



WASHINGTON STATE

# Grange News

January 2025

Informing Grangers Since 1912

114th Year No. 1



## Manson Grange Youth Fairs Program Brings Joy to Heritage Heights

Christmas came early to the residence of Heritage Heights in Chelan, thanks to sixteen members from the Manson Grange Youth Fairs program, Saturday, December 14. Community service is part of the Youth Fairs program, teaching

our students the importance of helping others and giving back to our community.

Heritage Heights is a senior living community in Chelan that offers professional, well-trained staff specializing in assisted living and

respite care for 55 and older adults.

Rachel Kiesecker, Life Enrichment Coordinator at Heritage Heights, was our contact, on the day of the event. Rachel said, "From all of us here at Heritage Heights, we would like to thank Norm Manly for

organizing this wonderful event each year, making our Residents feel special before Christmas! A heartfelt thank you as well to the kids from the Manson Grange Youth Fairs for their beautiful Christmas carols, cookies, and special cards. Lastly, thank you to Santa for completing the event with joy and cheer. Each Resident was truly happy and had so much fun!"

Youth Fairs Program Manager, Norm Manly kicked off the program at 2:00 with introductions and background on the Youth Fairs program. The first song of the afternoon was Jingle Bells, halfway through the song, Santa Claus entered the room.

Three Youth Fairs member were highlighted with Christmas solos

and the entire group singing "Jingle Bells", "Silent Night", "Away in a Manger", and "Joy to the World". The event came to an end with the group singing "We Wish you

*Continued on Page 2*

**February 2025 issue deadline – JANUARY 20th**  
Submissions can be sent to [grangenews@wa-grange.org](mailto:grangenews@wa-grange.org)





# SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON FAIRGROUNDS

## JUNE 25 - 29, 2025

136th Annual Washington State Grange Convention  
at the  
**Southwest Washington Fairgrounds**  
Centralia/Chehalis, 1909 S Gold St, Centralia, WA 98531

## By-Laws

On February 13, 2025, at our regular meeting, Ten Mile Grange #399 will be voting on amendments to our By-Laws about a change in our dues, and about a change in our meeting time.

## Manson Grange Youth Fairs Program Brings Joy to Heritage Heights

Continued from Page 1

a Merry Christmas" all under the direction of Myra Kurtz, with residents joining in.

Personalized Christmas cards, made by Youth Fairs members and cookies, made by Sally Colman were handed out with the help of Youth Fairs members.

The event concluded with pictures with Santa. Many of the residents took the opportunity to sit with Santa and receive a candy cane. Youth Fairs members also had their photo taken with Santa.

"The Youth Fairs program is open to students from 5 to 19 and is similar to 4-H and FFA. It is one of the many Grange programs for our youth. The Manson Grange Youth Fairs program is focused on students five through eighth grade, preparing the student for involvement in FFA at Chelan and Manson when they begin high school. When students join Youth Fairs the entire family becomes Grange members.

The mission and purpose of the Grange "Youth Fairs" program is to provide an opportunity for young Grange members to participate in an educational setting, designed to increase confidence, strengthen character, learn invaluable life skills and teach the importance of self-discipline. The program encourages learning opportunities for the members," stated Program Director Norm Manly.

The Manson Youth Fairs begins its third year of operation on January 20, at 6:00 pm at the Manson Grange with a new member sign ups. For more information visit the Manson Grange website [www.mansongrangerange.com](http://www.mansongrangerange.com) or contact Norm Manly - 509-293-0225.



## Community Service

# Shining Brighter than Christmas Lights



Claudine Mincks

By Claudine Mincks  
Community Service Director

Happy New Year! My sincere wish for each of you Grangers is good health, happy hearts, and joyous blessings in everything you do. With the Christmas tree down and the holiday decorations stored away and the dark, damp, cold days of winter upon us it could bring a bit of gloom for some.

As I scrolled through social media during December, I was in awe at what Washington State Grangers accomplished for others in their Granges. Each day I was surprised and elated to see new and creative ways that Granges were participating in Community Service around the State. From honoring Veterans with Quilts

of Valor to remembrance of Veterans with gravestone wreaths, community meals to feed both souls and stomachs to establishing community gardens to supply food long into the future, hosting community youth performing arts to groups caroling house to house OR facilitating clothing and toy drives to welcoming the community into your grange hall to eat, visit, and have fun.

The list of Community Service work Washington State Grangers has and will continue to do could go on forever. Grangers certainly shone brighter than all the strings of Christmas lights on houses around the state this past season! You should all be proud. No project was too small to count nor too large to give room for more next year. On

the dark, damp, cold days of winter think back to those bright and cheery community service projects you participated in and that should bring a smile to your face and warm your hearts.

What better time than now to think and dream ahead for the upcoming year of community service in your Grange. January is a great time to put up the white board, grab some color markers, and go around the room at your Grange meeting and jot down the strategy for your Grange's community service for the next year as a team. It's always good to start with the ones that were successful and worth repeating but don't forget as life is always evolving and changing, we should be making room for fellow Grangers and open to their new ideas.

## WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE NEWS STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

### WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE NEWS

1-6. Statement Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685 showing the Ownership, Management and Circulation of the Washington State Grange News, published monthly except July and September (10 issues). Publication No. 226-060. Annual subscription price \$3.02.

7. Location of known office of Publication is P.O. Box 1186, Olympia, WA 98507-1186.

8. Location of the Headquarters or General Business Office of the Publisher is 924 Capitol Way S #300, Olympia, WA 98501.

9. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, and managing editor is:  
Publisher, Washington State Grange, P.O. Box 1186, Olympia, WA 98507-1186.  
Editor, Tom Gwin, P.O. Box 1186, Olympia, WA 98507-1186.  
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11. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None.

12. The purpose, function and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during the preceding 12 months.

13-15. Extent and Nature of Circulation:

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1. Paid/requested outside-county mail subscriptions	0	0
2. Paid in-county subscriptions	0	0
3. Sales through dealers, carriers, street vendors, counter sales and other non-USPS paid distribution	0	0
4. Other classes mailed through USPS	0	0
C. Total paid and/or requested circulation	5897	5828
D. Free distribution by mail	56	38
4. Free distribution outside the mail	75	55
E. Total free distribution	136	93
F. Total distribution	5978	5881
G. Copies not distributed	50	40
H. Total	6028	5921
I. Total % paid circulation	97.8	98.4

I certify that all information furnished is true and complete.  
(Signed) Tom Gwin, Editor 11/30/2024

## Email Us

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## Washington State GRANGE NEWS

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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

### Virtual Meeting Attendance Can Assist In Generating Ideas & Boost Grange Participation

By Tom Gwin  
WA State Grange President

Eight years ago, the National Grange encouraged State Granges to develop a policy allowing virtual and/or electronic participation in Grange meetings. The WA State Grange Executive Committee moved forward in developing guidelines allowing Grange members to use technology to assist in meeting attendance.

Our policy was put in place..... and then Covid hit in 2020. Granges had little to no option in holding meetings. We were not allowed to experience the fellowship that many of us received through our Grange participation. We had to resort to virtual Grange meetings and conference calls just to conduct the little business of our Granges in that time.

On the plus side, we did learn what worked and what didn't work in the Covid era. We put those lessons to good use and have now updated our virtual/electronic meeting policy to reflect the realities of our busy lives and numerous activities.

Utilizing the lessons learned, we updated the WA State Grange Policy for Virtual/Electronic Participation in Subordinate/Community and Pomona Grange Meetings. While our desire is that all Granges meet face to face in full form, this policy allows Granges the consider the option of electronic meetings that will assist in building Grange activities and increasing participation in our programs. Our revised state policy is as follows:

#### WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE POLICY FOR VIRTUAL/ ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION IN SUBORDINATE/COMMUNITY AND POMONA GRANGE MEETINGS

This policy applies to all Subordinate / Community AND Pomona Granges in the State of Washington.

Today's Grange members are much more mobile than ever before. There are many programs

and systems such as Teams, Zoom, and free conference call lines that allow members to participate in Grange meetings without being physically present at the meeting. Technology will also allow members to communicate and discuss matters of importance if they are unable to be present at a meeting.

Members should make every effort to attend their regular Grange meetings, but the National Grange and the Executive Committee of the Washington State Grange understand and recognizes that this is not always possible and views this policy as a way to increase participation at Grange meetings as well as allow members who do not live in close physical proximity to their Grange (military

*There are many programs and systems such as Teams, Zoom, and free conference call lines that allow members to participate in Grange meetings without being physically present*

-- WA State Grange Policy

personnel, away at college, south for the winter, etc.) to be a part of their Grange's meeting.

The following guidelines must be closely followed for participation in the Washington State Grange Virtual/Electronic Meeting Program:

1. The Grange meeting must be held on that Grange's regular meeting night, at the appointed time and location. Members who are going to participate virtually or electronically shall notify the Grange Master in advance of the meeting. Only as a last resort, should regular Subordinate/Community and/or Pomona Grange meeting be held 100% virtually (i.e. in times of inclement weather, or other circumstances that prohibit in-person meetings.



