit, the National Master, Ed Luttrell, visited Maine and conducted more workshops in other areas of the state. Brother Ed and Brother Rusty were well received in Maine and we look forward to having them back again.

Let me conclude by saying how very happy we are to have the National Grange meeting in the northeast this year and I hope that all present are thoroughly enjoying the session as much as we are enjoying having each and every one of you here.

Fraternally submitted,
James A. Owens, Master

Maryland

From the beautiful State of Maryland, Sister Donna and I bring you greetings. It is our pleasure to once again represent Maryland at the National Convention.

Having just completed our 134th Annual Session, I saw some positive signs of rejuvenation. Attendance at our Agriculture and Awards Banquet greatly improved, while attendance at our other meal functions showed a moderate increase as well.
There was a marked increase in our Family Activities and Lecturer's Contests this year – another good sign that things are starting to improve. Department heads are making that extra effort to promote their activities. We were honored to have as our National Rep, Sister Henrietta Keller of Illinois, who is National Grange Secretary.

Our Youth are becoming more involved in what is taking place on the state level. It is great to have them offer their services as opposed to begging them.

The weather was not in our favor in December of 2007, however, I feel our Leader's Conference was successful. Attendance was down a little, but the feedback was positive. Thank God for die-hard Grangers who feel nothing can succeed unless they are present or a part of it.

We have made some inroads with the State FFA Organizations. State Overseer, Cliff Newsome, spoke during the opening of their Annual Meeting this past year. Richard Stonebraker, who is our state Youth Director, is also the State FFA Vice President.

Our major objective for this coming year is to approach, meet with, and assist, those subordinates who are having difficulty within their subordinates to organize, evaluate, and select leaders and identify their goals. It is our hope that with some guidance, they can again realize how important their Grange is to the community, the Maryland State Grange, and themselves.

"Words for Thirds" is becoming a continuing project for several of our subordinates. The rewards for this project for the "giver" and the "receiver" are overwhelming. How great it is to keep hearing positive feedback from former recipients.

Our "Night of Excellence" continues to be a fun and rewarding evening for all who attend. If you have a talent you would like to share, it is a golden opportunity to do so. Since there is no judging at this event, everyone leaves as a winner. "Of Course" we have

refreshments, how silly of you to ask!

There still remains so much to do and yet there seems to be so little time, but we will keep "hammerin'" away with a positive attitude.

Fraternally Submitted,
Maurice Wiles, Master

Massachusetts

The following is the report of the activities and actions of the Massachusetts State Grange.

We are requiring all incorporated Granges to file a copy with the State Master for record keeping. All Grange incorporations must file annually and should list the current Grange Master, Secretary, and Treasurer as the corporate officers.

My first goal is to see if there is a way to keep all community Granges going. If a Grange is planning to close, I want a contact with my office for guidance. We have had some success with Grow Grange groups conducting interviews. Mergers are better than closures.

I have reports that two Granges have received a number of applications. One Grange was very public about their closure intent. Two weeks before the vote meeting, I received an e-mail asking how to save the Grange. I e-mailed in return that thirteen (13) applications would allow me to keep it open. The Grange received 28 applications that night with 10 of the applicants present. They were voted in and obligated immediately. The vote to close failed. A neighbor Grange also received eight (8) unsolicited applications during the same time frame...

The State Grange continues to receive much favor and recognition by its continued support of Grange Fair Premiums. The Grange Fairs are prime examples of the heritage we support and also showcase who we are. They showcase how we work together and our community support.

The Farmer's Market Grant program continues to be a success. We had three grants awarded this year. We continue to participate in the Agriculture Day at the State House, highlighting our community support for agriculture and the environment.

We continue to support the Future Farmers of America as a very strong youth agricultural organization. These dedicated young people must move on when they turn 19. These young people would be a great asset to any Grange.

I have received many positive reports for the Foster Care Program. The need remains and likely will rise in these tough economic times as more families and children are in distress with the troubled economy. Always stay in touch with your local office to properly assess the need and the urgency.

The dictionary project is such a great project that I wish every Grange did it. By placing your name and contact info inside the front cover, you are getting continuous usage and continuous spotlight on your Grange. For a little money and a little effort, you reach many families in your area. Get them involved by being open and courteous when they call.

Our Legislative Director has been working diligently to place the Grange views before the Legislature here in Massachusetts. The legislative policy book was again printed last year with the updates passed by our session. Again our state legislators each received

a copy to clearly state where the Mass State Grange stood on various topics before the Legislature.

We have been advised that new state regulations for CORI/SORI require re-certification every two years. Therefore, all Junior committee members, all Matrons and Patrons, all Youth committee members and others who act in a supervisory role concerning Youth and Juniors are required to have submitted new CORI/SORI paperwork by Dec. 1st of this year. Failure to comply will constitute a resignation and result in termination from the position. The Youth of our Grange need and deserve the opportunity to lead. Elect them to leadership positions, even Master. Give them the full measure of the Grange strength of leadership development. Don't put them down. They have great ideas and they have connections that will bring in more youth if we let them.

The Youth Committee is planning a Youth Leadership Training School again in 2009, but with a combined focus on Grange and Grange activities. The Young Adults Committee is having mixed results with their events.

We currently have an Opportunity Grant program available for our Granges. The Opportunity Grant was voted into existence by resolution several years ago. This year, for the very first time, we received not one request, but three requests.

Fraternally Submitted,
Calvin Chase, Master

Michigan

Worthy National Master, National Officers, Delegates, Members & Friends, Nancy and I bring you greetings from the Michigan State Grange for the final time. We look forward to the National Grange Convention in Cromwell, Connecticut. It is a great opportunity for us to gather together and do our best to chart the course for our great organization. We will renew old friendships and make a few more.

The 135th Annual Session of the Michigan State Grange was recently held in Grayling. Brother Pete Pompper was the National Grange representative to our convention.

This report will be bits and pieces from my Annual Address to the delegates and members of the Michigan State Grange. Please go to if you want to read my address in its entirety.

It once again gives me great pleasure to report to you from the Master's Office of the Michigan State Grange. These past six years it have indeed been the highest honor for Nancy and me to serve you, the members of the Michigan State Grange, and represent the Grangers of Michigan throughout the nation.

As I look back over the past year I see many high points and successes for many Granges around Michigan. I also see some rather disturbing things.

Membership continues to be the most important priority in our organization. Last year we made an investment in our future. The Membership Department, under the leadership of Randy Nail, arranged to have Sally Crosiar attend our state convention in Adrian. Our convention schedule last year was full of workshops led by Sally, some for delegates, some for members, but all of which were designed to motivate us. They aimed to create a sense of urgency within us that we need to address the membership issue now and gave us many

useful tools to use in our local communities. Many Granges were challenged to go out and increase their membership by increasing the activity leveling their community. For some it was as simple as learning how to ask. For some it was networking. Whatever the method, many were successful. Some took baby steps and some took giant leaps. This was the first year in a long time that we reported a net gain in membership to the National Grange. It is important that we all continue to work together to keep building on what we have started.
Randy has been asking for the last few months for each Grange to create a tabletop display highlighting the activities of your local Grange in your local community. These displays were to be designed in such a way that when you go back to your local Grange they can be used as a promotional tool at your Grange events. Our idea for them here was to share ideas with each other. It gives all Granges a chance to see what types of projects other Granges are involved in. This provides the opportunity for a Grange looking for a community project the basis of perhaps establishing a similar project. I hope that your Grange felt that the sharing of ideas was an important enough concept to create a display for your Grange. If your Grange does not have a display here this week, look at those that do and develop some ideas for creating a display for your Grange when you return home next week. For those of you who did bring a display, I thank you. It is important to have them here but what is more important is how you use them when you get back home.

While Pete Pompper is here with us this week, he will be sharing parts of several membership workshops that are being done by the National Grange Membership Department. It has already been successful in many places and we must be attentive to what they can do for us.

Last year I tried to stress the importance of having well-balanced, well-funded departmental programs for the benefit of our members. This would also give us a selling point when trying to recruit new members into the organization. The stronger our departmental programs, the more attractive we become to potential members. There were additional earmarked funds available for departmental use through the Michigan State Grange Foundation, but no department directors took advantage of the available funding. I hope that changes in the upcoming year.

Another important aspect of our organizations ability and willingness to grow is the relationships or networks we build with other organizations. Our connections with the National Farmer's Organization and Michigan Farmer's Union have brought new members into the Grange. Our relationships with other organizations such as 4-H, FFA, Chambers of Commerce, Library Boards, Fire Departments, Small Town & Rural Development, and Ag Educators through MSU Extension are extremely important. I received another contact earlier this week from the state FFA leadership wanting to know if we have an interest in working with them on a project through FFA and Ag Educators. I hope these relationships continue to grow under the next administration.

National Grange 2009 will be here before you know it. Grangers from all across this great nation will flock to Grand Rapids to be part of the big event. The work of hosting begins in earnest in about 30 days. Committees will be established and begin working specifically in particular areas. Remember, this is a regional hosting so Grangers from all across the Midwest will be involved. Please mark it on your calendar and plan to be there.

I know how you all religiously read the Michigan Grange News, especially my column. You probably read it twice in case you missed it the first time. My family spent 17 days in August on a family vacation to Newfoundland, Canada. This trip was a great opportunity to spend some time together with my family, something I have not been able to do the past few years. Four days on the road and a six-hour ferry ride gets you to the west coast of Newfoundland. Another

day and a half gets you across the island to where Nancy's relatives live.

A lot of time on the road thinking about the opportunities I am missing with my family because of my responsibilities to the Michigan State Grange. My girls are at the age where I need to be spending more time with them and less time away from home.

My new job has provided me with a fantastic opportunity but will be in continuous conflict with my responsibilities to the Grange. I feel I am no longer able to spend the time necessary to the work of the Michigan State Grange. Technically, the Master's position is a part-time job. Anyone who really believes that the work of the Master can be done with a part-time commitment is greatly mistaken. It is not fair to the members of the Grange in Michigan to have a Master that cannot give his full effort to the benefit of the organization. Therefore, as I announced previously, I am not seeking re-election as Master of the Michigan State Grange at this convention. It is time for fresh leadership and fresh ideas that are vital to the future of this great organization. I feel that my leadership abilities are slipping, not only because of time constraints, but also the lack of being able to motivate others to make the necessary commitment to the organization.

We have done our best for six years and hopefully the Michigan State Grange is better for the time we have spent in this leadership position. But it is time to move on. I need to be fully committed to the 2009 National Grange convention in Grand Rapids and all the time I have will need to be committed to that venture over the next few months.

Nancy and I appreciate all the support you have shown to our family over the past six years. You are all a part of our extended family and will continue to be for the rest of our lives. We have been given fantastic opportunities to meet and work with Grange members across the country. We cannot begin to tell you how much this has meant to us. And the honor of representing the Michigan State Grange at various National Grange conventions and conferences is unmatchable. We are proud to be Michigan Grangers and have appreciated the opportunity to serve the Michigan State Grange as Master and First Lady.

For whomever you elect to succeed me I urge your full support. It is extremely difficult to lead a divided Grange. In essentials….unity…. This becomes an extremely critical part of our motto. We need to put the past behind us and all work together for the benefit of the Grange in Michigan. We didn't make it 135 years by chance. We made it by choice. Choose to succeed!!

Fraternally Submitted,
Jeffrey A. Swainston, Master

Minnesota

Worthy National Master, National Officers, Delegates, and Friends, greetings from the officers & members of the Minnesota State Grange. It is an honor for Claire & me to represent our state at this 142nd Annual Convention in Cromwell, Connecticut. We look forward to helping "Grow the Grange."

Our Granges continue to be active in community service. All of our Granges participated in the contest, which means many communities benefited from their actions. Many new projects were done and others are ongoing projects that continue to be needed.

We had two statewide events. One was the state picnic held

at the Kelley Farm. The other was also at the Kelley Farm when our National Master, Ed Luttrell, came and presented the goals for the National Grange. The group in attendance chose the goals for Minnesota. It was hoped that we can strengthen our existing Granges, which is necessary before some of the other goals can be accomplished.

The Minnesota State Grange and the Kelley Farm helped to host the annual meeting of "Ag in the Classroom" in September. One of our Grangers is on their board.

Membership continues to be something that concerns us and we didn't accomplish as much as we would have liked to have done.

In October we held our state convention. Marty Billquist of Montana was our National Representative and was very helpful to us. We are grateful that we can have a National Representative. Minnesota Grangers look forward to helping assist at the next National Session in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Fraternally Submitted,
Richard H. Field, Master

Montana

Greetings from the great state of Montana. Montana State Grange continues a slow, positive growth towards increased membership and participation by our Granges. We were honored in the past year to have National Master, Ed Luttrell, and National Membership Director, Rusty Hunt, come to Montana to present programs to our membership. Both presentations were well attended and will be utilized by our new State Leadership Team.

Our summer Junior Camp, under the direction of our new Junior Director, was the highlight of the summer with approximately 56 people in attendance. Our October State Grange Convention was very successful. We were honored to have National Executive Committeeman Pete Pomper attend our session. The members thoroughly enjoyed meeting Pete and appreciated his input. Thanks to the National Grange for providing the opportunity to have a National Officer attend our session.

Joyce and I are kept busy between our Grange, personal, and work lives. Ours is truly a Grange family, with 4 generations active in the Grange. Our 6-year old granddaughter was elected to the office of Ceres for the Montana State Junior Grange this past summer. She is very interested in the Grange and proud to hold an office.

I want to express my appreciation of the support given to the National Executive Committee and National Master from Grangers across the nation.

Fraternally Submitted,
Marty Billquist, Master

Nebraska

On behalf of the Nebraska State Grange, Tammy and I bring greetings to all Grangers and friends of the Grange.

First and foremost I want to thank all the people who have worked so hard for the Grange in Nebraska, from National Master, Ed Luttrell, to our newest members. It is a team of members, officers, department directors, and committees, working together, which sustain the life of the Grange. Much has been accomplished but many opportunities remain.

In our State Legislature, the unicameral, the Grange has been active with other groups in a coalition in an attempt to reinstate corporate farming requirements in Nebraska. This followed the U.S. Supreme Court's upholding of a ruling by a lower court that Nebraska's constitutional Amendment, commonly known as Initiative 300 and adopted by a vote of the people in the early 1980's, was in fact unconstitutional. The effort fell a few votes short this year but continues to be of great concern.

It has been an exciting ride for agricultural producers in Nebraska in 2008. Grain prices reached historically high prices this year. While good for the grain producer, this dramatically increased the cost of production for the livestock producer. Land values and land cash rents also rose to historically high prices. Clouds appear to be looming on the horizon for agriculture however. Input costs have escalated while grain prices have fallen to half of what their values were last summer. Our nation's economy and the world economy as a whole face the major challenges of a recession.

Our annual Nebraska Grange bus trip took us to Missouri this year. These summer trips are one important way our State Grangers keep connected and get to enjoy the fellowship of one another.

Our State Grange Convention was held in Grand Island, Nebraska in September. It was our pleasure and honor to host National Grange Secretary Henrietta Keller and Norm as our National Grange Representatives to our convention.

As National Grange Treasurer, Tammy and I want to thank the Oklahoma State Grange for giving us to the opportunity to represent the National Grange at their State Grange Convention in October. We had a delightful time and look forward to working with them and the other states in the Great Plains Region when we help host the 2011 National Grange Convention in Tulsa.

We thank National Master Luttrell for coming to Nebraska in July to share with us the five priorities adopted by the National Grange Executive Committee. The Nebraska Grange also endorsed these priorities and recognizes that we have many opportunities toward working toward these goals. We know we are not alone in our efforts to maintain Granges and increase membership. We look forward to working with National Membership/ Leadership Development Director Rusty Hunt and neighboring Grange States.

The Nebraska State Grange also wants to thank the State Granges in the Northeast Region for hosting a wonderful 142nd National Grange Convention.

Fraternally submitted,
Joe Fryman, Master

New Hampshire

Let me begin my report by stating how privileged I feel to be asked to serve as a National Officer in our great organization. And, to be one of three elected from the same state was an additional honor. The unexpected death of National Chaplain, John West, was a blow to us all and the void left by his departure to the Great Grange above is still being sorted out within the ranks of our State Grange. The ongoing flow of care and concern expressed by Grangers everywhere has been a testament to the universal respect and esteem held for our Worthy Brother.

In 2008 the New Hampshire State Grange experienced the usual highs and lows of any administration. We ended 2007 by hosting the National Grange Primary

Fly-In and experienced the process by volunteering for a day in a campaign office just days before the big hype of NH's first-in-the-nation primary. We were proud to learn during this event that the legislator that drafted the original bill to create a primary election was, in fact, a Grange member!

Next, we served as host to the Northeast Leaders' Conference in Portsmouth, where we welcomed Brothers and Sisters from the six New England States, and for the first time, New York, and commenced plans to include them as a full partner in all our regional conferences.

It was at this conference that we first met Rusty Hunt, the newly hired Membership Director for the National Grange. His workshop so impressed me that I immediately put plans into motion to have him come to NH to present his team-training seminar, which we did accomplish in May. Fifteen NH Grangers split into groups and took their new training to four local Granges. Two of those Granges receiving this specialized assistance have since experienced new activity and growth, and plans are in motion for utilizing the team members to assist other Granges in the state in a similar manner.

National Master, Ed Luttrell, visited us in January to share his vision and his five priorities, of which NH Grangers opted to not adopt the 4th priority - organize new Granges. Ironically, just three months later, I was approached and asked to organize a new Grange in Peterborough. An established group of farmers had researched and decided that the Grange was the organizational vehicle they needed in order to accomplish their goals and dreams of promoting agriculture in their area. Attending their meetings has been a joy and a wonder, and I look forward to the future accomplishments of this new Grange. I expect that their influence will also be spread across the country due to the very deep networking ability and connections of the Peterborough members.

Two study committees were formed this year at the request of the delegates. One studied the viability of establishing a 501c3 foundation that could, among other things, assist Granges in raising and soliciting funds for the upkeep of their halls. The other study committee was formed to investigate the necessity for redistricting the Pomona Granges in NH. Both reports were well-received at our state session and as a result of the positive votes of the delegates, there is much activity currently underway to establish a new board of trustees to begin laying out the groundwork for the proposed 501c3, as well as a new structure for appointing state committees directly via each Pomona Grange, and making the Pomona Grange a viable communication link between the state Grange and the subordinate Granges.

A new Session Coordinator, Ken Berry, has been appointed to seek out new venues for our state session and has also made some preliminary efforts to find a potential site to host the 2013 National Grange convention. Our state Grange by-laws have been altered to allow some flexibility in scheduling our state session as hotel prices fluctuate due to the foliage season room rates.

The Executive Committee has been extraordinarily busy dealing with a number of issues that have cropped up throughout the year. We re-established the board of Trustees of the Trust Fund, filed a notice of interest in every county where there are current Grange Halls located, consulted a tax attorney to inquire about the requirements of the IRS 990N report form, and started to investigate whether our investment portfolio is up to snuff, among the usual Grange closings and sales of Grange Halls.

State Lecturer Marie Hall, General Deputy Tricia Taylor, Family and Community Director Nancy Bean, Grange Services Director Connie Carr, Legislative Director Jim Tetreault, Membership Development Director Stephen Tracy, Youth Director Chris Heath, and Junior Director Sherrill Bokousky hosted events and sponsored programs which challenged and enlivened the Grange experience for all members who participated. Our first-ever Spring Fling event had support from all departments and was a fun day of workshops on topics beyond the usual scope of State Grange gatherings and it received rave review on members' evaluation sheets, so we are planning another one for 2009.
I dedicate this report to the memory of Past State Master John West, and ask you all to join me as we honor his memory by boldly stepping up to the tasks at hand, placing a determined smile upon our faces, and extending a warm hand in fellowship as we work toward a brighter future for the Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,
Beth Merrill, Master

New Jersey

I bring greetings from all of the Grangers in the Garden State. This has been a very exciting and active year for the Granges in New Jersey. It started with the Granges uniting and working with other agriculture organizations in the state to save the Department of Agriculture. As a cost saving move, our Governor proposed the elimination of the Department. Granges were sent information regarding this and were urged to contact their elected officials. Needless to say, many letters were sent, phone calls made and personal contacts made with our state Representatives. The NJSG Legislative Chairperson sent a "Letter to the Editor" to several newspapers and actually had one printed in the most widely read newspaper in the state. The Secretary of Agriculture has privately and publicly thanked the Grange for all our work in helping to save the Department.

The next big event happened when NJ was asked to be the hosting location for the Grange Growth Summit '08. We readily agreed and the GGS08 was conducted at Stanton Grange in Hunterdon County. The Summit was conducted by Rusty Hunt, National Grange Leadership/Membership Director, over a 3-day period. The main focus on the Summit was the process to organize/re-organize Granges. There were Grangers in attendance from

several states, including Montana and Florida. New Jersey had 8 members attend the training and they have already started to use the skills and ideas they learned in their own Granges. Some of the information can also be used to revitalize a Grange and I have seen it start to work at 3 different Granges. The enthusiasm and energy these members have brought to their home Grange is rubbing off on other members. I would suggest that other states contact Rusty about this program.

National Master, Ed Luttrell, and Rusty Hunt each held a series of meetings in NJ a week apart. Ed went presented his five priorities for the Grange and each of the priorities were adopted at each of the meetings. Copies of the poster outlining them were sent to each Grange in NJ for them to display at their meetings. Rusty presented a program on ways to revitalize a Grange, which caused a lot of good discussion.

I thank both Ed and Rusty for coming to NJ and talking with the members and asking us to host GGS08. These events have started a wave of new enthusiasm and open, honest, and frank talks within the Granges themselves, something we have needed to do for a while, which has caused us to reevaluate how things are done at each level of the Grange in NJ. I expect this positive action to continue in to the future.

Fraternally Submitted,
Pete Pompper, Master

New York

Greetings from the Empire State! The year 2008 has been a very positive year for the Grange in our state. In fact, the word "positive" has been the by-word of my first year as State Master. New York State Grangers are thinking positively, speaking positively, and acting positively in all aspects of Grange work and as a result, many positive things have happened, are still happening, and will continue to happen.

In April, National Master Ed Luttrell visited our state for six days and I had the privilege of traveling with him from east to west as he conducted regional sessions to promote his basic goals for Grange improvement across the nation. The New York State Grange has adopted these same goals and a poster now hangs in each Grange Hall or meeting place to remind members of Brother Ed's ideals. Increasing active membership, developing new leaders, and revitalizing Granges are now our priorities, too.

Thanks to the efforts of our new Publicity Director, Past State Master Bruce Croucher, we have given our State Grange publication, The Empire State Granger, a new look. We have expended coverage of Grange and Grange related news as well as added color photos of happenings across the state. Brother Croucher also developed a special issue, which was published for distribution at the annual Empire Farm Days and the New York State Fair in August. We strongly feel that this enhanced a new positive image of the New York State Grange. Past Master Croucher also put another "feather in our cap" when he was chosen as the Chairman of the New York State Council of Agricultural Organizations. This, too, shows the positive image the Grange has in matters of agricultural importance in New York State.

For the first time in memory, or it may be the first time in history, the New York State

Grange made headlines in the May 1st issue of the New York Times newspaper with an article about the Grange's history and ideals as well as the goals we stand for today. The reporter who interviewed me was astonished by the fact that there were still active Granges so near the New York City metropolitan area.

Our eight directors have completed outstanding jobs in their program areas and have proved to be the real "workhorses" of the Grange. Community Involvement/Service held several regional meetings noting that by carrying out a community project, no matter how large or small, that community will benefit from the results. Community service is what makes any Grange stand out. Our Family Advocacy Committee, through their programs of crafts, baking, sewing, needlework, and emergency preparedness, definitely show that the Grange is an advocate for families. The Junior Grange working with children and creative crafts, Agribasics trips, filling shoeboxes for the less fortunate as well as putting up Grange Week displays, show that this program is a definite positive influence upon the lives of Junior members. Our state Lecturer with his creative programs for community and Pomona Granges, show that planning can help a Grange move forward. Legislative regional meetings gave a positive image of the New York State Grange as being a trusted conveyer of issues to Legislators who want to hear from us as we are one of the few organizations where legislative matters come from the grassroots level. Membership/Leadership sessions have awakened our membership to the fact that membership involvement and growth are within reach. Our sports season of dartball, bowling, and golf tournaments showed more involvement by more family members than in past years. And, lastly, our Youth Team, with weekends and exchanges with New Hampshire, helped to promote leadership development and character building as positive outcomes in this department.

What positive things are happening in the New York State Grange today? Our elected State Officers, following two weekends of intensive leadership development, are now visiting Granges as "cheerleaders" for the New York State Grange. Utilizing our new composite handbook containing all departments, they not only explain programs but offer assistance to any Grange with any aspect of Grange work. A special force of four deputies and three Junior deputies are working with Granges with problems or concerns that develop as well as assist with the organization/reorganization of new units. For the first time in many years, a dormant community Grange has been reorganized with 40 members, none of whom have had any previous Grange experience. However, they have a tremendous, enthusiastic, positive attitude and are willing to listen and learn. Two other Community Grange are being revitalized as well as an additional Junior Grange. Attitude is the secret word that will lead to the success of any membership program.

Our state office is frequently on call by State legislators wanting to know the Grange's position on certain matters affecting the whole state. We are also working with an independent company to develop a Personnel Policy Manual to update us on state laws and regulations regarding the employees of our headquarters building. Quarterly reports are expected from each department in order to keep an open communication with the membership. We expect a summary of past quarter activities and an outline of future plans for the next.

As for 2009, what's in the works for next year? We are looking into the creation of a separate 501(c)(3) State Grange corporation to be known as the New York State Grange Educational and Cultural Foundation, when created, will allow others to make donations to our scholarship programs, as well as any cultural activities we may sponsor. The donors of funds will then be allowed to use their donation as a tax-write off under the IRS laws. Hopefully this will add to our coffers of student scholarship funding. Another positive

goal is to create a web site on the Internet, which will show a photograph of each Grange Hall or meeting location, as well as the address location, telephone number (if available), as well as a contact name for that Grange to make our organizations more accessible to the public for potential membership growth. In July 2009, our Youth Team will sponsor the Northeast Youth & Junior Weekend in the Albany, NY area with leadership workshops and Youth and Junior activities. We will coordinate our annual Family Camping Weekend with this conference allowing those participants to enjoy the activities and programs

Our beautiful State Grange Headquarters in Cortland, NY is now 35 years old and the years are beginning to show. We are currently in the process of developing a Headquarters Building Committee, who, with the Building Administrator, will evaluate building concerns that develop and then prioritize them for recommendations as to how to deal with them. This too is a positive step towards maintaining our beautiful headquarters building to keep it in good physical and working condition. It is our most popular image in the State Grange and behooves us to uphold its presence for the future.

Thus, "positive" was the by-word of the New York State Grange this past year and will continue to be so in the next year to come.

Fraternally Submitted,
Oliver J. Orton, Master

North Carolina

It was a year of change for the NC State Grange, particularly in terms of staffing. Jessica Newton, Membership Director, and Allison Fowler, Legislative Director, were added to the staff as full-time employees. Both bring a great deal of competence and enthusiasm to their respective positions. Jennie Gentry, who previously served as a staff member was selected as President of the North Carolina Cooperative Council, and left the State Grange office in March. However, she remains as Youth Director for the State Grange.

Tom Ellis, formerly with the NC Department of Agriculture and Dr. Bill Collins, formerly with NC State University, are new additions as part-time staff members to assist with agriculture efforts on behalf of the Grange.

The severe drought that affected the southeastern portion of the United States brought new challenges to the state Grange. Due to a massive shortage of hay, the state Grange assisted the NC Department of Agriculture by donating $5,000.00 to the Ag Partners Hay Relief Fund, to enable hay to be brought in from other states.

The drought also impacted the way that we all look at water resources as we have come to realize that we can no longer take water supplies for granted. The NC General Assembly assembled a Joint Select Committee on Agriculture Drought Response to develop measures for dealing with the substantial losses on farms in the state. In addition, an Oversight Committee was formed to work with this Drought Response effort. Jimmy Gentry and Allison Fowler both served on the Oversight Committee. Through this effort, $6 million in funds were secured to assist farmers with pasture renovation, well drilling, pond construction, and irrigation system upgrades. There is no doubt that NC is in store for future policy decisions regarding water usage and the state Grange will continue working

to ensure that agriculture is treated fairly.

Farmland preservation continues to be a major focus of the NC State Grange. The loss of forest and farmland is a tremendous problem in the state and efforts are underway to slow this trend. Jimmy Gentry serves as a member of the NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Advisory Committee, which is chaired by the NC Commissioner of Agriculture. Funds appropriated by the General Assembly are used to preserve farmland, as well as to fund efforts to keep farms in business.

Involuntary annexation was also an issue that the state Grange worked with during the year. There was an effort in the NC General Assembly to reform current laws regarding involuntary annexation. The state Grange advocated for this reform by encouraging that citizens have a voice in the process and to ensure that when annexations occur that services are promptly provided. In addition, Allison Fowler, Legislative Director, testified at a public hearing. Unfortunately, no new reforms have been adopted, but a study committee has been formed to research the issue.

The annual Family Conference was held in March, which included a variety of interesting speakers. Those speaking were NC Senator Charles Albertson; Johnny Wynne, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences at NC State University; Brad Miller, US House of Representatives member; Sharon Rowland, Executive Director of Development with the NC Cooperative Extension Service; William Upchurch, Executive Director of the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission; and Dewitt Hardy who works with farmland preservation with the NC Department of Agriculture. A special treat was entertainment from the GrassStreet Bluegrass Band. The conference was a great time of education and fellowship for Grange members.

A new Grange was chartered during the year called Twin City Grange. This Grange is made up of enthusiastic members with very capable leadership. We look forward to good things from this Grange in the years ahead. In addition, a second new Grange is in progress in the Fuquay Varina community. Currently this Grange has enough members to qualify for a charter, but the process is not yet complete. The organization of this Grange will prove that young adults will join the Grange, because this group is primarily made up of youth and their parents. We are looking forward to this Grange being chartered in the near future.

The annual Legislative Ag Day was held in June at the NC General Assembly, with the Grange and NC Agribusiness Council hosting a joint event. Grange members had the opportunity to visit their representatives to discuss a variety of issues related to the legislative policy. An evening reception was also held for members of the General Assembly. We were pleased that John Goodman, Intern, was able to attend as a representative of the National Grange.

The State Grange hosted a visit from Ed Luttrell and his wife Celia in September. Two meetings were conducted in which the National President presented five goals for the coming years, each of which were adopted by the NC State Grange. While Ed was in town, we also visited the site of the 2010 National Convention to be held in Charlotte in an effort to continue planning for this event. Crystal Allen, Convention Coordinator for the region, along with her husband David, and Margaret Maxwell, National Grange Convention Planner also participated.

The NC State Grange Convention was held in October in Hickory, NC. A highlight of this convention was the presentation of NC State Grange Lifetime Achievement Awards to Carlyle Teague, a long time Grange member who recently retired as President of the Cooperative Council of NC. Plans were in place to also present a Lifetime Achievement

Award to former State Master and former Governor Robert Scott. Unfortunately, Gov. Scott was placed into a nursing home just prior to convention and was unable to attend. The plans are to present him with the plaque at the nursing home as soon as arrangements can be made.

The state Grange Youth program continues to be strong, offering quality leadership training to our young members. The Youth Camp, Winter Conference, and State Convention all had good participation, and we are fortunate to have a number of our youth to participate in activities at the National Grange Convention in Connecticut, including three National Youth Officers, two Ambassadors, and a Mentor. We are very proud of our youth in North Carolina.

Best wishes to all of our friends in the thirty-six State Granges!

Fraternally Submitted,
Jimmy Gentry, Master

Ohio

Greetings from Ohio, the Buckeye state, to the 142nd Annual Session of the National Grange in Cromwell, CT.

Ohio had an active Grange year in 2008. In July, National Master/President, Ed Luttrell, conducted workshops in Miami County, Muskingum County, Stark County and at the state Grange Office. The Leadership Team adopted the five priorities presented by Master Luttrell. Being a strong family state, Ohio will re-emphasize and strengthen the family structure through the Junior and Youth programs, as the first priority.

The Eastern Region Youth Conference was, again, a highlight for the Ohio Youth. They renewed friendships and made new ones while in Tennessee. Nicole Swigart and Juli and Tina Grafton received Best of Show with their group Sign-a-Song Group performance. They will perform at the Evening of Excellence at the National Session. Also representing Ohio will be our Youth Ambassadors, Tiffany Paul and Carson Yost. The Youth winter and summer camps provided the opportunity for the Ambassadors and State Youth Committee members to develop leadership skills while presenting workshops for the campers.

Membership continues to be a major concern. Some Granges recruit new members. However, the losses outnumber the gains. Several smaller Granges have consolidated or closed. When a Grange closes, the members are encouraged to demit to a neighboring Grange.

The Junior Grange Department remains strong even with fewer Granges and members. The Ohio State Junior Grange provides the opportunity for the 5 to 14 year old children who do not have a Junior Grange in their local community or county to become active Junior Grange members. The State Junior Officers learn the Junior Grange ritual and present it with only 1 or 2 practices. We are so proud of them. Representing the Ohio Junior Grange at the National Convention will be Jennifer Lanstrum.

Community Service projects reported by Ohio Granges emphasizes the care and concern our members show to their communities. The grange with the state winning report assisted a family before, during, and after the birth of triplets. Just think three times

everything. What a great project!

Our program provides something for everyone. Many activities are held at Friendly Hills Grange Camp. They include winter and summer Youth camps, Junior Grange camp, Ritualistic and Drill contests, Deaf Conference, Legislative Conference, Rally Family weekend, horseshoe tournament, corn hole tournament, family activities workshop, and Rural Life Sunday Services. The Deputy Conferences, Lecturer's Conference, Family Campout, Bowling Tournament, and Dartball Tournament were held at other locations.

Scholarships were awarded to two Ohio State University students.

The Ohio State Fair and The Ohio State Grange have a long history of working together. The Junior and Youth Departments lead daily 'Make-It and Take-It' demonstrations in the Youth Discovery Center and participate in the fair parade each day. Many adults staff a promotional area. The second area is in the Land and Living Building where approximately 100 members promote Grange during the 12-day fair. The State Grange Talent contest has been held at the fair for well over 30 years. This year, approximately 75 Junior and subordinate members entertained the audience. Luke Widder will perform his piano solo at the "Evening of Excellence."

The three-day Farm Science Review display offers non-Grangers the chance to learn about our fraternity from our volunteers. The visitors include many students, FFA members, farmers, and their families.

Ohio is proud to offer programs, contests, and activities to all ages both members and non-members.

Fraternally submitted,
Gary Brumbaugh, Master

Oklahoma

On behalf of the Oklahoma State Grange, Kay Lee and I wish to extend our greetings to the 142nd Annual Convention of the National Grange. Our 93rd State Session was held October 17, 18, and 19th in Pryor, Oklahoma. We were honored to have Joe and Tammy Fryman as our National Representatives. We enjoyed having them at our state session.

At our session we worked on several resolutions for both state and national consideration. Paul Matthews our Legislative Director works very hard to keep Grangers informed on issues, which may impact their communities.

We hosted the Corn State Lecturers Conference in Branson, Missouri and had representatives from Kansas and Nebraska. Due to the high fuel cost in the month of July we were unable to attend the Great Plains Youth Conference.

We were honored to have the National Grange Master come to our state this summer. Also we were honored to have Rusty Hunt the National Grange Membership Director to visit our state.

Several granges across the state showed an increase. We are very proud to announce that we have organized four new Granges during the past year.

The State Grange of Oklahoma presented 5 grangers with education scholarships. The awardees were Ashley McCann and Andrew McCann and Jera Priest from Goodwill Grange #13, Tim Keeton and Ann Keeton from Thompson Grange #352, and Clayton Krehbiel and

from Cherryvale Grange #221. They were honored at the Celebration Banquet on Saturday evening.

Each year Oklahoma selects someone who has exemplified leadership in the Grange and this year Cheryl Shafer former First Lady of the Oklahoma State Grange was honored by being named "Granger of the Year." We also named our first "Grange Family of the Year" which was Carl and Martha Shufeldt.

We continue to work with other organizations such as the Oklahoma Wheat Research Board, Highway Users Federation, Oklahoma Farmer Bureau, and the Oklahoma Cattleman's Association.

Fraternally Submitted,
Yvonne Meritt, Master

Oregon

Greetings from Oregon to the many Grange friends attending the 142nd Annual Convention in Cromwell, CT. I hope you have the chance to meet our Grangers including Overseer Mark Noah, Secretary Susan Noah, Youth Co-Directors Mark and Julie Schnetzky and Horizon Leadership participants Qiana Helm and Jacob Embree.

Our 135th Annual State Session was held in June in Central Oregon with National Master, Ed Luttrell, and his wife, Celia, as our very special distinguished guests. Neither needed an introduction as both hail from our state and have served the Oregon State Grange as devoted Grangers for many years. Brother Ed's years here as State Master helped prepare him for serving in the same capacity for National Grange.

We were able to reorganize a Grange in Eastern Oregon with the help of National Membership/Leadership Director, Rusty Hunt. This Grange had been dormant for three years and is now back on our active list with 19 new members and more ready to join.

With Rusty's help, a leadership team of 29 was formed and members are ready to help throughout the state. It was determined at the leadership workshop that we were all just a bunch of "Grange Junkies" because of our dedication to this organization.

Oregon Grangers continued their traditional state-level events such as Ag Fest – helping youngsters plant 3,000 seedlings to take home, sponsoring the statewide FFA public speaking contest, Hands Across the Border with Idaho, hosting our Log Cabin during the state fair and support of the Foster Parent Program. We have many Granges participating in the Words for Thirds and offering scholarships to community members.

Our Granges answered the call for help from National Grange regarding the Tyson matter. Piles and piles of paperwork arrived at our headquarters to be sent on to Washington, DC. I am very proud of their response.

Our state legislature convenes in January of 2009, so we will be busy with legislative affairs and hosting a barbecue luncheon for about 500 folks at the state capitol.

With our new leadership team, I am headed into 2009 with a very positive attitude. Our POSITIVITY theme is bringing positive results.

Fraternally Submitted,
Phyllis A. Wilson, Master

Pennsylvania

Greetings from Pennsylvania, the second largest Grange state. The condition of the Grange in PA is good and I remain optimistic for our future. Again the year was filled with activities within and outside of our Granges.

We had our usual booth at the Farm Show in January and also staffed the Farmer for a Day booth for kids again. It is important to have a presence there to let people know the Grange is alive and well. The departmental planning meeting was held in late January to set our programs for the year.

We were very fortunate to have our National Master speak at all 8 regional meetings and the state officers meeting in March and April. Attendance at all of them was excellent! I was a little disappointed that our state officers only endorsed four of Ed's priorities for Pennsylvania. They did not endorse organizing new Granges, but we organized one anyway at Penn State on September 10th, Penn State Grange #2105. We're hoping to get another one organized in Ephrata soon.

Grange Legislative Day was May 5 with special speaker Attorney General Tom Corbett. Brian Ebersole, state Overseer, presented a workshop on current issues in health care.

I spoke at the PA Association of Extension Educators meeting and judged the Huntingdon County Dairy Princess Pageant. I put up a display at the Ag Educators Conference, attended the PA Township Supervisors' convention, and participated in the "Ag & the Environment: Achieving Balance" conference in June.

Junior Camp was again very successful with 60 campers the week of July 4th. Three of my grandchildren had the opportunity to attend for the first time and they had a ball.

In our emphasis on the family this year, we held four Family Picnics in different areas of the state. They were all lots of fun with great food, games, and prizes.

The 5th Annual Family Festival took place on a very hot weekend in July. We had Civil War re-enactors attend and educate us as well as many other workshops and activities. Two hundred Grangers attended the Festival this year and it will be held again next year on July 16-19, 2009.

August means Ag Progress Days. This year we had a new exhibit and a new building to be in. We have the opportunity there to speak to thousands of farm families about the Grange.

This summer the Grange sponsored an informational meeting at Hoober's Farm Equipment to educate state and federal government officials about precision agriculture. Precision agriculture is an information management, decision making tool that farmers can use to reduce their input costs while increasing their yields to make their farms more environmentally friendly and more efficient at the same time. Combines are linked to satellite GPS so crop yields can be "read" from every square foot of a field. By gathering these data, farmers can adjust fertilizer, seed, herbicide, and insecticide usage to where they are needed. Equipment can even be installed on tractors so they steer themselves across the fields! The PA State Grange is requesting that precision agriculture be one of the best management practices eligible for funding under EQIP.

My message to our Grangers this year is that we need to take more risks. Risk is naturally present in every successful innovation. Whenever leaders experiment

with innovative ways of doing things, they put themselves and others at risk. Don't you think Oliver Kelley and the 7 founders took a lot of risk? Or the signers of the Declaration of Independence, or those who wrote our Constitution? Today the idea in this country is that we should all be sheltered from risk and uncertainty as part of our national heritage. If we want to lead efforts to improve the way things are, in the world and in our Granges, we must be willing to take risks, try new things, talk to new people, and not be afraid to fail. I know there are people in our communities who would love our organization if they only had the chance to experience it. Taking risks in the Grange is easy, because you're surrounded by brothers and sisters who will help and not ridicule you if you fail at something. Be proud of our Grange! It is the best organization in the world!

Fraternally Submitted,
Betsy Huber, Master

Potomac Grange #1

Greetings from the Nation's Capital. Everyday we see the changes happening in Washington, DC in anticipation of the arrival of our new President-elect Obama. Pennsylvania Avenue has been repaved and the streets' crosswalks have all gotten a fresh coat of white and red paint, the buildings are being cleaned and the sidewalk flower boxes replanted. Those exterior physical changes are happening, but we are all concerned about the interior, the heart and soul of America, as we all struggling with the issues of the environment, world battles, crisis, and economic strife. Can we turn that around? Yes we can! We all pray for change that will enhance the lives of all those around the world. We in the Grange are the grassroots, the heartland, and the foundation of change; are we doing our part? Our Order is a family fraternity and legislative organization; we must make our voice heard; we do make a difference. It starts with each Granger who expresses a solution and it builds and builds, with a "just make it happen" attitude.

The Legislative Fly-In Scholarship program continues to be sponsored by Potomac Grange #1 and this year's participants had the opportunity to experience first-hand the New Hampshire Presidential Primary in Dec 07, a wonderful opportunity. As the co-sponsor with the National Grange at the National Agriculture Hall of Fame induction ceremony of our Founders, the Grange is spreading the word on all of our good works and is recognized for its contributions to agriculture. We invite you all to join us at our regular meetings held in the National Grange Building on the third Tuesday at 0800 in the morning. Become an associate member of Potomac Grange #1, Grange of the Founders, and feel the heartbeat.

Fraternally Submitted,
Joan C. Smith, President

Rhode Island

It is with honor and pleasure that Amanda & I join our Brothers & Sisters from the Northeast Region in welcoming all fellow Patrons to this North East Connection and all the fun and fellowship prepared here in Cromwell.

This past year has been extremely busy and enjoyable for our Grange family. Our Deaf/Health Committee as in the past attended & participated in the Grange Day activities at the R.I. School for the Deaf. This year the annual performance was Beauty and the Beast. Through the efforts of our hearing aid assistance fund we were able to provide five members with financial assistance needed to assist in their need for hearing assistance.

Our Agriculture & Legislative departments were combined as both work together to serve as the grassroots of our fraternity. We all need to continue to support the local farmers while providing our legislators with the issues facing the struggling family with the rising costs of goods and services needed for our everyday lives.

Brother Rusty Hunt, National Membership/Development Director, was in our state in March and he was GREAT. His workshops and suggestions helped to make a positive influence in our recruitment efforts. Following his visit we held a very successful state degree day welcoming 32 new members into our family. The most we have had in many years.

I remind the members of this state of the motto I presented at my election TEAM (Together Each Accomplishes More). If we all lived by this statement, there is no way we can fail.

Again, our Women's Activities Committee has been very busy. Some of our activities include the donation of 2,630 pounds of food to local food pantries in our respective communities.

The Ronald McDonald House received 482 pounds of aluminum tabs and our Foster Care program received the largest support in this department. A total of $405.00 was donated to their crib fund and over 900 items have been donated for the children in their care. Because of our loyal support we are invited as guests every year at their annual appreciation dinner and we are also given the responsibility of selling the raffle tickets and providing the favors for the 700 plus who attend this gala event.

Community service continues to be an important part of our success. Our members logged a total of 5,939 hours. The four-legged friends and empty plate projects continue to be greatly supported. A total of 3,557 pounds of food were donated by our membership to local food shelters. The Dictionary Project continues to be our main state project. There were 13 Granges who purchased dictionaries for 45 schools, which represents 2,438 dictionaries. With the state fund we have established, we were able to donate a total of 1,031 dictionaries to schools where there is no Grange in the area.

Our Publicity department continues to inform the public that our fraternity is ready to assist in their local communities. Public exposure is essential to our survival in order to maintain our great reputation in society today.

We are very proud of our Youth Department who had a very active year and also played host to the Northeast Youth Conference. In addition , we have two of our young ladies who have always represented every aspect of the Grange in which they served with great respect. Maggie Spencer and Tracie Miller who will serve at this convention as a

member of the Youth Officers team and trumpet girl for the Degree of Ceres respectively. We are all extremely proud & look forward to a long future of success in our Grange family.

This year we again held our annual Red Wagon raffle to benefit the Helmet Project for the Hasbro Children's Hospital. A total of 48 helmets were presented by our Juniors to the hospital at our session. Another job well done.

A major undertaking has been a mandatory by-laws revision of all our Granges by January 1, 2009. I am happy to report that most Granges have complied in a timely manner but there are some who feel that that information should not be available to those who are not members of that Grange. I am looking forward to resolving this issue and working with all Granges to complete this task.

The highlight for our state this year was the long overdue completion and dedication of our new education center in honor of our dear friends Woody & Marge Tucker. The Tuckers served the Order at every level with tremendous pride and have always put the best interest of the Grange ahead of everything they have done for this Fraternity & we thank them for their service and the love & respect they give to the membership at all levels. We are also very honored that Brother Woody is a speaker at this convention in Cromwell and I know he will continue to do this organization proud as he has always done. Thank You Woody & Marge for your personal friendship and for all the guidance you have given me along my Grange journey.

In the words of President Lincoln "I do the very best I know how – the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing it until the end."

Remember, each new day is an opportunity to make everything better.

The Rhode Island State Grange wishes to extend its best wishes to the National Grange and our Worthy Master, Ed Luttrell, and we extend our full support to continue to move this great organization forward. Let us all remember TEAM (Together Each Accomplishes More).

Fraternally Submitted,
Scott Sherman, Master

South Carolina

On behalf of the officers and members of the South Carolina State Grange, Hazel and I extend our greetings. We are honored to be part of the 142nd Annual Session of the National Grange. We look forward to a productive and harmonious session. To the Northeastern Grange, we offer our thanks and congratulations for being such wonderful hosts. I have been fortunate to attend every session since 1991, while representing the great state of South Carolina.

We see among you many of our Grange friends and look forward to spending time with you. We also look forward to meeting new friends at this 142nd Grange Session commences. Through these friendships, we have become better informed Grange members.

During the past year, we have continued to meet with our community Granges during regularly scheduled meetings. This has given us the opportunity to meet many of the fine

people of our state Grange. We have also worked to contact Granges that are no longer active in hopes of reorganizing them into productive worthwhile Granges. We are still searching for methods to attract younger members and families to continue the survival of our Grange. Although our membership is not large, we are continuing to gain more members than we have lost. Things are looking up.

We always start off our calendar year by hosting a leadership conference in February in Johnson, South Carolina. Harmony Grange sold their Grange building to Harmony Methodist Church in exchange for them to do maintenance on the building and allow the Grange members to continue to meet in this building. Most of them are getting old and have picked up six new members. We have found this one-day conference to be very beneficial.

Our annual state session was held at the Holiday Inn in Columbia, South Carolina, on August 9th & 10th. This two-day session was very productive. We were able to return to the middle of the state for our session, discuss the cares and concerns of our fellow Granges, and look for ways to improve the quality of our Grange. We were fortunate to have Betsy Huber, Executive Board Chairman and Master of Pennsylvania State Grange. It was a wonderful experience getting to know her. On Saturday morning, Betsy installed the newly elected officers of our Grange.

Several years ago, we lost our sponsor for our state baking contest. This led to a decrease in the participation of this contest. However, we are seeing an increase in the participation again and hope the number will continue to increase. We are glad that participation in all of our state contests is increasing. Also again this year, all members attending the state session were asked to bring stuffed animals to present for attendance.

We also continued to support the education of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind, located in Spartanburg. One of the ways that we continue to support this school is through the collection and donation of Campbell's Soup labels. They use the labels for the purchase of equipment that they need and are currently working to acquire a new for transportation.

Also, through our Junior Grange program, we collect soda can tabs for donation to the Ronald McDonald House program.

We in South Carolina are still recovering from having lost the largest number of Grange members in our history. After the severe damage to our state caused by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, the Grange Insurance Company was forced into bankruptcy from paying so many large claims. Many members left after this traumatic experience.

As we begin this session, may we meet in harmony, grow in unity and purpose, and depart to serve.

Fraternally Submitted,
John M. Hammett, Sr., Master

Tennessee

Greetings from the Volunteer State of Tennessee. Our 100th Annual Convention was held in October 2008 in Knoxville, with National Grange representatives from the neighboring state of North Carolina, Jimmy Gentry, and wife, Anita. They were tremendous assets as we discussed membership growth challenges for Tennessee. Also, as National Overseer, Jimmy was able to give delegates insight into the Grange's opposition to the use of the Grange name in advertising by Tyson Foods.

Since it was our 100th convention, we had some discussion about what was going on in the U.S. in 1908 and our songs in the opening and closing were reminiscent of songs from a century ago. It was an election year with a change in three officers, who were installed by National Overseer, Jimmy Gentry. The meeting was held at the Volunteer Grange Hall with all meals and contest entries being at the hall as well. All Granges answered roll call and all officers were present with the exception of our worthy Treasurer, whose mother was admitted to the hospital the morning of our session start, and the Assistant Steward who was not able to travel to Knoxville.

We were again able to attain a net gain in membership, however small, still a gain. This is the fourth consecutive year Tennessee has shown a net gain. And although we saw some membership numbers change in both deletions and additions, we still finished with a small gain. We realize that we have two Granges that are not apt to grow since their meetings are not held in a hall or community center, but their small memberships remain active.

We again had 100% participation in the Community Service contest. All Granges are working in their communities and have a great deal of enthusiasm for service projects. The winner was the oldest Grange in the state whose members continue to work diligently in their community. All six notebooks supported the tremendous amount of hours of work completed throughout the year.

We had excellent participation in the contests sponsored by the various departments. The Lecturer reported 131 entries in the photography contest, and 15 entries in the art contest for Junior Grangers. She presented certificates to those Lecturers who turned in reports of their work during the year. She also presented certificates to those who read books from the annual reading list, to those Granges that sent Yoplait lids to help support cancer research, and she urged us to continue to save Campbell Soup labels for Tennessee School for the Deaf, and aluminum soda can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. The Family Activities Director reported over 77 entries in the needlework and craft contests. We also had many entries in the canned goods and baking contests with them being donated for the annual auction on Saturday evening. The Junior Grange at Wesley's Chapel made a donation to the Kelley Farm through the collection of pennies. Volunteer Grange also made a donation to the Kelley Farm. Our state-wide community service project this year was the collection of mittens and hats for children. A total of 175 mittens and gloves, 125 hats and 1 scarf were donated. Fabulous! Also donated were a dozen stuffed bears.

National Master, Ed Luttrell, and wife, Celia, visited with Tennessee Grangers in September 2008 for a membership meeting in Knoxville at the Volunteer Grange hall. 16 members were present for this important discussion regarding setting priorities for the coming year with the objective being membership growth. All five priorities outlined by the National Grange were adopted by Tennessee.

This next year promises to be a challenge as we work to grow membership in our State. It is important that we increase our membership numbers, and it is imperative for the future of our State Grange to organize a new Grange (or Granges) in our State. Our plans were to host a leadership/membership day to assist Granges in development in those areas, but since we fear that people may not attend workshops in a designated area of the state, it was felt that the most effective way to reach the most people would be to have a "traveling" team to visit with each Grange during the coming year. We were very pleased that Jimmy Gentry from North Carolina offered assistance in training to promote membership growth. And, of course, our National Grange Membership Director is available to assist as well. Although our State is small in both the number of Granges and members, we have strong leaders in all of them and continue to press toward the mark. Our goal is to make a difference in the lives of those around us and leave those communities better than we found them.

Fraternally Submitted,
Judy Sherrod, Master

Texas

I bring greetings from the great state of Texas. Margaret and I are honored to represent our state at the 142nd Annual National Session. This will be our first time as delegates and we are looking forward to meeting the delegates from across the country.

We were honored to have the National Master, Ed Luttrell, and wife as our National Representative at our annual session this past July. Everyone was impressed with his presentation on the goals of the National Grange. We immediately adopted them as our goals. In addition to the National goals, I added a little zip and made fundraising, membership, reorganizing inactive Granges, and organizing new Granges as my goals. The three months following our session, we have reorganized one Grange from 8 members to 13 with potential to add more members. Working with my Deputies, we are looking at other Granges with members not meeting. Hopefully, we will be successful at getting them meeting again.

I am working with all our departments to get them more involved in their area of responsibility and more involved with their counterpart in the Subordinate Granges.

I have asked the National Membership Director to visit us with a workshop as soon as possible, with a projected date sometime in February 2009. Hopefully the workshop will give us our marching orders to bring in new members. In the meantime, we are doing everything possible for new members.

We are moving forward, looking to the future, making plans to assist Oklahoma, wherever necessary, with the 2011 National Grange Session.

Fraternally submitted,
Jack Smithers, Master

Vermont

It is my pleasure to once again bring you greetings from the Green Mountain State of Vermont.

This has been a year of change in Vermont and we have been vigorously working with the Save My Grange program to revitalize the Granges in Vermont and in some instances it has worked well. But we still struggle with others.

Our Junior Department continues to grow with much more participation and involvement of not only the young people but also their parents. We have set a goal to start three new Junior Granges in the year to come.

We have active Legislative and Agriculture Departments working diligently to get the message of the Grange policy out to the Legislature and Agricultural Departments. We were fortunate this year that the Dept. of Agriculture decided to use five of our Grange halls around the state to do canning classes, not only did it provide a service for the communities but also it brought many non-members into our Grange halls.

The diligent work of our Home Economics, Health, and Community Service Departments have brought many good things to the Grange. The fight against Childhood and Elderly Hunger has been foremost in The Community Service and Health Departments. We worked with the Food Stamp program to get the message to many communities concerning the Food Stamp program. We had a food drive at our state session and collected much needed food for the State Food Cupboard. It has been a busy year and we look forward to moving ahead in the year to come.

Fraternally Submitted,
Clyde G. Berry, Master

Virginia

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates and Members, I bring greetings from the Old Dominion and the members of the Virginia State Grange.

Our Granges continued numerous community service projects and started working on a number of new projects in the past year. Community service is done with pride and seeks to serve the needs of the individual communities surrounding the Granges. Cox's Chapel Grange took on the big challenge of fighting the construction of a new prison on the scenic New River in southwest Virginia near the North Carolina line last year. This year their efforts paid off and the location of the prison was placed in a more suitable area. Beach Community Grange participates in the Words for Thirds program and the members say it's one of the most gratifying projects that they have been involved with. They have sponsored the program for six schools. Price's Fork Grange continued their annual community fair. Our other Granges continued many other community services projects.

We held our state convention at Price's Fork Grange in Blacksburg, Virginia, home of Virginia Tech. One of our previously less active Granges took home our two membership

awards this year. We presented the George Washington Honor Gavel and a Picture of Ironbridge Grange to the Grange, which has the biggest net gain and the largest percentage gain of new members. We look to continue Grange growth in the upcoming year. Local Granges have been busy with open houses, and other community events to greet potential new members.

We hosted the Mid-Atlantic Lecturer's Conference held in May, with Tennessee. Fun, fellowship, and learning highlighted the conference.

Worthy Master, Ed Luttrell, visited with our Granges with two stops on his September Grange tour to present the priorities of the National Grange and help establish priorities for the Virginia State Grange and our community Granges. Our members were excited to meet with the National Master and are looking forward to working toward accomplishing our priorities.

With uncertain economic times and family budget crunches, people will take a closer look at activities near their homes. We look forward to another year of continued growth and outreach in our communities. We are working to revitalize two Granges and that will be a continued focus in the coming year. We look forward to working with Brother Rusty Hunt in these efforts.

I would like to thank the members of the Northeast Connection for hosting the 142nd Annual Convention of the National Grange. I offer best wishes to all Granges and a successful coming year.

Fraternally Submitted,
James E. Taylor, Master

Washington

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates, Members, and Friends of the National Grange, I am delighted to bring you greetings from the state of Washington. My husband, Jack, and I are honored to represent our state at the National Grange's 142nd Annual Convention here in beautiful Cromwell, Connecticut.

This past June, Grangers from across the state met in Colville for our annual convention. It was my first state convention since taking over as State Master a few months earlier and it proved to be a very productive session. Thanks to the hard work of our committees, the session went very smoothly and we passed some critical policies, some of which will be voted on at this National Grange convention.

Last year we reported the U.S. Supreme Court was hearing our appeal of lower court decisions invalidating a top-two primary enacted by voters in 2004 via our Initiative 872. On March 18 we got the wonderful news: "Held: I-872 is facially constitutional." In a lopsided 7 – 2 decision, the highest court in the land said our state's voters are smart enough to vote for whomever they want in the primary election. The parties continue to try to chip away at this fair and proper way of selecting our elected officials, but we will continue our fight to allow our state's voters to vote the person, not the party.

On the topic of voting, we are pleased to be a part of Washington State's "Women's Voices, Women's Votes – Washington Women's Suffrage Centennial 1910 – 2010" celebration. As the Grange did nationally, our State Grange staunchly supported women's

right to vote, and the Washington State Historical Society, in recognition of that, is including us in their July display recognizing this achievement.

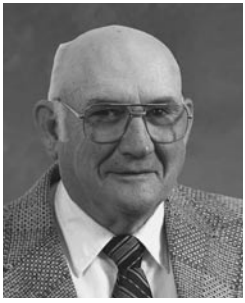
We are proud to count among our members Rusty Hunt, the National Grange Leadership/ Membership Director. He, along with Tom Gwin (who continues his hard work in our state) made a lot of positive strides in saving local Granges and increasing membership in several areas of our state. Hard-working Grangers Ted and Zula Bryan, who recently traveled to Alaska to help start several new Granges there, are also from our state.

On the home front, our local Granges are showing some real initiative in revitalizing their membership. Some host farmers' markets, another recently burned through a stack of applications after hosting a program called "Putting the 'Culture' Back in Agriculture." That program attracted more than 100 people, many of whom were not Grange members, and focused on using the Grange as a place for people to meet to promote local, sustainable agriculture. One Grange in southwest Washington was the center for relief and rescue efforts during devastating flooding last December, prompting a visit from the Governor, who served the exhausted volunteers and stressed out victims a meal of bratwurst and crab cakes.

Our members continue to support their local communities through a number of programs, benefiting the underprivileged, the elderly, the young, and anyone else in need. I couldn't be more proud.

Fraternally Submitted,
June Hendrickson, Master

West Virginia



It is indeed a pleasure to bring you greetings from West Virginia. The West Virginia State Grange held their elections at the annual session. There was very little change in leadership as no one was willing to accept the office of State Master. I was again chosen and will start my eleventh year. I know that this is a problem throughout the Grange when asking members to take the leadership role. Maybe this will change if we can attract new members.

As I have stated in the past, obtaining new members has been our greatest failure. We have tried every tool in the toolbox and have come up empty handed. Our losses in membership have not been caused by demit, but by death. The very backbone of the Grange is becoming old and thus there is a steady decline in members and leaders.

We now offer our members two accidental death policies; one by the state, and the other by National Grange, which is more than other organizations offer. Also, the West Virginia State Grange was recognized in the State Legislature this year. It was to recognize the many years of service to the rural citizens of the West Virginia.

We will continue to promote the Grange and hope the result of a state grange awareness campaign will produce positive results. This thought was one of many suggestions of a round table discussion at state session. Other suggestions will be pursued and hopefully we will have positive results. We will continue our efforts to keep the Grange alive in West Virginia.

