



WASHINGTON STATE

# Grange News

December 2025

Informing Grangers Since 1912

114th Year No. 10

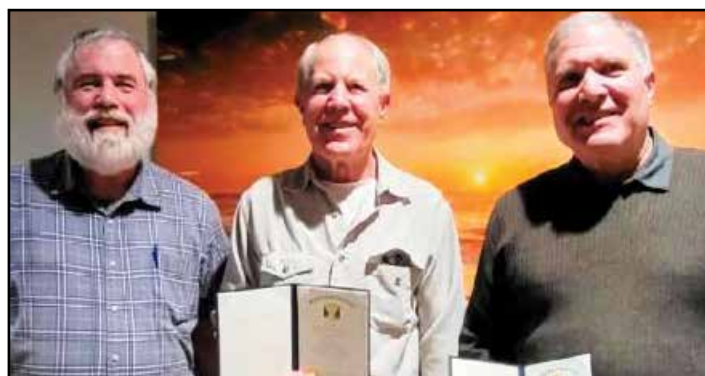


## Ten Mile Grange and Whatcom County Pomona Honor Long-time Members

On Saturday, November 15th, Whatcom County Pomona President Scott Hackett and Ten Mile Grange President Pete Hauck presented Scott Wood with his 50-year Certificate and pin, and Oren and Lew Gaskill with

their 20-year pins. Later that evening, Scott and Ross Wood presented their brother Perry with his 50-year certificate and pin. Now all 3 Wood brothers are 50-year members of Ten Mile Grange. Then on Sunday, November 16th, seven Ten

Mile Grange members drove to Robert Heller's home in Maple Falls, and presented him with his 80-year certificate and pin, and brought cake and apple juice for refreshments. He was thrilled! Congratulations to all!



**January 2026 issue deadline – DECEMBER 20th**  
Submissions can be sent to [grangenews@wa-grange.org](mailto:grangenews@wa-grange.org)

Photos: (Top Left) Ten Mile Grange members celebrating Robert Heller's 80-year membership award. (Bottom Left) Scott Wood receiving his 50-year Certificate and pin. (Top Right) Ten Mile President Pete Hauck presenting Robert Heller with his 80 year certificate and pin. (Above Top) Ross, Perry, and Scott Wood, now each 50-year members. (Above Bottom) Oren and Lew Gaskill receiving their 20-year pins.

# Lecturer's Department

## Growth, Education and Change

By **Claudine Mincks**  
State Grange Lecturer

At a recent leadership academy, Sophia Keller, Membership Director, reported that year to date our state has recruited over 700 new members this year. That is awesome news! This is not the first year in subsequent years we have seen strong gains in membership across the state. Sophia should be commended for her Grange work in finding great ways to gather new members to be part of our Washington Grange family. Thank you, Sophia!

If gaining new members is not an issue for us Grangers, then why as we glance around a Subordinate meeting, a Pomona program, a State leadership academy or even at the yearly convention and continually see mostly familiar faces? If we can successfully have membership growth each year, why are new member's engagement not seen at every level? What do we need to offer or support to attain these new members at engaging Grange with their presence, their hearts, their talents?

As State Lecturer I am the next step after membership. How can the Lecturer department educate and provide Grangers in best engaging participation at every level? Lecturer is responsible for planning and presenting programs that enrich and enthuse its members, they are also supposed to be key at encouraging Grange members to both share their talents in contests and new experiences. For me, education of Grange goes both ways, in providing Grange education as well in learning from each of you when I spend time with Grangers around the state. Grange's dynamics differ radically across Washington and so we must be aware of each other in our different needs.

I've been continually reminded that I was elected by the Grange members such as YOU and I need to make the Lecturer's Department my own. Because if you don't run with your passion, it is rarely a success. I find that is true but only with fellow Grangers like YOU around the state that share in that Grange passion like me. This makes it one of my

key objectives to travel across the state both in person and by zoom to meet, educate, and LISTEN to what is important to sustain Grange throughout time.

Change is often viewed as a negative, however, it's much more vital to view it as a positive! Debbie Fisch, Family Living Director, and I have spent some time meeting about our departments. Fellow Grange members might not know what they did when electing two "kindred spirits" as newbies and throwing them into the fire together. We are both strong-willed, independent, attention to detail, thriving on organization, working clerically with numbers at our jobs, finding family and friends most important, and have decided to form a liaison between our two departments to run more cohesively in a simple and efficient manner, especially during convention contests.

As the year end approaches take time to throw out old program books and contest descriptions because change IS coming in 2026. Happy Holiday Season!



Claudine Mincks

### Heirloom Project Readings

December 2025 & January, February 2026

**DECEMBER 2025:**

"...especially adorn the family circle with the noble traits of a kind disposition — fill it's atmosphere with affection, and thus induce all to love and not to fear you; for love is the only enduring power."

*(Fourth Degree; Vice President)*



**JANUARY 2026:** "You may encounter difficulties. Overcome them, remembering that difficulties are but opportunities to test our abilities."

*(Installation Ceremony; Installing Officer to President)*

**FEBRUARY 2026:** "In kind words and deeds dispense Charity, as freely as flowers do their perfume..."

*(Fourth Degree; Flora)*

## State Fair Booth Results

State Lecturer Claudine Mincks announces the following results from judging the State Grange Food Booth Contest:

**Division I - Produce**

1st - Blue - \$100  
Lower Naches #296

2nd - Blue - \$75  
Elk Plain #782

3rd - Red - \$50  
Olympic View #774

**Division II - Project**

1st - Blue - \$100  
Ten Mile #399

2nd - Blue - \$75  
Camden #667

3rd - Blue - \$50  
Elk Plain #782

**Other Entrants:**

Tualco #284  
Crescent #1123  
Washington #82



## Barberton Grange Honors Local Veterans

Barberton Grange held a Veterans Day Program on November 11th to honor our Veterans. We had a potato bar lunch followed by a program, games and entertainment. Local Boy Scout Troop 479 provided the flag ceremony.



### Email Us

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• Tom Gwin, Executive Editor •

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### Moving? Let Us Know?

Old Address (label should be on reverse of this form) \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grange Name & Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to:  
Grange News  
PO Box 1186  
Olympia, WA  
98507-1186

## President's Message

# Setting The Stage For 2026 Success

By Tom Gwin  
WA State Grange President

We are setting the stage for 2026, we have several items to touch base on:

### NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION

Thank you to the 39 Grange members from our state who attended the National Grange Session aboard the Carnival Horizon, November 8-16. I served on the Conservation Committee, while Rusty Hunt, our second delegate, served on the Agriculture Committee. We sent 17 resolutions to national for their consideration. Many were already present policy of the National Grange, while others were carefully considered. The outcome of each proposed resolution is listed elsewhere in this issue. The delegates got the business completed, and we had plenty of time for fellowship and other social events. Visiting the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao allowed us to learn about different cultures and the history of that area.

### PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLANS (PIP's)

The National Grange Executive Committee has proposed Performance Improvement Plans for each of the State Granges. We in turn will be designating Community/Subordinate Granges to participate in this program. The program involves completing a current assessment of the Grange and then working with that Grange to determine Smart Goals for moving that Grange forward in both membership and program development. Each participating Grange will work closely with a team of State Grange Officers to implement a plan to broaden their impact in the local community. Granges interested in participating in this program should contact me immediately as we are moving forward with implementing this program in December.

### STATE GRANGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The application for State Grange Foundations Scholarships will be available on the State Grange website in late December. Completed applications will be due back to the State Grange Office no later than April 1.

### PROGRAM HANDBOOKS AND PACKETS

The 2026 Program Handbook and department packets will

*"We are looking forward to setting the stage for another great year in 2026. Let us continue working toward a better tomorrow in our Granges and in our communities!"*

-- Tom Gwin

be available by January 1. All information will be available on the State Grange website. Hard copies of the handbooks and packets will be distributed at Pomona meetings and leadership conferences throughout the month of January and early February.

### SPRING CONFERENCES

I want to share the following dates for spring conferences:

- **February 27-28** – State Grange Deputy, State Officer and Pomona Masters Conference in Yakima
- **March 26-28** – Western Regional Grange Leaders Conference in Boise, ID (hosted by the Idaho State Grange)

### UPDATED BYLAWS

Granges are reminded that as new bylaws are approved, they are not valid until filed with the State Grange Office. We also need your bylaws to verify the correct amount for your 2026 dues notices.