Tom Gwin

2. Every effort must be made to utilize speaker phones or audio enhancement equipment to insure all members physically present can hear all discussion at the meeting. Likewise, it is the responsibility of those attending virtually/electronically to have the necessary audio equipment to hear the discussion taking place at the meeting.

3. All meetings must be held in accordance with the Manual of the Subordinate or Pomona Grange and the Digest of Laws of the National Grange.

4. The order of business shall follow the list found in the Subordinate or Pomona Grange Manual.

5. Quorum: A quorum as defined in the Washington State Grange Constitution and By Laws (eight members) must be present, either physically, electronically, or virtually.

6. Record of Proceedings: The Grange Secretary or other member appointed by the Grange Master or presiding officer must record who is in attendance physically at the meeting and who is in attendance virtually/electronically at the meeting. An accurate record of the actions taken at the meeting must be recorded.

7. Voting: All votes must be taken as a roll call vote. Members attending virtually/ electronically will not be able to vote on matters that would normally require a paper ballot, including but not limited to applications for membership, election of officers, etc.

8. Matters that would be considered acceptable for discussion and virtual/electronic voting would be community service projects, repairs to the Grange hall, financial donations, and other matters for the

Continued on Page 5

## Legislative

### Legislature To Convene For 69th Biennial Session January 13th

By Jesse Taylor  
Legislative Lobbyist



Jesse Taylor

Happy New Year! On Monday, January 13th, 2025, the Legislature will convene the 69th Biennial Session. This will be the first biennium with a new governor at the helm in a dozen years. Governor Jay Inslee will complete his third consecutive term as governor this month and with that means a lot of changes to 'business as usual' at the capital as Governor Elect- Ferguson moves into the corner office.

Legislators will introduce and debate many policy bills, covering a vast range of issues. But the major focus will be to pass three separate two-year budgets. A balanced Operating Budget within projected revenue is the only thing the Legislature is required to complete and must be done for the state to function. Crafting a state budget is always complex. State revenues continue to increase, however growth is beginning to slow. Inflationary metrics are beginning to cool as well, which will be a welcome indicator from citizens across the state. As of this writing, the state budget writers are facing down an estimated \$12 billion budget shortfall which will be closed by a combination of cost cutting measures and new revenue sources from around the state.

Governor Inslee submitted a budget proposal to the Legislature in December that severely reduces funding requests from agencies such as Education and DNR. The governor's budget (linked here: <https://ofm.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/budget/statebudget/2025-27/Z-0236.2OperBiennial.pdf>) is just the first budget in the process and is typically used as a template to craft their various proposals. Governor-elect Ferguson will submit a budget summary document to the legislature before he delivers his State-Of-The-State on January 15th, which will outline his spending and cost cutting priorities. But at the end of the day it's the 147 elected lawmakers that have to send a balanced budget to his desk.

Our legislative department will be keeping our eye out for challenging policy that we deem to be problematic for our goals. When these bill are introduced we tend to attempt to the "dull the edges" or participate in the process to be cooperative partners. Many of these bills will be delivered to you in the weekly legislative updates, bi-weekly calls throughout the session, as well as action items, budget updates and more.

As always legislators need to hear "your story" and understand what we need to advocate for rural citizens and causes. If you do not let them know and advocate for your cause, then who will? Find out who your hometown legislators are by searching in this link: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/>. Once you have your legislator identified you can contact them via email or phone call using this easy to use member roster tool: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/Rosters/Members>

**Full Links:** <https://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/>  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/Rosters/Members>

The Washington State Grange will continue to support your efforts by providing resources and assistance when and where we can, this includes:

- Weekly updates through the Session Watch. Please subscribe here: <https://www.wa-grange.com/LegislativeSessionSignup.aspx>
- 2025 Legislative Handbook
- Grange Legislative Day - Tuesday, February 4th
- Bi-Weekly Zoom Huddles during session.

Please use those legislative tools to reach out to your elected legislators and contact me anytime with questions or inquiries. I wish you all a blessed 2025 and I look forward to seeing many of you at Grange Legislative Days.



### Session Watch 2025

Stay informed about what is happening in the State Legislature. Send us your email at [grange@wa-grange.org](mailto:grange@wa-grange.org) to receive our weekly Session Watch report. You can also find each weeks Session Watch on our website under the Legislative Department page at

[www.wa-grange.com/LegislativeSession.aspx](http://www.wa-grange.com/LegislativeSession.aspx)

## 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.



Where shopping & giving unite



# Grange Resource And Information Training Sessions Scheduled

State Grange President Tom Gwin will attend a series of meetings around the state, partially in conjunction with Pomona Grange Meetings, for a question/answer session. Packets of information, including the Master/President Handbook, Secretary Handbook, Treasurer and Financial Guides, and 2025 Departmental Program materials will be distributed. All Grange members are invited to these locations for the upcoming sessions.

• **January 4** – Grange Resource & Information Training at the Pierce County Pomona Meeting, 10 a.m. at the Elk Plain Grange Hall (Pierce County).

• **January 7** – Grange Resource & Information Training at the Deer Lagoon Grange Meeting, 6 p.m. at the Deer Lagoon Grange Hall (Island County).

• **January 8** – Grange Resource & Information Training at the Clark County Pomona Meeting, 7 a.m. at the Manor Grange Hall.

• **January 11** – Grange Resource & Information Training at the Klickitat County Pomona Meeting, 10 a.m. at the Centerville Grange Hall.

• **January 13** – Grange Resource & Information Training at the Yakima Valley Pomona Meeting, 3 p.m. at the Fruitvale Grange Hall.

• **January 17** – Grange Resource & Information Training at the Fredonia Grange Hall (Skagit County), 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. meeting.

• **January 18** – Grange Resource & Information Training at the Snohomish County Pomona Meeting, 10 a.m. at the Tualco Grange Hall.

• **January 24** – Grange Resource & Information Training at the Stevens County Pomona Meeting, 6 p.m. at the Kettle River Grange Hall.

• **January 25** – Grange Resource & Information Training at the Whelan Ewartsville Grange Hall (Whitman County), 11 a.m.

• **January 25** – Grange Recourse & Information Training at the Central Grange Hall (Spokane County), 7 p.m.

• **January 31** – Grange Resource & Information Training at the Sallal Grange Hall (King County), 7 p.m. – will include installation of Pomona Grange officers

• **February 1** – Grange Resource & Information Training at the Dry Creek Grange Hall (Clallam County), 11 a.m.

• **February 6** – Grange Resource & Information Training at the Thurston County Pomona Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Black Lake Grange Hall

• **February 7** – Grange Resource & Information Training at the Moses Lake Grange Hall (Grant County), 7 p.m.

• **February 8** – Grange Resource & Information Training at the Okanogan County Pomona Meeting, 10 a.m. at the Okanogan Grange Hall

• **February 9** – Grange Resource & Information Training at the Bee Hive Grange Hall (Chelan County), 1 pm

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Washington State Grange is a non-partisan, grassroots organization. The Grange does not limit any member's freedom to think, believe or vote as he or she pleases. However, we always give full support to good legislation that better the lives of our members and all Washington citizens. Our primary legislative objective is to represent the views of rural residents and the agriculture community.

- We oppose the removal of any dam in the Columbia/Snake River system. These dams benefit the citizens of Washington by producing power, providing transportation, providing irrigation for food production, preventing flooding, and providing recreational opportunities.
- We support seasonal flexibility for overtime pay of agricultural workers.
- To spur economic development and virtual education opportunities, we support the expansion of broadband capabilities in underserved areas across the state.
- Washington's farmers and ranchers use best management practices to protect clean water and aquatic life. Multiple state and federal agencies work with growers to protect riparian habitat. We oppose expanding riparian buffers that could result in removing land from agricultural use.
- We oppose the implementation of a State Income Tax on the people of the State of Washington.
- We support any riparian regulations be incorporated into a Volunteer Stewardship Program.



