



The Official News Source for the California State Grange

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

California Grangers At Western State Conf.



Pictured Left to Right: LeRoy Squire, Katie Squire, Caleb Tatum, Josh Harper, Ed Komski, Christy Tatum, Joe Stefanoni, Bill Booth, KayLynn Booth, Lillian Booth, LoRee Lampke, Ann Larson, Mike Lampke, Martha Stefanoni. Not Pictured Cynthia Komski

The California State Grange was well represented at the Western States Conference, held in Portland Oregon, August 5th to 7th.

Of the sixty three members attending, California has fifteen members present, including five State Officers. The State Masters of the Westerns States met and laid out plans for the hosting of the 2017 — 151st session of the National Grange in Spokane WA. (Nov of 2017)

Another highlight of the conference was the Speech contests, hosted by the National Grange Youth Department. Our own Katie Squire won, with a speech about dealing with cancer that she faced several years previously.

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Officers

President	Ed Komski
Vice President	Josh Harper
Secretary	Lillian Booth
Treasurer	Gary Abreim
Director	Bob Clouse
Director	Inger Bevans
Director	Jerry Allen
Lecturer	Katie Squire
Chaplain	Barbara Geiger
Gatekeeper	Vince Scholten
Steward	Randy Turnquist
Asst. Steward	Brandon Nebitt
Lady Asst. Steward	Suzi Laskowski
Flora	Nola Martini
Pomona	Jayme West
Ceres	Ruthie King
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.

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Lucette Moramarco..... Assistant Editor

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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 Co-Director	Emily Turnquist
Youth Co-Director	Christy Tatum
Community Service	Martha Stefenoni

How to Contact A Director

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Visit Us On Facebook

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

Visit us on the Web

California State Grange:
<http://www.CAStateGrange.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.

Photo Credits

Thanks to Christina Webster for Convention Photos.

Martha Stefenoni for Western States Photo

President's Message

Ed Komski, State President

This issue we have a guest article written by Amanda Brozana, National Grange Lecturer.



Ed Komski,
State President

Life Skills Education Vital for Communities, Individual Success By Amanda Brozana

Recently I caused quite a stir – surprise, surprise – by sharing a video on Facebook that suggests schools include in their curriculums things previously taught in what was known as Shop and Home EC classes.

Many of my friends – hopefully that includes many of you – argued that teaching things like cooking and sewing and finding a stud to hang a picture are the responsibility of parents and other family members.

Yes. Yes, I agree.

But there was much more in those classes that I, as a member of one of the last classes of students in my district to have them under these titles, learned (and a few things I wish I would have). Sure, most kids can learn how to cook the basics through observation of our parents or grandparents but formally teaching young people how to prepare food in nutritious, safe and appetizing ways is still important. Food safety is second hat to those who cook frequently, but for time-strapped individuals who are just learning, it's so easy to worry about less dishes and choose to use the same cutting board for raw chicken and cucumbers for salad, not knowing the risks.

You can watch someone change a tire and learn or figure out how to sew a button by finding a YouTube video, but more complex subjects you often can't learn just by seeing – like balancing a

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Secretary's Notes

Lillian Booth, State Secretary

It's never too early to start planning for dues notices for 2017. The By-Laws state that Dues Notices should go out by December 1st. If you don't want to prepare and send your own Dues Notices, you can use the California State Grange Dues Billing Service.

The first question is always – what does it cost?

Postage: Because we use a postage meter – the postage is \$0.465 per piece mailed.

Supplies: Paper, printing, and two envelopes (one to mail the notice and one to return the dues to the Secretary), along with a checklist for the Secretary to use when the dues come in.

Total Cost: \$0.65 per piece mailed. Household notices are combined into one mailing.

