



GRANGER

Volume 2016
Issue 1

The Official News Source for the California State Grange

In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.

THE CALIFORNIA

Innovate the Grange!



Join Us At State Session!

The theme of the 141st Annual Session of the California State Grange is "Innovate the Grange". This is a follow-up to last years theme of "Renovate the Grange".

Session will start with pre-session activities on Thursday June 23, and open in the 6th Degree at 9:00 AM on Friday June 24th. A full schedule of activities is planned. Session will close on Sunday June 26th.

Due to circumstances beyond anyone's control it was necessary to more the location of the session to Orangevale Grange Hall, in Sacramento County. Orangevale Grange Hall is located at 5807 Walnut Ave in Orangevale.

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Officers

President	Ed Komski
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Lillian Booth
Treasurer	Bud Hill
Director	Bob Clouse
Director	Inger Bevans
Director	Johnny Squire
Lecturer	Barbara Geiger
Chaplain	Bill Compton
Gatekeeper	Brandon Nebitt
Steward	Randy Turnquist
Asst. Steward	Joseph Stefenoni
Lady Asst. Steward	Suzi Laskowski
Flora	Nola Martini
Pomona	Jayme West
Ceres	LoRee Lampke
Musician	Martha Stefenoni

How to Contact An Officer

You can contact any of the above Officers using the Contact Forms on our website. Please visit us online at www.castategrange.org and select About Us on the menu, then Meet Officers.

The California Granger

The California Granger is the Official Publication of the California State Grange. A chartered division of the National Grange, and the only State Grange in California.

Bill Booth..... Editor
Carrie Behler..... Assistant Editor
Lucette Moramarco..... Assistant Editor

Articles and other submissions may be mailed to California Granger, PO BOX 1442 Paradise, CA 95967 or online at www.castategrange.org/ navigate to Forms & More, then to Online Forms.

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Subscription is part of the members' annual dues. Non-member subscription is \$12.00 per year.

Directors

Communications Director	Bill Booth
Expo Director	Katie Squire
Distinguished Grange Director	Bob Clouse
Youth Fair Program	Tacy Currey
Gov't Compliance Director	Inger Bevans
Junior Grange Director	Vacant
Youth Director	Emily Turnquist

How to Contact A Director

You can contact any of the above Directors using the Contact Forms on our website. Please visit: www.castategrange.org and navigate to About Us on the menu, and then select Meet Directors

Visit us on the Web

California State Grange:
<http://www.CASateGrange.org>

Is It Official?



Official Grange Logo, as shown to the left, should appear on all official Grange communications, be they printed, emailed or on the website.

Cover Photo

Cover photo is from the Orangevale Grange website.

President's Message

Ed Komski, State President

This issue we have a guest editorial by Betsy Huber, National Grange President.



Ed Komski,
State President

Why is Rural America Being Left Behind in Lifeline Reform?

Major portions of rural America have no access to broadband. Fewer than one in five Americans (17 percent) can't access what the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) defines as broadband, but that level is three times higher - a whopping 53% - when it comes to rural America. And what about those parts of rural America with broadband access? According to the 2015 State of the Internet Report, the average connection speed in many rural areas is slower than those in Estonia, Uruguay, and Thailand.

That's why the millions of us who live in rural America can muster no more than two cheers for the Lifeline Reform plan recently drafted by the FCC that shifts the focus of the federal Lifeline program to broadband. It's a good move that makes sense in the long term, but it doesn't have to be done with such haste that it severs the wireless Lifeline now helping millions of low-income residents in rural America.

The problem is that the FCC timetable for shifting Lifeline from a wireless focus to "broadband only" is out of sync with the reality of the availability of adequate broadband in rural America. The FCC wants to start a phase out of wireless Lifeline almost immediately and then hang up on it altogether in 2019. After that, Lifeline would only subsidize broadband and landline phone service.

That's the wrong timetable for rural America. The FCC's own data show that as many as 22 million rural Americans lack access to connections to broadband at download speeds of 25 megabits per second (mbps). The Commission also has reported that one in five rural Americans lacks access at the even slower speeds of 4 mbps. The access gap is even

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Secretary's Notes

Lillian Booth, State Secretary

It's never too early to plan. Just when Grange Secretaries get done collecting membership dues, we have to turn around and bill them out again. Since the years are getting shorter, it seems like it comes up too fast.