Tom Gwin

### GRANGE LEGISLATIVE DAY

We have set our 2026 Grange Legislative Day for January 27. We will have a full day of speakers and meetings with legislators. Registration information is elsewhere in this issue. As we will again have to shuttle between the Grange Office and the legislative buildings, we are looking at some type of shuttle between the two. Legislative Day is a prime opportunity for our members to lobby their legislators and provide additional information on your Grange programs and capital budget request.

### 2026 DUES NOTICES

If you sent in the Dues Information Request Form, your 2026 Dues Notices are being printed and sent out to your members. The National Grange did approve the proposed dues increase thus this will be reflected in your dues amount.

### HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE CANCELLED

The Holiday Open House, scheduled for December 12, has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

### HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

To allow our employees to celebrate the holidays with their families, the office will be closed December 24 to January 1 for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

While wrapping up our unfinished business for 2025, we are looking forward to setting the stage for another great year in 2026. Let us continue working toward a better tomorrow in our Granges and in our communities!

## Legislative

# Looking Forward To The 2026 Legislative Season

By Jesse Taylor  
Legislative Lobbyist



Jesse Taylor

Happy December Grange members! The Holiday season is in full swing with Thanksgiving, Halloween, Black Friday and Cyber Monday behind us. We can now look forward to Christmas, New Years and...legislative session?

That's right, while it may feel like the 2025 session just ended, we are just weeks away from starting the supplemental year which feels like an unprecedented situation and uncharted waters. I will explain more about that below.

Let's explore what to expect in the coming session:

### National/Statewide Economy & Budget

Statewide employment is projected to grow by just 11,000 jobs by the time 2025 commences (a mere 0.3% year-over-year) and zero job growth in 2026, a stark contrast to the 2%+ annual growth seen over the past 15 years. Housing permits are declining amid high interest rates, and broader risks of higher taxes from Washington State policy makers.

Washington state ranks near the bottom for job creation in our country; as the national employment scene has been much different. Nationally we have added nearly 2 million domestic jobs so far in 2025 with larger, pro-growth states leading the charge like Texas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Arizona.

The latest national jobs report for September showed robust employment growth with the private sector adding 120,000 jobs, beating expectations by over 50%. This jobs report was a great sign for a national jobs market heading into 2026; even as Washington state stays bogged down by increased taxes and sky-high energy costs from taxation and regulation.

All net Year to Date employment growth (~100%) went to native-born workers, per raw data. This reverses 2021-2024 trends where foreign-born captured ~60-70% of post-pandemic gains.

The American job market stayed steady this year even despite a massive decline in foreign born jobs which was attributed to by a 2.2 million drop in the foreign-born population, including ~1 million fewer employed. Factors include deportations, voluntary exits, and ~20-30% lower survey participation among immigrants. Undocumented workers (subset of foreign-born) likely drove most of this, as border encounters fell 90%+ YTD.

Comparison to Prior Year: Over the past 12 months (Oct 2024-Sep 2025), native-born workers have gained 2.76 million vs. a foreign-born net loss of -822,000 jobs.

### Implications for the 2026 Legislative Session:

The 2026 session, a 60-day supplemental budget process starting January 13, 2026, will focus on adjusting the \$78 billion 2025-27 operating budget amid this "strained balance sheet." Washington's four-year balanced budget requirement amplifies the pressure: the \$390 million shortfall for 2025-27 (despite a \$9 billion revenue package passed in May 2025) signals ongoing deficits that could total billions if trends persist.

### Budget Pressures:

Lawmakers face a "crunch" with no room for earmarks or pet projects, as warned by Senate Democrats' budget lead, Sen. June Robinson (D-Everett). Potential cuts target areas like higher education, food assistance, and state worker positions—echoing reductions from the 2025 session. Transportation revenues are also down \$67 million for the current biennium.

### Revenue Debates:

The forecast has reignited talks of new taxes to bridge gaps, including a "wealth tax" on high-net-worth individuals and an income tax on top earners (both untested in Washington). Democrats view these as necessary for equity and sustainability, while Republicans decry them as exacerbating a "spending problem" that burdens families and businesses. Governor Ferguson has signaled "difficult decisions" ahead, emphasizing fiscal restraint without specifics.

### Broader Outlook:

Washington State analysts describe the trajectory as "downbeat" and "dismal," with risks of recessionary signals (e.g., Moody's analysis flagging Washington State as near-recession).

Continued on Page 4

Visit us on the Web: [www.WA-Grange.org](http://www.WA-Grange.org)

Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateGrange](http://www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateGrange)

# 2026 Legislative Day



**TUESDAY JANUARY 27, 8AM-4PM**

Registration is \$20 per person prior to January 23, 2026  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED

\*\*\*\*\*  
FIRST AND LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRANGE \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT**

Check (make check payable to the Washington State Grange)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed (\$20/person)

Mail To:  
PO Box 1186  
Olympia, WA 98507-1186  
Email: skeller@wa-grange.org  
Fax: 360-357-3548

**LODGING**

Those attending must secure their own lodging. There are many hotels near state headquarters, and Grange members get a discount through the National Grange at Choice Hotels. To take advantage of this discount, book your room through their website at choicehotels.com or by calling (800) 288-2847 and using promo code #00211660.

## Issaquah Valley Grange Distributes Dictionaries

Issaquah Valley Grange #581 distributed dictionaries to 360 third graders in the Issaquah School district through the Words for Thirds program.



## Support the Grange Foundation through the Common Routes Challenge

This fall through next April, the Grange Foundation is encouraging members and friends of the Grange to celebrate unity through movement by participating in the Common Routes: Choose Your Challenge event.

This virtual-thon allows individuals to support the work of the Grange Foundation at the level and with the activity of their choice, from running a 10K to taking a few long Sunday drives. Pets and children can even take part!

“The idea is simple - use your time on the move to reflect on the impact the Grange has had on your life or community and share that with others,” Grange Foundation Chairman John Benedik said. “You can choose how you want to participate, when you want to participate and in doing so, you’ll move the Grange Foundation forward into 2026 and beyond.”

Adult and Junior racers will receive a cooling towel and sticker pack. If you sign up a child under 5, you will receive a special waterproof “Baby’s first 5k” sticker. You can even choose to have your pets get in on the fun by signing them up to take part in the pup strut - though it’s open to any pet you’d like to participate. They will receive an event-branded pet bandana.

Racers are encouraged to have friends register and enjoy being on the move together, but they may also want to secure sponsors. By encouraging people who do not wish to race to sponsor you, you’ll be helping the Foundation and entered into our contest for “biggest fundraisers.” Just tell your friends and family to click the donate button on the website, select their amount and choose “Other” and enter your name under the On Behalf Of option. To honor the idea that you can choose your challenge and



move any way you’d like, we’ve also created a Sunday Driver and passenger category. Sunday drivers will receive a keychain and sticker pack. Passengers will receive an event sticker pack.

Finally, if you don’t want to race or drive but still wish to support the Grange Foundation and have your name added to the event supporters, you can register as a cheerleader.

Registration is open now through Grange Month (April)!

When you register however, you will receive a digital bib so you can show your support and participation on social media platforms. Print the bib and hang it at your hall or office to encourage others to take part. Swag items will be sent by mail.

“This is a great way to get a friend to support the Foundation and learn why the Grange is important to you while walking, running, biking, riding or doing any other type of movement that you choose,” Grange Foundation Associate Amanda Brozana said. “No matter what mode of movement you choose, we challenge you to share the value of Grange with others through this event.”

Register here:  
<https://runsignup.com/grangefoundation>

## Legislative

### Looking Forward To The 2026 Legislative Season

Continued from Page 1

**Department of Agriculture (WSDA) – 2026 goals**

- Seeking supplemental funding for invasive pests: \$3.5M spongy moth, \$2.5M Japanese beetle due to looming federal cuts.
- Pushing to protect food assistance programs (\$93M secured in 2025-27 budget) and restore federal farm-to-school funding lost in 2025.
- Priorities: climate-resilient farming, organic/regenerative agriculture expansion (2027 Organic Action Plan), farmer mental health, and regulatory relief.