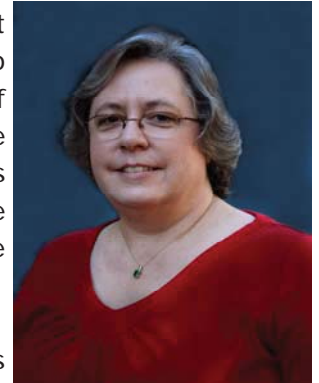
Note: All dues are sent to your Grange mailing address.

If you are interested in this service, please email at lbooth@castategrange.org or send me a request at PO BOX 1442, Paradise, California 95967

Information necessary is:

- ◆ Amount of your yearly Grange dues
- ◆ If you bill the Gold Sheaf (after) members. And the amount.
- ◆ Any customized message from your Grange to your members.
- ◆ Mailing address for return of the dues if other than your Grange Secretary's address on file.

You can sign up by submitting the online form at our website.



Lillian Booth
State Secretary

150th Annual Session of the National Grange

We Can't Wait to See You at the 150th Annual Session of the National Grange!

The 150th Annual National Grange Convention is approaching fast. Please be sure to join us this year, Nov. 15-19, as a participant/attendee or a volunteer. The Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel is currently taking reservations and there is plenty of free parking.

We are strongly encouraging all attendees and states with bus trips planned to use the Host hotel. Attendees who stay off property will miss a great amount of fellowship time and extra activities, many new workshops



Power of the Past, Force of the Future

Washington, DC | November 15-19, 2016

and surprises planned for this celebration year.

Save \$5 by taking advantage of the Early Bird Discount if you register by Sept. 2nd.

Please come be a part of history and encourage your Grange friends to come too!

You can register for the 150th Annual convention at www.nationalgrange.org or you can request a printed registration form by emailing Stephanie Tiller at stiller@nationalgrange.org or by calling (202) 628-3507, ext. 113. We look forward to seeing you there.

Grange Store Redesigned

Visit the newly designed Grange Supply Store, the official store of the National Grange Supplies featuring Grange core items like secretary



items, brochures, certificates, books, plaques and other items needed to run a Grange all at a reasonable price.

Additional Grange items like jewelry, wearables and lots more can be purchased by visiting "New Grange Store @ Monroe Classic"

Western States Conference continued from page 1

Sessions workshops included the Nat'l Youth Departments "Race to Re-Election", demonstrating how the Legislative decision making process influenced by the goal of being reelected. "Training the Next Generation" by Joe Stefenoni, Nat'l Leadership/Membership Director. He also did a workshop on "Sharing your Grange Story: Turning the 'Why Would' into 'Why Wouldn't'". Amanda Brozana, Nat'l Lecturer led a workshop on "Programs in a Box", plus a second one on the 150th Anniversary Publicity Prep. "It's All About The Kids" was a workshop by Lillian Booth, Nat'l Junior Director.

California will be hosting the 2017 Western Regional Conference. Planning is already underway, with a possible destination in the Anaheim area. Got to ask, why would anyone want to go to Anaheim? Well if you wish upon a star, the answer will come to you.

Wrap Up of CSG Annual Session

It's A Wrap!

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 started with pre-session activities on Thursday June 23, and opening in the 6th Degree on Friday June 24th. Because the State Grange was reorganized in



Josh Harper, new State Grange Overseer being installed by National Master Huber.

2014, it was necessary to elect a full slate of Officers in 2016 to be in compliance with our By-Laws. Your new officers are:

- Master (President) - Ed Komski, Rainbow Valley Grange, San Diego Co.
- Overseer (Vice President) - Josh Harper, Orangevale Grange, Sacramento Co.
- Executive Committee - Bob Clouse, Orangevale Grange, Sacramento Co. - 3 year term
- Executive Committee - Inger Bevans, Prunedale Grange, Monterey Co. - 2 year term
- Executive Committee - Jerry Allen, Sebastopol Grange, Sonoma Co. - 1 year term
- Lecturer - Katie Squire, Central Union Grange, Fresno Co.
- Chaplain - Barbara Geiger, Aptos Grange, Santa Cruz Co.