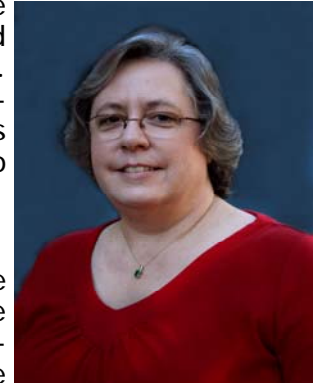
This year, let the California State Grange help. There is a dues-billing service available to Subordinate/Community Granges and Pomona Granges. The cost of this service to the Subordinate Grange is \$.60 per member - the cost of postage, copies, and supplies.

A dues notice is generated from the membership database and placed in an envelope along with a return envelope for the member to send their dues directly to the local Grange Secretary. We combine notices based on the addresses.

The Grange Secretary is sent a checklist of the members billed for dues which will allow them to track when the dues are received in their Grange.

First notices can be sent in November/December. Plan ahead and let the State Secretary know you would like to use this service. Dues notices will be based on the 3rd Quarterly report membership lists on file with the California State Grange.

We appreciate our members. The membership dues are the lifeblood of your Grange. It is the member's financial contribution and support which helps maintain your programs, buildings, and projects.



Lillian Booth
State Secretary

141st Annual Session Information

Orangevale, CA June 2016

141st Annual Session of the California State Grange Orangevale Grange Hall, Orange- vale, CA

Thursday June 23, 2016

9:00 am – 4:00 PM
Registration Open

9:00 am – 5:00 PM
Expo Open to Receive
Entries

9:30 AM General Welcome
Ed Komski, State Master,
California State Grange

Workshops /Delegate
Workshop

Secretary & Treasurer
Workshop

Youth Fair Workshop

Resolution Committee
Meetings

Lecturer's Workshop

Grange Ritual for Today

Legal Update

State Officer Practice

State Secretary's Report

State Treasurer's Report

Review and Approval of
Executive Committee
Minutes June 2015
through May 2016

Audit & Budget
Committee Report

Adoption of 2016-2017
Budget

Resolution setting Com-
pensation of State Officers
Final Credential Report

Nomination of Officers of
the California State
Grange 2016-2018

Invitations for the 142nd
Annual Session in 2017

Invitations for the 143rd
Annual Session in 2018

Resolution Committee Re-
ports

7:00 PM Lecturer's Welcome –
Talent & Contests
Barbara Geiger, California
State Grange Lecturer

Friday, June 24, 2016

8 AM Registration Open

9:00 AM Opening of the 141st
Annual Session in the
Sixth Degree (Sixth
Degree Members Only)

Lower to Fourth Degree

State Master's Annual
Address

Saturday, June 25, 2016

8:00 AM Registration Open

9:00 AM Opening of the California
State Grange in the
Fourth Degree

Ritual Training Team
presentation.

Business of the Order

Convention Committees

Keynote Speaker

Betsy Huber, Master,
National Grange

Resolution Committee
Reports

7:30 PM Degree Night Conferral
*** 5th & 6th Degree Tick-
et required for 4th Degree
Members ***

Fourth Degree Obligation
Ceremony Under the di-
rection of Ed Kowski

Exemplification of the
Fifth Degree Under the
direction of Martha
Stefenoni

Exemplification of the
Sixth Degree Under the
direction of Bob Clouse

Degree Feast

Entertainment / Dancing

Sunday, June 26, 2016

8:30 AM Expo Entries Released
9:00 AM Opening of Session in
the Sixth Degree

Memorial Service under
direction of Bill Compton,
California State Grange
Chaplain

Installation of Officers

Resolution of Appreciation

11:30 AM **CLOSING OF THE 141st
ANNUAL SESSION OF
THE CALIFORNIA
STATE GRANGE**

An important function of delegates is being asked to serve on Session Policy Committees. The following committees will be processing resolutions at the Morgan Hill Session.

At the 2015 Session, the process was started to review our old (pre 2012) policy book with the idea to remove items that no longer apply, have been passed into law, or are no longer a legislative priority. Over the last 20 plus years, we have added to the policy handbook, but nothing has been updated or removed. Removing items from the policy handbook does not mean that we are revoking that policy item, it just means that is archived for now.

The following committees will be reviewing their sections of the policy handbook in addition to any resolutions presented to their committee.

After session we will print an updated legislative policy handbook. At future sessions, it will be the function of each committee to keep their section of the handbook up to date.