### GRANGE YOUTH/JUNIOR LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE

For Grange Youth and Junior Members and their Chaperones  
January 19-20 (Sunday-Monday)

Includes dinner on Sunday, Continental Breakfast and Lunch on Monday



GRANGE YOUTH

### GRANGE LEGISLATIVE DAY

Tuesday, February 4

8 am to 4 pm

\$20 per person (includes lunch)

### GRANGE LEGISLATIVE ZOOM UPDATES

Jan 20, Feb 3 & 17, Mar 3 & 17, Apr 7 & 21

6 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98036971581>

Meeting ID: 980 3697 1581

One tap mobile +12532158782,98036971581# US (Tacoma)



# 2025 Legislative Day



## TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4, 8AM-4PM

Registration is \$20 per person prior to February 1, 2025  
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 1188  
Olympia, WA 98507-1188  
Email: [grange@wa-grange.org](mailto:grange@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](http://choicehotels.com) or by calling (800) 288-2847 and using promo code #00211660.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_



# Membership Corner

Welcome New Members		
GRANGES WITH MEMBERSHIP GAINS		
December 2024		
	# Joined	Jr. +1
687 Camden	2	
Kevin Kinsella, Karen Kinsella		
26 Elma	1	12
Jim Sorenson		
533 Fort Colville	2	
Linda Oneal, Donzella Leahy		
545 Fredonia	1	
Jill Weber		
780 Inland	3	
Dee Thomas, Lonnie Widmer, Ronda Widmer		
1152 Moses Lake	4	
Danielle Ordway, Jeff Howell, Benjamin Howell, Kathy Taywe		
1125 Olalla	3	
Barbara Forstrom, Michael Hornvedt, Joy Horntvedt		
1039 Patit Valley	1	
Del M. Avery		
815 Rexville	3	
Kevin Summers, Rick Brock, Janet Hamilton		
226 Rome	10	
Shira Nahari, Dennis Rensink, Brian Syvertson, Jane Westerfield, John Westerfield, Kenneth McCoy, Mark Alan Tisland, River Howell, Dillon Churchill, Klaus Klix		
684 San Poil	1	
Rob DeVol		
121 Stevenson	2	
Gudrun Stofferlmayr, Doug Lovelace		
399 Ten Mile	1	
Debi Brooks		
	# Joined	Jr. +1
TOTALS	43	16

## Ways to Make Your Grange Thrive in 2025

Happy New Year! 2025 is officially here. Are you ready to start a new year with new goals and new ideas? And maybe some new faces in your Grange?

In the past four years, membership within the Grange has continued to see great growth and we are expecting another expansive year in Grange membership. As of this writing, we welcomed just over 800 new regular members and over 300 junior +1 members into our organization in 2024.

The Grange as an organization is once again thriving with new families and new activities. We have new contest, new opportunities for our members, new tools to better serve our communities and leadership that is looking to the future of the Grange instead of looking at the past and what used to work that no longer serves many Granges or our communities.

We have begun to focus a lot more of our attention on our youth and young adults as they are our future generations. We mailed our 1st Edition, Grange Youth Connection, out to all households with youth and juniors this past week. The newsletter will introduce or remind them of the many things that are happening or coming up that might be of interest to them. This will be a quarterly mailing that will continue as we move forward. Our hope is that it gets into the hands of our youth around the state.

Once again, this year, your State President will be traveling the state to join Pomona meetings and various

other meetings to get all your new materials as well as other pertinent information to you. This is where you will receive all the tools you will need for another successful year of Grange.

Be sure to check the Events Calendar in this issue for the closest meeting in

bring in an additional 5 new members, they will receive \$25 in Grange Bucks. Grange Bucks can be spent on any Grange apparel, cups, hats, brochures, banners, etc. etc. as long as it is items we currently have in stock. Look in the membership section of the program handbook for the other new contest to enter at the State Convention. I can't wait to see all your creativity!

Here are a few additional things you can expect: President, Tom Gwin will touch on what is happening at both the state and national level, he will talk about our legislative activities as well as upcoming events and activities. He will have information on our new Virtual Meeting Policy, Updated Youth Policy and many other new changes. He will also be talking about the Youth Fairs Program and where we are today. He will briefly touch on all departments information and will have packets for each Grange to pick up.

Some of the many resources that will be in each packet at these Pomona meetings will be Program Handbook, Legislative Handbook, Masters Handbook, Secretary Handbook, Treasurers Handbook, Lecturer Packet, Family Living Packet, Junior Packet, Youth Packet, Community Service Packet, Membership Packet, Youth Fairs information, and much more.

So be sure to attend one of these great meetings to better understand both the Grange and what our communities need from the Grange.

Happy New Year All!!

*We have begun to focus a lot more of our attention on our youth and young adults as they are our future generations.*

your area. These meetings are NOT just for leaders in the Grange. These conferences are for EVERYONE! This is an excellent opportunity to learn about what we will be doing for the year and how you can better your Grange through our programs and incentives.

For the membership department, we have changed our contests just a bit. For our personal recruiting contest, when a member recommends 3 new members, they get the new member T-Shirt (still) and when they

## Prospect Point Grange Recognize Youth Members



Youth members were recognized at their year end Christmas Party for their achievements in the Grange Youth Fairs Program. Prospect Point Grange members participated in the Walla Walla Fair & Frontier Days and the Milton-Freewater Junior Livestock Show in Oregon.

### Congratulations Winners!

#### New Membership Contest

January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024

Congratulations to the following Grangers for bringing in 3 new members into your Grange. You will each receive the membership t-shirt with our mission statement.

T-Shirts	Gift Cards
Theresa Sygitowicz - Rome #226	Theresa Sygitowicz - Rome #226
Mary Lee Rozelle - Camden #687	1 - \$25 Amazon Gift Card
Marty Kellogg - Olalla #1125	Cathy Savage - Rexville #815
	1 - \$25 Amazon Gift Card

The contest ended December 31, 2024.  
Our new contest begins January 1, 2025 and runs through December 31, 2025.

## Virtual Grange Meeting Attendance Can Assist In Generating Ideas And Boost Grange Participation

Continued from Page 3

good of the order.

9. Virtual/electronic voting will not be allowed on motions or resolutions affecting the future of the Grange. This includes, but is not limited to, consideration to sell Grange property, merge with another Grange, or dissolve the Grange completely.

10. Limits on Spending: Virtual/electronic voting can be used to approve expenditures, up to a maximum of \$1,000 at a Grange meeting. Any expenditures above this

limit must be voted on only by those physically present at the meeting.

11. The President/Master of the Washington State Grange has the authority to remove a Grange from participation in order a Grange future participation in Virtual/Electronic Meetings if they have reason to believe that the rules as set by the Washington State Grange Executive Committee are not being followed.

These policies will allow us to maintain our basic Grange principles while allowing Grange members who may be physically unable to attend a

meeting to be involved in the discussion of new program ideas for a Grange. It also allows for Grange participation for those who live away from their local Grange. A final positive of this policy will be for Granges to more easily meet in inclement weather.

We must, however, remain vigilant to not allow virtual/electronic meetings to take over our Granges. The fellowship created by a face-to-face meeting is much stronger than that of a virtual meeting. We wish to continue that fellowship.



# Spotlight on Youth & Juniors

## Youth

### Background Checks... A Necessity For Those Working With Our Grange Youth

By Jerry Gwin  
Youth Grange Director

This month, we wanted to review the WA State Grange Youth Protection Policy. The State Grange Executive Committee recently reviewed and made minor revision to the policy. For the protection of both our youth and the adults working with them, all Grange members must follow the policy if they plan to continue working with our youth members. The adopted policy is summarized below:

#### POLICY:

The Washington State Grange (WSG) is herewith establishing a policy to effectively eliminate opportunities for abuse within the Youth and Junior Grange (JG) programs. This policy will focus on placing barriers to abuse within these programs.

The quality of our youth and junior programs and the safety of these young members are directly linked to the high-quality youth and junior leadership we have in place. Leaders should always remember that leading these programs is a privilege, not a right. We as leaders within the WSG need to recruit and train the best possible leaders we can on the state level.

WSG needs to conduct a background check on individuals who will have a supervisory or any other leadership role within these programs. While there is no fool-proof screening process that will identify a possible child abuser, we need to learn as much as possible

about a potential leader through an application process. This will, at a minimum, reduce the risk of accepting a child abuser. Some simple questions about why they want to be a Youth or JG leader and what discipline techniques they would utilize should be included on the application.

It is also important that current Youth and Junior Grange leaders realize the importance of conducting these background checks, even on present leaders. These checks will serve as a form of protection to our leaders from false accusations.

#### PROCEDURES:

The following are procedures that will be followed by all Junior and Youth Granges within the WSG. If these are not followed, it could be cause for the Charter of said youth or Junior Grange to be suspended.

#### Background Checks

1. Background checks will be completed annually.
2. All current members of the WSG Youth and Junior Committees will have a background check performed within three months. This applies even if the individual has had a background check performed for their present or previous position.
3. All future WSG Youth and Junior committee members will have a background check performed prior to being appointed to the committee. This applies even if the individual has had a background check performed for their present or previous position.



Jerry Gwin

4. All JG and youth program leaders for all Granges in the State of Washington shall be Grange members and will have a background check performed. This will include all JG Camp board members and staff 18 years of age and older. If this is not followed, it could be cause for the Charter of said youth or junior Grange to be suspended.

5. Elected State Grange Officers must complete the Washington State Patrol Background Check within 30 days of their election.

6. JG Camp Counselors, under 18 years of age, must complete the Washington State Patrol Background Check at least two weeks prior to attending camp.

7. All approved JG leaders will be 18 years of age or older.

8. The Junior Grange Leader/ Youth Fairs Program Leader/ Camp Director will submit a list of names to the State Grange Office of all individuals who are required to complete a background check. This list will be used to monitor who has or has not completed the annual check.