- Treasurer - Gary Abreim, Sebastopol Grange, Sonoma Co.
- Secretary - Lillian Booth, DeSabra Grange, Butte Co.
- Steward - Randy Turnquist - Aptos Grange, Santa Cruz Co.



Katie Squire, New Lecturer

- Assistant Steward - Brandon Nebitt, Rosedale Grange, Kern Co.
- Lady Assistant Steward - Suzi Laskowski, Rosedale Grange, Kern Co.
- Gatekeeper - Vince Scholten, Sebastopol Grange, Sonoma Co.
- Flora - Jayme West - Ramona Grange, San Diego Co.
- Pomona - Nola Martini, Morgan Hill Grange, Santa Clara Co.
- Ceres - Ruthie King, Little Lake Grange, Mendocino Co.

- Musician - Martha Stefenoni, Bellevue Grange, Sonoma Co.



Gary Abreim, New Treasurer

Ed Komski was elected State Master for a second term, in all, eight offices were filled by newly elected members.

At the session a total of 45 resolutions were considered, with 25 being passed into Grange Policy, 17 were rejected and 3 were held over to be worked by interim committees.

The various committees also worked on updating the Legislative Policy book, which will be compiled and made available to the Granges.

Session closed on Sunday morning until we reconvene in 2017!



Barbara Geiger, New Chaplain.

VOTE BY SHOPPING AND SAVING LOCALLY

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange strongly encourage and work with all subordinate Granges to urge our members and communities to buy from local farmers, and locally-owned businesses and stores and do our best to deposit our money in local credit unions and banks that invest a large proportion of their funds locally. [2016-001]

TOMBSTONES FOR VETERANS

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange urge our federal law makers to question the Department of Veterans Affairs on the restrictive approach of limiting headstones for veterans who paid the price of wrong-doing in later life. [2016-004]

FEES, TAXES, TOLLS

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange urge the State Attorney General to fully define California's use of the following:

1. Fee;
2. User's Fee;
3. Tax Assessments;
4. Toll surcharge

And be it further.

RESOLVED: That the explanation be defined on how these terms fit with Prop 13. [2016-005]

NO CAMPAIGNING ON TAXPAYERS MONEY

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange urge our state legislators to implement laws to prevent incumbent elected leaders from receiving salary for their office while running for other elected positions. [2016-006R]

PROHIBIT LEGISLATIVE VOTE CHANGING

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange urge our California Lawmakers to prohibit vote changing and vote adding in both houses of our State Legislature. [2016-008]

CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE

RESOLVED: The California State Grange work with the California legislature and Congressional representatives, and the National Grange work with the US Senate and House of Representatives, to develop and implement any and all legislation that restricts and reserves the protections of the Bill of Rights, particularly the 1st Amendment, the Commerce Clause, and the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause for natural people, not corporations, and, be it further

RESOLVED: The California State Grange work with California legislature and Congressional representatives, and the National Grange work with the US Senate and House of Representatives, to develop and propose and or support an amendment to the US Constitution that insures the 14th Amendment and the Bill of Rights primarily protects natural people, and specifies that corporations are not natural people. [2016-009]

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC BANK

RESOLVED: The California Grange will support legislation to create a California State Bank that supports regional California public banks. [2016-021]

LABEL GENETICALLY ENGINEERED BABY FOOD IN CALIFORNIA

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange shall advocate to enact a law that requires labels on baby foods and infant formulas that list all genetically engineered ingredient(s), including milk from animals treated with growth hormone(s). [2016-024]

COMPUTER LITERACY and GRANGE COMMUNICATION

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange will develop a voluntary program of computer education for all Grangers in order to facilitate better communication among the membership. [2016-025]

CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT OF THE US POSTAL SERVICE

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange shall encourage the US Congress to continue funding to support the US Postal Service to maintain its important services, i.e. maintain post offices, lowest cost delivery services, minimum level of services to customers, continued Saturday delivery and door and curbside services. [2016-027]