Fraternally Submitted,
Jim Foster, Master

Wisconsin

I extend my warmest greetings. Where do we stand in Wisconsin? Wisconsin agriculture is one of the state's main industries that can't pack up and leave for another location like many of the state's industries. Coming from Janesville and being a retired autoworker it is hard to explain the feeling of knowing that a factory that supported thousands of families since the early 1900's is going to close. Sometimes I feel angry and sad at the same time. National buying trends and foreign products have caused a huge deficit in how much more we import over what we export (Wisconsin's vehicle exports were our #4 export product in 2007). Wisconsin ranks #1 among the other states for export of dairy products with 55% of total farm receipts going to export.

Every year small Wisconsin farms disappear and large dairy and crop producers buy up more land. Just driving around and watching barns and silos disappear makes me wonder if we are heading in the right direction. We watched as railroads gave up their business to over the road haulers. Now many of the rail systems business have picked up because of the high cost of trucking. It is hard to imagine the changes made in the last 100 years and how long are we going to be able to support it.

Wisconsin's Grange membership has slipped the past 5 years that I have been in office and I have failed to find an incentive for our existing Granges to increase their memberships. After accepting the position of State Maste, I worked to build relationships with local and state government representatives and found that without a strong member base it is hard to encourage them on making or denying legislation. I wish you all best wishes over the next year.

Fraternally Submitted,
Alan Arner, Master

Wyoming

We have been working with all the Granges in Wyoming about getting new members.

We had a visit from the President of the National Grange, Ed Luttrell, about increasing the members of our Grange. We held the meeting in Casper, Wyoming. Only had a few members show up. I asked each Grange that was there to contact members in the regions and try to form new Granges or get the old Granges going.

Each of our Granges in the state have their own project that they do. Some have booths at fairs and other serve dinners for the community. We purchased dictionaries and gave them to the schools in Kaycee, Buffalo, Chugwater, Wheatland, and Guernsey to the third grades at each school. We also worked on the Ag Days in Wyoming to promote agriculture and what it does for the community. We have had some radio slots and also information in the newspapers. We also participated in the National College finals held in Casper, Wyoming. We help work in the contested service part. All of the Granges that we have are working at trying to get new members.

Fraternally Submitted,
DeeDee Loomer, Master

NATIONAL GRANGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2007-2008

November 16, 2007
Nugget Hotel
Reno/Sparks, Nevada

The meeting was called to order on November 16, 2007 at 9:45 PM.

Present: Ed Luttrell, Jimmy Gentry, Betsy Huber, Marty Billquist, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli.

The reorganization election was held with the following results: Chair – Betsy Huber, Secretary – Phil Prelli.

Discussion was held on the meeting the National Master had with the State Masters on their concerns and the direction of our Order and also the organization of the central office. The transition of National Masters was also discussed.

A motion by Phil Prelli, seconded by Pete Pompper to provide up to $5,000 in the Budget for the transition was made. After discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

The Board of Directors for the National Grange will hold its next meeting at the Master's Conference. Ed Luttrell will provide information and date.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Fraternally Submitted,
F. Philip Prelli, Secretary
National Grange Board of Directors

February 14, 2008
Comfort Inn
Irving, Texas

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 pm. 2/14/08 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Marty Billquist, Jimmy Gentry, Betsy Huber, Ed Luttrell, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli.

Chr. Huber offered a prayer for a successful meeting and wishing a safe trip to all the members travelling to the Master's Meeting.

Worthy Master Luttrell led a discussion on the Marketing position and possible modifications. The position needs to be strong in sales, member's benefits and promotional programs. The need to better explain our organization and goals to the public was also discussed.

Motion by Jimmy Gentry and seconded by Marty Billlquist to approve the November 11, 2007 minutes. The motion was approved.

Motion by Marty Billquist and seconded by Pete Pompper to approve the November 16, 2007 minutes. The motion was approved.

The Communication Department report was discussed. Grange Month packages have been mailed out to each Grange. The department is also preparing new public relations manual and customized business cards for Grange members are being produced. They are

also producing new You-Tube videos for the Web site.

The Comptroller's report was then given with discussion of the new budget format.

Jimmy Gentry moved to transfer $5,000 from "Seminar Expenses" to $2,000 to "Grange Organization" for Grange Deputy Program and $3,000 for Help to existing Grange States in "Membership/ Leadership" account. It was seconded by Marty Billqust and adopted.

Meeting was recessed at 10:25 pm.

Meeting was reconvened at 8:35 am on 2/15/07 with all the above members present.

Margaret Maxwell presented her report on upcoming conventions. She and Ed Luttrell are planning to visit the Crowne Plaza in Connecticut on 3/13/07 to go over the facility and discuss arrangements. She also discussed the options for the 2012 convention in the Western District as well as a new software program for convention planning.

On a motion by Jimmy Gentry and Second by Pete Pompper it was voted to approve purchasing the WinPlan meeting planning software.

A motion was made by Jimmy Gentry and seconded by Pete Pompper to approve a resolution to promote Jennifer Dugent to Communication Director. The motion was approved.

A motion to have the 2012 Convention in Boise, Idaho was made by Jimmy Gentry and seconded by Pete Pompper. The motion was adopted.

A question was raised about the National Grange Foundation's By-Laws and the ability to use them to raise donations for the National Convention. It was decided to have the National Master provide the By-Laws to the Board and have a discussion on them as an agenda item for the next meeting.

A motion by Ed Luttrell that the Board of Directors of the National Grange recommend to the Foundation Board that a Junior Grange Fund be established and that we direct the Junior Department not to send out an appeal letter to Granges. It was seconded by Phil Prelli. An amendment was made by Marty Billquist, seconded by Ed Luttrell to delete "not to send out an appeal to Granges" and replace it with if an appeal letter goes out it will be a joint letter from Youth and Junior. The amendment was approved. On a motion by Jimmy Gentry, seconded by Phil Prelli a motion was made to put the item on the table until the next meeting. The tabling motion was adopted.

The appointment of a new Youth Director was discussed. The Board asked the Chairperson to send a letter of appreciation to Sister Cindy Greer thanking her for her outstanding work and dedication.

The Board went into Executive Session at 11:00 am to discuss legal issues concerning the order.

The meeting was reconvened in regular session at 11:30.

A motion was made by Phil Prelli with a second by Jimmy Gentry that the National Grange establishes an employment policy to perform background checks on all new hires prior to employment. The motion was adopted

Jimmy Gentry moved and Pete Pompper seconded a motion that the National Grange perform a background check on the Youth Director and the Junior Director, as they apply in their respective States, because of their positions. The motion was approved.

Ed Luttrell left the room while the rest of the Board discussed the National Master's participation in the employees' simple IRA plan.

A motion was made by Phil Prelli and seconded by Pete Pompper to allow the National Master to participate in the employees' simple IRA plan. The motion was adopted.

Ed Luttrell rejoined the meeting.

The meeting was recessed at 12:09 pm and reconvened at 1:05 pm.

On a motion by Marty Billquist and seconded by Betsy Huber it was moved that employees, staff and authorized volunteers be paid the same mileage rate as set for delegates by the delegate body. The motion was adopted.

A motion was made by Marty Billquist and seconded by Phil Prelli that the maximum reimbursement for meals for staff and authorized volunteers (except at National Grange Session) be set at $10.00 for breakfast, $15.00 for lunch and $25.00 for dinner. The motion was adopted.

Pete Pompper made a motion which was seconded by Phil Prelli that after review of Resolution #219 that the resolve read, " Resolved, that the National Grange encourages all of its members and their families who own our use cell phones to enter special emergency contact telephone numbers under the designation ICE (In Case of Emergency) into their cell phones so that in the case of an emergency, emergency personnel could quickly contact appropriate persons for that individual by using a person's own cell phone and we look at establishing a National Program to implement the recommendation". The motion was adopted.

On a motion by Jimmy Gentry and Second from Ed Luttrell it was voted to oppose Resolution #606.

Ed Luttrell moved that pursuant to 4.9.8 of our By-Laws; the Board agrees that spouses of State Masters of all states that are entitled to only one vote and spouses of National Officers receive the same reimbursement as delegates. It was seconded by Betsy Huber and adopted.

Ed Luttrell presented a revised draft of the employees' handbook for discussion. After some recommendations he will further revise and have it further reviewed by our attorney.

Pete Pompper moved that we adopt the 10 x 2015 proposal of the FFA with a minor wording change of "encouraged to be members of FFA". It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and adopted. Phil Prelli abstained from the vote.

A motion was made by Phil Prelli and seconded by Pete Pompper to call for a special session of the National Grange just prior to next year's annual session to address Sec. 8.6.1 - the Golden Sheaf Members dues problem. The motion was adopted.

Ed Luttrell moved that a plan be developed to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the construction of the National Grange Headquarters Building. It was seconded by Pete Pompper and adopted.

A discussion was held on the development of a new Web Page and entering into a new agreement to host the site. Further investigation needs to be done but the feeling of the Board was that it needed to be modernized and streamlined for use by community granges.

The following dates were proposed for our next 2 meetings: May 17th, 18th & 19th; Sept. 5th, 6th & 7th

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm on a motion by Marty Billquist, a second by Pete Pompper and adoption of the Board.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:20 pm on 2/16/08 with all the above members present.

The Board was joined by Randy Lewis, Master of the California State Grange, to discuss an issue on Junior Grange Liability and the corporate structure of the National

Grange.

On a motion by Ed Luttrell, seconded by Pete Pompper the Board voted to rescind our action calling for a special session prior to the next annual session on Sec 8.6.1.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm on a motion by Phil Prelli, seconded by Jimmy Gentry and vote of the Board.

Fraternally Submitted,
F. Philip Prelli, Secretary
National Grange Board of Directors

March 5, 2008
Team Speak Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:50 pm. 3/5/08 by Chairperson Huber.

The following members participated in the team speak meeting; Marty Billquist, Betsy Huber, Ed Luttrell, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli. Jimmy Gentry was not present. Jennifer Dugent from National Headquarters also participated.

Jennifer Dugent outlined her viewpoint and understanding of the proposal presented by Golden Ware to develop a web page for the National Grange and all the Granges in our order. All the websites would be interconnected and allow for information to flow down thru the system. The cost for the first year will be $14,500 with an on-going cost of $19,200 per year which can be offset with the payments received from individual Granges that participate.

A motion was made by Marty Billquist to move forward with the Golden Ware website program. Pete Pompper seconded it and the motion passed.

A conference call was planned for 3/11/08 to discuss other items on the agenda.

On a motion by Phil Prelli, seconded by Marty Billquist and voted the meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm.

Fraternally Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary
National Grange Board of Directors

March 11, 2008
Teleconference Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 pm. 3/11/08 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Marty Billquist, Jimmy Gentry, Betsy Huber, Ed Luttrell, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli.

Discussion was held on the proposed Employee Handbook. Pete Pompper made a motion that seconded by Marty Billquist and adopted.

Ed Luttrell moved to adopt the handbook as modified. Marty Billquist seconded the motion and it was adopted.

It was asked that discussion on all the Insurance Policies covering the National Grange be an agenda item for discussion at the next Board Meeting.

Ed Luttrell reported that Red Brick will be renting two additional offices on the 10th floor of the building commencing no later than May 1, 2008.

On a motion by Phil Prelli, Second by Marty Billquist the date of the next meeting was set for 5/4/2008 thru 5/5/2008. The meeting will commence at 10:00 am. The motion carried.

On a motion by Marty Billquist, second by Pete Pompper and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Fraternally Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary
National Grange Board of Directors

May 3, 2008
Washington, DC

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 am. 05/03/08 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Marty Billquist, Betsy Huber, Ed Luttrell, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli. Jimmy Gentry was absent.

Chr. Huber offered a prayer for a successful meeting and assistance in making our decisions.

Ed Luttrell made a motion to approve the minutes of the 02/14/08, 03/05/08 and 03/11/08 meetings as presented. It was seconded by Pete Pompper and adopted.

A motion was made by Phil Prelli to go into executive session to discuss legal issues. It was seconded by Betsy Huber and approved. The Board went into executive session at 8:20 am.

The meeting reconvened at 11:00 am.

Phil Prelli made a motion that the Board directs that a letter be sent to Brother Hitt that due to the ruling of the National Master no action will be taken by the Board on his requested appeal. Pete Pompper seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Board.

Written department reports were received and explained by Master Luttrell: Communications, Comptroller including the Audit Report, Samantha Johnson joined the meeting to discuss the Marketing Department.

On a motion by Marty Billquist, second by Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board it was decided that we become an associate to Prepaid Legal Service, Inc. offer it to our members.

Ed Luttrell moved to approve offering the American Income Life Accidental Life & Dismemberment program to our members as long as we receive an acceptable answer to the question of multiple mailings in States that already have a program. Marty Billquist seconded it and it was passed by the Board.

The Board recessed at 12:30 pm.

The Board reconvened at 3:00 am.

Department reports continued: Conventions, Junior, Legislative, Membership, Youth.

Phil Prelli moved and Marty Billquist seconded the motion that the Board support the concepts presented by the Youth Director to expand the Youth Program. The Board approved the motion.

Discussion was held on current attorney actions protecting the Grange name. Tyson is opposing our opposition to using the word Grange in their product. We will continue to pursue the issue.

Pete Pompper and Marty Billquist discussed preliminary plans for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Grange Building.

Betsy Huber presented information on a River Boat Cruise. It was decided not to pursue due to the price.

Ed Luttrell moved that due to proposal being presented that we do not adjust the states in the current regions until after the next National Session. Pete Pompper seconded it.

Phil Prelli offered an amendment discussion should be held with Colorado and Iowa to see if they are interested in changing regions. It was seconded by Marty Billquist and approved. The amended motion was then adopted.

Discussion was held on the evaluation forms of both the 2007 Annual Session and the 2008 Master's conference.

Meeting recessed at 5:45 pm.

Fraternally Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary
National Grange Board of Directors

September 5, 2008
Marriot Courtyard
Lebanon, NJ

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am. 09/05/08 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Marty Billquist, Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli.

Jimmy Gentry offered a prayer for a successful meeting and assistance in making our decisions.

Marty Billquist made a motion to approve the minutes of the 05/03/08 meeting as amended. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and adopted.

Written reports were received from the following Departments: Communications (Podcasts section and the PR section were emphasized), Comptroller, Junior, Youth.

Rusty Hunt then joined us to present his membership report. He also emphasized that the monthly team speak meeting held on the second Tuesday of each month were growing, showing an increased interest and enthusiasm. He was also looking forward to a successful Grange Growth Summit.

Margaret Maxwell joined us to discuss the Convention planning for the 2008 convention as well as bring us up to date on the search for a site to hold the 2013 convention.

It was decided that due to time constraints the move the discussion of National Chaplain be taken up at this point. The Worthy Master presented the two options of either the Board of Directors electing a Chaplain to serve until the next annual session or having him appoint a pro-tem Chaplain for the session. **After some discussion Ed Luttrell moved that a Chaplain be elected until the next annual session. Pete Pompper seconded it and it was adopted. The ballot was then spread and James Foster of West Virginia**

was elected as Chaplain of the National Grange until the next annual session.

We then returned to written reports and the following Departments were presented: Legislative; Program, Sales and Benefits.

Discussion was then held on the plans for the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the National Headquarters Building led by Pete Pompper and Marty Billquist co-chairmans.

The meeting recessed at 1:00 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1:40 pm.

Discussion was held on the 2008 National Session proposed schedule.

On a motion by Phil Prelli and second by Pete Pompper and vote of the Board the proposed Website code of conduct was adopted. It will be sent to every Grange for their information.

Marty Billquist moved that a letter be sent to the membership of the Alaska State Grange about our concern of the future of the Alaska State Grange and informing them of the National Master and Membership Director's plan for being in the state in October. Jimmy Gentry seconded the motion and it was adopted.

Discussion was held on the priorities established by the National Master and Membership Director for the upcoming year.

The meeting recessed at 5:15pm for the Board to join the Grange Growth Summit.

The meeting reconvened at 8:42pm.

Discussion was held on providing Annual Membership Cards on line for Granges who wish to down load them and print them at no cost rather than ordering them from National.

Preliminary discussion was held on the 2009 Budget.

Jimmy Gentry moved that we authorize the painting of the National Grange Office Space and that the work be done by volunteers. It was seconded by Pete Pompper and adopted.

The meeting was recessed at 10:00pm.

The meeting reconvened at 8:10am on 09/06/08.

On a motion by Jimmy Gentry and a second by Betsy Huber the Board voted to approve the benefit plans with T Mobile and Verizon as proposed.

The next meeting as scheduled for January 16th and 17th location to be determined.

The meeting recessed at 8:35am and reconvened at 9:00am.

Phil Prelli moved that we go into Executive Discussion to meet with our Attorney on legal matters. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell. Attorney Vitt was invited to attend.

On a motion from Marty Billquist, second by Betsy Huber and vote of the Board the executive session was adjourned,

Marty Billquist moved that the Board of Directors take action to continue to defend our name in the issue discussed in executive session. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and adopted.

On a motion from Marty Billquist, second from Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board the meeting was adjourned at 11:20am.

Fraternally Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary

October 28, 2008
Team Speak Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 pm. 10/28/08 by Chairperson Huber.

The following members participated in the team speak meeting; Marty Billquist, Betsy Huber, Ed Luttrell, Jimmy Gentry, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli.

Discussion was held on the Trade Mark issue with Tyson Food. Ed Luttrell stated that he has talked to our attorneys about a media campaign and they said it would not affect their case. Jennifer Dugent and Dick Weiss are working on a proposal.

Phil Prelli made a motion to invite Dick Weiss to explain the media campaign to the State Masters at National Session in Connecticut. Ed Luttrell seconded it and after discussion it was adopted.

The Master, Overseer and Chairman of the Board are to work on a draft letter to be given to State Masters at the Session.

Ed Luttrell discussed the proposed Budget and members were asked to forward questions to the Master for discussion. It was decided to hold a follow up Teamspeak meeting on November 4, 2008 at 9:00pm.

On a motion by Marty Billquist, seconded by Pete Pompper and voted the meeting adjourned at 10:09 pm.

Fraternally Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary
National Grange Board of Directors

November 4, 2008
Team Speak Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 pm. 10/28/08 by Chairperson Huber.

The following members participated in the team speak meeting; Marty Billquist, Betsy Huber, Ed Luttrell, Jimmy Gentry, Pete Pompper and Phil Prelli.

Discussion was led by Master Ed Luttrell on the proposed budget for 2009. Some modifications were made. The final proposal will be discussed at the next meeting.

Discussion was held on a possible Media Campaign and what options are available. Some quotes and possible alternatives will be gathered,

On a motion by Marty Billquist, seconded by Pete Pompper and voted the meeting adjourned at 10:57 pm.

Fraternally Submitted,

F. Philip Prelli, Secretary
National Grange Board of Directors

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY
(PREPARED BY THE NATIONAL MASTER'S OFFICE)
RECEIPTS AND DISBURSMENTS
1/1/07- 12/31/08

Sixth Degree Fees:	$1,115.00
Golden Sheaf Certificates:	$6,060.00

Membership Recognition
1/1/07- 12/31/08

Sixth Degree Certificates:	446
Golden Sheaf Certificates:	606
40 year seals:	384
50 year seals:	590
60 year seals:	841
65 year seals:	445
70 year seals:	248
75 year certificate:	100
80 year letters:	26
85 year letters:	05

Organization and Reorganization
7/1/07- 6/30/08

Junior Granges

State	**Organized**	**Reorganized**
California	4	0
Connecticut	0	1
Maine	0	2
Pennsylvania	1	0
TOTAL	5	3

Subordinate Granges

State	Organized	Reorganized
California	0	2
Colorado	0	1
New Hampshire	0	1
North Carolina	1	1
Oklahoma	2	
TOTAL	**3**	**5**

Pomona Granges

No Pomona Granges were chartered in 2008.

State	Quarters	Sub. Dues	Sub. Charter Fees	Junior Charter Fees	6th Degree Certificates	Golden Sheaf
Alaska	1st 08-4th 08	$707.50			0	0
Arkansas	1st 08-4th 08	0			0	0
California	1st 08-4th 08	$64,200.00		$40.00	18	17
Colorado	1st 08-4th 08	$14,165.00			9	16
Connecticut	1st 08-4th 08	$18,964.50		$10.00	63	35
Delaware	1st 08-4th 08	$4,537.50			8	0
Florida	1st 08-4th 08	$1,470.00			0	1
Idaho	1st 08-4th 08	$10,527.50			3	13
Illinois	1st 08-4th 08	$13,937.50			4	11
Indiana	1st 08-4th 08	$1,550.50			1	1
Iowa	1st 08-4th 08	$1,915.00			0	0
Kansas	1st 08-4th 08	$2,850.00			7	6
Maine	1st 08-4th 08	$46,370.50		$20.00	27	55
Maryland	1st 08-4th 08	$4,425.00			2	3
Massachusetts	1st 08-4th 08	$19,787.50			15	25
Michigan	1st 08-4th 08	$10,515.00			9	5
Minnesota	1st 08-4th 08	$1,150.00			6	0

Missouri	1st 08-4th 08				0	0
Montana	1st 08-4th 08	$3,130.00			5	1
Nebraska	1st 08-4th 08	$1,615.00			0	5
New Hampshire	1st 08-4th 08	$17,895.00			4	25
New Jersey	1st 08-4th 08	$12,405.00			0	10
New York	1st 08-4th 08	$53,202.50			33	40
North Carolina	1st 08-4th 08	$44,580.00	$25.00		20	0
Ohio	1st 08-4th 08	$55,387.50			10	63
Oklahoma	1st 08-4th 08	$9,882.50	$50.00		14	20
Oregon	1st 08-4th 08	$61,582.50			17	23
Pennsylvania	1st 08-4th 08	$105,370.00		$10.00	44	85
Rhode Island	1st 08-4th 08	$6,742.50			15	8
South Carolina	1st 08-4th 08	$1,570.00			0	0
Tennessee	1st 08-4th 08	$760.00			3	0
Texas	1st 08-4th 08	$3,020.00			6	5
Vermont	1st 08-4th 08	$16,080.00			7	5
Virginia	1st 08-4th 08	$2,807.50			0	3
Washington	1st 08-4th 08	$151,155.00			96	125
West Virginia	1st 08-4th 08	$2,235.00			0	0
Wisconsin	1st 08-4th 08	$888.00			0	0
Wyoming	1st 08-4th 08	$4,672.50			0	0
Potomac Grange	1st 08-4th 08	$272.50			0	74
TOTAL		$772,326	$75.00	$80.00	446	606

2nd Quarter 2007-4th Quarter 2007 Dues

(Extra quarters reflect the change in Journal reporting system. Will now report 1st thu 4th Quarters of year)

Alaska	$628.00	Maryland	$ 2,870.00	Pennsylvania	$ 67,539.00
Arkansas	$0	Massachusetts	$ 12,246.00	Rhode Island	$ 5,620.00
California	$52,656.00	Michigan	$ 4,032.50	South Carolina	$ 1,045.50
Colorado	$9,075.00	Minnesota	$ 751.50	Tennessee	$ 942.00
Connecticut	$ 15,966.00	Montana	$ 1,909.50	Texas	$ 1,940.00
Delaware	$ 1,962.00	Nebraska	$ 1,253.50	Vermont	$ 10,122.00
Florida	$ 916.60	New Hampshire	$ 10,912.00	Virginia	$ 1632.00
Idaho	$ 6,850.00	New Jersey	$ 7,646.00	Washington	$ 96,262.00
Illinois	$ 8,630.00	New York	$ 33,672.00	West Virginia	$ 1,412.00
Indiana	$ 2,579.50	North Carolina	$ 24,804.50	Wisconsin	$ 1,116.00
Iowa	$ 1,274.00	Ohio	$ 35,675.00	Wyoming	$ 2,170.50
Kansas	$ 2,044.00	Oklahoma	$ 8,127.00	Potomac Grange	$ 243.00
Maine	$ 29,394.00	Oregon	$ 38,211.50	TOTAL	$504,130.10

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Financial Statements

December 31, 2007

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Financial Statements

December 31, 2007

I have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry (a non-profit corporation) as of December 31, 2007, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Grange's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry as of December 31, 2007, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Eric Bolin CPA P.C.

March 16, 2008

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2007

	GRANGE OPERATING ACCOUNT	GRANGE BUILDING ACCOUNT	TOTAL NATIONAL GRANGE
ASSETS			
Cash on hand and on deposit (Sch. I)	$ 180,582	$ -	$ 180,582
Investments (Note 4)	180,642	-	180,642
Accounts receivable (Sch. II)	13,887	-	13,887
Prepaid expenses and supplies	4,450	-	4,450
Inventory - sales (Note 2)	138,965	-	138,965
Building (at cost)	-	1,174,014	1,174,014
Accumulated depreciation - Building	-	(1,109,436)	(1,109,436)
Equipment and improvement	56,112	812,516	868,628
Accum Dep- Equip & Improvement	(53,908)	(527,663)	(581,571)
Land	-	255,238	255,238
TOTAL ASSETS	$ 520,730	$ 604,669	$ 1,101,919
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	$ 75,581	$ -	$ 75,581
Grange bonding	2,496	-	2,496
Security deposits - tenants	-	21,870	21,870
Due to (from) building account	5,718,181	(5,718,181)	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	5,796,258	(5,696,311)	99,947
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted - building	-	6,300,980	6,300,980
Unrestricted - operating	(5,275,528)	-	(5,275,528)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	(5,275,528)	6,300,980	1,050,196
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	$ 520,730	$ 604,669	$ 1,101,919

See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2007

Schedule I - Cash on Hand and on Deposit		
Operating account	$	168,585
Payroll account		5,120
Leadership/Membership Imprest Fund		991
National Convention Bank		
Petty cash		1,500
Building - Money Market Fund		4,386
Total Cash on Hand and on Deposit	$	180,582

Schedule II - Accounts Receivable		
Employee	$	1,000
Sales		12,887
Total Accounts Receivable	$	13,887

See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statements of Activities - Operating Account

For the Year Ended December 31

REVENUE	2007
Dues and Fees	
Subordinate Grange Dues	$ 716,007
Subordinate Grange Charter Fees	25
Junior Grange Charter Fees	80
Sixth Degree Fees	1,258
Seventh Degree Fees	2,854
GIA	125,000
Sales Income	99,326
Interest, Dividend Income	11,395
Fund Raising Donations	25,060
Miscellaneous Income	19,198
TOTAL REVENUE	1,000,203
EXPENSES	
General and Administrative	389,522
National Master	87,154
National Secretary	500
Board of Directors	10,717
Communication Publication	151,390
Youth Activities	16,042
Junior Grange	20,588
High Priest	2,598
Membership, Leadership	65,727
Legislation	85,032
IT/ Systems	82,393
National Convention	129,935
Marketing/Sales	204,840
Representatives to State Conventions	9,432
Pres Mtg	11,578
Simple IRA	14,002
Furniture and Equipment	1,482
Miscellaneous	653
Depreciation	3,542
TOTAL	1,287,137
DECREASE IN NET ASSETS – OPERATING	(286,934)
Unrealized Gain—Investment	0
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS – January 31,	(4,988,594)
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS – December 31,	$ (5,275,528)

See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statements of Activity - Building Operations

For the Year Ended December 31, 2007

INCOME	
Rent	$ 794,059
NG Building - Interest	26,876
Storage	7,867
TOTAL INCOME	828,802
EXPENSES	
Salaries and Payroll Taxes	74,058
Real Estate Taxes	134,899
Electricity, Gas and Water	107,127
Telephone	634
Building Supplies	3,837
Service Contracts, Inspection	102,073
Repairs and Maintenance	29,936
Insurance	26,630
Miscellaneous, Commissions	3,215
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	482,408
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS	346,394
Provision for Depreciation	(84,204)
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS - Building	262,190
NET ASSETS - Building Operations – January 1,	6,038,790
NET ASSETS - Building Operations - December 31,	$ 6,300,980

See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2007

CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Decrease in Net Assets - Operating	$	(286,934)
Increase in Net Assets - Building		262,190
Total		(24,744)
Adjustments to Reconcile Decrease in Net Assets to Cash (Used) by Operations		
Depreciation		87,746
Decrease (Increase) in Accounts Receivable		(2,527)
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expenses, Supplies		1,277
Decrease (Increase) in Inventory		17,602
Increase (Decrease) in Grange Bonding		2,225
(Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable		(53,768)
NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES		27,811
CASH USED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from Investment Maturity		81,089
NET CASH (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES		81,089
CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES		0
NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH		108,900
CASH - January 1,		71,682
CASH – December 31,	$	180,582

See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Financial Statements

December 31, 2007

Board of Directors
The Grange Foundation
1616 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

I have reviewed the accompanying statement of financial position of The Grange Foundation as of December 31, 2007, and the related statement of activities, change in net assets and cash flows for the three months then ended, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. All information in these financial statements is the representation of the management of The Grange Foundation.

A review consists principally of inquiries of Foundation personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an examination in accordance with U.S generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole.

Based on my review, I am not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting standards.

March 16, 2008

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2007

ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash – Operating	$	45,424
CD Investments		20,000
Total Current Assets		65,424
Other Assets		
Endowment Fund (Restricted)		189,886
TOTAL ASSETS	$	255,310
LIABILITY		
Accounts Payable- Due to National Grange	$	0
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted		58,105
Temporarily Restricted		7,318
Permanently Restricted – Endowment		189,889
TOTAL NET ASSETS		255,310
TOTAL LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS	$	255,310

See Accompanying Accountant's Report and Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

2008 Report of the Communications Department
Cromwell, CT
November 11, 2008

The National Grange Communications Department consists of Communications Director Jennifer Dugent, Programs Assistant Molly Thompson, and part-time printer Leon Wilkins. Communications/Legislative Intern John Goodman also aided the Department until this past September.

New Grange

The New Grange has a base of 8200 subscribers, which is an increase of 300 subscribers since last year. It continues to be a 10_ x 13_ newspaper, tabloid format with 4 colors on the front, center and back pages. Below are the deadlines for the new production year:

The New Grange operated on a budget of $55,000 for the 2008 year. This included printing of 8,200 pieces per issue, and postage. This broke down to approximately $7,900.00 per issue. Jennifer Dugent serves as Editor and Graphic Artist for the publication.

Additions to the New Grange this year include a staff contact list and a "What's Cookin' in the Grange" Recipe section (created in an effort to sell the remaining thousands of "What's Cookin' in the Grange" cookbooks we have at National.) This is the second year that we included the content of the Legislative Policy Book in an issue. This was done in order to make the Policy Book available to more members at a lesser cost.

In an effort to make the New Grange self-sustaining, the department worked on a Advertisement Sales Commission Plan where Grangers and Granges can sell ads and get a commission off the sale. The plan is outlined below.

The New Grange Advertisement Sales Commission Program
Sell Ads for The New Grange and receive a 20% Commission!

The New Grange is the official publication of the National Grange, the nation's oldest national agricultural organization, with grassroots units established in 2,400 local communities nationwide with approximately 200,000 members. The publication provides information to members regarding agriculture, community service, legislative issues, and fraternal topics.

The Advertisement Sales Commission Program was established as a way to offset the costs of printing the publication while at the same time benefiting Grange members. Simply sell ads to your area businesses that would be interested in advertising in The New Grange. Have them fill out the attached form and send it with a check (made payable to the National Grange).

Once the National Grange receives payment for the check, you (or your Grange, if you prefer) will be issued a check for 20% of the advertisement sold. It's that easy!

Journal of Proceedings

Boyd Printing in Albany, New York once again printed the Journal of Proceedings. The cost of printing the Journal was approximately $3,800 for 500 copies. The department requested not to have the books shrink wrapped, therefore reducing the production costs. It is also available for download online.

Legislative Policies Book

Harris Lithographics in Maryland printed the Legislative Policy Book. The cost of printing the book was approximately $4,800 for 1,000 books. The book was 116 pages with a full-color cover. The Policy Book was also made available in the May/June issue of the New Grange and in CD form, as well as the usual downloadable web version.

Grange Month

This year's theme for Grange Month was "Moving Forward."All Granges were encouraged to organize an open house, recognize an outstanding community citizen, and participate in a community service activity. In an attempt to save money last year, we included the materials in newspaper form in The New Grange and online, but we received complaints from Granges that they preferred to receive the Grange month materials packet. This year we sent out an informative Grange Month packet to all Granges with posters, applications, proclamations, and press releases. The cost came to almost $3,000. The materials were also available online.

We also offered, for the first time, a Grange Month t-shirt design contest, which was very popular. We received 23 entries from Grangers all around the country, and 17-year-old Lana Wheeler of West Minot Grange in Maine was the winner. Lana was featured in an article in The New Grange, won 2 tickets to the Celebration Banquet at the 2008 National Grange Convention in Cromwell, Connecticut; and will receive one of her t-shirts signed by all of the National Officers.

Media Relations

In an effort to have better control over publicity and also to save money, the department decided to go with Dick Weiss as our Public Relations Consultant. We were previously using the Public Relations firm Agri-Washington. Dick is a trusted friend of the Grange, and has an extensive public relations background. This year we have seen an increased media response to National Grange news releases, thanks to Dick's leadership. Dick will also be helping the department execute the media campaign concerning the Tyson Foods case. We are aiming to turn this historic case into an opportunity to get the Grange's name and good works out into the media. When you've got lemons, you might as well make lemonade.

The department continues internal PR efforts with the National Grange Newscorner, which can be found on the website, as well as The New Grange and View from the Hill.

Modernizing

Last year I promised the delegates a more technologically savvy Communications Department by 2009. I am pleased to list the newest improvements below:

National Master Video Messages: Videos of National Master Ed Luttrell delivering a monthly message to members are created and posted on the National Grange Website. The videos are also available on CD and on the National Grange YouTube Channel. This way Brother Luttrell can be in Grange Halls and homes around the country.

National Grange YouTube Channel: The National Grange officially has it's own Channel on YouTube along with the likes of the Associated Press, Oprah Winfrey, and other organizations around the world. In the year 2008, online videos have taken center stage when it comes to public outreach and communications. Politicians, Media, Non-profits, Celebrities… everyone that is relevant has a YouTube Channel, and the National Grange does too. This Channel allows us to post Video messages from the National Master, staff, and other Grangers. Events have been featured on the YouTube Channel. People are able to subscribe to our Channel and get messages whenever a new video is posted. We are able to find videos posted by other organizations that involve the National Grange (such as Legislative Director Leroy Watson speaking on Capitol Hill) and link them to our Channel, which encourages outsiders to visit and learn more about the Grange.

Web Expansion Program: By the end of the year, all 2,800 Community Granges, Pomona Granges, and State Granges will be outfitted with free websites, already designed and ready to go with the National Grange branding. These websites will include basic information about that Grange and how to join. All of these websites will also be on a three-tier network, meaning that the hierarchy of the organization's websites will look kind of like a wedding cake. News and information will always be flowing down, from the National Grange website to the State Grange websites, and from State Grange websites down to the local level. This will foster better communications between all levels of the organization, and it will ensure that local Grange websites are kept up to date with all the latest on National and State Grange activities.

For the Granges that want to give their free website a more personal touch, the National Grange is offering different optional modules that they can pay for, including a web editor so that they can add extra pages and content, a photo album, and a donation box for online donations. Granges that have never had a website before do not have to be intimidated by this new technology. It has been custom designed for Grange members for easy use. No previous web experience required!

In the midst of all of this progress will be a redesign of the National Grange website, www.NationalGrange.org. All of the websites will have a uniformed look. The National Grange website will be reorganized for an easier user experience, and will also feature the much anticipated "Find-a-Grange" module. Prospective members will be able to enter their zip code into the National Grange site, which will then show them all of the Granges in their area, including links to their brand new websites.

National Grange Podcast Channel: Returning to our roots in radio, the National Grange is kicking off our new online radio station (also known as a podcasting channel) here at Convention. For those of you that are not familiar, podcasting is like radio… but better. With radio, we were able to play audio messages and interviews. The only problem was that you couldn't play them at your convenience. With Podcasting, Grangers, outsiders, and the media can subscribe online to our Podcast Channel. Once that happens, they will be notified whenever a new audio message or interview is available, and they can download

them onto their computer, iPods, etc. Easy listening at your convenience.

National Grange Web Commercials: Commercials will be created and distributed online to different websites and blogs as an effort to get the Grange name out there. These commercials will include specialized themes, including our Legislative Program, Youth and Junior Programs, and Membership Program.

Departmental Support

The department currently works with the Marketing/Sales, Junior, Youth, and Legislative Departments on merchandise, printed materials, web graphics and files, and videos for DVD and tape. Projects for this year for other departments include:

- 2008 Sales Catalogue
- The Digest
- Design and Graphics for the Grange Store, Junior Grange, and Youth Websites
- Legislative Fly-In Materials
- Legislative Policy Book and CD
- History of the Grange Building video
- Youth Appeal Letter
- Junior Grange Program Logo
- New member brochures
- New benefits brochures
- Custom business cards
- New foundation logo
- Prescription Program Cards
- Choice Hotels Ad
- Grange Youth Certificates
- Grange Youth Program Books
- Grange Builder Kits
- Grange Growth Summit logo
- Grange Growth Summit Packets
- Sales Merchandise: t-shirts, buttons, 5th degree membership cards, Grange Initiates, receipt books, meeting notice cards, greeting cards, subordinate/alternative manuals, ties, gardeners chairs, youth backpacks, youth water bottles, junior slinkies, and much more.

Convention Support

The department lent its talents to Meeting Planner Margaret Maxwell for the 142nd National Convention. Projects completed included:

- Meal tickets
- Invitations
- Memorial Service program
- 7th Degree program
- Junior Grange program cover
- Evening of Excellence program
- Celebration Banquet program
- Official Convention program
- Convention shirts and pins
- 6th Degree Applications and Certificates
- Delegate binders
- Name badges

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Dugent
Communications Director

2008 Report of the Information Technology Department
Cromwell, CT
November 11, 2008

Security System

The National Grange has done a complete inventory of all front door pass cards that access the National Grange building. This inventory confirms the name of individual that enter the building, their access level as well as the company they are associated with. It is pertinent that this information remains current so that there is accurate information in the database that can be retrieved in the unfortunate event of fowl play. The National Grange has a total of 172 pass cards issued.

System Operations

The National Grange recently upgraded its server from a Linux Server to a Windows Exchange Server. This new server has proven to be helpful in day-to-operations. Such features are:
1) Email access from remote locations
2) Universal address book for all staff and field directors
3) Shared calendar for staff to view Presidents demanding schedule
4) Daily back-up of server files to two partitions
5) Adequate drive space to compile working files
6) Access employee desktop from remote location
7) Access to edit and save server files from remote location

Computer Software

The National Grange has renewed its ACE Certificate with Identrust. This certificate is used to file the National Grange Lobbying Reports every quarter.

Computer Hardware

The IT Department purchased additional memory for two (2) staff computers.

An Epson scanner was purchased to assist with compiling information for Grange vs. Tyson dispute.

The Grange updated its lease with Capitol Office Solutions and obtained a Xerox 5675 copier to replace the existing Canon IR7200. This new lease proved to me more cost effective than the current one.

No other computer hardware was needed.

Grange Websites

www.nationalgrange.org

The National Grange regularly updates various sections of its website with news and upcoming information. Current information has proven to be useful for populating other states newspapers and newsletters on a regular basis. The news corner section was specifically designed for state grange editors and Public Relation Directors to retrieve such information.

The National Grange website also features:

- One bi-monthly newspaper, "The New Grange"
- One monthly newsletter, "View from the Hill"
- Weekly Legislative "Action Alerts"
- Monthly "Legislative Round-Up" which features insight from several state granges;
- Leadership Tele-Conferences facilitated by the Membership/Leadership Director, Rusty Hunt
- National Grange Presidents Message video
- Monthly Leadership & Membership Tips
- Announcements and others.

A new layout for the National Grange website is underway.

www.grangestore.org

The online Grange Store is functioning and accepting orders. The Grange Store website features a thumbnail image of each item for sale. An enlarged picture of these items is also available as well a detail description. The grange store features a shopping cart and checkout section where visitors can purchase items with a major credit card. Purchases can also be made by calling the National Grange Sales Department or submitting their order through mail.

www.nationaljuniorgrange.org

The National Junior Grange website has been completed. It features important information for juniors as well as junior directors. Information is updated regularly to include reports, forms, junior brochures, merit badges, programs, Junior Guidebook, community service information, and also a monthly newsletter from the Junior Grange Director, Ann Kurburski.

www.nationalgrangeyouth.org

The National Junior Grange website has been completed. It features important information for Grange Youth. It offers a monthly newsletter from Youth and Young Adults Director, Charlene Espenshade as well as a full year calendar, a list of programs and con-

test (regional and national), youth awards, and youth conference information for Midwest, Northeastern, Western, Eastern, Great Plains and National Convention.

www.grangefoundation.org

The Grange Foundation website will be coming soon. The URL for this site has been ordered.

Domain Registrations

The following Grange domains have been renewed with Network Solutions:

- nationalgrange.org - Oct. 1, 2008
- nationalgrange.net – Oct. 1, 2008

The following Grange domains are set to automatic renew with Bulk Register/Enom:

- nationalgrange.com – Jan. 11, 2009
- nationalgrange.info – Jan. 14, 2009
- nationalgrange.biz – Jan. 13, 2009
- nationalgrange.us – Jan. 13, 2009

The following Grange domains have been renewed with GoDaddy

- grangestore.com - Feb. 08, 2008
- grangestore.net - Feb. 08, 2008
- grangestore.org - Feb. 08, 2008
- nationalgrangestore.com - Feb. 08, 2008
- nationalgrangestore.net - Feb. 08, 2008
- nationalgrangestore.org - Feb. 08, 2008
- grangeyouth.com - Mar. 24, 2008
- grangeyouth.net - Mar. 24, 2008
- grangeyouth.org - Mar. 24, 2008
- juniorgrange.com - Mar. 24, 2008
- juniorgrange.net - Mar. 24, 2008
- juniorgrange.org - Mar. 24, 2008
- nationalgrangeyouth.com - Mar. 24, 2008
- nationalgrangeyouth.net - Mar. 24, 2008
- nationalgrangeyouth.org - Mar. 24, 2008
- nationaljuniorgrange.com - Mar. 24, 2008
- nationaljuniorgrange.net - Mar. 24, 2008
- nationaljuniorgrange.org - Mar. 24, 2008
- grangefoundation.com - Apr. 20, 2008
- grangefoundation.net - Apr. 20, 2008
- thegrangefoundation.com - May 02, 2008
- thegrangefoundation.net - May. 02, 2008
- thegrangefoundation.org - May 02, 2008

The following domain names were NOT renewed:

- grangefightsmeth.com
- grangefightsmeth.net
- grangefightsmeth.org

National Database

Individual files were made for each State Grange of their respective officers (Masters, Lecturers, & Secretaries). These files containing a current list of officers for each respective state was created as an online Google document providing access to state masters and

secretaries only for editing. Once the file has been edited, an email notification is sent to the IT Manager of the change which then will reflect the National Grange Database. This process should maintain an accurate and functioning database used to communicate with grassroots officers in local granges. This process will also be used to retrieve grange membership information. The following states have submitted their updated officers list. More states are scheduled to provide this information in coming months.

State	Off.	State	Off.	State	Off.	State	Off.
Alaska		Kansas		New Jersey	X	South Carolina	X
California		Maine	X	New York		Tennessee	
Colorado		Maryland		North Carolina		Texas	X
Connecticut		Massachusetts	X	Ohio		Vermont	
Delaware	X	Michigan		Oklahoma		Virginia	X
Florida		Minnesota		Oregon		Washington	X
Idaho		Montana		Pennsylvania		West Virginia	X
Illinois	X	Nebraska		Potomac #1		Wisconsin	X
Indiana		New Hampshire		Rhode Island	X	Wyoming	
Iowa	X						

Stephanie J. Wilkins
IT Manager

2008 Report of the Junior Department
Cromwell, CT
November 11, 2008

This has been a great year in the Junior Grange Department. It is truly inspiring to see all of our Juniors making such a difference in their Junior Granges and in their community. I think sometimes we lose sight of just what a difference a Junior Grange can and does make in our Granges in our communities.

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation goes out to all those that stand behind our Junior Grange members. Many thanks to the parents who give encouragement and support to their Junior Grange Members. And also to the leaders who give countless hours and endless support to Juniors across the nation. And thanks to all our State Junior Directors and State Master for all you do support the Junior Grange Department. It takes a team of strong and committed individuals to make this department successful. And yes, that is what we have!!

The National Junior Grange Department has had many successes this year. These successes are due to outstanding Junior, Leaders, State Directors, and Masters. This year again we have increased participation in all areas of our department. Yes!! So let's make this happen again next year.

Great things are happening in the Junior Grange Department!! Make sure you are a part of it!

Junior Grange Program for 2008 "Reading Across America"

- Throughout the year we have encouraged our Juniors to appreciate and enjoy reading. There are many forms of reading: reading for information; reading for pleasure; and

some Juniors may say because I was told I had to for school. As Leaders and State Directors, we know the value of reading and just how important it is in our daily lives.
- This year we have had excellent participation in our program. We have several states and Junior Granges that are first-time participants. Yea!
- The National Junior Grange has had outstanding participation in the creative art and creative art contest this year. We many new entries from states that have never participated.
- Having a new National Junior Grange program theme each year and a program book seems to be very successful. There have been many positive responses from Leaders and State Directors.

Regional Conferences – A true teamwork effort
- Wow!! What a busy and wonderful summer for Junior Grange. Regional Conferences are just such a great way to really develop some connections with local community Junior Granges and the National Junior Grange program.
- This year we had 28 entries in the Regional Junior Grange Public Speaking, Sign Language, and Share a Skill or Talent contest. We had 14 entries last year. So we doubled our entries. Yes!!
- This year at each of the conferences we celebrated 120 years of Junior Grange. It was so much fun. We had some pretty good birthday celebrations.
- I also worked with the National Youth Director to put on a teamwork workshop. It was very well received. We had lots of fun with this workshop.
- We are already making plans for next year to make the conferences even better.

Junior Grange Camps
- This summer I was able to attend two camps--Ohio and Pennsylvania.
- I strongly feel that attending these camps is such a very important way to
- make the connection between local community Junior Granges and National Grange.

Let's celebrate Junior Grange
- This year Junior Grange is 120 years old and still going strong. We celebrated across the nation.
- At each regional conference we celebrated with a party. Cake included.
- We also worked on quilt squares, which will be on display at the National Grange Convention.
- Junior Granges and Granges throughout the nation celebrated with special open houses and events.
- This year we showcased all of the wonderful opportunities Junior Grange has to offer.
- We are looking forward to another 120 years of Junior Grange.

Looking Ahead
- What's next in the Junior Grange Department? Planning is so important and Leaders, State Directors, and Masters all have stated they would like to know the themes for the Junior Grange Department ahead of time. So we have listened and here they are.
- The 2009 theme for Junior Grange will be "No Child Left Inside." Purpose: We would like to encourage our Juniors to appreciate and enjoy being outside. Children that participate in outside activities are statistically less likely to develop health problems later

in life. So in 2009 we are encouraging our Juniors to get outside and become active young people. Let's move them away from TV and video games and give them the opportunity to become healthy adults.

- The 2010 theme for Junior Grange will be "So What's Your Story." We are going to take a look at our own personal history. How did we get to be who we are? Juniors will have the opportunity to look at their past and futures. They could also take a look at their family genealogy.

What a wonderful year we have had in the Junior Department. Juniors, Leaders, and State Directors have spent countless hours on community service projects, individual development projects, and learning Grange ritual. They are truly the stars of the Junior Grange Program. Without their tireless efforts, there would be no Junior Grange.
Junior Grange is making a difference in the lives of young people throughout the nation and will continue to for the next 120 years!!

Thank you for an outstanding year in the National Junior Grange Department!

Anne Kurburski
National Junior Grange Development Director

2008 Report of the Legislative Department
Cromwell, CT
November 11, 2008

Introduction

It is once again an honor to present the Annual Report of the National Grange Legislative Department for 2008.

"Celebrating the Responsibilities of Citizenship", is the theme for the National Grange's non-partisan, issue-oriented, grassroots legislative program. Promoting civic participation in our society has been a goal of the Grange for more than 140 years. Grange members understand that the most effective means to guarantee our personal liberties and secure our future prosperity is through greater involvement in the democratic political process.

Grassroots opportunities to participate in worthwhile legislative programs add value to Grange membership. Successful legislative activities help drive increased membership, increase community awareness about the Grange and increase grassroots participation. Today, grassroots participation, rather than the size of an organization, is the most accurate measure of political influence.

The mission of the National Grange Legislative Department is to provide Grange members with meaningful opportunities for non-partisan, civic participation in the public policy process at all levels of government.

However implementing our mission requires us to address new challenges related to maintaining a dynamic legislative program that is based on the goals of grassroots policy development and grassroots advocacy. Granges and Grange members are facing difficult challenges in developing and advocating our legislative policies in an effective way. Some

of these challenges to successful implementation of our legislative goals include:

Substantially diminished financial resources for legislative advocacy, grassroots training and policy development efforts at all levels of the Grange that leads to high turnover and contributes to a shortage of qualified and trained volunteer and/or professional Grange resources at the state and local level that are available to advocate Grange policies and to manage Grange legislative programs, especially policy development and grassroots training.

An uncoordinated proliferation of adopted Grange resolutions and policy positions on an ever expanding multitude of issue areas that often create incompatible or contradictory policy goals at the state and national levels. The sheer number of adopted policy positions at the state and national level makes prioritizing long term, successful and persuasive advocacy strategies nearly impossible.

A lack of resources, time and formal procedures to seriously challenge factually questionable resolutions that are brought before local, state and National Granges for consideration and adoption. Adopting factually questionable resolutions can severely damage the general reputation of the Grange as well as the personal credibility of the volunteer or professional Grange advocates charged with advocating those policies.

An arbitrary and often inefficient separation of responsibility for policy development and policy advocacy responsibilities between National and State Granges. Federal policy decisions have a significant impact on state and local concerns, and, state and local policy decisions directly impact national policy decisions.

A failure 1) to adapt to rapidly changing cultural and legal circumstances impacting grassroots advocacy, 2) to seriously consider implementing creative functional restructuring of our programs and 3) to incorporate new technologies into our policy development, policy advocacy and grassroots volunteer training programs.

In response to this complicated and sometimes contradictory set of challenges, the National Grange Legislative Department has attempted to implement operational changes over the past few years. However, since many of these challenges cross the authority boundaries of the various Divisions of the Order, unilateral action by the National Grange Legislative Department or any State Grange legislative programs alone will probably be insufficient to fully modernize and adapt the Grange legislative program to meet the evolving expectations of our present and future members.

The remainder of this report briefly outlines our successes in "Celebrating the Responsibilities of Citizenship" during 2008. For more details regarding the activities of the National Grange Legislative Department this past year, or to learn more about how you can become directly involved in "Celebrating the Responsibilities of Citizenship" in your Grange, in your community, in your state and in your nation, please visit our website at www.nationalgrange.org

Executive Summary

Number of individual meeting with U.S. Representatives, U.S. Senators, and other government officials in Washington, DC: 46 (123 in 2007, there was no DC Fly In during 2008)

Number of associations, corporations, labor organizations and allied groups that have signed letters or participated in making joint statements with the National Grange on issues of mutual concern: 1745 (724 in 2006)

Number of active political coalitions the National Grange participates in: 24 (31 in 2007)

Number of Grange initiated correspondence and coalition initiated correspondence including, testimonies, statements, joint letters, congressional briefings, press conferences & press releases on legislative issues of concern to the National Grange: 82 (76 in 2007)

Number of View from the Hill, Legislative Round Up and New Grange Articles: 109 (102 in 2007)

Number of Action Alerts: 22 (28 in 2007)

National Grange Legislative Communications

Meetings, Conferences and Special Projects

In late November 2007 National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson was invited to address a Joint Meeting of the Environment & Energy, Regulatory Affairs, and Telecommunications &-E commerce Committees of the United States Chamber of Commerce on Broadband and Rural Economic Development on the importance of broadband deployment to farming and rural communities

In January, National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson was invited to meet with Hunter Moorehead, Special Assistant to the President for Agriculture, James L. Connaughton, Chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, and Susan Dudley, Administrator, Office of Information & Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget concerning proposed USEPA Clean Air/Ozone regulations that would be harmful to rural development. USEPA was justifying proposing more stringent Clean Air/Ozone regulations based on 30-year-old laboratory research data that indicated that high levels of ozone could be harmful to crop production. The National Grange disputed the presumption of USEPA's research by demonstrating the substantial increase in crop yields across the board over the past 30 years, in direct contrast to the prediction by USEPA's data that crop yields should have declined over that time. As a direct result of Grange intervention, the USEPA Clean Air/Ozone regulations were revised to reflect the concerns raised by the National Grange and the agriculture community

In January, National Grange Master Ed Luttrell and Legislative Director Leroy Watson met with Hon. Margaret Baker, Assistant Secretary of Commerce to discuss how the US Department of Commerce and the National Grange could promote the national transition to digital television (DTV) in rural communities.

In January, National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson was invited to speak as part of a panel of experts convened by the Federal Communications Commission that was nationally broadcast over the Internet about the challenges of educating rural consumers about the transition to digital television (DTV).

In February, National Master Ed Luttrell met with all six 2008 National Officers from the National FFA to discuss the National FFA's "10 X15" long range goals for agricultural vocational education.

In February, Samantha Johnson, National Grange Legislative Program Assistant was promoted to the position of Director of Programs, Marketing, and Member Services

In February, National Grange Master Ed Luttrell and Legislative Director Leroy Watson were invited to participate in a Capitol Hill briefing sponsored by the American Task Force for Argentina (ATFA) on the restructuring of Argentine debt and its benefits to Amer-

ican rural communities. The briefing was conducted by Dr. Robert Shapiro, Undersecretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs under President Clinton and co-chair of AFTA, who detailed the current crisis with the sovereign debt of Argentina at length. As a result of the Grange's leadership on this issue the government of Argentina has begun reversing its trade distorting policies of debt repudiation.

National Grange Master Ed Luttrell, Membership Director Rusty Hunt and Legislative Director Leroy Watson attended the annual CHS board of directors' meeting and dinner in Washington DC on March 18th.

In April, the Grange Foundation sponsored and hosted Congressional briefing on the importance of the Rural Development title of 2008 Farm Bill to farming and rural communities across the nation. National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson moderated the panel discussion

National Grange Legislative Intern John Goodman attended State Grange Legislative Day programs in North Carolina and New Jersey.

On May 21st, Legislative Director Leroy Watson testified before the
House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations regarding Grange concerns related to the development of a new national Bio and Agro Defense facility that would move research on dangerous animal diseases, such as foot and Month disease from Plum Island, NY to the US mainland.

In May, National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson was invited by the U.S. State Department to attend a small, select group meeting of US rural leaders with the Minister for Rural Development for the nation of Afghanistan, to learn more about that country's strategies for rural development and offer suggestions for future initiatives that might be used in Afghanistan based on the 140 years of rural development programs supported by the National Grange.

On May 23rd, National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson was invited to attend the World Trade Week celebration event held on theWhite House South Lawn where President George Bush spoke and outlined his administration's position of promoting free and fair international trade.

On June 11th, National Grange president Ed Luttrell was invited to participate in a Roundtable Discussion sponsored by the Senate Democratic Study Group on strategies to address rising world food prices.

In June, National Grange Overseer Jimmy Gentry and Legislative Intern John Goodman represented the National Grange at the Citizen Participation in Democracy program sponsored by the U.S. State Department and Institute of International Education program in Washington, DC. Brother Gentry spoke before 22 visitors from various developing nations from around the world regarding National Grange community organizing strategies and legislative policy development programs.

In June, National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson joined the American Highway Users Alliance, American Trucking Associations, National Defense Council Foundation, and the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council at a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington DC to point out the injurious effects that high energy prices are having on the welfare of the family farm and rural America. The press conference participants jointly call on Congress and the Administration to enact policies to increased national energy security through a commitment to greater utilization of all existing domestic energy resources.

In July, National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson was invited to address new employees of Farm Credit Bank institutions during their annual new employee orien-

tation Fly-In to Washington DC on the role of agriculture public interest organizations, like the National Grange, in the national policy development process.

In July, National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson represented the National Grange at the Agricultural Advisory committee meeting of the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission to provide the input of the National Grange on additional strategies that the CFTC can undertake to ensure the continued viability of our agricultural and energy markets for price discovery and hedging.

In August, Molly Thompson, formally of Wichita, KS, joined the National Grange staff as a Legislative/Communications Programs Assistant.

In August, New Hampshire State Grange Legislative Director Jim Tetreault visited Washington DC to meet with members of the NH Congressional Delegation and to urge adoption of the 2008 Farm Bill.

In August, National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson met with Mr. Lijia Ma, Director of the Animal Epidemic Supervision Office, Peoples Republic of China to discuss the views of American farmers regarding animal disease control strategies and especially the National Grange's concerns with the proposed US Bio and Agro Defense Facility Project. Mr. Ma was touring the United States under an invitation from the U.S. State Department.

From August through November, National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson has been managing the National Grange's litigation response to the trademark challenge to the National Grange's exclusive ownership of the name "Grange" in the case National Grange vs. Tyson Foods

In September, National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson attended the quarterly meting of the Northeast Grange Alliance at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, MA. The Northeast Grange Alliance is the working group for the seven State Grange legislative departments in the Northeast.

In September 2008, Legislative Intern, John Goodman, completed his time with the National Grange and returned home to become a pastor in a local church in Beaver County PA.

In October, National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson conducted a Team-Speak training program entitled, The National Grange Legislative Program: Celebrating the Responsibilities of Citizenship

In October, National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson was part of select group of Washington Dc Ag leaders that was invited by the Farm Credit Council to attend a briefing held in New York on the ramifications of the national financial crisis and how the credit crisis could impact the availability of credit for farmers in 2009.

Letter, Testimonies and Press Releases

- 11/30/07: Joint press release by National Grange and West Virginia State Grange on domestic natural gas provisions of the 2007 energy bill.
- 12/06/07: Op/Ed letter to Arkansas newspapers related to rural broadband deployment
- 12/11/07: NextGenWeb blog posting on rural broadband development.
- 12/12/07: Letter to USEPA nominating Edgar Hicks (NE) for the EPA Agricultural Advisory Committee.
- 12/14/07: SPCC Ag Coalition joint letter on new EPA oil spill containment regulations
- 12/19/07: National Grange letter to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Brad-

wood Landing (WA) LNG terminal proposal.

- 1/09/08: Assisted Ed Luttrell in writing an Opinion Editorial to Capitol Press newspapers.
- 1/10/08: Audio press release on impact of new EPA Clean Air/Ozone regulations on rural and farming communities.
- 1/14/08: Audio news conference regarding the American Task Force Argentina coalition to combat unfair trade practices and sovereign bond default.
- 1/26/08: Ag Coalition letter to Congress supporting Columbian Free Trade Agreement
- 1/28/08: Grange economic stimulus letter sent to Congress.
- 2/11/08 Letter to Federal Communications Commission calling for regulations to control users who make excessive use of broadband Internet facilities that can cause local networks in rural areas to crash.
- 2/12/08 Letter to the Editor of the Wall Street Journal supporting continued expansion of farm based Biofuels and renewable energy programs.
- 3/7/08 Press release urging Congress to finish the 2008 Farm Bill.
- 3/11/08 Letter to the National Telecommunications & Information Administration establishing a partnership with the National Grange to promote consumer education efforts about the transition to digital television.
- 3/16/08 Letter to Congressional leadership urging swift completion of the 2008 Farm Bill.
- 3/17/08 Letter to USDA Secretary Schafer on the Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Company beef recall
- 3/17/08 Press Release about the Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Company beef recall.
- 3/19/08 Letter to Farm Bill Conference committee members urging inclusion and full funding for rural broadband programs in the rural development title of the 2008 Farm Bill.
- 3/19/08 Letter to Federal Communications Commission urging comprehensive reform of the Universal Service Fund that helps pay for phone service to high cost rural communities
- 3/21/08 Letter to congressional leadership supporting extending and increasing tax incentives for renewable energy.
- 3/22/08 Letter to congressional leadership supporting beginning farmer capital gains tax breaks for retiring farmers.
- 3/22/08 Press release supporting beginning farmer capital gains tax breaks for retiring farmers.
- 3/31/08 Letter to Farm Bill Conference Committee members urging inclusion and full funding for rural broadband programs in the rural development title of the 2008 Farm Bill.
- 4/2/08 Joint press conference with the National Grange, Connected Nation and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to announce a series of public hearings and listening sessions on the importance of high-speed internet deployment for all Americans.
- 4/4/08 Ag Trade coalition letter supporting passage of US/Columbia trade agreement.
- 4/07/08 Press Release on the Grange Foundation sponsored and hosted Congressional briefing on the Rural Development title of 2008 Farm Bill held on April 7, 2008
- 4/08/08 Letter to Federal Communications Commission supporting reform of the Universal Service Fund program to assist low income rural people by allowing cell phones

to qualify for support.