*The remaining portion of the Youth Protection Policy will be covered in the next issue.*

Please keep in mind, we can never have too much protection for our Grange youth and junior members. We must continue to do everything within our power to protect them, to guide them, and to teach them to be good and faithful productive members of our organization.

## Juniors

### The New Year Brings A New Junior Activity

By Heather Ferguson  
Junior Grange Director



Heather Ferguson

Happy New Year everyone! With the new year brings the new Programs Handbook and a new Junior activity, stop motion animation (SMA). For those who are not familiar with this, stop motion is a technique where objects are moved in small increments between still photos so that they will appear to move or change when the series of photos are played back. Basically, it is the digital version of a flipbook.

This activity will require a smart phone, tablet, or computer and will be submitted to me digitally. The easiest way to learn about SMA is by watching a few YouTube videos. There are many of them that share the basics by using a phone or tablet and different mediums. I will let you decide which video is best for your situation.

To introduce this topic to your Juniors, you could pair it with a movie night playing one of many stop motion or Claymation movies. A few good examples are Shaun the Sheep, Box Trolls, Rudolph the red Nosed Reindeer (the one with Burl Ives), or Chicken Run.

I do not care which medium you choose or if you loop or reuse frames in your videos. I am looking for a good script, easy to understand concept/message and your best effort in producing a video of your own. I can't wait to see what you come up with.

## Junior Connection

### HUMPTULIPS JUNIOR GRANGE

Humptulips Junior Grange adopted two families for the Christmas holidays, providing clothes, jackets, and toys for the children. Christmas dinner was also provided to each family. Junior Granges held their annual holiday raffle. The drawing of winners was held on December 21 for the 25 donated prizes. Part of the proceeds were used to purchase hot chocolate packets for 65 families. The packets were distributed through the Humptulips Grange Food Bank.

### South Union Grange +1 Juniors Decorate Christmas Tree

Only one of the five +1 Junior Grangers from South Union Grange #860 lives near the Grange so it can be difficult to coordinate projects. But one creative mom came up with a plan to send fillable ornaments to each of the Juniors so they could decorate them as they chose. Some of the ornaments from each Junior were then sent or delivered to the Grange to help decorate the Christmas tree there. The result was a beautifully decorated tree that was enjoyed by members,



guests, and renters who visited the hall during the Christmas season. Great job, South Union Juniors!





## ERNESTINE "ERNIE" KEISER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**Applications Due March 1, 2025**

- Scholarship is available for Grange members in good standing, who are graduating high school seniors or continuing two-year community college, four-year college/university, or postsecondary vocational school students attending an accredited school. Students pursuing graduate degrees or higher vocational certifications are also eligible to apply.
- Scholarship is available to full time or part time students.
- Application includes essay and letters of recommendation.

**LEARN MORE AT [HTTPS://GRANGEFOUNDATION.ORG/ERNESTINE-MEMORIAL-SCHOLARSHIP/](https://grangefoundation.org/ernestine-memorial-scholarship/)**



# Home & Family

## New Programs For 2025

By Helen Berg  
Family Living Director

It is time to be thinking about what you are going to put on your annual report. I know many of you have projects which are specific to your Grange. Please report these. Brag up your Grange.

On the Pomona report you are asked to indicate how many total

entries you have in each category. I can compare your entries to state with your Pomona entries. This also lets me know what is popular.

Feel free to type your report to make it more legible. I know there are times when my writing is not so clear. I think that comes with age. Ugh!

Lastly, I have a new address. Our children wanted us to be

closer to them, so we are in the process of moving to Longview. My new address is 417 Carlon Loop Road, Longview WA 98632. Moving in the winter is a challenge, but we will persevere. Have a great New Year.



Helen Berg

## National Grange Legacy Family: Grange History of the Hilpert Family

By Martha Townsend Harjo, 2024

August David Hilpert (1827-1906) immigrated to America on the Amaranth, arriving on January 24, 1849, from Weih in the Kingdom of Saxony, Germany. After wandering the U.S., he joined a survey crew in Washington and settled by the Skookumchuck River on August 3, 1858, where he claimed 160 acres. He married Magdalena Gephardt during a trip to Indiana, and they had eight children, including my grandfather, Otto Hilpert.

Otto had two brothers, Reinholt and Philip, and both became charter members of Oakview Grange #311 in 1909. Otto represented the Grange at the State Grange in Wenatchee in 1917. Philip tragically drowned in the Skookumchuck River in 1932. Otto's sister, Helen, introduced him to Milly Dortzbach in Colorado. After corresponding from 1916 to 1918, Otto traveled to marry Milly during the flu epidemic, having the first outdoor wedding in Denver. Milly, a trained pianist, soon became the pianist for Oakview Grange in 1924.

Otto was a farmer who built the red barn near Breen's gravel pit. He and Milly raised their only daughter, Eileen Marie Hilpert, who joined Oakview Grange in 1937. As Eileen grew up, her maternal grandparents lost their fortune in California, prompting Otto and Milly to welcome them into their home, where they also became Grange members



Washington State Grange President Tom Gwinn presents the National Grange Legacy Family certificate to Martha Harjo at a recent Oakview Grange meeting. They were recognized at the National Session in November in Bettendorf, Iowa.

in 1939.

Eileen was cherished by her family, with Otto managing the farm animals and her grandfather Peter tending the yard. Eileen attended the Gibson Valley schoolhouse a mile away, befriending children from other Grange families, such as Evelyn Clark, Alice Coakley's mother, and Leona O'Conner, the mother of Larry Fagerness.

Oakview Grange was central to the Hilpert, Dortzbach, and Townsend families. I have a quilt made by Grange women in the 1920s. My father, Frank Townsend, a logger, was involved with Alfa Grange in 1939, while my mother graduated early to become an elementary teacher. They married in 1950, and in 1955 moved to my mother's family home as Otto was ill. He passed later that year.

My parents had four children — my brothers Bill and Albert, sister Betty Lou, and me, born in 1953, exactly 100 years after August's arrival. We often attended Oakview Grange events, enjoying programs and dances. Bill and his wife live in the house Otto and Milly built; I still reside on the land purchased by August in 1858.

Though I am the only Granger among my siblings, I enlisted my husband John Harjo in 1977, and our son Isaac and his family joined in 2022. My sister Betty Lou married Gary Grauman, whose family also participated in Oakview Grange. We cherish the Grange's role in our family history, enjoying its community and events, (especially the good meals we have together), support, and the scholarships my grandchildren have received.



## Cozy, Comforting Recipe To Take On The Cold



(Courtesy of Family Features)

Cold-weather favorites that are baked, roasted or slow cooked are usually equal parts easy, delicious and filling, making them perfect solutions for chilly or snowy days.

Add a bit of comfort to your menu with this Loaded Chicken Bake that's ready in about half an hour. A short list of ingredients and allowing your oven to do most of the work for you mean it's ideal for saving time (and money at the grocery store) while still satisfying winter appetites.

Serving as the hearty base is German Potato Salad, made with thinly sliced potatoes and bacon in a traditional sweet-piquant dressing. While it's delicious when served chilled, heated or at room temperature on its own, it can also be the star of the show in family meals.

Find more favorite wintertime recipes by visiting: [READSalads.com](http://READSalads.com) and [AuntNellies.com](http://AuntNellies.com).

## Loaded Chicken Bake

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 15 minutes

Servings: 8

Recipe courtesy of Hungry In LA

### Ingredients:

Nonstick cooking spray  
2 cans (15 ounces each) READ German Potato Salad  
4 cups shredded rotisserie chicken or other cooked chicken  
1/2 cup heavy cream  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon finely ground black pepper  
3/4 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese  
1/4 cups crumbled, cooked bacon  
French fried onions (optional), plus additional for serving (optional)

### Instructions:

Preheat oven to 375 F. Lightly coat 9-by-13-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.

Spread German potato salad evenly in dish. Top evenly with chicken. In small bowl, stir heavy cream, salt and pepper. Pour mixture over chicken. Sprinkle with cheese, bacon and onions, if desired.

Bake 15 minutes, or until casserole is bubbly. Let stand 10 minutes. Top with additional fried onions, if desired.



# National Grange News

## NATIONAL GRANGE: CITIZENSHIP & TAXATION POLICY STATEMENT - 2024

*Adopted November 2024  
158th Annual Session of the  
National Grange, Bettendorf,  
Iowa*

### Broadcasting

The National Grange supports public broadcasting concepts, improved service for our rural communities, and continuing federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting through self-supporting sources of financing.

### Broadband

Broadband and cellular connectivity must be priorities to ensure every American equitable connectivity.