BAN ENHANCED HYDRAULIC FRACTURING AND FRACTURING WASTE DISPOSAL IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange urges the legislature of the State of California to ban enhanced hydraulic fracturing and fracturing waste disposal in injection wells in the State of California. [2016-029]

LABELING FOODS CONTAINING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED INGREDIENTS

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange adopt a public policy to support labeling genetically engineered (GMO) foods; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange shall lobby at the State Level to pass laws requiring labeling of genetically engineered (GMO) foods. [2016-037]

RENEW GRANGE FARMERS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

RESOLVED: that the Grange will renew its dedication to the farmers and working people of this state and nation, and make every effort to oppose legislation which would further enrich the powerful, or diminish the rights to education, health and prosperity promised to our citizens in the founding documents of our country and our Grange organization. [2016-038]

The Grange as Land Steward

RESOLVED: that the Grange will make every

effort to protect the Earth, the source of All life, and support legislation which preserves our carbon-sequestering forests, guard our water supply, and oppose activity which contributes to the acidification of our oceans and increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in our planet's atmosphere. [2016-040]

PROTECT FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

RESOLVED: That local California Granges participate as stake holders in Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) committees in their communities, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange advocate for direct funding for Agricultural Education Career Technical Education (CTE) program funding. [2016-041R]

PROTECT FUNDING FOR THE AGRICULTURE EXTENSION SERVICE

RESOLVED: The California State Grange supports the Agriculture Extension Service. And be it further;

RESOLVED: The California State Grange opposes any significant reduction in funding for the Agriculture Extension Service that would cause programs to be discontinued. [2016-042]

The following resolutions are internal policies and were adopted by the delegates.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That Article VI, Section 6.31 of the California State Grange By-Laws be amended to read (emphasis added):

6.3.1 Regular Meetings – The Board shall hold regular meetings at least quarterly. In addition, the Board shall meet within the twenty-four (24) hours preceding the opening of the Annual meeting of this Grange, and within the twenty-four (24) hours after the close of the Annual

141st Annual Session Photos



Above—Linda Cheroff presents Ed Komski a gift for helping Marshall Grange. Left— National Master Betsy Huber, addresses members at Session. Below: Ed Komski and Jerry Allen, jamming during a session break.



Above— Vince Scholten, your new State Gatekeeper



Left: Talent Contest Winners

141st Annual Session Photos



Grange Expo Entries: Top Right—Raspberry Jam—Top Left: examples of grains and produce. Bottom Right: Art Entries.



Above—Ruthie King, your new State Ceres



Right: Lecturer Program: Unusual Hats on Parade!



checkbook, understanding interest rates or planning an investment strategy. These are vital for youth to know, especially before signing for that first college loan or taking out that first credit card. However, many parents – of young kids, teens and beyond – don't understand these topics in detail themselves.

These are the things modern Home EC classes were starting to teach as I entered and exited my high school years. But most schools have since done away with these type of classes because of reduced budgets, lack of teachers in their area in that subject, focus on academic areas covered by standardized testing and many other reasons. This is the same for many districts that have cut agriculture education (and FFA) programs.

And with those cuts, there is certainly a noticeable void. People who lack these skills and training often ignore problems because they do not know how to deal with it, or they spend money they often don't have to fix a problem they could have easily taken care of with a little knowledge and training. In the long run, it may help the local economy for someone to call out a plumber to fix a leaky sink for \$100 rather than go to the hardware store and buy a \$1 rubber washer, but there are \$99 fewer dollars for that individual to spend on healthy food, paying down credit card debt, or giving to your Grange Hall fund.

Still, the argument that all of the personal, home and life skills necessary should be taught by parents, or the larger parenting community, and not the burden of already stretched public school budgets is valid.

So, maybe there is a call to action for Grangers to fill this void.