2016 Convention Registration - Deadline June 5, 2016

Member of Grange Name & Number

Grange Name:	Grange No.	County:
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Section 1 - Registration

1	Name of member, please print	Member #	Address (Street/City/Zip)	
	Email Address:	Phone #	Attending As [] Delegate [] Non-Delegate	Age: If under 14:
2	Name of member, please print	Member #	Address (Street/City/Zip)	
	Email Address:	Phone #	Attending As [] Delegate [] Non-Delegate	Age: If under 14:
3	Name of member, please print	Member #	Address (Street/City/Zip)	
	Email Address:	Phone #	Attending As [] Delegate [] Non-Delegate	Age: If under 14:
4	Name of member, please print	Member #	Address (Street/City/Zip)	
	Email Address:	Phone #	Attending As [] Delegate [] Non-Delegate	Age: If under 14:

Using the numbers to the left of names in Section 1, indicate options etc. below.

Commemorative Glass	Paperless Solutions	5th and 6th Degree History	
An etched glass commemorating the 141st Annual Session of the California State Grange is available for pre-order. Limited Edition.	Please indicate if you will be bringing a tablet, iPad or Android device.	For each person being registered, indicate if 5th and/or 6th Degree has been received, and the year received.	
1	[] iPad	3	[] iPad
2	[] Android	4	[] Android
3	[] iPad	1	[] 5th Degree Year: _____ [] 6th Degree Year: _____
4	[] Android	2	[] 5th Degree Year: _____ [] 6th Degree Year: _____
1	[] iPad	3	[] 5th Degree Year: _____ [] 6th Degree Year: _____
2	[] Android	4	[] 5th Degree Year: _____ [] 6th Degree Year: _____

Section 2 - Registration, Degrees, Journals

	1	2	3	4	# Boxes Checked	Price (each)	=	Total
Registration Fee - Age 14 and above					x	\$40.00	=	
Registration Fee - Age 5 to 13					x	\$5.00	=	
5th Degree Ticket - if taking Degree at this Session					x	\$5.00	=	
6th Degree Ticket - if taking Degree at this Session					x	\$10.00	=	
Session Commemorative Glass (15 oz. Etched Glass)					x	\$10.00	=	
2016 Journal of Proceedings (mailed when completed)					x	\$10.00	=	
Section 2 Subtotal						\$		

Section 3 - Meal Functions

Date	Day of Week	Meal Function	1	2	3	4	# Boxes Checked	Price (each)	=	Total
Jun 23rd	Thursday	Lunch					x	\$6.00	=	
Jun 24th	Friday	Continental Breakfast					x	\$4.00	=	
Jun 24th	Friday	Lunch					x	\$6.00	=	
Jun 24th	Friday	Dinner					x	\$10.00	=	
Jun 25th	Saturday	Continental Breakfast					x	\$4.00	=	
Jun 25th	Saturday	Lunch					x	\$6.00	=	
Jun 25th	Saturday	Dinner					x	\$10.00	=	
Jun 26th	Sunday	Continental Breakfast					x	\$4.00	=	
Section 3 Subtotal						\$				

Remit to California State Grange (Section 2 + Section 3) \$

Registration Instructions

Section 1:

Please use Section 1 to list the names of members being registered. There is space for four names. Please complete all of the requested information for each member being registered. Please notice the numbers on the far left, as they will be used in making selections below. They are also color coded.

Section 2: Registration, Degrees, Journals

Use Section 2 to determine cost for Registration, Degree Tickets, and to order 2016 Journal of Proceedings. Note that registration has a line for age 14 and above, and another age 5 to 13. Check the boxes according to number/colors from Section 1.

Section 3: Meal Functions

"Meal functions will be hosted by various Granges as a fund-raiser for their Grange. Menus are not set as of this date. But with any Grange meal function - you know they are the best cooks around!!!

Eight different meals will be available. Please indicate each persons choice of meals by checking the color coded numbered boxes. Do the math across, and subtotal down."

Paperless Solutions:

We will be attempting to reduce the amount of paper we use for resolutions, reports etc. by setting up some type of online options for downloading reports, etc. The Grange Hall has wireless connectivity, and we want to know if you will want to use this option, so we can determine the necessary capacity.

5th and 6th Degree:

Name badges for the convention will be printed with the degree held by the member. We need to know what year you took your 5th Degree, the 6th Degree. Note, 5th & 6th Degrees taken from 2012 to 2015 at any Session other than Orangevale in 2015 are not recognized by the California State Grange or National Grange and must be taken again. If you took the Degrees during those years, you will not be required to pay the Degree fees. Your badge will indicate a 4th Degree member and Degree tickets will be provided for you.
Total Due to State Grange.

At the subtotals from Section 2 and Section 4, and enter in the bottom line. Remit this amount payable to the California State Grange. Refunds can be requested if made prior to June 18th.

