

WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE



**NEW MEMBER
HANDBOOK**



FIRST THINGS FIRST!

Where we came from:

In the 1866 Oliver Hudson Kelly, who worked for the Department of Agriculture, was sent to survey the farm conditions after the Civil War. He discovered that farmers were having trouble getting their product to market and getting a fair price. He came up with the idea of uniting the farmers of the North and South together through a fraternal organization. Kelly quit his job at the Department of Agriculture and with 6 friends and his niece who was his secretary, added that the only way it would work was to make it a family organization and allow women equal voice and vote. Working as a team, the National Grange was formally organized. The Grange is still active today. Our focus is still on family, education with regard to agriculture and working in and serving our communities.

Where are we going?

While our precepts haven't changed, we are looking toward the future and our goal is to continue to work on issues that concern our neighbors and be an active participant in our communities. The Grange has accomplished much, in helping better those who live in rural areas and we will continue to "fight the good fight" for our communities whether they are rural or urban. In order to do so, WE NEED YOU!

In our legislative endeavors we have been able to bring changes to existing laws. Those of you who are concerned about the food we eat or are small growers and want to see regulations and changes made easier to get your product to market—the Grange is still here for you. Please consider this your invitation to join us.

Why Should You Join the Grange?

- Do you believe that family comes first? Well so do we! We are a family organization where each member of the family has opportunities for involvement. This means that everyone has a vote and a voice in the Grange.
- Are you looking for new activities for your younger child/children/grandchildren or young adults? There are leadership opportunities for almost every age; Junior Grangers (ages 5-13yrs old) learn skills in speaking, ritual work, opportunities to hold an office as a junior Grange officer and so much more. Our youth (age 14+) learn leadership skills, public speaking skills, ritual work and can also hold an office as a youth officer and much, much more.
- Do you want to give back to your community but not sure what to do or how to help? We believe in making our communities stronger which provides many opportunities to give back to your community through the programs and events the Grange in your area provides.
- Are you crafty or maybe you love to bake or knit? We have a place for you to showcase your skills. We hold annual contests in baking, quilting, canning, photography, wood carving, painting, creative writing and so much more. We also offer educational opportunities through our lecturers' program as well.
- Do you like to meet new people? Fellowship in the Grange is essential to our organization and we would love for you to join us!

**Here's What's going on at our Grange
in your community.**

Grange Degrees are learning Opportunities for each member.

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

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

THE FIRST DEGREE: In the spring, men and women enter the grange seeking the opportunity to participate and becoming brothers and sisters in our fraternity. We learn that the Grange's highest and first objective is to "develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood".

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

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

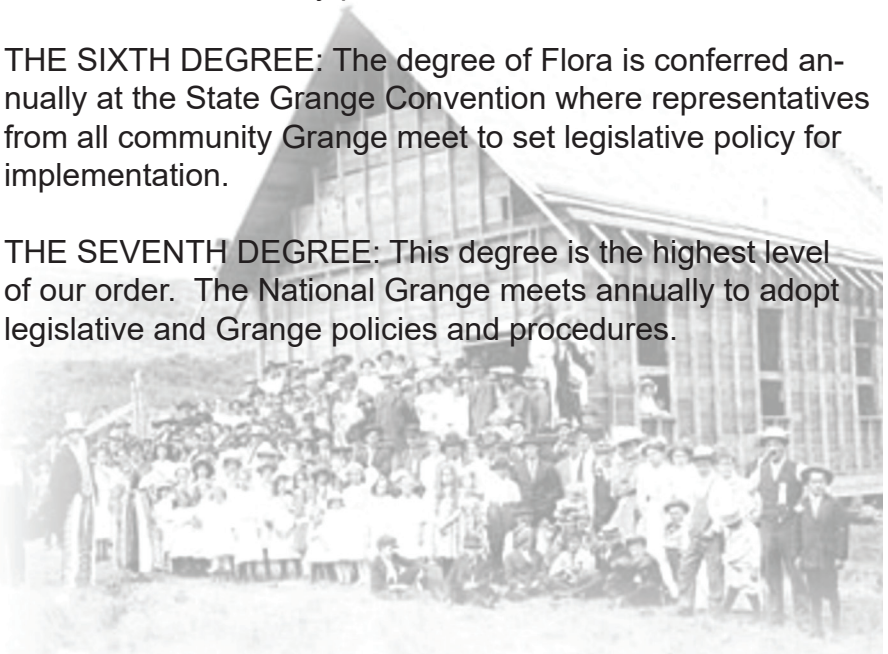
THE THIRD DEGREE: **Setting is in the autumn.** Charity guides this degree and reminds us to care for the mind and body when reaping our rewards. “Gather the good seed, use judgement and let your example be such that others may profit by it”. As Grangers, we are again encouraged to study and share our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

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

THE FIFTH DEGREE: The degree of Pomona is conferred by the County or Pomona Grange. The degree reminds us that success is achieved by perseverance.

THE SIXTH DEGREE: The degree of Flora is conferred annually at the State Grange Convention where representatives from all community Grange meet to set legislative policy for implementation.

THE SEVENTH DEGREE: This degree is the highest level of our order. The National Grange meets annually to adopt legislative and Grange policies and procedures.



What goes on at a Grange Meeting?

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

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

At the meeting, you will see people wearing sashes that indicate the office they hold and the degree they are working in. You will see blue, in community Granges, Green at Pomona or County Granges, Pink at State Grange and Gold at National Grange.

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

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

You will also hear the gavel rapped, once to open and close the meeting and to call attention to something or keep things in order. Two raps are for the officers to rise. Three times means all will rise.

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

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

We want you to be comfortable and to come back!

Strengthening Families
WASHINGTON STATE
GRANGE
Enhancing **SINCE 1889**
LIVES *Communities*

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

For more information:

If you would like to organize a new Grange or revitalize an old one, you may contact the Washington State Grange Membership Coordinator, Sophia Keller or the State President at 1-800-854-1635 or 1-360-943-9911

Website: www.wa-grange.org

Email: skeller@wa-grange.org

OR

The person who gave you this booklet

NAME:

GRANGE:

Meeting Day/Time: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