Instead of asking schools to provide this type of instruction on the backs of taxpayers, or expecting parents who sometimes graduated out of

schools and homes that did not prepare them in these fields, our Grange members who have an area of expertise could share their knowledge as part of an ongoing Lecturer's series on "Life Skills."

In the coming months, I will be seeking assistance in creating programs in this area and hope Granges will put on their own programs, then share them with me for further distribution. It's time to return to the lives of our community members as educational hubs we were meant to be, and what better time than as we prepare to celebrate our founding and prove our relevance in this new age.

Won't you consider providing ideas for Life Skills Basics and Advanced Lecturer's Programs that could be offered at meetings or on weekends by your Grange? Email your ideas or completed programs, in the form of a Lecturer's Program in

Focus on our Farmers

Dear Granger,

The National Grange is seeking to learn more about our members so we can provide better programming and services. Today is a focus on our farmers.

Please tell us if you or a member of your Grange is a farmer (large or small scale). Please provide their name and contact information (if permitted) and the type of farming they do. Also, if you or if you know your farmer member uses precision ag, drones, and other new innovations that rely on networks and a solid internet connection, we would appreciate you noting that.

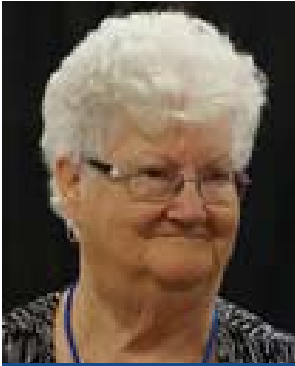
You can reply to this email or send the information to lecturer@nationalgrange.org.

Thank you so much!

Amanda Leigh Brozana

Chaplain's Counsel

Barbara Geiger, State Chaplain



Barbara Geiger,
State Grange Chaplain

Welcome Grangers, I am speaking as your Chaplain.

If you know someone that needs a card, Get Well or thinking of you please let me know. Be sure to send name and address. That way I won't be having to call

Lillian to find out everything. The person's Grange and number would help. If someone in your Grange has passed please let me know so I can send the family a card. Again please send me the name, address and Grange.

I can't do this without help. I am only one person and right in the middle of the state.

My e-mail address is :
barbaraleegeiger@aol.com

If you want to send it snail mail it is

Barbara Geiger, State Chaplain
6 Hanna Ct
Freedom, Ca. 95019

Thought for the day is:

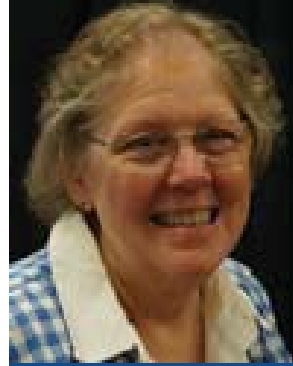
*Windows and Doors
God always opens a window
Whenever He closes a door;
If He takes away He'll give you
Something much better than before
And if you are caught in a maze
Convinced there is just no way out.
God comes to lead you by the hand.
Banishing all your fears and doubts.*

By Steven Michael Schumacher

My thoughts and prayers go out to all.

Community Service

Martha Stefenoni, Director



Martha Stefenoni
Community Service Director

What has your Grange been up to these days? Been seeing some photos of Grange activities throughout California. Have heard about some great Grange foodie events. Whatever it is you're doing – KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK (and tell us about it).

Granges throughout California and the nation are known for the time and efforts they put into their communities. Community Service can be a large undertaking spread over a number of days, weeks, months or maybe even year(s). Or, it can be as simple as remembering those in the community who are elderly or shut-ins with no family close so the Grange sends holiday, birthday and thinking of you cards to let them know they are remembered.

The National Grange encourages Subordinate Granges to honor veterans in your community as well as law enforcement officers, firefighters and educators. There are certificates available through the National Grange to recognize these folks in your community.