Remittance:

Make all checks payable to:

California State Grange

Mail to:

Lillian Booth, Secretary
California State Grange
PO Box 1442
Paradise, CA 95967-1442

Questions can be directed to Lillian Booth @
(530) 872-8719 or lbooth@CASStateGrange.org

Registration Deadline:

The deadline for submitting your registration is

June 10th

Navigating the CyberSEES

At the 2015 Annual Session there was discussion on controlling drones. Final action was postponed when it was determined that drones are being used in Agriculture. This is a reprint of an article from Agriview that explains changes in technology regarding drones and robots:

A SMALL ROBOT DEFTLY NAVIGATES through a grove of avocado trees, equipped to take soil samples, moisture estimates and photographs. The area, densely populated by trees, is not visible from the grove's edge.

Yet, because of advanced drone technology, the exact coordinates are readily available to deploy the robot to collect samples that will be analyzed and used to increase the overall health and production of the orchard.

Professor Bo Liu, who specializes in mechatronics in the Bioresource and Agricultural Engineering Department, knows that the use of technology by farmers and ranchers is critical to meet modern day demands on the agricultural industry.

The world population is expected to grow to 9.6 billion by 2050, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. In fact, the FAO predicts that food production must increase by 70 percent by 2050.

That growth far outpaces the natural resources available, such as land and water and current methods of food production. "We need to optimize water use and get more food out of the field by using less labor and fewer chemicals," said Liu. "And we need to do it now."

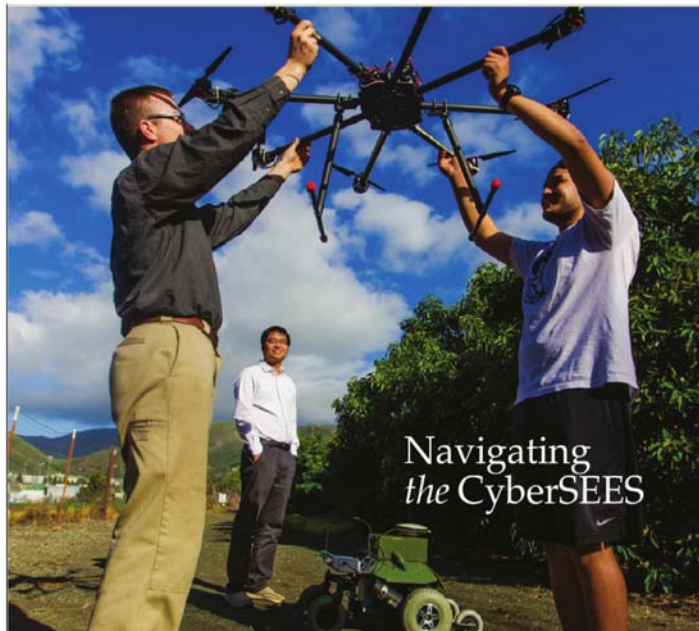
Liu and his collaborators recently received a \$1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation to fund his research related to smart farms, or farms using advanced technology.

He is collaborating with Professor Chandra Krintz of LC Santa Barbara and Professor Balaji Sethuramasamyraja of Fresno State to investigate the unification of cyberinfrastructure, such as cloud com-

puting with advanced robotics technology, with agriculture analytics to enable precision and agronomics driven farming by individual growers — technology readily not available today.

Nationwide many large producers have already introduced advanced tools such as sensor measurements and data analysis into their operations to make them more efficient. However, small farmers often lose out.

Small growers and ranchers *face* the conundrum of knowing that they must increase productivity and efficiency but are unable to afford the often costly technology to make those advances or to analyze the massive amount of data collected, Liu said.



"We need a better solution to decrease costs and increase efficiency," said Liu.

He is working with a team of Cal Poly undergraduate and graduate students to improve such technology in a way that makes it affordable for even the smallest of farms.

"To make agriculture more productive and the productivity gains sustainable, growers are increasingly turning to environmental sensor measurement, data acquisition, and data analysis," Liu wrote in an abstract about his research.

However, those tools have failed to achieve widespread use by smaller agricultural operations.

"Robots have been used in the car industry to weld and assemble cars," said Liu. "Yet farmers are still reliant on high cost labor to pick their crops. There is not yet a lot of automation in agriculture. Small farmers simply can't afford it."

The premise is simple, robots and wireless sensors are used to collect data in a large agricultural area. That information is then streamed to the internet to be further studied using cloud based analytics.