- 4/15/08 letter to Congressional Leadership and Bush Administration strongly opposing proposals to move government bio research facilities that deal with foot and mouth disease to the U.S. mainland.
- 4/17/08 press release criticizing the nation of Argentina for imposing a 45% federal export tax on exports of agriculture products in the wake of high food prices and food shortages in poor countries.
- 4/23/08 Letter to the editor of the Washington Post defending federal programs to bring high speed Internet to rural and farming communities.
- 5/5/08 National Grange president Ed Luttrell wrote an Op/Ed that appeared in Sugar Producer News outlining the importance of deployment of high speed broadband for farmers and rural communities.
- 5/6/08 National Grange sent a letter to the House Energy and Commerce Telecom Subcommittee opposing of H.R. 5353, the Internet Freedom Preservation Act, because this legislation would delay and discourage further deployment of high speed Internet facilities in rural areas by private companies.
- 5/21/08 National Grange released a press release regarding Grange concerns related to the development of a new national Bio and Agro Defense facility that would move research on dangerous animal diseases, such as Foot and Mouth disease from Plum Island, NY to the US mainland. Subsequent stories on Grange opposition to locating the FMD facility on the US mainland were picked up and carried by Dow Jones News Service, AP news wire, CBS Evening News and numerous local publications across the nation.
- 5/21/08 National Grange joins 1054 other organization in urging the U.S. House of Representatives to override President Bush's veto of the 2008 Farm Bill.
- 5/21/08 National Grange joins 1054 other organization in urging the U.S. Senate to override President Bush's veto of the 2008 Farm Bill.
- 5/30/08 National Grange co-sponsors a Congressional briefing on the financial impacts of the decisions by the Argentine government to repudiate its foreign debt obligations and other anti-agriculture policies on US taxpayers, farmers and consumers worldwide.
- 6/3/08 National Grange joins the members of the Agriculture Energy Alliance urging the House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee to modify and repeal of offshore drilling moratoriums
- 6/12/08 in a letter to Sen. Debbie Stabbenow (MI), Chair of the Senate Democratic Study Group, National Grange President Ed Luttrell provides greater detail on National Grange views and policies to address high food prices both domestically and around the world.
- 6/17/08 National Grange joins the members of the Agriculture Energy Alliance urging the House Appropriations Committee to modify and repeal of offshore drilling moratoriums
- 6/19/08 National Grange President Ed Luttrell writes an Op/Ed entitled Biofuels are not Driving Most Food Prices Higher to counter the $500,000 public media campaign initiated by the Grocery Manufacturers Association that attempts to associate high food prices with policies to promote renewable energy, rather than with corporate profit in the food manufacturing sector.
- 6/23/08 National Grange releases a press release to help counter the $500,000 public media campaign initiated by the Grocery Manufacturers Association that attempts to

associate high world food prices in developing nations with policies to promote renewable energy, rather than with corporate profit in the food-manufacturing sector.

- 6/24/08 National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson joins the American Highway Users Alliance, American Trucking Associations, National Defense Council Foundation, and the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council at a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington DC to point out the injurious effects that high energy prices are having on the welfare of the family farm and rural America and to call on Congress and the Administration to enact policies to increased national energy security through a commitment to greater utilization of all existing domestic energy resources.
- 6/24/08 National Grange releases a press release pointing out the injurious effects that high-energy prices are having on the welfare of the family farm and rural America and calls on Congress and the Administration to enact policies to increased national energy security through a commitment to greater utilization of all existing domestic energy resources.
- 6/26/08 National Grange issues a press release calling on U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to allow a full debate on either H.R. 2421 and S. 1879, Clean Water Restoration Act as well as allow amendments in committee and on the House floor to challenge provisions of the legislation that would substantially expand government regulatory authority over water and wetlands.
- 7/10/08 Letter to the editor by IL State Grange President David Donley on the Clean Water Restoration Act that would substantially expand government regulatory authority over water and wetlands.
- 7/11/08 Letter to the Editor by National Grange President Ed Luttrell calling the U.S. Supreme court decision in the case District of Columbia v. Heller that found that all Americans have a clear constitutional right to own guns for legitimate, peaceful purposes such as hunting and self protection, a clear victory for individual rights
- 7/11/08 National Grange joins other rural public interest organizations in sending a joint letter to the House Commerce Committee and Senate Commerce Committee urging adoption of S. 1492, the Broadband Data Improvement Act which would help facilitate greater deployment of high speed broadband in rural areas
- 7/18/08 National Grange issues a press release supporting the introduction of the Foot and Mouth Disease Prevention Act in the House and Senate that would restrict imports of live animals, meats and products containing meats from Argentina into the United States until that nation can certify it is free of Foot and Mouth disease.
- 7/21/08 National Grange joins the members of the Agriculture Energy Alliance urging the Senate Appropriations Committee to modify and repeal of offshore drilling moratoriums
- 7/21/08 National Grange joins 12 other consumer organizations in sending a letter to The House Judiciary committee opposing HR 5546, Credit Card Fair Fee act, which would grant broad anti-trust exemptions to retail businesses and allow them to set credit card fee reimbursements for transaction processing that would drive credit unions from the credit card market.
- 7/28/08 National Grange joins the members of the Agriculture Energy Alliance urging the full US Senate to modify and/or repeal of offshore drilling moratoriums
- 7/28/08 National Grange joins 111 other agriculture and rural organizations in submitting comments to US Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schaefer regarding implementation of the Conservation Security Program adopted as part of the 2008 Farm Bill

- 7/29/08 National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson published an Op/Ed entitled "Poor Leadership Contributed to Argentina's Farming Crisis" that explains how the world food crisis and Argentina's own domestic fiscal problems are driven by the government's policy decisions to default on their foreign debt, impose high taxes on their exports to other countries with starving consumers, refuse to address health and safety problems, such as rampant occurrence of Foot and Mount Disease and failure to negotiate in good faith in multi-lateral trade negotiations such as the WTO.
- 7/30/08 National Grange joins 29 other agriculture organizations in a joint letter to the full U.S. House of Representatives expressing support for adoption of HR 6604, the Commodity Markets Transparency and Accountability Act, which would increase CFTC enforcement and oversight of our nation's commodity markets to combat potential price manipulation.
- 8/25/08 National Grange sent letters to the members of the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate Commerce Committee supporting the compromise proposal worked out between the committees to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration and provide stable funding for infrastructure improvement projects at the national more than 2500 community airports that serve rural communities.

Legislative Publications and Grassroots Outreach

Blueprint for Rural America 2008

The National Grange presented the "Blueprint for Rural America 2008" as an outline of the Grange's legislative priorities for 2008. Revised to take into account grassroots Grange delegates' voices in the 141st National Convention in November 2007, the Blueprint revealed the Grange's most current 9-point legislative plan regarding the issues of domestic agriculture, private property rights (eminent domain), telecommunications, energy, health care, civic participation, transportation, immigration reform and public safety.

National Grange View from the Hill

The View from the Hill will celebrate its 40th year of publication in 2009. View from the Hill continues to be distributed in both an on-line version that is e-mailed to those who sign up on the National Grange website. It may also be viewed directly on the National Grange website. In February we published a special View from the Hill edition dealing with the issue of the national transition to digital television. I hope to expand View from the Hill Special Edition publications addressing key legislative issues in depth in 2009.

National Grange Action Alerts

The National Grange Action Alerts continue to be a major program of the Legislative Department. Action Alerts are prospective notices of pending Congressional or regulatory decisions where the immediate impact of grassroots Grange input can and does have a substantial impact on the decision being made. We produced 22 separate grassroots Action Alerts. Action Alerts are distributed by e-mail and are also available on our website.

2008 National Grange Legislative Policy Book and Grassroots Training Manual

The National Grange Legislative Policy Book continues to be a flagship publication of the Legislative Department. Distributed widely to members of Congress, Executive Agency officials, the media and grassroots Grange leaders it is the most comprehensive explanation of Grange legislative programs under one cover. Additional features this year included a revised index to make searching more intuitive and informational "ads' concerning Grange history, the Grange Foundation, National Grange sales items and a full color membership ad on the back cover. Electronic versions of the Legislative Policy Book are also available on CD and on our Website

2008 Legislative Policies in New Grange

This year the National Grange continued to publish the text of the 2008 National Grange adopted policies in the New Grange. More than 9000 copies of the adopted policies of the National Grange were provided to grassroots Grange leaders in a cost effective manner.

National Grange Website Legislative Pages

We continue to make aggressive use of our National Grange website as a tool in our legislative program. Letters, testimonies, press releases and other documents related to National Grange legislative advocacy efforts are all accessible on our website. The National Grange Legislative Policy Book and back copies of all of our legislative newsletters and Action Alerts are also available on the Website.

The National Grange's 2008 New Hampshire Primary Fly-In:
"… the best National Grange sponsored program I have ever attended."

The National Grange's New Hampshire Presidential Primary Legislative Fly-In was held December 27th through December 30th, 2007 in Manchester, Concord and Hooksett, NH. Fifteen full time attendees (as well as another 15 part time attendees) braved the winter weather of New Hampshire on the weekend between Christmas and New Years Day in order to learn about, and participate in, the first-in-the-nation New Hampshire Presidential Primary. This event was co-hosted by the National Grange and the New Hampshire State Grange.

The Presidential Primary Fly-In officially opened on the evening of Thursday December 27th with an informal get acquainted and orientation reception that included members of the New Hampshire State Grange Executive Committee.

On Friday December 28th, the educational portion of the Presidential Primary Fly-In began. Fly-In attendees traveled to the New Hampshire State Capitol in Concord, NH. They received a special guided tour of the Capitol Building including the chambers of the New Hampshire House of Representatives, the Senate and the Executive Council.

The first speaker to address the Presidential primary Fly-In was New Hampshire Secretary of State, the Hon. William Gardner. Secretary Gardner related the fascinating history of the New Hampshire Presidential Primary, including the information that the original au-

thor of the legislation creating the presidential primary in 1913, Rep. Stephen Bullock, was a fifty year New Hampshire Grange member of Arlington Grange #139! Brother Bullock's great granddaughter, Sister Sybil Dupuis, was also in attendance and brought with her the 50-year certificates her great grandfather had received from the National Grange in 1939 as well as a scrapbook of newspaper clippings related to her great grandfather's career in the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

The next speaker was Mr. Fergus Cullen, Chairman of the Republican Party of New Hampshire. Mr. Cullen spoke about the role of the political parties in the New Hampshire Presidential Primary. Mr. Cullen explained that the role of the party organizations during the primary is to offer a "level playing field" for all of the interested candidates seeking the party's nomination for president or vice president. This includes major and minor candidates. New Hampshire law allows any individual to register with the Secretary of State's office to get their name on their party's primary ballot simply by paying a $1000.00 filing fee. There is no requirement that nominating petitions have to be filed with any signatures of registered New Hampshire voters. Therefore the New Hampshire Presidential Primary ballots for each party may have dozens of names on them and not just the major national candidates. The party organizations serve as resources for all of the registered candidates to assist and advise them on how the campaign laws in New Hampshire work. New Hampshire Republican and Democratic Party officials also work closely with their respective national parties and the major candidates to assure that the New Hampshire presidential primary remains the first presidential primary in the nation.

The next speaker was Rep. Dan Eaton, Majority Floor Leader of the New Hampshire House of Representatives who spoke on the role of the legislature in New Hampshire Presidential Primary and the primary's impact on the politics and culture of the state. Rep. Eaton noted that hosting the nation's first presidential primary every four years is a privilege and a responsibility for the people of New Hampshire. With only about 1.5 million residents, New Hampshire is small enough that presidential candidates are still expected to participate in the "retail" aspects of politics by meeting individual voters at BBQs, town hall meetings and even neighborhood gatherings in living rooms. This direct contact with individual voters in New Hampshire, Rep. Easton argues, makes for better presidential candidates and better Presidents.

The final presentation for the day was given by Brother Jim Tetreault and Brother Richard Patten. Brothers Tetreault and Patten spoke about the role of local officials in primary election process. Brother Tetreault is Clerk of the town of Winchester, NH. His job involves registering citizens to vote, certifying and sending out absentee ballots, maintaining the checklist and maintaining the custody of the ballots until Election Day. Brother Patten is a former Supervisor of the Checklist in the city of Concord, NH. The duties of the Supervisor are too review the checklist for irregularities prior to the election, oversee the election process on the day of the elections and assure that the ballots are accurately counted and reported to the city government officials and the Secretary of State's office. New Hampshire voters may choose to register as a Republican, as a Democrat, or as non-affiliated (Independent). On Election Day registered Republicans may only receive the Republican ballot. Registered Democrats may only receive the Democratic ballot. But non-affiliated voters may choose which ballot, Republican or Democratic, they choose to take. The aspect of choice associated with being an Independent voter is popular in the Granite State. Nearly 50% of all eligible voters in the New Hampshire Presidential Primary this year were registered Independents, with the remaining 50% of the voters about evenly split between Republicans and Democrats.

Prior to traveling to New Hampshire, each Presidential Primary Fly-In participant was asked to give three choices for presidential campaigns they would like to volunteer for. This year, every Presidential Primary Fly-In participant was able to work for their first choice campaign!

Grange Presidential Primary Fly-In participants were each dropped off at the campaign headquarters for their respective candidates. Grange campaign volunteers were assigned numerous tasks associated with the operation of a campaign. Some Grange volunteers made telephone calls to their candidate's supporters, reminding them to vote in the primary election. Other Grange volunteers conducted door-to-door, face-to-face campaign work handing out campaign literature and answering voters' questions about their candidate. Other Grange volunteers were assigned to update contact lists of their candidate's likely supporters. Still other Grange volunteers stood on a street corner and held up a large campaign sign for their candidate to passing motorists to "honk" at. Finally one Grange volunteer was assigned the critical task of finding a business supply store in the neighborhood of the campaign office to replenish staples, post-it notes and other campaign office supplies.

In each campaign office, the Grange volunteers were the oldest persons in the room. New Hampshire Presidential Primary campaigns, especially in the final days, are overwhelmingly staffed by enthusiastic college age volunteers. However every Grange volunteer reported that they were treated with respect and appreciation by their fellow volunteers and that their ages made no difference in their assignments or responsibilities. All of the campaigns demonstrated a sense of urgency, dedication and purpose for their respective candidate that was equally shared by the Grange volunteers.

At the end of the day the volunteers were picked up and brought to the New Hampshire State Grange Headquarters in Hooksett, NH for a delicious farewell dinner put on by Antrim Grange #98. Members of the New Hampshire State Grange officer corps also joined the Fly-In participants to learn about their experiences. Each Presidential Primary Fly-In participant was asked to share their experiences and assessment as to whether or not it was a valuable experience. All of the participants agreed that it was a valuable experience in grassroots democracy and lamented the fact that more Grange members did not take advantage of the unique opportunity provided by the National Grange and the New Hampshire State Grange. One participant described the experience as "….the best National Grange sponsored program I have ever attended."

In addition to the speakers who gave generously of their time and knowledge and the individual presidential campaigns who graciously welcomed each of the Grange volunteers, the National Grange would like to recognize the following individuals and organizations for their support and/or sponsorship of the National Grange New Hampshire Presidential Primary Fly-In; NH Rep. Bob Haefner, who arranged for our tour of the state capitol, our meeting room for our speakers and our lunch in the state capitol cafeteria; Antrim Grange #98 for a delicious closing banquet; Brother George Lambert, who drove the van and arranged for souvenir T-shirts for each presidential primary participant; Amplify Public Affairs of Washington DC for their remote logistical coordination efforts; NH State Grange Legislative Director Jim Tetreault for helping arrange speakers; and Worthy Master Beth Merrill and her husband Arthur for strongly supporting and participating in this program and allowing us to visit New Hampshire on a cold, wet, snowy winter weekend to watch history-in-the-making as the nation began the process of selecting the next President of the United States.

Conclusion

This will be the ninth year that the National Grange Legislative Department's net operating expenditures will be below the budget amount set by the delegates in the previous year. In addition we generated more than $75,000.00 in outside funding that has been invested to increase our outreach efforts to our members and support more effective direct grassroots contacts with policy makers.

Brenda Shambaugh, former legislative director of the PA State Grange, continues to ably serve our department as Legislative Consultant. Brenda brings more than 21 years of experience managing a major state Grange legislative program to her assignments for the National Grange, primarily in drafting various letters, press releases, View from the Hill articles and Action Alerts. In addition her duties have all been performed as a telecommuter. We work together entirely via e-mail, Internet and phone.

Ms. Samantha Johnson, our Legislative Administrative Assistant, was recognized for her accomplishments and promoted to the position of Marketing Manager for the National Grange. In her place we hired Ms. Molly Thompson of Kansas who recently contracted "Potomac Fever" and moved to Washington D.C. to further her career. We share Molly's talent and good humor with the Marketing and Programs Department and the Communications and Publications Department. Molly has responsibility for our e-mail and distribution of our programs and newsletters. She has been extremely helpful in organizing the materials for the committees for this convention and is already looking at production issues for the next Legislative Policy Book

I want to thank the following State Grange legislative directors for their assistance with this convention: Brother Gordon Gibson, CT; Brother Jim Tetreault, NH, Brother Roger Halbert, NY Brother Warren Chamberlain, MA and Sister Allison Fowler, NC.

I especially want to thank Brother Ed Luttrell for his guidance and support during his first year as National Master. His travel schedule this year was one of the most hectic I've ever seen for a National Master and his commitment to a positive agenda of Grange Growth and Development is truly inspiring. The members of your National Grange Board of Directors have also been particularly interested in, and supportive of, your national legislative program as well.

My appreciation also goes out to my colleagues on the National Grange office staff and our field directors for their advice, counsel and assistance. The professionalism and dedication of the National Grange staff and field directors makes the National Grange a unique and enjoyable place to work.

The National Grange Legislative Program succeeds because of the extraordinary efforts of volunteer Grange leaders across the nation whose "…industry, zeal and efficiency have gained them the approbation of [their] companions." Therefore, if we have failed, in any way, to meet the expectations of our members, it is entirely because of the limits of my talents, skills and abilities.

I am honored and privileged to direct your National Grange Legislative Department.

Fraternally Submitted,
Leroy Watson,
Director of Legislative Affairs

2008 Report of the Membership/Leadership Department
Cromwell, CT
November 11, 2008

In the Beginning – Interview, Computer, and Technology

To be considered for a National Grange Position is quite an honor. And to get that position after meeting the completion at the interview was a surprise. I had no special training or advance schooling in my favor; just a passion for the Grange and several years of experience from the school of "Hard Knocks." After accepting the job, Brother Ed took me in his office and proceeded to give me information that not any one person could use in a lifetime on this job. I got over 60 presentations and programs from him. I wasn't sure how all this would work but was willing to try. The Grange started me off with a computer that took over a month to get to my house from Dell. Then I had to learn all the newest versions of "Word," "Excel," and "Power Point" and learn how to work "Team Speak" and communicate with HQ via E-mail. Let me tell you, for a wheat and cattle rancher from North Central WA, that doesn't come easy.

First Step – NE Leaders Conference

The 1st trip I went on was not what anyone could imagine. I was thrust straight into the heart of the Grange asylum better known as the North East District! You have 7 of the most passionate Grange States in the nation that once a year get together to have a Leaders Conference. You just imagine 7 State Masters and officers all getting together for a fun weekend and you are supposed to be serious and professional. It just ain't going to happen. Right MA? I did survive!

Running with the Big Dogs – Masters Conference

I now am off and running and can't think of anything that I can't handle after the NE Conference. I traveled to Dallas, TX and got to work with the Masters at the Annual Masters Conference. We had a good time getting to know each other, working through some new ideas, and deciding whether or not to move forward or stay the present course. I pretty much filled up my travel schedule for the rest of 2008 year. I felt very humbled amongst the "Big Dogs" of the Grange and left there eager to get to know some of them better and start some new things in their states.

Out on my own – OK, CA, AK, MA, RI, DC, MT, NH, CT, ME, NJ, OR, WA

I have worked in 13 different states. Some are more different then others. I have met with a newly formed Grange in NH that is full of young adults that can see what a Grange can do for a community. I have discussed new ways of thinking about the Grange with young and old members.

North to the Future – Alaska

In May I had the pleasure of attending the Alaska State Grange Session. I found group of Grangers that love the Grange. They were very worried about the potential loss of one of their 6 Granges and what they as a state Grange could do about it. Well I am here to tell you that they took on the challenge and made a commitment to grow the Grange in Alaska. The challenge was great considering the size of the state and the distance that one needs to travel between communities. State Master Gaye Hunt deserves the lion's share of the credit. With her donation of time, air miles, and having to dealing with National Master Ed and myself, she has made the effort a success. I am proud to report that on October 2nd 2008 a new Grange was started in the Kenai/Soldotna Area.

More fun in the NE – Lecturers Conference

I would like to thank sister Sherry Herriman, Lecturer for the Maine State Grange, and her fellow lecturers from the NE for inviting me to their annual conference. It was full of energy, information, friendship, and lots of fun. I don't think that I have been that embarrassed that many times in one week in my entire life. I left there with the feeling that the Grange truly is the family fraternal organization that everyone should know about and join.

GGS 08 – 1st Regional conference

The second Tuesday of each month has become a gathering place on the Internet for Grangers across the country. Team Speak is a web based "conference call" that any Granger can log on and participate in. This group has become a good sounding board for me. GGS 08 came from some of the ideas that this group discussed. GGS 08 was a conference designed to attract Grangers in a region to one location. The location is picked using a criteria formulated to get the biggest bang for the buck. GGS 08 was a success in that we had 7 different states send representatives, a new trainer was trained, and all participants got a chance at using the information in a practical "real life" application.

Convention jitters – comfort zone breach

Being at my first National Convention as a Director, I find myself somewhat nervous. I didn't realize the extent of my duties and responsibilities at Convention. I know the things that I am good at and the things I like to do; reports are not one of them, so I am struggling with the format that has been used in the past and hopefully will make the adjustments to my schedule and the format so I will be more comfortable next time.

Try and Keep up – 09 Regional Conferences & AR, MS, LA, AL

With the success of the GGS, I along with the approval of the executive committee, have proposed a very ambitious schedule of regional conferences to help get information

out to the states and train Grangers to start working on growing the Grange. I have seen what is possible and know what it takes to have success in growing the Grange. I am willing to continue to push each and every one of you to move out of your comfort zone and make "Growth" a priority. I will be encouraging you all to make a commitment of growth in your state. I will travel, consult, and prepare informational materials that YOU can use to help the Grange grow. My Question to you is: "Can you keep up?"

I have the best job in the Grange! I wish each and every one of you could go with me and see all the good things and good people in the Grange. My passion for the Grange has grown stronger and I am more resolved to help the Grange grow. I have a few special thanks to those that invited me into their homes and let me stay with them while visiting their states: Ed & Celia Luttrell, Yvonne & Kaye Merrit, Beth & Arthur Merrill, David & Suzy Gregory, Steve & Claire Logan, Don & Alice McKee, Pete Pomper, and Gaye Hunt. I also need to make a special thanks to my parents, Terry & Mary Hunt, for raising me in the Grange, encouraging me to push myself, and supporting me in all my different Grange offices. Thanks to my children, Cady & Charlie. They have enjoyed learning the country by keeping track on our big map we have on our wall at home, of my travels, and love hearing the stories. And lastly, but most importantly, a huge loving thanks goes to my wife, Jacquie. She is the love of my life and the most important thing on this earth to me. She keeps me grounded when I get tot high and picks me up when I get too low. She is my "rudder" to keep me on track and she is the reason I am who I am today. The Grange owes all that I give to it to her. Without her support I could not know what I do. I also would like to thank all of you that I have worked with this past year. You have made my Grange experience GREAT!

2008 Report of the Sales, Benefits, and Programs Department
Cromwell, CT
November 11, 2008

Programs

The National Grange has continued to promote current programs as well as develop new programs for local Granges. Current Programs include: Community Service, Dictionary Project, Family of the Year, Meth Labs, the Kelley Farm, Dogs for the Deaf, Deaf Materials, and Life Line Screening. We had nine entries this year for the National Grange Family of the Year. The National Grange received $2,603.75 in donations for the Kelley Farm this year.

New Program

The Programs Department is working with America the Beautiful to create a new program that would provide free seeds (the Grange would pay the shipping and handling), such as vegetable, flower and herb packets to Granges. Granges would write a short letter describing the project they would like to do with the seeds, be it teaching children, and beautify parks, roadways, or neighborhoods. We hope to have this new program set-up for sometime early next year.

Community Service

The Community Service program continues to be supported by the National Grange. The National Grange awards certificates to all 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place winners and all participants in all states. The program did have one small change this year and that was in sending only one check to the State Grange and having them split the $250.00 prize money to the winning Granges. The prize money is still given to States with six Subordinate Grange Reports or reports from 10% of the Subordinate Granges in the State; whichever number is greater. This year the National Grange has recognized over 669 Granges in 25 States.

Life Line Screening

The Life Line Screening Program is underway. A letter was also just mailed to Grange members promoting the screening benefit. The Grange partnered with Life Line Screening to provide access to life-saving health screening to our members. Life Line Screening also host screening events in Grange halls wherever possible, if your Grange would like the opportunity to host please contact the National Grange. In July of 2008, the Grange received a royalties check in the amount of $258.98.

The National Grange Building DVD

We have finished a new program about the Grange building for the 2008 Convention. This program will serve a dual purpose – educate and inform members about National Grange and raise money for the building fund (see 2006 Audit and Budget Committee Resolution National Grange Building 104 New Jersey). This DVD will highlight the Grange's presence in Washington D.C. From offices leased to Jackson Place and now to our present home, the DVD will take members and non-members on a very educational and historic journey.

Christmas Trees

The National Grange in coordination with the New England Hosting Committee is decorating several Christmas trees at this year's National Session. The trees will be decorated with handmade ornaments donates by Grange members across the country. The Christmas trees will be donated to local charities and hospitals in the New England area.

Idea Fair

The National Grange is pleased to continue the Idea Fair. This year's Idea Fair will feature local Grange program ideas, National Grange programs, Department information, local Grange community service projects, Junior Grange projects, and community service State winners. This year's Idea Fair will feature over 25 different displays and program ideas. The Idea Fair will also include the Best of Show hosted by the New England Region.

Sales

The Sales department has added new products this summer focusing on our Youth Grange Members. We have added: a Youth Polo Shirt, Youth Slingpack, Youth Sports bottle, a Gardener's Chair, a Junior Grange Slinky, Thank You and Blank Note Cards, a new Grange Tie, and a new Grange Hoodie. I also worked with Anne Kurburski, Junior Grange Director, on give-a-ways, for the celebration of the 120th Birthday of Junior Grange. The Sales department continues to reorder necessary items for the Grange Store. The Sales department produced a Spring 2008 Catalog and a new Catalog for Winter 2008 to be handed out at the National Grange Convention.

Total Sales	**2008***
January	$5,108.23
February	$3,037.20
March	$6,238.83
April	$5,561.57
May	$4,751.80
June	$3,648.68
July	$3,249.69
August	$5,120.55
September	$4,543.30
As of October 27, 2008	$4,077.77
Total as of Oct. 2008:	**$45,337.62**
*Includes freight charges	

Total Sales	2007**	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
January	$4,135.50	$3,569.33	$5,398.25	$2,947.95	$4,155.20	$5,274.57
February	$3,693.37	$3,121.65	$2,251.15	$3,577.32	$4,892.50	3,875.17
March	$4,554.66	$7,991.67	$8,511.35	$4,964.22	$4,136.20	Incl. in April
April	$5,713.81	$7,194.34	$7,399.26	$3,353.65	$5,657.50	$9,681.65
May	$3,339.42	$3,130.62	$3,632.75	$5,385.40	$2,582.10	$3,087.21
June	$4,253.02	$5,614.82	$5,692.74	$3,526.52	$2,686.45	$4,575.05
July	$2,782.35	$4,289.30	$3,949.21	$2,473.75	$3,634.10	$4,457.39
August	$4,402.74	$3,979.92	$3,283.26	$3,518.45	$2,448.60	$3,793.98
September	$7,104.85	$5,721.32	$6,132.85	$4,104.60	$5,408.45	$3,474.36
October	$5,987.22	$7,199.66	$6,723.41	$2,416.95	$5,181.80	$5,920.64
November	$3,822.60	$3,935.11	$6,667.97	$12,329.90	$12,712.26	$7,175.02
December*	$18,170.64	$13,284.10	$18,436.49	$8,099.76	$4,781.89	$2,367.86
*convention sales included						
** does not include freight charges						
Total	**$67,963.18**	**$69,031.84**	**$78,078.69**	**$56,698.47**	**$58,277.05**	**$53,682.90**

Sales figures do not include membership seals and certificate fees.

Membership

Membership Recognition

Membership Recognition, including seals and certificates, is handled by Beverly Mitchell, Marketing Coordinator. The following certificates and seals have been prepared and sent this year:

Silver Star Certificates – 960
40-year seals – 201
Golden Sheaf Certificates – 505
55-year seals – 398
60-year seals – 499
65-year seals – 179
70-year seals – 162
75-year Letters – 81
80-year Letters – 23
85-year Letters – 5

Grange Recognition

The National Grange honors Granges that have existed for 100 years and 125 years. The following recognitions were issued this year:
Centennial Year Plaques: 7
125-Year Plaques: 3

Charters

The National Grange issues charters to newly organized Granges and reorganized Granges. The numbers for Granges organized and reorganized this year is:
Junior Granges: 8
Subordinate Granges: 11
Pomona Granges: 0

6th and 7th Degree Certificates

The National Grange Communications and the Sales, Benefits, and Programs Departments work together to print and distribute 6th Degree Certificates to state secretaries. 7th Degree Certificates are also printed and mailed from the National Office to the member.

Benefits

New Benefits

We have added four new member benefit programs, American Income Life, Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc, T-Mobile, and Verizon Wireless.

American Income Life Insurance

I am working with Larry Lozano from American Income Life in setting up the program. This program allows all National Grange members in good standing receive a $2,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit (AD&D) provided by American Income Life Insurance Company at no cost to Grange members. American Income Life provides other benefits as well to Grange members. This department is working with American Income Life in obtaining mailing lists from State Granges to allow members to automatically enroll in the program.

Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc.

I have also worked with Tony Lamm from Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc. in order to setup the website and various teleconferences between, the Executive Committee, the National Grange Staff, and the State Masters. Pre-Paid Legal Services will allow members to buy prepaid legal services and/or Identity Theft Protection. Pre-paid offers various plans that include: legal consultation and advice, letters and calls made on your behalf for any subject matter, contract and document review, will preparation, minor and/or major legal expenses, and IRS audit legal services. A Grange member can learn more about Pre-Paid Legal (PPL) or enroll please by visiting our website at www.prepaid.com/hub/thenationalgrange.

T-Mobile and Verizon Wireless

The T-Mobile Affinity Program allows Grange members to obtain a discount of 8 to 12% on a T-Mobile Service Contract. There are benefits for new subscribers and current subscribers. I am working with our contact Stephen Tranavitch to set up the toll free number and a website for Grangers to take advantage of these offers. The new Verizon Wireless program will be handled completely online and through the National Grange website. This benefit will allow Grangers to find out the different discounts and savings Verizon Wireless is offering that week or month. The discounts vary but are for new and existing customers of Verizon Wireless. I am working with Verizon Wireless and Stephanie Wilkins, IT Manager, at the National Grange.

Bank of America Credit Card

The Bank of America Credit Card, formerly offered by MBNA, continues to be a successful benefit for the Grange both for members and in revenue for the Grange.

Quarter	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
1	$3,159.36	$3,343.20	$3,470.10	$2,414.93	$2,640.25
2	$3,492.66	$3,556.91	$4,146.96	$2,754.68	$3,175.47
3		$3,621.74	$3,892.48	$2,323.15	$2,536.11
4		$3,968.79	$3,952.91	$4,615.09	$2,732.26
Total		$14,490.64	$15,462.45	$12,107.85	$11,084.09

Prescription Card

The prescription card program has continued to decrease in Grange participation, due in great part to the availability of prescription drug coverage through Medicare Part D.

	Prescriptions	Royalty		Prescriptions	Royalty
Jan-07	98	$24.50	**Jan-08**	78	$19.50
Feb-07	84	$21.00	**Feb-08**	55	$13.75
Mar-07	75	$18.75	**Mar-08**	57	$14.25
Apr-07	87	$21.75	**Apr-08**	73	$18.25
May-07	103	$25.75	**May-08**	62	$15.50
Jun-07	96	$24.00	Jun-08	46	$11.50
Jul-07	86	$21.50	Jul-08	45	$11.25
Aug-07	75	$18.75	Aug-08		
Sep-07	78	$19.50	Sep-08		
Oct-07	78	$19.50	Oct-08		
Nov-07	72	$18.00	Nov-08		
Dec-07	59	$14.75	Dec-08		
	Total:	**$247.75**		**Total:**	

Choice Hotels

Our program with Choice Hotels continues to provide Grange members with a discount on hotel stays. The non-dues revenue we receive from Choice Hotels has increased for the second year in a row.

	Rooms consumed	Commission
2003	61	$119.24
2004	94	$323.90
2005	201	$652.55
2006	177	$610.93
2007	198	$752.00
2008	287	$1,253.45

2007	Nights Consumed	Commission
January	13	$45.02
February	12	$33.06
March	16	$53.55
April	20	$75.90
May	11	$40.37
June	22	$93.22
July	8	$33.20
August	17	$87.24
September	25	$96.22
October	5	$19.56
November	34	$116.10
December	15	$58.56
	198	$752.00

2008	Nights Consumed	Commission
January	12	$46.20
February	37	$143.94
March	44	$195.54
April	38	$189.90
May	55	$241.16
June	38	$157.62
July	19	$84.08
August	32	$137.97
September	12	$57.04
Total	**287**	**$1,253.45**

Other benefits offered to Grange members include: Hertz, Beltone, and Club Quarters.

Other Projects
Other projects this department is currently working on include:
Updating Grange Store Website
Community Service
New Benefit Programs (Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc., American Income Life, Verizon Wireless, and T-Mobile)
Grange Building DVD
New and Reordered Sales Items
State Convention Sales
Membership Recognition
Kits for Subordinate and Junior Granges
Ideas for New Programs

Fraternally Submitted,
Samantha Johnson
Sales, Benefits, and Programs Manager

2008 Report of the Youth Department
Cromwell, CT
November 11, 2008

Worthy Master, National Officers, Delegates and fellow Grangers:

As we started 2008, the theme for the year quickly became "change." This past winter, Cindy Greer announced that she would be stepping down from her post as the National Youth Director. The Youth Department would like to recognize her for her years of dedicated service and wish her the best of luck in her future Grange endeavors.

National Master Ed Luttrell asked if I would head the department at the end of Cindy's time. With the blessing and support of my family, I accepted the position starting in March. Cindy and I worked closely as we transitioned the youth department from her office in Colorado to mine in Pennsylvania. I would like to thank Cindy for her kind support and assistance in making this a smooth transition.

Regional Conferences

This year, overall attendance to the conferences was down. One of the main factors was the dramatic rise in travel costs. However, the youth that attended had a great time. I would like to thank the host states of Tennessee, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, Nebraska and California for their enthusiasm and willingness to host. The junior department joined us at the regional conferences and it was again a successful partnership.

In April, Tennessee hosted the Eastern Regional Conference. We had about 50 Grangers in attendance. Two teams competed in the drill competition. Youth and juniors competed in all levels of the speech and sign a song competition.

Wisconsin hosted the Mid-Western regional conference despite the intense flooding

that hit their region in the weeks prior to their conference. About 25 grangers attended, with youth and juniors competing in the speech contests. No youth entered the sign-a-song contest. One unique promotion idea completed was "You-Tube Grange commercials." These were posted to the National Grange Youth Website.

July was very busy because of hosting the balance of the regional conferences. Rhode Island hosted a very successful conference with about 70 Grangers attending. Three state drill teams entered and we had youth compete in all levels of the speech contest and the individual sign a song contest. The Great Plains conference was canceled due to the lack of participation. Because of the region's size, travel and fuel prices were a major deterrent this year. Instead, the Junior Director Anne Kuburski, and I met with leadership from Nebraska to develop their youth and programs.

Western region was the last weekend in July. It was bumped up because of my pending flight restrictions for late pregnancy. We had 30 Grangers attend the California conference. Youth competed in both the speech and sign a song contests.

For 2009, the states slated to host the conferences are New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Indiana, and Montana. The host states are already hard at work on their conferences. I challenge each Grange state to send youth to their regional conference. The host states are making plans for an exciting weekend and to showcase their state.

Achievement Awards

The theme of "change" continues for the achievement program as I look to work with Grange youth directors to better implement the program in their home states. I have met countless Grange youth who have completed several of the awards criteria, but do not apply for the certificate. Many are not aware it is available. This year's focus will be educating directors and youth on the awards available, and how to utilize the award programs in their grange work.

Several changes have been made for the 2009 year. A Deaf Education Achievement Award, including a state achievement award has been added called the "William Ireland Communication Award". The ITSPY award has been modified to encourage resolution writing and grassroots policy activity.

Youth Contests and Recognition Programs

For this year's National Session, the youth recognition program participants are as follows:

National Youth Officer Team (NYOT)
Master, Victor Salazar, Connecticut.
Overseer, Valentin Deleon, North Carolina
Lecturer, Arron Gwin, Washington
Chaplain, Sarah Gearing, New York
Steward, Justephanie Chandler, Ohio
Assistant Steward, Andrew Kieffer, Pennsylvania.
Lady Assistant Steward, Carrie Wade, Illinois
Secretary, Miranda Panuska, Washington
Treasurer Andrew Martin, North Carolina
Gatekeeper, Travis Kroger, California
Ceres, Marta Kroger, California

Pomona, Heidi Henderson, New York
Flora: Allissa Estes, New Hampshire
Executive Committee, aggie Spencer, Rhode Island
Executive Committee, Alison Orton, New York
Executive Committee, Morgan Moore, North Carolina
Musician: Jennifer Nauss, Pennsylvania

Horizon Leadership Program
Gail Switzer, Pennsylvania
Cody Stevens, North Carolina
Tiffany Paul, Ohio
Winslow Dixon, North Carolina
Qiana Helm, Oregon
Carson Yost, Ohio
Jacob Embry, Oregon

Legislative Experience Program
Trisha Browning, Washington
Tracey Blasingame, Illinois
National Mentors
Solomon Drake, North Carolina
Mary Joseph, Illinois

There will be changes in the recognition awards for next year. The Horizon Leadership will receive a noted change for 2009, the re-inclusion of state Young Couples. To recognize young couples that have served in the years without a national recognition program, guidelines have been established on how they can attend the 2009 convention.
National Youth Officer Team and Legislative Experience programs age limits were extended to standardize the age to Grange youth age. For 2009, youth up to the age of 35 can apply.

Youth Leadership Fund

This summer an appeal was sent out requesting support for youth programming. To date, the Grange Youth Foundation has received 14,275.83 for 2008. Thank you to the subordinate and Pomona Granges for your continued support of the program.
Because of the declining funds, the department is actively applying for grants to assist in the delivery of National Youth Programs and hopeful expansion of National Youth Programs.

Grow Club

The GROW Club board includes Doug Baldwin, Midwest; Jennie Gentry, Eastern; Kris Van Houten, Western; Callie (Stiles) Ballinger; Great Plains; and Matthew Clark, Northeast. The club continues to sponsor a $300 scholarship for a past Horizon Leadership participant.

For national session, the board will be selling T-shirts and sponsoring a silent auction to raise funds. The board will also discuss ideas of how to add to the fund.

Grange Youth: An Essential Piece

For 2009, I have launched the theme "Grange Youth: An Essential Piece." The foundation of our organization rests in the belief that Grange has something to offer for the entire family. If the Grange is missing its youth or young adults, the Grange picture is incomplete. National Master Ed Luttrell has cited the strengthening of the Youth Program as one of his goals. With that purpose, I am hoping to travel to several states this year to participate in a state youth event or to assist youth programs looking for guidance.

The success of the National Grange Youth Program rests with all of us, not just this department or the National officers.

For this year, I challenge all State Masters to appoint a Youth Director and committee. For states with separate youth and young adult committees, make sure the programs work cooperatively.

For the 2009 regional conferences, each state Grange should strive to have representation. Also, I encourage each to send one member of the state youth committee to the conference.

For Youth Directors, complete an annual report, and I challenge you to submit three youth and/or young adults for a national recognition program.

As I close this report, I am thankful for all of the opportunities the Grange Youth Program has afforded me. Many Grangers point with fondness to their time in the Youth Program, and remember it as a time of personal growth and leadership skill development. Together we must continue to work to strengthen the program at the subordinate (community) and Pomona Grange level. Former President Bill Clinton is challenging youth to make a difference by forming a "non-government organization" or NGO. Instead of starting new organizations, perhaps we should challenge these youth to bring their talents to our organization. With 142 years of service and rural advocacy to its credit, the Grange is a grassroots network with a proud history. We welcome all youth that are ready to make a difference.

Charlene M. Shupp Espenshade
Youth Development Director

COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS INDEX

RES#	MASTER	STATE	TITLE	COMMITTEE	ACTION
327	COMMITTEE RES.		ELIMINATING TECHNOLOGIES	Conservation	Adopted
326	COMMITTEE RES.		SPENT FUEL RODS	Conservation	Adopted
Committee Resolution			SAFETY & SECURITY OF THE FOOD SUPPLY		Combine Resolutions 416(NC) and 418(NY)
501	2nd Vote		SUSPENSION OF STATE GRANGE CHARTERS	Grange Law	Adopted
502	2nd Vote		SELLING GRANGE OWNED REAL PROPERTY	Grange Law	Adopted
524GL	Committee Resolution		CONVENTION HOSTING	Grange Law	Adopted
525GL	Committee Resolution		STUDENT GRANGES	Grange Law	Adopted
526GL	Committee Resolution		ALTERNATE INSTALLATION CEREMONY	Grange Law	Adopted
527GL	Committee Resolution		SUBORDINATE/COMMUNITY GRANGE	Grange Law	Adopted
528GL	Committee Resolution		CODE OF THE POMONA GRANGE	Grange Law	Adopted as Amended
529GL	Committee Resolution		SALE, ENCUMBRANCE OR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY	Grange Law	Referred to Executive Committee
530GL	Committee Resolution		EDITORIAL CHANGE	Grange Law	Adopted
503	2nd Vote		ASSOCIATE MEMBERS DUES	Grange Law	Rejected by Delegate Action
320	Lewis	CA	SUPPORT HAZARDOUS FUEL REMOVAL	Conservation	Adopted as Amended
322	Lewis	CA	GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY	Conservation	Adopted as Amended
323	Lewis	CA	YOLO COUNTY WATER TRANSFER GROUNDWATER ORDINANCES	Conservation	Adverse
402	Lewis	CA	MOUNTAIN RURAL SCHOOL FUNDS	Education & Health	Policy Statement
403	Lewis	CA	HIGH SCHOOL CAREER DAY	Education & Health	Policy Statement
515	Lewis	CA	CONTINUED USE OF AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP	Grange Law	Policy Statement
607	Lewis	CA	INCORPORATION OF STATE GRANGE POLICIES INTO NATIONAL GRANGE POLICY	Growth & Development	Adopted
706	Lewis	CA	IMMIGRATION – SPECIAL PROGRAMS	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
725	Lewis	CA	ONLY SEND AMERICAN PRODUCED PRODUCTS AS FOREIGN AID	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
809	Lewis	CA	DIESEL POWERED VEHICLES	Taxation & Transportation	Policy Statement
814	Lewis	CA	PREVENT CLOSURE OF RURAL POST OFFICES	Taxation & Transportation	Present Policy
019	Hagen	CO	PROTECTION OF POULTRY INDUSTRY	Agriculture	Approved
609	Hagen	CO	NATIONAL GRANGE AND TYSON FOODS	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
606	Hagen	CO	HEARING AIDES AND EYE GLASSES DISCOUNT PROGRAM	Growth & Development	Rewritten and Combined 604 MT and 606 CO, Adopted
705	Hagen	CO	CITIZENSHIP FOR BABIES BORN TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
219	Sendewicz	CT	U.S. CADET NURSE EQUITY ACT	Citizenship	Adverse
312	Sendewicz	CT	NVESTIGATION INTO THE PRICING OF DIESEL	Conservation	Adverse

511	Sendewicz	CT	FUNDING OF ANNUAL SESSIONS OF NATIONAL GRANGE	Grange Law	Covered by Committee Resolution 524GL
001	Gray	FL	MILK LABELING	Agriculture	Current Policy
005	Gray	FL	AGRICULTURE POLICY	Agriculture	Current Policy
513	Gray	FL	NATIONAL GRANGE BY-LAWS ON POMONA GRANGES	Grange Law	Adverse
504	Gray	FL	NATIONAL DUES FOR GOLDEN SHEAF MEMBERS	Grange Law	Combined with 505
715	Gray	FL	NEWS MEDIA	Labor & Judiciary	Policy Statement
610		Growth and Development	ELECTRONIC REPORTING	Growth & Development	Adopted
611		Growth and Development	POMONA GRANGE REVITALIZATION	Growth and Development	Adopted as Amended
612		Growth and Development	SIGNATURE PROGRAM	Growth and Development	Postponed Indefinitely
009	Baldwin	IA	HORSE SLAUGHTERING	Agriculture	Current Policy
603	Baldwin	IA	QUARTERLY REPORTS	Growth & Development	Adopted as Amended
726	Baldwin	IA	IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION COSTS	Labor & Judiciary	Policy Statement
720	Baldwin	IA	CRIMINAL COURT COSTS	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
709	Baldwin	IA	POSTVILLE, IA MEATPACKING PLANT	Labor & Judiciary	Returned to State
807	Baldwin	IA	MOVING VIOLATION FINES	Taxation & Transportation	Returned to the State
214	Billmire	ID	SOCIAL SECURITY	Citizenship	Present Policy
304	Billmire	ID	EXPANDING TERRITIORIAL LIMITS	Conservation	Present Policy
313	Billmire	ID	EXPANDING ACCESS TO OIL RESERVES IN THE CONTINENTAL U.S.	Conservation	Present Policy
314	Billmire	ID	DEVELOP OIL SUPPLIES	Conservation	Present Policy
608	Billmire	ID	GRANGE HISTORY FOR THE SMITHSONIAN	Growth & Development	Adopted
723	Billmire	ID	LAWSUIT AMOUNT LIMITS	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
008	Donley	IL	HORSE SLAUGHTER HOUSES	Agriculture	Current Policy
307	Donley	IL	HIGH MARKET PRICES OF OIL	Conservation	Present Policy
523	Donley	IL	SALE, ENCUMBRANCE OR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY	Grange Law	Covered by Committee Resolution 529GL
213	Groves	IN	SOCIAL SECURITY FUNDS	Citizenship	Present policy
206	Groves	IN	HEALTH INSURANCE ON ELECTED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS	Citizenship	Withdrawn
801	Groves	IN	BONUS EARNED	Taxation & Transportation	Withdrawn
408	Bostwick	KS	HEALTHCARE COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN	Education & Health	Present Policy
507	Bostwick	KS	DUES INCREASE TO AID YOUTH AND JUNIORS	Grange Law	Withdrawn
602	Bostwick	KS	MEMBERSHIP AWARDS ELIGIBILITY	Growth & Development	Adverse
701	Bostwick	KS	COMPETITIVE MATERNATIY/PATERNITY LEAVE	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
702	Bostwick	KS	FLEXIBLE WORK OPTIONS FOR PARENTS	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
006	Chase	MA	LOCAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE	Agriculture	Current Policy
007	Chase	MA	ENCOURAGE AND DEVELOP NEW FARMERS	Agriculture	Policy Statement
317	Chase	MA	FUEL EFFICIENCY	Conservation	Present Policy
522	Chase	MA	HOSTING NATIONAL GRANGE SESSION	Grange Law	Adopted as Amended

703	Chase	MA	ENCOURAGING LACTATION AREAS IN THE WORKPLACE	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted as Amended
802	Chase	MA	HEARING AID ASSISTANCE TAX CREDIT ACT	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted (Amended)
810	Chase	MA	TRANSPORTATION	Taxation & Transportation	Adverse
003	Wiles	MD	FEDERAL MILK MARKETING ORDERS	Agriculture	Adverse
002	Wiles	MD	FALSE AND MISLEADING LABELING	Agriculture	Approved as Amended
004	Wiles	MD	FARM BILL 10-ACRE MINIMUM	Agriculture	Approved as Amended
011	Wiles	MD	HORSE SLAUGHTER	Agriculture	Current Policy
014	Wiles	MD	HORSE RACING REFORM	Agriculture	Policy Statement
220	Wiles	MD	FEDERAL SUBSIDIARY PROGRAMS	Citizenship	Returned to State
318	Wiles	MD	EXPANSION OF OIL DRILLING	Conservation	Present Policy
319	Wiles	MD	ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCES	Conservation	Present Policy
415	Wiles	MD	LOWERING THE DRINKING AGE TO 18	Education & Health	Amendment to Present Policy
405	Wiles	MD	PAYING STUDENTS FOR PERFORMANCE	Education & Health	Approved
404	Wiles	MD	DISRUPTIVE STUDENTS	Education & Health	Policy Statement
407	Wiles	MD	HOME SCHOOLING REGULATIONS	Education & Health	Policy Statement
412	Wiles	MD	PHARMACEUTICALS IN DRINKING WATER	Education & Health	Policy Statement
413	Wiles	MD	DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER DRUG ADVERTISING	Education & Health	Referred back to State
406	Wiles	MD	RESPECT FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY	Education & Health	Withdrawn
424	Wiles	MD	BOTTLED WATER	Education & Health	Withdrawn
718	Wiles	MD	GOVERNMENT BAILOUTS	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted Combined with 717
724	Wiles	MD	OPPOSITION TO EARLY VOTING	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
813	Wiles	MD	MOTORCYCLE SAFETY	Taxation & Transportation	Amended Present Policy
803	Wiles	MD	WINDFALLS PROFITS TAX	Taxation & Transportation	Policy Statement
811	Wiles	MD	HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN	Taxation & Transportation	Policy Statement
316	Owens	ME	OFFSHORE DRILLING	Conservation	Present Policy
218	Johnston	MI	ELECTORAL COLLEGE	Citizenship	Withdrawn
417	Johnston	MI	FOOD SAFETY	Education & Health	Adverse by Delegates
411	Johnston	MI	FOOD AND PHARMACEUTICAL IMPORTS	Education & Health	Present Policy
719	Johnston	MI	SILVER ALERT LAWS	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted as Amended
012	Billquist	MT	THE EQUINE CRUELTY ACT	Agriculture	Approved as Amended
013	Billquist	MT	FUNDING FOR EQUINE INSPECTION	Agriculture	Current Policy
018	Billquist	MT	BRUCELLOSIS VACCINE	Agriculture	Current Policy
310	Billquist	MT	NAVIGABLE WATERS	Conservation	Present Policy
509	Billquist	MT	THE NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION	Grange Law	Covered by Committee Resolution 524GL

604	Billiquist	MT	GRANGE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS	Growth & Development	Rewritten and Combined 604 MT and 606 CO, Adopted
020	Gentry	NC	NATIONAL TOBACCO CHECK-OFF PROGRAM	Agriculture	Approved
215	Gentry	NC	FIRST AMENDMENT	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended
325	Gentry	NC	AGRICULTURE AND WATER USE	Conservation	Adopted as Amended
419	Gentry	NC	MEDICARE	Education & Health	Amendment to Present Policy
421	Gentry	NC	INCREASED STEM CELL RESEARCH FUNDING	Education & Health	Amendment to Present Policy
416	Gentry	NC	SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE FOOD SUPPLY	Education & Health	Combined with 418, Approved
518	Gentry	NC	JUDICIAL CODE	Grange Law	Adopted as Amended
517	Gentry	NC	ALTERNATE INSTALLATION CEREMONY	Grange Law	Covered by Committee Resolution 526GL
010	Fryman	NE	HORSE SLAUGHTER	Agriculture	Current Policy
605	Fryman	NE	GRANGE MEMBER BENEFIT FROM CARBON SEQUESTRATION	Growth & Development	Adopted as Amended, Adopted
808	Fryman	NE	FEDERAL HIGHWAY TRUST FUND	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted (corrected a typo)
414	Pompper	NJ	DRINKING AGE	Education & Health	Amendment to Present Policy
505	Pompper	NJ	GOLDEN SHEAF MEMBER DUES	Grange Law	Adopted
516	Pompper	NJ	NATIONAL GRANGE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	Grange Law	Adopted Requires 2nd 2/3 vote in 2009
508	Pompper	NJ	DUES FOR AFFILLIATE MEMBERS	Grange Law	Adverse
017	Orton	NY	RELOCATION OF PLUM ISLAND ANIMAL DISEASE CENTER	Agriculture	Approved
016	Orton	NY	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING	Agriculture	Current Policy
222	Orton	NY	RETRO-ACTIVE VETERANS COMPENSATION	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended
212	Orton	NY	MANDATE RELIEF	Citizenship	Present Policy
223	Orton	NY	TOY SAFETY	Citizenship	Transferred to Education & Health
324	Orton	NY	PLASTIC IDENTIFICATION	Conservation	Adopted
409	Orton	NY	FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBILITIES	Education & Health	Approved
423	Orton	NY	MEDICATION INDENTIFICATION	Education & Health	Approved
425	Orton	NY	CAFFEINE LABELING	Education & Health	Approved
418	Orton	NY	FOOD SAFETY	Education & Health	Combined with 416, Approved
427	Orton	NY	SHORTAGE OF RURAL PHYSICIANS	Education & Health	Current Policy
223	Orton	NY	TOY SAFETY	Citizenship	Withdrawn
717	Orton	NY	FEDERAL BAILOUT OF BANKING INDUSTRY	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted Combined with 718
721	Orton	NY	PROSECUTION OF GRAVE DEFILERS	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted as Amended
707	Orton	NY	MODIFYING H2A GUEST WORKER PROGRAM	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
710	Orton	NY	MIGRANT LABOR	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
711	Orton	NY	US/MEXICO BORDER FENCE	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
812	Orton	NY	OPPOSITION TO A NATIONAL SPEED LIMIT	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted
806	Orton	NY	AIRLINE PASSENGER BILL OF RIGHTS	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted (amended)

023	Brumbaugh	OH	SEED DNA CROSS LAWSUITS AND GMO LAWSUITS	Agriculture	Adverse
022	Brumbaugh	OH	RETENTION PONDS	Agriculture	Withdrawn
221	Brumbaugh	OH	VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended
202	Brumbaugh	OH	EARMARKS	Citizenship	Policy Statement
204	Brumbaugh	OH	NATIONAL DEBT AND BALANCING THE BUDGET	Citizenship	Present Policy
211	Brumbaugh	OH	MAKING ENGLISH OUR OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	Citizenship	Present Policy
216	Brumbaugh	OH	CELL PHONE SERVICE	Citizenship	Present Policy
315	Brumbaugh	OH	DRILLING OFFSHORE AND ALASKA	Conservation	Adverse
305	Brumbaugh	OH	NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY	Conservation	Present Policy
306	Brumbaugh	OH	RESOURCE UTILIZATION	Conservation	Present Policy
426	Brumbaugh	OH	HOURS OF SERVICE FOR EMS DRIVERS	Education & Health	Adverse
704	Brumbaugh	OH	HEALTH INSURANCE FOR RETIRED EMPLOYEES	Labor and Judiciary	Referred back to State
506	Brumbaugh	OH	GOLDEN SHEAF MEMBERS	Grange Law	Adverse
704	Brumbaugh	OH	HEALTH INSURANCE FOR RETIRED EMPLOYEES	Labor & Judiciary	Transferred to Health and Education
714	Brumbaugh	OH	STRANGER ORIENTED LIFE INSURANCE (STOLI)	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
722	Brumbaugh	OH	SOCIAL WORKERS SAFETY	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
520	Meritt	OK	JUNIOR GRANGE ORGANIZATION	Grange Law	Combined with 519.
512	Meritt	OK	NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION FUNDING 2012	Grange Law	Covered by Committee Resolution 524GL
303	Wilson	OR	THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT	Conservation	Present Policy
514	Wilson	OR	DEFINITION OF DEPENDENTS	Grange Law	Adopted as Amended Requires 2nd 2/3 vote in 2009
311	Huber	PA	FUEL SURCHARGE INVESTIGATION	Conservation	Adverse
420	Huber	PA	MEDICARE FRAUD	Education & Health	Policy Statement
422	Huber	PA	NATIONAL MEDICAL DATABASE	Education & Health	Adverse
519	Huber	PA	DIGEST AMENDMENT FOR JUNIOR GRANGE	Grange Law	Adopted
510	Huber	PA	NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION FUNDING	Grange Law	Covered by Committee Resolution 524GL
521	Huber	PA	JUNIOR GRANGE ADULT ADVISOR NAME CHANGE	Grange Law	Withdrawn
708	Huber	PA	IMMIGRANTS	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
321	Sherman	RI	GOING GREEN	Conservation	Present Policy
015	Hammett	SC	INSPECTION OF IMPORTED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	Agriculture	Current Policy
716	Hammett	SC	WALL STREET COMMODITY SPECULATION	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
205	Sherrod	TN	PENALTIES FOR LEGISLATORS	Citizenship	Adverse
208	Sherrod	TN	CENSUS AND CONGRESSIONAL SEAT REAPPORTIONMENT	Citizenship	Adverse
207	Sherrod	TN	BALANCE OF POWER FOR ALL BRANCES OF GOVERNMENT	Citizenship	Present Policy
209	Sherrod	TN	NO CALL LIST TO INCLUDE POLITICAL TELEMARKETERS	Citizenship	Present Policy
210	Sherrod	TN	ENGLISH AS OUR OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	Citizenship	Present Policy

308	Sherrod	TN	OIL PRICES	Conservation	Adverse
309	Sherrod	TN	RESEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL SOURCES	Conservation	Present Policy
410	Sherrod	TN	ADDICTIVE DRUGS EASILY ORDERED ONLINE	Education & Health	Policy Statement
201	Smithers	TX	MEMORIAL DAY	Citizenship	Policy Statement
203	Smithers	TX	PORK BARREL SPENDING	Citizenship	Policy Statement
021	Berry	VT	BEEF CHECK-OFF	Agriculture	Approved as amended
805	Berry	VT	RAILROAD FARM CROSSINGS	Taxation & Transportation	Returned to the State
301	Hendrickson	WA	OPPOSING MT. ST. HELENS NATIONAL PARK	Conservation	Adopted
302	Hendrickson	WA	PILT	Conservation	Present Policy
401	Hendrickson	WA	SRSCA	Education & Health	Policy Statement
601	Hendrickson	WA	WIKIPEDIA ENTRY	Growth & Development	Rewritten and Amended, Adopted
712	Hendrickson	WA	CREDIT CARD INTEREST RATES	Labor & Judiciary	Policy Statement
713	Hendrickson	WA	PLAIN ENGLISH ON CREDIT CARDS	Labor & Judiciary	Policy Statement
804	Hendrickson	WA	PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF VITAL RAIL CORRIDORS	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted (Amended)
217	Foster	WV	NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTY POPULAR VOTE	Citizenship	Withdrawn

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES#	MASTER	STATE	TITLE	COMMITTEE	ACTION
001	Gray	FL	MILK LABELING	Agriculture	Current Policy
002	Wiles	MD	FALSE AND MISLEADING LABELING	Agriculture	Approved as Amended
003	Wiles	MD	FEDERAL MILK MARKETING ORDERS	Agriculture	Adverse
004	Wiles	MD	FARM BILL 10-ACRE MINIMUM	Agriculture	Approved as Amended
005	Gray	FL	AGRICULTURE POLICY	Agriculture	Current Policy
006	Chase	MA	LOCAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE	Agriculture	Current Policy
007	Chase	MA	ENCOURAGE AND DEVELOP NEW FARMERS	Agriculture	Policy Statement
008	Donley	IL	HORSE SLAUGHTER HOUSES	Agriculture	Current Policy
009	Baldwin	IA	HORSE SLAUGHTERING	Agriculture	Current Policy
010	Fryman	NE	HORSE SLAUGHTER	Agriculture	Current Policy
011	Wiles	MD	HORSE SLAUGHTER	Agriculture	Current Policy
012	Billquist	MT	THE EQUINE CRUELTY ACT	Agriculture	Approved as Amended
013	Billquist	MT	FUNDING FOR EQUINE INSPECTION	Agriculture	Current Policy
014	Wiles	MD	HORSE RACING REFORM	Agriculture	Policy Statement
015	Hammett	SC	INSPECTION OF IMPORTED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	Agriculture	Current Policy
016	Orton	NY	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING	Agriculture	Current Policy

017	Orton	NY	RELOCATION OF PLUM ISLAND ANIMAL DISEASE CENTER	Agriculture	Approved
018	Billquist	MT	BRUCELLOSIS VACCINE	Agriculture	Current Policy
019	Hagen	CO	PROTECTION OF POULTRY INDUSTRY	Agriculture	Approved
020	Gentry	NC	NATIONAL TOBACCO CHECK-OFF PROGRAM	Agriculture	Approved
021	Berry	VT	BEEF CHECK-OFF	Agriculture	Approved as Amended
022	Brumbaugh	OH	RETENTION PONDS	Agriculture	Withdrawn
023	Brumbaugh	OH	SEED DNA CROSS LAWSUITS AND GMO LAWSUITS	Agriculture	Adverse

POLICY STATEMENT

We live in a complex world filled with the ongoing challenge of producing affordable food for ourselves and the world. In 1960 it took 4 farmers to feed a hundred people and we exported 29% of our production around the world. Today 1.2 farmers feed a hundred people and we export 22% of our production to the world. These American farmers and ranchers are the foundation of this abundant, safe and efficient food source. The Grange continues to pledge its support for rural America and family owned and operated farms and ranches.