**Department of Ecology (WDOE) – 2026 Priorities**

- Implementing major 2025 laws: Recycling Reform (producer-paid packaging program starts 2026), PFAS testing in biosolids, toxic-free cosmetics rules.
- Draft 2026 requests dedicated woodsmoke reduction funding, HFC refrigerant phase-out incentives, solar panel takeback tweaks, and sewage spill notifications.
- Defending \$1.5B Climate Commitment Act spending; likely to re-introduce CURB Pollution Act to tighten carbon market rules.

**Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) – 2026 priorities**

- August 2025 executive order conserves 77,000 acres of mature western forests (no harvest); seeking legislative authority for carbon credits and replacement land purchases.
- Requesting \$104.8M additional wildfire funding; protecting core fire prevention and recreation budgets.
- Advancing Trust Land Transfer program and eastern WA sustainable harvest plan (2025–2034).

The overall tone from all agencies heading into the short 60-day 2026 session is to protect 2025 gains, secure replacement funding for federal cuts, and lock in spending for new programs.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Grange Legislative Day next month! Happy New Year!

## Crescent Grange #1123 Distributes Dictionaries



Members of Crescent Grange #1123 recently distributed Words for Thirds dictionaries to the third grade class at Crescent School. A team of Crescent Grangers will visit the third grade class most Thursday’s during the school year to help students on reading and writing projects. Grangers present were Steve Singhose, Andrea Williams, Brian Briggs and Elizabeth Hogan.

November 10-14, 2026  
Broken Arrow, OK



Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center

Secure your hotel room: <https://grange.biz/160hotel>

# Membership Corner

## Welcome New Members

### GRANGES WITH MEMBERSHIP GAINS November 2025

	# Joined	Jr. +1
861 Black Lake . . . . .	1	
Andrea Cotey		
819 Chumstick . . . . .	8	
Andrea Dodson, Lester Stoltz, Exxene Tull, Dan Olsen Georgia Tull, Vicki Barber, Norman Dorpat, Christine Voos		
737 Cowlitz Prairie . . . . .	1	
Darlene Osborne		
266 Edgewood . . . . .	2	
Leonardo Hernandez, Maria Hernandez		
853 Fargher Lake . . . . .	3	1
Alex Kadow, Jason Poe, Mallika Poe		
857 Granville . . . . .	3	
Eric Stewart, Anahin Hernandez, Julie Haven		
124 Grays River . . . . .	2	
Tony Zhao, Cindy Langston		
357 Matlock . . . . .	1	
Ann Chappell		
383 McLane . . . . .	1	
Janet McLane		
1054 Menastash . . . . .	3	1
Richard Hink, Aleece Martin, Brynlee Martin		
943 Ralston . . . . .	3	
Randy Gust, Lois Gust, Jordanne Beck		
608 Selah Heights . . . . .	5	
Anita Aliment, Joe Briscoe, Wendy Vance Brandy Bailey, Kattie Blanchard		
1108 Sequim Prairie . . . . .	1	
Karrie Vadala		
250 South Bay . . . . .	19	
Jordan Pelton, Sherry Gritton, JJ Handley, Mica Lusk Jennifer Johnson, Jake Harn, Ana Andrade, Linda Winders Melinda Presley, Samuel Hill, Yany Stiebrs, Sara Stiebrs Hayden Stiebrs, Cohen Stiebrs, Anna Coleman, Kim Gylys Don Sorenson, Kathy Sorenson, Victoria Barnes		
129 Sunnyside . . . . .	1	
Ryane Olin		
984 Swauk Teanaway . . . . .	1	
Lacey Hein		
114 Whelan-Ewartsville . . . . .	33	6
Joe Rupe, Samantha Lautenslager, John Lautenslager Holly Graystone, Desiree Graystone, Rae Olsson, Morgan Sherwood, Ginger Gallagher, Linda Gallagher Sammy Gallagher, Jason Childers, Anna Boyd, Cody Finch Brandy Finch, Mason Finch, David Nelson, Sr., Shaena Helson Keelyn Nelson, Mariah Nelson, Daesha Nelson, Desiree Nelson Phillip Moore, Sr., Shaneese Dunigan, Philliciti Moore Owen Fitzgerald, Roy Druffel, Debbie Druffel, Lenore Turman Jeff Priebe, Blake Turman, Brenda Brown, Jacob Brown Kylie Hancock		
TOTALS . . . . .	88	8

## Washington State Grange Legislative Day 2026

By Sophia Keller  
Membership Director

Join us in Olympia on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, for a powerful day of civic engagement! Hear from expert speakers, meet with legislators, and share your stories that shape Grange policy. Don't miss this chance to make your voice heard.

Since its launch in 2012, Grange Legislative Day has grown steadily, connecting members directly with the legislative process. Last year we had a record number of attendees for our program.

### What to Expect

- Engaging speakers on issues that matter to Grange members
- Meetings with legislators to share your perspectives and stories
- Updates on Grange policy progress and opportunities to shape the future

### Why Attend?

Grange Legislative Day is more than a meeting—it's a chance to make your voice heard. Passing policy at our state convention is only the first step; legislators need to hear directly from you about why these issues matter. Lobbyists provide advocacy, but it's your personal stories and

experiences that truly influence decision-makers.

Equally important, attending gives members a deeper appreciation of how the legislative process works. Laws in Olympia are crafted

understanding of the legislative process beyond media headlines

- Those interested in hearing from experts on current legislative challenges

If you're simply looking for a Capitol tour, this may not be the right event. But if you want to engage, learn, and contribute, Legislative Day is for you.

### What Does the Day Look Like?

We will begin our day at State Headquarters where you will check in, get your name tag and legislative packet and receive instruction for the day. Then everyone will move on to the State Capitol for meetings with their legislators, attend committee hearings, tour the Capitol and meet other Grangers from across the state. We will have a light continental breakfast as well as a boxed-style lunch. The State Grange office will make all your appointments to meet with your legislators, so please register early so we can ensure meetings are scheduled promptly.

Registration forms are available in this issue of Grange News and on the Grange website. Register early to ensure you'll have the opportunity to meet with your legislators—spots are limited!

*Laws in Olympia are crafted carefully and deliberately, and by participating in Legislative Day, you'll see firsthand why that matters—and how you can be most effective in shaping outcomes.*

carefully and deliberately, and by participating, you'll see firsthand why that matters—and how you can be most effective in shaping outcomes.

### Who Should Join?

- Members passionate about policy or specific issues
- Anyone seeking a clearer

## Congratulations Winners! New Membership Contest

Congratulations to the following Grangers for bringing in 3 new members into your Grange. You will each receive the membership T-shirt.

### T-Shirts

- Jessa Madosky – San Juan Island #966
- Heath Howerton – South Bay #250
- Becky Johnson – Selah Heights #608

Congratulations to the following Grangers for bringing in an additional 5 or more new members into the Grange. After recruiting your first 3 members and receiving your t-shirt, when you bring in another 5 members you will receive a \$25 "Grange Bucks" Certificate, which can be spent on any Grange gear, pamphlets, jewelry or other paraphernalia we have on hand at State Grange.

**Grange Bucks:** No recipients this time.

Our contest began January 1, 2025 and runs through December 31, 2025.

## The Grange Exchange

Let us help you buy or sell with a classified ad!

Cost per word	one month	4 or more
Regular	\$.50	\$.40
Boxed	1.00	.75

Centered or reversed text \$2.50/line  
Minimum for one month \$5.00

**Word count:** hyphens, spaces and X's separate words. Phone numbers count as one word. **We do not print ads for 900 number services.**

**Deadline:** 5th of each month (for the following month's paper). Classified ads must be paid in advance. (Tear sheets not sent for classified.)

Ad copy (or attach copy): \_\_\_\_\_

No. words \_\_\_\_\_ @ rate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ x # months \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (enclosed)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Oakview Grange Participates In Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Program



Oakview Grange #311 participated in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child for the third year. Grange members collected items for personal hygiene, school, art, crafts and toys throughout the year. On October 8, 2025, members gathered at the Grange Hall to assemble 36 boxes. Boxes were separated by age and gender. Each area had required items. Then we had a table of optional items. These were added to the boxes before the boxes were closed (using rubber bands as they were filled to the max). On November 19th, the boxes were delivered to the collection point at Mtn View Baptist Church in Centralia. We have decided to do this project again next year as it is such a blessing to the children around the world as well as to us.