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Lifeline Telephone Reform Harmful

The Lifeline Program is a federal initiative that provides discounted low volume landline or wireless phone service to low income households. The National Grange is strongly urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to rethink and revise a reform proposal that would eliminate wireless Lifeline telephone service. The FCC proposal would shift the federal Lifeline program to broadband. The problem is that half of those living in rural areas either do not have broadband available or can't access broadband at speeds high enough for timely transmission in an emergency. That fact is not expected to change much in the foreseeable future. National Grange President Betsy Huber wrote FCC Secretary Dortch explaining this real-world disconnect and urged the FCC to revise the proposal to allow for continued Lifeline wireless phone use. Huber also penned op-eds that were picked up in the Washington Times, Agri-Pulse (the nation's most read daily food and ag e-newsletter) and Morning Consult (a daily e-newsletter for the corporate and business world).



J. Burton Eller Jr.
National Legislative

Secure Rural Schools

The Secure Rural Schools program provides assistance to rural counties and school districts affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. Historically, rural communities and schools relied on a share of timber harvest receipts to supplement local funding for educational services and roads but federal policies have substantially reduced timber harvest in recent years. The original authorizing legislation, Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, expired in September, 2015 and must be reauthorized by Congress. In the meantime, USDA through the Forest Service has allocated \$272 million to 41 states and Puerto Rico for FY'16.

Legal Issues

Supreme Court Agrees to Review Case Supported by Grange Amicus

The National Grange filed an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to review a lower

court decision in the Apple v. Samsung case that awarded excessive damages for a ornamental design, not functional utility, patent infringement on a smart phone. The Grange argued that damages awarded by the lower court were equal to total profits on the device and that fact would seriously impede innovation and become an incentive for troll-like litigation. An op-ed piece by National Grange Executive Committee member Leroy Watson urging the Supreme Court to review the case appeared in the Washington Enquirer daily newspaper in the Washington, DC metro area. The Supreme Court Agreed to review the case.

Food Issues

GMO Labeling Controversy

The House of Representatives several months ago passed voluntary labeling legislation to preempt all state legislation requiring genetically modified ingredient labeling on food. The Senate failed to muster the 60 vote majority required to pass the preemption legislation. Unless Congress passes a uniform national labeling standard by July 2016, a Vermont law will go into effect mandating GMO labeling. New bills in Massachusetts and Rhode Island largely mirror the Vermont law while legislation in Connecticut would remove the trigger provisions in existing law that require at least four other states to enact a similar measure before the statute can go into effect. All three efforts have broad support in their respective legislatures. In the meantime, ConAgra Foods, Campbell Soup, General Mills and Kellogg have announced they will begin labeling GMO ingredient food throughout the country. Some advocates of labeling do so because they support the consumer's right to know. Others however, are using the current labeling chaos to gain a marketing advantage. Those who are concerned about future world hunger fear the labeling controversy may stifle innovation necessary to feed the hungry populations in developing countries. Congress will scramble to reach some kind of compromise over the next several months but July is fast approaching.

Bus Stop Farmers Markets

Following in the footsteps of food trucks, those mobile fast food stands parked along city streets at noon, mobile farm stands are beginning to show up in so-called "food deserts". These low-income neighborhoods have plenty of quickie marts and liquor stores but lack full service grocery stores with fruits, vegetables and other fresh foods. These mobile markets show up at bus stops and transit stations in low-income neighborhoods with fresh goods typically

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worse for people living on Native American tribal lands, where the lack of access surges to 63 percent.

While there is much to admire in the FCC's plan for a \$9.25-a-month subsidy focused over time on broadband, the truth is that it probably won't result in one new mile of broadband cabling in rural America. All signs are that our communities of non-urban areas will lag for decades when it comes to access to essential broadband. The FCC knows this and so the unfortunate appearance is that the Commission's current Lifeline reform plan is a calculated slight to rural concerns.

In less than 45 months the current wireless Lifeline service will vanish. For rural Americans who have no way to use a broadband subsidy, the demise of Lifeline by 2019 will mean that they are effectively cut out of the program. Their only sin: living in rural America.

To make matters even worse for those living in rural America, the FCC wants to impose minimum standards on wireless Lifeline that almost certainly would force a co-pay arrangement for subscribers. This would make participation in the program burdensome, if not completely unaffordable, for many low-income rural dwellers. Many of the poorest people with the least access to help live in rural America, these are not consumers who will be able to continue using Lifeline if they have to pony up cash that they just don't have.

By phasing out wireless Lifeline and offering only a broadband program they can't access, rural Americans will not be helped by Lifeline reform. Instead, will we rural Americans become the first and perhaps largest group of disconnected victims of the reforms? I ask the FCC: What good is Lifeline reform in rural America if broadband is not available now and you are killing wireless service?