Farmers and ranchers have depended on increasing production year after year in order to make a decent living. We feel that the farmer must consider alternative products and markets. There has never been a more crucial time in agriculture to have a unified voice. We must work together with others in a cooperative effort to advocate for agriculture. We have the responsibility to educate and convince all people in this country that they are receiving something of value in return for their support of agriculture.

Free trade agreements are not always fair when some segments of the economy are sacrificed. Free trade agreements have been negotiated on a bi-lateral and regional basis, which have the potential to be harmful to farmers and the economy. We need to be aware of and educate ourselves on this major issue. We encourage the National Grange to advocate for the creation of trade agreements that will be beneficial and flexible while protecting not only agriculture but also the American dream. The movement of agricultural products across our country as well as exports to foreign countries is vital to the economy of the nation.

The National Grange must continue to articulate our farm policy goals and then to communicate those goals to our elected leaders in Congress. It behooves America to maintain the family farm system as the cornerstone of agriculture. We must promote policies which allow our current generation of family farmers to retire with dignity, and draw on

their past experiences to attract new generations of family farmers.

We congratulate the President and Congress on the passing of the 2008 Farm Bill which provides for a continuation of our strong agriculture economy. The National Grange must continue to articulate our goals and push for the rapid completion of the regulations to implement the Farm Bill and also ensure that the individual sections receive the necessary appropriations to implement them.

We must be aware of the significance to U.S. agriculture of the advancements being made in other countries in their agriculture production and export technology. We must advocate for the education of our members and the general public on agricultural issues.

With the rapid population growth in our country, it is important that our rural areas are prepared for the influx of new residents. Progressive policies will be needed that will allow people to maintain the lifestyle that they desire, while preserving the character of rural America. Growth will place added pressure on the availability of public services, and we must ensure that these needed services are available to rural citizens. Having said that, we must also ensure that we have land and adequate water available for agriculture in the future.

Farmers continue to adopt new technologies such as GPS precision, agriculture production practices, and multi-stacked genetically modified crop varieties. They are employing double or even multi cropping and grazing strategies to increase total output per acre. Livestock producers are controlling costs by relying more on alternative feed sources such as forage/grass and distillers dried grains (DDGs), a by product of ethanol production.

Occasionally a person operating contrary to accepted practices is shown to the public and it is either implied or stated that this is the way things are done in order to change or even ban certain common practices. Many do not understand the significance American agriculture plays in our economy or its importance by providing a safe and plentiful source of food.

The National Grange supports a federal policy to allow the use of biotechnology in agriculture. We recognize that genetic engineering of plants and animals has already had a positive impact by increasing the availability of food, preservation qualities, and decreasing the environmental impact of agriculture.

The National Grange insists that the Environmental Protection Agency rely only on up-to-date scientific methodology and real world data in making accurate assessments of the risk to human health posed by the use of pesticides/herbicides. We favor expanded approval of generic pesticides and herbicides for use in agricultural production.

The National Grange should continue our efforts to convince Congress to extend the benefits of regional dairy programs to all dairy farmers and consumers across the nation. We realize that there is a disparity in the support price of liquid milk and manufacturing milk and will look to find ways to close this gap.

The National Grange supports the new Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) with the increased benefits including the new feed cost escalator based on the price of corn and hay feed.

The National Grange urges Congress and the Office of Management and Budget to consider the administrative costs in implementing government programs affecting the agricultural producer. The funds appropriated for these programs should be used to benefit the producer and not to support the administration. We need to continue to support the producer-approved commodity check-off program.

The National Grange encourages increased participation with youth organizations such as 4-H and FFA from the local to the national level, to draw on and develop the won-

derful leadership abilities of these people. Local Granges should be encouraged to work in partnership with cooperative extension or other local agencies such as Community Involved Sustaining Agriculture (CISA), Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), Heifer International, etc. to implement these programs. We as Grange members must enlist our farm, rural and urban neighbors to join us as Grange members and increase our voice in the legislature.

The National Grange supports Country of Origin Labeling and strongly urges the implementation of the program on all food products by the USDA as provided in the 2002 Farm Bill. Further delays of this program are not beneficial to the United States producer or consumer. The National Grange encourages educating the consumer on the benefits of this program. The traceability and point of origin need to be a coordinated effort by the USDA and the Department of Homeland Security in order to reduce the administrative burden.

The National Grange is well positioned to address the constantly changing challenges that arise with agricultural and rural issues. By adopting innovative policies, the Grange can play a pivotal leadership role in providing support and guidance to farmers and rural citizens, and enhance our efforts to maintain the viability of agriculture as a significant economic force in our country.

Due to breeding practices and the use of anabolic steroids there appears to be an increase in injuries to racehorses. The National Grange urges states to study regulations to make horse racing safer for horses and jockeys.

The National Grange believes in our democratic process. Our answer must be to join with all interested parties to educate the public about the realities of agriculture and the principles of nature. Legislators, judges, and our citizens need to understand how and why certain methods are used and how agriculture is an essential component in protecting and improving the environment.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

False and Misleading Labeling

WHEREAS, the problem of false and misleading labeling and advertising of dairy and other foods continues and is being dealt with on a state by state basis, resulting in a patchwork of regulations; and

WHEREAS, the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has the authority to regulate this problem on a nationwide basis, but to this point has only issued voluntary suggestions; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports consistent regulations dealing with false and misleading claims on labels and in advertising dairy products with special attention to hormone-free, drug-free, and pesticide-free claims.

This covers resolution 002 (MD)

Farm Bill 10-Acre Minimum

WHEREAS, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) bars payments to a farm with less than 10 acres of program crops and when USDA promulgated

the regulations to implement the bill it did not allow parcels of less than 10 acres that had a previous history in the program to continue in the program; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast is severely affected by these regulations. Maryland has over 4,700 such properties and more than one half of the properties in the past federal farm program in Tennessee would now be ineligible. Many such parcels which could be lost to development if they are not allowed into the program; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports continuation of the current Farm Bill regulations so that farm parcels that are less than the new 10-acre minimum, and have a previous history in the federal farm program, can continue in the program.

This covers resolution 004 (MD)

The Equine Cruelty Act

WHEREAS, the Equine Cruelty Act H.R. 6598, which would amend the federal criminal code to impose a fine and/or prison term of up to three years for possessing, shipping, transporting, purchasing, selling, delivering, or receiving any horse or any horse flesh or carcass with the intent that it be used for human consumption is wrong and should be killed; and

WHEREAS, the bill would prohibit equine owners from dealing with "private property"; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange oppose legislation that would amend the federal criminal code to impose any fine and/or prison term for possessing, shipping, transporting, purchasing, selling, delivering, or receiving any horse or any horse flesh or carcass for legal purposes.

This covers resolution 012 (MT)

Relocation of Plum Island Animal Disease Center

WHEREAS, the United State Department of Homeland Security published Homeland Security Directive 9 which states, "The Secretaries of Agriculture and Homeland Security will develop a plan to provide safe, secure, and state-of-the-art agriculture bio containment laboratories", and

WHEREAS, Directive 9 suggests investigating the relocation of research currently conducted on Plum Island, New York to another facility potentially located in such places as Athens, GA., Manhattan, KS., Butner, NC., Flora, MS., or San Antonio, TX., and

WHEREAS, the location of Plum Island (located off the tip of Long Island) provides a physical barrier to the United States mainland animal agriculture; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange oppose the relocation of Plum Island research and disease control and supports the renovation of Plum Island Animal Disease Center from a Biosecurity Level 3 facility to a Biosecurity Level 4 facility, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Plum Island Animal Disease Center be renovated in such a manner to investigate cures and controls for diseases that could infect both human and animal population, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Plum Island Animal Disease Center renovations include necessary

security measures to prevent the release of pathogens into the environment resulting from human error or acts of terrorism.

This covers resolution 017 (NY)

Protection of Poultry Industry

WHEREAS, chicken and egg producers fill an important part of the nation's food supply; and

WHEREAS, chicken and egg producers are careful guardians of the health and welfare of the animals their industry depends on; and

WHEREAS, chicken and egg producers depend on the best management practices including proper feeding, proper health, proper disease prevention, and proper cleanliness; and

WHEREAS, non-fact based campaigns may destroy or seriously hamper the production of chickens and eggs; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support best industry practices in chicken and egg production; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange oppose efforts to restrict chicken and egg production through legislative and initiative actions.

This covers resolution 019 (CO)

National Tobacco Check-Off Program

WHEREAS, the U.S. tobacco industry has undergone significant changes over the past few years coupled with an American anti-smoking sentiment; and

WHEREAS, Tobacco Associates, Inc. is the only organization dedicated solely to export promotions; and

WHEREAS, Tobacco Associates, Inc. has and continues to promote US flue-cured leaf in the export market; and

WHEREAS, Tobacco Associates, Inc. derives its income from North Carolina's check-off program where a portion of revenue from North Carolina tobacco sales is sent to Tobacco Associates, Inc. for promotion efforts; and

WHEREAS, reduced production levels has caused funding to be drastically reduced; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Tobacco Associates, Inc. has put forth an appeal to the producers of all types of tobacco to join in support of a united and enhanced export promotion initiative for all US produced tobacco; and

WHEREAS, burley and flue-cured growers and their leadership held meetings to explore the support for a joint export promotion effort resulting in unanimous support for the idea; and

WHEREAS, a Steering Committee comprised of burley and flue-cured grower leadership was formed and has agreed to move forward with formulating a proposal to seek a national referendum for the export promotion of US grown tobacco; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange support the efforts of the Board of Directors of

Tobacco Associates, Inc. and the grower leadership in all tobacco producing states to unite in seeking a national tobacco export promotion check-off to fund promotion of U.S. grown tobacco leaf in the world market.

This covers resolution 020 (NC)

Beef Check-Off

WHEREAS, only two of the New England States have organized Beef Councils (Vermont and Maine); and

WHEREAS, the New England area includes major population centers where Beef Promotion and the consumer education have greater impact due to the number of people; and

WHEREAS, current government legislation does not allow for regional Beef Councils; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange encourage the creation of a regional approach to the national regulations pertaining to Beef Councils to allow regional beef councils for small beef producing states.

This covers resolution 021 (VT)

Family Farm Policies and Farm Preservation Programs

1. National Grange believes that policies promoting a viable family farm structure in America's agricultural sector are in the best interests of all citizens. We reaffirm our support for farm commodity programs that serve the best interests of producers and consumers. The National Grange supports programs that will stimulate interest and appreciation for an expanding agriculture industry that provides an abundant supply of reasonably priced food and fiber to meet our domestic needs and still export the products into the world markets.
2. The National Grange calls upon the President and Congress to support programs and policies that will help sustain and enhance family farms by increasing the net farm income, providing economic and tax incentives, and credit and/or tax credits for soil and water conservation without escalating the advantages to non-farm investors.
3. The National Grange believes that a family farm is a business or enterprise involved in the production of food, fiber and related products or services that is owned and operated by the members of a family who make the management and financial decisions and supply at least part of the labor.
4. The National Grange will continue to support the use of lands for the production of food and fiber as long as the enterprises are operated under best management practices as established by the Farm Program Division and the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
5. Federal, state, and local agencies should work for efficient economic development policies that treat the agriculture industry on equal terms with other businesses and industries such as small business loans, tax incentives, marketing practices, and other programs that would help small farmers. The National Grange supports government

rural development programs that provide local off-farm employment for rural people and that provide an improved income for small-and medium-sized farms.

6. The National Grange supports public relation programs that disseminate accurate information on the efficiency and productivity of American agriculture as well as the contributions it has made in providing an adequate supply of food and fiber, and the important role the food and agricultural industry plays in the nation's economy. We will cooperate with and support the efforts of other agricultural organizations in their educational programs pertaining to false, unproven, and misleading statements about the production and safety of agricultural commodities in order to present a true picture of environmentally safe farm and ranch best management practices.
7. The State Granges and the National Grange urge state and federal governments to strengthen, expand, and enforce farmland protection programs to save our farmland for food and fiber production by designing tax laws to enable farm families to pass their land on to future generations. The National Grange supports a reduction in capital gains for retiring farmers who are willing to sell to beginning farmers. The National Grange will also work with Congress to find additional ways to contain urban sprawl through the use of purchasing development rights and conservation easements on agricultural land. Financial institutions, however, should not be allowed to develop agricultural land trusts. In addition land purchase or lease programs should not involve the federal government as the purchaser of private land or development rights.
8. The National Grange urges the USDA to strictly enforce the Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act. We further oppose the use of public funds and/or the services of government agencies in the development of U.S. based, foreign-owned agricultural enterprises.
9. The National Grange urges the appointment of a high-level staff person with appropriate resources as part of the Department of Homeland Security, to target the prevention and minimization of agro-terrorism. We further encourage federal, state and local governments to protect agriculture against bio-terrorism. The National Grange supports the Department of Homeland Security and other appropriate agencies in their efforts to investigate, monitor, develop, and implement plans for the prevention of and/or protection from acts of terrorism and destruction against agricultural producers, facilities of agricultural research, and major food processing and distribution centers.
10. The National Grange supports the passage of "Right-to-Farm" laws.
11. The National Grange urges the promotion of Agri-Tourism throughout the nation.
12. The National Grange believes that there is place for all in agriculture and advocates for: 1.) small-scale farming and 2.) the organic farming movement as an alternative option to current large-scale farming methods.

Federal Programs, Commodity Loans, Target Prices, & Farm Storage Programs

1. The National Grange supports legislative and administrative actions that will obtain an economic return for farmers on their investment of capital, labor, and management that is equal to that of the other segments of the economy. Farm programs should be based on units of production, not acreage, and provide the individual farmer with maximum flexibility in their planting and production decisions. Production yields should be based on the proven yield of the land on that farm. We support allowing farmers to re-establish their proven yields by allowing use of federal crop insur-

ance records. However, we support allowing a farmer to exclude any farm yield or county average yield history when crop insurance records show a yield is less than 50% of the normal yield for a given crop and is caused by any God given weather related disaster (drought-heat, flood, wind, hail, etc.) that is out of a farmer's control. We further support requiring all crop production bases to be established using a soil suitability criteria rating rather than relying only on past crop history and changing farm programs so that a farmer will not lose their farm base from under-planting.

2. Target prices for major commodities should be set in relationship to the national average cost of production, and set at a level that will not encourage over production. Marketing loan programs for major commodities, including soybeans and minor oilseeds, wheat, feed grains, cotton, rice, and other government-supported commodities should provide for a loan rate that is set at the national average cost of production and that redeems the loan at the lesser of the original loan or the state's monthly, weekly, or daily average market price as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. The farmer should retain the difference between the regular loan rate and the marketing loan, provided the loan differential is subject to the $50,000 payment limit. In the absence of a marketing loan, the traditional loan rate should be set at or near the cost of production.
3. The National Grange supports the Farm Storage Facility Loans Program and a farmer-owned reserve program to assist farmers in marketing their crops during times of volatile pricing when grain elevators are unable to provide hedging protection. Storage rates should be commensurate with the cost of on-farm storage enabling farmers to take advantage of storage payments. The Secretary of Agriculture should have discretionary authority to waive the interest charges on reserve loans. We further urge that there be a strict monitoring of grain stored under loan contracts by county, state and national USDA officers, and State Departments of Agriculture.
4. The National Grange encourages Congress to develop new farm programs that take into consideration the cross sector effects of such programs. We urge that competitive sectors be consulted in an effort to lessen the cross sector impacts. We support voluntary "Revenue Assurance Plans" such as the ACRE program in the 2008 farm bill as an alternative to present farm programs as a means of assisting family farmers.
5. The National Grange supports "Constructive Receipt" income exemptions that will exempt advance farm program payments from taxable income for the year they are received and, instead, treat those payments as potentially taxable income for the year they were intended to cover.
6. The National Grange supports allowing small farmers to have more than 1 plot of less than five acres per farm enrolled in set-aside programs.
7. Surplus food purchased by the Government should not be sold at reduced prices to be in competition with ongoing farm prices. Instead, we encourage surplus foods to be given to charitable organizations.
8. The National Grange supports efforts to have Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) figured on average yields for a particular farm using the average production history (APH) according to the Federal Crop Insurance Records rather than the actual production for the current year. The producer should retain the right to choose the day when the LDP price would be established.

Conservation Reserve and Agriculture Conservation Programs

1. The National Grange supports the continuation of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in the 2007 Farm Bill to provide long-term solutions to natural resource concerns on our nation's farms.
2. The National Grange recommends that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) enforce the inspection of CRP land for noxious week control. CRP payments should be withheld from owners of the CRP tracts that are infested with noxious weeds until the FSA or NRCS certifies that the noxious weed control program is being carried out by the landowner. Additionally, all noxious weeds on land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) should be controlled by uniform standards. To assist landowners in their responsibility to control noxious weeds, we further urge the USDA to change the date when mowing is allowed on CRP lands from July 15 to at least as early as June 1. The National Grange urges the NRCS to only enroll class 3 or higher erodible land into the CREP.
3. The National Grange supports federal funding for soil conservation, including sufficient funding to retain technical assistance for conservation. Federal guidelines should provide authority to the local committees so they can best meet conservation needs. Conservation contracts should follow land ownership with penalties assessed for destruction of said practices before the final contract date. In the event any federal conservation cost-share funds are granted to states, all such funds should be made available to farmers for cost-share payments. Conservation funds should be used for the cost-sharing program for which they have been appropriated and none of these funds should be diverted for administrative costs of the states' delivery systems. The Farm Service Agency should update its state conservation funds distribution formulas to help address the most serious long-term conservation needs. The National Grange further supports legislation mandating that a landowner repay three years of payments if they break a CRP contract.

Dairy Policy, Milk Marketing Orders, Dairy Prices, and Inspections

1. The National Grange supports a federal dairy program that recognizes regional differences based upon the cost and amount of production, availability of markets, percentage of production that is allocated to CCC stocks, and the percentage of Class I use. We support creating five regional dairy marketing areas: (1) Northeast Dairy Marketing Area (CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT); (2) Southern Dairy Marketing Area (AL, AR, FL, GA, KS, KY, LA, MS, MO, NE, NC, OK, SC, TX, TN, VA, WV); (3) Upper Midwest Dairy Marketing Area (IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, ND, SD, WI); (4) Intermountain Dairy Marketing Area (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY) and (5) Pacific Dairy Marketing Area (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA). However, we support allowing states to "opt out" of participating in their regional dairy marketing area program, if they choose. We further support creating Regional Dairy Boards to administer these regional dairy marketing area programs that have authority to establish: (1) over-order price (a price higher than the marketing order or non-marketing area price for Class I milk; (2) equalization pools to equalize over-order prices to producers throughout a regulated area; and (3) processor administrative fees. We further sup-

port requiring producer referendum to approve any proposed over-order price establishment, amendment, or termination. We believe that funding for the regional dairy marketing program and the regional dairy boards should come from a National Dairy Producers Fund established with the U.S. Treasury from which the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture shall distribute available funds to the regional dairy boards which, in turn, shall make payments to eligible producers of all milk classes under the regulations established for that region's dairy marketing equalization pools. We further support requiring each covered processor that purchases Class I milk during a month that will be sold in the regulated area of a region to pay into the National Dairy Producers Fund an amount equal to the region's over-order premium multiplied by the quantity of purchased Class I milk for that region.

2. The National Grange supports the use of Basic Formula Price (BFP) in determining the base price for dairy products as well as multiple component pricing for all classes of milk. The National Grange urges Congress to require the USDA to raise the support price of milk for the benefit of both the producer and the consumer rather than reducing the effective support price of milk by "tilting" the prices that the government pays for the various components of milk to over emphasize those components that sell at or above current market prices. We continue to support government direct purchases of dairy products for domestic programs. The National Grange also supports a Safety Net Program that establishes a minimum price for milk paid to farmers.
3. We support the continued payment of Class I differentials and oppose any effort to form a national pool of Class I milk differentials. We further support maintaining the current classification of reconstituted milk and oppose the de-pooling of Class III milk.
4. The National Grange supports the implementation of a forward contracting pilot program for all classes of milk other than Class I.
5. The Grange continues to seek an increase in exports of milk and milk products. We support funding of the Dairy Export Incentive program (DEIP) to the full limit permitted by WTO agreements.
6. The National Grange opposes the importation of caseinates and urges the adoption of tariff rate quotes on Milk Protein Concentrates entering the country. Also the National Grange urges the adoption of standards on how MPC is used and inspected to ensure compliance.
7. The National Grange continues to support the National Dairy Product Promotion Program as a means to promote and increase the consumption of dairy products. We urge the USDA to periodically account to the public for any monies that have been collected from dairy farmers under any assessment programs.
8. The National Grange supports maintaining legal differentiation between real dairy products and 'imitation" or "substitute" products on food labels even if the nutritional equivalency of these products is the same. We suggest that any "imitation" or "substitute" product that resembles a dairy product may not in any manner be allowed to bear the name of the dairy product that it is purported to resemble.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that would extend the present pay and trust provision of the Packers and Stockyards Act to the dairy industry. We further support a national security fund, funded by processors or secured by bonding, to protect against processor bankruptcy if the fund does not preempt a stronger state program.
10. We recognize the need for dairy farm and dairy plant inspections to help ensure the highest quality of dairy products, but insist that duplication of inspections by government entities (city, county, state and federal) be discontinued, where possible. All

levels of government should agree to accept uniform and reciprocal dairy farm and dairy plant inspections.

11. The National Grange supports the Milk Income Loss Contracts (MILC) program in the 2008 Farm Bill.
12. The National Grange at all levels encourages the Dairy Co-ops to voluntarily initiate a program that allows membership of the Co-op to vote on any program that takes money out of the farmer's pocket with a yes vote for approval.
13. The National Grange opposes legislation that requires the labeling of milk/milk products as it relates to BST. The National Grange discourages the promotion of rBST-free milk as being safer or more wholesome. We urge the United State Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission, the USDA, State Attorneys General, and State Departments of Agriculture to investigate false and misleading claims about organic and rBST-free milk that are harmful to the image of non-rBST-free milk and take the proper actions to enforce this policy. Also, the National Grange urges dairy education and promotion groups to better educate consumers that antibiotics are not allowed in milk and dairy products that are sold to the public.
14. The National Granges urges a reform of multiple component pricing in the federal milk marketing order dairy system to follow the California state milk marketing order model by having a mandatory survey of all dairy manufacturing plants including all types of cheeses in order to determine the value of milk components for dairy pricing and to establish a yearly survey of these plants to better determine their operating costs so that the 'make allowance' is set at a level that is most beneficial to both the plant operator and the dairy producer to ensure a healthy dairy industry. The National Grange also will advocate that any further increase in the 'make allowance' for manufacturing plants must come from the marketplace and not from the dairy producers proceeds.
15. The National Grange requests a serious look into the method for pricing of milk produced by dairy farmers to reflect a reasonable margin of return on farmers' investment and to provide for a reasonable living standard.
16. The National Grange opposes any proposal, which calls for a milk tax or cuts called for in the commodity payments.

Tobacco Policy

1. The National Grange supports programs at the federal level to help tobacco farmers diversify their farming operation by raising and marketing of alternative crops and will support new research programs to discover new uses for tobacco, such as a new source of protein.
2. The National Grange supports steps to make U.S. tobacco more competitive in the world market. We urge that all tobacco that is exported as U.S. tobacco must be certified as 100% U.S. tobacco.

Horticulture, Beekeeping and Honey

1. The National Grange recommends continuing research to improve the development of more freeze resistant nursery stock and methods of frost control.
2. The National Grange recommends that a realistic tariff be placed on imported honey

to protect the financial position of the U.S. bee industry that is necessary for the pollination of U.S. agricultural crops. We support the enactment of federal laws that will provide for the inspection of honeybees and honeybee hives that are transported across state lines in an effort to better control the spread of honeybee diseases and parasites. We urge Congress to set up a "bee zone" and appropriate the necessary funds to stop or at least slow down the northward invasion of the killer bees. We further recommend that the USDA promote a program to educate the general public on the importance of bees, and on the destructive Africanized bees now invading the southern United States. The National Grange supports legislative funding for more research into the cause of honeybee colonies disappearance by disease, unidentified predators and other unknown reasons. We also support the establishment of an indemnity program to reimburse bee farmers for their colony losses.

3. The National Grange supports expansion of Federal Crop Insurance and Multi-Peril Insurance Programs to include horticultural crops.
4. The National Grange calls upon the Department of Agriculture, land grant universities, and industry to continue research efforts to determine expanded uses for surplus fruits and vegetables.

Cotton, Soybeans and Peanut Policies

1. The National Grange supports continuing the current peanut program in the 2008 Farm Bill. We recommend closer communication between the USDA and the peanut growers associations.
2. The National Grange will support a cotton program that provides for a marketing loan at a level that will encourage the continued exportation of cotton as well as research into the eradication of detrimental insects.
3. The National Grange supports the use and promotion of soybeans.

Livestock Production and Animal Care

1. The National Grange continues to support the beef promotion programs. We urge State Beef Councils to join in cooperative efforts to target Beef Check-off funds to larger consumer audiences. However, the National Grange recommends that the National Beef Promotion Board consider eliminating the $1.00 "Beef Check-off" on any animal that sells for $20.00 or less.
2. The National Grange seeks a federal indemnification standby program for all livestock and poultry diseases that require condemnation and slaughter to eradicate or control the given diseases. We further support federal indemnity programs to indemnify farmers against loss through no fault of theirs in cases such as radioactive fallout, chemical contamination, and bio-terrorism.
3. The National Grange supports exotic animal farming provided it does not create a health hazard for the domestic livestock industry.
4. The National Grange continues to support the beef promotion programs. We urge State Beef Councils to join in cooperative efforts to target Beef Check-off Funds to larger consumer audiences.
5. The National Grange supports using animals in animal agricultural research in order to

advance the science of animal husbandry in the most humane and economic fashion. The National Grange supports efforts to clarify that animals not be declared "sentient beings" that are entitled to the same legal protections as humans. We support the development of educational programs that demonstrate the advantages and humaneness of modern animal husbandry. We oppose any legislation and/or regulations that would hinder good animal husbandry practices. Instead, we support developing a code of "best management practices" for the care and maintenance of agricultural animals and other animals that are under human control. We also support efforts to severely punish individuals and organizations that commit illegal actions against animal agricultural producers and animal agricultural and biomedical researchers and facilities. We support the voluntary efforts of farmers in reducing the number of injured or downer animals. We encourage livestock auction markets to continue their programs of not accepting animals that are injured or are too weak to stand.

6. The National Grange strongly supports the veal industry's continued use of confinement stalls and crates as part of comprehensive humane animal treatment practices employed by the industry. We further recommend that a USDA grader be assigned to all veal calf slaughtering plants so that a farmer or seller receives a fair price from the packing plant for their veal based on the grade that was determined by the inspector and not the plant manager.
7. The National Grange supports rodeos, the use of animals in rodeos, and the great heritage rodeos represent.
8. The National Grange supports pro-active efforts to address legitimate concerns regarding concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and the compliance of CAFOs with Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, hazardous substance release laws and other environmental laws that directly protect the health and safety of the general public. We support direct input by the agricultural industry, scientifically based regulations, transparent research regarding actual conditions on farms, sensible control and enforcement, the development of nutrient management plans, developing cost efficient odor reduction technology, and the zoning of agricultural districts as effective means of addressing CAFO management issues. We recommend the development and use of "the best management practices" (BMPs) for the handling of animal and poultry wastes. We support liability protection for farmers who follow the appropriate regulations and BMPs. We also support strict laws that regulate large livestock enterprises so that they store, process and apply nutrients according to an approved nutrient management plan to assure that excess nutrients will not contaminate the air or waters of the United States. We also recommend strict construction standards to new earthen manure lagoons and set a phase-in period after which existing lagoons would have to meet appropriate standards. We support prohibiting indefinite storage of animal waste by requiring treatment according to federal wastewater standards if the waste is not applied to land or used in another environmentally sound matter. We further support regulations or other provisions to prevent animal owners from using contracts or similar arrangements to avoid responsibilities for animal waste management. We support imposing tough new penalties on the worst polluters. However, we believe that the implementation of any rules and regulations forcing compliance with the Clean Water Act for CAFOs should not become mandatory until all technical expertise and funding is secured and available for the timely compliance with these directives. Any information pertaining to CAFO Nutrient Management plans should be kept confidential, or should not be subject to public disclosure laws since it could be detrimental to the farm operation.

9. The National Grange encourages Congress to provide adequate cost-share funding of at least three million dollars annually for manure pits.
10. The National Grange urges the passage of legislation maintaining the voluntary NAIS system for livestock and poultry and providing adequate funding for the program to be administered through USDA. One of the strong tenets of the program must be strict privacy protection in the national identification program at all levels of government. We further recommend that the method of identification could be breed specific as approved by each breeds' national association such as ear tags, microchips, and/or lots for small animals. The National Grange also supports tax incentives for voluntary participants in NAIS.
11. To help ensure open international trade, the National Grange believes there should be an animal trace-back framework developed and administered by the USDA in case of a health emergency. The procedure should have the following elements once implemented:
    - 48-hour trace-back capabilities
    - Confidentiality
    - One integrated system incorporating breed organization system
    - Federal funding
12. The National Grange supports legislation that clarifies that animal manure is not a hazardous or toxic substance.

Livestock and Poultry Disease Control

1. The National Grange supports continued efforts to eradicate Brucellosis, Johne's disease, Hoof and Mouth disease, Bovine Leukemia virus, tuberculosis, and screw worms, as well as the continued monitoring of our nation's borders against re-infestation of these and other infectious livestock diseases.
2. The National Grange supports funding of increased research to control and eradicate poultry diseases and parasites.
3. The National Grange supports blood testing for Johne's disease in cattle. We further support the development of a test that can isolate the causal organism of Johne's disease in a shorter time frame.
4. The National Grange requests that health charts show freedom from TB and Brucellosis when dairy cattle are either sold or shown.
5. The National Grange supports the use of antibiotics in livestock and poultry feed unless the Food and Drug Administration or other agencies have scientifically established and determined that the use of these antibiotics are detrimental to human health.
6. The National Grange supports the establishment of firm guidelines for the management of bison and elk in the National Parks to control the spread of Brucellosis and the high risk of undulant fever in humans.
7. The National Grange supports state and national regulatory efforts to closely monitor and test animals on game farms in order to prevent the spread of potentially devastating communicable diseases to surrounding domestic and wild animals.
8. In the event of a suspected finding of contaminated livestock on a farm, the National Grange supports on-farm feed source inspections conducted by State Departments of Agriculture as opposed to the proposed FDA inspections.

Food and Meat Inspection Programs

1. The National Grange urges an increase in inspection regulations on all livestock, feed, meats, dairy products and all by-products being imported from foreign countries to the United States for the protection of our animal industry. We support extending mandatory inspection regulations to seafood. We support legislation to implement pathogen detection and reduction strategies based on sound science that targets micro bio-contamination by pathogens that may be harmful to consumers. However, we will oppose adopting "user fees" to pay for inspection services and or any changes in the system that will result in less than continuous inspection during processing of meat and poultry for human consumption.
2. The National Grange will seek legislation to have the uniform expiration date stamped, not coded, on all processed food.
3. The National Grange supports legislation requiring more open notice to the consumer on products containing M.R.M (machine removed meat).

Farmer Credit Programs and the Farm Credit System

1. One of the functions of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) should be a lender of last resort for farmers who are unable to acquire needed capital from conventional lending sources. Caution must be exercised to avoid granting undue advantage to large operations at the expense of family-sized farming units. The Grange urges the FSA to strengthen farm loan programs and assist borrowers in "graduating" to conventional credit sources. Loan programs should provide needed short and long-term low interest credit for soil and water conservation. We believe that the local committees should have the legal authority to act upon all farmer loans. We support providing emergency loans and management assistance during times of natural disasters, commodity embargoes, or economic setbacks to expedite the application, review and granting process for these loans. During situations of economic stress facing FSA farm borrowers, we support maintaining the right of mediation on farm loan foreclosures. We further believe that the present owner/operator or beginning farmer should be given the first consideration of sale or lease in disposing of foreclosed farms.
2. The National Grange supports Farm Credit System programs that will service the needs of farmers who are actively and directly engaged in the production of agricultural commodities. The National Grange opposes the acquisition of Farm Credit institutions by any bank outside the Farm Credit System. We support retaining the present tax exemptions that apply to the Farm Credit System. We specifically recommend that the Farm Credit System creating policies and programs that will assist young and beginning farmers. We support legislation to prohibit the Farm Credit System from increasing its activities regarding insurance coverage for its farm borrowers.
3. The National Grange recommends that the lending authority of the Farm Credit System be expanded to address the total needs of rural communities, including rural economic development. We support the financing of on-farm and off-farm facilities that add value to agricultural commodities or provide services to agricultural production and marketing as well as financing for agricultural exports to all foreign markets. We further support FCS financing directed toward the development of rural enterprises engaged in the development of alternative uses for agricultural commodities and the

development of rural infrastructures, such as water and sewer systems and the creation of state of the art telecommunication systems for rural areas.

4. The National Grange supports requiring all agricultural lending institutions, including those under the Federal Reserve System, to consider the security and payment history of the applicant rather than relying entirely upon his/her cash flow.

Agriculture Trade Policy

1. The National Grange continues to support legislation, trade agreements and other measures that will lead to the freeing of world trade between nations on a mutually beneficial basis. We support "fast track" trade legislation to provide the President with sufficient legal authority to negotiate effectively for a reduction in trade barriers, both tariff and non-tariff. The Grange must continue to work for sound trade agreements for agriculture by encouraging the Administration and Congress to aggressively ensure that American farmers achieve access to all markets covered by trade agreements. We support negotiations to eliminate all tariff and non-tariff trade restrictions against United States' agricultural exports. We continue to favor the principles set forth in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and will support amendments to the WTO that will call for swifter remedies to trade disputes. However, in any new trade negotiations, the National Grange will strongly support the inclusion of provisions to protect the sanctity of existing State Laws, including vigorous defense of challenges to such laws by federal authorities in any multi-national trade court or dispute resolution panel.
2. The National Grange supports the permanent appointment of a chief agricultural negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. We support the strong representation of U.S. agricultural interests in all negotiations regarding U.S. trade relations. In addition, we insist that representatives of USDA and the Department of Homeland Security also be represented at all trade negotiations. We urge Congress to diligently scrutinize all future trade agreements to protect the interests of farmers and consumers before approving those trade agreements.
3. The National Grange continues to work for an adequate food supply for the entire world. We encourage increased food production in developing countries. To that end, we support an international food program that provides for the support of all nations in a cooperative endeavor to meet current and projected food needs in deficient areas and ensures that food will be available and efficiently distributed. All nations should give more support for research, education and development of programs designed to improve the capability of farmers in food deficient areas to meet more of the food needs of their people.
4. The National Grange supports the development of a consistent policy on the use of sanctions by the U.S. government. The National Grange strongly believes that food and food producers should never be used as political pawns for homeland security and politics. The Grange opposes trade embargoes as a first choice of action, but should all choices fail, short of military action, and a trade embargo becomes the only alternative, the Grange urges the federal government to embargo all products- agricultural, industrial and technical- instead of specific agricultural commodities. If sanctions become necessary as a tool of foreign policy, then sanctions should be used only as a consequence of multilateral sanctions.

Agriculture Imports

1. The National Grange supports strict enforcement of laws regulating the importation of harmful species of plants and animals. We further support measures which will require tighter oversight and control at port of entry and market outlets in an effort to control the importation of exotic fowl, pet birds, and the establishment of procedures for the treatment of imported cargoes to prevent the importation of plant or animal insects or diseases.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would require the USDA to certify that food products coming into the USA for human consumption have not been grown or treated with products that are not currently registered for use on food products in the United States.
3. The National Grange does not approve of using inspections, grading, health, and sanitary or labeling standards as non-tariff barriers to trade. We do support placing import quotas and/or import tariffs on agricultural commodities as a means of protecting domestic markets from seasonal and over trend market penetration surges. We urge Congress and the President to investigate dumping of food products from other countries onto the U.S. market that affect our domestic agriculture industry. We insist that all imported agricultural products, including value added commodities, meet the same strict inspection, unapproved pesticide residues, grading, and labeling standards as domestically produced products and that these standards be strictly enforced, and the country of origin supply certification that the imported product is free of harmful diseases and pests. The National Grange supports policies on food origin labeling, consumer educational programs and the traceability of the origin of food between USDA and Homeland Security and increased funding for the inspection of imported food products and ingredients. We specifically recommend that all imported products be labeled with the name of the country of origin including meat, poultry, seafood and fresh produce until the consumer purchases it as a means of providing vital information about food sources. We further support the elimination of all export subsidies on agricultural products imported into the United States or the imposition of countervailing duties to offset the subsidy value.
4. The National Grange supports strict enforcement of existing countervailing duties to offset the subsidy value on certain agricultural and timber products being imported from Canada to protect the agriculture and timber industries in states along the Canadian border.
5. The National Grange supports opening the U.S. border to Canadian live beef under thirty months of age for immediate slaughter.

Agriculture Exports & Embargoes

1. The National Grange encourages its members to work through their commodity export promotion organizations on increasing the producers' participation in export market development. We strongly support retaining the present system of private enterprise and cooperatives in export sales. We continue to support government export credit programs, including blended credit, and propose the establishment of a revolving export credit fund. We further support the formation of a national marketing federation of regional marketing cooperatives to cover all agricultural export commodities and better serve the world's markets. We encourage all segments of the agricultural com-

munity to increase their private investment in export market development for American agricultural commodities.

2. The National Grange supports legislation or administrative action that will continue to maintain and increase the exporting of agricultural commodities. The Grange will oppose restrictions being placed on imports into the United States that could result in retaliatory action being taken against U.S. agricultural exports by the exporting country. We support increasing market development programs conducted through the USDA and AID with emphasis on financing and development of the infrastructure of recipient countries to facilitate the receiving and distribution of U.S. agricultural products. We further recommend new emphasis on cash sales for agricultural products along with aggressive exportation of high value-added products. We strongly support keeping the authority to determine national agricultural export policy in the USDA and believe that additional consideration should be given to greater participation by the USDA in the administration and distribution of United States' food aid programs.
3. The National Grange urges the Grain Inspection Service of the USDA to take all necessary steps to ensure that only grain of the quality specified in the purchase be moved into the export market. We support a thorough investigation of the practice by grain buyers of adulterating the grain their purchase from farmers with foreign matter and additional moisture prior to resale by the USDA and by State Departments of Agriculture.
4. The National Grange supports integrating and coordinating existing state and federal governments' export marketing programs, such as the Market Access Program, the Market Promotion Program, and other similar programs that are designed to develop and expand foreign markets for U.S. farm products. The National Grange supports the development of marketing programs to expand agricultural exports that encourage the participation of new export marketing groups, such as farm cooperatives and export trading companies. Farmers selling commodities directly into the export market should be subject to all of the protections and restrictions that apply to corporations and other commercial ventures that are selling into the export market. We support all efforts to maintain the sanctity of export contracts. We support monitoring and full public disclosure of information concerning sales to foreign countries.
5. The National Grange will oppose any attempt to embargo, restrict or otherwise burden the export of logs or any other privately grown agricultural commodity by a complete or partial ban, quota, or tax of any nature.
6. The National Grange supports swift implementation of the Taft-Hartley Act's provisions against workers who refuse to load agricultural commodities for export.
7. The National Grange supports developing agricultural trade with Cuba. We seek means whereby Cuba might be extended loans and/or credit to purchase U.S. agricultural products.

Marketing and Cooperatives

1. The National Grange strongly supports agricultural cooperatives and the special legal status granted to agricultural cooperatives under the Capper-Volstead Act which authorizes farmers and producers to form associations for the purpose of collectively processing, handling, and marketing agricultural products in interstate and foreign commerce. We support tax law changes that would allow cooperatives to raise addi-

tional equity capital to expand cooperative operations as long as such equity does not undermine farmer ownership and control of their cooperative. We support allowing grain-marketing cooperatives to receive commodity loans.

2. The National Grange supports purchasing, processing, marketing, rural electric, rural cable and satellite television, rural broadband and telephone cooperatives that are providing high quality products and services to their members.
3. The National Grange urges the USDA and other appropriate agencies to continue their educational programs for farmers on the use of the futures market through hedging and other marketing options to increase farm profitability.
4. The National Grange continues to support the efforts of commodity organizations to improve the promotional activities for their products.
5. The National Grange endorses federal and state legislation to protect the bargaining status of cooperatives.
6. The National Grange supports extending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1937 to include all agricultural commodities.
7. The National Grange urges the USDA to cooperate fully with the states in developing direct farmer to consumer marketing programs.
8. The National Grange recommends that the provisions of any check-off be approved by a majority of the producers of that commodity in a national referendum. Following producer approval, the programs shall be mandatory, without refunds, and that no more than 5% of the check-off funds can be used for administrative costs. The funds shall be under the control of the promotion board with final decisions and ultimate responsibility for administering check-off programs residing with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
9. The National Grange supports a study to determine the feasibility of a check-off program for agricultural commodities to fund a research, educational and promotional program on the nutritional benefits that product.
10. The National Grange supports a national agricultural marketing policy which would encourage farmers to retain important production and marketing decisions in their own hands and that would encourage domestic regional marketing cooperatives to develop a cooperative marketing federation that is capable of entering into the international market for selling farm commodities.
11. The National Grange supports retaining present state standards for Maple Syrup, and opposes any mandatory federal regulations that would be less stringent than present state regulations.
12. The National Grange urges the United Soybean Board to continue to focus check-off monies toward research to combat the aphids and rust situations.

Chemicals for Agriculture: Weed, Pest and Predator Control

1. The National Grange urges the EPA to consult with state, industry, and user groups when developing policy and regulations that relates to pesticide industries. The National Grange urges the EPA to use a reasonable approach in carrying out the provisions and requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. We recommend relying on impartial scientific research data that is based on the normal human consumption patterns of a product before suspending or canceling the use of a particular chemical. We support increased research and education being done by the

USDA and EPA to improve integrated pest management. We support the reinstatement and full funding of the USDA's Pesticide Data Program. We further recommend that Congress provide additional funds for land grant colleges and universities to be more actively involved with biological pest control research.

2. The National Grange supports efforts to provide information to growers and farmers on actions that can be taken when adverse public statements are made questioning their use of agricultural chemicals that are legally registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We further seek legislation that would protect a farmer from criminal or civil liability regarding that farmer's use or disposal of an EPA-registered and approved herbicide or pesticide in accordance with the manufacturer's printed instructions.
3. The National Grange supports the reasonable and practical use of agricultural chemicals as well as reasonable and practical standards for reentry to fields or areas treated with agricultural chemicals. We urge the USDA to establish a certification program for applicators that encourages herbicide best management practices to prevent adjacent property damage. We further support adequate funding for increased research by all appropriate government agencies to develop, improve, and disseminate information on alternative or sustainable agriculture. We support developing educational programs for farmers on the safe use and disposal of agricultural chemicals, including their containers, in an environmentally safe way.
4. The National Grange supports allowing the continued and appropriate use of the following farm chemicals: 2-4-D for weed control; triazines for crop protection; Elgetol for thinning apples; Compound 1080 for predator control; Methyl bromide for controlling insect infestations in stored commodities and any chemicals found to be effective in controlling fire ants. We further encourage the EPA to reevaluate their restrictions on certain pesticides that are used for grasshopper control so that a more effective environmental control program may be offered to farmers and ranchers.
5. The National Grange supports legislation that provides increased and continuous funding for the IR-4 minor use pesticides program. We recommend streamlining the approval process for minor use pesticides by reducing the cost and time necessary for registration or re-registration.
6. The Cooperative Extension Service and the State Departments of Agriculture, in cooperation with retail and wholesale dealers of lawn and garden pesticides, should conduct special pesticide application classes for homeowners to ensure the proper use and disposal of unused chemicals and their containers.
7. The National Grange opposes the EPA classifying plants as a pesticide based upon genetic engineering.
8. All fertilizer manufacturers using toxic, heavy metal, chemical or radioactive wastes should be required to list those components on the package label.
9. The National Grange will support a high priority program for the control of noxious weeds on all lands including Witchweed, Tartanian Honeysuckle, Russian or Autumn Olive and Multiflora Rose. We further urge Congress to prohibit all sales of any form (live, dried, seeds) of any plant that has been placed on a state, regional or national noxious weed list.
10. The National Grange urges the USDA to continue funding for the control of the Asian Gypsy Moth; Pine Beetle; Tussock Moth and the Asian Long Horned Beetle. We support additional funding and legal authority to restrict the importation of foreign pests into the U.S. We urge USDA to alert the general public to the potential threat that foreign insects pose to our native species.

Research and Extension

1. The National Grange strongly supports the cooperative Extension Service (ES) as well as the land grant universities in their effort to maintain a quality extension program in their respective states. We recommend renewed federal funding for the State Farm Safety Specialist position and farm safety programs, establishing a job retraining program for displaced, disabled, or injured farmers and ranchers, maintaining a viable 4-H Program, and increased funding by all government entities so that the ES can provide information on alternative and sustainable agricultural practices and marketing methods.
2. The National Grange continues to strongly support adequate funding for basic and applied agricultural research from federal, state and private sources. We specifically recommend full funding of the federal share of agricultural research, especially in cases of emergencies when increased research is required. We strongly support additional research to provide the technology that is pertinent to small-scale agriculture, including more emphasis on research in the areas of marketing, insect control, disease control, energy use, improved product quality, and soil and water management.
3. The National Grange supports increased funding for the National Seed Storage Laboratory in an effort to preserve plant material and seed germ plasm.
4. The National Grange will support research and education programs that will promote the goals of sustainable agriculture research, of precision agriculture practices and organic farming practices. The goals of research in these areas should be the development of the most efficient and effective Best Management Practices (BMP's) to reduce soil loss due to erosion, make animal nutrition more efficient, reduce the amount of waste, reduce the nutrient levels in waste, and to identify methodologies that will result in higher profitability from production through market development.
5. The National Grange supports the Teff Research Bridging Ethiopia and Kansas/Nebraska concept proposal that will pursue cooperative farming and marketing practices that will raise income and pricing control of internationally cooperating smallholder farmers.
6. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), land grant universities and producer funded organizations to study the phenomenon of 'falling numbers' in wheat, a condition which causes wheat flour to not bind together as needed and causes a price reduction to the grower.
7. The National Grange supports increased research through the states in growing mushroom spawn.

Biotechnology Policy, Research and Application to Agriculture

1. The National Grange supports a federal policy to allow the use of biotechnology in agriculture. We recognize that genetic engineering of plants and animals has already increased the availability of food, and decreased the environmental impact of agriculture, resulting in safer, longer-lasting, more nutritious and better tasting food. We further support continued research on biotechnology and genetic engineering, including further scientific research into non-human cloning. We support an approval process for genetically modified plants and animals, including plants and animals intended for industrial and pharmaceutical production, which utilizes science based decision

making to assure the safety of agricultural products. To that end, the National Grange philosophically supports the efforts of National Science Foundation (NSF) concerning their Plant Genome Initiative.

2. The National Grange supports legislation requiring that patented plants and livestock developed through biotechnology (gene-splitting, cloning, genetic engineering, etc.) be made available to all farmers regardless of the farm size.
3. The National Grange supports establishing a scientific advisory committee composed of representatives from the Food and Drug Administration, the United States Department of Agriculture, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Academy of Science to provide the public with information regarding biotechnological research and the effect that any new discovery may have on the environment, food safety, or human health. The Grange urges these agencies as well as the other national farm organizations to publicize the safety of GMO's to help reduce the resistance of this technology.
4. The National Grange supports pending current congressional legislation that would allow U.S. farmers to save seed from GMO seed for their own use if they pay a tech fee per bushel that would go to the patent holder. Furthermore, the National Grange supports legislation to protect farmers from claims of having "patented DNA" in their crops if that DNA was prevalent due to "pollen drift." We also support further testing of the effects of pollen drift.
5. The National Grange supports legislation whereby the research and development costs (Bio Technology Fees) that are borne solely by the U.S. farmer; either be eliminated; or negotiated in trade agreements that would require participating countries to share these costs.

Anti-Trust Issues

1. The National Grange encourages the USDA to enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act.
2. The National Grange calls on the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the agricultural supply, agricultural transportation, grain handling, pricing policies and the potential anti-competitive marketing practices of all large corporations in the food processing and food marketing industries. We oppose the concentrated growing, marketing and distribution of agricultural production by large corporations other than farm co-operatives in the U.S. We call upon the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the pricing policy of the food industry and anti-competitive marketing practices, such as the purchasing of shelf space and product location that places new and less expensive generic brands at a marketing disadvantage. We express deep anti-trust concerns regarding the control of the U.S. seed supply to both Congress and the Department of Justice and urge both to conduct a close review of recent acquisitions and mergers.
3. The National Grange urges the Secretary of Agriculture to appoint a study committee composed of representatives from farm organizations, commodity groups, and integrators to study the terms of grower contracts to determine fairness to both parties and their acceptance by lending institutions. We further support better nationwide reporting of price and contract information, including forward contract prices, and on going studies of the relationship between farm gate prices and retail prices. We urge USDA to fully fund these efforts.

4. The National Grange urges the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to address issues related to Internet and other exchange trading mechanisms of agricultural production contracts. We urge the imposition of necessary regulations on the public trading of off exchange agricultural production contracts where appropriate to protect the farmer.

USDA Responsibilities, Authorities & Organization

1. The National Grange supports the repeal of the USDA's personnel regulations that forbid USDA employees from actively participating in the meetings and other activities of farm organizations, from holding office in farm organizations, from participating in membership recruitment campaigns, or from acting as a volunteer financial or business agent of a farm organization. This should not change or alter the USDA's other regulations concerning general employee conduct.
2. The National Grange strongly urges the USDA to devise plans to reduce the paperwork for farmers to participate in federal farm programs. We urge the USDA and its agencies to format all reports, applications etc., that are to be filed by farmers, so they may be filled out via computer media using commonly accepted word processing programs, and returned to the agency for processing.
3. The National Grange continues its long-standing support of the County and Community Committee System as the proper means of supervising and administering all farm programs. We pledge our full support for the federal government in investigating incidences of discrimination and in implementing action that will bring about changes to end racial discrimination in USDA policies. We urge stricter monitoring and enforcement of the Farm Service Agency's farm programs in order to eliminate any abuse of farm program regulations. The Grange supports funding and staffing of the Farm Services Agency at levels that are consistent with congressional mandates. In meeting these mandates, we will support co-location and cross-agency use of personnel from various agricultural agencies within counties where offices now exist.

Disaster Assistance and Risk Management

1. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation of the multi peril Federal Crop Insurance program (FCI) that provides coverage on all program, non-program and specialty crops on a nationwide basis. We support changes in the FCI program that would include multi-peril insurance for all crops. We recommend that federal crop insurance coverage be updated annually to reflect the cost of production. We further believe that area coverage should be dropped and a realistic production base should be established for each tract of land.
2. The National Grange urges the USDA Risk Management Division to take steps to accelerate the processing and payment of claims. We support using uniform standards for grading fruits for market, hail and other damage payments.
3. The USDA Risk Management Division should discontinue providing insurance coverage on a percentage basis. Coverage should be changed to insure crops on a dollar amount of loss per acre (or unit). The National Grange recommends removing any percent cut on estimated yields if weather conditions prevent timely planting. In addi-

tion, the USDA Risk Management Division should delete all of the current footnotes and should clearly state all exceptions, limitations and other provisions concerning crop coverage in the insurance policy.

4. The National Grange supports disaster aid relief that is based on individual rather than countywide losses. We support allowing all farmers in a designated disaster county to be eligible for federal or state agriculture disaster assistance programs. We urge the federal government to make available a recourse loan on a need basis for damaged commodities.
5. The National Grange supports provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill that authorize the USDA Risk Management Division to allow an option that will permit producers covered by the USDA Risk Management Division's crop insurance to obtain a replant payment if replanting is required.
6. The National Grange supports "permanent disaster" provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill that authorize the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to streamline procedures that will expedite implementation of the disaster and market loss program payments without reducing any other farm bill program spending.
7. The National Grange supports the Farm and Ranch Risk Management (FARRM) account program allowing farmers and ranchers to deposit a set-aside amount of pre-tax dollars into an interest-bearing account to average income fluctuations as adopted in the 2008 Farm Bill.
8. The National Grange supports legislation or regulatory action to delay the due dates for crop insurance premiums from the current October 30 until November 30.
9. The National Grange urges federal crop insurance to cover losses caused by 'falling numbers' in wheat, a condition that causes wheat flour not to bind together.

Farm Labor

1. We recommend establishing procedures for negotiating labor disputes that will minimize disruptive labor strikes, especially during critical growing and harvesting periods. We also support a prohibition on the exclusive use of hiring halls for supplying agricultural labor and a prohibition on the use of secondary boycotts.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that will reduce federal funding of the Legal Service Corporation (LSC), a federal agency that provides legal services to the poor, including migrant farm workers. The LSC legal services should be limited to representing the poor in the courts, not an advocacy group for farm employees that investigate perceived violations of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act.
3. The Workman's Compensation Insurance Program should be the exclusive remedy for work-related injuries under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act.

Farm Safety

1. The National Grange supports a comprehensive farm safety-training program for operation of farm machinery, use of chemicals, and animal management to be funded through the Cooperative Extension Service at land grant universities.

2. The National Grange supports legislation that would require manufacturers of tractors and self-propelled farm equipment that may be used on public highways be equipped with signal lights and reflectors that would be visible from all sides. Machinery and wagons should be equipped with reflector tape.

Miscellaneous

1. The National Grange continues to support the development of aquaculture. The National Grange supports and promotes the use of sustainable seafood that is harvested from the wild or from aquaculture in measured quantities and that uses methods ensuring the long-term health and stability of the species and the larger aquatic environment.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would ensure a producer the "right to harvest" any legally planted crop in spite of any environmental or regulatory action arising between planting and harvest time.
3. The National Grange opposes research, production, processing and marketing of industrial hemp.
4. The National Grange supports requiring all meats in the national school lunch program to meet the new standards used by the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service.
5. The National Grange supports initiatives to encourage the use of farm structures as a base for communication antennas or renewable energy production.
6. The National Grange seeks a more aggressive position on the issue of irrigation water shared by the U.S. and Mexico on behalf of the U.S. interest and that the period of payback for the excess usage of irrigation water be limited to two years rather than five years.
7. The National Grange urges manufacturers to embed serial numbers into cast components of new tractors and/or hide them inside of the housings to deter theft.

Many thanks to a wonderful group of individuals who served on the Agriculture Committee this year. It was a cooperative group that made deliberations run smoothly. Special appreciation goes to Bruce Croucher who did a great job as secretary. We also appreciate the assistance provided by Leroy Watson and Gordon Gibson.

We also appreciate the help of Maurice Wiles, Gary Brumbaugh, who spoke on resolutions from their states.

Fraternally,

Jimmy Gentry (NC), Chair	Gordon Groves (IN)
Bruce Croucher (NY) (H), Secretary	Linda Chase (MA)
Linda Lewis (CA)	Jack Smithers (TX)
John Hagan (CO)	Jim Loomer (WY)
Don Billmire (ID)	Phil Prelli (CT) (H)

AUDIT & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

POLICY STATEMENT

The members of the Audit and Budget Committee wish to thank our National Master Edward Luttrell, the Board of Directors and the National Grange Staff for providing us with a balanced budget in a format, which is easy for all to understand.

We concur with the Annual Address of the National Master that the tremendous increase in fuel costs has placed a strain on finances and we commend Brother Ed for trying to budget accordingly.

Due to our case against Tyson Foods, attorney's fees have also caused a substantial increase in our expenses for this next fiscal year. We would implore our Granges throughout the land to contribute whatever they are able in order to help defray the cost to the National Grange. It is necessary that we win this fight in order to hold onto our name and all connected with it. This will affect all of our Granges.

We would also encourage Granges to contribute to our National Grange Headquarters building reserve fund. This building is a real asset to the Order, not only providing a highly visible location in the nation's capitol, but providing income for our organization. But if we are to continue renting offices to tenants which will provide the highest return for our investment, we must keep up the appearance as well as the structural integrity of the building, starting with the outside and the lobby, as you enter the first floor. We cannot emphasize enough that this building provides income which helps keep the dues down.

Remember that all donations to the Grange Foundation are tax deductible as the Foundation has 501(c)(3) tax status. We encourage members or nonmembers to continue their financial support of the Youth Leadership Fund, the Kelley Farm, the General Foundation Funds, and the National Grange Endowment Fund. Members and nonmembers alike may wish to consider the Foundation for memorials or estate planning.

We would encourage our Grange Brothers and Sisters to continually work on increasing membership and inspiring these new members to take an ownership in our Grange so that we may be able to continue and thus increase the good work of our Order many, many more years.

CREDENTIAL REPORTS

This is the report of the Committee on Audit and Budget that deals with the credentials of the delegate body. The Secretary's records show the following states have 15 or more Granges, have their dues paid for the current year, and the following duly elected delegates are entitled to be seated as representatives of these states at the 142nd annual convention of the National Grange:

California	Randy Lewis	Linda Lewis
Colorado	John Hagan	Trudie Hagan
Connecticut	Robert Sendewicz	Marge Sendewicz
Delaware	William Narvel	Barbara Narvel
Idaho	Don Billmire	Jeannie Billmire

Illinois	David Donley	Mary Donley
Kansas	Roger Bostwick	Melanie Bostwick
Maine	James Owens	Rick Grotton
Maryland	Maurice Wiles	Donna Wiles
Massachusetts	Calvin Chase	Linda Chase
Michigan	Christopher Johnston	Connie Johnston
N. Hampshire	Beth Merrill	Arthur Merrill
New Jersey	Pete Pompper	
New York	Oliver Orton	Karen Orton
No. Carolina`	Jimmy Gentry	Anita Gentry
Ohio	Gary Brumbaugh	Linda Brumbaugh
Oklahoma	Yvonne Meritt	Kay Meritt
Oregon	Phyllis Wilson	Mark Noah
Pennsylvania	Betsy Huber	Beth Downey
Rhode Island	Scott Sherman	Amanda Sherman
Texas	Jack Smithers	Margaret Smithers
Vermont	Clyde Berry	Errol Briggs
Washington	June Hendrickson	Jack Hendrickson

The Secretary's records show the following states have the required 6 to 14 Granges, have their dues paid for the current year, and the following duly elected delegates are entitled to one vote and are entitled to be seated as representatives of these states in the 142nd annual convention of the National Grange:

Alaska	Gaye Hunt	
Florida	Ruth Gray	
Indiana	Gordon Groves	Lucille Groves
Iowa	Dwight Baldwin	Kathy Baldwin
Minnesota	Richard Field	Claire Field
Montana	Marty Billqiest	Joyce Billquist
Nebraska	Joe Fryman	Tammy Fryman
South Carolina	John Hammett	Hazel Hammett
Tennessee	Judy Sherrod	
Virginia	Jimmy Taylor	
West Virginia	Jim Foster	Earlene Foster
Wisconsin	No Delegates	
Wyoming	DeeDee Loomer	Jim Loomer

Potomac Grange is represented by Joan Smith.