## Greenwood Park Grange Hosts Free Thanksgiving For The Local Community



Greenwood Park Grange #590 hosted a free Thanksgiving for the local community. We had 61 people in attendance - it was a great turn out. Coming up: We have a Santa Workshop on December 6th from 1 pm to 4 pm and we will have our free community Potluck Christmas Dinner on December 13th starting at 5:30 pm.

## Spinning Group At Camden Grange



A monthly community spinning group meets at Camden Grange #687 on the last Wednesday night of each month! Hosted by our Family Living officer, Laura Ast, the group includes all ages and men and women!

# By-Laws

## Notification Of Proposed By-Laws Changes

The following Granges will vote on proposed changes to their bylaws on the date, time, and location listed below. Changes may include meeting dates/time, amount of annual dues, frequency of officer elections, or a wide ranger of other topics.

Grange Name:	Voting will Occur on:	Time:	Location:	Contact Person:
Sammamish Valley Grange #286	January 21, 2026	7:00 pm	Sammamish Valley Grange Hall	Brenda Vanderloop
Dry Creek Grange #646	January 11, 2026	12:00 pm	Dry Creek Grange Hall	Jennie Heilman
Horseshoe Grange #965	January 14, 2026	7:30 pm	Horseshoe Grange Hall	Janelle Lierman

# National Grange

## WA Resolutions Sent To National Grange 2025: Outcome Of Resolutions

The delegates to the 2025 National Grange Session voted on the following resolutions proposed by the Washington State Grange.

RESOLUTION NUMBER	TITLE	SPONSORING GRANGE	OUTCOME
2025-06-0101	Hay	Whitman Co. Pomona #2	Adopted
2025-07-1201	Medical Credit Cards	Issaquah Valley #581	Adopted
2025-08-0701	Curriculum Mandates by State and Local Government	Horseshoe #965	Rejected – State Issue
2025-09-1302	Right to Repair	Kellogg Marsh #136	Present Policy
2025-11-1303	Social Security Insurance Resource Limits	Kellogg Marsh #136	Present Policy
2025-12-0901	Delisting Grizzly Bears from the Endangered Species Act of 1973	Humptulips #730	Present Policy
2025-14-1202	Long Term Care Insurance Costs	Clark Co Pomona #1	Withdrawn – State Issue
2025-16-1602	Improving Railroad Passenger Travel	Clark Co. Pomona #1	Present Policy
2025-19-1102	Subordinate Grange Names	Pierce Co. Pomona #16	Rejected – State Issue
2025-25-1604	Standardizing of Seat Belt Buckle Mechanisms	Whatcom Co. Pomona 6	Adopted
2025-29-1306	Raise Social Security Maximum Taxable Earnings	Whatcom Co. Pomona 6	Present Policy
2025-30-1203	The Development of Pill-Form Treatments and Repeal; of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Pill Penalty	Five Mile Prairie #905	Adopted
2025-31-1204	Pharmacy Benefit Manager Reform	Five Mile Prairie #905	Present Policy
2025-33-1308	Sports Participation	Barberton #571	Adopted
2025-34-1205	Insurance Coverage of Infertility Treatment	Moses Lake #1152	Present Policy
2025-40-1105	Retaining Grange Membership Years	St. Andrews #832	Rejected
State Leg Comm Res #1	Oppose Federal Legislation to Limit Vote by Mail		Rejected – State Issue

# National Grange

## National Grange 2025 Recognition Awards

The National Grange held their Honors Night on Friday, November 22. The program was broadcast on the National Grange Facebook Page and the YouTube Channel. Granges and Grangers from across the State of Washington were recognized for the outstanding work in 2025. The list of honorees included:

### QUILT BLOCK CONTEST

Juniors, First Place – Charlie Thorson, Prospect Point #1067  
 Juniors, Second Place – Garrett Thorson, Prospect Point #1067  
 Juniors, Third Place – Jacob Smith, Humptulips Junior #376

### GARDEN DESIGN CONTEST

Ground Space Garden, Second Place – Alice Coakley, Oakview #311

### CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

Poetry, First Place – Lorell Fisher, Stranger Creek #374  
 PoEtry, Second Place – Jarrod Gardner, McMillin #848  
 Short Story, Third Place – Rodger Lance, Washington #82

### VIRTUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Adult Best of Show – Stephanie Day, Long Beach #667  
 Adult Agriculture & Farming, Honorable Mention – Alexis Kudsk, Haynie #169  
 Adult Agriculture & Farming, Honorable Mention – Sheryl Reynolds, Long Beach #667  
 Adult Say it With Flowers, First Place – Stephanie Day, Long Beach #667  
 Adult Say it With Flowers, Third Place – Tom Gwin, Humptulips #730  
 Adult Say it With Flowers, Honorable Mention – Laura Klein, Prospect Point #1067  
 Adult Say it With Flowers, Honorable Mention – Tom Gwin, Humptulips #730

Adult America the Beautiful, First Place – Christine Hamp, Five Mile Prairie #905  
 Adult America the Beautiful, Honorable Mention – Laura Klein, Prospect Point #1067  
 Junior Best of Show – Bridget Klein, Prospect Point #1067  
 Junior Agriculture & Farming, First Place – Bridget Klein, Prospect Point #1067  
 Junior Agriculture & Farming, Third Place – Jacob Smith, Humptulips Junior #376  
 Junior Animal & Pets, Second Place – Morgan Arthur, Humptulips Junior #376  
 Junior America the Beautiful, First Place – Morgan Arthur, Humptulips Junior #376  
 Junior America the Beautiful, Second Place – Jacob Smith, Humptulips Junior #376  
 Junior Water, Second Place – Kamryn Cable, Humptulips Junior #376  
 Junior, Water, Third Place – Briar Schroeder, Oakview #311  
 Junior Water, Honorable Mention – Bridget Klein, Prospect Point #1067

### JUNIOR GRANGE CREATIVE ART

Ages 9-11, First Place – Camden Mill, Camp Wooten Junior #400  
 Ages 9-11, Third Place – JB Roth, Camp Wooten Junior #400  
 Ages 12-14, Second Place – Paige K, Camp Wooten Junior #400  
 Ages 12-14, Third Place – Elijah Berg, Camp Wooten Junior #400

### GRANGE CONNECTION AWARD

Charlie Deach, Columbia #87

### GRANGE COMMUNICATOR RECOGNITION

Codi Titus, Ralston #943

### DISTINGUISHED GRANGE AWARD

Five Mile Prairie #905.

### GRANGES IN ACTION

Washington State Grange  
 State Grange President  
 in Action – Tom Gwin  
 Addy #603  
 Adna #417  
 Barberton #571  
 Baw Faw #34  
 Bee Hive #384  
 Brighton Park #163  
 Broadway #647  
 Buena #836  
 Burbank #630  
 Calispel #500  
 Camas Valley #842  
 Camden #687  
 Camp Morehead Junior #401  
 Catlin #199  
 Cedar Valley #306  
 Centerville #81  
 Chimacum #681  
 Chumstick #819  
 Clark County Pomona #1  
 Clarkston Heights #984  
 Clayton #456  
 Collins #893  
 Cowlitz Prairie #737

Crescent #1123  
 Davis Lake #501  
 Deer Lagoon #846  
 Dry Creek #646  
 East Hill #786  
 East Oakville #902  
 East Wenatchee #1012  
 Elk Plain #782  
 Elma #26  
 Fargher Lake #853  
 Fargher Lake Junior #49  
 Fern Prairie #866  
 Fertile Valley #1094  
 Fords Prairie #33  
 Fort Colville #533  
 Fredonia #545  
 Freedom #1152  
 Fruitland #999  
 Fruitvale #348  
 Goldendale #49  
 Granville #857  
 Grays Harbor/  
 Pacific Pomona #28  
 Grays River #124  
 Green Bluff #300  
 Greenwood Park #590  
 Happy Valley #322