### Elected Officials

The National Grange urges all elected officials to work across party lines to ensure the best outcome for all persons they

represent. The National Grange supports an amendment to the United States Constitution that should read: "Congress shall make no law that applies to the citizens of the United States that does not apply equally to Senators and/or Representatives, just as Congress shall make no law that applies to the Senators and/or Representatives that does not apply equally to the citizens of the United States." Further, when the federal government is shut down because Congress has failed to pass proper funding, Congress should not be paid for the period of the shutdown.

### Elections

The National Grange urges all of its members to exercise their right to vote. We further recommend that all ballots and pertinent instructions for all elections be printed in the English language only. Proof of

citizenship is to be required at the time of voter registration, at the polls and/or anyone requesting an absentee ballot with federally approved photo identification to verify they are a legal voter within this country and proper state. We oppose same day registration voting laws.

### Government and Legislative Affairs

The National Grange believes all government-mandated programs and agencies must contain "sunset" provisions, including a target termination date; systematic and continuous reviews of all mandated programs be made periodically by an appropriate board of review and all mandated programs must be funded and financed by the government of origin and that at any point funding is not provided, the mandate will be removed.

The National Grange strongly opposes the use of any commission, council, or other consortium of non-elected appointees to create legislative mandates that Congress must adhere to, that are not subject to judicial review or the American system of checks and balances.

### Government Service

The National Grange encourages the federal government to provide assistance immediately following the successful request by a State Governor for a declaration of a national disaster in the United States, supports efforts to improve the collection and dissemination of accurate and timely statistical data by all federal agencies, encourages legislation to require the Commerce Census Bureau to return to inclusion of a separate category for farm families.

### Government Spending

The National Grange strongly advocates for Congress to put aside partisan politics to pass a balanced budget, prevent federal government shutdowns, and ensure a permanent solution to our deficit problems. The National Grange believes the issuance of Social Security, other critical social service monetary supplements, military salaries, benefits, or expenses should not be affected, delayed or reduced, should a federal government shutdown occur.

### Native Americans

The National Grange supports the continuation of all rights and privileges enjoyed by Native Americans as U.S. citizens, including fulfilling all responsibilities associated with such citizenship, which includes being subject to the same laws as other citizens.

### Patriotism, Prayer, and Religious Observances

The National Grange strongly supports joining with like-minded organizations along with churches and individuals to protect our religious freedoms and the First Amendment.

### Social Security

The National Grange encourages Congress to positively reform the Social Security System to ensure its future solvency and use Social Security funds for Social Security programs only.

### Social Welfare Programs

The National Grange supports legislation that would require drug testing to be included in the eligibility requirements for welfare recipients. The National Grange supports requiring additional means to facilitate the identification and location of each child's parent for purposes of welfare recovery.

### Veterans Affairs

The National Grange supports the continued operation of all Veterans' Hospitals and veterans' eligibility for medical care and benefits.

### Miscellaneous

The National Grange supports the creation of a Presidential Blue-Ribbon Commission on the preservation of the American Dream to ensure that our country is stronger tomorrow than it is today.

The National Grange supports a simpler, legal route to employing guest workers, which will permit them to enter the country, work for a specific time in a specific location, and then return home.

The National Grange supports all rights that are granted in the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights and urges Congress not to consider legislation eliminating or repealing these rights.

## TAXATION

### Business, Investment, Capital Gains, and Inheritance Taxation

We support depreciation schedules for agricultural capital assets that accurately reflect the useful life of those assets.

### Personal Income Tax

The National Grange supports developing a simpler and fairer federal income tax code, written in precise, plain and understandable language. We further support simplifying the language that is used in the government's instruction pamphlets for filing individual income taxes.

### Sales, Excise Taxes, and Internet

The National Grange opposes the enactment of any national sales tax or any form of value added tax.

### Taxes - General

The National Grange supports the tax treatment of agricultural cooperatives as non-profit entities.

### Presidential Perspective:

## Resolve to be Grange Strong

By Christine Hamp  
National Grange President



Christine Hamp

As I reflect on my first year as President of the National Grange, I am filled with gratitude, pride, and an unshakable sense of purpose for the work ahead. This past year has been a testament to the power of connection, collaboration, and community – values that lie at the very heart of our organization.

Throughout the year, I have witnessed firsthand the resilience and passion of our Grange members. From local halls buzzing with activity to regional, state, and national gatherings where ideas flowed freely, our collective strength has been both humbling and inspiring. We have reconnected with our roots while embracing new opportunities to grow. We have taken bold steps toward ensuring that the Grange remains not only relevant but essential in the lives of our members and in the communities we serve.

One of the key pillars of this year has been the concept of Grange Strong – a belief that when we come together, share knowledge, and lift each other up, we amplify our collective impact. This idea has guided us as we've strengthened communication channels, encouraged broader participation, and empowered every member to have a voice and a role. Grange Strong is not just a slogan or a theme; it is a promise – a commitment to ensuring that every member feels valued, connected, and engaged.

Looking ahead to 2025, I resolve to build on this momentum. We will focus on:

- **Empowering Members:** Expanding opportunities for leadership development, skill-building, and collaboration to ensure that everyone has the tools they need to contribute meaningfully to our shared mission.
- **Growing Our Presence:** Enhancing outreach to attract new members, connect with younger generations, and amplify the Grange's role as a community hub for innovation, service, and support.
- **Strengthening Connections:** Continuing to foster a culture of open communication and shared purpose so that the Grange remains a unifying force across regions, generations, and traditions.

The work is just getting started, but we are moving forward – together. Let us carry the spirit of Grange Strong into the new year with determination, optimism, and a renewed sense of purpose. With every handshake, every meeting, and every act of service, we are building a stronger, more connected Grange for today and for the future.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and belief in the Grange. Together, we will make 2025 a year of growth, impact, and unity.

Let us stand Grange Strong!



# National Grange News

## A View From The Hill - 2024 Wrap-Up

By Burton Eller  
National Grange  
Legislative Director

### AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

#### Ag groups stall year-end funding package

Negotiations on an end of year Continuing Resolution spending package to avoid a government shutdown December 20 were set to be announced last weekend. The deal included a one-year extension of the 2018 farm bill. Ag groups and members of Congress were confident the massive funding package would include economic and disaster aid for farmers and climate funding for farm conservation programs. But it didn't. Several bipartisan members threatened to vote against the entire package if commodity price adjustments and disaster relief was not included in the deal. By Tuesday night, Senate and House leaders had hammered out a compromise package that brought agriculture interests on board. The new agreement extended the 2018 farm bill, allocated \$21 billion for disaster relief for farmers, set aside \$10 billion in market relief for row crop farmers, and allows E15 ethanol to be used year around. Then Wednesday evening, Elon Musk, President-elect Trump's nominee to co-lead his new Department of Government Efficiency, came out

against the latest package. Musk indicated he wanted Congress to replace the legislation with a relatively "clean" continuing resolution to fund the government into 2025. Unclear Wednesday evening was what such a stripped-down bill might include. We will see by Friday's shutdown deadline.

#### Meet your new Secretary of Agriculture

Brooke Rollins is President Trump's nominee for Secretary of Agriculture. Rollins, a native of Glen Rose, Texas, a small town southwest of Fort Worth, has a degree in agricultural development from Texas A&M University, a law degree from the University of Texas, was active in FFA and 4-H, and grew up raising horses and showing goats. She was the first female student body president at A&M. Her career includes stints as President of America First Policy Institute and running the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

### CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT

#### Most farmers got nothing from record conservation funding

About two-thirds of applicants for the USDA's climate programs were rejected despite record investment from the Inflation Reduction Act as demand continues to outstrip available resources. USDA supported

more than 23,000 climate-focused contracts that covered more than 11 million acres with \$3 billion in fiscal 2024. Despite record investment, strong demand for conservation programs meant a majority of farmers who applied received no funding.

### HEALTH CARE

#### Employer insurance should cover obesity care

The National Grange joined the Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention and numerous patient groups to ask employers for their support in ensuring that obesity is covered by their health plans just like other chronic diseases. Comprehensive obesity coverage should include the full range of evidence-based obesity options, including medical nutrition, therapy, intensive behavioral therapy, surgery, and medications. Obesity is associated with health complications such as heart disease, diabetes, breast cancer, fertility issues and more.

### IMMIGRATION & LABOR

#### Immigration overhaul could threaten agricultural economies

Immigrants make up about two-thirds of the nation's farmworkers, and two in five of those are not legally authorized to work in the United States, according to the Department

of Labor. Industries such as meat processing, dairy farms, poultry growers, and livestock farms also rely heavily on immigrants. Agriculture strongly supports agriculture labor reform that provides permanent legal status to current workers and their families and gives farmers and ranchers access to a workable guestworker program. Until then, however, agriculture has adopted a wait-and-see stance on President-elect Trump's vow to invoke mass deportations.

#### H-2A wage rates increasing

The minimum wage rate farmers are required to pay H-2A (temporary agriculture) workers is rising an average of 4.47% nationally to \$17.74 per hour for 2025. The new adverse effect wage rates for temporary employment of foreign workers in agriculture vary from a low of \$14.83 an hour in Arkansas to a high of \$20.08 per hour in Hawaii. The adverse effect wage rate is supposed to prevent employment of H-2A from depressing wage rates for domestic labor.