Tracey Blasingame (IL) and Trisha Browning (WA) have been selected as the John Trimble Youth Legislative Experience participants for the 142nd annual convention, and are entitled to be seated as the Youth Representatives.

NATIONAL GRANGE 2008 PROPOSED BUDGET

Income	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Budget
Dues and Fees Income	$	$	$		
Subordinate dues	802,491	693,942	716,007	773,618	770,520
Subordinate & Pomona charter fees	240	240	25	322	250
Junior Grange charter fees	60	138	80	60	100
6th degree fees	1,747	496	1,258	1,145	500
7th degree fees	3,920	1,719	2,854	4,250	500
Dues and Fees Subtotal:	**808,458**	**696,535**	**720,224**	**779,394**	**771,870**
Sales Income					
Products	77,409	68,289	67,963	67,423	65,000
Member benefits	21,092	20,836	15,671	16,790	16,000
Certificate sales	10,520	13,038	9,913	9,630	10,000
Shipping and handling fees	147	219	5,778	6,247	5,000
Program development grants	65,265	0	0		
Sales Subtotal:	**174,433**	**102,382**	**99,326**	**100,089**	**96,000**
Other Income					
Building Income	750,745	774,048	828,802	898,119	823,000
Supportive Memberships	125,000	125,000	125,000	122,500	122,500
Fundraising and donations	100	20,075	25,060	20,170	275,000
Legislative Sponsorships (Grants)				82,000	75,000
Electronic media income					10,000
Seminar fees	345	0	0		
Advertising	0	0			1,000
New Grange subscriptions	45	0	0		0
Interest and dividends	5,395	3,569	9,673	5,492	3,500
Miscellaneous	7,471	10,808	19,198	11,382	7,000
Other Subtotal:	**889,101**	**933,500**	**1,007,732**	**1,139,663**	**1,317,000**
Total Income:	**1,871,992**	**1,732,417**	**1,827,283**	**2,019,146**	**2,184,870**

Expenses	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Budget
Personnel					
Board of Directors	10,656	15,099	10,717	9,812	11,600
National Master Expense	110,298	90,083	22,466	27,143	28,765
National Master Salary			51,600	51,500	51,500
National Secretary	500	500	500	500	500
Staff Salaries, taxes, benefits			762,679	660,177	687,515
High Priest	3,092	3,702	2,598	5,214	3,370
Subtotal:	**124,546**	**109,384**	**850,559**	**754,346**	**783,250**
Departments					
Building expense	396,724	481,431	400,703	398,134	423,000
General Administration	414,463	406,903	128,630	306,564	478,000
Communications/Publications	159,020	145,294	93,502	70,987	100,200
IT Systems	65,629	66,843	24,653	14,891	33,500
Junior Grange	10,440	15,576	20,589	19,415	21,620
Legislative	145,338	119,139	8,212	22,950	34,675
Marketing & Sales	218,851	228,011	56,344	49,523	68,000
Membership/Leadership	89,473	73,801	14,882	23,266	30,800
Program Resources	4,400	0	0	0	0
Youth Development	17,222	18,143	16,042	14,159	19,650

Events, Services, Training					
National Convention	146,117	132,903	127,741	170,287	145,000
Presidents Meeting	14,833	13,038	11,579	10,997	15,000
Reps. to State Conventions	18,805	16,131	9,432	12,235	20,000
Subtotal:	**1,701,316**	**1,717,213**	**912,309**	**1,113,409**	**1,389,445**
Other Expenses					
Action Grange	359	0	0	0	0
Contributions	100	0	0	122	0
Furniture and equipment	2,864	4,712	1,482	0	1,000
Special Fundraising	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	1,129	881	653	1,078	1,000
Subtotal:	**4,451**	**5,593**	**2,135**	**1,200**	**2,000**
Total Expenses:	**1,830,313**	**1,832,191**	**1,765,003**	**1,868,954**	**2,174,695**
Gross Contingency:	**41,694**	**-99,774**	**62,280**	**211,154**	**10,175**

My sincere thanks go out to the members of my committee for their help, advice and insight into the budget. I would like to extend a special thanks to the committee secretary for his work in recording the actions of our committee.

Fraternally,

Jim Owens, Chairperson (ME)
Joe Fryman, Secretary (NE)
Chip Narvel (DE)
Dwight Baldwin (IA)
Claire Fields (MN)
Judy Sherrod (TN)
June Hendrickson (WA)

CITIZENSHIP & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES#	MASTER	STATE	TITLE	COMMITTEE	ACTION
201	Smithers	TX	MEMORIAL DAY	Citizenship	Policy Statement
202	Brumbaugh	OH	EARMARKS	Citizenship	Policy Statement
203	Smithers	TX	PORK BARREL SPENDING	Citizenship	Policy Statement
204	Brumbaugh	OH	NATIONAL DEBT AND BALANCING THE BUDGET	Citizenship	Present Policy
205	Sherrod	TN	PENALTIES FOR LEGISLATORS	Citizenship	Adverse
206	Groves	IN	HEALTH INSURANCE ON ELECTED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS	Citizenship	Withdrawn
207	Sherrod	TN	BALANCE OF POWER FOR ALL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT	Citizenship	Present Policy
208	Sherrod	TN	CENSUS AND CONGRESSIONAL SEAT REAPPORTIONMENT	Citizenship	Adverse
209	Sherrod	TN	NO CALL LIST TO INCLUDE POLITICAL TELEMARKETERS	Citizenship	Present Policy
210	Sherrod	TN	ENGLISH AS OUR OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	Citizenship	Present Policy
211	Brumbaugh	OH	MAKING ENGLISH OUR OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	Citizenship	Present Policy
212	Orton	NY	MANDATE RELIEF	Citizenship	Present Policy
213	Groves	IN	SOCIAL SECURITY FUNDS	Citizenship	Present Policy
214	Billmire	ID	SOCIAL SECURITY	Citizenship	Present Policy
215	Gentry	NC	FIRST AMENDMENT	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended
216	Brumbaugh	OH	CELL PHONE SERVICE	Citizenship	Present Policy
217	Foster	WV	NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTY POPULAR VOTE	Citizenship	Withdrawn
218	Johnston	MI	ELECTORAL COLLEGE	Citizenship	Withdrawn
219	Sendewicz	CT	U.S. CADET NURSE EQUITY ACT	Citizenship	Adverse
220	Wiles	MD	FEDERAL SUBSIDIARY PROGRAMS	Citizenship	Returned to the State
221	Brumbaugh	OH	VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended
222	Orton	NY	RETRO-ACTIVE VETERANS COMPENSATION	Citizenship	Adopted as Amended

223	Orton	NY	TOY SAFETY	Citizenship	Transferred to Education & Health

POLICY STATEMENT

We, the United States of America are a privileged country where every citizen has the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We must never forget that our freedoms exist because our forefathers fought and died for them and our troops continue to fight for freedom throughout the world. We must uphold these freedoms as we support our troops and as we celebrate Memorial Day and Veteran's day.

We have the responsibility to pass on to future generations the importance of family, God, education, work and moral treatment and respect of our fellow beings. Patriotism and participating in government affairs must be taught as well as modeled. We cannot be apathetic in our government's decisions.

The Grange must support families as they carry out these responsibilities. The Grange urges families to remember its roots in agriculture as we move into a rapidly changing world. The importance of family and community must never be lost and the Grange can help lead our families to preserve and protect the American family and the communities those families live in.

This covers Resolutions 201 (TX), 202 (OH), 203 (TX), and portions of the Masters address.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

First Amendment

WHEREAS, the market place of ideas has expanded since 1949 and there are an abundance of cable channels rather than a few TV stations that were formerly considered "public trustees"; and

WHEREAS, regulation would filter these broadcasts based on artificial supply and demand based upon a federally regulated allowance or prohibition of free speech; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange oppose any attempt to implement the Fairness Doctrine or any comparable legislation which would inhibit free speech or freedom of the press and support all efforts to allow the marketplace of ideas be subject to free market mechanisms.

This covers resolution 215 (NC)

Veterans Educational Assistance

WHEREAS, providing educational assistance to our military veterans is both needed and productive; and

WHEREAS, The Post -9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007 has a limited life; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange lobby the United States Congress to provide a permanent educational assistance program to serve current and future military veterans.

This covers resolution 221 (OH)

Retro-Active Veterans Compensation

WHEREAS, Veterans, who served "in Country" in Vietnam, incurred certain "presumptive medical conditions" directly resulting from exposure to Herbicides (Agent Orange) and are therefore entitled to disability compensation. Some examples of "presumptive medical conditions" are Diabetes type 2, prostate cancer and lung cancer, and

WHEREAS, if a Vietnam Veteran, who has applied for benefits, dies before the claim is processed, the claim ends, paying no retro benefits to the family or the estate; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to pay the widow/widowers or estates of veterans, any retro-active disability benefits they are entitled to, even if the veteran should die before the submitted claim is processed.

This covers resolution 222 (NY)

Social Welfare Programs

1. The National Grange urges enforcement of current food stamp regulations and encourages related social agencies to assist food stamp recipients with information about foods that meet their basic needs. The National Grange asks the food stamp program to allow essential non-food personal articles such as laundry soap and toilet paper to be purchased using food stamps and opposes replacing food stamps with cash distributions.
2. The National Grange supports requiring additional means to facilitate the identification of each child's father for purposes of welfare recovery.
3. The National Grange supports the continuation of the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program.
4. The National Grange supports federally assisted housing programs that are designed to assist the poor, near poor, elderly, and handicapped. However, we oppose any "shared housing" concept that would force persons to share their federally assisted dwelling with other persons not of their choosing. We further oppose including 'disadvantaged persons' including the mentally ill and other categories of people, in government subsidized housing for the elderly.
5. The National Grange supports legislation, which protects senior citizens and dependent adults from neglect, physical, and financial abuse.
6. The National Grange encourages states to establish a central adoption information center where information on adoptable children could be recorded.
7. The National Grange strongly urges public transportation carriers to continue Operation Home Free that gives runaway teenagers free transportation home.
8. The National Grange supports legislation in Congress that would help revitalize rural areas by establishing a Venture Capital Fund to aid businesses in rural areas.

Native Americans

1. The National Grange supports legislation to impose a statute of limitations on land claims of not more than 40 years on legal actions that are taken by Native American Nations to recover land they sold or otherwise exchanged.
2. The National Grange supports Native Americans in their reservation treaty rights to retain their mineral deposits.
3. The National Grange recommends that non-reservation lands that are purchased by an Indian tribe, or its individual members, should remain on the county's tax rolls. The National Grange also supports legislation requiring the U.S. government to make payments to local governments in lieu of current property taxes for all land purchased for Indian tribes under the Federal Tribal Acquisition Program.
4. The National Grange believes that those Native Americans who use modern technology when they hunt or fish away from established Indian reservations should be subject to the same laws as other citizens.
5. The National Grange supports the continuation of all rights and privileges enjoyed by Native Americans as U.S. citizens, including fulfilling all responsibilities associated with such citizenship.
6. The National Grange supports laws to prevent the robbery or desecration of Native American graves and burial sites and to require newly discovered human remains, grave artifacts and/or sacred items of Native American origin to be returned to the tribes or areas of their origin.

Elections

1. We believe that projections and/or final results of national elections should not be reported or broadcast by the news media until the polls have closed in all western states.
2. The National Grange urges all of its members to exercise their right to vote. We further recommend that all ballots and pertinent instructions for all elections be printed in the English language only and that proof of citizenship be required at the time of voter registration. We oppose same day registration voting laws. The National Grange urges legislation that will provide minimum standards for Presidential and Vice Presidential ballots in all states.
3. The National Grange urges the streamlining of the voting process for members of the Armed Forces during election time to make it easier for them to vote and ensure that their vote gets counted on Election Day.
4. The National Grange supports the current Electoral College system for presidential and vice-presidential elections.

Campaign Reform

1. The National Grange supports campaign reform legislation with definite guidelines regarding limits of spending. We support legislation to prohibit Political Action Committees (PACs) from making contributions to political campaigns. We support the current provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act concerning matching funds for

the Presidential election campaign. We urge State Granges to support similar election and campaign reforms in their respective states.

2. The National Grange supports legislation that would make it illegal for any candidate, holder of public office, or national party, to accept campaign gifts or contributions from foreign countries and/or citizens of foreign countries—at all levels of government.

Elected Officials

1. The Grange favors changing the term of office of Congressional Representatives from two to four years. We also favor 12 consecutive year term limits for Senators and Representatives.
2. The National Grange supports a ban on automatic salary increases for elected officials and Members of Congress, separate from those of judges and other federal government employees. All Congressional pay raises should be considered by Congress during normal business hours and on their own merits as a separate entity to be discussed in open committee hearings and voted on by roll call with a three-fourths majority voting in the affirmative as opposed to being attached to some unrelated piece of legislation. Any approved Congressional pay increases should take effect at the next session of Congress. The National Grange further favors strengthening the law limiting the amount of gifts and money that members of Congress can accept.
3. The National Grange supports eliminating the current Congressional retirement system and mandating instead that members of Congress participate in both Social Security and the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS). We further recommend that all laws, including employment laws, apply to Congressional members.
4. The National Grange recommends that Congress adopt contingency provisions to maintain government continuity in the event of mass casualties among the members of the U.S. House of Representatives and/or the U.S. Senate.
5. The National Grange supports legislation requiring any elected or appointed government official who is convicted of a felony to forfeit their taxpayer-funded pension.

Governmental and Legislative Affairs

1. The National Grange believes: a) that all government-mandated programs and agencies must contain "sunset" provisions, including a target termination date; b) that systematic and continuous reviews of all mandated programs be made periodically by an appropriate board of review; c) that all mandated programs must be funded and financed by the government of origin; d) and that at any point funding is not provided, the mandate will be removed.
2. The National Grange supports the present status of Washington, D.C. as both a "federal city" and the nation's capitol, which is not affiliated with any state government and not a separate state in and of itself. We further favor restricting the Congressional delegates from non-tax paying territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico to being non-voting members of Congressional committees.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would specifically make protection of private property rights and compensating private property owners for property that is taken for public use as a part of the federal statutes. The National Grange supports

strengthening the Constitution's guarantee that a person owning property has the right to control such property, including restricting trespassers, and excluding liability for injuries to a trespasser.

4. The National Grange calls for a federal Blue Ribbon Study Commission to review all regulations enacted, seek comments from the affected persons or industries, and make needed changes in the regulatory process. We urge federal agencies to make information and forms available to concerned parties about new regulations at least 90 days before the enforcement date of new rules and regulations.
5. The National Grange supports a constitutional amendment that allows the President to exercise a line item veto for budget appropriations and authorization bills.
6. The National Grange opposes all legislation limiting the individual's ability to lobby and communicate with our elected officials either directly or through organizations such as the Grange.
7. The National Grange urges the U.S. Congress to expedite funding for a resilient, mobile, wireless, data network between local and state first responders and emergency personnel with federal emergency agencies, such as FEMA, Homeland Security and the National Guard.
8. The National Grange will lobby for Congress to return the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to an independent agency free from the direction of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Government Service

1. The National Grange supports efforts to improve the collection and dissemination of accurate and timely statistical data by all federal agencies. The National Grange opposes the decision of the Department of Commerce Census Bureau to cease including farm families in the yearly survey report as a separate category.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would make compliance with regulatory requirements regarding equipment and services for volunteer fire departments contingent upon providing financial assistance to those volunteer fire departments.
3. The National Grange encourages the federal government to provide assistance within 24 hours following the successful request by a State Governor for a declaration of a national disaster in the United States.
4. The Grange supports legislation requiring the Federal Emergency Management Agency to document and inventory all temporary housing distributed by the agency to citizens whose residences have been destroyed by a natural disaster so these units can be refurbished and reused after they are no longer needed at the original site.

Government Spending

1. The National Grange supports a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget as a permanent solution to our deficit problems.
2. We support efforts at all levels of government to reduce costs and excessive paperwork, to review regulations, and to generally reduce any undue influence of government on the private sector. We favor the review of all tax supported federal incentive programs for possible reduction or elimination. We encourage all levels of government

to downsize or eliminate jobs where possible.

3. The National Grange supports requiring a two-third vote in the House of Representatives to increase the statutory limit on the public debt.
4. The National Grange believes that all funds left in any federal program budget at the end of each fiscal year or any treasury surplus should be applied to reducing the national debt, provided that such amounts shall not automatically be removed from the next year's program budget.
5. The National Grange opposes the federal government's indiscriminate purchase of physical assets for the public domain. Instead, it should support the retention, protection, and development of the physical domain in the best long-term interests of our citizens. If these physical assets cannot be used, they should be sold, and the money should be used to decrease the deficit.
6. The National Grange supports the enforcement of regulations to assure that government programs abide by the bidding process, when appropriate.

Monetary Policy

1. The National Grange continues to support the Federal Reserve Board's independence from congressional and presidential management or control.
2. The National Grange supports reducing the minimum denomination of Treasury Bills and Notes.
3. The National Grange supports the continued use of paper one-dollar bills rather than replacing them with a coin. We favor the continuation of the penny.

Social Security

1. The National Grange encourages Congress to positively reform the Social Security System to ensure its future solvency. The National Grange urges the continuing investigation of all Social Security programs ensuring that only those who are eligible are receiving benefits. The National Grange supports using Social Security funds for Social Security programs only. We oppose the utilization of any funds from the Social Security Trust Fund to achieve a balanced federal budget or for any purpose other than Social Security benefits.
2. We ask Congress to proceed with caution when proposing changes to Social Security and we request that the public be provided with explicit and concise information concerning any major changes in the Social Security system. We further believe that any increase in retirement age must be on a gradual basis during a preset determined amount of time.
3. Returned and/or un-cashed Social Security checks should go back to the Social Security Trust Fund.
4. We support legislation that would increase the penalties for fraud that involves the use of another person's Social Security number.
5. The National Grange endorses the present computation formula that is used to derive Social Security benefits.
6. The National Grange urges Congress to revise Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and other programs for the elderly and handicapped so that an individual's benefits

will not decrease if they decide to marry.
7. The National Grange supports legislation that would remove all Social Security "Earning Limits" for individuals.
8. The National Grange supports any and all federal bills that would eliminate the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provisions, therefore restoring full Social Security benefits to public employees and surviving spouses.
9. The National Grange supports reform that would expedite the application for and processing of Social Security Disability benefits for all clients. We further urge that terminally ill persons be permitted to apply for Social Security Disability benefits upon diagnosis of the terminal illness and the application process be completed within four months of the initial application.
10. The National Grange lobbies to amend the Social Security Act to assure that a beneficiary is paid for the month of his or her death.

Veterans Affairs

1. The National Grange supports the continued operation of all Veterans' Hospitals and veterans' eligibility for medical care and benefits. We further support continuation of the current Disabled Veterans' Compensation Schedule maintaining the current benefits and the criteria for qualifying. The National Grange encourages additional federal funds to be appropriated for the Veterans' Administration for the purpose of improving the service and care of servicemen in the Veterans' Administration hospitals.
2. The National Grange supports the celebration of Veterans Day as a stand-alone holiday, and not in combination with General Election Day, or any other holiday.
3. The National Grange believes disabled veterans should remain eligible to receive all their service related retirements benefits and any other benefits to which they are entitled without offsets or reductions. The National Grange supports legislation requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to pay the widow/widowers or estates of veterans, any retro-active disability benefits they are entitled to, even if the veteran should die before the submitted claim is processed.
4. The National Grange urges all levels of government to protect the parental rights of military personnel such as custody or visitation rights while serving in combat on active duty.
5. The National Grange supports the addition of the phrase "So help us God" to President Roosevelt's quote on the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.
6. The National Grange supports allowing all veterans registered in the Veterans Administration health care system and residing in nursing facilities, both private and state owned, to receive their drugs through the VA pharmacies at the patient's co-pay price prior to admission.
7. Tinnitus is a condition caused by inner ear damage from exposure to hazardous noise levels causing constant ringing or roaring in the ear. The National Grange supports legislation allowing for a separate 10% disability rating by the Veterans Administration for each ear when veterans suffer from Tinnitus as a result of military service.
8. The National Grange encourages a permanent educational assistance program to serve current and future military veterans.

Telecommunications

1. The National Grange endorses and supports the Rural Telephone Bank.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to promote an integrated telecommunications network to assure widely available, high quality telecommunications to all of the nation's users at a reasonable cost as was originally intended by the Communications Acts of 1934 and 1996. We further believe that access to affordable and reliable broadband Internet service is vital to preserving the quality of life in rural America.
   - The National Grange supports a national broadband policy that will:
   - Create a nationwide fiber optic network.
   - Remove the regulatory uncertainty that has deterred broadband investment in rural America.
   - Provide the incentive for private businesses, government agencies, and private citizens to invest in rural broadband deployment and stimulate broadband competition.
   - Spark the creation of new service providers and new innovations that will assist a host of new technologies become more affordable, including cutting-edge wireless technologies that promise to deliver broadband to even the most remote parts of our country.
   - Allow Public Utility Districts (PUDs), or other public utilities to get involved in establishing the wireless communication systems.
3. The National Grange supports continued strict enforcement of the Federal Communications Commission's national "Do Not Call List". The National Grange supports expansion of the Do-Not-Call list to include computer dialed political telemarketing.
4. The National Grange supports legislation to prevent installation of the microcircuit (dubbed "clipper chip") surveillance devices.
5. The National Grange urges the Federal Communications Commission to establish pilot programs such as an easy-to-dial phone numbers for non-emergency situations.
6. The National Grange recognizes the importance of the Universal Service Fund (USF) to the American public, especially in rural communities. To this end, the Grange supports the current fair, nondiscriminatory, and competitively neutral revenue-based Universal Service Fund collection system. The National Grange opposes the Federal Communications Commission proposed connection-based "Phone Tax" as it will shift funding for the Universal Service Fund from phone companies with high volume long distance profits to rural and "necessity" phone customers who can least afford additional costs on their basic telephone service. The National Grange further urges the Universal Access charges in the 1996 Telecommunications Bill be fully implemented. The National Grange urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to approve any petitions by wireless telephone companies that demonstrate their ability to meet the obligations of Lifeline service, especially in rural areas, so they can serve low-income consumers with wireless Lifeline telephone service through the federal Universal Service Fund.
7. The National Grange recommends the U.S. Congress and the State Legislatures to enact laws that would require the communication industry to continue to transmit information on existing technology for a minimum of 5 years after new technology has been developed and is put into service.
8. The National Grange will work with telecommunications coalitions to encourage an increase in the number of cellular phone towers in a large amount of rural America.

Broadcasting

1. The National Grange supports the concept of public broadcasting and urges improved service for our rural communities. The National Grange supports continuing the present level of federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting through self-supporting sources of financing.
2. The National Grange supports the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in its efforts to help rural areas receive satellite TV reception. The National Grange supports legislation to ensure that satellite dish owners in rural areas pay no more for their service than cable TV subscribers in the cities do. The Grange supports regulations requiring satellite television companies to provide rural customers access to more than one predetermined set of local channels including local public access channels in the customer's region.
3. The National Grange believes that the FCC should prohibit the scrambling of the 24-hour weather information. The National Grange encourages the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to issue instructions to all radio stations to include weather alerts, covering the city and state from which they are broadcasting.
4. The National Grange supports the continuation of religious broadcasts on radio and television.
5. The National Grange urges Congress to maintain the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as a watchdog agency to protect the public from unfair practices and monopolies. We oppose media mergers where one company can control all forms of media. We encourage the FCC to provide ample opportunity for new media companies and medium-sized media companies to be able to compete.
6. The National Grange supports elimination of the foul language, obscenities, and vulgar images used on TV, radio, or public places and fully supports the increased penalties for violations imposed by the FCC. The National Grange supports legislation to prohibit advertising the use of the "900" number during children's shows.
7. The National Grange lobbies the FCC to ban the use of emergency vehicles sirens in all radio advertisements to prevent hazards and confusion on the roadway.
8. The National Grange urges Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to require broadcast media to maintain a constant volume level during an entire broadcast, including commercials.
9. The National Grange supports the current financial assistance to support quality, commercial-free educational children's programs.
10. The National Grange supports all efforts to allow freedom of the press, and opposes any attempt to inhibit free speech.

Patriotism, Prayer, and Religious Observances

1. The National Grange strongly supports maintaining The Star Spangled Banner as our National Anthem. The National Grange supports legislation to maintain the wording of the current Pledge of Allegiance including the words "Liberty", and "under God". The National Grange believes that the Pledge of Allegiance should be recited in every U.S. school classroom and by members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives during their opening session each day.
2. The National Grange favors making new national cemetery facilities available.

3. The National Grange supports laws prohibiting the desecration of the American Flag. Flag desecration should be classified as a federal felony and the penalty be strictly enforced with no exception. We urge Congress to pass a constitutional amendment that will ban the desecration of the American Flag. The National Grange supports legislation mandating all United States Flags to be made in the United States from domestically manufactured materials.
4. The National Grange opposes any attempts by any federal, state or local government agency to dictate membership qualifications for any social or fraternal organizations.
5. The National Grange supports adoption of a Religious Freedom Amendment to the United States Constitution. We support the right to practice the religion of our choice without fear of prejudge or persecution. Until then, the National Grange supports an interpretation of the U.S. Constitution, which allows schools, or any other governmental authority, to permit religious prayer, such as invocations and benedictions, as part of any function, especially at graduation ceremonies. The National Grange further supports the right of children to voluntarily participate in prayer in public schools. We support the words "In God We Trust" remaining on our currency and as our national motto. The National Grange supports all public Christmas functions, displays, and/or songs. We believe that all crosses on city emblems or municipal property should remain intact. We further do not believe that courts of law should have final jurisdiction to consider lawsuits to remove religious displays from city or municipal property. Instead, the majority of the voters in that jurisdiction should determine the final decision.

Miscellaneous

1. The National Grange supports programs that strengthen families and advocates educational programs that emphasize the importance of families and the prevention of family dysfunction. The consequences of policies and laws should be carefully examined as to their impact on the family unit.
2. The National Grange supports all rights that are granted in the United States Constitution or Bill of Rights and urges Congress not to consider legislation eliminating or repealing these rights.
3. The National Grange supports the definition of marriage to be the union of one man and one woman, and supports the necessary national laws to withhold any legal recognition from same sex marriages.
4. The National Grange opposes the creation of a National Identification Card.
5. The National Grange favors a Constitutional amendment to make English the official national language. The National Grange supports legislation to require that English be used on all forms through out the United States.
6. The National Grange favors the establishment of a new branch of the Smithsonian dedicated to the nation's food and farm heritage.
7. The Grange supports the establishment of a national tag, collar, or coat identifying a service animal as defined by the American Disability Act (ADA).
8. The National Grange supports a National Weather Service Doppler Station along the coastal area of Washington State allowing weather forecasters the ability to look at weather conditions through the Olympic Mountains and on the coast more accurately.

I would like to thank my committee for their thoughtful deliberations and patience in completing the task at hand. I would also like to thank Calvin Chase for all of his hard work as Secretary.

I would like to thank Allison Fowler and Leroy Watson for their helpful input and advice.

Fraternally,

Clyde Berry (VT), Chair
Calvin Chase (MA), Secretary
Tammy Fryman (NE)
Anita Gentry (NC
Hazel Hammett (SC)
Margaret Smithers (TX)
Earlene Foster (WV)
Bob Sendwicz (CT)
Kim Bascom (NH) (H)

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

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301	Hendrickson	WA	OPPOSING MT. ST. HELENS NATIONAL PARK	Conservation	Adopted
302	Hendrickson	WA	PILT	Conservation	Present Policy
303	Wilson	OR	THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT	Conservation	Present Policy
304	Billmire	ID	EXPANDING TERRITIORIAL LIMITS	Conservation	Present Policy
305	Brumbaugh	OH	NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY	Conservation	Present Policy
306	Brumbaugh	OH	RESOURCE UTILIZATION	Conservation	Present Policy
307	Donley	IL	HIGH MARKET PRICES OF OIL	Conservation	Present Policy
308	Sherrod	TN	OIL PRICES	Conservation	Adverse
309	Sherrod	TN	RESEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL SOURCES	Conservation	Present Policy
310	Billquist	MT	NAVIGABLE WATERS	Conservation	Present Policy
311	Huber	PA	FUEL SURCHARGE INVESTIGATION	Conservation	Adverse
312	Sendewicz	CT	INVESTIGATION INTO THE PRICING OF DIESEL	Conservation	Adverse
313	Billmire	ID	EXPANDING ACCESS TO OIL RESERVES IN THE CONTINENTAL U.S.	Conservation	Present Policy
314	Billmire	ID	DEVELOP OIL SUPPLIES	Conservation	Present Policy
315	Brumbaugh	OH	DRILLING OFFSHORE AND ALASKA	Conservation	Adverse
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317	Chase	MA	FUEL EFFICIENCY	Conservation	Present Policy
318	Wiles	MD	EXPANSION OF OIL DRILLING	Conservation	Present Policy
319	Wiles	MD	ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCES	Conservation	Present Policy
320	Lewis	CA	SUPPORT HAZARDOUS FUEL REMOVAL	Conservation	Adopted as Amended
321	Sherman	RI	GOING GREEN	Conservation	Present Policy
322	Lewis	CA	GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY	Conservation	Adopted as Amended
323	Lewis	CA	YOLO COUNTY WATER TRANSFER GROUNDWATER ORDINANCES	Conservation	Adverse
324	Orton	NY	PLASTIC IDENTIFICATION	Conservation	Adopted

325	Gentry	NC	AGRICULTURE AND WATER USE	Conservation	Adopted as Amended
326	COMMITTEE RES.		SPENT FUEL RODS	Conservation	Adopted
327	COMMITTEE RES.		ELIMINATING TECHNOLOGIES	Conservation	Adopted

POLICY STATEMENT

The National Grange recognizes that the protection of the environment and the conservation of our natural resources are vital national priorities if our country is to remain a pleasant, healthful, and profitable place to live. However, the zealous pursuit of unrealistic and unnecessary environmental and conservation goals can cause not only economic damage to industries that are important to our country, they can also distort the important role that private property rights play in maintaining our liberty. We do not believe that Americans must sacrifice their property or surrender their constitutional rights in order to preserve our environment. Property rights should incorporate greater expectations of fairness and due process for individuals within the context of our relationship with government and society.

We insist that the protection for private property ownership derived from the U.S. Constitution, state constitutions, and the common law be vigorously protected. We believe in limiting the role of the federal government in setting national land use goals and priorities to ensure the preservation of farmland for agricultural purposes. Adequate and full compensation should be paid in all cases of the taking of private property by the government or under the color of government authority, including, but not limited to, government grazing permits, water easements and areas designated as critical habitat for endangered species.

We need to increase our effort to be a source of outreach, leadership, and education by encouraging the support of U.S. agriculture as part of the solution to the energy crisis. We need to encourage further protection and support increased efforts to educate the public, and, in particular, children in school, about the continued importance of the right to own property and the responsibility to protect our most vital resource — America's farmland. We believe the continued increase in the price of fuels has had an injurious effect on the welfare of the family farm and rural America. Because our dependency on foreign oil presents a fragile, ever-changing dilemma, the increased use of alternative fuels would mean less dependency on foreign oil and increased markets for agricultural crops. There are ways for agricultural commodities to be processed to blend with petroleum to provide cleaner and less expensive fuel. The economic and environmental benefits to society of ethanol and agricultural oil based fuels are being proven. We propose the following action plan to address this crisis:

1. Support legislation to enact tax incentives to manufacturers of blended fuels to expand and develop more refineries for the use of farm commodities.
2. Accelerate any necessary funding for research and development of ample and affordable alternative fuels, with incentives being provided to companies that convert their equipment to the use of blended fuels that will help reduce our dependency on imported petroleum and reduce air pollution.
3. Work vigorously with state and national legislators to advocate on behalf of consumers and to take any steps necessary to maintain reasonable petroleum prices and curb increasing economic inflation.

The National Grange encourages wider use of wind energy with governmental subsidy support in appropriate areas suited to sustaining wind power development. The equipment used in production of wind power must be inspected by local utility companies under the guidelines of state Public Utility Commissions or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and when decommissioned, the wind power generation equipment must be removed and the landscape returned to its natural condition.

The Grange, at all levels, also demands responsible stewardship of our natural resources from all who own or use them. Responsible stewardship recognizes a balance between use and preservation. The National Grange supports coordination among federal, state, and local governments when developing land use management plans for federal lands. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the customs, culture and economic stability of the local area must be preserved.

The Grange recognizes the importance of and protection of all watersheds. We also recognize that watersheds do not adhere to boundaries of private and public lands. The Grange opposes the "locking up" of watersheds or portions thereof for a single use by any person or agency, especially public lands that have historically been utilized in the growing and harvesting of timber, forage, and other renewable resources.

The National Grange supports respective regional representation in the appointment of qualified individuals to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The 1973 Endangered Species Act is a major impediment to sound environmental and natural resource management. The National Grange must continue to work closely with the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition to obtain final passage of Endangered Species Act reform.

We must unite our message of all Americans sharing equitably in the cost of species conservation. Cooperative efforts with states and local governments, businesses and individual landowners must be encouraged and current disincentives in the law must be removed. The National Grange will work to ensure that the cost of preserving species not be allowed to fall unfairly on individuals and communities.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Opposing Mt. St. Helens National Park

WHEREAS, National Parks restrict a great many recreational activities; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange oppose any attempt to make the Mt. St. Helens National Monument a National Park.

This covers resolution 301 (WA)

Support Hazardous Fuel Removal

WHEREAS, there is a buildup of hazardous fuel in California forests and National forests in California; and

WHEREAS, such hazardous fuels are in many forms that provide fuel to wildfires in brush areas and in forested regions; and

WHEREAS, it has been the Quincy Library Group's (QLG) mission to designate these areas for thinning to reduce the fire hazard; and

WHEREAS, there have been legal efforts to stop the QLG in accomplishing its goals; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange advocate political actions in support of the harvesting of fire-ravaged timber from fire recovery zones, and that removal of such timber be accomplished before the value of the timber is lost.

This covers resolution 320 (CA)

Groundwater Replenishment in the Central Valley

WHEREAS, the water table in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys is being depleted at a rapid rate; and

WHEREAS, salt is creeping into the Valley groundwater and polluting creeks and streams; and

WHEREAS, groundwater is the only water which many farmers and homeowners can obtain; and

WHEREAS, people need water to live and make a living (farmers); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange advocate to all local, state and federal agencies involved in the transportation, storage, delivery and restoration of water, to develop and institute an emergency program to restore groundwater resources.

This covers resolution 322 (CA)

Plastic Identification

WHEREAS, BPA (Bispenol A) an ingredient used in most plastic containers, ranging from reusable food containers, baby bottles, sippy cups and water bottles to eyeglass lenses and CD cases were recently reported to be dangerous, and

WHEREAS, a greater danger develops when baby formula, plastic food containers and water bottles are heated causing the BPA chemical to be released into the food or liquid, and

WHEREAS, due to the possible behavioral side effects of a fetus, infants and young children that have been exposed to the chemical at current levels, some stores are removing baby bottles with BPA from their shelves and some manufacturers are working to eliminate the BPA from their products, and

WHEREAS, although most products have a code number on the bottom of the container, with #3, #6 and#7 being the most dangerous, some manufacturers have no code on their products or are not designating that the product is BPA free, which a few other manufactures already are doing, and most people are not aware of the number code system or the risk factors involved; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support any proposed legislation that would ban the use of BPA (Bispenol A) in all plastics and would require manufacturers to code their products and label products BPA free, if appropriate, and be it further

RESOLVED, that more efforts need to be made to educate the consumer on the risk

factors of BPA and the code number system on plastic containers.

This covers resolution 324 (NY)

Agriculture and Water Use

WHEREAS, the industries of agriculture have been defined broadly for centuries to allow the flexibility necessary for diversification and economic strength; and

WHEREAS, the use of water is an absolute necessity for the production of crops and husbandry of farm animals; and

WHEREAS, agribusiness is an important component of the overall agricultural equation; and

WHEREAS, arguments have been made for such diverse, non-production processes as the processing of livestock or vegetables, the provision of retail outlets for flowers or even lawn care to enjoy the same priorities as assigned to the production portion; therefore be it

RESOLVED, when defining agriculture for purposes of essential water use and management, the National Grange shall adopt the following priorities:

a) The highest priority for utilization of water should focus on maintaining our ability to produce food with a limitation to the actual agricultural production of crops (food, feed, and fiber), livestock, poultry, aquaculture products and processing animals and crops for food purposes.
b) The non-producer sale of ornamental plants, fertilization and watering of commercial and private lawns should have lower priority.

This covers resolution 325 (NC)

Eliminating Technologies

RESOLVED, the National Grange opposes the passing of any law mandating energy technologies that have not been proven feasible or eliminating successful technologies.

This is an amended Committee Resolution

Water Projects

1. The National Grange recommends that federal, state, and local governments work closely with each other and local landowners in the development and construction of watershed projects, dams, and reservoirs for multiple uses, such as flood control, storing and releasing surplus flood water, replenishing underground water, hydroelectric power generation, irrigation, industrial and municipal use, and recreation. Once a project has been authorized, we believe that it should be constructed, even if a moratorium has later been imposed. We urge both Congress and the President to make the necessary funds available in order to complete all planned and feasible federal water development projects and provide cost share assistance for the rehabilitation of dams and other flood control structures that were previously constructed with federal assistance.

2. The National Grange supports efforts to provide state and federal funds to pay the recreational share of impoundment facilities on small water development projects.
3. The National Grange believes that the federal government should compensate any loss or diminution of water rights resulting from the exercise of a federally reserved right.
4. The National Grange supports legislation to consolidate the activities of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior to eliminate duplication.
5. The National Grange supports local control over state water projects.
6. The National Grange supports a national water policy requiring all alternate sources of water, including full development of desalination plants for urban uses, must be considered before approval of any water diversion project.
7. The National Grange supports the use of existing multi-purpose dams, creating possible draw downs or transfers of water from productive agricultural lands to waters that could possibly assist in flushing young salmon to the ocean, and urge the development of alternative methods of enhancing the fish population including salmon.
8. The National Grange requests the U.S. Corps of Engineers and all environmental agencies to facilitate restorative dredging of rivers prone to flooding.
9. The National Grange supports the accurate monitoring of water drawn from the Great Lakes Water Basin by industrial and agricultural entities and we believe that agricultural water usage should be exempt from any permits and/or fees resulting from the monitoring of the Great Lakes.

Irrigation and Reclamation Act Rules and Regulations

1. The National Grange supports irrigation rules and regulations that prohibit abuse of the Reclamation Reform Act and assure the fullest measure of benefits from federal irrigation projects for family farmers. The National Grange supports the continued development and widespread utilization of more efficient irrigation systems in addition to legislation outlawing the practice of using trusts, partnerships, corporations, and estates to circumvent the 960-acre irrigation subsidy qualification that favors small farmers.
2. The National Grange supports a ranking system where the highest priority for utilization of water on agricultural lands should focus on maintaining our ability to produce food with a limitation to the actual agricultural production of crops (food, feed, and fiber), livestock, poultry, aquaculture products and processing animals and crops for food purposes. The non-producer sale of ornamental plants, fertilization and watering of commercial and private lawns should have lower priority.

Klamath Basin Aid

1. The National Grange will actively work to reverse the actions of the Ninth Circuit Court and permanently restore the flow of life-giving and life-sustaining water from Klamath Lake to the farmers and farm communities served by the irrigation systems.
2. The National Grange urges Congress to investigate the closure of irrigation facilities for the benefit of suckerfish in the Klamath Falls Basin and determine the consequences of the loss of irrigation water in the Klamath Falls Basin in Oregon and California.

State Authority for Water Rights

1. The National Grange vigorously supports state control of water rights. We oppose any federal plan that infringes on states' water rights. In particular, any water resource planning that is conducted by state or federal agencies must respect both the states' sovereignties and the agricultural sector in establishing priorities for water allocations. The National Grange firmly opposes the inter-basin transfer of water that would diminish the flow of water into downstream states unless such transfer is in accordance with an approved river basin compact.
2. The National Grange supports maintaining minimum water levels along the Great Lakes in order to continue the current amounts of commerce, hydroelectric production and tourism. We support only allowing those states and provinces that belong to the International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes to remove and use of the waters of the Great Lakes.
3. The National Grange supports a nationwide grassroots effort to stop federal government agencies' taking of individual water and water rights.

Clean Water

1. The National Grange supports federal clean water laws and regulations that are based upon realistic and obtainable goals and are enforced uniformly between the states. We regard a zero pollution standard as being totally unrealistic and unobtainable.
2. The National Grange recommends that adequate state and federal funds be provided for any soil or water conservation program required by the Clean Water Act, including at least 75% of the federal cost share on agricultural best management practices for non-point source pollution abatement administered through local conservation districts. The National Grange urges Congress and the President to clarify Clean Water Act Section 303 (d) so that the Total Maximum Daily Load will be reasonable and attainable without extreme hardships placed on agriculture and other industries.
3. The National Grange supports legislation to provide funds to study water quality regarding groundwater contamination. We further support the creation of groundwater protection and management plans that will limit the amount of toxic chemicals in groundwater realizing that a policy of no degradation is unobtainable. We support local control of groundwater management and management plans and support the enforcement of penalties to cities and towns that improperly dump waste in our streams and waterways. Also, the National Grange supports government agencies at all levels to develop and institute an emergency program for the transportation, storage, delivery and restoration of groundwater resources.
4. The National Grange supports an organized effort to prevent reauthorization of the Clean Water Act that will exclude provisions requiring a state to designate any water with a population of a threatened or endangered species as an Outstanding Resource Water.
5. The National Grange urges the passage of federal legislation that would amend the regulations of the Clean Water Act, to limit the powers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency over inland waters and wetland, thus preserving States and individuals rights. The National Grange supports keeping the word "navigable waters" in the Clean Water Act.

6. The National Grange urges the U.S. Government to engage in diplomatic negotiations on the environmental impacts that contribute to air and water pollution before permitting the transfer of electricity across the borders into the United States.

Wetlands

1. The National Grange supports legislation to improve the wetlands regulatory programs by federal, state or local governments to streamline the permitting process; delineate wetlands by categories based on readily identifiable natural characteristics, environmental value, function, and abundance; refine the wetland mitigation system; improve the system of compensation for private landowners; and increase the role of the states in the wetland permitting process. We further support exempting wetland designations from areas that are artificially created by irrigation, stock water ponds, fire protection ponds or have been cropped for one of the last five years.
2. The National Grange requests Congress to put a moratorium on the funding and design of new wetlands to aid in the control of mosquitoes carrying the West Nile virus.

Soil Conservation and Non-Point Source Pollution

1. The National Grange supports voluntary programs to control specific known point sources of pollution, as well as non-point sources of agricultural pollution. We support the concept of conservation tillage practices and other types of sediment control. We encourage broad participation in the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act studies in order to assure that quality, locally designed and controlled conservation programs are developed in order to meet the needs of family farmers. We specifically support the continuation of cost sharing programs to establish grass strips along the boundaries of cropland, fields and waterways to control soil erosion and runoff. We also support programs offering at least 50 percent cost share assistance to correct agricultural pollution and free technical assistance prior to non-income producing practices that require major expenditures.
2. The National Grange supports the privately financed National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation, the creation of an American Conservation Corps as well as vocational programs to educate and train youths to help in the conservation of our woodlands and other natural resources, using presently established facilities. We believe that all citizens should share in soil conservation costs through tax dollars that support state and federal programs focusing on technical assistance, research, education, loans and cost sharing programs.
3. The USDA should redefine water conservation in the national soil and water conservation programs to include both irrigation and drainage.
4. The National Grange supports locally developed storm water management programs administered through local conservation districts.

Toxic and Hazardous Wastes

1. We urge the Environmental Protection Agency to work in conjunction with local

government entities to determine when and if Superfund cleanup is necessary in any specified parcel of land or body of water. Funding should come from an assessment on companies that produce such wastes and from fines resulting from non-compliance. We further support efforts to overhaul the Superfund program so it will expedite clean-ups and prioritize the sites deemed necessary for clean up.

2. The National Grange supports a program to educate consumers on the proper handling and disposal of hazardous household waste, such as energy saver light bulbs and any other items containing Mercury.
3. The National Grange supports levying a fine against any company that is found to be responsible for an oil spill that is equal to the costs that the government incurs in cleaning up the oil spill, including the wages of the government and military personnel, and should not be deductible from federal, state or local corporate income taxes.
4. The National Grange supports realistic insurance coverage plans being made available by the federal government at a reasonable cost for existing and future storage tanks and other causes of toxic and hazardous waste pollution.
5. The National Grange supports legislation that would require urban sewer sludge disposal to be strictly regulated, i.e. knifing or ground injection as used in agriculture. We only support the burning if such burning meets EPA air quality standards.
6. The National Grange supports federal legislation prohibiting the dumping of waste material or raw sewage from foreign countries in landfills located in the United States.
7. The National Grange requests the Federal Trade Commission to place a warning label on CCA copper pressure treated wood and to continue research on non-toxic materials in preparing wood for building materials.
8. The National Grange supports public education of the dangers of sodium azide and legislation to set guidelines for the proper storage or disposal of all unused airbags.
9. The National Grange supports agricultural exemptions from the Environmental Protection Agency's Spill Prevention Containment and Control ruling.

Mining

1. The National Grange urges federal agencies to work with the states to develop surface mining guidelines giving the states the flexibility to control and supervise the surface mining of coal, gravel, and similar materials. To ensure against the destruction of surface mined areas, a performance and a completion bond should be required of the mining companies that would assure the completion of reclamation plans as they are developed. Such plans should require the return of the land where strip mine operations occur to a reasonable topography and fertility level and should be enforced by law. The deposits that are required under Section 402(a) of the Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 should be returned to the states for strip mine reclamation. The National Grange further supports any regulation or law that holds the coal company liable for subsidence damage to structures caused by underground mining.
2. The National Grange supports changes in the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act that recognize the special conditions of small independent mine operations and provides for greater forbearance in correcting violations.
3. The National Grange supports exempting counties from Federal Mining Standards as pertaining to road building materials and maintenance.

Bottle Bills & Recycling

1. The National Grange supports legislation that would require a deposit on non-biodegradable beverage containers and urges manufacturers to use recycled materials whenever feasible.
2. The National Grange supports requiring all government agencies initiate a recycling program for paper, metal, glass, etc. Government agencies should also be required to use recycled paper whenever feasible.
3. The National Grange supports legislation encouraging an economical, biodegradable, and resource-efficient approach to product packaging. We support the use of biodegradable plastic containers, packing materials that are made of cornstarch and petroleum and urge all manufacturers to use as little packaging material as possible while still retaining the quality and safety of their products.
4. The National Grange supports restricting the disposal of tires in landfills in addition to supporting all efforts to recycle all used tires. We also urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to utilize recycled materials containing polymers and other man-made materials to build and repair roads.
5. The National Grange supports legislation banning the use of Bispenol A (BPA) in all plastics. In the meantime, manufacturers should be required to label their products BPA free, if appropriate, and more efforts should be made to educate consumers on the risk factors of BPA and the code number system on plastic containers.

Energy Conservation

1. The National Grange supports energy conservation in agriculture, industry, commerce and the home by the use of tax credits and incentives.
2. The National Grange supports economic assistance to low-income persons and those who are on small, fixed incomes to assist them in paying for the high cost of energy.
3. The National Grange supports all oil and gas price decontrol as a positive step in reducing our need for foreign oil and gas. The National Grange believes that all companies, including farm cooperatives, should be allowed to sell gasoline at both the wholesale and retail levels without divesting. However, we also support standby petroleum allocation measures that would ensure a timely and reasonably priced supply of petroleum products to agricultural producers, transporters, processors, farm cooperatives, and independent refiners in the event of a nationwide or regional shortage.
4. The National Grange supports the following practices to guard against supply uncertainty and unreasonable high prices: 1) retain one billion barrels of U.S. oil reserve while supplies are adequate; and 2) encourage greater use of natural resources, especially those that are renewable and non-polluting. The National Grange only supports further releases from the U.S. Strategic Oil Reserves in the event of war or interruption of delivery of foreign supplies of petroleum into the U.S.
5. The National Grange supports establishing realistic new fuel economy standards. We support legislation to direct the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to set fuel economy standards at their maximum feasible level, taking into account technical feasibility, safety, and the economic impact to the public. The National Grange urges increased research and development of more fuel efficient, internal combustion engines. We further favor legislation that would prohibit any person or corporation from purchas-

ing a patent with the intent of hindering any inventions that would conserve gasoline and other fuels.

Energy Development

1. The National Grange urges the repeal of laws and regulations that have discouraged United States' energy production by private enterprise. We support a national energy policy that will encourage the development of all forms of domestic energy, traditional and alternative, including solar, wind, geothermal, ethanol, surf/tidal, shale, tar sands, hydroelectric, agricultural products, wastes, peat, wood, coal, coal gasification, oil, natural gas, nuclear, hydrogen, biodiesel and methanol in an environmentally sound manner without exploiting our parks and wildernesses in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. The National Grange supports new energy technologies only after they have been proven feasible and we support the continuation of successful energy technologies.
2. The National Grange favors the complete utilization of petroleum and the other mineral resources, including the exploration and production of oil reserves on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and from any outer continental shelf lease sales in accordance with the terms of an environmentally sound development plan.
3. The National Grange supports legislation requiring the nation's motor fuels to contain a renewable component (Biodiesel and/or Ethanol). We support increased development and use of ethanol and ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE) in gasoline blends with adequate income tax incentives to make the production and use of ethanol and ETBE economically feasible. We further support the goal of at least a 10% blend of ethanol to be used in at least 50% of all gasoline sold for motor fuel to be made available in all states.
4. The National Grange supports regulated oil and gas production in the United States that protects landowners and allows adequate compensation while allowing production to continue.
5. The National Grange supports an examination and reform of environmental laws so that new oil refineries can be built to supply our fuel needs. New oil refineries should be built, if feasible, in areas other than the Gulf Coast. We further support a study of the need for different mandated formulations for gasoline, and if possible, a reduction in the number of gasoline blends to make it easier and less expensive to refine and transport the finished product.
6. The National Grange endorses the goal of generating at least 25% of domestic energy needs from domestic renewable resources while continuing to produce safe, abundant and affordable food, feed, and fiber by January 1, 2025.
7. The National Grange urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, U. S. Coast Guard, and any other pertinent federal agencies to develop and strengthen regulations regarding the siting of liquefied natural gas terminals, and consideration should be given to the overall economic impact on the region before any site is approved.

Rural Electric Cooperatives, Public Power and Rural Electricity Consumers

1. The National Grange supports the continued application of the existing preference

concept of the Federal Power Act being granted to public power utilities in the licensing and re-licensing of federal hydroelectric facilities. We further support granting co-preference in the licensing and re-licensing of federal hydroelectric facilities to rural electric cooperatives.

2. In order to assure adequate electric and telephone service to rural areas, the National Grange actively supports continuation and expansion of the existing USDA Rural Utility Service low interest revolving loan fund to assure the financial stability of rural electric and telephone cooperatives.
3. The National Grange supports continuing electric service to urban areas that are within a rural electric cooperative's service area. However, rural electric cooperatives that provide electric service to predominantly rural areas should continue to have first priority for low interest federal financing. In addition, we urge the electricity industry to charge rates for farmers and small businessmen that are competitive with their large wholesale customers.
4. The National Grange supports legislation to establish solid waste-to-energy plants that will produce power in an environmentally safe manner that can be accessed by public utility districts, rural electric cooperatives, and municipal utilities.
5. We support maintaining the current structure of rural electric systems without forced deregulation of publicly owned plants or any other action that would be detrimental to rural electric consumers. The National Grange supports reform to the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act, so that non-utility generating stations operate to sell their output to competitive market rates and eliminate the oppressive rates being passed on to the consumer.
6. The National Grange supports requirements for increased accountability and responsibility on the part of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and power companies in the operation of any nuclear power plant. The National Grange supports the careful selection by the Department of Energy of sites for the disposal of low-level nuclear wastes, excluding prime agricultural, forest, and parkland. We urge that the public be involved in the decision to conduct additional research on the long-term consequences to the environment of the disposal of nuclear wastes. The National Grange further urges the Department of Energy to conduct an extensive educational program to inform citizens of the safeguards and hazards that are involved in the disposal of these wastes.
7. The National Grange opposes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's imposition of a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) and Standard Market Design (SMD) on the Northwest Region of the U.S. We support the present cost-based rate system, as determined in the 1937 Congressional Bonneville Power Administration repayment agreement, requiring Bonneville Power Administration to adopt for pricing electricity, instead of a market based repayment pricing system. We support the present federal Power Marketing Administrations. We further recommend the establishment of Power Marketing Administrations in areas of the United States where desired and feasible. We vigorously oppose selling the Western Area Power Administration and Bonneville Power Administration to private power companies. The National Grange also supports the allowance of the Northwest Region to develop an alternate approach to strengthening the transmission system.

Public Lands Management Practices

1. The National Grange believes that multiple use of non-reserved land should be the cornerstone of the United States' public land policy in order to achieve the following objectives: energy exploration and development; sustained yield management for food and forest production; recreational uses for all citizens; responsible wildlife management; soil conservation and watershed protection. Since it is important for rural economies to keep public land in food and fiber production, we support any regulation pertaining to water rights, lease improvements and contamination remediation that allows for agricultural production.
2. The National Grange supports the maintenance of appropriate conservation practices on all public lands leased to private individuals yet will continue to support placing a moratorium on the acquisition of private land by the U.S. Forest Service. The National Grange recommends that a user fee be implemented for all commercial and recreational use of federal land requiring a permit.
3. The National Grange urges federal agencies to intensify prescribed burning on national public lands as a forest management technique. We support adoption of forest management programs in national parks that specifically exclude the use of natural uncontrolled forest fires, such as those that are caused by lightning, as a forest management technique. All local, state and federal agencies should promptly conduct an economic impact study once a forest fire is declared controlled and move expeditiously to reforest and restore the catastrophically burned landscapes. We support the efforts of "Communities for Healthy Forests" in mandating immediate restorative action. We further support federal legislation to accelerate the salvage harvest of dead and dying timber on public lands while that timber still has a commercial economic value.
4. The National Grange supports appropriations for the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service to adequately carry out an expanded silviculture program, wildlife management, water and soil protection, weed control, recreational needs, protection of natural, historic and cultural resources, to develop additional forest campgrounds and increase the available spaces in existing campgrounds to keep them open year round where economically feasible. We also urge that U.S. Forest Service campground fees be raised to more nearly cover the costs of operating these campgrounds.
5. The National Grange favors the increased planting of lumber-producing trees on both national and state forest lands, including increased funding for federal and state tree nurseries, to produce additional seedlings for lumber. We urge the U.S. Forest Service to permit selected timber stands to reach old growth and be harvested on a sustained yield basis. Furthermore, we support prohibiting states from exercising authority to restrict the sale or export of logs that are harvested from state-owned land.
6. The National Grange recognizes the states' rights to own and/or manage Bureau of Land Management (BLM) unreserved lands, not including national forest lands, Revenues that are now received by counties should be protected when control of any federal land is assigned to state governments.
7. The National Grange supports legislation to require federal and state governments to pay a proportionate share of monies, in lieu of taxes, to those counties, cities, and communities that provide public services to the parks and recreational areas within their boundaries in addition to supporting federal legislation allowing national parks to keep a major portion of entrance fees to be used for the development and maintenance of recreational facilities.

8. The National Grange calls on federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute incidents of tree and trail spiking and the destruction of logging equipment on federal and state lands.
9. The National Grange supports amending the National Antiquities Act to include public comment.
10. The National Grange encourages the U.S. Forest Service to amend the National Forest plan to remove the 21-inch Diameter at Breast Height rule (DBH) for any National Forest.
11. The National Grange supports that any responding agency to a fire, whether it is local, state or federal, be required to notify adjacent landowners and other authorities with jurisdiction, for their own safety, of all wild and grass fires in the area.
12. The National Grange supports the use of State and/or Federal funds for the mitigation of loss of land value due to state and federal logging restrictions on riparian land be available only to small landowners and not be available to large corporations, landowners, or trusts.
13. The National Grange supports keeping the Mt. St. Helens a National Monument rather than a National Park.

Federal Grazing

1. The National Grange supports basing all decisions on federal grazing regulations, including grazing fee pricing formulas, upon solid economic principles, current livestock market prices, and good conservation practices. We favor legislation that would further limit any overall reduction in grazing to 10 percent or less on any given allotment except in the case of emergencies such as drought. We strongly believe that federal grazing permittees should be consulted as grazing plans are developed.
2. The National Grange strongly supports considering the economic impact that restrictions on grazing in riparian areas (areas between the stream banks) may have on farmers before legislation is passed.
3. The National Grange encourages the Bureau of Land Management and National Forest Service to carry out an aggressive program to fill all grazing allotments on Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service lands. However we support restricting the selling of federal grazing permits to anyone other than someone using the permit for grazing purposes.

Land Withdrawals and Wilderness

1. The National Grange supports releasing all public lands not currently designated as wilderness or wilderness study areas to multiple uses. The establishment of any additional national forest wilderness preserves or any large-scale government land acquisition should be prohibited. All land that is capable of producing commercial timber, farm and grazing lands or commercially-valuable minerals should be prohibited from inclusion into any established park or wilderness area that would erode a county's tax base. The National Grange recommends that in national recreational areas classified other than primitive, the broadest possible range of activities compatible with a forested area be permitted, subject to user fees. The National Grange supports legislation

to significantly restrict acreage set aside for parks, wilderness, and wildlife preserves in Alaska in addition to providing access through federal lands.

2. The National Grange supports regulations governing the management of federal wilderness areas should allow for controlled access roads for emergency use as well as the salvage of timber, using modern harvesting techniques where natural disasters such as blow-downs or insect infestations have occurred. We oppose the destruction or obliteration of any Forest Service roads and further oppose designating any roadless areas of the National Forest System as permanently off limits to logging, mining or other development.
3. The National Grange believes any extension of the federal Wild and Scenic River System should not include private property. Should there be a proposed change in the designation of rivers and streams, we favor a vote by the citizens of the jurisdiction.
4. The National Grange supports the property rights of all farmers and ranchers and demands that the owner's consent be given before any action is taken by the Federal Government to acquire private land.
5. The National Grange supports legislation directing mitigation of identified losses of public and private lands from the state tax base due to federal acquisition through transfer of an equivalent acreage from federal land to public or private ownership, or by providing an annual payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT), based on an independent economic impact analysis to be adjusted annually for inflation.
6. The National Grange supports maintaining the management of all federal facilities, like the National Bison Range, by the United States federal government and not by any other sovereign nation or international entity.

Wildlife Management

1. The National Grange encourages Congress to amend the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to restore proper perspective by requiring public hearings and economic impact statements on the impacts to the affected areas before a species may be listed. We support changes to the ESA to require that only a pure biological and numerical definition of an endangered species be used without being based on sub species, distinct populations, or hybridization. We believe that only those species actually threatened with extinction should be listed in the ESA, taking into consideration total populations, available habitats, and recovery areas on the North American continent. We further support a review of the ESA with the following guidelines: focus on keystone species (organisms critical to the stable functions of entire habitats and ecosystems), not minor or reduced species; rely on public lands for preservation; encourage voluntary protection by individuals and corporations; curtail taking of private lands for ESA; balance human costs with ecological benefits; compensation for private property owners for loss of usage of their property due to the ESA. The National Grange supports legislation legally allowing people to defend themselves or their property from an attack by any animal listed as an endangered species without concern of retribution from government authorities.
2. The National Grange supports legislative and regulatory measures to prohibit further implementation of any Wolf Recovery Plan. We further support the passage of legislation to outlaw the propagation of wolves or wolf hybrids.
3. The National Grange believes it is the responsibility of the federal government to

control the expanding populations of legally protected plants and animals where those plants or animals pose a threat to human life or health, or where those plants or animals pose a threat to established economic activity. We encourage state and federal wildlife conservation agencies to assist farmers in all cases of crop and property damage by wild game.