Haynie #169  
 Hope #155  
 Humptulips #730  
 Humptulips Junior #376  
 Inland #780  
 Kennewick Valley #731  
 Kettle River #1120  
 Kettle River Junior #413  
 Klickitat County Pomona #5  
 Lewis County Pomona #3  
 Lincoln Creek #407  
 Logan Hill #1086  
 Long Beach #667  
 Lopez Island #1060  
 Lower Naches #295  
 Malo #679  
 Manor #1101  
 Mansford #720  
 Manson #796  
 Marion #276  
 Matlock #357  
 McIntosh #1001  
 McLane #383  
 McMillin #848  
 Menastash #1054  
 Meridian #265  
 Molson #1069

Moran Prairie #161  
 Moses Lake #1151  
 Mossyrook #355  
 Mountain Valley #79  
 Mountain View #98  
 Newaukum #198  
 North River #946  
 Oakview #311  
 Ohop #812  
 Olalla #1125  
 Olympic View #774  
 Orcas Island #966  
 Oroville #985  
 Pierce County Pomona #16  
 Prospect Point #1067  
 Prosperity #315  
 Quimper #720  
 Ralston #943  
 Rexville #815  
 Rome #226  
 Rose Valley #953  
 Roy #702  
 Sallal #955  
 Samish Valley #926  
 Sammamish Valley #286  
 San Juan Island #966  
 Selah Heights #608

Selkirk Valley #1153  
 Sequim Prairie #1108  
 Sharon #800  
 Silver Lake #105  
 Skamokawa #425  
 Skookumchuck #584  
 South Bay #250  
 South Camano #930  
 South Union #860  
 St. Andrews #832  
 Severson #121  
 Stillaguamish #1058  
 Stranger Creek #372  
 Swauk Teanaway #984  
 Ten Mile #399  
 Terrace Heights #586  
 The Valley #1048  
 Thurston County Pomona #8  
 Trout Lake #210  
 Tunk Valley #1019  
 Twisp Valley #482  
 Waller Road #1111  
 Washington #82  
 White Trail #1143  
 Yakima Valley Pomona #11

## National Grange: Grange Growth And Development Policy Statement - 2025

*Adopted November 2025  
 159th Annual Session of the  
 National Grange*

**“Decline is not destiny. Decline is a direction – and directions can change.”**

The National Grange reaffirms its commitment to growth through unity of purpose, service, and innovation. As we approach America’s 250th anniversary, we rededicate ourselves to the founding ideals of liberty, equality, justice, fellowship, and service—values that remain central to our mission of strengthening rural

and agricultural life across the nation.

Membership growth is our top priority. Each State Grange is encouraged to establish a Grange Growth Team to identify opportunities for new Granges and expand membership through meaningful community engagement. We will utilize Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs) to guide this work and ensure accountability. People don’t join organizations—they join a cause. The Grange’s growth will be measured not just in numbers, but in relevance, visibility, and service.

The launch of Grange Engage,

our new association management platform, marks a transformation in how we connect members, share resources, and cultivate leadership. Every member is encouraged to participate fully by building profiles, sharing projects, and strengthening our network of fellowship and purpose.

Through Project Sustenance, we continue our mission to combat food insecurity and strengthen community resilience. Granges nationwide are encouraged to share their stories of local impact and partner with schools, food banks, churches, and civic groups to ensure no

community is left behind. This initiative exemplifies Grange’s enduring spirit of service and fellowship. The Grange must create new programming that positions our organization firmly within the 21st century—responsive to today’s challenges and relevant to tomorrow’s members.

Our future depends on strong, capable leaders. We reaffirm our investment in youth and adult leadership programs that provide mentorship, skill-building, and purpose. The Grange believes leadership is not defined by age, but by initiative, service, and courage.

As the organization undergoes a national rebranding, we celebrate over 150 years of tradition while presenting a modern identity that reflects today’s energy and tomorrow’s promise. We continue to evaluate funding, strengthen communication, and preserve our archives to ensure a sustainable and vibrant Grange for generations to come.

Together, we will uphold the Grange’s timeless values—faith, fellowship, and service—while advancing its mission through adaptability, courage, and unity.

# Home & Family

## December 2025 News From Your Family Living Director

By **Debbie Fisch**  
Family Living Director

**“If you choose not to find joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life, but still the same amount of snow.”**

~ Anonymous

As Thanksgiving ends, and the Christmas season begins, I find so many joyful things to celebrate! As for me, one of the many things I love is snow! I love the quietness that a new snowfall brings, the beauty of the bright new snow, and also being inside looking out enjoying a nice cup of coffee or hot cocoa listening to Christmas music! I also love love Cobalt blue glass! I have it all over my kitchen and during the winter season, I use snowflakes to decorate my Cobalt blue glass. Specifically, Snowflakes. My husband gifted me a cobalt blue Kitchen Aid mixer many years ago and recently a dark blue Vitamix. My dishes are blue, my walls are just blue enough to show off the cobalt blue bottles and such. Yes, I have welcomed my inner blue! It gives me great joy!

There are so many ways to find joy in our lives! Creating moments by lighting a candle playing your favorite song, spending time in nature, practicing gratitude, celebrating small wins, reading

a good book, and building positive relationships. I also find joy in spending time with other Grangers, finishing a project, or working on a hobby. Perhaps for some it is sewing, baking, sharing new recipes, quilting or any other number of activities. No matter what it is, be sure to spend some time on activities that bring you joy!

There is a tradition I started to read “T’was the night before Christmas” at our annual Grange Christmas Party. My grandfather always read it to me as a kid on Christmas Eve. Sharing with my fellow Grangers and with our Community gives me great joy while honoring my Grandfather. What other things do you do to bring joy to others and your fellow Grangers?

Perhaps you might enjoy some time with family or friends in the kitchen, quilting, crafting, or even during a sew in. When you are enjoying your hobbies, remember to make an extra jar of preserved food, dried herbs, or even a jar of dried soup ingredients to gift. Save it, set it aside, and be sure to remember to enter it in your Pomona Grange Contest. It makes it so much easier when it comes time to enter if it is already set aside. When making new decorations, be sure to set one aside to enter as well. There is no limit to

what you can exhibit at your Pomona Grange Contest!

I am really excited about the new year and what it will bring for the Family Living Department. I am currently working on making the Grange Contest more user friendly. If you have comments or ideas, please forward them to me. I am very grateful of everyone who has already reached out.

December 31st is the end of this year’s report for 2025. There are new forms at [www.wa-grange.com](http://www.wa-grange.com) for Pomona and Subordinate Family Living Chairs online to download. They are not fillable forms yet, but you can download, print, and then fill the form out. Please either email them to [fischarosa@msn.com](mailto:fischarosa@msn.com), or mail via US Mail to Debbie Fisch, WA State Family Living Director, 4035 Squilchuck Rd, Wenatchee WA 98801.

The recipe I am sharing this month belonged to my Grandmother, Pauline Livengood. She was always such a great cook and definitely a foodie! I miss her so much and love sharing her recipes so that she lives on and looks down with joy at all of us having such a great time during meal gatherings! She has many more delicious recipes to share with you all!



Debbie Fisch



## Picnic Salami

(from the loving kitchen of Pauline Livengood)

### Ingredients:

4lbs ground beef  
¼ cup curing salt  
2 Tbsp Liquid Smoke  
1 ½ tsp garlic powder  
1 ½ tsp pepper

### Directions:

Mix together, cover and chill 24 hours. Divide into 4 rolls (8” logs)

Roll in nylon net and tie ends with string  
Bake on broiler pan for 4 hours at 225 degrees.  
Pat with paper towels to remove fat.

Cool and wrap to store in fridge or freeze.