We would love to hear about what each Grange in California is doing so please take a moment and complete the 2016 Community Service Report Form. It is a short, 1 page form (we'll talk about booklet form next year) that highlights one event. Please feel free to use complete a form for each event you do. These forms provide a great resource for ideas that can be passed along to others looking for ways to serve their communities. I would appreciate having the forms returned no later than September 30, 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

NOT YOUR USUAL WASHINGTON

Congress returns to Washington Tuesday, September 6 after a two-month-long recess. Funding the federal government for FY '17 (begins October 1) will be the top priority. It may become one of the few priorities before Congress adjourns again September 30 to campaign for elections November 8. This is an election year for President, a third of the Senate and the entire House of Representatives. In addition, politicians at all levels are campaigning rather independently of a party or legislative body umbrella. Politicians have no appetite for politically hard votes before Election Day.



GMO Food Labeling Becomes a Reality

In the final hours before leaving town, the Senate passed (68-30) a compromise GMO labeling bill, the House passed (305-117) the Senate bill and Congress sent the legislation to the White House where the President signed it into law. The legislation immediately preempted Vermont's GMO labeling mandate and barred other states from imposing requirements that differ from the new federal standards.

In a nutshell, the new GMO law does these things:

- Food that contains any GMO ingredients must be identified on-package with, 1) the presence of a USDA approved symbol identifying the presence of GMO material or, 2) a smartphone-readable QR code that links to

ingredient information or, 3) on-package label in plain language. Small businesses have the option to place a telephone number or web site on packages that direct customers to additional information.

- In order to require a label, foods must contain genetic material that has been modified through recombinant DNA techniques and could not otherwise be obtained through conventional breeding or found in nature.
- Separates the definition of genetically modified from bio-engineered. Genetically modified techniques introduce foreign genetic material into a plant species. Bio-engineering techniques use specie's own genetic material and is similar to centuries of natural genetic selection.
- Protects the common Commerce Clause which sets uniform procedures for goods and services to enter commerce throughout the United States. A patchwork of state labeling laws is counter to the Commerce Clause.
- Products from animals fed GMO grain or other ingredients will not have to be labeled.
- USDA will implement the GMO labeling program.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Dairy Industry Aid

In early August, National Grange President Betsy Huber wrote Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack, urging him to use his existing statutory authority to provide emergency assistance to U.S. dairy farmers by removing surplus supplies. The market glut has been caused by a dramatic drop in dairy exports, increased milk production in Europe and over expansion of the dairy herd here at home. In late August, Vilsack announced a \$20 million purchase of approximately 11 million pounds of cheese. In the meantime, eligible dairy producers received \$11.2 million in margin payments authorized by the Farm Bill. More dairy product purchases are possible in coming months.

GMO Label Regulations

Without additional manpower or funds, USDA is nevertheless moving as quickly as it can to produce federal regulations to implement the new law. That's important because Secretary Vilsack is well-versed in all the negotiations over the last two-and-a-half-years that finally came to agreement on the compromise law. The new team arriving at USDA in January (no matter who wins the White House) will have to be brought to speed and that will take more time.

The USDA announced approval of new Non-GMO labels in August as a result of the recently enacted law. The new label will allow meat, poultry and egg products to use labels such as "contains no GMO ingredients" or "derived from (product) fed no GMO feed".

Preparing for the Next Farm Bill

Preparation for the 2018 Farm Bill will begin in earnest next year. American agriculture is diverse along geographical and commodity lines; each must strive for what's best for its own constituency. Yet agriculture tends to unite around a few overarching issues like factual, scientific and coordinated regulatory policy, fair trade policy, biotechnology and farm labor. Conservation programs and safety net commodity price safety nets are popular but enjoy less consensus on programs specifics. At the individual farmer level however, no issue is more important or a higher priority than crop insurance to cushion the boom, bust and disaster cycles. Interestingly, Benjamin Franklin first raised the insurance concept in 1788 saying, "I have sometimes thought it might be well to establish an office of insurance for farms against the damage that may occur to them from storms, blights, insects, etc. A small sum paid by a number would repair such loses and prevent much poverty and distress."

