

Colorado State Grange



Program Director/Lecturers Newsletter

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Hello fellow Lecturers/Program Directors:

It has been several years since I have served as the Lecturer for the Colorado State Grange. When I served before I served for eight years, so I am experienced, but that doesn't mean that I have any more knowledge than any of you have.

In recent years I have been serving my local Grange as the Lecturer. After a few years I could tell that I was getting burned out and tired of planning programs and running out of ideas. That's when I gave my Grange an ultimatum. That ultimatum was that I needed help if I was going to continue serving them as Lecturer. So what I did was involve the members by asking them to sign up to present a simple program of their choosing at the business meetings. They could bring in a guest speaker, give a quiz, share interesting information, stories, poems or play games. The field was wide open and it was to be something that they were interested in. Did I know it would work, absolutely not. But it did and those who signed up did a fantastic job of bringing interesting programs to our meetings and they are now on their third year of providing programs at meetings and since I am no longer Lecturer, the new Lecturer has this system in place and it is much easier to do the job.

I created a sign up sheet with the meeting dates and passed it around during the grange meeting on a clip board with a pen so that members could

sign up for the month of their choice. Our Grange meets once for a business meeting and a second time for a social, educational or fun meeting most months. There are months when our meeting dates conflict with holidays and we usually skip those dates so members can have their holiday time for family gatherings. So as Program Director/Lecturer the responsibilities of two programs a month eventually wears one out.

Something we are trying for the first time this year was the establishment of teams for various activities that we wanted to continue. After a brainstorming session we selected the projects/activities. Then we asked individuals to sign up to be the team that plans, prepare, publicizes and executes the project/activities. The team does all the work and the Lecturer just makes sure that the teams are on track and get the information out. Since this is the first year, we are still waiting to see if it works, but I am confident that it will. This process only left a few months with activities that become the responsibility of the Lecturer. This way every Granger who wants to be involved has an opportunity to be a part of a leadership team and develop talents that they have that they don't usually use.

Forms for the above two ideas are in the Lecturers packet.

Program Ideas gathered from the National Grange Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Grange headquarters.

June 25-27, 2010, Washington, D.C.

Some of the highlights:

- Attend the Building Rededication ceremony on June 26, 2010.
- Take Guided tour of the National Grange Headquarters.
- View the historic Grange artifact on display.
- Visit and explore the many tourist attractions in Washington, D.C.
- Special Activities for Youth and Juniors will be available.

I picked up a DVD entitled “The National Grange Building - 50 years of Service.” If you’d like to borrow it, just contact me.

Distinguished Grange Program -

honors Subordinate and State Granges that fulfill their responsibilities as part of the National Grange, while excelling in the areas of membership,, fundraising, and service to their communities. Applications must be received by August 1, 2010 for consideration. If interested in the

criteria please contact me for a copy.

Looking for Volunteers to help with a project ?

You might want to consider establishing your activity on **Craig’s List** on the internet. Select the volunteers section - not many other organizations are using this resource and it could be a great way to get people involved you haven’t met. Also consider the category under Events - for Community.

You can establish a **Face Book** page for your Grange too that keeps internet users informed.

Oliver H. Kelley Farm DVD is available for a program. It was developed in 2006. The farm has applied for a grant so that they can rebuild and update the visitors center and when it is completed there may be a dedication ceremony in a few years. The farm is located in Elk River, MN, and is a real working farm from the 1800’s. If you want to borrow the DVD, please contact me.

Ideas from the Junior Grange Program:

The theme this year is “What’s your Story?”

Their small world - Country of study this year is “Australia.” They have some fun project ideas or you can come up with your own ideas. Maybe someone in your community has been to Australia

and would be willing to share pictures and their experience.

Get the kids in your community to participate in a public speaking contest, signing the manual alphabet or a song. sharing a special talent or skill that they are developing.

The Youth department has the *Francis McDowell Grange and current Events Trivia challenge 2010 available.* You could take some of the questions and make it into a program for a Grange quiz. It should be available on the national Grange web-site in the near future, but if you want a copy of it before that happens I can make a copy for you and send it to you. I don’t have the answers, but that could be part of the challenge.

“Broadband for Rural America” DVD is available to borrow.

“The Symphony of Health Care Delivery” DVD is also available. This was created in 2007.

One other idea that was presented is to **create a program based on the new passwords** for the Grange. This might help members remember the password and give it a richer meaning. You’ll have to wait until Jan or February when it comes out to develop this program, but I think it would be very interesting and educational.



Dogs for the Deaf DVD - I signed up to receive the Dogs for the Deaf DVD at the convention and when it becomes available I'll let you know. You might want to consider making a donation to Dogs for the Deaf or having a wish list shower for them. They have several things on their wish list like:

- Freeze dried liver
- Soft treats of any kind
- pressed Rawhides in all sizes
- Easy Cheese - great for giving meds
- Plush toys in all shapes and sizes
- Latex toys- not vinyl toys
- Dog cookies of any kind
- Dried Chicken strips
- Pork twists
- Nylabones - all sizes
- Blankets for our beds - new or used
- Towels for our baths - new or used
- Buckle collars
- leashes.
- Human friend could use batteries (AA Size) and a new or used digital camera so that they can take pictures of the pets when they do goofy things.



We Want your Great Ideas :

e-mail ideas to:
greatideas@nationalgrange.org
 and tell them your great idea!

Some of the ideas listed on the card I picked up are:

- ★BYOB (Bring your Own Banana) Ice cream Sundae Party for families.
- ★Host a Grange Movie Night throughout the summer one night a week. Have it be themed (Super Heros, 80's Night, etc.)
- ★Host a Breakfast with Santa for a local shelter. Have an adult member dress up as Santa, the rest cook, and the juniors wrap the presents.
- ★Turn your Grange hall into a Haunted House for the community! Have the money go towards a particular cause.
- ★Host a board game night after a meeting
- ★Have a Bring-A-Friend Membership Picnic to recruit new members.
- ★Host a iron Chef-style cooking contest between your members. (Maybe a Chili Cook-off?)



Create your own **Commercial** for your Subordinate Grange. Commercials should be only one to two minutes long. Might get the creative juices flowing in your members on how to promote your Grange in your community. The video could be placed on You tube or used as a special Grange week celebration! Might be fun and surely someone in your Grange has a video camera.

I have established a **Face Book page** for the Colorado State Grange Lecturers group under my Face Book page. You'll have to establish your own face book page in order to join, but it's relatively easy.

What is Facebook It is a free social network site where you can create your own profile, find and manage friends, join groups, and post pictures, among other things. You can also create a Facebook group for your community, Pomona, Junior or Youth Grange.

Go to WWW.facebook.com. On the right hand side of the page look for the box that reads "sign up for Facebook" and Facebook will walk you through , step by step to set up your account. Once you have signed up. a confirmation e-mail will be sent to your account. You must confirm this before starting your Facebook page.