Photo: Adobe Stock Image

## Mt. Valley Grange Hosts Community Celebration Honoring Veterans



The Community Celebration Honoring Veterans was held on November 8th, co hosted with North Clark Historical Museum. Attendance for the event was over 50, with 22 veterans in attendance. The soloist was Danae Castle who sang the National Anthem and a medley of other Patriotic songs. The main speaker was Matt Hodges, Army National Guard. Matt is also Master/President of Barberton Grange #571. Matt spoke about his service stateside. He also sang a Merle Haggard song, “The Fighting Side of Me’ and “God Bless the USA.” Rick Halle, Commander of American Legion Tum Tum Post 168, also gave a nice speech. The organization recognized was the Clark County Fire District #10 in Amboy, and the speaker was Fire Chief, Gordon Brooks. The Patriotic Quilt, made and donated by the Chelatchie Quilters, was won by Mt. Valley Grange member David Johnson, Air Force. Entertainment was provided by the Amboy Middle School eighth grade band directed by Jeremy Gallagher. They played a medley of songs for each branch of the service and a medley of patriotic songs. A Pie & Ice Cream Social was held before the program, and the afternoon concluded with a lively Pie Auction. Mt. Valley Grange and North Clark Historical Museum members and volunteers spent many hours planning and putting this event together to honor the Veterans.

Above Photo: 21 veterans - the lady sitting in the front is Elaine Fletcher, Army nurse, WWII, 105 years old.

## Community Service

### Plan Your Activities...

By **Leslie Wells**  
Community Service Director

Now that your Grange has had your election, you are probably planning your activities for the coming year. Please consider some events or activities that will benefit your community. Some ideas...

As you spend more time indoors because of the colder weather, how about cleaning out your linen closet. Pull out those still usable towels and blankets and call your local animal shelter and see if they could put them to use. If your area doesn’t have an animal shelter, contact your local vets to see if they have a need for

them. They may also be donated to a local homeless shelter. Just contact them and see if they could use a donation. You can also donate socks and t-shirts to homeless shelters.

In the spring, consider planting some extra veggies for your food bank. In the summer and fall consider the same for your fruit. Fresh is always appreciated.

Over the summer collect supplies for donation to the schools. Where I live, we can provide the supplies to our food bank and they distribute them in backpacks to the families. You could even donate empty backpacks for them to fill. Just contact them to see if this is

possible.

I know some Granges have an internal c o n t e s t for flower

arrangements. How about after judging, you donate them to a local nursing home. They could maybe use them in their dining room on the tables or in their activity room. Flowers always seem to cheer things up.

Whatever you decide, please keep the needs of your community in mind. Also, please keep track of you hours and report them on your report.

Thank you for everything you do!!!



Leslie Wells



# Spotlight on Youth & Juniors

## Youth

### WA State Youth Well Represented At 2025 National Grange Session

By Jerry Gwin  
Youth Grange Director

The Washington State Grange was well represented at the recent National Grange Convention. Four youth – Alexis Kudsk, Melissa Kudsk, Trevor Kudsk, and Jacob Smith – were members of the National Grange Youth Officer Team and participated in the Youth Leadership Academy at the session, held aboard the Carnival Horizon. All four youth members will be sharing

what they learned through the spring and at the 2026 State Grange Session.

The State Grange Youth Team is starting to take shape. With so many of the previous team members filling other leadership roles in the State Grange, it has been necessary to look for additional members to provide guidance and leadership for our youth members. Thus far, Brittney Gordon of Rimrock Grange and Melissa Kudsk of Haynie Grange have been appointed to our team.

We are looking for 1-2 more individuals or couples to join us as we work to provide leadership training opportunities to our Grange youth members. Interested persons should email me at [davona1242@outlook.com](mailto:davona1242@outlook.com) to express interest in serving on the team

On behalf of all Grange Youth, we wish you the best for this holiday season and pray for a prosperous 2026!



Jerry Gwin

## Camas Valley Grange Hosts Haunted House



There were a lot of visitors to the Camas Valley Grange Haunted House/Kiddie Karnival/Kreepy Kafe this year. Each evening there were different costumes utilized. Yes, there were a few visitors to the Haunted House that were upset they hadn't brought a change of clothes. There are plans to revamp that area this summer, and more Kiddie Karnival game areas. In November a local organization had Bingo, and it was well attended. The Grange members took down and put away the October decorations and set up for the annual free Community Christmas Dinner on December 7. Grange members have still been involved in community happenings, such as the SYSA, Springdale Boosters, Tree of Sharing-just to name a few. The weather has been more Spring-like both in temperatures and rain, so enjoy it for a short time longer. Remember to shop local, support small businesses, check on family, friends, and neighbors, and stay healthy and safe.

## Junior Connection

### HUMPTULIPS JUNIOR GRANGE

Humptulips Junior Grange members donated eight pies to the Union Gospel Mission in Aberdeen for Thanksgiving. Three members – Morgan Arthur, Kamryn Cable, Jacob Smith – all placed in the National Grange Virtual Photo Contest, while Jacob also placed third in the Quilt Block Contest. We are adopting a family in our community for the holidays.

## Now's a Great Time to Support the Washington State Grange Foundation

### Here's how you can help:

#### Are you a Fred Meyer Customer?

Support the Washington State Grange Foundation just by shopping at Fred Meyer with your Rewards Card. You are now able to link your Rewards Card to your favorite nonprofit by visiting customer service desk at your local Fred Meyer or by creating an account online and linking your rewards card to the Washington State Grange Foundation (account # DI486). Whenever you use your Rewards Card when shopping at Freddy's, you will be helping our organization earn a donation from Fred Meyer. They are donating \$2.6 million each year - up to \$650,000 each quarter - to the local schools, community organizations and nonprofits of your choice. All you have to do is link your Rewards Card and scan it every time you shop at Fred Meyer.



## Juniors

### New National Junior Grange Ambassador Announced



Jacob and Tessa Gwin

By Jacob & Tessa Gwin  
Junior Grange Directors

Happy Holidays!

Recently, at the National Grange Honors Night, the National Junior Department announced the new National Grange Junior Ambassador. Congratulations to Raegan Hartsell from North Carolina! The National Grange Junior Ambassador program is a great way for our Junior members to continue to develop their leadership skills while attending various Grange events around the country. This is an amazing opportunity for our young members, and it all starts at the state level!

Is a Junior you know interested in becoming a Washington State Junior Grange Ambassador? On the Washington State Grange Website, under the Junior Department, fill out the Washington State Grange Junior Granger of the Year application, and have it turned into us by June 1st. All activities on the application should take place between June 1st of the previous year to May 31st of the current year. The Washington State Grange Junior Granger of the Year may be eligible to go on to apply to become the National Grange Junior Ambassador. National applicants may find information to apply on the National Junior Grange Website. National applicants must be able to attend the National Grange session the year they apply. Once at session, applicants will undergo an interview, give a presentation, and be observed by a council of judges who will be observing the skills that each applicant may be able to offer to the National Grange Junior Ambassador team. These judges will then choose the Junior that will serve as the National Grange Junior Ambassador for the year. We are proud to say that the National Grange Junior Ambassadors came from Washington State for 5 consecutive years from 2010-2015! There have even been other National Grange Junior Ambassadors from Washington State since!

As the Christmas season approaches, Junior Grangers can continue to make a difference in their communities. As a Junior Grange, consider adopting a local family in need and purchasing Christmas presents and/or food items to help provide them with a Christmas meal. This can be a great way to show support to local families and show a caring Christmas spirit.

Did you know you don't have to buy all your Christmas presents? Salt dough ornaments are a very cute gift to give to friends or family! Here is a recipe for salt dough, have fun! This activity will require adult supervision.

#### Salt Dough Ornament:

- 2 Cups Flour
- 1 Cup Salt
- ¾ cup water more if needed

Preheat oven to 200 degrees. In a large bowl or stand mixer, whisk to combine flour and salt. Gradually add water, reserving a few tablespoons. Mix until well combined and just moist. Add remaining water 1 tablespoon at a time. Using your hands on a lightly floured surface, knead dough until smooth. The longer you knead, the smoother the dough will be. Roll dough to ¼ inch thickness on a piece of parchment paper or a lightly floured surface. Gently press a cookie cutter into rolled out dough, and press a straw into the top of the ornament to create a small hole for hanging. Transfer the ornament onto a lined baking sheet and bake for 20 minutes. Using a cookie spatula, gently flip ornaments to bake 10 more minutes or until dry. Allow to cool and decorate as desired!