Signs of Affordable Care Act Meltdown in Southern and Rural Areas?

The next President will take office just as the latest ObamaCare open enrollment tally comes in. The ACA has struggled for several years to bring young, healthy people into the plan to offset the medical cost of older and sicker customers. Several insurers say they've lost enough and are leaving the exchanges. Others are proposing substantial rate increases to make up for higher recent medical costs. The average rate increase for next year is anticipated to be around 9%, although some insurers will charge more in some states.

Four States See Hefty Rate Increases; Five States Reduced to One Insurer; Rural America Hit Hardest.

The price increase sticker shock will slam four states. In Tennessee, Blue Cross Blue Shield with 83 percent of enrollees will raise prices 62 percent. Illinois, covered by another BlueCross Blue Shield plan, will increase rates 51 percent to its 82 percent of the state's market enrollees. Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield in Kentucky covers 78 percent of enrollees and expects to charge 23 percent more while Humana with 27 percent of Georgia's enrollees has been approved to hike rates 67 percent.

Five States, (Alabama, Alaska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Wyoming) and 664 counties will be down to one health insurer in the marketplace next year. Humana and United Health Care left Alabama, Aetna and United Health Care exited South Carolina and United Health Care departed Oklahoma. Of the 664 counties expected to have only one insurer, 70 percent are considered rural.

Continued on Page 14

Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program Survey Shows Satisfaction

Medicare Today's 2016 senior satisfaction survey indicates seniors remain satisfied with their Part D coverage. Key senior survey findings include:

- 92 percent reported their plan is convenient to use
- 88 percent are satisfied with their prescription drug coverage
- 86 percent said their plan works well and without hassle
- 84 percent reported it was important to have a variety of plans to compare and choose from
- 80 percent reported their plan is a good value

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Rural Electric Cooperatives Model Revisited

Electric Cooperatives have powered and empowered economic development in rural America since the Great depression. As rural residents and businesses struggle to gain access to high speed broadband internet connectivity, localities are taking a fresh look at the infrastructure of rural electric cooperatives. The FCC has begun issuing experimental broadband grants to alternative carriers such as like electric companies. The electric companies then use techniques and infrastructure that's been in place for nearly a century to provide fiber-based internet cables to less-served and remote areas.

Innovators Extend Cable's Reach

The lack of broadband access prevents farmers and rural businesses in regional internet deserts from using technologies some of their close-to-town competitors have adopted. Telematics is a prime example. If you have no internet, you can't wirelessly transmit data from the field to

the office and vice versa. Farmer/entrepreneurs are working on ways to cross this internet divide. First, they bring a fiber optic line to the farm. Next, an omnidirectional antenna is placed on a tall pole. Then mobile units are placed on farm vehicles to capture signals from the antenna and establish a network among themselves and the office. One drawback is that these systems are line-of-sight so signals are lost over the horizon or behind obstructions.

Appalachian Main Streets Get Broadband

Broadband service will be coming to 10 small towns in six Appalachian states. The program, "Cool and Connected" , is sponsored by USDA, EPA and the Appalachian Regional Commission. Teams of experts will help the communities develop action plans for using broadband service to create economically vibrant main streets and small town neighborhoods.

Free Market Versus Free-Reign Networks

In August, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld state laws in North Carolina and Tennessee that restrict the spread of municipal-owned broadband networks. These internet providers generally have increased competition in broadband markets where commercial networks have been unwilling to go. In many instances, municipal networks have expanded into surrounding rural areas to provide a service that would otherwise be unavailable. However, North Carolina and Tennessee say the laws protect taxpayers and maintain free market fairness. In some regions of the country, public broadband projects proved to be unsuccessful and became a financial burden on taxpayers. While the court decision directly affects only two states, it casts a shadow over numerous other municipal broadband projects nationwide. Rural broadband availability remains a top priority for the National Grange as it strives to help sort out the complex conflicting issues of expansion.



meeting of this Grange. [2016-013]

STATE GRANGE OFFICERS COMPENSATION

RESOLVED: the compensation of Officers of the California State Grange for 2016-2018 will be:

Master/President/CEO: \$36,000 per annum plus an accountable reimbursement not to exceed \$200 per month for use of home office.