Let us know if you've personally experienced difficulties with access to internet broadband and high speed connectivity by emailing us at

beller@nationalgrange.org

at discounted prices.

Land Issues

Farmers May Lose 600,000 acres in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The Supreme Court has allowed the EPA to proceed with its Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan for the entire 64,000 square-mile Chesapeake Bay watershed. As a result, the EPA estimates 600,000 acres of cropland in the Bay watershed will need to come out of production. Land use decisions are typically the prerogative of state and local governments. However, the TMDL plan allows the federal bureaucracy to overrule these local decisions. With this ruling, the Supreme Court has cleared the way for EPA to apply the Bay TMDL plan to other major watersheds, including the Mississippi River watershed.

Health Issues

Opioid Use Epidemic

Rural communities are experiencing fast-growing problems of opioid and heroin abuse at higher rates than urban communities. Agriculture Secretary Vilsack will lead a federal inter-agency task force charged with helping rural towns and organizations meet this challenge head-on. Over the next several months, Vilsack will travel to meet with local leadership to better understand how his task force can further support their efforts. The National Grange has notified the White House Rural Council of its willingness to help however it can.

continued on next page

Medical Treatment Challenges

National Grange cosigned a letter to Medicare Payment Advisory Commission Chairman Crossman urging the Commission to reject proposals change patient out-of-pocket costs and increase copays for low-income beneficiaries under the Medicare prescription drug benefit (Part D)

National Grange cosigned a letter to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Burwell expressing concern with a proposed Medicare Part B Drug Payment Model that would cut Part B payments in several geographic regions that could adversely affect the care and treatment of patients with cancer, muscular degeneration, hypertension and rheumatoid arthritis.

National Grange cosigned a letter to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Slavitt highlighting the cuts to Medicare Advantage from 2014 through 2016 and expressing concerns about the consequences of further cuts in 2017. The comprehensive disease management program and care coordination services provided through Medicare Advantage help millions of seniors with disabilities manage their often complex and myriad health problems.

National Grange cosigned a letter to the bipartisan cosponsors in the House and Senate to support of their Small Business Healthcare Relief Act (S.1697 & H.R.2911). The bills would allow small businesses to provide Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs) to employees with health insurance. These HRAs would permit businesses to offer pre-tax dollars to insured employees to help pay premiums and other out-of-pocket medical costs.

State Officer Elections

At the 2015 Session, a resolution was submitted that would change the elections of officer back to the Australian ballot system, that has been used for at least seventy five years. The reason for the resolution was the amount of time that was spent nominating, introducing, and then balloting's on each officer. With our short schedule, time is a precious commodity.

Here is a brief primer on the Australian ballot system. There are four key concepts:

1. an official ballot being printed,
2. on which the names of the nominated candidates or proposals appear,
3. being distributed only at the polling place and
4. being marked in secret.

Here is how it will work at the State Session. There is a time certain in the program for Nominations of officers. When that time is reached, the Master will conduct the Nomination of Officers, in the order of rank as listed in Article VII Officers of the California State Grange By-Laws. When no further nomination for an office are made, (typically after three calls for further nominations), the Master will process to the next office for nominations.

After the conclusion of nominations, the Master will appoint an Elections Committee composed of at least five (5) members. It will be their responsibility to prepare the ballots, and conduct the election. A member nominated for an office, can not serve on the Election Committee.

When the ballot has been prepared, the Master will announce the location of the polls, and when they will open. Members can proceed to the polling place as time permits. The ballot will be similar to municipal elections with the name of

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Navigating the CyberSEES

Continued from Page 8

But what becomes of that data? As it is now, it is downloaded into a "black box," and farmers must then hire companies to analyze the data to know what improvements need to be made.

Liu argues that individual growers and ranchers are underserved by recent advances in commercial and research sectors that make data analytics costly and require that growers relinquish control over their data. His goal is to ultimately create a system, called Smart-Farm, that will integrate the data into a cloud-based data appliance with built-in analytics that will provide solutions to farmers tailored to their needs.

Farmers will then be able to use data-driven analysis and support to increase their productions' sustainability.

"Scientific research continues to connect the pieces between climate change and permanently changing weather patterns, in California and beyond," said Michael Burlingame, a part-time lecturer and graduate student at Cal Poly. "So it is now starting to be accepted that the water, once abundant to us, may never return to what it was. Knowing this, growers want to do everything they possibly can to squeeze every bit of efficiency out of every last drop of water they use."