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

#### DOGE spending cuts could endanger broadband funding

The \$42 billion Broadband Equity Access and Deployment "Internet for All" (BEAD) program funded



by the bipartisan infrastructure law has reached a milestone. Plans from all 56 states and territories have been approved, which outline how they will use their grant money to ensure no resident is without high-speed internet. The next step will be for states to request access to their allocated BEAD funding and select the providers who will build and upgrade the high-speed networks of the future. However, the new Trump administration's so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) is poised to take a close look at the BEAD program costs, timelines, and efficiencies. Some recent criticism of the BEAD program has been the requirement that alternate technologies, such as unlicensed fixed wireless access and low-earth satellites, would not be eligible for deployment funding. Gladly, that requirement is moving toward the Grange's long-term policy that calls for approval of all technologies that can effectively, efficiently, and rapidly reach the last mile of country road.

## Lecturer's Department

## You Have A Choice in 2025

By Leslie Jo Wells  
State Grange Lecturer

As you review the 2025 Program Handbook, you may notice a change to the Fair Booth Contest. The objective of the Fair Booth program is to improve public opinion of the Grange and the community it serves by telling the story of agriculture. To support this goal, what used to be called a Project Booth is now an Educational Booth with an emphasis on Agriculture. This change was made for a couple of different reasons: 1. We are historically an agriculture based organization and 2. The previous category title of Project/Information/Education was too broad and tended to promote community service activities or our individual Grange's activities rather than agriculture. This change should not deter you from continuing to put in displays at your fairs. You can do a booth that shows how to grow a garden – be it flowers or vegetables. Present information about preparing the earth, planting your seeds or starts, caring for the growth (weeding/watering) and then harvesting your products. Or, let's say there is an effort in your area to rezone some properties for development which will encroach on local agricultural activities. Your display could reflect on the results of this development and promote your Grange's involvement in working with the "powers that be" to mitigate those issues. Again, reflecting an agricultural impact. We as an organization need to promote agriculture – remember that people need to realize where their food comes from.

At the top of this column it says "You Have A Choice in 2025," that's because if your Booth is not to support agriculture, you can still enter it under the Membership Department's GRANGE PROMOTIONAL DISPLAY CONTEST "GRANGE STRONG: ROOTED, RESILIENT, UNITED" We encourage Granges to promote their Grange via displays in their communities throughout the year. This may be during Grange Month, during

your county fair, or at any time throughout the year. The purpose of the displays is to promote the Grange, our programs and activities, and to share the positive impact we make on our communities. Displays are a wonderful opportunity to showcase your Grange and to gather support for your activities. The information regarding this Promotional Display Contest can be found in the Program Handbook.

So... you do have a choice of the contest to enter. In either case, we are educating the public about our organization and the Grange's role in the community.



Leslie Jo Wells

## Heirloom Project Readings January, February and March 2025

**JANUARY 2025:** "Be cheerful, be united. Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

(Installation Ceremony; Installation Officer)

**FEBRUARY 2025:** "Hope is the heavenly light that gilds our labors. Were we deprived of that source of consolation, life would indeed be dreary."

(Fourth Degree; Pomona)

**MARCH 2025:** "An honest man is the noblest work of God"

(First Degree; Lecturer)





# Grange Connection



## Granges Celebrate the Holiday Season

### Ralston Grange Hosts 93rd Christmas Potluck and Program



Ralston Grange held its 93rd Christmas Potluck and Program on December 15th. Over 100 people attended this community event. After the potluck attendees were entertained by a variety of numbers presented by those attending, door prizes were awarded and Santa paid a visit. The evening ended with a candy bag for each of the kids!



### Little Miss Friendly Visits Mossyrock Grange At Santa Breakfast



Mossyrock Grange was visited by SW Washington Fair Little Miss Friendly Hadleigh Westover at our Santa Breakfast on December 14.

### Malo Grange Holds Annual Christmas Celebration



Malo Grange hosted its annual Holiday Celebration and White Elephant Gift Exchange. Turnout was good and we had several guests. A yummy potluck and as you can see a fun gift exchange. The holiday carols were even more musical this year.





# Grange Connection



## Granges Celebrate the Holiday Season

### Centerville Grange Hosts First Community Lunch\*Mas



Centerville Grange #81 hosted their first annual Community Lunch\*Mas and Family Fun afternoon this past December 8th. To be Lecturer Claudine Mincks came up with idea after attending the National Grange zoom meeting Shortcuts to Success – add a little sparkle to your next event with Beth Westbrook & Nona Bear as part of continuing work of Rural Life Initiative that Pfizer sponsored in 2024. At the close of the meeting National Grange President Chris Hamp announced \$500 grant opportunities on a first come first serve basis to be used on a local Community Event by the end of the year along with creating a calendar of events flyer for your Grange to distribute at the event and beyond. Centerville Grange was blessed with one of the \$500 grants.

With such a short period of time to plan, roll out an event and flyer to distribute it took all the Grange's members to give in whatever way they could to make it a success. This year's Lunch\*Mas was centered around family Reindeer Games and Activities. Darlene, Joanne, Dorie, and Trish prepared and served "reindeer grazing foods" such as crackers, cheese, meats, fruits trays designed as Christmas trees, wreaths, and Santa hats, and veggie trays alike. Sara designed reindeer cookies that were quite a hit too. Lucille welcomed all the guests and helped them find their reindeer name and gave them the reindeer antlers. Glenda created her talent with paper boxes that were made into reindeer heads that housed "reindeer bait" that could be thrown on the yard at night to attract the reindeer and Santa's sleigh. Dean, Nick, and Kay assisted with the activities that included reindeer bowling, reindeer toss, throw the nose on Rudolph, a photo booth, and the STEM activity Can Reindeer Fly which was a huge hit with the kids and kids at heart. The local community of Centerville claimed the Grange must do this again!

### Sammamish Valley Grange Hosts Holiday Gathering



Members, family and friends of the Sammamish Valley Grange #286 enjoyed the Holiday Gathering in December at the Grange Hall in Woodinville, Washington. Holiday music, traditional treats, along with the annual Wreath Making activity, made for a joyous celebratory event. Participants were excited to show off their creative wreath making skills and members loved wearing their new "Grange Strong" aprons!

Photos: #1: A group of participants pose at the annual Grange Holiday Gathering & Wreath Making event. #2: Showing off the new Grange Strong aprons are Grange President, Tom Quigley, member Susan Webster and volunteer Steph Quigley.



# Grange Connection



## Granges Celebrate the Holiday Season

### Santa Makes A Visit At "Christmas At Hope Grange"



"Christmas at Hope Grange" brought together believers of all ages. It was an evening filled with comfort food, holiday music, a grand silent auction, cake walks, bingo, Santa, and children's delight.

As we continue our holiday tradition a special "Thank You" for our Grange members and all who participated that made this year's "Christmas at Hope Grange" as memorable as the previous 120 years of holiday celebration!

An extra special "Thank You" to our suppliers for the amazing Silent Auction items and the people who purchased them as these funds enable Hope Grange to assist our surrounding communities. We appreciate members of the Washington Acoustic Music Association who shared their time and talent to sprinkle holiday magic on this event. And, of course, Santa for spreading holiday joy!



### Fruitland Grange Invites Community To Christmas Party



Fruitland Grange had a wonderful community Christmas party at our building on Sunday December 15. Over 400 people attended. The kids got to decorate cookies, feast on pancakes, drink hot cocoa and listen to Santa as he read to them in the winter forest. There was also Candy Cane trivia on the walls for people to read. People who attended generously brought coats, hats and gloves that will be donated to the Tacoma Rescue Mission.

### Green Bluff Grange Collects For Toys For Tots



Green Bluff Grange members hosted the Toys for Tots collection at the Grange Hall in December.





# Grange Connection



## Granges Celebrate the Holiday Season

### Terrace Heights Grange Hosts Community Christmas Party



Terrace Heights Grange in Yakima held its annual Community Christmas party on December 18th. Activities included face painting, Letters to Santa, pinecone bird feeders, picture boards, pictures with Santa... and the infamous Toy Walk... where every child won a toy prize! The Yakima Lighted Christmas Trucks also showed up for all to enjoy! And everyone got ice cream and cookies!



### Fredonia Grange Hosts Christmas Dinner For Family Promise Program

Fredonia Grange continues to support families and prays for their ongoing success. Pictured are some graduates from the Family Promise program, whose families have secured employment and stable housing.

Oakley, Jackson, and Emma are the great-grandchildren of Sandra Rude. The boys, dressed as Santa's elves, assist him in distributing gift bags to the children. Sandi Rude serves as the President of Fredonia Grange, which provides stockings filled with blankets and handmade hats as part of a community service project. The hats are crafted by the Mavis Group at Allen United Methodist Church.