Secretary: \$18,000 per annum plus an accountable reimbursement not to exceed \$200 per month for use of home office. [2016-015]

LESSONS FROM THE CONFLICT BETWEEN NATIONAL GRANGE AND CALIFORNIA STATE GRANGE

RESOLVED That National Master Betsy Huber appoint a Committee to identify what allowed the conflict between National Grange and California State Grange to reach the point of legal proceedings with all its attendant costs, financially and fraternally; and be it further

RESOLVED That the Committee report their findings at the 2017 National Convention with recommendations on how to prevent such a disruption in the future, and make that report available to the membership. [2016-17R]

HERITAGE GRANGE PROGRAM

RESOLVED That the State Grange Lecturer establish a heritage program that forms a special bond of fellowship to study and revive the 19th century history, songs, rituals and Declaration of Purposes. [2016-020R]

TRAINING OF GRANGE OFFICERS THROUGH THE POMONA GRANGES

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange support Pomona Granges to provide annual regional officer training by developing and providing training modules and supporting materials for the offices of Master/President, Secretary, Treasurer and Lecturer. [2016-30]

AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANGES

RESOLVED: that Code of All Granges, Section 10.14.1 be amended to read;

10.14.1. All Grange financial accounts of the Junior, Subordinate, Pomona, and State Granges will be audited annually by the respective Grange Executive Committee or by a committee appointed by the Master. The audit report shall be made part of the records of the Grange. All Granges may substitute a statement of a Certified Public Accountant in lieu of the Committee actually making the audit. [2016-033]

GRANGE YOUTH FAIR PARTICIPATION

RESOLVED: That the California State Grange work with, support and advocate for the National Grange in the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the organizations regarding fair participation. [2016-045]

990-N IRS Filing Up To Date?

If your Grange is not required to File Form 990 or Form 990EZ, then it may use the Form 990-N Electronic Filing System (e-Postcard).

To electronically submit Form 990-N, *Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations*

Who must file

Most Granges whose annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less can satisfy their annual reporting requirement by electronically submitting Form 990-N if they choose not to file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ instead. Exceptions to this requirement include Granges that are included in a group return.

You can check the exemption status of your Grange at <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/automatic-revocation-of-exemption>

Contact the State Office if you have any questions.

Current Resident Or:

Social Media Corner

Is your Grange on Facebook? Does your Grange have a website? How about Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Tumblr, Reddit, Vine? And the list goes on. The Grange can reach many people through avenues never dreamed of 30 years ago.

The first question is "How do I do this?". Social Media accounts typically have to be tied to an e-mail account. If your Grange social media site is tied to someone's personal email, then the control of that site is tied to that person. The best way to set this up is to set a Non-Profit Group or Community with an email associated to your Grange. Then set up two or three Administrators of the Social Media site. This will ensure continuity of the site and Grange message as you change leaders, officers, or committee members.

Stay on your message. Promote your

Grange. Every Grange has a different focus for their community. If yours is niche farming, organics, or home/life arts, use Social Media to educate your members further in those endeavors.

You can also set up private groups with specific invitations. This can be used for committee collaboration or as a means to keep private Grange information private. An example is for a Junior Grange or the Youth Fair Program. Within the private group you can post the photos of the kids or send messages about where and when to meet, ride-sharing, or what to bring without letting the whole social media network what is going on.

Social media is a great tool for an organization when used within limits and carefully. If you need help setting up a Facebook page, website, or other Social Media site, we have Grange members who know how to help you. Happy networking!!!