4. The National Grange is opposed to any Grizzly Bear recovery plan. We support legislation requiring government agencies to notify property owners when they relocate park bears or other potentially dangerous animals. The property owners to be notified are those who are within the normal range of the animals that are being released.
5. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation of licensed hunting and trapping of game animals, waterfowl, and game birds. However, we favor the levying of stiff penalties for poaching of wildlife. We further support the continued usage of steel jaw traps.
6. The National Grange believes that wildlife management areas should not be used for recreation or any other development that diminishes the value of the lands for wildlife management purposes.
7. The National Grange supports legislation to expand the hunting season of Canadian and snow geese from November 1st - April 1st. We also support increasing the daily bag limit for Canadian and Snow geese.
8. The National Grange supports any prairie dog management plan that allows people to control the prairie dog population through shooting and toxicants, without the need for a special license.
9. The National Grange opposes the listing of the eastern oyster on the endangered species list.

Preservation of Fishing Resources

1. The National Grange urges the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission to support the designation of only those marine sanctuaries that guarantee fishery usage and recognize the fishery management authority of the current sanctuary boundaries.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to reauthorize the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation Management Act. We urge all appropriate federal agencies to work closely with all state wildlife agencies to maintain sustained fishing yields by regulating sport and subsistence fisheries in order to allow for the adequate recovery of fish and aquatic species into many areas where they have declined. We support the United States working with all countries to regulate commercial fishing to allow for the adequate return of fish into many areas where fish yields have declined. We further support an extension of the U.S. territorial sea to not less than 50 miles where foreign commercial fishing may not be performed to aid in salmon recovery.
3. The National Grange favors all reasonable measures to save the Pacific Salmon in the Columbia and Snake Rivers as long as the first priorities for these river systems is power generation, water use, and navigation. We support securing the passage of a treaty between Canada and the United States to govern the operation of the salmon industries in each respective nation. We support uniform regulation of all net fishing in the Columbia River, Puget Sound, and the Pacific Ocean before drastic economic measures to reestablish wild runs of Pacific Salmon are enacted. The National Grange recommends that fish ladders be included in the planning of any future dam construc-

tion on streams or rivers where fish migration may be affected. We favor the transport of juvenile fish, the hatchery propagation of salmon stocks, flow control, and control of the salmon harvest until a final Pacific Salmon recovery plan is in place. We support the establishment of a program to audit the harvest of salmon on the lower Columbia River. We further believe that all salmon fishing on the Columbia and Snake Rivers should be restricted to hook and line methods only. We recommend to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that spawned out salmon carcasses be planted near remote site incubators for smolt releases as a food source for the young fish.

4. The National Grange urges the federal government to continue funding the National Marine Fisheries Service at the current levels to enable them to continue the biological studies that will lead to the elimination of drift net fishing by all nations.
5. The National Grange supports adequate funding of the Marine Mammal Protection Act for use by the various states in developing appropriate marine mammal management plans and policies. In addition, we urge Congress to exclude Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions from the Marine Mammal Protection Act and place them under the control and protection of the states, including a controlled harvest season for Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions, until the yearly run of the Pacific Salmon increases to the point where the salmon will no longer be considered for protection under the Endangered Species Act. We further support efforts to utilize harvested Harbor Seal and California Sea Lion carcasses to avoid waste.
6. The National Grange supports the ongoing research of Pfisteria and the effects it has on major waterways.
7. The National Grange favors the regulated harvesting of fresh water clams and mussels.
8. We support legislation requiring all shipping lines to change their ballast water in the open ocean to curtail the further introduction of foreign species, such as the Zebra Mussel, into our domestic waterways.
9. The National Grange supports legislative and regulatory measures to prohibit the National Marine Fisheries Service from taking control of private lands, breaching of dams, and killing of hatchery salmon under the authority of its 4 (d) Rules. The National Grange urges Congress to order the National Marine Fisheries Service to reconsider the proposed setbacks on private property along all bodies of water or to pay for the taking of the property. We urge Congress to intervene and formulate a true scientific basis for establishment of buffers/setbacks and buffer/setback restrictions along all bodies of water. We encourage the National Marine Fisheries Service do more to start identifying corrective measures beyond licensing and regulation to save the fish off our nation's coasts that include avoiding by catch, single-species management, ocean sanctuaries, eco-friendly gear, and consumer alertness. We further believe that alternative sources of fish production i.e. aquaculture, should be encouraged where appropriate.

Private Timber Land Management

1. The National Grange supports the voluntary use of good conservation practices and sustained yield management practices on private forestlands.
2. The National Grange believes that in return for public benefits resulting from improved forest management on individually owned forest lands, a portion of the expenses that

are involved in management should be borne by the public through assistance programs and cost-sharing incentive payments. Any forest management assistance programs should recognize the multiple use aspects of private forest lands, including timber production, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, recreation, and scenic values.

3. The National Grange supports efforts to establish forests or pastures on appropriate marginal farmland.
4. The National Grange requests Congress to control arbitrary appeals of U.S. Forest Service timber sales assessing penalties to the appellant to cover the costs of failed appeals.
5. The National Grange supports legislation to require each appeal of timber sale to post a security bond.
6. National Grange advocates harvesting fire-ravaged timber from fire recovery zones before the value of the timber is lost.

Environmental Regulations and Controls

1. The National Grange supports requiring instigators of court actions brought against properly approved and financed federal, state, or municipal construction projects to post an adequate bond with the court that is sufficient to pay all costs that are incurred due to the delay caused by such action if the action fails.
2. The National Grange seeks legislation to clarify that national environmental impact statements must equitably weigh economic, social, and environmental impacts to reduce the delay these statements impose on many worthwhile and needed projects. Such studies should include the full economic impact on the local, state or national economy.
3. The National Grange supports the EPA's standards on the use of dangerous trace metals. We further support continued EPA programs to monitor the industrial and farm uses of materials that contain dangerous trace metals.
4. The National Grange supports new "Right to Farm" laws at the local, state and federal levels to further protect them against charges of civil or criminal violation of environmental regulations when those charges apply to normal activities that are essential to a farm operation.
5. The National Grange urges Congress to keep the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at its current status as an independent federal agency, and not elevate the agency to a Cabinet level.
6. The National Grange urges Congress to reduce the EPA to a sub-cabinet level agency.

Private Land Use, Planning, Zoning, Farmland Protection, and Eminent Domain

1. The National Grange urges the USDA, in conjunction with land grant universities, to provide assistance to local governments and citizen groups in educating the public on the importance of keeping land in agricultural production and in developing farmland retention programs which protect the rights of landowners and the prerogatives of local governments. The National Grange supports land use planning and zoning remaining a function of local and state governments.
2. The National Grange urges that the transfer of development rights be used to protect

family farms. Whenever land is designated for permanent agricultural use, farmers should receive adequate compensation for the loss in land value. We call for the immediate enactment of regulations or legislation that will require and facilitate the timely payment of fair compensation to private property owners for property losses they have sustained as a result of oil and/or gas explorations on their property so they are not forced to obtain such compensation through costly litigation and support legislation prohibiting any implementation of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative that would infringe upon private property rights.

3. The National Grange urges the Farm Service Agency or any other agency not to relinquish the use of any farmlands, wetlands, or other lands to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or any other government agency.
4. The National Grange will continue to work to improve locally controlled site-specific resource and environmental management in the Columbia Basin.
5. The National Grange supports legislation reaffirming congressional power over international agreements concerning disposal, management and use of lands owned by the United States and also protects state powers, from federal actions designating lands to international agreements. The National Grange further supports legislation protecting private interests in real property from any federal actions designating lands to international agreements.
6. The National Grange seeks legislation specifying when property is acquired by a federal agency through condemnation or negotiated price for a specific public purpose yet not used for that purpose, the original owner shall have first right of repurchase at the original price or at a lesser price if the value of the property has been decreased. We support legislation that eminent domain be used only for public purposes, such as rights of way for transportation and utilities.
7. The National Grange urges the federal government to replace, whenever possible, condemned private land with public land of equal value/productivity, and to maintain a balance between public and private lands throughout the nation.
8. The National Grange supports changing laws so that, in points of controversy, private property rights take precedence over environmental regulations.
9. The National Grange supports legislation to prohibit the Federal Government or any agency or authority of the Federal Government from exercising its power of eminent domain to be used for private economic development unless there is an immediate danger to the health and/or safety of citizens. Furthermore, the National Grange supports federal legislation to require that no state, political subdivision of a state or any person or entity to which such power has been delegated shall exercise its power of eminent domain, for the purpose of private economic development or over property that is subsequently used for economic development unless there are situations of immediate danger to the health and/or safety of citizens. Any state or political subdivision that exercises the power of eminent domain for private economic development shall be ineligible for any federal economic development funds for any purpose for a period of at least two years.
10. We support the ranchers and other landowners in Southern Colorado who oppose the Army's proposal to take land by eminent domain for the expansion of the Ft. Carson Army Base and urge Congress to pass legislation prohibiting the Base's expansion through the use of eminent domain.

Clean Air

1. The National Grange supports a clean air policy that will best protect agricultural interests, relieve automotive passengers, freight users and carriers of costly and unnecessary restrictions, and will protect the physical and economic health of industry and the general public.
2. The National Grange proposes that Congress determine state compliance to the Clean Air Act by statute and not by administrative regulations. Until then, we urge state and national administrative flexibility in deadlines for meeting Ambient Air Quality Standards. The National Grange strongly urges the EPA to retain the existing National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ground-level ozone.
3. The National Grange opposes any national mandatory motor vehicle emission inspection and maintenance programs. We oppose any national law or regulation that would require the use of "stand alone" vehicle emission testing facilities. The National Grange supports exempting agricultural equipment and machinery manufactured prior to January 1, 1993 from the current Clean Air Act.
4. The National Grange favors the repeal of the ozone provisions contained in the Clean Air Act to allow the use of Freon for refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners.
5. The National Grange favors reducing sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions from coal-burning plants. The National Grange encourages more research into clean technology and revision of EPA standards for use of coal and gas in building new generating plants.
6. The National Grange supports changes in the United Nations Climate Change Treaty before it is ratified by the United States. We urge the Kyoto Protocol to include uniform standards for all major countries, developed and developing. In the meantime we support the following measures: expansion of voluntary efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions; scientific research and educational programs on climate; investing in the development and deployment of new technologies and urging utilities to update their older plants bringing them into compliance with the current Clean Air Act.
7. The National Grange supports a program of government incentives that will reduce commuting by private vehicle, increase subsidies for mass transportation or car pooling, and sponsor more research to make alternative energy cars viable.

I would like to thank the members of the Conservation Committee for their thoughtful deliberations and patience in completing the task at hand. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Randy Lewis for all of his hard work as Committee Secretary and to June Hendrickson and Gordon Gibson for their testimony.

Fraternally,

Ruth Gray (FL), Chair
Randy Lewis (CA), Secretary
Marge Sendewicz (CT)
Roger Bostwick (KS)
Beth Merrill (NH)
Beth Downey (PA)
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EDUCATION & HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES#	MASTER	STATE	TITLE	COMMITTEE	ACTION
Committee Resolution			SAFETY & SECURITY OF THE FOOD SUPPLY		Combine Resolutions 416(NC) and 418(NY)
223	Orton	NY	TOY SAFETY	Citizenship	Withdrawn
401	Hendrickson	WA	SRSCA	Education & Health	Policy Statement
402	Lewis	CA	MOUNTAIN RURAL SCHOOL FUNDS	Education & Health	Policy Statement
403	Lewis	CA	HIGH SCHOOL CAREER DAY	Education & Health	Policy Statement
404	Wiles	MD	DISRUPTIVE STUDENTS	Education & Health	Policy Statement
405	Wiles	MD	PAYING STUDENTS FOR PERFORMANCE	Education & Health	Approved
406	Wiles	MD	RESPECT FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY	Education & Health	Withdrawn
407	Wiles	MD	HOME SCHOOLING REGULATIONS	Education & Health	Policy Statement
408	Bostwick	KS	HEALTHCARE COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN	Education & Health	Present Policy
409	Orton	NY	FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBILITIES	Education & Health	Approved
410	Sherrod	TN	ADDICTIVE DRUGS EASILY ORDERED ONLINE	Education & Health	Policy Statement
411	Johnston	MI	FOOD AND PHARMACEUTICAL IMPORTS	Education & Health	Present Policy
412	Wiles	MD	PHARMACEUTICALS IN DRINKING WATER	Education & Health	Policy Statement
413	Wiles	MD	DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER DRUG	Education &	Referred back to

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416	Gentry	NC	SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE FOOD SUPPLY	Education & Health	Combined with 418, Approved
417	Johnston	MI	FOOD SAFETY	Education & Health	Adverse by Delegates
418	Orton	NY	FOOD SAFETY	Education & Health	Combined with 416, Approved
419	Gentry	NC	MEDICARE	Education & Health	Amendment to Present Policy
420	Huber	PA	MEDICARE FRAUD	Education & Health	Policy Statement
421	Gentry	NC	INCREASED STEM CELL RESEARCH FUNDING	Education & Health	Amendment to Present Policy
422	Huber	PA	NATIONAL MEDICAL DATABASE	Education & Health	Adverse
423	Orton	NY	MEDICATION INDENTIFICATION	Education & Health	Approved
424	Wiles	MD	BOTTLED WATER	Education & Health	Withdrawn
425	Orton	NY	CAFFEINE LABELING	Education & Health	Approved
426	Brumbaugh	OH	HOURS OF SERVICE FOR EMS DRIVERS	Education & Health	Adverse
427	Orton	NY	SHORTAGE OF RURAL PHYSICIANS	Education & Health	Current Policy
704	Brumbaugh	OH	HEALTH INSURANCE FOR RETIRED EMPLOYEES	Labor & Judiciary	Transferred to Health and Education

POLICY STATEMENT

EDUCATION

Education is a crucial element in the long term success of our nation. In order for our country to remain competitive around the globe, our nation's children must receive a world-class education.

We must encourage our youth to excel. It doesn't matter if they plan to go to college, a trade school, or enter the work force; they need to understand the world around them. A quality education opens minds to new possibilities while encouraging students to think for themselves. We also must encourage our young people to learn and grow in school in a direction and pace most appropriate to their abilities. In today's information age, we have an extremely structured educational system that often has trouble recognizing and adapting to the needs of each unique student. We must return the power of education to parents, teachers, and local school boards. Parents must be made an essential part of the decision process. We must find ways to reward teachers who encourage and empower their students to become successful.

The National Grange supports public education and the idea of strengthening and improving the public education system because we believe every child should be able to receive a high quality public education. We support the continued collaboration with the Organization Concerned About Rural Education to seek improvements to the No Child Left Behind Act. We believe that all federally mandated programs be funded appropriately by the federal government to the extent that the requirements of these programs not cause an unrealistic burden on the state and local school systems.

The National Grange applauds the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self Determination Act (SRSCA) while working on a long-term solution for rural forest counties and schools.

The National Grange supports home schooling as a viable alternative to traditional education. Further, we support the use of nonintrusive regulations in order to ensure that home schooled students receive a high quality education.

The National Grange urges local schools to remove disruptive and violent students from the classroom and provide alternate education until the underlying cause has been corrected. We further urge the reform of state and federal regulations so that schools actively addressing this problem are not at risk of being classified as failing schools.

We support schools using agricultural based curriculums such as Ag in the Classroom and Food for America. We encourage the study of cooperatives to be included in these curriculums.

The National Grange encourages school districts to include Armed Forces representatives at a school's Career Day.

The National Grange encourages Granges at all levels to become actively involved in the educational process of students and community members in the fight against tobacco and alcohol abuse. We also support educating the American public about the misuse of legal and illegal drugs.

We strongly encourage Grange members nationwide to play an active role in their local school systems. It is essential for our members to invest in our children's education through volunteering and the donation of school supplies such as the third grade dictionary program. These contributions will help us remain positive role models for school children.

HEALTH

We as individuals need to take responsibility for our own health. With the cost of health care coverage and prescription drugs on the rise, we must advocate affordable health insurance for all. Equitable billing requirements and reimbursements for medical, dental, and alternative health care treatments are essential. We support a cap to be in place on malpractice suits to help reduce the cost of health care and make it possible for physicians, especially those in rural areas, to continue practicing medicine.

In this growing age of technology, it is becoming increasingly easier for people of any age to purchase narcotics and stimulants online. Therefore, the National Grange supports banning the delivery of such controlled substances over the Internet with or without a prescription.

Even though we believe that prescription drugs should be affordable to all Americans, we need to be mindful of safety. Drugs manufactured in the United States must meet stringent FDA standards. However, we have no guarantee that imported prescription drugs will meet these standards, but we believe that with proper control and monitoring, drugs from other countries can be safely imported.

The National Grange supports the effort to reform Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) rules so that unused controlled prescription medications can be disposed of by a broader range of professionals. We encourage a study to determine the most economical and safest means of disposal for these substances.

The National Grange encourages broader consumer education for Medicare recipients so that they can better determine any discrepancies in billing in an effort to help reduce fraud.

Defective and contaminated products imported from other countries are of great concern to all Americans. We encourage government agencies and consumer safety advocates to be diligent in safety inspections on imported products and report all findings to the public. We also encourage consumers to make educated and wise purchasing decisions. We further encourage the government to require the country of origin to be clearly labeled on all imported products.

The National Grange recognizes the importance of proper nutrition in combating obesity and the diseases that come from it. Educational programs for all ages should be provided to encourage healthy eating and to teach the benefits of exercise and reduced caloric intake. We encourage schools to take a proactive stance by offering healthy snacks, such as milk in their vending machines, and by having an ongoing physical education program.

This covers resolutions 401(WA), 402(CA), 403(CA), 404(MD), 407(MD), 410(TN), 412(MD), 420(PA), 422(PA) and a portion of the Master's Address.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Paying Students for Performance

WHEREAS, some school systems are experiments with a policy of making cash payments to students for good attendance, good behavior, and/or high performance; and

WHEREAS, preliminary studies have shown that these policies have resulted in little or no improvement but in schools such as Littlestown, PA non-monetary incentives have shown anecdotal improvement in students' performance; and

WHEREAS, good behavior is something that should be expected, but not necessarily rewarded and these policies could very easily be manipulated by clover students; and

WHEREAS, most school systems are operating on tight budgets and do not have money to waste; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange oppose the use of cash payments to students for the purpose of improving attendance, behavior and performance. Inventive non-monetary incentives are preferable.

This covers resolution 405 (MD) Adopted

Food and Drug Administration Responsibilities

WHEREAS, the lives of millions of people are dependent on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to assure they receive foods and drugs that are safe, and

WHEREAS, the FDA regulates the safety of our food, drugs, vaccines, medical devices, blood and tissues, radiation-emitting devices, animal feeds and drugs, cell phones, dietary supplements, biotechnology and gene therapy and guards against any food borne terrorists plots; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange seek legislation that would focus the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) priorities on regulating and policing foods and drugs for human consumption; and be it further

RESOLVED, that some of the Food and Drug Administration's responsibilities be passed on to other more appropriate departments such as Agriculture, Health and Human Services and Homeland Security.

This covers resolution 409 (NY) Adopted

Food Safety

WHEREAS, the U.S. food supply is the safest in the world; and

WHEREAS, the FDA Food and Drug Administration, has prematurely shut down food processing and the tomato industry without sound scientific evidence; and

WHEREAS, the news media has sensationalized these instances; and

WHEREAS, these premature judgments have proven to be wrong or incorrect; and

WHEREAS, these judgments have cost growers and companies millions of dollars in lost revenues; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange believes government regulators should have sound scientific evidence before shutting down processing plants and issuing warnings on unsafe foods; and be it further

RESOLVED, that processing plants be inspected and allowed to open as soon as corrections have been made.

This covers resolution 417 (MI)

Medication Identification

WHEREAS, medications should always be safely identifiable to those dispensing them, and

WHEREAS, different doses of the same type of medications, (for infants, children or adults) should be in readily identifiable containers of different color, shape or size, and

WHEREAS, the manufacturer of Heparin placed the infant and adult dosages in containers that were so much alike that an infant died from a massive overdose of Heparin and, in another case, a set of twins suffered near fatal effects, when given the adult dosage, and

WHEREAS, there is now also a "bar code" system that can be used to avoid errors when dispensing medications; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support the regulation of packaging of prescription medications so different strengths of the same type of prescription medicine are recognizably different from each other.

This covers resolution 423 (NY)

Caffeine Labeling

WHEREAS, many food and beverage processors are adding unknown amounts of caffeine to their products, especially many new "sports" beverages, and

WHEREAS, many products do not list the addition of, or give the amount of caffeine contained, and

WHEREAS, many people have a "health hazard" if they consume too much caffeine, and

WHEREAS, large amounts of caffeine can cause increased heart rate and blood pressure; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange urge passage of legislation requiring all food and beverage processors to list on the standardized nutrition label the amount of caffeine in their products.

This covers resolution 425 (NY)

Health Insurance for Retired Employees

WHEREAS, many companies and their employees negotiate health coverage for the time of retirement until the time of eligibility for Medicare; and

WHEREAS, upon retirement many companies drop the health care coverage negotiated during their employment leaving the employee in many instances uninsurable until Medicare eligibility due to health care problems they currently face; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange encourages the federal government to ensure that the negotiated health coverage for retired employees be carried out according to the negotiated coverage during their time of employment.

This covers resolution 704 (OH)

Safety & Security of the Food Supply

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation that the FDA and USDA jointly deal with foods contaminated intentionally or unintentionally with disease to quickly identify the source of contamination and promptly alert consumers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this effort be appropriately funded by relevant budgets.

This combines resolution 416 (NC) and 418 (NY)

EDUCATION

Vocational Education/Continuing Education

1. The National Grange supports vocational, continuing and adult education. We encourage State Granges to support educational programs within each state serving those persons who are beyond public school age in need of further education, such as the Job Corps Program and agricultural program areas. We also support providing rehabilitative training equivalent to high school education or trade school to prison inmates.
2. The National Grange strongly believes that vocational agriculture should be a major vocational program area, including the development and supervision of occupation experience programs for year-round instruction from professional agricultural educators where needed.
3. The National Grange strongly supports the return of vocational education curriculum to all high schools, community colleges and trade schools, including the funding for these courses. We further support career evaluations at the middle/junior high school level to prepare students to make subsequent educational or training decisions in the appropriate area of their choice.
4. The National Grange supports the federal government's continued investment in career technical education by reauthorizing the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998.
5. The National Grange supports the use of the voucher system in vocational rehabilitation programs, allowing the recipient to choose the vocational rehabilitation program which best satisfies his/her requirements and occupational goals.

General Education Policies

1. The National Grange supports public education and supports the idea of strengthening and improving the system of public education. The National Grange urges Congress to amend the "No Child Left Behind" law so local tax dollars on education are spent more responsibly. Parents should have a choice of schools based on the schools' performance numbers provided that those parents furnish transportation for the children. We believe that every child should be able to receive a public education, and that the state is responsible for providing said education, which shall include the following: a broad curriculum with emphasis on basic language, physical education, math, and science skills; an opportunity for students to choose either vocational or "college preparatory" training; functional buildings; frequent public reports and accountability of funds; and basic training in agriculture, including the "Ag in the Classroom" program, covering both production and consumption.
2. The National Grange supports the adoption of a comprehensive health education curriculum.
3. The Grange supports the teaching of foreign languages, including sign language. We recommend that all other subjects be taught in the English language and that all non-English speaking students and residents in the United States be given the opportunity to receive immediate instruction in the English language through programs such as English-As-A-Second-Language.
4. The National Grange supports affordable telecommunications services for rural

schools and libraries.

5. The National Grange supports strong educational standards, but does not believe that the establishment of National Education Standards Testing achieves this goal.
6. The National Grange supports the retention of the Head Start program.
7. The National Grange supports the teaching of both the theory of evolution and the story of creation, allowing individual school boards and students to make their own choice.
8. The National Grange supports posting the Ten Commandments in schools, courthouses and other public facilities.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that would bring about protection of parental and/or guardian rights in the guidance, control and administration of their dependent minors' health care. This legislation should be written to include any and all federal, state and local government agencies.
10. The National Grange supports the teaching of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, including the Preamble and the Bill of Rights, in schools.
11. The National Grange urge that United States' citizens, rather than foreign students, be given preference in obtaining publicly-funded scholarships.
12. The National Grange endorses "Read Across America"; we recommit our organization to engage in programs and activities to make Americans the best readers in the world.
13. The National Grange supports traditional educational standards in American schools by making certain that school textbooks, today and in the future, are not modified to the point where our historical family gender specific terminology is altered or lost due to political or social pressures.
14. The National Grange opposes any legislation that may be proposed permitting or requiring non-security school staff to carry firearms while at school.
15. The National Grange urges the Federal Department of Education to encourage all local school systems to retain recess for elementary school children.
16. The National Grange supports legislation to establish standardized requirements for schools nurses in all 50 states as well as legislation to adequately fund school nurse programs to be able to handle the increased workload.

Education for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Special Needs Children

1. The National Grange believes that parents of deaf and hard of hearing children, deaf and hard of hearing people, teachers, and professionals who are trained in the area of educating the deaf should assist in determining the extent, content, and purpose of the educational program, and particularly consider those program options that provide the pupil with an appropriate and equal opportunity for communication access, including the state's school for the deaf, which may be the least restrictive environment for a deaf or hard of hearing child.
2. The National Grange strongly supports continuation of the Education of the Deaf Act to provide maximum benefit for deaf and hard of hearing persons, both in programs and services, including funding for Gallaudet University and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID).

Educational Funding

1. The National Grange supports the continuation of the federal guaranteed student loan, grant, and work-study programs. The National Grange recommends that Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Expected Family Contribution (EFC) regulations be adjusted to reflect family expenses, such as real estate taxes, medical expenses and other financial obligations in the determination of financial aid. We urge strict enforcement of the requirements for repayment of federally financed student loans with severe penalties for default. The National Grange suggests that the guidelines for student financial aid laws be revised so financially independent students are eligible to receive financial aid for their higher education.
2. The National Grange supports the retention of Federal Government Impact Aid for public school districts that lose traditional revenue sources due to a federal presence or activity.
3. The National Grange supports federal categorical aid to school library centers.
4. The National Grange believes that public funding should be used only in public schools. We support redirecting public funding to nonpublic or Charter schools, only when the money is for special needs students where the law mandates special training not available in public schools.
5. The National Grange supports federal funding for state allocation of dollars for rural education to promote better salaries and benefits for teachers in rural education and to improve rural school conditions.
6. The National Grange urges adequate funding by the federal government for all federally mandated education programs. In particular we support equal educational opportunities for exceptional and handicapped persons including federal funding at the 40% level for federally mandated individualized education programs for special needs children.
7. The National Grange supports federal legislation protecting the Upward Bound Talent Search designed to benefit low-income students seeking college educations.
8. The National Grange supports legislation that awards grants to institutions for history teacher preparation initiatives stressing content mastery in traditional American history and the principles on which the American political system is based.

Nutrition

1. The National Grange urges adequate funding for school breakfast and lunch programs. We support the American Dietetic Association's current guidelines recommending two to three servings of dairy products daily in the school nutrition program. We urge the USDA to keep dairy products in the Food Pyramid and encourage all consumers to include adequate amounts of calcium in their diets. School breakfast and lunch programs should provide balanced diets to meet a child's daily nutritional requirements.
2. The National Grange urges the agricultural community to provide nutrition education programs for consumers and school-aged children and support continued funding for the Farmers' Market Nutrition program.
3. The National Grange supports any legislation to prohibit the sale of junk food and soda pop from vending machines in elementary and junior high schools. We also urge school districts to seek out contracts with vendors distributing more healthy alternatives such as milk.

4. The National Grange opposes any additional tax on "fat" foods for the purpose of preventing obesity. Instead, educational programs should be provided to encourage eating a variety of nutritious foods in moderation, and to teach the basic interaction of calorie intake and energy expenditure.

Food Safety and Labeling

1. The National Grange believes the agricultural industry should be free to advertise their products as long as the advertisement is accurate and is based on facts.
2. The National Grange favors strict enforcement of all food labeling laws by the Food & Drug Administration. We encourage the National Safety Working Group and Congress to enact far-reaching legislation increasing the inspection rate and level of safety of imported foreign foods, drugs, and manufactured goods. We also support legislation requiring food companies and restaurants to clearly mark food labels and items on menus that may contain ingredients such as Monosodium Glutamate (MSG) and inform patrons if their food contains peanuts, are exposed to peanuts, or has been cooked in peanut oil. We recommend that a ban be placed on the use of all sulfites on fresh fruits and vegetables in restaurants. We further recommend that all manufacturers of food and drink who use sulfites in their products be required to specify on the product label that a sulfite was used. However, we support each individual restaurant's right to decide whether to include calorie counts on their menu boards of calorie, fat, carbohydrates and sodium on their menus for all food and beverage items.
3. The National Grange urges the Department of Health and Human Services to review and strengthen the regulations pertaining to manufactured products used in the home canning process, including requiring a manufacturer's name and expiration date on these products.
4. The National Grange favors continued testing of cider processing but strongly urges Congress and the USDA not to require pasteurization of all commercial cider.
5. The National Grange supports the initiation of a regulated food products irradiation program. We further support federal funding for a program to educate the public about the benefits of irradiated food products.
6. The National Grange supports easy and inexpensive access to vitamins and supplements. We urge that all herbal medicines sold in the United States be labeled with a warning to consult with a physician or pharmacist before using. We further support legislation that would require manufacturers and processors of dietary supplements to report certain information to the Secretary of Health and Human Services annually, including a list of supplements manufactured and the labeling and major ingredients for such supplements.

HEALTH

Family Planning

1. We oppose any amendment to the United States Constitution that denies an individual the freedom of choice for abortion. We recognize the need for readily available family planning information for those who need or desire it. However, we do oppose partial-

birth abortions. Government financing should not be available for abortions, except in cases of rape, incest, endangered health of the mother, or serious defects of the fetus. We support educational efforts, which would emphasize the necessity for licensed hospitals and medical doctors when abortions are necessary. We further support requiring all abortion agencies to provide counseling by qualified professional personnel to explore all possible options before an abortion and we favor state legislation requiring abortion and family planning clinics to notify parents or guardians of minors who are seeking drugs or abortions.

2. The National Grange supports the release of adoption records that will provide family health history.
3. The National Granges opposes the distribution of any contraceptives to middle school age students.

Health Care Consumer Protection, Patients' Rights and Accessibility

1. The National Grange supports access to affordable health care and health insurance for every American regardless of age, race, income, health condition, or location with freedom of choice of medical provider and facility. In addition, health care cost containment strategies should maintain the highest quality of care without compromising effectiveness and efficiency. We favor legislation to guarantee that the attending physician's decision is the governing factor regarding appropriate medical treatment or length of hospital stay. The physician's decision should be the deciding factor for coverage whether or not treatment or hospitalization takes place in or out of the patient's home state. We believe HMOs should be required to accept the determination of the attending health care provider as evidence of the need for an emergency visitation or ambulance service.
2. The National Grange supports proposals for health care reform that include the following safeguards: a) allow patients to sue HMOs for medical malpractice; b) place a cap on how much an individual may sue for per medical malpractice suit, including a $250,000 cap on malpractice awards arising from non-economic claims (i.e. pain and suffering); c) place a cap on malpractice awards regarding product liability; d) require insurance companies to provide hospital coverage for birth as deemed necessary by the doctor; e) establish an efficient grievance and appeal process for patients when medical procedures or payments are denied by insurance companies/HMO's; f) require that insurance companies cover all legally mandated medical services deemed necessary by a doctor at federal, state, or hospital levels, including preventative procedures such as well baby check ups and childhood immunizations; h) require insurance companies to pay claims within 30 to 45 days of receiving properly completed forms and bills.
3. The National Grange urges federal agencies to be more aggressive in their investigations and prosecutions of fraud, waste, and abuse in the health care system. We support efforts to maintain the National Practitioners Data Base allowing consumers to have access to malpractice reports so they can properly choose the best medical professional for themselves.
4. The National Grange supports tax deductible medical savings accounts (MSAs) in the form of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) type account to be used strictly for medical expenses. We support extending health care coverage under COBRA for all terminated employees who qualify for a period of up to 36 months or until eligible for Medicare/Medicaid and include portability of health insurance coverage — even if

there is a pre-existing condition — for those who change jobs or become unemployed. The National Grange supports tax incentives for businesses to provide health insurance coverage for their employees and 100% tax deductibility of health insurance premiums for the self-employed and individuals acquiring private health insurance.

5. The National Grange favors the passage of laws, which allow parents/guardians in conjunction with their doctors to decide whether or not to keep severely physically and mentally handicapped children alive by life support systems without interference by the government.
6. The National Grange urges that the new federal and state laws on privacy of medical information be examined, and amended if necessary, so that medical practitioners may release or disclose limited information when necessary to contact relatives or others who are needed to authorize medical treatment. We further support legislation that would require patients, when physically or mentally able, to submit their medical background to health care professionals.
7. The National Grange supports legislation such as "The Small Business Health Fairness Act" or any other legislation that would allow professional associations to offer members group health insurance on a national basis thus making it more affordable.
8. The National Grange strongly urges hospitals to charge uninsured patients the same rates that are negotiated by insurance companies and Medicare for their clients.
9. The National Grange supports legislation requiring all restaurants and all public buildings to be smoke free.
10. The National Grange supports legislation to amend present law to require builders and landlords to include carbon monoxide detectors as well as smoke detectors in buildings they build or manage.

Rural Health Care

1. We urge that the federal government maintain block grant/matching funds to states for community health clinics.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to ensure that fairness in price and benefits offered becomes a part of any and all medical insurance programs. The National Grange believes that payment to health care providers should adhere to a schedule of fees for services provided that is fair and equitable across the United States.
3. The National Grange supports incentive programs for doctors who will agree to practice in rural areas where basic medical care is not available.
4. The National Grange supports the establishment or use of the necessary infrastructure for the expansion of telemedicine into rural areas.
5. We encourage local Granges to present programs that educate the community about pharmaceutical assistance programs.

Medical Research/Awareness

1. The National Grange supports and recognizes the value of medical research in increasing the quality of life. We support improvement in the quality of health care services and access to new and existing technologies. We encourage continued funding of medical research, including those using animals.

2. The National Grange encourages research to continue on alternative treatments, such as acupuncture, hypnosis, massage therapy, prayer, and meditation, which may be used in conjunction with the standard treatments that are showing results against diseases.
3. The National Grange supports the National Cancer Institute and encourages Congress to continue providing funds for research.
4. The National Grange supports the establishment of a "radiation data base" on radiation releases to the public resulting from both intentional and unintentional releases due to nuclear weapons testing and accidental releases from nuclear power plants.
5. The National Grange urges that the correct information about Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) should be given to all parents and caregivers of children under five years.
6. The National Grange urges adequate funding for agencies at all levels dealing with the HIV and AIDS problem and supports increased emphasis on testing.
7. The National Grange urges the use of government funds for stem cell research only on postnatal or adult stem cells. We further support the research and possible use of cord blood stem cells and, promote the registry and donation of cord blood stem cells. However, we support legislation banning full human cloning.
8. The National Grange supports legislation that would ban the patenting of natural occurring genes. We only support the patenting of treatment and/or alterations of those natural occurring genes.

Medicare/Medicaid

1. The National Grange supports the following reforms and changes in the Medicare and Medicaid programs: a) equity of payment between inpatient and outpatient procedures according to Medicare's Diagnostic Related Groups; b) equity in reimbursements between rural and urban hospitals; c) prohibit hospitals or doctors from setting fees or discontinuing Medicare assignments for specific diagnosis during treatment on the basis of the method of payment or from charging amounts above the Medicare limits for Medicare services; d) faster processing of claims to permit faster reimbursement; e) extended coverage to ensure sufficient time for full recovery; f) prohibit health care professionals and (g) all reimbursements under the Medicare program to all Medicare patients, medical personnel, suppliers, etc. must be made in a 3 month timeframe.
2. The National Grange supports a full investigation of the causes of the rapid increase in Medicare/Medicaid costs. We further support a cap on the annual increase in Medicare deductions of no more than the general inflation rate. The National Grange strongly urges Congress to refrain from reducing payment to physicians and providers under Medicare since it would add an additional burden to patients needing to use the program.
3. The National Grange will lobby for a change in current Medicare insurance to include coverage for hearing exams and hearing aids. The National Grange urges Medicare and Medicaid to review their payment schedules and make changes which recognize recommended and accepted medical procedures and screening tests, such as: coverage for the prostate-specific antigen test (PSA); increased coverage for home health care costs; reimbursement for services of midwives and physicians' assistants; coverage for outpatient office laser surgery.
4. The National Grange favors legislation permitting retired people to deduct the cost of their supplemental health insurance from their taxable income. We support changing

current regulations to permit seniors who are "grandfathered" by residence address into a Medicare supplemental insurance program to be allowed to move anywhere within the original service area without being dropped from their insurance plan. We further support a division of assets procedure for Medicaid and Medicare that would preserve the financial stability of a healthy spouse.

5. The National Grange supports the right to have a second doctor in the operating room, where medically required, for patients on Medicare.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would give eye and dental insurance to seniors age 65 plus for those procedures that Medicare does not cover, with a co-pay/deductible for amounts over 100 dollars.
7. The Grange at all levels works to convince our government that Medicare money should also be spent on health screening for early intervention of diseases which is far more economical than the huge cost of treating advanced stages of the diseases.
8. The National Grange urges Congress to pass an act allowing Medicare information to be given to an assigned representative and that the representative be allowed to act on behalf of said patient without consignment of Medicare and/or Social Security benefits.
9. The National Grange encourages the Federal Government to simplify the Medicare Part D program to achieve substantially lower drug prices for beneficiaries and require all aspects of the program to be implemented within 60 days of an applicant's enrollment.
10. The National Grange supports allowing Medicare to help cover the cost of purchasing hearing aids and eye ware. The National Grange also supports legislation to change the regulatory language that categorizes hearing aids as cosmetic devices to the category of prosthesis devices in all instances for Medicare as well as Medicare supplemental insurance.

Long Term Care and Assisted Living

1. The National Grange supports coverage for long-term nursing/in-home care, including an allowable tax credit for long term care insurance premiums, and an allowable tax credit for adult day care expenses incurred by primary care givers of adults who cannot care for themselves. A tax credit should also be available for programs to provide assisted living to the elderly in their own homes. We urge changing the Medicare entitlement and managed health care insurance programs so that they provide payment for assisted living programs.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that will provide uniform care and services to nursing home patients and will protect their rights.
3. The National Grange encourages Congress to require Medicare to make timely payments to both acute care and extended care facilities to ensure that the correct level of care is maintained for all patients.
4. The National Grange urges the U.S. Health Care Financing Authority to allow elderly couples to be in the same nursing home when long term care for both becomes necessary.
5. The National Grange supports action that develops a comprehensive and economical method to treat patients requiring Palliative Care.

Deaf, Hard Of Hearing and the Disabled

1. We strongly support legislation to protect the rights of deaf and hard of hearing persons.
2. The National Grange encourages manufacturers of machinery and stereo equipment to place warning labels, where feasible, informing consumers that permanent hearing loss could occur as a result of prolonged noise exposure above 85 decibels. We further support legislation requiring motorcycle mufflers to be designed so that the maximum decibels produced shall not be higher than 85 decibels at a distance of 50 feet.
3. The National Grange supports legislation requiring emergency warning messages to be both close captioned and delivered verbally, and all television stations provide closed captioning for news, weather, sports, and other live events.
4. The National Grange encourages telephone companies to make all public telephones hearing-aid compatible and install volume-controlled amplifiers. We further recommend that local, state, and national governments specify in their lease/purchase agreements with any telephone contractor that all instruments be hearing aid compatible.
5. The National Grange supports legislation that would require all health insurance companies to cover hearing screening, testing, surgery, and hearing aids, including mandatory regular hearing screenings and hearing aids for children.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would establish detection and intervention programs for newborns and infants with hearing loss. We further urge Congress to pass legislation to require hearing testing of newborns prior to their release from the hospital.
7. The National Grange urges the Department of Transportation to become aware of the need for unisex handicapped restrooms and to make provisions for them at all new or remodeled rest stops.
8. The National Grange supports legislation so that any retired military service personnel with 50% or more service-related disability rating be allowed to obtain and receive needed dental treatments at the Veteran's Administration Dental Clinics at no cost.

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Controlled Substance

1. The National Grange encourages the bold, accurate labeling of household products (including carpeting and furniture that have been treated with toxic chemicals), farm chemicals, and other products containing toxic ingredients.
2. The National Grange supports the continuation of the many programs presently fighting substance addiction. The National Grange urges that funding for addiction treatment be governed by medical personnel and not by non-medical administrators of reimbursement programs. The National Grange supports legislation to end insurance discrimination against Americans living with mental illness and addiction in order to provide necessary assistance and treatment programs that will allow many of these afflicted individuals to return to a productive life in mainstream society.
3. The National Grange believes that any product containing above the acceptable FDA limit of Dioxin should display a label warning consumers of its presence.
4. We support federal legislation, which would ban the advertising and promotion of alcoholic beverages on television and radio. The National Grange supports the adoption

of more prominent alcohol warning labels on all beer, wine and liquor containers.

5. The National Grange supports the effort of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to ban cigarette and alcohol advertising that encourages children to smoke and drink alcoholic beverages.
6. The National Grange urges legislation requiring all tobacco products to carry a federal health warning label, just as cigarettes do, and that advertisements include the detrimental effects of any tobacco products as well.
7. The National Grange recommends the passage of laws making it a punishable crime to use such drugs as Rohypnol, GHB, and Ketamine on anyone for the purpose of procuring sex.
8. The use of steroid and other stimulants, unless prescribed for medical reasons, should be made illegal in all competitive sports and the National Grange supports having heavy penalties imposed upon the violators.

Prescription Drugs and Medicines

1. The National Grange supports making prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs more affordable. The National Grange strongly encourages drug companies to produce lifesaving and life enhancing medicines for a wide variety of diseases and medical conditions. We further support requiring all government and private prescription drug coverage programs to offer the widest possible selection of lifesaving and life enhancing medicines at an affordable price for those who need them.
2. The National Grange supports allowing U.S. citizens, who are visiting foreign countries, to bring back with them up to three months supplies of regulated pharmaceutical products for their own use, provided that they have valid prescriptions for those specific pharmaceutical products from their U.S. physician. The National Grange supports the current Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act provisions that generally do not allow regulated pharmaceutical products to be imported into the U.S. for sale or distribution unless those importers are also pharmacists and/or pharmaceutical wholesalers currently subject to federal and state regulation. We strongly support current law and regulations that require anyone who imports regulated pharmaceutical products for sale or distribution in the U.S. to keep accurate records tracking the origin, history and chain of custody of these products before they entered the U.S. We support legislation requiring anyone authorized to import regulated pharmaceutical products for sale or distribution in the U.S. to be financially responsible for any testing necessary to verify the authenticity and/or degradation of the pharmaceutical products they import. We support strictly limiting the importation of pharmaceutical products to drugs from licensed pharmacies and wholesalers who sell to the public in Canada. We support providing the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) with sufficient resources and authority to ensure the safety of imported drugs from Canada employing technological and other safeguards. We further support legislation requiring anyone authorized to import regulated pharmaceutical products for sale or distribution in the U.S. to be allowed to import such products only if they are shipped into the U.S. in counterfeit proof and tamper resistant packaging.
3. The National Grange supports a voluntary program, which would offer pregnant women who test HIV positive voluntary access to the drug AZT that could prevent the transfer of the HIV antibodies to the unborn child or newborn child.

4. The National Grange will work to secure legislation requiring physicians to obtain specific written approval of the patient or those legally authorized to give approval prior to prescribing experimental drugs. When the physician prescribes experimental drugs, the warning and permission form must be in clear, common layman language on a separate medical form.
5. The National Grange supports legislation that would require the pharmaceutical companies to significantly reduce the minimum dose purchase requirement for pneumoncocial vaccine. We recommend that local county Health Departments include this vaccine in required childhood immunizations.
6. The National Grange urges pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmaceutical wholesalers and pharmaceutical retailers to work cooperatively to reduce the cost of drugs for consumers in the United States and will work to pass legislation to amend the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 to facilitate this cooperation.
7. The National Grange urges the Food and Drug Administration to mandate that pharmaceutical producers label all products and commodities containing gluten.

I would like to thank my committee for their thoughtful deliberations while performing all the duties required of them. All committee members participated in discussions over a wide variety of resolution topics and were truly dedicated to the work at hand. I would especially like to thank Jeff Swainston for all of his hard work as Secretary.

Our committee would also like to thank Youth Delegate, Tracey Blasingame, for her extremely valuable contributions to this committee. Her ability to research information on-line during committee discussions was invaluable. Her dedication and involvement as a youth participant in the John Trimble Legislative Experience is a perfect example of the Grange's commitment to building tomorrow's leaders.

Fraternally,

Gaye Hunt (AK), Chair
Jeff Swainston (MI) (H), Secretary
Barbara Narvel (DE)
Mary Donley (IL)
Melanie Bostwick (KS)
Karen Orton (NY)
Amanda Sherman (RI)
John Hammett (SC)
Tracey Blasingame (IL) (YH)

GRANGE LAW & GOOD OF THE ORDER COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES#	MASTER	STATE	TITLE	COMMITTEE	ACTION
501	2nd Vote		SUSPENSION OF STATE GRANGE CHARTERS	Grange Law	Adopted
502	2nd Vote		SELLING GRANGE OWNED REAL PROPERTY	Grange Law	Adopted
503	2nd Vote		ASSOCIATE MEMBERS DUES	Grange Law	Rejected by Delegate Action
504	Gray	FL	NATIONAL DUES FOR GOLDEN SHEAF MEMBERS	Grange Law	Combined with 505
505	Pompper	NJ	GOLDEN SHEAF MEMBER DUES	Grange Law	Adopted
506	Brumbaugh	OH	GOLDEN SHEAF MEMBERS	Grange Law	Adverse
507	Bostwick	KS	DUES INCREASE TO AID YOUTH AND JUNIORS	Grange Law	Withdrawn
508	Pompper	NJ	DUES FOR AFFILLIATE MEMBERS	Grange Law	Adverse
509	Billquist	MT	THE NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION	Grange Law	Covered by Committee Resolution 524GL
510	Huber	PA	NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION FUNDING	Grange Law	Covered by Committee Resolution 524GL
511	Sendewicz	CT	FUNDING OF ANNUAL SESSIONS OF NATIONAL GRANGE	Grange Law	Covered by Committee Resolution 524GL
512	Meritt	OK	NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION FUNDING 2012	Grange Law	Covered by Committee Resolution 524GL
513	Gray	FL	NATIONAL GRANGE BY-LAWS ON POMONA GRANGES	Grange Law	Adverse
514	Wilson	OR	DEFINITION OF DEPENDENTS	Grange Law	Adopted as Amended Requires 2nd 2/3 vote in 2009
515	Lewis	CA	CONTINUED USE OF AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP	Grange Law	Policy Statement
516	Pompper	NJ	NATIONAL GRANGE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	Grange Law	Adopted Requires 2nd 2/3 vote in 2009
517	Gentry	NC	ALTERNATE INSTALLATION CEREMONY	Grange Law	Covered by Committee Resolution 526GL
518	Gentry	NC	JUDICIAL CODE	Grange Law	Adopted as Amended
519	Huber	PA	DIGEST AMENDMENT FOR JUNIOR GRANGE	Grange Law	Adopted
520	Meritt	OK	JUNIOR GRANGE ORGANIZATION	Grange Law	Combined with 519

521	Huber	PA	JUNIOR GRANGE ADULT ADVISOR NAME CHANGE	Grange Law	Withdrawn
522	Chase	MA	HOSTING NATIONAL GRANGE SESSION	Grange Law	Adopted as Amended
523	Donley	IL	SALE, ENCUMBRANCE OR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY	Grange Law	Covered by Committee Resolution 529GL
524	Committee Resolution		CONVENTION HOSTING	Grange Law	Adopted
525	Committee Resolution		STUDENT GRANGES	Grange Law	Adopted
526	Committee Resolution		ALTERNATE INSTALLATION CEREMONY	Grange Law	Adopted
527	Committee Resolution		SUBORDINATE/COMMUNITY GRANGE	Grange Law	Adopted
528	Committee Resolution		CODE OF THE POMONA GRANGE	Grange Law	Adopted
529	Committee Resolution		SALE, ENCUMBRANCE OR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY	Grange Law	Referred to Executive Committee
530	Committee Resolution		EDITORIAL CHANGE	Grange Law	Adopted

POLICY STATEMENT

One of the major challenges the Grange has today is to see that we educate our members that they have power within our organization. Unlike other associations, we give limited power to our elected leaders as the true power begins with the voting members of each Grange. We are one of the few associations where action, like legislation, begins at the grass-roots level and we must reach the goal to train more Community Grange members to become leaders and participate at all levels of our Order.

We see a change in society today where more young people seem to want to become involved in their communities. We now have the opportunity to work with these younger people and families and make them part of the Grange success story. Statistics show us that more young people are joiners today and becoming more concerned about their communities. More seem to be choosing the church of their choice or some other religious tradition. What better opportunity does the Grange have to begin to involve these people in the traditions of our Order.

We're also seeing a change in how our Organization is operating. We see the beginnings of more unified thinking and doing. We see more positive action taking place as these younger people are looking for a better world for their children. Here we are! Let's open our arms and hearts wide and welcome them into our membership. It is going to mean many changes but change can be good if well planned and carried through so that it benefits those who are part of our group.

We need to continue our Associate Membership because there are many out there who believe in our principles and beliefs but due to time constraints with family or work may not be able to participate in Grange meetings or other functions. We strongly support the

Affiliate Membership program because we are a family and by tradition, we work and support each other. This can help many Granges to survive.

We are facing many outside challenges which will make it necessary for us to work together as a Grange family in order to protect the past 140 years of tradition and positive action. We need to be proud of our membership by showing that pride in the public. Wear a Grange sweatshirt or cap, place an emblem on other type of clothing, wear a button that promotes Grange, or wear jewelry that reflects our ritualistic traditions.

We are beginning the process of training new leaders by holding conferences across the nation which will help our current leaders become more effective in membership growth, parliamentary procedure, community service, and the like. We need to buy into these programs to become better educated as to the different ways and means to help our Organization grow.

We need to review all of our policies with some detail to make sure that they are editorially correct and with proper language and structure. We should notify the National Master if we notice any errors or omissions in established written work. We need to consider optional ways of performing the Grange Ritual which has so many lessons that are taught using old traditions but have just as many valid meanings in today's world. Thought should be given to other options for degree work and installation ceremonies. We accept the report of the Opening and Closing Ceremony Committee appointed by the National Master. In the near future, we need to work on updating, correcting, and finalizing the Alternative Manual. We encourage the National Master to appoint a Committee to develop a one-source manual which will include the traditional degree work and installation ceremony as well as optional or alternative versions.

We need to give serious thought to the process used to fund National Grange Conventions. The cost needs to be fairly and equitably distributed to Grange members across the Nation. It should not be borne by the individual hosting Regions alone.

We need to give serious thought to the Pomona Grange level of our Order. In order to be more successful legislatively, the Pomona structure must get back to the original purpose of why it was formed. This branch is the legislative body of the Order. This may cause change in different states due to membership and geography but we strongly feel that it needs to be addressed.

What is our secret? We are a family organization and we need to continue to involve our children and our young people in all phases and levels of Grange work. These age levels are the most enthusiastic about the Grange structure, ritual, policies, and programs. If we train them well from age 5 on, our future will be in good hands. What is more refreshing than going to a Grange meeting where children are accepted and welcomed in the hall? As they are playing in the middle of the Grange Hall floor, they are picking up our principles and beliefs.

We encourage you to become familiar with the National Master's Rulings during the past year. They are printed below.

This covers resolution 515 (CA) and portions of the Master's Address and Master's Internal Report.

NATIONAL MASTER'S RULINGS ON GRANGE LAW AND USAGE

Administrative Leave

After reading the Digest and consulting our attorney on the first point of placing a State Officer on Administrative Leave, I can find no mention of that term within our Digest or rules. The term is normally used and associated with an action take toward an employee. A State Grange Officer is not an employee unless they are paid for performing the duties of their office. A State Officer may be an employee, a director, or a volunteer.

I therefore rule that unless a State Grange Officer is on the payroll of the State Grange, which would exclude honorariums and similar financial arrangements, they can not be placed on administrative leave as they are not an employee.

On the anonymous complaint, our rules are clear that any member may file a specific complaint against another member, but that complaint can not be made anonymously. If a member does not wish to file a complaint, regardless of the seriousness of the issue, we can do nothing against either member. This action as required by our rules, puts our Masters at each level of the Grange in a poor legal position if they become aware of a potential problem, but have no member willing to sign a complaint about that problem. They are then in a position where they are aware of a potential problem, but are unable to act officially to remedy the situation. They can not do an in depth investigation which might confirm or clear the member of the charges. Yet they must also protect their members and members' children from any foreseeable danger.

I therefore rule that a State Master may investigate any public records that pertain to any complaint, anonymous or signed, if they believe it in the best interests of the Order. Bear in mind, that you may discover an individual who has a checkered past, but has nothing in their past that would meet the requirements of a Grange Trial. This would increase your knowledge of the person without allowing you an easy remedy.

In considering the second paragraph, 4.10.5 states that the officer is "generally to perform all duties pertaining to their elected office." It also gives the State Grange the opportunity to specify in their By-Laws what the duties of that office are in that jurisdiction.4.10.7 outlines the criteria for and the process of suspending an officer. 8.4.2 and 8.4.3 further clarify that process for a State Grange. 4.6.14 clarifies suspension or termination of membership of a member and what shall happen when a member is convicted of a felony.

I therefore rule that the Executive Committee or the Delegates of a State Grange may set forth rules including mandatory background checks. However, that rule or provision must be in place prior to the election of officers so that any candidate might know of that rule prior to their acceptance of the office. Also, the State Master and State Grange Executive Committee can not remove any officer, nor prevent them from performing the normal or general duties of their office without filing charges as outlined in any of the previously mentioned sections or 10.9.1 or 10.9.2. If any member, including the State Master, is willing to file and sign a specific complaint then that officer may be duly and properly removed from their office. Remember that a felony conviction only applies if the member is a member when convicted. A membership that begins following a felony conviction does not fall under the provisions outlined in the Digest.

This ruling does not fix the problem as outlined in the opening questions. I would suggest that a State Master who finds himself in this situation remember his obligation is to do three things that are not always easy. 1. Protect the members to the best of his ability. 2. Protect the rights of each member to the best of his ability. 3. Protect the interests of our

organization to the best of his ability.

Our rules bar us from doing something that common sense tells us to do. A Master and/or Executive Committee may confront the member privately, but that will require the member to choose to what we perceive to be the right thing to remedy the situation. We can not publicize everything we suspect or know if it doesn't rise to the level of filing charges as may harm the members reputation, thus increasing our potential liability. We may be able to ban the officer from certain private areas or assign a deputy to ensure that the officer is never alone with children during an official event, but much of the time our hands are tied by our own rules, which we are pledged to obey and enforce.

Audit Authority CA

1.4.2 states that all Charters issued to the various Granges of the divisions of the Order shall provide that members of each Grange at all times will faithfully comply with the constitution of the Order, the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and Grange Laws and usage of the various Granges of the divisions of the Order as from time to time adopted.

4.5.1 gives the criteria for which a State Grange Master may suspend or revoke the Charter of a Junior, Subordinate/Community, or Pomona Grange. Section "(B) A Grange working in violation of the law and usages of the Order."

I found no direct clause giving authority to the National or State Granges to order audits of the Granges under their jurisdiction. However in reading the Digest there is a great deal of intent that is evident.

No State Grange Master would be able to carry out the duties of their office, especially in cases where they suspect a Grange was working in violation of the law and usages of the Order, without the power to order an audit or thorough examination of the records of that Grange. This power to order an audit or examination of the records is even more important today when one Grange operating outside our rules could harm all the Granges within that state or even all Granges in the nation by violating Federal or State Statutes or rules. The purpose of an audit or thorough examination of the records of the Grange is to uncover the facts of that Grange's operation. Once the facts are known the State Grange Master can take appropriate action as provided in the Digest and State Grange By-Laws. That action could range from revoking the Charter to commending the officers for their good recording keeping.

I therefore rule that the State Grange Master has the power and obligation to conduct an audit or thorough examination of all the records of any Grange that he or she believes is operating in violation of 4.5.1 (B) in order to determine the facts in that case. When a Grange has its Charter suspended and refuses to provide all requested records for such an audit or examination, they invite the penalty of revocation of their Charter. Any Grange, or member of that Grange, may appeal any decision that the State Grange Master makes upon completion of the ordered audit or examination.

The State Grange Master may use deputies, officers, or members with experience or qualifications in auditing to conduct the audit or examination as individuals or a committee. I would suggest that care be taken to ensure that the members entrusted with this task be as impartial as possible.

California Trial Punishment – Chapter 12

Every point your attorney made has merit. However, unlike the civil and criminal legal system our system is seldom used and therefore has none of the regular testing that occurs with constant use. Without this regular testing we have made occasional amendments to chapter 12, often only dealing with specific cases and overlooking other similar sections, thereby creating differences within the chapter. I and others are reviewing this chapter and will suggest amendments to chapter 12 to the National Grange Delegates this November based upon our experiences with the charges against Brothers Hitt and Lewis.

First point: A person removed from office cannot be elected to that office to fill the vacancy that their removal created. Any other ruling would negate the punishment duly imposed by the Grange Trial Court. In this case, Brother Hitt cannot be elected to the office of Master/President, nor perform the duties of the office in any way, to fill the vacancy that was created when he was removed from office for his actions.

It is possible to assume from Brother Hitt's actions that he does not recognize the authority of the Laws and Rules of our Order except where he, or his Grange, may benefit from that authority. We have no acting Masters/Presidents except in the case of that officer being absent from a meeting and the ranking officer assuming the presiding position for that meeting. Any attempt by Brother Hitt to perform the duties, or any portion of the duties, of Master/President of the Grange would be grounds for future charges against him once the removal from office is effective until the next regular election of Grange officers.

Second Point: The burden of making rulings rests solely upon the Masters of the Order and most heavily upon the National Grange Master whose rulings on State Grange Law and Usages are final. National Law rulings are subject only to appeal to the Assembly of Demeter. The National Grange Trial Court found that the punishment was not allowed to be permanent. This is one section where it is clear that other sections specify length or conditions while this does not. The language is clear throughout chapter 12 that it is removal for some or all offices. At no point does the language of the Digest suggest or imply that the punishment is for a specific time period beyond the current term of office.

In this case, Brother Hitt has been notified of the final findings of the National Grange Trial Court on the case of Lewis. Once the Suspension of Vista Grange is lifted, the punishment must be read into the records and the reviewed actions and punishment implemented. Until the suspension is lifted, the removal from office of Brother Hitt has no meaning as there is no office of Master/President to be removed from. Brother Hitt must be removed from office as soon as the Suspension of Vista Grange is lifted and cannot hold office through the remainder of that regular term of office. However, after the removal from office goes into effect and has been carried out, Brother Hitt may be elected to an office in the Grange at the next regular election cycle in the Grange, but as outlined in point one, not before.

When a person reads the Digest and reviews the manual of the Grange, especially the obligations of each degree, it is obviously intended that part of the punishment of removal from office is a certain level of shame and embarrassment before your fellow members. It may be that the members who came before us thought that this would be sufficient to encourage members to avoid misusing the office that they were elected to hold for that term of office. It is unfortunate that it does not seem to be the case today.

Third Point: The last sentence of 12.2.14 creates a direct conflict within our Digest as 12.1.3 gives the right to appeal the decision of the State Master to the National Master on

issues of Grange Law and Usages. Another issue is that in 12.2.24 and 12.2.33 the final Grange Trial appeal is not vested in one person. The third issue is that a Master/President may not violate the Laws of the Order as that would always be subject to appeal.