The Skagit Valley Pomona Grange hosts the Christmas Dinner, with Wallace Farms donating potatoes and US Chef Store contributing the meat. A special thanks goes to Fredonia Grange members Susan Custance and Jill Weber for cooking and preparing the mashed potatoes, while Steve Yates handled the meat preparation. Volunteers from Allen United Methodist Church, including Stephen Sproul, Lisa Lewis, and Mark and Gretchen Thomas, helped with the dishwashing. Peggy Bridgeman and her friend assisted in serving the families, while other Fredonia members, such as Sandi Rude, Janet Bridges (also a church member), Laurel Jacobs, Mary Celia, Basil Houser, Jill Weber, Talea, Hunter, Elijah Price, and Todd Lennings, helped plate and serve the food. Susan Custance entertained as our "Story Teller," Jill Michels organized the stockings and bags, Steve Yates took on the role of Santa, and Debbie Riegel-Yates led the dinner organization. A wonderful time was had by all!

Group photo: Front row - Hunter, Elijah, Mary, Santa, Oakley, Janet, and Debbie holding Emma. Back row - Susan, Todd, Talea, Jill M., Laurel, Sandi, Jill W., and Basil holding Jackson.



# Grange Connection

## A Tribute To Mike Fair From Black Lake Grange

In March 2015, Mike and Susie Fair embarked on a meaningful journey by joining Black Lake Grange #861 in Thurston County. This decision was deeply rooted in family ties, as Susie's parents, Ted and Glenna Brown, were dedicated long-time members of both Black Lake Grange and Thurston County Pomona Grange. Originally hailing from Missouri, Mike had moved to California during his childhood. It was there that he met and married Susie. A few years later, seeking to be closer to family, they relocated to Olympia at the encouragement of Ted and Glenna, who were eager for them to become a part of the Grange. While Susie had fond

memories of the Grange from her upbringing in Chelan, Mike was stepping into uncharted territory, having never encountered the organization before.

After the passing of Ted and Glenna, Mike found himself reflecting on their unwavering commitment to the Grange and its values. Inspired by Susie's stories of her father's deep belief in the Grange, Mike felt a calling to honor their legacy. With this newfound determination, he decided to join the Grange and take on the role of president of Black Lake Grange.

Mike's journey as president was marked by enthusiasm and a hands-on approach. Confronted

with dwindling membership, he reached out to members of Grace Redeemer Bible Church, which was renting the Grange space, and fostered a strong bond with them. Through his efforts, several church members joined the Grange, leading to collaborative projects aimed at revitalizing the space. They hosted community events and raised funds through rentals, all while striving to ensure that Black Lake Grange became a beloved neighbor in the community.

Demonstrating his commitment to the community, Mike organized fundraisers to support the Black Lake Grocery Store after it suffered damage due to a car crashing into

the store at a high rate of speed. The store had been closed for several months but, with the community's support, it reopened successfully, much to the gratitude of its owners. Interestingly, this was the same store that Ted and Glenna had once owned, where Susie had worked during her high school years.

Mike's dedication to the Grange led to his election as president of Thurston County Pomona Grange, where he enjoyed attending conventions and meetings. Sadly, he later had to step down due to health challenges, but he continued to lead Black Lake Grange until declining health due to a cancer



diagnosis made it difficult for him to serve. At the November meeting, he announced the tough decision to not renew his membership. Despite stepping back, the doors of Black Lake Grange will always remain open for Mike — our friend and leader — whose contributions and spirit will always be cherished.

## Pomona Connection

### COWLITZ / WAHKIAKUM COUNTY POMONA

Cowlitz / Wahkiakum Pomona will meet on Saturday, January 18, 2025 at the Catlin Grange Hall. It will begin with a 1 p.m. potluck lunch, with the meeting following the lunch. The monthly Pomona project will be to bring canned food.

### THURSTON COUNTY POMONA

Thurston County Pomona #8 met on December 5 for

their Christmas party and monthly meeting. McLane Grange hosted the evening and decorated their hall for the festivities. A potluck preceded the meeting was accompanied by live holiday music. During the Lecturer program, each subordinate Grange gave a short Christmas reading or game. Special guests for the evening were State Master Tom Gwin and Bob McLean who is Master elect of King County Pomona. Installation

of officers will be held at South Union Grange at 2:00 on Sunday January 12. Light refreshments will be provided by Pomona officers. The next regular meeting will be February 6 at 7:00 pm. Black Lake Grange will host, and pre-meeting refreshments will be available starting at 6:00 pm. Tom Gwin will be there to present Grange Resource and Information Training and distribute program materials.

## Clark County Pomona Visits Learning Center With Santa And Elves



Clark County Pomona #1 made a visit to the children's learning center Dec. 10, with Santa Larry Goble and his elves, Janice Anderson, Janette Cejka, Ann Van Antwerp, Becky Meets, Vickie Gilmour and Rudolph Brenda Lester. We had 45 children that received coloring books, crayons, hat, scarf, and a comfort toy made by Lanette Pinard.

## Pomona Calendar

### Please submit your 2025 Pomona Meeting Dates.

<b>CHELAN</b>	January 16 at Smitty's Restaurant, 12 p.m. social luncheon.
<b>CLALLAM</b>	February 19 at Crescent, 6 p.m. potluck, 6:30 p.m. meeting.
<b>CLARK</b>	January 8 at Manor, 7 p.m.
<b>COLUMBIA</b>	to be announced.
<b>COWLITZ/ WAHKIAKUM</b>	January 18 at Catlin, 1 p.m. potluck with meeting to follow. Will collect canned food.
<b>DOUGLAS</b>	to be announced
<b>EXCELSIOR</b>	March 22 at The Valley, 10:30 a.m.
<b>FERRY</b>	March 10 at Malo, 6 p.m.
<b>GRAYS HARBOR/ PACIFIC</b>	January 11 at North River, 10:30 a.m. Potluck lunch at 12 noon.
<b>KING</b>	February 15 at Meridian, 10 a.m.
<b>Klickitat</b>	January 11 at Centerville, 12 p.m. potluck, 1 p.m. meeting.
<b>LEWIS</b>	February 1 at Cowlitz Prairie.
<b>MASON</b>	January 18 at The Agate, 11 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. lunch.
<b>PEND OREILLE</b>	March 2 at Camden, 10 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. potluck.
<b>PIERCE</b>	February 1 at Ohop, 10 a.m.
<b>SKAGIT</b>	to be announced.
<b>SNOHOMISH</b>	January 18 at Tualco, 10 a.m.
<b>SPOKANE</b>	February 15 at Central, 10 a.m.
<b>STEVENS</b>	January 24 at Kettle River, 6 p.m. potluck, 6:30 p.m. meeting.
<b>THURSTON</b>	February 6 at Black Lake, 7 p.m.
<b>WHATCOM</b>	February 18 at Ten Mile, 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. meeting. Baking contest entries due.
<b>WHITMAN</b>	January 18 at Eddy's Restaurant in Colfax, 11 a.m. meeting, 12 p.m. no-host lunch.
<b>YAKIMA VALLEY</b>	January 13 at Fruitvale, 3 p.m.



# Grange Connection

## CLARK COUNTY

Washington Grange hosted a Repair Clark County event on December 7th. This event is sponsored by the Columbia Springs Env Ed Cntr. There were 26 different volunteers ready to repair or fix anything from vintage radios, small appliances, sewing mending, vacuum cleaners, bicycles and jewelry to name a few. During the 3-hour event approximately 100 to 125 people brought items in to be repaired. The Grange set up an information table with 6 members of our Grange present. It was a great opportunity to show off our hall to the public and answer questions about the Grange.

## KING COUNTY

Cedar Grange and President Terry Beckler will be hosting the CFL and Lecturer's Contests for King County Pomona on Saturday April 26th.

East Hill Grange President Terri Flores and 2025 King County Pomona President Bob McLean, (also a member of East Hill) and Beth Bradley of East Hill distributed Christmas bags and treats to the Auburn Senior Center at their Annual Christmas

Happy Valley Grange has volunteered to host the King County Pomona meeting on Saturday May 17th, 2025.

Meridian Grange under the leadership of President Rod Axel is working on upgrading the Meridian Grange Hall and encouraging more activities and rentals. President Rod and 2 of Meridian's New Officers Matthew and Tiffany Richard attended the Pierce County Pomona meeting where they were installed.

Meridian will be hosting the King County Pomona meeting on Saturday February 15th. Details to follow.

Sallal Grange will be voting at their meeting January 6th to Host the Installation of officers for King County Pomona on January 31st 7:00pm. This will also be the distribution of the 2025 Grange packets for King County. Details to follow.

Sammamish Valley Grange (President Fred Quigley, Secretary Brenda Vanderloop and several other members) have done an amazing job to improve and perfect their meetings via Zoom when not meeting in person. Members receive a link for the meeting and also an agenda, minutes, treasurer's report and other documents to review and discuss. Great Job Sammamish Valley.