# Grange Connection

**CLARK COUNTY**

**Mountain Valley Grange** hosted a Booster Day / Open House on October 4th. Judy Steigmann, Lecturer, emceed the program. Entertainment for the afternoon was provided by Matt Hodges, Barberton Grange, singing a medley of country tunes, and ending the program with "How Great Thou Art," with everyone singing along. A Citizens Award was given to Ginger Nims, Amboy Hardware Store, for all that she does for the Grange and for the community. A Grange Award was given to Joy Tindall, who joined Mt. Valley in May of 2024. She has volunteered to take over coordinating the Old School/Old Timers Picnic, the Membership Committee, served as Chaplain when the previous one resigned, and was elected Lady Asst. Steward for the year 2025. A Membership Award was given to Dave Johnson for his 25 years as a Grange member. Other membership awards were for Louis Balukoff, John Rinta, Jr., and Kathleen Rinta for 50-year memberships, and Dan George for 60-year membership. A short history of the Grange, Then and Now, was given by Georgene Neal. Val Weisenborn spoke on the Junior Grange and Youth Outreach programs.

**GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY**

**East Oakville Grange** will hold their Annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 6. Everyone is invited to our free Breakfast with Santa Event. Breakfast, Gifts, Music, and stay for Bingo following the event! Bring the whole family and come hungry! Get a picture and a gift from Santa!

**Elma Grange** held their Annual Christmas Bazaar on November 21-23.

**Humptulips Grange** held their Annual Turkey Bingo on November 22 with a good crowd in attendance. Upcoming bingo events to complete the year will be held on December 13 (cash awards for prizes) and December 20 (Christmas gifts for prizes). Grange Bylaws were approved at the November meeting. Jacob

Gwin was elected to serve as President for the coming year. The Grange donated eight fruit pies to the Union Gospel Mission for Thanksgiving. The Grange Food Bank experienced a 30% increase in clients for the month of November. We expect similar numbers for December. The Grange experienced a roof leak with the heavy rains in October, thus having the leak fixed and sheet rock repaired in November. We also had the gutters on the rear of the hall repaired.

**Olympic View Grange** held a Lazy Man Cake Walk on October 18. Lillie Savage has been elected to serve as Grange Master for 2026.

**Sharon Grange** had a table of baked items at the Country Christmas Bazaar at the Elma Fairgrounds on November 22-23. Debbie Hill was reelected Grange Master for 2026.

**PACIFIC COUNTY**

**Long Beach Grange** held their Grange Market on November 15, providing an opportunity for people to get an early start on Christmas shopping. Chase Metzger was elected Grange President for 2026.

**North River Grange** will hold their Annual Christmas Potluck and Crafts for Kids on December 6, beginning at 6 p.m. It will be an evening of crafts for kids to make and take home. Bring your favorite dish for the potluck and enjoy the company of your neighbors and friends.

**PIERCE COUNTY**

**Fruitland Grange** held a Harvest Party for our local families and a Fall Craft Bazaar/Sale to help people get a jump start on their Holiday Shopping. We played Bingo and Bunco at our monthly game nights. The garden on the Grange property was put to bed. (the garden donated 400 pounds of produce to a local shelter) A Family Christmas Party is scheduled on December 13th. This is an enjoyable time with a "quiet" hour for people/kids that are sensitive to noise and lights.

Then the party opens up to the general public. We are blessed that we're able to celebrate the holidays with our local families. A new class that is scheduled is one that tackles the hard subject of Suicide. With the partnering of Farm Stress and Suicide Prevention that services Cowlitz, Lewis, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Pacific and Grays Harbor Counties we are pleased to offer a class on December 17th. This is a one-hour class that focuses on "QPR" - Just like CPR helps someone having a heart attack, QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) helps someone who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts. Our last event for the year is our Veteran Social. This social is scheduled for December 21st where we honor our vets year round, just not on Veteran's Day. We're building relationships and community for the ones attending. What a blessing for our Grange to help facilitate this precious resource.

**SKAGIT COUNTY**

**Samish Valley Grange** held their Annual Holiday Bazaar held on November 8. The event went well with over 14 different crafters/vendors. All of the vendors were very pleased with the large turnout and plan on attending again next year. We held our annual Thanksgiving potluck dinner on November 20.

**THURSTON COUNTY**

**Black Lake Grange** presented Denise McCartan, president of Black Lake Grange, with her 50-year certificate and a 50-year membership pin In their November meeting. Denise originally joined a Grange in Lewis County in March 1975. She affiliated Black Lake Grange around 15 years ago. Denise has been a hard worker in the Grange and she takes her roles in the Grange seriously. She also has a marvelous sense of humor and loves to inject a bit of humor in the meetings. There's never a meeting that goes by without her making everyone laugh. She loves competition, too, whether it be creating a fair booth or by performing in the talent contest. She encourages membership

growth in the Grange, and not just by bringing in new members. She consistently encourages existing members to expand on their ideas thereby creating an atmosphere in which to grow as a person. Black Lake Grange members sincerely hope that she will put her creative talents to use in March 2026 for the Pomona meeting and make some delicious Irish dish for the potluck. The recipe will probably come from the Irish cookbook given to her at the meeting!

**South Union Grange** held their monthly meeting on November 17. Election of officers was held and Patty Mathews

was re-elected as Master. Final details were discussed for the November 28 "Deck the Hall" party to decorate the Grange Hall, and the December 14 Christmas party and potluck. Violet Prairie Grangers will again join us for the event. The annual food drive for Thurston County Food Bank will be held through the end of January 2026. Ideas were discussed with regard to planning an event to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country. A decision will be made at a later date. The next dance will be held on January 3 beginning at 1:30 pm with live country music by The Country Four and More.

## Pomona Calendar

**Pomona Granges are reminded to send their 2026 meeting schedules to the State Grange Office for inclusion in The Grange News.**

- CHELAN** ..... to be announced.
- CLALLAM** ..... January 21 at Crescent, 6 pm potluck, 7 pm meeting. Includes installation of officers.
- CLARK** ..... December 9 at Manor, 7 p.m.
- COLUMBIA** ..... to be announced.
- COWLITZ/ WAHKIAKUM** ..... December 20 at Sunnyside, 1 pm potluck, meeting top follow. Collect gloves and hats.
- DOUGLAS** ..... to be announced.
- EXCELSIOR** ..... to be announced.
- FERRY** ..... March 9 at Malo, 6 pm.
- GRAYS HARBOR/ PACIFIC** ..... January 10 at Sharon, 10:30 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck.
- ISLAND** ..... December 6 at Deer Lagoon.
- KING** ..... to be announced.
- KLICKITAT** ..... January 31 at Centerville, 11 am to 2 pm, exemplification of the first four degrees.
- LEWIS** ..... February 7 at Baw Faw, 12 pm potluck, 1 pm meeting.
- MASON** ..... January 17 at The Agate, 11 am meeting, 12 pm potluck.
- OKANOGAN** ..... to be announced.
- PEND OREILLE** ..... March 7 at Camden, 10 am meeting, 12 pm potluck. Will include the baking contest.
- PIERCE** ..... December 6 at Waller Road. 10 am meeting, 12:30 pm potluck lunch. Will be installation of officers. Next meeting will be January 3 at Collins.
- SKAGIT** ..... December 3 at Fredonia, 6 p.m. potluck, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Will stuff Christmas stockings.
- SNOHOMISH** ..... January 17 at Triway, 10 a.m.
- SPOKANE** ..... February 21 at Windsor, 10 am.
- STEVENS** ..... to be announced.
- THURSTON** ..... January 11 at Brighton Park, 2 pm. Will include Installation of Officers.
- WHATCOM** ..... February 17 at Ten Mile, 6 pm potluck, 7 pm meeting. Will hold the baking contest.
- WHITMAN** ..... December 18, 6 pm potluck at the home of Larry Farr in Pullman. Will be the Christmas Party.
- YAKIMA VALLEY** ..... January 12 at Fruitvale, 3 pm.

## Pomona Connection

**COWLITZ/ WAHKIAKUM POMONA**

Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Pomona will meet on December 20 at the Sunnyside Grange Hall. The meeting will begin with a potluck lunch at 1 p.m. and will include the Installation of officers and a Christmas Program. The Pomona project is to bring socks, gloves, & hats. The next meeting will be on January 17, 2026 at the Catlin Grange Hall with a 1:00 pm potluck, meeting to follow. The Pomona project will be collecting women's shelter items.