In this case, the decision of the State Master, in the appeal of the Hitt Trial, needed to conform to points one and two. However, that decision was made under a different National Master who did not make a ruling, but made suggestions and passed the appeal back to the Master requesting the ruling. I would hope that your interpretation of "final" always keeps in mind that the above paragraph definitely creates problems with its conflicts in the Digest.

In any particular usage of the last sentence of 12.2.14, I would suggest that if you have any questions or concerns in a future case, that you request a ruling from the National Master prior to making your "final" decision.

Judicial Code Appeal

In response to your question on the eligibility of an appeal of a trial court decision by the complainant:

Chapter 12 Code of Judicial Law has several items that potentially conflict with the general intent of the Digest of Laws to protect the rights of Grange members.

However, there is consistency of the process of appeal in 12.2.14, 12.2.24, and 12.2.33 which gives only the respondent the right to appeal a guilty finding.

The Digest in 12.1.1 gives the Master the sole right to make rulings on the law and usages contained therein. I believe that the right to make rulings is to answer questions where issues are unclear or not addressed. It does not give the Master the ability to go against the written rules, even where the written rules may be in conflict with the intent of the Digest.

I therefore rule that as of May 3, 2008, the Digest of Laws section 12.2.24 clearly states only the respondent may file an appeal to the decisions of the trial court that find the respondent guilty.

No one else, including properly appointed trial courts, may supersede the authority vested in the Masters of the various levels of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.

I would urge all interested parties to use our process to amend the judicial code of the Digest of Laws to ensure that our rules conform to the general legal principles of our country.

Idaho Deputies

In response to your question of doing away with the Deputy force by either the delegates at your State Session or by the State Grange Executive Committee.

Section 8.4.1 gives authority to the Master of the State Grange to appoint deputies. These Deputies will serve at the direction of the Master. This means that only the State Master has the authority to appoint Deputies within their State and no body of the Grange at that level may over ride that authority.

The second sentence of that section gives the Executive Committee the power to fix the compensation for the Deputies.

The ruling on this question is straight forward. Any resolution or motion to do away with any one, any portion of the Deputy force, or all of the Deputies of your State Grange

is out of order as it would be in conflict with the Digest of Laws.

Any resolution or motion that does more than suggest or recommend changes in Deputy compensation to the Executive Committee would also be out of order as it would be in conflict with the Digest of Laws. The Executive Committee does have the power to increase, decrease, or eliminate compensation to the Deputy force.

Article X1 (4.11.1) and Oshkosh Weekly Times

In response to your question on an interpretation of Article XI (4.11.1) as the 2007 differs from the 2006 in reference to selling Grange halls.

As of this date the question is answered as the 2008 version of the Digest of Laws as amended at the 2007 Annual Session is the framework within which we operate. I will summarize the contents and hopefully answer your question.

4.11.1 No Subordinate/Pomona Grange may sell any real property unless they comply with the following.

4.11.1 (A) Written notice must be sent to the State Grange Executive Committee advising of the intent to sell. Notice must include reasons for the sale, and current use and condition of property and if available, an appraisal.

4.11.1(B) A resolution to sell must be approved using the process outline in C, D, and E by the Subordinate/Pomona Grange and then, after adoption, before it is valid it must be approved by the State Grange Executive Committee. The State Grange Executive Committee cannot give approval prior to the adoption of the resolution to sell by the Subordinate/Pomona Grange.4.11.1 (C) Written notice must be sent to all members of the Subordinate/Pomona Grange wanting to sell property and a copy of the notification resolution.

4.11.1 (D) A notification resolution must be adopted , by majority vote, that states (1) the intent to sell (2) the terms of the sale (3) The date of the regular meeting when the vote will be held on the resolution to sell: not less than 15 days nor more than 90 days after adoption of the notification resolution.

4.11.1 (E) Adoption of resolution to sell by 2/3 vote by the Subordinate/Pomona Grange.

4.11.1 (F) When sale is concluded, the Subordinate/Pomona Grange shall account for the net proceeds and send all but $1,000 to the State Grange which will hold the money in trust. All net proceeds paid after the sale to be made to the State Grange, also to be held in trust. This must be reflected in any note, mortgage or deed. Purchaser to make all payments to the State Grange.

4.11.1(G) State Grange shall hold net proceeds in trust for the following purposes (1) purchase of real property for use as a Grange hall. (2) Purchasing real property on which to construct a Grange hall. (3) Financing construction of a Grange hall. (4) For use in accordance with the general purposes of the Order. Release of monies from the trust to the Subordinate/Pomona Grange for any of the reasons listed above must be approved by the State Grange Executive Committee. All earned income from the trust is the property of the Subordinate/Pomona Grange. The State Grange may receive up to 10% of the earned income for administrating the trust.

4.11.1(H) If the Subordinate/Pomona Grange becomes inactive, the trust is managed under 4.12.1.

"The 10 Commandments of the Grange" as found on the Wikipedia web site. This article seems to indicate anti-Semitism on the #10 commandment.

We have done a great deal of research on this issue and have yet to hear back from Dr. Dennis Nordin, the author of a well regarded Grange history book titled Rich Harvest where the "Ten commandments" was mentioned in passing in the epilogue of the book as being "..adopted by the Grange". Dr. Nordin's book by the way makes no reference to Commandment #10 and offers no particular conclusion about either anti-semitism in the Grange or among farmers in general during this time. Those conclusions come from the authors of the Wikipedia artice which seems to come from an on-line American history course that is offered jointly by George Mason University in Virginia and City University of New York in New York City.

Dr. Nordin reprinted the "commandments" from the Oshkosh Weekly Times published on December 16, 1874 in Wisconsin. We contacted the Wisconsin Historical Society and asked them to send us a photo copy of the original 1874 article, which they graciously did. In the Oshkosh Weekly Times there is no surrounding information about its origin, or about any formal record of "adoption" except it says "California Grange" at the very bottom.

We have found no evidence that National Grange ever adopted this statement in any form. We have found no evidence that it was adopted by any State Grange. In fact during this time period the Declaration of Purposes was adopted which is a strongly worded document that includes the following (adopted February, 11, 1874 Morning Session of the National Grange), "We shall earnestly endeavor to suppress personal, local, sectional, and national prejudices, all unhealthy rivalry, all selfish ambition."

The National Grange was not only non-denominational, but non-sectarian. We can find no evidence of anti-Semitism as part of the official policy of the early Grange. Much evidence exists that the early members and Founders were concerned that the Grange not be allied with any particular sectarian belief. Dr. Nordin points out in his book that the early Grange suffered from sectarian prejudices against it, precisely because the Founders, several of whom were ordained ministers, specifically used predominantly Old Testament references in Grange ritual. Many contemporary fundamentalist Protestant ministers and some Catholic prelates took that to mean that the Grange wasn't "Christian" enough for their followers to associate with. The use of primarily Old Testament references in the ritual would have been evidence of both the strict non-sectarian intentions and the lack of anti-semitic motives among the early Grange leaders.

We have found no evidence that there ever was a Subordinate Grange named "California" in Wisconsin. We have found no evidence that this was ever considered or adopted by the Wisconsin State Grange. The California State Grange in reviewing their records found no evidence that the "Ten Commandments of the Grange" was adopted, or even mentioned in their historical documents. We have found no evidence of the existence of this document or any other evidence of anti-Semitism in any of the contemporary Grange history accounts such as O.H. Kelley's history, AB Grosh's history or other Grange history books written into the early 20th Century.

Possible conclusions from the evidence we have include:

- This was an isolated publication.
- Possibly affiliated with a short lived independent cooperative business venture that was organized in the name of, but outside the legal control of the California State Grange and the National Grange, to sell California grain directly to England. There were many

short lived cooperative business created across the county by Grange members, any of which could issue documents that were outside the power of the Grange organization to control, outside of legal action.

- It could also have been written by a Grange member or officer, who forgot their obligation to the rules of our organization, and let their personal prejudices guide their actions in an unapproved document. This was a very chaotic time in Grange history. In Wisconsin for example, the number of chartered subordinate Granges at their first Annual Session in 1873 was 15. By the time of the Second Annual Session of the Wisconsin State Grange in 1874, there were 408 Subordinate Granges chartered in Wisconsin. Obviously that means that many new people were joining the Order and quickly assuming leadership positions. They may not have all been fully educated about Grange principles.
- It is just as possible that it was a disinformation or anti-Grange propaganda piece. The editor of the Oshkosh Weekly Times could have been an opponent of the Grange or friends with those opposing Grange efforts. We don't know the editorial positions of the paper or if the paper had anti-Semitic leanings.

In summary, regardless of the actual article printed in a single newspaper in 1874, there is no evidence at this time, that would indicate that the Grange took a position that was anti-Semitic. In fact, there is a great deal of evidence that the Grange officially was tolerant of other religions outside Christianity.

Review of an IN State Grange Bylaws Change that was adopted

I received a request for a ruling on February 1, 2008 from Jason Smith, IN State Grange Secretary, to review a State Grange Bylaws Change that was adopted at your last State Session.

There are four Resolves in the adopted resolution that calls for action. There is some conflict within the resolution itself that obscures the clear intent of this resolution.

The first Resolve is clearly in conflict with the digest. Please refer to the Digest of Laws 4.11.1 G. The State Grange must hold the funds in trust and may only release funds when approved by the Executive Committee of your State Grange for, at least, one of the reasons stated there. 1. Purchase of real property for the use as a Grange hall. 2. Financing the purchase of real property on which to construct a Grange hall. 3. Financing construction of a Grange hall. 4. For use in accordance with the general purposes of the Order.

This first Resolve clearly bypasses the safety check of the State Grange Executive Committee as it says "the monies be disbursed". It also sets an amount that will be disbursed with no check on what it will be used for as required by section (G) 1 through 4.

The second Resolve is apparently an administrative function. However, it does conflict with the first resolve that clearly orders the disbursement of the funds. I would question the wisdom of putting an administrative function in your Bylaws, as such a function would also tie the hands of the Executive Committee in meeting the needs of a Grange desiring the building of a Grange hall after the June 30th date. This Resolve while creating a conflict does not violate the Digest which does not address when a State Grange Executive Committee is to act on issues covered in 4.11.1.

The third Resolve creates a future problem as it clearly states "the monies be returned to the State Grange" if the Subordinate Grange ceases. The Digest of Laws covers many

things, but how to recover monies that may have be properly spent by a Subordinate/Community Grange is not. Common sense should have prevailed and this Resolve could have been left out of this resolution as this issue is clearly laid out in 4.12.1 of the Digest.

The fourth Resolve is merely a normal renumbering process used when a new section is created.

I will therefore rule that the first Resolve is clearly out of order for the reasons stated above. As written, it should have been ruled out of order by your State Grange Master. If it had been proposed as a Digest change, and passed, it would then have been appropriate to send it to the National Grange Session for consideration. Only after successfully being adopted at two consecutive National Grange Sessions, would this resolution been in order at your State Grange Session.

It is questionable whether the remaining Resolves could, or should, stand alone without the first Resolve. As they are not in conflict with the Digest of Laws, at this time, I would support your State Grange Master either in ruling the remaining Resolves out of order or in ruling them adopted and placing them in your State Grange Bylaws. A more complete ruling would require reading your State Grange Bylaws to ensure that you could, via rulings, implement a portion of a flawed adopted resolution in reference to your Bylaws.

It would appear that the intent of the resolution was to circumvent the rules as laid out in the Digest of Laws section 4.11.1G. I would suggest to you that you make your decision on the side of caution and consider ruling this entire resolution out of order based upon this ruling. You could then use this opportunity to educate the members of the Grange that submitted this resolution on this issue and our Bylaws amendment process.

Digest Changes, Specifically 8.6.1

Last week an email was sent out in reference to the Digest Changes, specifically 8.6.1 (A)in which the following sentence was not included in the version duly adopted at the 2006 and 2007 National Grange Sessions "Members who receive their Golden Sheaf Award prior to January 1, 2001 need not pay dues to the National Grange."

In reading the Digest it is apparent that this deletion causes conflict within several sections of the Digest which would give cause for a ruling.

In listening to the debate in the Grange Law Committee in the past two Sessions and the discussion on the floor, I have not heard anyone discuss the deletion of the above sentence, only the merits, and their perceived need, of the proposed dues increase.

I will therefore rule that the National Grange will not collect the dues from Golden Sheaf Members who received their award prior to January 1, 2001 as the conflict currently existing in the Digest and the intent of the action of the delegates was to raise dues, not remove the Golden Sheaf exemption. If the delegates of the National Grange do not address this issue in the upcoming Session, at that time I will revisit this issue.

Any State Master that disagrees with this ruling is welcome to present their point of view and ask me to revisit this issue.

Email Response on Grange Allowing Proxy Voting

I also have had a question asked of me as to whether the Grange allows proxy voting. Section 4.7.1. Proxy voting shall never be in order.

I have had a question asked of me as State Master that I need help with. I need to know if a Grange member who does not pay the dues for the current year, on or before January 1 of that year, is entitled to vote on issues that may come before the Grange. If not, is it simply a matter of paying the current dues to be reinstated? Also, how long may the delinquency continue before some other action is necessary to bring the member back to a full standing, voting member? What might that next step in the process entail?

Section 6.4.10 (Definitions): A member in good standing is one who has met all required financial obligations to his/her Subordinate Grange. Other sections require officers to be in good standing.

After a quick read through, I find no section that directly answers your question. Technically, from all aspects it appears that "good standing" is required for members to vote at Grange meetings. From a common sense perspective, it has been common practice in many Granges to allow members who plan on paying dues to continue to operate as members in "good standing." I would believe from reading the Digest that any member not in "good standing" who does not plan on paying their dues, should not be voting on Grange issues even though their membership continues until voted upon by the Grange.

I want to do more research on this particular issue so this is a tentative ruling.

In connection with this inquiry, what are the Grange provisions that a member may pursue if he feels that an action taken by a vote of the Grange are in violation of Grange policy and/or the Grange Digest. For example, if a Grange votes to disburse money from the treasury that will be of benefit to one or several of the members, what recourse does the protesting member have?

Section 1.11.2 is the section dealing with benefit to any officer, director, or member of the order. If any member believes that their Grange is discussing an issue which they believe will violate this section, they should immediately voice their objection and ask for a ruling from their Master. If the Master fails to rule before allowing the business to continue, that Master has violated their obligation and invites the penalties. If the Master rules in opposition to the member, they can appeal to the State Master through the Community Grange Master, once again delaying any action until the ruling is made by the State Master.

If the Grange has voted in a manner that a member believes has violated the section, they should immediately write an appeal to the State Master and give it to the Community Master.

Common sense should prevail and if an officer like the Treasurer is involved, they need to be informed promptly so that they may delay action until any appeals are acted upon. Also in appealing through the Community Grange Master, a carbon copy, either paper or email may be sent to the State Master.

After the State Master makes a ruling, either party may appeal that decision to the National Master.

Failure to follow this procedure by a Community Grange may invite Grange charges against offending officers and members and/or civil lawsuits to recover money or assets from those who benefited from any illegal (Grange or civil) actions of the Grange.

Vista Grange Appeal Ruling

In reviewing your appeal of the action of State Master Randall Lewis to suspend the Charter of Vista Grange the following issues you brought forward are:

The suspension was vaguely worded and does not contain the reason for his action.

I have requested, from Randall Lewis, his reasons and have been given substantial amounts of information of what has transpired. It is obvious that there are personality conflicts and a corresponding failure to communicate between the California State Grange and Vista Grange and that these issues have been ongoing for some time. There are definite differences of opinions on what is proper and what isn't between the California State Grange and Vista Grange. I would suggest that all parties discuss the meanings of words and if necessary ask for rulings from the appropriate level of our organization before drawing a line on the ground that they will not cross.

However, the Digest of Laws is clear in putting the burden of authority on the State Grange Master in this instance. When a State Master believes a Grange is acting in violation of the law and usages of the Order they have but three options, remove from office the offending Subordinate/Community Grange Master, or suspend the Charter of the Subordinate/Community Grange, or Revoke the Charter of the Subordinate/Community Grange.

Of the three choices listed in the previous paragraph, the first is clearly a problem as you gave the title of "acting" president on your appeal. I find no allowances for "acting" officers in the Grange. We have an officer ranking so that the Grange would not be rendered leaderless and we have provisions for what is to happen when a vacancy does occur during the year or term of office. The second choice is to suspend the Grange Charter until the violations have been corrected or explained adequately and to the satisfaction of the appropriate authority. This is a temporary action unlike the third which is a permanent action and would require a reorganization to bring that Grange back. It is my opinion that Randall Lewis made a determination that there was a problem at Vista Grange and took action based upon his belief that action was required and a solution was possible.

On this first issue, I rule that California State Grange Master Randall Lewis took appropriate action within the guidelines of the Digest of Laws. A date for review of the situation at Vista Grange shall be forwarded to Vista Grange and myself so that this action of suspension is recognized by all parties as a temporary and not a permanent action. I would further urge Randall Lewis to include specifics in all future suspensions and revocations of Grange Charters in the future.

The suspension was immediate and does not afford Vista Grange sufficient time to address deficiencies.

The power to suspend a Subordinate/Community Grange Charter is vested solely in the State Grange Master. There is no requirement for any Grange to have sufficient time to address the problem that a State Grange Master may discover. In fact that could give an offending Grange opportunity to alter or hide evidence or even to create larger problems by continuing the action that would be in violation of our laws and usages.

Suspension is to give all parties time to review actions to look for solutions. During the suspension the State Master will be learning the details of the actions of the Subordinate/Community Grange and sharing the rules with the members of said Grange. At the conclusion the suspension will be lifted or the Charter revoked depending upon the information acquired and the decisions that the members make when informed of the rules of the Order.

I rule that this second issue falls within the guidelines of the Digest of Laws and that the California State Grange Master Randall Lewis acted within the rules of the Order.

The suspension does not address the option of an appeal.

The Digest of Laws is readily available to every member who wants a copy. It is not the duty of any officer to outline every option available to any member. While any of-

ficer who does not give their most current and up to date knowledge to any member who requests it is in violation of their obligation, there is no requirement that they list every potential option including possible appeals.

I rule that this third issue has no merit.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Suspension of State Grange Charters

WHEREAS, there are occasions where the National Master may need to suspend the charter of a State Grange; and

WHEREAS, there are no provisions in the Digest and Bylaws of the National Grange to allow such procedures to take place; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Chapter 4, Article V, Section 4.5.7 be amended to read as follows:
"State Granges 4.5.7 Criteria - Whenever the number of active Subordinate Granges in a State Grange is reduced below six, it shall be the duty of the Master of the National Grange to suspend or revoke the Charter of the State Grange having jurisdiction over said Subordinate Granges.

When the following circumstances exist in any State Grange, it shall be the duty of the National Master, with the agreement of the National Grange Executive Committee, to suspend or revoke the Charter of said State Grange, if it is the determination of the National Master that the good of the Order requires such action.
(A) State Grange is in violation of the law and usages of the Order,
(B) A State Grange is found to be in direct violation of its own Constitution and By Laws,
(C) The State Grange refuses to hold meetings as provided for in Article IX of these bylaws,
(D) If a State Grange Charter is suspended for reason of being in arrears for dues, suspension shall automatically be lifted when the State Grange pays the arrears."
Paragraph 4.5.8 and 4.5.9 would remain unchanged.

RESOLVED; that a new 4.5.10 be added to read:
"Special National Grange Deputy - The National Grange Master may appoint a special National Grange Deputy to assume the duties of the Master of said State Grange during the period of suspension. During that period of time all financial obligations must be met in a timely manner."

The remaining paragraphs under (Definitions) will be renumbered.

This covers resolution 501. Adopted by 2/3 vote at the 2007 Annual Session. Adopted by 2/3 vote at second reading at the 2008 Annual Session.

Definition of Dependents

WHEREAS, Section 4.4.3 of the Oregon State by-Laws states that a family shall consist of a husband and wife and their dependents or a single person and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, dependents are defined as children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren under the age of 23 who live as a member of the same household or in absence due to illness, education or military services; and

WHEREAS, some families provide professional care and services for family members over the age of 23; and

WHEREAS, this financial hardship or burden could result in lost membership to those families that most need the Grange family support; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange amend Section 4.6.5 (B) of the digest by adding the words "of any age" so that it reads as follows: "A family shall consist of a husband and wife and their dependents, or a single person and their dependents. Dependents are defined as children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, foster, adopted or step-children under the age of 23, who live as a member of the same household or in absence due to illness, education or military service. Legal dependents of any age shall be considered part of their legal guardians' family."

This covers resolution 514 (OR) Adopted by 2/3 vote at 2008 Annual Session. Second vote at the 2009 Annual Session

National Grange Intellectual Property

WHEREAS, the National Grange is the owner of multiple incontestable U.S. trademark registrations for the GRANGE Trademarks, including GRANGE (U.S. Registration No. 1,872,429), NATIONAL GRANGE (U.S. Registration No. 1,817,894), NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY (U.S. Registration No. 1,816,827) and the Grange Logo (U.S. Registration No. 1,824,368), and has been using the GRANGE Trademarks since 1876 in connection with a variety of goods and services related to farms, farming, agriculture and other goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the intellectual property owned by the National Grange is vital to maintaining the growth and good public reputation of the Order; and

WHEREAS, the intellectual property of the Order is every bit as much a critical asset as other tangible assets and property, (such as financial investments, contractual arrangements, real estate and personal property, etc) that are necessary to conduct business at all levels of the Order; and

WHEREAS, the legal duties of any trademark owner, such as the National Grange, include monitoring and protecting its marks against misuse, unauthorized use, infringement and dilution, and ensuring proper usage of the Grange Trademarks; and

WHEREAS, there are no references in the National Grange Digest of Laws as to the usage, protection and appropriate management of the intellectual property assets that are registered, owned and maintained by the National Grange; and

WHEREAS, in order for the National Grange to protect itself against the increasing number of legal challenges to, commercial infringements on, and unauthorized uses of the registered names and logos owned by the National Grange, a clear policy for the management of these assets for the exclusive benefit of the Order at all levels, needs to be adopted as part of the National Grange Digest of Laws, and

WHEREAS, it is increasingly apparent that a lack of a clear policy to manage the use of these assets could create confusion among local Granges and Grange members as to how these assets should be properly used, invite additional legal challenges, commercial infringements and unauthorized uses of these assets, unnecessarily increase legal costs to the National Grange, endanger the good public reputation of the Grange, and eventually, even result in the permanent loss of the use of the National Grange's registered trademarks

and logos for the exclusive benefit of the Order; therefore be it
RESOLVED, that a new Article, "ARTICLE XVIII: OWNERSHIP, MAINTENANCE, PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND LEGALLY AUTHORIZED USES FOR THE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS, LOGOS, COPYRIGHTS AND OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE" be added to Chapter 4 of the National Grange Bylaws to read:

4.18.1: Ownership and Management of Registered and Non-Registered Grange Trademarks, Logos, Trade Names, Copyrights and Other Intellectual Property associated with the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.

All registered and non-registered trademarks, logos, copyrights and other intellectual property related to, used by and associated with, the Order are the legal property of the National Grange, including the following incontestable trademark registrations: GRANGE (U.S. Registration No. 1,872,429), NATIONAL GRANGE (U.S. Registration No. 1,817,894), NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY (U.S. Registration No. 1,816,827) and the Grange Logo (U.S. Registration No. 1,824,368) (the "Grange Intellectual Property"). All Grange Intellectual Property is held by the National Grange for the furtherance of the general purposes of the Order

For the purpose of this section the traditional names of the officers of Granges of the various Divisions of the Order as well as any other names, phrases or terms associated with any or all of the various Divisions of the Order, including the Assembly of Demeter, that are found in the various National Grange copyrighted printed ritual instruction materials or that are found in any other works of the Order are the intellectual property of the National Grange and may only be used for the furtherance of the general purposes of the Order.

All authority and responsibility for developing and publishing guidelines, rules, regulations or prohibitions related to Grange intellectual property, including decisions related to the management, defense, lease, sale, license, transfer or abandonment of such intellectual property shall be vested in the National Grange board of directors and shall be implemented by the National Master only; provided that no specific agreement to lease, sell, license, transfer or abandon any intellectual property related to, and associated with, the Order shall be made other than in writing.

4.18.2: License to use the Grange Intellectual Property.
Chartered State Granges, Pomona Granges, Subordinate Granges, Junior Granges as well as the Assembly of Demeter may generally use Grange Intellectual Property for purposes that further the general purposes of the Order subject to specific usage guidelines, rules, regulations or prohibitions that may be adopted by the National Grange Board of Directors or the National Grange delegate body.

Chartered State Granges, Pomona Granges, Subordinate Granges, Junior Granges as well as the Assembly of Demeter may use the traditional names of the officers of Granges of their Division of the Order as well as any other names, phrases or terms associated with the various ritual ceremonies of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry that are owned by the National Grange, only in accordance with the instructions found in the various National Grange copyrighted printed ritual instruction materials and only for purposes that further the general purposes of the Order.

No chartered State Granges, Pomona Granges, Subordinate Granges, Junior Granges as well as the Assembly of Demeter or any officers thereof, may license, lease, sell, barter, or transfer legal authority for the future use of Grange intellectual property to any third party, private individual or Grange member as part of any transaction, including the sale or lease of real Grange property and/or the sale, lease, or transfer of any commercial conces-

sion, without first receiving the written permission of the National Master and subject to the terms of a written agreement approved by the National Master. For the purpose of this section "third party" shall include without limitation any partnership, cooperative, corporation, social club, informal membership society, or business enterprise that may be wholly or partially owned or controlled by a chartered Grange of any Division of the Order but that nevertheless has an independent legal existence separate from that charter.

4.18.3 No license to use the Grange Intellectual Property by individual Grange members.

Individual Grange members in good standing may not use, by virtue of their Grange membership, Grange intellectual property for any personal monetary gain or personal commercial purposes without first obtaining, in writing, a license to use such property from the National Grange.

Nothing in this section shall prohibit individual Grange members from owning, wearing, displaying, collecting, utilizing or reselling individual pieces of personal property which depict marks or logos that are part of the Grange Intellectual Property, so long as these items were acquired through legitimate means, for their personal use and enjoyment.

This covers resolution 516 (NJ) Adopted by a 2/3 vote at the 2008 Annual Convention. Second vote at the 2009 Annual Session

Sale, Encumberance or Transfer of Real Property

RESOLVED, that Article XI Section 4.11.1 be amended to read as follows:

4.11.1 Sale of Real Property by Subordinate or Pomona Granges – No Subordinate or Pomona Grange may sell any real property owned by said Subordinate or Pomona Grange except upon the following conditions. The following paragraphs 4.11.1 (A) through (F) must be done in order from (A) through (F):

A written notice shall be sent to the Master and the Executive Committee of the State Grange having jurisdiction advising of the intent to invoke the procedure included in Article XI of these By-Laws to sell real property. Such notice shall contain a summary of the reasons for the proposed sale. The State Grange Executive Committee will send acknowledgement of receipt of the notice to the Subordinate or Pomona Grange.

(B) Upon receiving acknowledgement of receipt from the State Grange, a meeting will be held by said Subordinate or Pomona Grange to set date, time and location for a meeting to consider the sale of the real property. Notice will be sent in writing to the State Master, State Executive Committee, and to all members in good standing of said Grange at their last known address not less than 15 days before but not more than 90 days before the date of the meeting.

(C) On the date and time of said meeting, a vote will be taken on the motion to sell the real property. The vote must be adopted by 2/3 majority of the members in good standing of the Subordinate or Pomona Grange who are present and voting.

(D) A copy of the minutes of the above meeting shall be sent to the State Grange Executive Committee. If the vote is in the affirmative, then a copy of an appraisal of the value of the property and the name and address of any/all licensed real estate agent(s), escrow company(ies), or lawyer(s) who will handle the sale of said real property, if such a representative is retained, shall be sent to the State Grange Executive Committee. A decision of the Subordinate or Pomona Grange to sell the property does not take effect unless

approved by written consent of the Master and Executive Committee of the State Grange having jurisdiction over the said Subordinate or Pomona Grange. Such consent shall not precede the vote of the membership as provided for in Section C above.

(E) When an offer to purchase is received, the membership will vote to accept or reject the offer.

(F) If the membership approves the purchase offer, a copy of the terms will be sent to the State Grange Executive Committee for their approval before a contract is signed.

(G) When a sale of real property is concluded, the assets from the sale shall be sent directly to the State Grange. The State Grange shall send not more than $1,000 to the Subordinate or Pomona Grange, if requested. Such net proceeds from the sale will be deposited by the State Grange in an asset management account. The selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange shall assign all right, title, and interest to the net proceeds of the sale to be paid after the date of Settlement to the said State Grange having jurisdiction; and the existence of such assignment shall be reflected in any note or other evidence of indebtedness executed by the purchaser and in any mortgage or deed of trust securing the payment of such indebtedness. Pursuant to the required assignment, the note or other evidence of indebtedness shall require the purchaser to make all payments in satisfaction of the indebtedness directly to the said State Grange having jurisdiction.

(H) The State Grange shall hold the net proceeds of the sale as provided for in Section 4.11.1(G) of these By-Laws, in an asset management account for the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange for the following purposes:

(1) Financing the purchase of real property for the use as a Grange Hall;
(2) Financing the purchase of real property on which to construct a Grange Hall;
(3) Financing the construction of a Grange Hall; or
(4) For use in accordance with the general purposes of the Order.

Use of the funds held in an asset management account must be approved by the Executive Committee of the State Grange having jurisdiction over the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange. All earned income derived from such asset management account shall be the property of the selling Subordinate or Pomona Granges provided however, that the said State Grange in its sole discretion may be paid up to 10% of such earned income as a trustee's fee for administering the asset management account.

(I) In the event that the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange surrenders its charter or otherwise becomes inactive, the provisions of Section 4.12.1 of these By-Laws shall be applicable.

Be It Further Resolved, that Article XI Section 4.11.2 (C) be amended to read as follows:

(C) If the Master and Executive Committee of the State Grange consent to the encumbrance, then in that event, the procedures for notice, resolution, meeting and vote contained in Sections 4.11.1(B) through 4.11.1(F) of these By-Laws shall be applicable except that such procedures shall be applicable to an encumbrance of real property rather than sale of real property.

Be It Further Resolved, that Article XI Section 4.11.3 (C) be amended to read as follows:

(C) If the Master and Executive Committee of the State Grange consent to the transfer, then in that event, the procedures for notice, resolution, meeting and vote contained in Sections 4.11.1(B) through 4.11.1(F) of these By_Laws shall be applicable except that such procedures shall be applicable to transfer of real property rather than sale of real property. This is a committee resolution. This resolution covers 523 (IL). Adopted by 2/3 vote at 2008 Annual Session. Second vote at the 2009 Annual Session.

Golden Sheaf Member Dues

WHEREAS, there is an error of omission in the 2008 Edition of the National Grange Digest of Laws pertaining to Golden Sheaf Member Dues; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the correction be made to Chapter 8, Section 8.6.1 Membership Dues and specifically to Subparagraph A to include the following wording: Members receiving their Golden Sheaf Award prior to January 1, 2001 need not pay dues to the National Grange.

This covers resolution 504 (FL) and 505 (NJ). Adopted by 2/3 vote under the 24 hour rule.

Judicial Code

RESOLVED, that Section 12 of the Judicial Code be amended as follows:

12.2.3 (Current) With the exception of Complaints filed against Delegates and Officers of the National Grange, and the officers of the Assembly of Demeter, which shall be administered as set forth in sections 12.2.16 through 12.2.33. Complains shall be filed with the Master of the State Grange in which Respondent is a member.

12.2.3 (Amended) The Master of the level where the complaint is filed shall have the authority to offer mediation to the complainant and respondent or make a ruling on the laws of the Order to remedy the complaint. If either the complainant or respondents finds that mediation or ruling by the Master fails to solve the issue, the provisions as set forth in sections 12.2.16 through 12.2.33 will be placed into effect.

12.2.13 (A) (3) (Current) In lieu of and/or in addition to the punishment available under paragraphs (1) or (2) above, remove Respondent from some or all offices held in any division of the Grange; or

12.2.13 (A) (3) (Amended) In lieu of and/or in addition to the punishment available under paragraphs (1) or (2) above, remove Respondent from some or all offices held in any division of the Grange for the remainder of the Respondent's term of office and prohibit them from holding that or any office in the Grange for a specific period; or

12.2.13 (B) (Current) If the Trial Court makes a finding of not guilty, then the costs may be assessed against Complainant.

12.2.13 (B) (Amended) If the Trial Court makes a finding of not guilty, then the costs shall be assessed against the Complainant. For a finding of guilty, the costs shall be assessed against the Respondent. In cases of multiple charges where the findings include both guilty and not guilty rulings, the Trial Court shall assess both the Respondent and the Complainant.

12.2.14 (Current) In the event of a guilty finding under Section 12.2.12 and 12.2.13, Respondent may, within fifteen (15) days of the guilty finding, appeal the finding to the Master of the State Grange, who appointed the Trial Court for a review of the record, the findings, and the punishment set by the Trial Court. If the State Master determines there was procedural error or that the Trial Court erred in its finding of guilty or that the punishment is not equitable in its relation to the charge(s), the State Master may appoint a new Trial Court for a retrial in full form, on any or all the charges or the State Master may modify the punishment and permit Respondent to accept the modified punishment. The decision of the State Master shall be final.

12.2.14 (A) (Amended) The Respondent or Complainant may, within fifteen (15) days appeal the finding to the State Master, who in conjunction with the Executive Committee of the State Grange shall constitute a State Review Board for a review of the record, findings, and punishments set by the Trial Court. In the event of a member of the State Board is charged, or has been involved in the case beyond making rulings or performing their prescribed duties, the member will be disqualified from serving in this capacity. If the Board determines there was a procedural error or that the trial court erred in its finding or that the punishment is not equitable in its relation to the charge(s), then the Board may appoint a new Trial Court for a retrial in full form, on any or all charges or the Board may modify the punishment.

(B) (Amended by adding) The Respondent or Complainant may, within fifteen (15) days of the final State Review Board ruling appeal the findings of the State Review Board to the National Master for a review of the record, findings, and punishments set by the Trial Court. The National Master may review the record, findings and punishment set by the State Master and Trial Court. If the National Master determines that there was a procedural error or that the punishment was not equitable in relation to the charge(s), the National Master may modify the guilty ruling and/or the punishment. The decision of the National Master shall be final.

12.2.23 (A) (Current) In lieu of and/or in addition to the punishment available under paragraphs (1) or (2) above, remove Respondent from some or all offices held in any division of the Grange; or

12.2.23 (A) (3) (Amended) In lieu of and/or in addition to the punishment available under paragraphs (1) or (2) above, remove Respondent from some or all offices held in any division of the Grange for the remainder of the Respondent's term of office and prohibit them from holding that or any office in the Grange for a specific period; or

12.2.24 (Current) In the event of a guilty finding under Section 12.2.22 and 12.2.23, Respondent may within fifteen (15) days appeal the decision to the National Master, who in conjunction with the Executive Committee of the National Grange shall constitute a National Review Board for a review of the record, findings and punishment set by the Trial Court. In the event a member of the Executive Committee of the National Grange is charged, said member will be disqualified from serving in this capacity. If the Board determines there was a procedural error or that the Trial Court erred in its finding of guilty or that the punishment is not equitable in its relation to the charge(s), then the Board may appoint a new Trial Court for a retrial in full form, on any or all the charges or the Board may modify the punishment and permit Respondent to accept the modified punishment. The decision of this National Review Board shall be final.

12.2.24 (Amended) Once the Trial Court declares a ruling, the Respondent or Complainant may, within fifteen (15) days appeal the decision to the National Master, who in conjunction with the Executive Committee of the National Grange shall constitute a National Review Board for a review of the record, findings and punishment set by the Trial Court. In the event a member of the National Review Board is charged, or has been involved in the case beyond making rulings and performing their prescribed duties, the member will be disqualified from serving in this capacity. If the Board determines there was procedural error or that the Trial Court erred in its ruling or that the punishment is not equitable in its relation to the charge(s), then the Board may modify the punishment and permit Respondent to accept the modified punishment. The decision of this National Review Board shall be final.

12.2.32 (A) (3) (Current) In lieu of and/or in addition to the punishment available

under paragraphs (1) or (2) above, remove Respondent from some or all offices held in any division of the Grange; or

12.2.32 (A) (3) (Amended) In lieu of and/or in addition to the punishment available under paragraphs (1) or (2) above, remove Respondent from some or all offices held in any division of the Grange for the remainder of the Respondent's term of office and prohibit from holding that or any office in the Grange for a specific period; or

12.2.33 (Current) In the event of a guilty finding under Section 12.2.31 and 12.2.32, the National Master may within fifteen (15) days of the guilty finding, appeal the finding to the elected officers of the Assembly of Demeter (the Assembly) for a review of the record and disposition of the finding, in the same manner as is set forth in Section 12.2.14 above. If the Assembly determines there was a procedural error or that the Trial Court erred in its finding of guilty or that the punishment is not equitable in its relation to the charge(s), then the Assembly may appoint a new Trial Court for a retrial in full form, on any or all the charges or the Assembly may modify the punishment and permit Respondent to accept the modified punishment. The decision of the Assembly of Demeter shall be final.

12.2.33 (Amended) Once the Trial Court has declared a ruling, the Respondent or Complainant may, within fifteen (15) days appeal the decision to the elected officers of the Assembly of Demeter (the Assembly) for a review of the record and disposition of the finding, in the same manner as is set forth in Section 12.2.14 above. If the Assembly determines there was a procedural error or that the Trial Court erred in its finding, or that the punishment is not equitable in its relation to the charge(s), then the Assembly may appoint a new Trial Court for a retrial in full form, on any or all the charges or the Assembly may modify the punishment and permit Respondent or to accept the modified punishment. The decision of the Assembly of Demeter shall be final.

This covers resolution 518 (NC). Adopted by 2/3 vote under the 24 hour rule.

Digest Amendment for Junior Grange

WHEREAS, the Junior Grange was established to provide leadership training for our young people as they advance to the Subordinate Grange; and

WHEREAS, the Junior Grange has always been recognized as a part of the Grange organization; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Chapter 5, Section 5.1.2 of the National Grange Digest of Laws be amended as follows:

5.1.2 Each Junior Grange shall be organized and meet under the authority of, as part of, and within the jurisdiction of its sponsoring Grange. The sponsoring Grange shall provide a suitable meeting place and the necessary equipment for a beginning Grange.

This covers resolution 519 (PA) and 520 (OK). Adopted by 2/3 vote under the 24 hour rule.

Subordinate/Community Grange

WHEREAS, a resolution titled "Title Change" that stated " all references to the Subordinate Grange may be referred to as Community Grange" was adopted at a first reading by a 2/3 vote at the 2002 National Grange Convention and was adopted at a second reading

by a 2/3 vote at the 2003 National Grange Convention; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Section 6.1.14 be added to the Code of the Subordinate Grange, to read as follows:

6.1.14 All references to the Subordinate Grange may be referred to as Community Grange.

This is a committee resolution. Adopted by 2/3 vote under the 24 hour rule.

Code of the Pomona Grange

RESOLVED, that Section 7.0.1 be added to the Preamble of the Code Of The Pomona Grange, to read as follows:

7.0.1 There must be at least two (2) Subordinate Granges to organize a Pomona Grange. If the number of Subordinate Granges included in the jurisdiction of a Pomona Grange falls below two (2), then the State Grange shall readjust the jurisdiction or a new Subordinate Grange should be organized to maintain at least two (2) Subordinate Granges.

This is a committee resolution. This resolution covers a portion of the National Master's Internal Report. Adopted by 2/3 vote under the 24 hour rule.

Hosting National Grange Session

WHEREAS, the seventh degree of our order is the most beautiful and ornate of all our degrees; and

WHEREAS, many of our fellow patrons are not seventh degree members due to the inability to travel long distances; and

WHEREAS, over the past few years hotel and conference space in the greater Boston area has greatly increased; and

WHEREAS, National Grange sessions are held in Regional parts of the country; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange consider holding a future annual convention in the greater Boston area.

This covers resolution 522 (MA).

Funding for National Grange Convention Hosting

WHEREAS, National Grange is now being hosted on a regional basis; and

WHEREAS, at present time, each region is required to raise $70,000.00 to host National Grange Convention; and

WHEREAS, this creates a hardship on regions with smaller Grange memberships by requiring the smaller regions to raise approximately $20 per member; and

WHEREAS, the cost of National Session should be an equal responsibility of each Grange member; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange institute a $1.00 per member assessment per year,

over and above the annual membership dues to be deposited in a special convention account held by the National Grange, with the assessment applying to each individual Subordinate member and each individual member of a Family membership; and be it further

RESOLVED, that funds in this account may be used in lieu of the regional fundraisers to cover the costs of hosting the National Grange Convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, the assessment go into effect starting in 2009, with payment due annually to National Grange by June 30, based on the membership count as of June 30 of the previous year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that no funds can be drawn out of this account until the 2012 National Grange Convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the proceeds of such assessments be made available by National Grange Executive Committee approval, to the host Region each year to reimburse its reasonable actual expenses for hosting the National Grange Convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, that every effort be made to cut expenses of the National Grange Convention and secure outside sources of funding.

Committee resolution covering 509 (MT), 510 (PA), 511 (CT), and 512 (OK)

Student Granges

RESOLVED, that the National Master appoint a Committee to suggest changes to the Digest so that Student Granges have continuity and consistency from state to state. The Committee is to report at the 2009 National Session.

This is a committee resolution that covers a portion of the National Master's Internal Report.

Alternate Installation Ceremony

RESOLVED, that the National Master appoint a Committee to write an alternate installation ceremony, to be optionally used by the Grange at all of its divisions. The Committee is to report at the 2009 National Session.

This is a committee resolution. This covers resolution 517 (NC).

Editorial Change (Proxy Voting)

RESOLVED, that the 2007 resolution entitled "Proxy Voting in the Grange" (page 240 of the 2007 Journal Of Proceedings) be implemented in the Digest.

This is a committee resolution.

For information purposes only, following is the resolved portion of the 2007 resolution:

Proxy Voting in the Grange

RESOLVED, that the statement regarding proxy voting be made a separate section, numbered as 4.7.2, and the other sections under "Voting" be re-numbered accordingly.

"4.7.2 Proxy voting shall never be in order by any of the Granges in the various divisions of the Order.

Thank you to all of the members who served on this committee and for their guidance as we discussed these resolutions. Even though there were times we didn't necessarily agree on an issue we remembered our obligation as Grange members and deliberated with calmness and respect for each other's opinions. I cannot thank Joyce Billquist enough who served as the secretary for this committee. The knowledge and experience that John Valentine, Tom Severance, and Ed Luttrell brought to the committee was greatly appreciated.

Fraternally,

Oliver Orton (NY), Chair
Joyce Billquist (MT) (H), Secretary
Rick Grotton (ME)
Arthur Merrill (NH)
Pete Pompper (NJ)
Betsy Huber (PA)
Jack Hendrickson (WA)
John Valentine (IN) (H)
Dan Bascom (NH) (H)

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES#	MASTER	STATE	TITLE	COMMITTEE	ACTION
601	Hendrickson	WA	WIKIPEDIA ENTRY	Growth & Development	Rewritten and Amended, Adopted
602	Bostwick	KS	MEMBERSHIP AWARDS ELIGIBILITY	Growth & Development	Adverse
603	Baldwin	IA	QUARTERLY REPORTS	Growth & Development	Adopted as Amended
604	Billiquist	MT	GRANGE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS	Growth & Development	Rewritten and Combined 604 MT and 606 CO, Adopted
605	Fryman	NE	GRANGE MEMBER BENEFIT FROM CARBON SEQUESTRATION	Growth & Development	Adopted as Amended, Adopted
606	Hagen	CO	HEARING AIDES AND EYE GLASSES DISCOUNT PROGRAM	Growth & Development	Rewritten and Combined 604 MT and 606 CO, Adopted
607	Lewis	CA	INCORPORATION OF STATE GRANGE POLICIES INTO NATIONAL GRANGE POLICY	Growth & Development	Adopted
608	Billmire	ID	GRANGE HISTORY FOR THE SMITHSONIAN	Growth & Development	Adopted
609	Hagen	CO	NATIONAL GRANGE AND TYSON FOODS	Growth & Development	Policy Statement
610		Growth and Development	ELECTRONIC REPORTING	Growth & Development	Adopted
611		Growth and Development	POMONA GRANGE REVITALIZATION	Growth and Development	Adopted as Amended
612		Growth and Development	SIGNATURE PROGRAM	Growth and Development	Postponed Indefinitely

POLICY STATEMENT

The continued growth and development of the Grange demands a constant evaluation of progress toward the fulfillment of the National Grange Mission. This mission will be successful by the implementation of the Five priorities adopted by Grangers across the nation.

Increase active membership and participation at each Community Grange

We must believe in our future. We must always have hope, because without hope and belief in our future we will not make and then implement the plans that will lead to success. To be successful a number of factors must be overcome including Granges that are dependent on one

person for their activities, have small membership numbers, or are meeting in members homes. No Grange should be ignored, and each should have an opportunity to receive aid.

Develop new leaders and give them opportunities at each Community Grange

Leadership training is essential to the development and growth of outstanding programs. We strongly recommend that all states actively utilize the training programs of the Leadership/Membership Department at all levels.

Revitalizations of Community Granges being a State Priority

It is crucial that we face the reality of growth in our Order. If we do not regularly and consistently organize new Community Granges and reorganize Granges that have become inactive, we will have great difficulty in achieving sustainable growth year after year.

New Community Granges

Each State Grange is urged to aggressively work to increase their number of Community Granges by at least one each year. Each State Grange needs the energy, enthusiasm, and new ideas that members of a new Granges bring to our organization.

Re-emphasize and strengthen the family structure through the Junior and Youth programs

Let us remember the fact that young people are going to be joiners and participants in our society in a fashion we have not seen since the World War II generation. These youth need us and our principles as much as we need them and their ideas and energy. We support making the process of organizing Junior Granges easier for the Community Grange. We encourage all Junior Granges to meet regularly and more than once a month. We also encourage and support the technological development of a Virtual Grange. We support the 2009 Junior and Youth Programs and encourage their use by all Granges. We congratulate the Junior Grange on 120 years of development of children into leaders of the future.

We recommend the National Grange Historical Preservation Committee encourage Granges to inventory Historical documents in their possession. Community and Pomona Granges will submit their list of inventories to the State Grange and to the National Grange. The National Grange Historical Preservation Committee will develop a guide for proper preservation of those documents.

We applaud the National Grange Department Directors on their aggressive and forward thinking programs that have been developed during the past year.

The coming year will bring many new technological changes that will be available to all our Granges. We encourage all Granges to become familiar with and utilize these electronic communication tools.

Each Grange is unique and reflects the community that is home to its members.

Cooperation and harmony are essential to preserve the respect of our organization, to promote our family values and to encourage membership growth.

We firmly believe in the Declaration of Purpose of the Grange and encourage members to re-acquaint themselves with the Declaration of Purpose.

We commend the National Grange Master and Board of Directors for their prompt and aggressive actions to protect our name. We strongly encourage the National Grange Master and Board of Directors actively and positively continue those efforts.

This covers resolutions 609 (CO), parts of the Masters Internal Report

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE DELEGATE ACTION

Wikipedia Entry

WHEREAS, the Grange has a rich history and has contributed much to the development of this country's culture, political issues, and legislative activity; and

WHEREAS, Wikipedia's entry regarding the Grange terminates around 1900 and there has been much more contributed by the Grange since 1900; and

WHEREAS, Wikipedia is one of the most viewed sites on the Internet, per the Alexia ratings; and

WHEREAS, anyone can make a Wikipedia change or entry and some individuals outside the Grange may change the Wikipedia entry to unfairly represent the Grange; and

WHEREAS, the Grange has been objective when writing its histories; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange monitor the Wikipedia entry and make any changes necessary for historical accuracy.

This covers resolution 601 (WA)

Quarterly Reports

WHEREAS, the instructions to fill out the National Quarterly Reports are very difficult to understand and follow; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange revamp the State Grange Quarterly Report of Subordinate Granges to make them easier to understand and complete.

This covers resolution 603 (IA)

Grange Membership Benefits

WHEREAS, membership benefits can be a valuable membership recruitment tool; and

WHEREAS, the National Grange offers a limited number of membership benefits, making it difficult for Subordinate Granges to use membership benefits as one of the reasons to join when recruiting new members; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange actively work to add new member benefits so that the Subordinate Granges can effectively use membership benefits as a recruitment tool; and be it further

RESOLVED, that some of the following suggestions be considered in the establishment of additional member benefits:

- Hotel discounts (Intercontinental Hotels [Holiday Inn etc], Hyatt Hotels, Wyndham Hotels, Travelodge, Best Western, Ramada Inn etc.)
- Shopping discounts (apparel, sporting goods, magazines, books, toys, etc.)
- Travel discounts
- Car rental (Avis, Alamo, National, Budget, etc)
- Hearing aids
- Eye glasses

This covers resolution 604 (MT) and 606 (CO)

Grange Member Benefit from Carbon Sequestration

WHEREAS, the 2008 Blue Print for America "action plan" supports programs that make available credit, risk management, income support, and environmental stewardship for family farmers, ranchers, and foresters; and

WHEREAS, addressing the issues of climate change, cap and trade, and carbon sequestration can be unifying economic benefits to Midwestern State Grange organizations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange move forward in organizing a program to generate revenue for Grange members who are landowners and farm tenants to benefit from carbon sequestration.

This covers resolution 605 (NE)

Incorporation of State Grange Policies into National Grange Policy

WHEREAS, the Grange at all levels develops its positions on public policy issues using a grassroots resolution process that involves open debate and adherence to parliamentary procedure to assure that all relevant information and points of view can be incorporated into the final policies adopted by the Grange; and

WHEREAS, through the long standing principal recognized under Grange Law of "incorporation"; state and local community Granges currently have the authority (but are not required) to use and advocate National Grange adopted legislative policies in their state and local legislative programs as an alternative to having to adopt separate policy positions through their Granges, when those nationally adopted policies make sense as applied to the state or local circumstances; and

WHEREAS, State Granges adopted resolutions often identify issues of concern to local and state Grange members that primarily address policy issues with in the boundaries of that state but, nevertheless, involve a nexus with the decision-making authority of federal agencies. Examples of these types of policy issues would involve military bases, management of federal lands and discretionary application of federal law to state specific circumstances, such as decisions under certain federal farm programs; and

WHEREAS, the principal of "incorporation" does not allow the National Grange to use state Grange policy as the basis for affirmatively advocating with appropriate federal officials to support state Grange legislative efforts on issues that are primarily of a parochial concern to a state but nevertheless involve federal decision making. Instead, in order for State Granges to gain National Grange support for their local issues, a resolution must generally be submitted and adopted by the National Grange delegate body to affirm state Grange policy on the same issue; and

WHEREAS, allowing the National Grange the authority to incorporate appropriate state Grange adopted policies into National Grange policy would increase cooperation between State and National Granges and allow the organization of present a more unified and coordinated lobbying front on critical issues; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Master and National Grange Executive Committee work with the National Grange Legislative Director to establish a procedure to authorize (but not require) the National Grange to incorporate appropriate adopted state Grange policies into National Grange legislative policy and act upon those policies at the federal level without the formal process of adopting a similar resolution by the National Grange when such issues 1) primarily affect or impact a single state and 2) there is a direct nexus to a decision that must be made by a federal agency to implement State Grange policy, and 3) there is no conflict with adopted National Grange policy.

This covers resolution 607 (CA)

Grange History for the Smithsonian

WHEREAS, the Grange has been a vital part of daily life in America since 1867 and has done much to improve living conditions in rural America; and

WHEREAS, that millions of Americans visit the Smithsonian Museums every year, and,

WHEREAS, by having a display about the Grange as part of the Smithsonian Museums, the Grange would become highly visible and people would be educated as to the vital role the Grange has played in American life since the past Civil War era to the present day; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange petition the Smithsonian Institution to include as part of its exhibits in the Museum of American History, a display of the history of the Grange and its role in the development of rural America.

This covers resolution 608 (ID)

Electronic Reporting Committee

RESOLVED, the National Grange Master in conjunction with the National Grange Board of Directors appoints a committee to organize and develop a reporting system of crucial and important information among all divisions of the Grange, with this committee to be appointed by January 15, 2009, with its preliminary findings to be reviewed by the National Grange Board of Directors at their second meeting of 2009.

Pomona Grange Revitalization

RESOLVED, that all State Granges are encouraged to support the Pomona Granges by appointing Deputies to work with Subordinate Granges to form and reorganize Pomona Granges in their States.

I would like to thank my committee for their thoughtful deliberations and patience in completing the task at hand. I would also like to thank Kathy Baldwin for all of her hard work as Secretary.

Fraternally,

Phyllis Wilson (OR), Chair
Kathy Baldwin (IA), Secretary
Jeannie Billmire (ID)
David Donley (IL)
Donna Wiles (MD)
Marty Billquest (MT)
Gary Brumbaugh (OH)
Scott Sherman (RI)
Chris Johnston (MI)

LABOR & JUDICIARY COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES#	MASTER	STATE	TITLE	COMMITTEE	ACTION
701	Bostwick	KS	COMPETITIVE MATERNATIY/PATERNITY LEAVE	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
702	Bostwick	KS	FLEXIBLE WORK OPTIONS FOR PARENTS	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
703	Chase	MA	ENCOURAGING LACTATION AREAS IN THE WORKPLACE	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted as Amended
704	Brumbaugh	OH	HEALTH INSURANCE FOR RETIRED EMPLOYEES	Labor & Judiciary	Transferred to Health and Education
705	Hagen	CO	CITIZENSHIP FOR BABIES BORN TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
706	Lewis	CA	IMMIGRATION – SPECIAL PROGRAMS	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
707	Orton	NY	MODIFYING H2A GUEST WORKER PROGRAM	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
708	Huber	PA	IMMIGRANTS	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
709	Baldwin	IA	POSTVILLE, IA MEATPACKING PLANT	Labor & Judiciary	Returned to State
710	Orton	NY	MIGRANT LABOR	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
711	Orton	NY	US/MEXICO BORDER FENCE	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
712	Hendrickson	WA	CREDIT CARD INTEREST RATES	Labor & Judiciary	Policy Statement
713	Hendrickson	WA	PLAIN ENGLISH ON CREDIT CARDS	Labor & Judiciary	Policy Statement
714	Brumbaugh	OH	STRANGER ORIENTED LIFE INSURANCE (STOLI)	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
715	Gray	FL	NEWS MEDIA	Labor & Judiciary	Policy Statement
716	Hammett	SC	WALL STREET COMMODITY SPECULATION	Labor & Judiciary	Adverse
717	Orton	NY	FEDERAL BAILOUT OF BANKING INDUSTRY	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted Combined with 718
718	Wiles	MD	GOVERNMENT BAILOUTS	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted Combined with 717
719	Johnston	MI	SILVER ALERT LAWS	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted as Amended
720	Baldwin	IA	CRIMINAL COURT COSTS	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
721	Orton	NY	PROSECUTION OF GRAVE DEFILERS	Labor & Judiciary	Adopted as Amended
722	Brumbaugh	OH	SOCIAL WORKERS SAFETY	Labor & Judiciary	Withdrawn
723	Billmire	ID	LAWSUIT AMOUNT LIMITS	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
724	Wiles	MD	OPPOSITION TO EARLY	Labor &	Present Policy

			VOTING	Judiciary	
725	Lewis	CA	ONLY SEND AMERICAN PRODUCED PRODUCTS AS FOREIGN AID	Labor & Judiciary	Present Policy
726	Baldwin	IA	IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION COSTS	Labor & Judiciary	Policy Statement

POLICY STATEMENT

During the current economic crisis, the Grange urges the President of the United States and the Congress to carefully review and oversee any economic bailouts of banking institutions and corporations and make transparent the actions of the Federal Reserve in these bailouts. Investigation and possible prosecution of individuals involved in the collapse of the banking and credit industry should also be pursued. This crisis will affect citizens in every walk of life from the farmer, factory worker, officer worker and CEO alike. The Government should extend regulation and oversight of the banking and credit industries to ensure protections for the American Taxpayer.

The credit crisis has spilled into the manufacturing and retail sectors of the economy. Companies unable to get credit are closing operations and selling off assets and the American worker is caught in the crunch. Consumer credit during this economic crisis will also be affected. With the looming possibilities of large scale personal bankruptcies, the Grange urges lawmakers to regulate credit card issuers, to make terms in easy to understand language and in large print on credit card terms and agreements and restrict interest rates to not more than five percent above the prime lending interest rate.

The Grange, in addressing the needs of laborers and employers, seeks an equitable balance between the two, fostering economic growth and prosperity for all. The Grange has long supported an individual's right to work for a reasonable wage in a safe environment. The Grange would implore businesses to make provisions to secure employees' pension benefits and all moneys paid into retirement plans to prevent them from being lost by beneficiaries in the event of a future merger or liquidation of the company. The Grange calls for the shift of private pension responsibility to the Federal Pension Benefit Guarantee Plan only when the retirees are affected by a total closure of the business. The Grange will continue to seek workplace safety regulations, which protect workers while not placing excessive financial burden on employers.

While free trade agreements have opened markets to United States products, some U.S. companies have found the cost of labor and operations to be more favorable in other countries. The Grange encourages the state and federal governments to provide incentives to companies to retain domestic jobs.

The Grange supports the efforts of the federal government to increase border security to stem the tide of illegal immigration, drug trafficking and the potential for foreign terrorist attack, while streamlining the process for legal immigration to allow employers in agriculture and other business sectors to secure workers. The National Grange encourages balancing the needs of employers versus the security of the United States. The Grange urges federal authorities to make tools to check the authenticity of immigrant worker documents more available to employers. Since tools to determine status are somewhat limited due to recent court rulings, employers (especially in agriculture) who unknowingly hire illegal workers should not be fined. However those who knowingly hire illegal workers should be punished and required to pay all associated medical care costs of those illegal

workers using medical services instead of hospitals having to write off these expenses. When streamlining the immigration process, those here illegally regardless of nationality should not be given amnesty or given an advantage over those immigrating by proper channels. The Grange urges Congress to reform immigration laws to provide for an orderly, well regulated flow of immigrants to meet the needs of our country and insure a stable workforce.

The Grange supports testing to meet United States Consumer Products Safety Commission standards for imported products. Manufactures and distributors should have a system and resources to track their products in case of recall. However, consumers should also remember the old adage of "Buyer Beware."

Our American way of life continues to be threatened on a number of fronts. Rural law enforcement agencies are confronted with crimes heretofore associated only with urban areas. Organized gang activities, identity theft and the manufacturing of illegal drugs, especially methamphetamine, are all now a part of the rural crime landscape.

The Grange encourages creating new ways of dealing with the methamphetamine problem, such as the development and approval of new over-the-counter cold remedies, which are not adaptable to the manufacture of illegal drugs. The Grange supports efforts to restrict access to over-the-counter, non-prescription drugs such as pseudoephedrine, which has been used as a component in the manufacture of methamphetamine. However, we support the consumer's right to choose the product that best meets their needs.

The nation's law enforcement agencies face the challenge of dealing with crimes as diverse and far reaching as domestic and environmental terrorism, corporate and consumer fraud and electronic and Internet crimes. The Internet has made it easier for child predators to contact children. The Grange supports maximum penalties for those convicted in child predator cases. The Grange supports victim advocacy programs in rural communities, many of which are ill prepared to address complex issues such as domestic violence and the rights of victims of violent crimes.

With the pervasive news coverage of some these violent crimes, the criminal gains celebrity status for their crime. The Grange urges news media to report the crimes and not give the criminal credibility and celebrity status by interviewing and giving suspects and those charged with the crime a public forum rather than allowing them make their case in the court system and not the court of public opinion.

Our judicial system continues to be overburdened. The Grange supports efforts to restore fairness to the civil judicial system at both the state and federal levels through reform of tort, liability, and malpractice law. The Grange encourages the use of alternative dispute resolution such as arbitration to reduce the judicial caseload. The Grange urges the U.S. Supreme Court Justices to base decisions on a strict interpretation of the Constitution.

Many federal, state, and local laws and regulations enacted in the past have become outdated, thereby creating a hindrance to development. The Grange urges legislative bodies and regulatory agencies at all levels of government to periodically review and purge outdated laws and regulations.