## SPOKANE COUNTY

Green Bluff Grange hosted the Community Christmas party and Toys for Tots collection was held on Saturday, December 14.

Santa showed up to give out Santa Bags to all the kiddos. Grange members had a festive meeting and gift exchange on December 17. The Grange is rented for family gatherings during the Christmas season. Our 2025 calendar of events is set. January 7 will be Game Night. Our first "all you can eat pancake breakfast" will be on January 26. Something new will be a Mac & Cheese cook off on Feb. 4.

## THURSTON COUNTY

South Union Grange held their annual Christmas potluck and celebration on Sunday, December 8. Violet Prairie Grangers and their families again joined for the afternoon event.

Following a sumptuous dinner, members and guests moved to the main hall where South Union Master Patty Mathews presented the membership recognition awards.

She announced that Ken Mathews (who was not in attendance) would receive his 40-year certificate, then presented a Golden Sheaf pin and certificate to Christie Vintilo for fifty years of Grange membership. Lecturer Beverly York lead the group in a Christmas carol sing-along. After a few carols, the music was interrupted by the jingling of bells as Santa and his elves entered the room. Children received gifts from Santa, then everyone was invited to take photos of their families with the jolly old fellow. They held their last meeting of the year on Monday December 16.

After a presentation by Passionate Pussycats Feline Rescue followed by Q&A time, the Grange voted to donate use of the hall for a mobile veterinarian service every few months.

As their next meeting will be on January 20, which is a holiday, it was decided to hold a potluck at 6:00 during which they will discuss activities and events for 2025. The meeting will begin at 7:00 that night. The Grange's holiday food drive for Thurston County Food Bank will continue through the January meeting.

## WHATCOM COUNTY

Haynie Grange will be having our February Business Meeting on Saturday, February 8th, at 11:00 am.



## Barberton Grange Honors Local Veterans

Barberton Grange held a Veterans Day program honoring local Veterans. We all enjoyed a Lasagna lunch, video presentation and patriotic songs by our Grange Master Matt Hodges. The highlight of the program was presenting a flag that was flown over the US Capital to 96 year old World War II vet Ken Mathys. Boy Scout Troop 333 did the flag presentation before the program.



## Central Grange Presents \$1000 Scholarship Award



Central Grange recently awarded a \$1000 scholarship to Alex Tinelli. Master Mike Britton and Treasurer Cheryl Britton made the presentation. Thanks to Scholarship Committee members Forrest Diehl and Rich Krenkel.

## Waller Road Grange Hosts Holiday Concert



Waller Road Grange hosted the Puyallup Valley Community Band for a holiday concert, including several sing-a-long songs. Approximately 70 community members attended and enjoyed live music, cocoa, and homemade cookies.

On The Web:  
[www.WA-Grange.com](http://www.WA-Grange.com)



# SAVE THE DATE!

# Upcoming State Grange Events

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

**NOTE:** .....Grange Resource and Information Training Sessions will begin in January. Most sessions will be held in conjunction with Pomona meetings across the state, however, some will be stand-alone meetings. All Grange members are invited.

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

**JANUARY 7** .....Grange Resource & Information Training at the Deer Lagoon Grange Meeting, 6 p.m. at the Deer Lagoon Grange Hall (Island County).

**JANUARY 8** .....Grange Resource & Information Training at the Clark County Pomona Meeting, 7 a.m. at the Manor Grange Hall.

**JANUARY 11** .....Grange Resource & Information Training at the Klickitat County Pomona Meeting, 10 a.m. at the Centerville Grange Hall.

**JANUARY 11** .....Agenda Items for State Executive Committee Meeting Due

**JANUARY 13** .....Grange Resource & Information Training at the Yakima Valley Pomona Meeting, 5 p.m. at the Fruitvale Grange Hall.

**JANUARY 15** .....State Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom, 6 p.m.

**JANUARY 17** .....Grange Resource & Information Training at the Fredonia Grange Hall (Skagit County), 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. meeting.

**JANUARY 18** .....Grange Resource & Information Training at the Snohomish County Pomona Meeting, 5 p.m. at the Tualco Grange Hall.

**JANUARY 19-20** .....Grange Youth Legislative Experience @ Olympia

**JANUARY 20** .....Grange Legislative Update – Zoom Meeting, 6 p.m.

**JANUARY 24** .....Grange Resource & Information Training at the Stevens County Pomona Meeting, 6 p.m. at the Kettle River Grange Hall.

**JANUARY 25** .....Grange Resource & Information Training at the Whelan Ewartsville Grange Hall (Whitman County), 11 a.m.

**JANUARY 25** .....Grange Resource & Information Training at the Central Grange Hall (Spokane County), 7 p.m.

**JANUARY 31** .....Grange Resource & Information Training at the Sallal Grange Hall (King County), 6 p.m. – will include installation of Pomona Grange officers

**FEBRUARY 1** .....Grange Resource & Information Training at the Dry Creek Grange Hall (Clallam County), 11 a.m.

**FEBRUARY 2** .....Southwest District Convention Host Committee Meeting, 12 p.m. at the SW Washington Fairgrounds, followed by Kick Off Meeting at the Adna Grange Hall

**FEBRUARY 3** .....Grange Legislative Update – Zoom Meeting, 6 p.m.

**FEBRUARY 4** .....State Grange Legislative Day @ Olympia

**FEBRUARY 6** .....Grange Resource & Information Training at the Thurston County Pomona Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Black Lake Grange Hall.

**FEBRUARY 7** .....Grange Resource & Information Training, 7 p.m. at the Moses Lake Grange Hall (Grant County).

**FEBRUARY 8** .....Grange Resource & Information Training at the Okanogan County Pomona Meeting, 10 a.m. at the Okanogan Grange Hall

**FEBRUARY 9** .....Grange Resource & Information Training, 1 p.m. at the Bee Hive Grange Hall (Chelan County).

**FEBRUARY 17** .....Grange Legislative Update – Zoom Meeting, 6 p.m.

**MARCH 3** .....Grange Legislative Update – Zoom Meeting, 6 p.m.

**MARCH 15** .....Agenda Items for State Executive Committee Meeting Due

**MARCH 17** .....Grange Legislative Update – Zoom Meeting, 6 p.m.

**MARCH 19** .....State Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom, 6 p.m.

**MARCH 31** .....Grange Secretary First Quarter Reports Due

**APRIL 7** .....Grange Legislative Update – Zoom Meeting, 6 p.m.

**APRIL 21** .....Grange Legislative Update – Zoom Meeting, 6 p.m.

**APRIL 27-28** .....State Executive Committee Meeting (face to face)

**MAY 15-17** .....Western Regional Grange Leaders Conference @ Hamilton, Montana

**JUNE 25-29** .....136th Annual Washington State Grange Convention at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds Centralia/Chehalis, 1909 S Gold St, Centralia, WA 98531

**NOVEMBER 8-16** .....159th National Grange Convention Cruise aboard the Carnival Horizon – leave Miami on 11/8; visit Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao; arrive back in Miami on 11/16

## Turkey with a Golden Earring

In the early morning hours of November 26th, as millions of Americans begin to prepare for their Thanksgiving dinner, there is one family who was very surprised by a shiny object.

It all started with a trip to the grocery store to buy the perfect 19-pound turkey in the small town of Sequim, Washington. Valerie Ellard, who was surrounded by her family in the kitchen, began to get the turkey ready for the oven. As Valerie reached into the cavity of the turkey and pulled out the giblet bag, she noticed a shiny object in the bag. She opened the bag and a gold earring fell onto the counter, yes, a gold earring.

The single earring with a post holding

a charm with a symbol of a vase with a flame, a black banner with two letters P on the left side and an H on the right. Could this be the symbol of a Grange and P & H, could it stand for Patrons of Husbandry? Grange member and witness to the find, Robert Clark, who has been a Sequim Prairie Grange Member for over 75 years believes it belongs to a Granger.

Wouldn't it be ironic if this was true, since a lifelong Grange member found it!

Better yet, who does it belong to and how in the heck did it get into the giblet bag stuffed in the cavity of Valerie's turkey!

After doing many hours of research looking for any images or articles related

to this type of earring. I decided to reach out to the Washington State Grange President, Tom Gwin, to see if he could help solve this mystery. He forwarded the image to a few Grange memorabilia collectors and the results are in. It's a seventh-degree pin/earring. "Similar pins were handed out to all the seventh-degree candidates this year at the National Grange Session." Tom Gwin said in an email.

The "what" part of the mystery is now solved but now it's the "how" part.

How did a seventh-degree earring get into the giblet bag of a 19-pound turkey? One theory is that the turkey ate it, but never digested it properly and it ended up



staying in the gizzard. The other theory is that it fell off the worker while making the giblet bag in the processing plant.

Bottom line, is there a seventh-degree member out there missing an earring? The earring has been on one heck of a journey to Sequim, WA!