**GRAYS HARBOR/ PACIFIC POMONA**

Grays Harbor/Pacific Pomona Grange met at the Satsop Grange Hall to wrap up 2025 business. Each Grange was asked to donate pies to the Union Gospel Mission in Aberdeen for Thanksgiving. The 2026 county fair dates were announced as July 29-August 1 with the theme "Dancing with the Steers". The next meeting will be on January 10, with the location moved to the Sharon Grange Hall. The meeting will begin at 10 am.

**THURSTON COUNTY POMONA**

Installation of officers for Thurston County Pomona and Subordinate Granges will be held on January 11 at 2:00 at South Union Grange hall. The 2025 Pomona officers should bring finger food for the event. No regular meeting will be held in January.

# Grange Connection



## South Bay Grange Holiday Market: A Celebration of Community and Growth

South Bay Grange proudly hosted its first-ever Holiday Market, and what a success it was! The event brought together neighbors, friends, and local businesses for a day filled with festive cheer, delicious treats, and meaningful connections.

Thanks to the generous donations from Puget Sound Lighting, the venue sparkled with holiday décor, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. Soft acoustic holiday music set the tone as attendees browsed through unique offerings from local artisans, wellness vendors, and bakers. Shoppers enjoyed refreshments and snacks, including the crowd-favorite goat cheese donated by Lost Peacock Creamery, while catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.

This event wasn't just about shopping—it was about strengthening community ties. Conversations flowed easily, and the sense of togetherness inspired several attendees to join the Grange. Membership has grown from just 17 at the start of 2025 to over 60 today—a testament to the power of community engagement.

Proceeds from vendor entry fees and refreshments will help the Grange match grant funding, ensuring continued support for local initiatives. Every contribution, big or small, made this day special and impactful.

We are deeply grateful for the love, support, and enthusiasm shown by everyone who participated. The Holiday Market was more than an event—it was a celebration of community spirit and collaboration.

Mark Your Calendars for Our Next Event!

Join us on Saturday, December 20th, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM for another festive community gathering at the South Bay Grange. Highlights include:

- Photos with Santa from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- Community Service Opportunities:
- Bring canned food to support our local food bank
- Donate new or gently used winter clothing—coats, sweaters, socks, scarves, and blankets—for those in need

Let's come together again to celebrate the season, support our neighbors, and make a difference!

**Top Photos:** Setting up for the Holiday Market, Jessie Bensley, me, then in the red my other daughter Ryane Myers - they are members. Jessie has participated in the Farmers Markets, she has a floral farm and Ryane participated in the Holiday Market with her Ocean Esthetics business. It's become a family affair.

**Bottom Photo:** And that's a wrap. SBG Members participating in the Holiday Market and cleaning up/breaking down after the event, from left to right: Jessie Bensley, me, then Rachel Atchison, our new Secretary. The younger generation getting involved - yay!



## Oakview Grange Distributes Dictionaries

Oakview Grange #311 participated in Words for Thirds again this year. Grange members put bookplates in the inside cover of the dictionaries during our September Rummage Sale.

Then on National Dictionary Day, October 16th, Grange Members Joyce Kludt, Becky Escobar, Kathie Mills and Marcy Belles distributed about 215 dictionaries to third graders at Edison, Washington, Jefferson-Lincoln, and Oakview Elementary (all in Centralia School District).

It was a joy to see the third graders be so excited about getting their own dictionary. Often, we are asked, "Is this mine forever?" "Can I take this home?" Other students were excited to know that they can learn sign language and other things that were also included in the back



of the dictionary. Our Facebook page received a comment that the kids love their dictionaries and want to even use them during their choice time! It's so great to know that these students want a physical dictionary.

## Thurston County Pomona Honors Vets And Awards Granger Of The Year



Thurston County Pomona Grange #8 held their Veterans Recognition Event on Sunday November 2. The event was hosted by Brighton Park Grange hall and hosted by their members. Members, veterans, and other guest were treated to an impressive presentation of the colors by the George Roberts Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). Veterans presents were welcomed and recognized for their service. Art Dolan, a member of the SAR, entertained and educated the attendees with a presentation of the many flags of the American Revolutions, telling the stories behind each. Refreshments and a time of fellowship followed and program.

The November 6 Pomona meeting was held at McLane Grange hall and was preceded by a potluck. A centerpiece contest was held with Denise McCartan receiving first place for her Halloween centerpiece with all sorts of creepy characters. Receiving honorable mention were Tammy Eltrich, and Gail Yenne (visitor). Pomona will again have a the bake sale table at Tenino Winter Fest on December 6. Ginny Nelson of Brighton Park Grange was announced as Granger of the Year 2025 honors by Pomona President Shavanna May. A second presentation will be made at the next meeting.



## Mt. Valley Grange Holds Youth Outreach BBQ



Mt. Valley Grange #79 Youth Outreach BBQ was held on September 20th, from Noon to 4:00 pm. It was hosted by: Tom & Kari Hann, and their daughters, Aiyana & Kaitlyn. Tom barbecued the brisket for the Brisket Sliders. Mac-n-Cheese, Coleslaw, and chips were also served. Other grange members donated to the BBQ. Outreach BBQ was to educate the community on the Junior Grange program and Livestock program at the Clark County Fair. Pictured: Tom, Kari, Kaitlyn, and Aiyana Hann

## Samish Valley Grange Hosts "Garden To Pantry" Food Donation Program

We are pleased to report on the success that our "Garden to Pantry" food donation program has had this year. Our Grange reached out to the community via signs, flyers and a local reader board asking for excess fruit and vegetables from local neighbors to be dropped off at the Samish Valley Grange building so that we could transport it to the local food bank. A couple of our members already volunteered for Friday deliveries at the food bank so they were able to get the produce to the food Bank during the 4 months the program ran. We started the program in August and it ran through November of this year. During that time we collected over 500 pounds of food that we delivered to the Helping Hands Food Bank in Sedro-Woolley.



This included several types of Apples, Pears, Blueberries, and Squash as well as a few leeks. It is our goal that next year we can exceed this donation amount.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

# Upcoming State Grange Events

**Scheduled events may be either cancelled or postponed. Please call prior to the event to confirm.**

**MONTHLY** ..... New Member Reports due to the State Grange Office

**DECEMBER 12**..... State Grange Office Open House is CANCELLED

**DECEMBER 24- JANUARY 1**..... State Grange Office Closed for Christmas Holidays

**DECEMBER 31** ..... Fourth Quarter Secretary Reports Due to the State Grange Office

**DECEMBER 31**..... Annual Lecturer Reports Due to State Grange Lecturer Claudina Mincks

**DECEMBER 31**..... Annual Family Living Reports Due to State Family Living Director Debbie Fisch

**JANUARY 22**..... Lecturer and Family Living Joint Zoom Meeting (hosted by Claudine Mincks and Debbie Fisch), 6:30 pm via Zoom

**JANUARY 24**..... State Grange Convention 2026 Kick Off Meeting; meet at the Skagit County Fairgrounds in Mt Vernon at 11 a.m. for a tour; go to the Fredonia Grange Hall at 12 p.m. for potluck lunch and kick off meeting.

**JANUARY 27**..... State Grange Legislative Day in Olympia

## National Grange

### Memories of the National Grange Convention



Photos: (Top Left) The delegation from the Washington State Grange at the 159th Annual National Grange Convention aboard the Carnival Horizon. (Top Right) The National Grange Youth Officer Team at the 159th Annual National Grange Convention included four members from the Washington State Grange: Vice President - Alexis Kudsk of Haynie Grange, Lady Assistant Steward -Melissa Kudsk of Haynie Grange, Gatekeeper - Jacob Smith of Humptulips Grange, Executive Committee - Trevor Kudsk of Haynie Grange. (Middle) As a fundraiser for the National Grange Foundation, a few of our own WA State Grangers received the honor to fill an office and close the National Grange. President: Marg Ohlsen, Tualco Grange, Lecturer: Jennifer Oliver, Collins Grange, Steward: Tom Cullen, Buena Grange, Flora: Trisha Lovgren, Crescent Grange. (Bottom) Grangers and friends gathered for a welcome reception as the Horizon left port! With over 300 Grangers in attendance this year, we had a productive and fun Convention.