Burlingame is working directly with Liu on developing two tools necessary for precision agricultural practices: wireless, soil moisture-monitoring data collection equipment and an autonomous ground vehicle that is capable of sampling and collecting data for a wide range of crops.

The SmartFarm system's success is contingent on education and outreach, Liu said. The technical advancements must be taught to youth, who are increasingly ecologically conscious, so that they can continue advances in precision agricultural science and meet the future global demands of food production.

Reprinted with permission from California State University San Luis Obispo AGRIVIEW Spring 2016 Edition. Pages 6 & 7.

GIA Calls For Director Nominations

The position for Director in District 6 is up for election in March 2017. The Grange Insurance Association is a mutual company having special regulations lawfully applicable to its organization, membership, policies or contracts of insurance.

By virtue of this policy, the policyholder is a member of the company and is entitled to vote, in person, by mail, or by electronic means approved by the Board of Directors. The annual meeting of the members of the company shall be held on the third Monday of March at 10:00 a.m. at the Home Office of the Grange Insurance Association.

The Directors are elected by the members at the member's annual meeting each year. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in Article II, Section 3, (b) of the GIA Bylaws, the Nominating Committee shall submit a slate of candidates for the open positions on the Board of Directors. Additional candidates may be nominated by petition pursuant to the procedures of Article II, Section 3 (e) of the Bylaws. Such petitions must be signed by at least fifty (50) members who reside in the same district in which the candidate resides.

The qualifications for Director can be found in the GIA Bylaws Article II section 3 b. Director Eligibility. In summary a person to be eligible for nomination or election as a Director must be currently a member of this Association for five (5) consecutive years. The person and his/her spouse is not and has not been, within three (3) consecutive years, an officer (such as president, vice-president, etc.), director, manager, partner, master, overseer, member of an executive committee, or holder of a similar position with any State or National Grange or affiliate thereof; other than a Director of this Association or its affiliated insurance companies; and (iii) the per-

Words From The Chaplain Bill Compton, State Chaplain

son and his or her spouse (if any) is not a director, officer, manager, agent, broker, or employee of an insurance company that writes property and/or casualty insurance other than a Director who is an agent of this Association or its affiliated insurance companies at the time these By-laws are adopted. Candidates for nomination who attain the age of 72 years or older by the annual meeting for which they are a candidate for election may not serve as Director, unless that candidate at the time of his/her election is a serving Director of the Association. Serving Directors of the Association who attain the age of 80 years or older by the annual meeting for which they are a candidate for election are not eligible for nomination as a Director unless they are a serving Director at the time these Bylaws are adopted. Temporary vacancies resulting from death, disability or resignation of a Director shall not be deemed to reduce such total regular membership.

To be considered by the Nominating Committee, applications must be received by the Corporate Secretary no later than August 1, 2016. Applications may be found on www.Grange.com. If no application is received candidacy may also be achieved through the petition process.

Mail petitions for candidacy for Director to the Association's Home Office, attention of the Corporate Secretary, at P.O. Box 21089, Seattle, WA 98111-3089. All nominations must be received by the Corporate Secretary by December 1, 2016 for placement on the ballot.

District 6 consists of Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Marin, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Napa, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Yolo, Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare and Ventura counties in California.



Bill Compton
State Chaplain

All Grangers do the best possible to protect that which is valuable and meaningful to them: Crops, livestock, life, health, property, auto and liability protection keeps us solvent from loss, lawsuits and bankruptcy. Generally, we are talking about insurance protection which comes with a price which must be paid--the premium. Recently, perhaps the Grange Hall insurance has not been renewed, or will not be renewed within the coming months... Big Problem! But what about sustaining and protecting our spirituality for our immortal soul and our loved ones? Money for insurance premium is not involved here, nor should it be, but prayer, mediation, study, sacrifice and fasting assist us in our daily lives as a replacement for a premium payment.

One the first prayers I learned from my mother was in my bedroom as a child under a large and beautiful picture of a Guardian Angel looking over two small barefoot children, a little boy with a not to much older sister who was looking after him as they crossed a rickety old wooden bridge spanning a swollen and overflowing creek bed to safety.

Perhaps you also know it or a variation for the protection of your loved ones:

Angels of God our Guardian Dears
To whom God's love commits us here,
Ever this day be at our side
to guide and to protect us each day of our
lives here on this earth

And then to lead us to everlasting life with
God almighty in heaven above.

National Grange Membership Matters

Think Inside the Box

Yes, that's right! Think inside the box! The talent contest box that is. This idea was pioneered by Aromas Grange #361 in Aromas, Calif. This began as them hosting "Aromas Live" a talent and variety show for their whole community. Grange membership was not a requirement for participation, but they do use the evening as a chance to share the Grange with their community and invite community members to join the Grange.