Progress, in technology and transportation, has linked nations more closely than ever before, with global trade and migration. The Grange encourages Congress to seek a fair and level playing field in global trading when entering into international trade agreements and treaties. Global treaties need to be carefully overseen by Congress to ensure that the sovereignty of the United States is not diminished or surrendered. The United States must not cede the property rights guaranteed its citizens under the Constitution to a global authority or world organization.

Conflicts in the Mid-East and other regions of the world continue to affect the lives of Americans on a daily basis. The Grange encourages United States Government to fully support in the establishment of a self-governing Iraq and future negotiations with them for repayment of the cost to reconstruct the Iraqi infrastructure. The Grange urges the United States government to maintain a strong, effective military to protect the interests of American citizens at home and abroad.

This covers resolutions 712(WA), 713(WA), 715(FL), and 726(IA)

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Encouraging Lactation Areas in the Workplace

WHEREAS, two-thirds of all new mothers make the decision to breast-feed their babies due to its health benefits to the baby; and

WHEREAS, when these mothers return to their place of employment, either on a full or part time basis, they are often discouraged by their employer's inability to provide a lactation area for these new mothers to express their milk; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Grange support that all employers be encouraged to provide a clean, private, and comfortable lactation area for new mothers to express their milk.

This covers resolution 703 (MA)

Government Bailouts

WHEREAS, the budget deficit of the federal government is so out of control that our children and grandchildren will be saddled with mountains of debt to repay, and

WHEREAS, the current plan to bail out failing mortgage lenders and other companies on Wall Street will add another $1 trillion dollars to that debt load, and the issue was voted on hurriedly with no hearings having been held on the issue; and

WHEREAS, much of the current crisis has been caused by poor business decisions and bad fiscal management, greed, and malfeasance and CEO's of these corporations will receive lucrative multi-million dollar "golden parachutes" after leading their companies to the brink of economic ruin; and

WHEREAS, many mortgage lenders and real estate companies sold property and made loans to people with absolutely no reasonable ability to repay these loans, often under government pressure; and

WHEREAS, those of us who acted prudently will be asked to foot the bill for others greed; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange urges Congress and the federal government to carefully examine the firms that are being bailed out so that they are not rewarding greed, poor business practices and corruption; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support the investigation and prosecution of persons and entities that led to the collapse of U.S. financial institutions; and be it further

RESOVLED, the Grange urge the federal government to limit the amounts of benefits in the form of "golden parachutes" to executives of companies that receive bailouts; and be

it further

RESOLVED, the Grange opposes the direct government takeover of private business. No government official should be given unlimited power, especially a non-elected one. All bills of this magnitude should be carefully studied with hearings being held.

This covers resolutions 717(NY) and 718 (MD)

Silver Alert Program

WHEREAS, Amber Alerts have proven to be and are actively helpful in locating children that have been abducted or have walked away from home; and

WHEREAS, with the population aging and the more active individuals in their golden years that might need some assistance with everyday activities are living in Adult Foster Care facilities, where watching individuals may not be done as closely as it may in some facilities; and

WHEREAS, elderly can become confused and disoriented as easily as young children; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports enactment of a Silver Alert Program for elderly individuals that have been reported missing and/or have wandered away from a safe environment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Silver Alert System be administered in the same manner as the current Amber Alert system.

This covers resolution 719 (MI)

Prosecution of Grave Defilers

WHEREAS, it is a Federal offense to defile a grave of a service member when the grave is on Federal property, and

WHEREAS, the honor of the men and women, who faithfully served our country, must be preserved on both public and private property; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation to make it a Federal offense to defile the grave of any military service member, regardless of where the grave is located.

This covers resolution 721 (NY)

Wages, Employment, and Unions

1. The National Grange supports the repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931. Until that time, the threshold exemption level of the Act should be indexed to the rate of inflation.
2. The Grange opposes the establishment of a commission to draft a Farm Worker Bill of Rights. We believe any future legislation that would impose a 40-hour workweek, that places a limitation on hours that can be worked in a single day, or that requires time

and a half pay for overtime on a farming operation would be counter productive and against the best interests of farm workers and farm employers.

3. The National Grange supports realistic OSHA work place safety regulations. We believe it should be both the employer and employee's responsibility to follow safe work practices. Any employer who is cited by OSHA for violating work place safety regulations should be allowed a reasonable period of time in which to correct that violation before being penalized. The National Grange believes that any OSHA reform legislation should exempt farms having fewer than 10 full-time employees. We further support any exemption from new health and safety standards for farms having fewer than 10 full-time employees.
4. The National Grange favors lifting the bans in the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1943, which outlaws work that is done in the home in embroidery, gloves and mittens, handkerchiefs, buttons and buckles, jewelry and clothing.
5. The National Grange supports allowing individuals who are collecting unemployment compensation to decline offers of employment without losing their unemployment benefits so long as they are enrolled in an accredited job training or vocational education program provided that enrollment in these programs in no way extends the time that an individual can collect these benefits.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that requires all employers to pay at least the minimum wage regardless of whether the employees are tipped. However we also support legislation to allow younger teens (ages 13-15) to be given the privilege of working a maximum of ten hours a week for less than the minimum wage. After a probationary period, established by the employer, the younger teen should be paid the minimum wage.
7. The National Grange is in agreement with the concept of the proposed legislation that would establish the "Living Wage Responsibility Act" to provide a living wage above the poverty level for all eligible employees working on federal contracts.
8. We favor binding arbitration clauses in labor contracts covering public sector employees.
9. We support the right of individuals to join any union and collectively bargain in good faith, as long as employees are not required to join or contribute money to any union or organization that claims to represent their interests in the work place. We further support mandatory restrictions on the use of compulsory union dues for political, charitable or social causes without the paying members consent.
10. The National Grange supports any legislation that allows employers to hire replacement workers during a strike.

Sentencing

1. The National Grange supports imposing stiff mandatory sentences in criminal cases. We believe using plea-bargaining should be restrained. We further believe that convicted criminals should be responsible for restitution to their victims and society. The National Grange believes that persons who are convicted of rape, murder, or any three-felony offenses should serve their full sentence without benefit of parole or furlough. We support the death penalty for premeditated crimes ending in death. We further support the death penalty for all citizens who are convicted of military espionage in either peacetime or war.
2. The National Grange favors classifying the importing, manufacturing, cultivation, or

distribution of all illegal drugs as felonies under state and federal statutes. A mandatory prison sentence should be imposed upon conviction for any felony drug offense. Upon a second conviction for any felony drug offense, the penalty shall be a 30-year minimum sentence without the possibility of parole.

Protection for Victims and Jurors

1. We support increased protection for those who serve on juries. We strongly believe all jury deliberations should remain confidential without any publication or disclosure. The National Grange also supports legislation to forbid public disclosure of information about criminal investigations that could be detrimental to the case of either the prosecution or the defense until after the case's final disposition.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to assure that victims and witnesses of violent crimes must be notified in writing at least 60 days before any and all hearings in which the person who has been convicted of that crime seeks release or a change in release status from either a prison or a mental institution.
3. The National Grange supports legislation to protect the language interpreter with an interpreter/client privilege just as lawyers have attorney/client privileges.

General Law

1. The National Grange opposes unreasonable federal regulations that would force the closing of jails or that would require excessive expenditures of state funds.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would make the unauthorized entry or use of a computer facility or illegal tapping of phones a felony.
3. The National Grange recommends that manufacturers of goods and machinery be exempt from all lawsuits, fines, liabilities and other civil penalties if they meet all the state and federal regulations that were in effect at the time the product was built or produced. The National Grange also supports the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act or similar legislation which prohibits civil actions against a manufacturer or seller of food or a trade association for any injury resulting from a person's consumption of food including weight gain, obesity, or any associated health condition.
4. The National Grange supports federal legislation to prohibit gambling on the Internet. We further support legislation to make the unsolicited e-mailing or posting of advertisements for pornographic websites and materials both a criminal and civil offense in order to control the availability of pornographic material to children.
5. The National Grange recommends that there be no changes in the laws that currently ban the production and sale of marijuana in the United States.
6. The National Grange actively promotes and supports legislation, which will create a new Twelfth Circuit Court of Appeals to meet the needs to the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, Hawaii and the Pacific Territories.
7. The National Grange believes that state law, not federal law, should have jurisdiction over "hate crimes" and state law should be responsible for assigning specific punishment for these crimes.
8. The National Grange believes that cell phone use by inmates should be banned at all

state and federal correctional facilities. Additionally, prison visitors should be required to surrender all cell phones at the facility entrance until their departure.

Firearms and the Second Amendment

1. The National Grange believes that the United States does not need any more gun control laws until the present laws are strictly enforced. We oppose legislation restricting the rights of citizens to bear arms for protection of their families, property and common defense, with the exception of assault weapons manufactured and designed specifically for military use. We favor severe and mandatory sentences, including incarceration, for anyone using firearms while committing a crime.
2. The National Grange supports laws prohibiting the sale of stun guns to the general public.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would prohibit the manufacture and sale of toy guns that are replicas of real guns.

Bankruptcy

1. The National Grange favors tightening bankruptcy rules, including additional stiff penalties for bankruptcy fraud to combat planned bankruptcies and other abuses of the law.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that will require companies or businesses that file for bankruptcy to ensure that the employees who are owed compensation are the first secured creditors.
3. The National Grange supports legislation, which would classify producers having an ownership interest in agricultural products as secured creditors in bankruptcy cases.

Civil Law

1. The National Grange supports efforts to restore fairness to the civil judicial system at the state and federal levels through reform of tort, liability, and malpractice law. We favor a civil law system in which the plaintiff, if they lose, will be responsible to pay the defendant's legal and court costs when the court rules the lawsuit was frivolous or superfluous. We further support limiting the amount of contingency fees that are paid to lawyers as well as putting caps on excessive jury awards for economic and non economic damages, such as pain, suffering, and bad faith. We support placing limits on the findings of joint and several liability and clearly established standards of bad faith action. We support incentives for alternative dispute resolutions, such as arbitration.
2. The National Grange believes that Legal Services Corporations and local legal aid bureaus should not receive any federal funding for nuisance or harassment suits against farmers. Correspondingly, the National Grange believes individuals should be prohibited from initiating so called "citizen suits" civil litigation against farmers and others for environmental violations without demonstrating any direct loss or damage to initiate such a suit.

Children and Family Law

1. The National Grange supports revising federal regulations so that the parent/child relationship created by court action is recognized for the purpose of receiving government assistance.
2. The National Grange supports all efforts to increase the public's awareness and sensitivity to child abuse and the existence of child predators in our society. The Grange strongly advocates that all child abuse laws and child predator laws be reviewed, revised, and enforced so as to secure the safety and well being of all children to the fullest extent of the law while remaining aware and protective of the rights of innocent families and individuals. The National Grange supports legislation that seeks to equalize sentencing of perpetrators of sexual abuse without regard of the familial relationship of perpetrator to the child or children. We further support legislation that imposes greater notification requirements on convicted child predators including immediate notification to authorities of address changes, community notification of the presence of a convicted child predator, a national child predator registry on the internet listing the current address of all convicted child predators and substantially increased penalties for failure of convicted sex offenders to comply.
3. The National Grange favors adoption reforms that would consider the best interests of the child in all proceedings, investigations, or rulings by the courts.
4. The National Grange supports requiring that the biological father's name, if known and proven, be included on the child's birth certificate for purposes of determining the father's identification, the child's right to Social Security, and other support, which should be provided by the father.
5. We believe that in the situation of a broken home, both parents should be required to support their children.
6. The National Grange supports policies that grant legal surrogate decision-making authority to grandparent caregivers in the absence of responsible parents or stepparents. We support legislation to provide financial, social and legal supports as needed to grandparent caregivers raising grandchildren. We further support legislation to protect the visitation rights of grandparents. In the case of a child who is legally removed from the parents, the grandparents should be considered first as custodian of that child.

Consumer Protection Law

1. The National Grange supports legislation that would entitle consumers to a free annual credit report and allow the consumer more control over who has access to credit reports.
2. The National Grange favors a law requiring identification of all products that are foreign-made or assembled.
3. The National Grange urges Congress to enact laws protecting an individual's right to privacy and to protect the confidentiality of all personal records from fraudulent use. The National Grange supports a federally funded public service program to educate individual consumers regarding privacy geared toward reporting how to report suspected identity theft activities. We also support stronger penalties for those convicted of identity theft including full restitution to all victims.
4. The National Grange supports allowing nonprofit organizations to make continued

"incidental use" of copyrighted music.
5. The National Grange seeks legislation requiring any private company not associated with government programs to disclose that information in large print, or verbal explanation during the application process.
6. Regulations should be enacted that require companies to give consumers the option of mailed billings or statements without surcharges.
7. The National Grange encourages companies to print product expiration dates in the mm/dd/yyyy format.

Banking and Consumer Credit Law

1. The Grange supports legislation to enable the family farmer or the family farm cooperative to borrow money at low interest rates.
2. The National Grange supports strong independent banks in lieu of further concentration of banking and financial powers in interstate and nationwide firms. Banks should be prohibited from purchasing insurance companies, selling securities, and entering the field of general commerce. We believe that any banks allowed to write and sell insurance must be subject to all applicable state insurance resolutions and laws as administered by State Insurance Commissions. We also believe that any banks that are allowed to offer or underwrite securities must be subject to regulation by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.
3. The National Grange supports legislation requiring credit card companies to discontinue the use of "pre-approved" in their solicitations.
4. The National Grange supports the continued independence of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and opposes the merger of the NCUA with any other government financial institution insurance fund.
5. The National Grange urges state and federal banking regulators to better monitor fees charged by banks, reduce and eliminate those that are unfair, and provide customers with protection against aggressive banking business practices. We seek passage of legislation to eliminate unreasonable delays in the availability of the funds from a deposited check. We support banking regulations that will require all banks to honor government checks that are presented to them for payment.

Insurance Law

1. The National Grange supports the efforts of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies to strengthen and improve the insurance guarantee funds.
2. The National Grange supports the current McCarran-Ferguson Act. We support state jurisdiction over the insurance industry. We support the establishment of a federally funded terrorist reinsurance program.
3. The National Grange believes that the National Flood Insurance Program should operate on an actuarially sound basis. Furthermore, Natural Flood Insurance Programs should not be available for properties that have suffered multiple losses where steps were not taken to better protect the property from further damage.
4. The National Grange urges state and federal regulators working with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) to establish the necessary safeguards

that will make it possible for the viatical industry to serve viators and investors in a responsible way.

5. The National Grange opposes legislation that would require insurance companies to comply with "The Community Reinvestment Act, 12 U.S.C. 2901, commonly known as "CRA", or any other legislation which would attempt to accomplish the same.

Immigration, Aliens, and Migrant Workers

1. The National Grange supports the strict enforcement of the immigration laws of the United States and further supports regular review of these laws to be sure they are meeting the needs of the United States. We support increased efforts by the U.S. government to patrol our borders preventing the illegal entry of aliens into our nation, including the assignment of military forces to assist civilian agencies in enforcing our border control policies. We support a prohibition on general amnesty for all illegal aliens of any nationality. We suggest that proof of citizenship and/or legal registered immigration be required for receiving government benefits. We also recommend that federal authorities be allowed to detain illegal immigrants and foreigners with expired visas for the duration of their investigation and processing, and be deported if immigration status is determined to be illegal.
2. The National Grange supports continuation of the legal program to bring guest workers into the United States on a temporary basis for the harvesting of seasonal crops. We support reform of current foreign guest worker programs to allow for expedited processing of foreign guest workers employed in the agricultural sector as well as reform of the H2A program so that the wage costs to farmers when hiring under the H2A program more closely reflects the prevailing local wage. We further support an amendment to the Migratory and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act recognizing that a crew chief is an independent contractor who is responsible for the general care of his crew when it does not conflict with the requirements that are assigned to the landowners.
3. Agricultural employers should not be responsible for checking the authenticity of migrant and seasonal worker documentation at the time of employment. Employers who unknowingly hire illegal aliens should not be taxed or fined.
4. The National Grange supports legislation or a Constitutional amendment to require that children born in the United States must have one parent who is already a United States citizen in order to automatically receive citizenship and government benefits.
5. The National Grange recommends that current immigration laws be revised to establish a practical and enforceable guest worker visa program. The National Grange also supports the expansion of the H1B visa program for professionals to enter the United States in order to provide services in sectors where there is a documented need.

Commercial Trade Policies

1. The National Grange believes that opening trade between nations is a far better way to increase international understanding than limiting trade because of differences in ideologies. We will actively support programs to increase the competitive position of U.S. companies in world markets.

2. The National Grange supports actions to assure that the Panama Canal remain open to U.S. shipping.
3. The National Grange encourages purchasing American-made products and recommends that all levels of government be required to buy American made products whenever feasible.
4. The National Grange supports a fair and equitable textile import policy that would provide assistance to the domestic industry, would be beneficial to the producers of fibers and would not be price inflationary to the United States' consumers.
5. The National Grange supports policy to remove trade, financial, and travel restrictions to Cuba.
6. The Congress of the United States should take steps to preclude the sale or lease of properties and/or businesses within the limits of the United States or any of its possessions to any foreign purchaser or leasor whose country prohibits the sale or lease of properties and/or businesses to any U.S. business or citizen.
7. The National Grange calls upon the U.S. government to adopt coordinated policies combating trade distorting practices instituted by foreign governments, such as currency manipulation and unilateral repudiation of sovereign debt, especially in those cases where it becomes more difficult for U.S. farmers and manufacturers to sell their products in oversees markets. The National Grange also urges the U.S. Treasury Department to reverse its previous position and support domestic investors and bond holders of Argentine sovereign debt in all U.S. court cases brought by those bondholders.

Foreign Aid

1. The National Grange urges the U.S. government to extend foreign aid only after careful investigation, or in cases of natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, droughts, or floods. We further support: a) basing the amount of foreign aid given on the humanitarian need and a greater use of agricultural products in lieu of cash transfers; b) closer monitoring of International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans and encourage making loans to Third World countries that are designed to provide self-help; c) taking into consideration the recipient countries' present foreign debt, repayment schedule, and record before providing them with new financial assistance; d) keeping in mind the food and financial needs of domestic programs when Congress considers the appropriate amount of foreign aid. We recommend that countries needing financial assistance should apply to the United Nations so that all countries would share in the economic assistance to developing countries. The National Grange supports legislation requiring any country receiving U. S. foreign aid purchase products made or grown in the United States.
2. The National Grange favors canceling all U.S. aid and supplies to foreign countries that take, hold, or kill American citizens, refuse to recognize international law, willingly permit the production and shipment of illegal drugs into our country, or allow the takeover of U.S. embassies or any property belonging to the U.S. government.
3. The National Grange supports permitting Third World countries to reduce their foreign debt in exchange for the establishment of permanent rain forest preserves.
4. The National Grange encourages agricultural research and development in and for Third World nations.

International Relations and the United Nations

1. The National Grange supports a friendly relationship with the Republic of China (Taiwan).
2. The National Grange supports a positive non-military program promoting the democratic form of government as a means to roll back or contain dictatorial forms of government
3. The National Grange supports actions by our government and other governments in condemning terrorist acts and supports efforts to secure the release of all hostages.
4. The National Grange supports a U.S. foreign policy that outlines a clear-cut position that only allows American troops to be committed to foreign countries in turmoil when it is in the strategic interest of the United States and adequate safeguards are provided. We support the United States' involvement in United Nations' military operations including funding such military operations only with the approval of Congress.
5. The National Grange urges that the United Nations be used as a forum to keep the issue of chemical warfare before the international community until a treaty is signed by all nations that look to the effective banning of this type of warfare.
6. The National Grange strongly supports extending and maintaining the protections of U.S. Constitutionally guaranteed individual rights under all international law. We urge the United States government not to ratify or sign agreements or treaties with the United Nations or any other international body that rights restrict of limit individual rights guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution or Bill of Rights or that impose taxation on the citizens of the United States.
7. The National Grange supports legislation to formally rescind the President's signature approving the Statute of the International Criminal Court made on behalf of the United States and to take necessary steps to prevent the International Criminal Court's establishment and prohibit the use of appropriated funds for the establishment or operation of the Court. We further urge the U.S. government to use all of its diplomatic and political influence to protect U.S. Service persons or U.S. citizens and nationals from being subject to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.
8. The National Grange supports legislation that rejects any merger, treaty, or agreement with any country that infringes on the sovereignty of the U.S. Constitution.

National Defense

1. The National Grange supports international agreements leading toward a balanced reduction and eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons. To complement this objective, we further support the development of strategic and civil defense systems.
2. The National Grange recommends that the federal government negotiate with foreign countries for compensation for the military defenses that we provide to their countries.
3. The National Grange supports a strong effective military. We urge Congress to appropriate sufficient funding including adequate pay for all branches of the military. We support policies which will re-establish effective security and intelligence capabilities.
4. The National Grange supports the continued presence of United States Armed Forces in South Korea.

I would like to thank my committee for their thoughtful deliberations and patience in completing the task at hand. We had a total of 26 resolutions with one resolution transferred to the Health and Education Committee. I would also like to thank Jimmy Taylor for all of his hard work as Secretary. We give a big "Thank You" to New Hampshire Legislative Director Jim Tetreault and National Grange Legislative Affairs Director Leroy Watson for their guidance. Thank you to National Master Ed Luttrell for his support. Also thank you to the all the delegates and members who visited our committee.

Fraternally,

Yvonne Meritt (OK), Chair
Jimmy Taylor (VA), Secretary
Lucille Groves (IN)
Connie Johnston (MI)
Trudie Hagen (CO)
Maureen Prelli (CT) (H)
Nancy Swainston (MI) (H)
Sharon Croucher (NY) (H)
Jay Pfeiffer (TX) (H)

TAXATION & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES#	MASTER	STATE	TITLE	COMMITTEE	ACTION
801	Groves	IN	BONUS EARNED	Taxation & Transportation	Withdrawn
802	Chase	MA	HEARING AID ASSISTANCE TAX CREDIT ACT	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted (Amended)
803	Wiles	MD	WINDFALLS PROFITS TAX	Taxation & Transportation	Policy Statement
804	Hendrickson	WA	PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF VITAL RAIL CORRIDORS	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted (Amended)
805	Berry	VT	RAILROAD FARM CROSSINGS	Taxation & Transportation	Returned to the State
806	Orton	NY	AIRLINE PASSENGER BILL OF RIGHTS	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted (Amended)
807	Baldwin	IA	MOVING VIOLATION FINES	Taxation & Transportation	Returned to the State
808	Fryman	NE	FEDERAL HIGHWAY TRUST FUND	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted (corrected a typo)
809	Lewis	CA	DIESEL POWERED VEHICLES	Taxation & Transportation	Policy Statement
810	Chase	MA	TRANSPORTATION	Taxation & Transportation	Adverse
811	Wiles	MD	HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN	Taxation & Transportation	Policy Statement
812	Orton	NY	OPPOSITION TO A NATIONAL SPEED LIMIT	Taxation & Transportation	Adopted
813	Wiles	MD	MOTORCYCLE SAFETY	Taxation & Transportation	Amended Present Policy
814	Lewis	CA	PREVENT CLOSURE OF RURAL POST OFFICES	Taxation & Transportation	Present Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Taxation

The Grange supports taxing policies that levy both personal and business taxes based on ability to pay. We believe in and support a graduated income tax because we believe that most citizens have a greater understanding and respect for government when they have a part in providing revenue for the programs of government. Taxes should not be punitive or excessive. We feel that the tax deduction for sales tax in states that do not have a state income tax should continue beyond the proposed 2009 sunset provision.

The Grange has a long and consistent history in support of sound fiscal policy. We believe budgets should be balanced. We recognize there are times or circumstances to support deficit spending and the creation of debt, but that must be the result of a careful evaluation of the need and what delay will cost in the future, or how the delay will impact the current need.

We seek a simpler set of tax regulations. Previous federal tax reform efforts have

resulted in more confusion. Many millions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of hours are spent each year to file tax returns. This is an often overlooked cost of our tax collection system.

We believe companies who engage in irresponsible or fraudulent business practices should not be rewarded with tax refunds, as a result of their practices.

For most farmers, and small business owners, their farms and businesses are their largest retirement assets. New tax policies are required to assure that our current generation of family farmers and business owners are allowed to retire with dignity and that their productive resources are transferred to a new generation of family farmers and small business owners. Tax incentives and government backed Venture Capital Funds should be used to attract new residents and businesses to rural areas suffering from high out-migration.

We support user taxes with revenue used for the intended program. We support oversight/review of programs to eliminate spending on programs that have lost their value. Programs, once authorized, should receive adequate appropriations. We oppose non-funded mandates and using government funding to force compliance of a program that is not the result of a legislative support.

In all our dealings with government, and in our own fiscal policy actions, Grangers must follow and advocate for sound principles of fiscal policy.

Transportation

Throughout our history, the Grange has had a vested interest in transportation issues. Although there are many different modes of transportation in existence today, the Grange supports the continued improvement of all of our existing transportation systems. This has to occur if we are to efficiently and economically improve our current standard of living. The National Grange supports increased funding and training at all levels of pertinent governmental agencies to detect and deal with potential acts and devices of terrorism in all methods of transportation.

The National Grange continues to support federal surface transportation legislation, now known as the SAFETEA-LU Act, covering highways, highway safety and mass transportation. The adoption of transportation legislation that would benefit rural America is part of the National Grange's landmark Blue Print for Rural America. The SAFETEA-LU Act is the largest public works legislation in American history.

Each and every area of the country, including rural areas, will receive an appropriate balance of transportation funding due to the fact that all states will receive more money under the current program than under the previous program. This increase in funding is possible because for the first time in two decades all federal fuel tax revenues deposited into the Highway Trust Fund will be spent on transportation programs.

The building of new interstate highways often affects rural areas. The National Grange should continue to monitor projects such as the Northeast Corridor Highway to ensure that public input is solicited before the construction process begins.

This legislation also provides incentives to promote the use of agriculturally derived fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel, within the highway and urban transit programs. These incentives will help ensure that rural Americans can continue to enjoy their freedom of mobility well into the 21st Century. We also encourage the development of increased refining capacity to avoid extreme price increases for fuel during natural disasters.

We have grave concerns regarding the health and competitive position of our nation's

railroads. Consolidation of railroad companies has resulted in tremendous concentration of railroad resources in the hands of a very few companies.

It is encouraging that the railroads recognize their responsibilities to serve the public interest by providing reliable and cost competitive bulk commodity transportation. However, talk is not enough. The Grange became involved at the national level more than a century ago in response to the need for a more effective public/private partnership between the railroads, their customers, and society as a whole.

The National Grange realizes the United States has the best postal service in the world, however we urge the postal service to vigorously pursue ways to keep the same quality service and to institute procedures to maintain the highest level of safety for the employees and patrons throughout the entire system. We also urge that all post offices be handicap accessible.

The crucial link in providing universal postal service throughout rural America is our nation's rural mail carriers. We pledge our support to fight to maintain rural free delivery and to defend the interest of the dedicated mail carriers that make rural free delivery a fact of life for millions of rural Americans.

The Grange believes that personal watercraft safety can best be enhanced through a combination of increased personal watercraft operator education programs and the implementation of personal watercraft operator certification requirements administered by the states.

The National Grange encourages the manufacturers and remanufactures of vehicles to consider the safety interests of approaching vehicles when designing, positioning and aiming the headlights. Each Grange should be encouraged to provide periodic regional child restraint seat safety checks or checkpoints.

The National Grange encourages the development of fuel-efficient vehicles to reduce our dependency on foreign oil suppliers. High-efficiency diesel engines are available now and should be offered to U.S. consumers as they are in other countries (covers #809 CA). Hybrid vehicles present a potential danger to emergency responders. Special training should be provided to avoid the potential dangers. Automobile manufacturers should be encouraged to minimize hazards from hybrid vehicles to emergency responders.

The profits generated by the oil companies can and should be used to find new sources of energy for the country, therefore the National Grange opposes any attempt to impose a windfall profits tax.

The National Grange supports efforts to improve highway traffic safety by urging stronger penalties for serious violations such as excessive speeding and DUI.

This covers resolutions 803 MD and 811 MD

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act

WHEREAS, according to the Better Hearing Institute, hearing loss affects 1 in every 10 Americans and 95% of these individuals could benefit from hearing aids; and

WHEREAS, Medicare and most insurance polices expressly exclude coverage for hearing aids, making treatment an expensive endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the Grange supports legislation which aids in the betterment of the lives

of the deaf and hard of hearing; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Grange support legislation which would provide a $500 tax credit on the federal income tax per hearing aid available once every 5 years.

This covers resolution 802 (MA)

Public Ownership Of Vital Rail Corridors

WHEREAS, there have been instances where the owners of short-line railroads have proposed to abandon corridors that are vital to farmers transporting their crops to market; and

WHEREAS, the only sure way to secure these vital corridors is through public ownership; and

WHEREAS, public ownership does not preclude private operation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support public ownership of vital short-line rail transportation corridors and facilities that benefit farmers and farm communities.

This covers resolution 804 (WA) Adopted

Airline Passenger Bill Of Rights

WHEREAS, the nationwide annual Airline Quality Rating Survey showed that passengers' frustration is at an all-time high, and

WHEREAS, the same survey found that more bags were lost, more passengers were bumped, more consumers complained and fewer flights arrived on time than in the previous year, and

WHEREAS, the negative "quality score" the researchers gave the industry was the lowest in nearly two decades that studies have been preformed, and

WHEREAS, Senator Charles Schumer is leading action to bring about "passengers rights legislation" as only the federal government has the authority to regulate airlines; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation to establish an "airline passengers' bill of rights" that would provide passengers aboard any commercial flight that has been delayed from takeoff for more than one hour with electricity for fresh air and lights, adequate food and drinking water, and working toilets, at the expense of the airline.

This covers resolution 806 (NY)

Federal Highway Trust Fund

WHEREAS, in the year 1998 our U.S. Congress approved a transfer of $8 billion from the Federal Highway Trust Fund to the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, there is now an urgent need to repair and rebuild our bridges and highways; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange urge our U.S. Congress to return immediately

the $8 billion removed by Congress in 1998, with interest, to the Federal Highway Trust Fund, to be used for the original intent for which it was collected.

This covers resolution 808 (NE)

Opposition To A National Speed Limit

WHEREAS, Sen. John Warner, (R-VA) has requested that Energy Secretary, Samuel Bodman, look into what speed limit would provide optimal gasoline efficiency, and

WHEREAS, there are better options for reducing dependency on gasoline; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange oppose a national speed limit and opposes commissioning a study to determine the optimal speed limit; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange favor better energy saving options that include: 1) greater use of public transportation; 2) promotion of car pooling; 3) better enforcements of current speed limits and 4) promotion of alternative fuel development

This covers resolution 812 (NY)

TAXATION

Personal Income Tax

1. The National Grange supports developing a simpler and fairer federal income tax, written in precise, plain, and understandable language. We further support simplifying the language that is used in the government's instruction pamphlets for filing individual income taxes.
2. The National Grange favors a restoration of the full income averaging procedure. We especially favor continuing five and 10-year averaging of personal pension funds for income tax purposes.
3. The National Grange favors continuing income indexing.
4. The National Grange supports preferential income tax deductions for two-wage earner families by thus removing the "Marriage Penalty" from the U.S. tax code.
5. The National Grange supports deducting state sales tax from federal income tax returns.
6. The National Grange supports a 100 percent tax deduction for all qualified charitable contributions for all federal taxpayers.
7. The National Grange supports equalizing the mileage rates for volunteer services and medical transportation with mileage rates permitted for businesses for tax purposes.
8. The National Grange favors income tax credits for those families who care for their elderly or handicapped relatives who otherwise would become residents of a nursing home. We support legislation to allow a tax deduction for all federal taxpayers for Long Term Care Insurance premiums. We further support exempting all benefits paid under Long Term Care insurance policies from all income taxes.
9. The National Grange favors making Social Security benefits completely exempt from personal income taxes. The National Grange further supports legislation that would prohibit any state from imposing an income tax on the pension income of any indi-

vidual who is not a resident of that state.

10. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation of all current tax deductions allowed on real estate mortgages.
11. The National Grange supports legislation to allow voluntary contributions of $1.00 to be solicited on all federal income tax forms to fund our national parks. The Grange supports permitting an individual to designate $1.00 on his/her federal income tax return for the USA Olympic Program.
12. The National Grange supports a 100% federal income tax credit to law enforcement officers for purchasing their own bulletproof vests.
13. The National Grange supports allowing a total of $500.00 in income tax credits for political contributions.
14. The National Grange supports expanding medical flexible spending accounts to allow employees or retirees to set aside part of their pre tax pay or pension. We further recommend that any unspent medical flexible spending account balance be rolled into the next year's account or refunded to the employee or retiree as taxable income.
15. The National Grange supports a 100 percent federal income tax deduction for all medical insurance.
16. The National Grange supports the elimination of the cap on Social Security taxable wages.

Business, Investment, Capital Gains, and Inheritance Taxation

1. The National Grange supports legislation to permit farmers the method of depreciation that is most suitable to the uncertainties of their businesses. We support depreciation schedules for agricultural capital assets that accurately reflect the useful life of those assets. In particular, we support a depreciation schedule of 15 years for single purpose farm structures (confinement houses, etc.). Other real property should have a depreciable usable life of no more than 25 years. We further urge Congress and the IRS to revise codes to eliminate the reporting of government funded environmental and conservation mandated cost-share monies as income to the recipients.
2. The National Grange supports the reinstatement of the Investment Tax Credit or accelerated depreciation with a $100,000 value eligibility limit.
3. The National Grange supports preferential treatment for capital gains income. We support the abolishment of the capital gains tax. Until then, we support the concept of indexing the basic value of an asset, so that only the real gain and not the inflation value is subject to the capital gains tax. We further support excluding capital gains up to $500,000 from sale of agricultural lands from taxable income. We further support excluding all of the proceeds on the sale or exchange of qualified farmland development rights to a tax-exempt conservation organization from all capital gains taxes. We further support allowing farmers to invest any un-excluded capital gains from the sale of real and personal property into tax-deferred accounts, such as IRAs.
4. The National Grange strongly believes that employees should not be liable for un-remitted income or FICA taxes if the employer properly withheld those taxes from the employee's pay but then failed to make the proper payments to the IRS or the state.
5. We oppose the use of income tax write-offs from farming to reduce the amount of taxes that are owed on the earnings of non-farm businesses or professions.
6. The National Grange opposes the enactment of any federal tax on securities transactions.

7. The National Grange supports the uniform application of all timber depletion allowances in the tax code to all timberland owners regardless of the size of their timberland holdings.
8. The National Grange supports legislation abolishing the federal estate tax, especially for small business and agriculture. We support retaining current provisions for a full stepped up basis on inheritances. Until the federal estate tax is repealed we favor using the current use value as the basis for the property for estate tax purposes. The National Grange further supports a personal exemption from federal estate taxes of five million dollars per person until the federal estate tax is repealed.
9. The National Grange supports federal tax credits or tax deductions to growers or grower co-operatives that build or own ethanol production facilities.
10. The National Grange supports any legislation prohibiting employers from borrowing from an employee's pension fund. The National Grange supports legislation that would place employees or former employees who had invested in their employers stock as a part of their retirement plan to be placed ahead of payments to other creditors.
11. The National Grange supports action by the U.S. Department of Justice and State Attorneys General to actively prosecute and imprison cooperative executives and others suspected of illegal actions resulting in a cooperative declaring bankruptcy. Any illegal gains obtained via these prosecutions should be returned to the assets of the cooperative, along with criminal fines imposed on cooperative executives as punishment.

Sales, Excise Taxes, and Internet

1. The National Grange opposes the enactment of any national sales tax or any form of value added tax.
2. The National Grange supports the current federal law prohibiting any charges or taxes on e-mail or the use of the Internet and supports legislation to make prohibition of Internet or e-mail taxation permanent. The National Grange supports legislation that would prohibit mail order houses or Internet retailers from being forced to collect state sales taxes on mail order or Internet purchases from out of state purchasers. We further support legislation prohibiting a federal sales or use tax being imposed on mail order or Internet sales.
3. The National Grange supports the current levels of taxation of tobacco products at the federal, state and local level.

Taxes - General

1. We support the present tax treatment of agricultural cooperatives.
2. The National Grange supports a federal prohibition on the imposition of any tax or fee on water that is drawn from private wells, lakes, and irrigation ponds.
3. The National Grange urges Congress to maintain tax policies that will preserve the ability of this nation to find and produce domestic oil and gas resources. We support the current oil import fee and the domestic crude oil fee.
4. The National Grange seeks a permanent tax exemption for income that is raised by non-profit organizations such as the Grange. Until then, we oppose IRS guidelines

that classify corporate sponsorships as advertising revenue, and thus, unrelated business income for non-profit organizations. We further support legislation to raise the minimum gross income filing requirements for non-profit organizations.

5. We support a further strengthening of the "Taxpayers' Bill of Rights". We support placing the burden of proof on the IRS - not the taxpayer - under due process of law and providing a course of action in which the taxpayer could defend himself and recover his costs and attorney fees should the IRS fail to prove its case. We support giving the taxpayer the right to record all interviews with IRS people and to set a reasonable time and place for the meeting. We support prohibiting the IRS from sending out bills that are in excess of owed taxes, except for interest and penalties.
6. The National Grange supports the rights of local governments to use tax-exempt municipal financing without further limitations being imposed by Congress.
7. The National Grange supports requiring a two-thirds vote of each House of Congress to increase taxes. We further support federal legislation to deny jurisdiction or explicitly limit the authority of the U.S. Supreme Court or any lower courts of the United States to instruct or order a state or political subdivision to levy or increase taxes as a remedy for any civil litigation.
8. The National Grange opposes any sale of information from individual tax returns to any agency or individual.

TRANSPORTATION

Highway Policy, Interstate System and Federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF)

1. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation and reauthorization of the Highway Trust Fund. We support removing the Highway Trust Fund from the federal budget. The National Grange also supports the creation of a Federal Mass Transportation Trust Fund from user tax revenues separate from the Highway Trust Fund and highway user taxes. The National Grange opposes increasing the federal gasoline tax for purposes other than the Highway Trust Fund. We further support federal legislation to remove federal fuel tax from fuel used to operate farm trucks. The National Grange will oppose any proposal that would change the concept of dedicating all federal motor fuel taxes to the HTF to be used for highway and highway related purposes, including legislation that would use a federal motor fuel tax increase to reduce federal budget deficits. We oppose impounding HTF monies as a means of enforcement of federal laws.
2. The National Grange favors full compensation for homes, farming operations and businesses when displaced by eminent domain for highway right-of-ways.
3. The National Grange will lobby for additional federal funds to be allocated to affected states for increased maintenance of the NAFTA roadways. Additionally, the National Grange calls for increased border surveillance to ensure that commercial vehicles and drivers based in Canada and Mexico are in full compliance with the United States' motor vehicle equipment standards and requirements.
4. The National Grange supports reauthorization of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA) in 2009. We particularly support including the following provisions:
    a. Additional funding for core safety programs that is are properly directed to life-saving roadway safety projects.

b. Provisions to reduce administrative delays at federal and state agencies responsible for approving highway planning.
c. New financial incentives for States to obligate new congestion relief funding for projects that reduce highway bottlenecks.
d. Full funding by the Congress for all "guaranteed" highway funds in future Transportation Appropriations bills.
e. Full enforcement of additional new fuel tax fraud provisions and additional credit for the Highway Trust Fund for revenue enhancements related to the new tax collection on ethanol.

5. The National Grange supports streamlining environmental requirements to expedite the completion of transportation congestion-relief projects in order to reduce pollution while promoting efficient land use and road capacity in areas designated for growth. We also support redirecting the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program (CMAQ) to fund new passenger and freight inter-modal hubs in highly congested areas to serve trains, trucking companies and bus companies. Grants should be provided to improve intercity Amtrak stations and/or to construct public freight transfer stations that combine bus service, rapid transit and other transportation services, which operate on flexible schedules as a way of reducing traffic congestion and improving the environment.
6. The National Grange recommends that the interstate highway system adopt the use of a uniform transponder system for all-open road tolling nationwide.
7. The National Grange opposes the sale of any toll roads or bridges
8. The National Grange supports legislation standardizing the numbering of highway exits to correspond with the mile markers on all interstate highways.

Highways – Non-Interstate

1. The National Grange urges government agencies to give a high priority to conserving land for agricultural purposes when considering the location and design of highways including planting trees and shrubs along highways in places where such growth could stop soil erosion and aid in snow control.
2. The federal-aid system of highways should be continued as a federal-state partnership with more flexibility in the states' use of money for safety, construction, and maintenance of state highways, including construction of local bridges that are built to the community's needs as determined by county and local road commissions. The National Grange will cooperate with the American Highway Users Alliance and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials in urging Congress to ensure adequate resources and attention for rural roads and bridges.
3. To promote driver safety the National Grange recommends that the Highway Safety Administration require surface highway reflectors on the center lane divider of all two-way highways on the federal-aid highway system and that the federal Department of Transportation adopt standards to ensure a better and more durable road surface.
4. The National Grange supports expansion of rural intercity bus, air and rail services.
5. The National Grange supports funding to construct adequate parking or rest areas to allow commercial and other drivers to stop and rest. Funding should also be provided for adequate policing and/or better lighting for the present and future parking areas for the safety of those who use these facilities.

Highway Safety

1. The National Grange supports the enforcement of weight limits on vehicles operating on our highways
2. The National Grange will work with the federal Department of Transportation and the National Safety Council to develop truck regulations requiring the use of brushes and/or flaps that will channel the water down reducing the spray, and prohibiting the use of triple trailer trucks on all federal highways.
3. Railroad crossings in rural areas should have ripple strips installed in road surfaces on approaches to crossings, be clear of brush and other vision-inhibiting material and be equipped with flashing warning lights.
4. The National Grange supports standards requiring that all motorcycle, bicycle, and moped riders wear protective helmets, and wear clothing or have an apparatus to make them more visible to other motorists. We further recommend that federal standards for motorcycle helmets be raised to provide the best protection and visibility.
5. The Grange supports adequate government resources for an effective federal Highway Safety Program.
6. The National Grange supports requiring all motor vehicles to have a rear bumper or undercarriage guard coming within 16 inches of the ground.
7. The National Grange urges automobile manufacturers to include the following modifications on their new models by 2010: uniformly located door latches; louder and more visible interior direction signal indicators; spare tires of equal quality and size as the regular tires; uniform tow points; light sensitive sensors that would automatically turn on automobile headlights at a certain degree of darkness; daytime running lights; at least one mirror on the right side of a vehicle to reflect an undistorted view of images and a curvature type mirror to pick up blind spots; and headlights that turn on automatically with the windshield wipers.
8. The National Grange supports standardizing the cellular emergency numbers for the interstate highway systems throughout the country to just one number, Star 91.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that would penalize a driver for using a cell phone when it is a proven cause of reckless or unsafe driving or is the cause of an accident.
10. The National Grange supports regulations that would strengthen the safety standards for smaller cars and opposes any weakening of the safety standards of sport utility vehicles (SUVs).
11. The National Grange strongly supports the development of state and national laws that would require reflective tape on all existing and new trucks to help reduce under-ride accidents.
12. The National Grange supports legislation banning high intensity discharge (HID) headlights and/or driving lights and/or Xenon lights.
13. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Transportation to encourage all states to use the same laws pertaining to school bus operations and traffic control around school buses. We support legislation requiring all newly manufactured school buses to be equipped with strobe lights that are highly visible in all types of weather. The National Grange further requests that all school buses be required to have a sign on the back stating “Stay Back 50 Feet”. The National Grange supports the present U.S. Department of Transportation requirement for random drug and alcohol testing for school bus drivers. We consider any proposed requirement for installed school bus

driver monitoring devices on school buses to be unnecessary, expensive and counter-productive.
14. The National Grange supports legislation restricting the placement of any visual entertainment device within the driver's area of vision within a motor vehicle.
15. The National Grange urges automobile manufacturers to standardize the placement of air bag components and furnish a book on their operations to Fire/Rescue and EMS personnel for the safety of everyone.

Impaired Driving

1. We support a nationwide enactment of the "per se" law, which makes driving with a blood alcohol content in excess of .08 percent a violation and believe the dangers of drinking and driving should be included in the anti-drug campaign of the federal government's information and education programs.
2. The National Grange supports federal legislation to maintain the minimum age for the consumption of alcoholic beverages at 21.
3. The National Grange recommends that transportation authorities, both government and privately owned, be vested with the authority to randomly test employees for illegal drug and alcohol use.

Truck Transportation Policy

1. The National Grange will support legislation and regulatory policies that enhance stability and competition in truck operations for cost-effective and dependable service.
2. The National Grange supports new regulations requiring brake lights to be activated on commercial motor vehicles when a Jake Brake is used.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would require reporting of positive drug tests for drivers with any commercial license to the Department of Motor Vehicles of the issuing state. The report of a positive drug test should remain in the driver's file for a period of two years. We further support provisions to appeal positive drug testing results and mandate a second test by a different facility to eliminate false positive tests.
4. The National Grange supports Department of Transportation (DOT) reclassifying light-, medium-, and heavy-duty utility vehicles separate from on-highway (cross-country) trucks. However, we recommend that logbooks not be required on light-, medium-, and heavy-duty utility vehicles.

Water Transportation

1. The National Grange supports a moratorium on user fee increases for agricultural products transported on coastal and inland waterways. If user fees are increased, such fees should be based on the percentage of federal expenditures attributable to opening said waterways to barge traffic. These fees should be placed in an Inland Waterways Trust Fund and used only for construction and maintenance of inland waterways.
2. The National Grange supports maintaining the current United States Corps of Engineers' season for transporting grain on the Missouri River.

3. The National Grange supports the immediate implementation of "Alternative H in the Upper Mississippi Study" which encourages upgrades to the locks on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, facilitating greater barge traffic and providing an economic engine to fuel growth and prosperity in the entire Midwest.
4. The National Grange recommends that the Jones Act, which requires all freight moved between American ports being carried in American ships, be repealed.
5. The National Grange supports legislation to prevent any company controlled by a foreign government from taking over U.S. port facilities.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would require all U.S. cruise ships have emergency personnel as members of their crews.

Railroad Transportation

1. The National Grange recommends that the Department of Transportation (DOT) consider scheduling more commuter trains on their lines to offer better service to the public.
2. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Surface Transportation Board (STB), the Interstate Commerce Commission and similar transportation agencies to consider economic impact and public interests when undertaking transportation planning with regard to the impact of rail line abandonment. We support integration of rail and highway system planning in advance of possible abandonment to maximize economies to the public and private sectors as well as federal assistance to states for this purpose and to assist in rail takeovers by states where maintenance of service is cost effective to local or state governments and to local shippers. We support economic and social impact statements from railroads to the ICC and state governments as well as meaningful local public hearings in the areas affected as a part of the abandonment process.
3. The National Grange urges that abandoned railroad crossings be returned to a smooth surface. All railroad crossing signals or signs should be removed within sixty (60) days following abandonment.
4. The National Grange encourages all levels of government to support the development and maintenance of a strong and effective rail network to enhance competition among and between rail carriers in order to ensure efficient rail service and reasonable rates, and for other purposes.
5. The National Grange supports legislation requiring warning reflectors to be placed on both sides of all railroad cars in the United States.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would require railroads to reveal to each landowner, before abandonment, the full and complete legal basis on which the railroad has claimed its right to occupy the corridor. If the railroad's right is less than fee simple ownership, the railroad should disclose to each landowner that its occupancy right would be extinguished upon abandonment. We believe that the right-of-way of an abandoned land grant railroad should revert to the last payer of taxes on the property, or by right of adverse possession or grant titles as well as the possible use of railroad right-of-ways, determined to be economically unfeasible, by adjacent landowners.
7. The National Grange will lobby for the discontinuation of remote controlled locomotives operated in the switch yards, or over a public or private highway rail crossing without an Engineer occupying the cab of the locomotive who has the required skills to stop the locomotive and its attached equipment nationwide.

Air Travel

1. The National Grange supports strengthening the English language certification for foreign pilots operating a commercial aircraft in the United States.
2. The National Grange supports repeal of the "Jim Wright Law" that requires passengers with flights originating or terminating at Dallas' Love Field to or from destinations beyond Texas, or the four states contiguous to Texas, to land, disembark, retrieve their luggage and recheck in before they may continue their flight.
3. The National Grange will urge the continuing utilization of Air Marshals on random flights.
4. The National Grange urges the United States Department of Homeland Security to scrutinize their passenger screening/security contractors to appropriately provide adequate safe airport screening/security during hours of operation.
5. The National Grange opposes legislation authorizing the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to establish fees for air traffic control and related activities, services, facilities, and equipment that initially increases user fees and taxes for general aviation such as crop dusting, pipeline SEQ CHAPTER \h \r 1patrol, power line patrol, forest fire patrol, and commuting to rural communities. We also oppose legislation turning all major commercial airlines into full partners with the FAA on matters of decision making by creating a board dominated by airline representatives who would help the FAA establish user fee pricing schedules.

General Transportation Policy

1. The Grange believes that it is in the best interest of farmers and consumers to continue efforts toward achieving a balanced transportation system at the lowest cost consistent with adequate and efficient service. However, we oppose efforts by State governments to toll expanses of the Interstate Highway System built and operating as toll free.
2. The National Grange urges federal and state weed control agencies to control noxious weeds on their highway right-of-ways and to work with the railroads in an effort to control noxious weeds along railroad right-of-ways but always respecting the landowners' property rights and preferences.
3. The National Grange supports inter-model ownership of transportation carriers only if the acquiring carrier establishes that inter-modal ownership is consistent with the public interest; will enable the acquiring carrier to use the other mode to public advantage in its transportation operations; will not unreasonably restrain competition and will not result in segments of agriculture and rural areas being held by captive shippers.
4. The National Grange supports creating a national uniform vehicle identification system to be used by disabled drivers. Legislation should be enacted to include blindness as a provision for issuance of a disabled parking permit.
5. We oppose efforts to replace current highway signs with multilingual signs.
6. The National Grange strongly supports a simple public announcement procedure for special needs citizens in intercity bus transportation systems.
7. The National Grange supports legislation that would expand the Lemon Law for all vehicles in all states. We further support legislation that allows independent vehicle maintenance facilities or car dealership garages to have access to the technology/programming needed to repair all makes of vehicles so that the consumer has a choice of

where to take his/her vehicle for maintenance and repair.

U.S. Postal Service

1. The National Grange supports efforts by the Postal Service to eliminate waste, hold down operating costs and increase services and reliability. We make the following recommendations to the U. S. Postal Service:
   a. We urge that any future postal rate increases be no greater than the rate of inflation.
   b. We will also support stable rates or eligibility requirements for nonprofit organizations' postal rates. We support the retention of the third class bulk mail rate for not-for-profit-organizations at a reasonable rate.
   c. We support reorganization of the Postal Rate Commission to include representation of the interests of mail users.
   d. We recommend that the U.S. Postal service be returned to a service branch of the federal government.
2. The National Grange continues to support Rural Free Mail Delivery Service as an essential part of universal mail service. We support the continuation of rural Saturday mail delivery and all other mail services to rural areas. Patrons of rural post offices must be given six (6) months notice before their post office is closed and must be provided with an opportunity to express their viewpoint at a public hearing.
3. The National Grange will promote the proportional payment of retirement funds from the U.S. Post Office and the U.S. government in relation to the number of year's retirees worked for each entity. We strongly oppose any change in the current postal employee retirement programs that would adversely affect the retirement of any postal employees, limit the retirement options of current postal employees or result in a reduction of retirement benefits for current or future postal employee.
4. The National Grange recommends that federal postal regulations require all future installation of cluster boxes be on the same side of the road as the residence or business.
5. The National Grange encourages the Postal Service to make their patrons aware that handicapped persons may apply for mail delivery to their door.

I would like to thank my committee for their thoughtful deliberations and patience in completing the task at hand. I would also like to thank Mark Noah for all of his hard work as Secretary. The committee appreciated the assistance of Jim Tetreault and Lorna Bates of the National Grange Legislative Staff and the astute policy review by Leroy Watson, Legislative Director.

Fraternally,

Maurice Wiles (MD), Chair
Mark Noah (OR), Secretary
Richard Field (MN)
Linda Brumbaugh (OH)
Kay Merritt (OK)
DeeDee Loomer (WY)
Henrietta Keller (IL) (H)
Nancy Valentine (IN) (H)
Trisha Browning (WA) (YH)

ANNUAL CONVENTIONS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

Session No.	Year	Place	Master
	1867, Dec.4	Washington, DC	Birthday
1	1868, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
2	1869, April	Washington, DC	William Saunders
3	1870, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
4	1871, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
5	1872, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
6	1873, Jan.	Georgetown, DC	William Saunders
7	1874, Feb.	St. Louis, MO	D.W. Adams
8	1875, Feb.	Charleston, SC	D.W. Adams
9	1875, Nov.	Louisville, KY	D.W. Adam
10	1876, Nov.	Chicago, IL	John T. Jones
11	1877, Nov.	Cincinnati, OH	John T. Jones
12	1878, Nov.	Richmond, VA	S.E. Adams
13	1879, Nov.	Canandaigua, NY	S.E. Adams
14	1880, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
15	1881, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
16	1882, Nov.	Indianapolis, IN	J.J. Woodman
17	1883, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
18	1884, Nov.	Nashville, TN	J.J. Woodman
19	1885, Nov.	Boston, MA	J.J. Woodman
20	1886, Nov.	Philadelphia, PA	I.P Darden
21	1887, Nov.	Lansing, MI	I.P Darden
22	1888, Nov.	Topeka, KS	James Draper
23	1889, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	J.H. Brigham
24	1890, Nov.	Atlanta, GA	J.H. Brigham
25	1891, Nov.	Springfield, OH	J.H. Brigham
26	1892, Nov.	Concord, NH	J.H. Brigham
27	1893, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	J.H. Brigham
28	1894, Nov.	Springfield, IL	J.H. Brigham
29	1895, Nov.	Worcester, MA	J.H. Brigham
30	1896, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.H. Brigham
31	1897, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	J.H. Brigham
32	1898, Nov.	Concord, NH	Aaron Jones
33	1899, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Aaron Jones
34	1900, Nov.	Washington, DC	Aaron Jones
35	1901, Nov.	Lewiston, ME	Aaron Jones
36	1902, Nov.	Lansing, MI	Aaron Jones
37	1903, Nov.	Rochester, NY	Aaron Jones

38	1904, Nov.	Portland, OR	Aaron Jones
39	1905, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Aaron Jones
40	1906, Nov.	Denver, CO	N.J. Bachelder
41	1907, Nov.	Hartford, CT	N.J. Bachelder
42	1908, Nov.	Washington, DC	N.J. Bachelder
43	1909, Nov.	Des Moines, IA	N.J. Bachelder
44	1910, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	N.J. Bachelder
45	1911, Nov.	Columbus, OH	N.J. Bachelder
46	1912, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Oliver Wilson
47	1913, Nov.	Manchester, NH	Oliver Wilson
48	1914, Nov.	Wilmington, DE	Oliver Wilson
49	1915, Nov.	Oakland, CA	Oliver Wilson
50	1916, Nov.	Washington, DC	Oliver Wilson
51	1917, Nov.	St. Louis, MO	Oliver Wilson
52	1918, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Oliver Wilson
53	1919, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Oliver Wilson
54	1920, Nov.	Boston, MA	S.J. Lowell
55	1921, Nov.	Portland, OR	S.J. Lowell
56	1922, Nov.	Wichita, KS	S.J. Lowell
57	1923, Nov.	Pittsburgh, PA	S.J. Lowell
58	1924, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	L.J. Taber
59	1925, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	L.J. Taber
60	1926, Nov.	Portland, ME	L.J. Taber
61	1927, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	L.J. Taber
62	1928, Nov.	Washington, DC	L.J. Taber
63	1929, Nov.	Seattle, WA	L.J. Taber
64	1930, Nov.	Rochester, NY	L.J. Taber
65	1931, Nov.	Madison, WI	L.J. Taber
66	1932, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	L.J. Taber
67	1933, Nov.	Boise, ID	L.J. Taber
68	1934, Nov.	Hartford, CT	L.J. Taber
69	1935, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	L.J. Taber
70	1936, Nov.	Columbus, OH	L.J. Taber
71	1937, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	L.J. Taber
72	1938, Nov.	Portland, OR	L.J. Taber
73	1939, Nov.	Peoria, IL	L.J. Taber
74	1940, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	L.J. Taber
75	1941, Nov.	Worcester, MA	L.J. Taber
76	1942, Nov.	Wenatchee, WA	A.S. Goss
77	1943, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	A.S. Goss
78	1944, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	A.S. Goss

79	1945, Nov.	Kansas City, MO	A.S. Goss
80	1946, Nov.	Portland, OR	A.S. Goss
81	1947, Nov.	Columbus, OH	A.S. Goss
82	1948, Nov.	Portland, ME	A.S. Goss
83	1949, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	A.S. Goss
84	1950, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	Henry D. Sherwood
85	1951, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Herschel D. Newsom
86	1952, Nov.	Rockford, IL	Herschel D. Newsom
87	1953, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Herschel D. Newsom
88	1954, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Herschel D. Newsom
89	1955, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	Herschel D. Newsom
90	1956, Nov.	Rochester, NY	Herschel D. Newsom
91	1957, Nov.	Colorado Springs, CO	Herschel D. Newsom
92	1958, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Herschel D. Newsom
93	1959, Nov.	Long Beach, CA	Herschel D. Newsom
94	1960, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	Herschel D. Newsom
95	1961, Nov.	Worcester, MA	Herschel D. Newsom
96	1962, Nov.	Fort Wayne, IN	Herschel D. Newsom
97	1963, Nov.	Portland, OR	Herschel D. Newsom
98	1964, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Herschel D. Newsom
99	1965, Nov.	Topeka, KS	Herschel D. Newsom
100	1966, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	Herschel D. Newsom
101	1967, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Herschel D. Newsom
102	1968, Nov.	Peoria, IL	Herschel D. Newsom
103	1969, Nov.	Daytona Beach, FL	John W. Scott
104	1970, Nov.	Boise, ID	John W. Scott
105	1971, Nov.	Charleston, WV	John W. Scott
106	1972, Nov.	Hartford, CT	John W. Scott
107	1973, Nov.	Lincoln, NE	John W. Scott
108	1974, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	John W. Scott
109	1975, Nov.	Columbus, OH	John W. Scott
110	1976, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	John W. Scott
111	1977, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	John W. Scott
112	1978, Nov.	Denver, CO	John W. Scott
113	1979, Nov.	Lancaster, PA	John W. Scott
114	1980, Nov.	Cedar Rapids, IA	Edward Andersen
115	1981, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Edward Andersen
116	1982, Nov.	Providence, RI	Edward Andersen
117	1983, Nov.	San Antonio, TX	Edward Andersen
118	1984, Nov.	Portland, ME	Edward Andersen
119	1985, Nov.	Eugene, OR	Edward Andersen

120	1986, Nov.	Madison, WI	Edward Andersen
121	1987, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Edward Andersen
122	1988, Nov.	Redding, CA	Robert E. Barrow
123	1989, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	Robert E. Barrow
124	1990, Nov.	Wichita, KS	Robert E. Barrow
125	1991, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Robert E. Barrow
126	1992, Nov.	Denver, CO	Robert E. Barrow
127	1993, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	Robert E. Barrow
128	1994, Nov.	Peoria, IL	Robert E. Barrow
129	1995, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	Robert E. Barrow
130	1996, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Kermit W. Richardson
131	1997, Nov.	Springfield, MA	Kermit W. Richardson
132	1998, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	Kermit W. Richardson
133	1999, Nov.	Portland, ME	Kermit W. Richardson
134	2000, Nov.	Fresno, CA	Kermit W. Richardson
135	2001, Nov.	Cedar Rapids, IA	Kermit W. Richardson
136	2002, Nov.	Portland, OR	Kermit W. Richardson
137	2003, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Kermit W. Richardson
138	2004, Nov.	Rochester, NY	William A. Steel
139	2005, Nov.	Columbus, OH	William A. Steel
140	2006, Nov.	Springfield, IL	William A. Steel
141	2007, Nov.	Reno, NV	William A. Steel
142	2008, Nov.	Cromwell, CT	Edward L. Luttrell

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