Joseph Stefenoni
National Grange Leadership /

This is a simple event to plan and execute, but it is a highly efficient way to bring the community into your building and have an opportunity to invite them to be Grange members.

Don't have a hall? Consider partnering with another organization in your community who



has open space or speak to elected leaders about using public spaces in your community and bring the Grange to your community's central space!

The leadership of Aromas Grange has been generous to share the materials necessary to plan and execute your own community variety/talent show. I encourage each of our Granges to use these materials to plan their own event and remember to have applications at the ready when you ask attendees to join the Grange! For a copy of these materials, please contact Membership/Leadership Director Joe Stefenoni by email at membership@nationalgrange.org.

Membership Contest

We are now more than two months into our new membership contest. For those who haven't heard, the membership department will be recognizing those individuals that recruit at least one new member into the organization. Subordinate Grange Secretaries should have received the reporting form from their State Grange, if you have not please contact your State Grange.

Beyond the national side of the contest, think about ways that your Subordinate Grange could add a component to the contest. This will be an added level of recognition and encouragement for members to participate. As you go out and share the Grange with those who are not yet members remember that there are various aspects to our organization. Share with them how Grange membership will benefit them personally, what programs, services and/or contests are most relevant to them. Be familiar with everything the Grange has to offer from the community to the national level. Good luck recruiting!

Associate Membership

Associate membership is often the forgotten class of membership. Associate membership is defined as "a person or business with an interest in the advancement of agriculture and improvement of rural life." Within each of our communities, there are numerous business and individuals that fit this description.



While associate members cannot vote in Grange meetings or hold office, they're

still valued supporters to our organization.

I encourage each of our Granges to go into their communities and recruit new associate

Membership Contest—
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members as well as fraternal members. Take these new associate members and build strong partnerships that are beneficial to both your Grange and your community.

GIA Scholarship

**California Students Wins
GIA Scholarship**

Grange Insurance Association is pleased to announce that Morgan Roots of Lone, and Grace Mora and James Stokes of Corning, California were awarded a Grange Insurance Association scholarship.

Each year Grange Insurance Association awards scholarships to qualified applicants. The applicant or their parents must be policyholders of Grange Insurance Association. In all, 28 scholarships were awarded this year among the 53 applications received.

Grange Insurance Association has made scholarships available since 1965. They may be used at any accredited school or college and are offered in the states in which Grange Insurance Association sells Home, Auto and Farm insurance. Grange Insurance Association is a mutual insurance company operating in the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, Idaho, and Wyoming. The Home Office of Grange Insurance Association is in Seattle, Washington.

State Officer Elections
Continued from page 11

the office, and candidates for that office listed below that. Space for a write in will appear for each office.

The Election Committee will tally the results and the results will be announced to the delegate body. Should the number of votes cast for a candidate not be a majority, an additional ballot will be prepared with the top two vote getters appearing on the new ballot.

With regard to nominations, a member can be nominated for more than one office. When the results are announced, the member having a majority of the ballots, will be asked if they accept their position.

Additional ballots will be prepared until all officers are elected.

The Board of Directors has approved a Election Committee Guidebook that contains extensive rules/procedures for conducting the election, which will be provided to the Election Committee. An additional copy will be at the Overseer's station for delegates to view at their convenience.



California State Grange and Aptos Grange being recognized as Distinguished Granges

*The California Granger
The official publication of
the California State Grange
PO Box 1442
Paradise, CA. 95967*

Support Grange Expo

Support Grange Expo!



An agreement with Monroe Classics, an official retailer of Grange items, they are selling the "Keep Calm and Let

A Granger Make It" t-shirts. Cost is \$20.00 per shirt, and all proceeds goes to the Expo Program.

The shirt are made of Gildan Ultra pre-shrunk cotton, Available in sizes Small thru 4XL. Royal blue with white imprint on front as shown.

Order from <http://www.promoplace.com/grange/showrooms.htm>

Visit Us On Facebook

Yes we have a Facebook page. It can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/CA-State-Grange-505899899548184/timeline/?ref=hl> or just go to our webpage at www.castategrange.org and click the Facebook link on any page.

New On Our Website!

As a service to the Officers and Members of our constituent Granges, we have added additional on line forms. For the Granges, they include the ability to submit articles for publication, submit quarterly report forms, plus you can submit roster changes, new member quick start submission and resolutions for the annual sessions. For our Members, you can submit change of address, change of name, change of phone/email address.

Anything else? Just drop us an email with your suggestions.