

Contact:
Gary Wardle
(303)349-7390 or
KathyWardle (720)
354-1196 with
questions or
Garwardle@gmail



Each State
should bring a
program
(activity) for the
Conference

Royal Fun at the Gorge

Great Plains Leadership Conference

See Registration Form on the back page of this *Granger*.

June 20
June 21
Canon
City, CO

Discounted Room
Rate per night:
\$118+taxes
\$253.46=2 nights
Book your room
by June 1.
Phone: (719)
275-8676
Identify your
reservation as
National Grange
Great Plains
Conference

Location: Quality Inn
3075 E. US 50
Canon City, Colorado
Conference Cost: \$75.00
Includes: \$45 for expenses plus
(Optional) \$30 for Royal Gorge Experience
Royal Gorge Experience:
Saturday afternoon
Walk the Bridge-956 ft above the Arkansas River
PLUS/ Aerial Gondola

Contact Colorado State Grange to Register for
the Conference before JUNE1
PHONE: (719) 748-5008
EMAIL: Costategrange@gmail.com
Pay by June 1: Colorado State Grange
Address: 7629 CR 100
Hesperus, CO 81326



PROJECT SUSTENANCE

GROWING FOOD SECURITY, SELF-SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE IN AMERICA'S HOMETOWNS

Project Sustenance

Food security, personal sustainability, and community and individual resilience: Grange programming and outreach across the nation has for generations focused on these areas. In 2025, these efforts and innovative new projects, programs, and outreach focused on these topics, will be celebrated under the banner of a “recognizable signature” program called Project Sustenance. “This signature initiative will allow most Granges to build on already

established programs, (and) allow members to showcase skills and knowledge...,” said Chris Hamp, National Grange President.

A series of resources and a toolkit for Granges to use, complete with recipes for success — descriptions of programs, outreach, services, and projects Granges have taken on to improve food security, self-sustainability, and resilience — are rolling out over the next several months on the National Grange website, social media and in publications like *Grange Today* and *Good Day!* magazine.

Visit the National Grange Website to learn more and to report your activities. www.nationalgrange.org.

Grange Insurance Association 2025 Scholarships

2025 APPLICATION DEADLINE APRIL 30

Grange Insurance Association (GIA) is thrilled to announce the launch of our 2025 Scholarship Program, offering funding to students pursuing higher education in academic, vocational, and community pathways. This year, they are offering seven scholarships, each worth \$2,500, to exceptional students from our operating region (CA, CO, ID, OR, WA, WY).

Scholarship Categories

- Academic Scholarship (5): For students attending accredited post-secondary institutions, including universities and colleges.
- Community Scholarship (1): Exclusively for Rainier Scholars pursuing undergraduate studies.
- Vocational Scholarship (1): For students pursuing specific technical certifications or attending technical institutes focused on skill-based training in areas such as trade schools, apprenticeships, or vocational programs.

Our goal is to reduce financial barriers and empower the next generation of leaders and innovators.

Submission Guidelines

Applicants must submit a maximum 750-word essay addressing the prompt by April 30, 2025. Essays will be graded using the following rubric:

Additional Requirements:

- Transcripts: Academic and community scholarship applicants must provide transcripts.

Important Dates

- Application Deadline: April 30, 2025.
- Winners Notified via email: Early June 2025.
- Scholarship Funding: Scholarship funds will be disbursed in July. Payments will be made payable to the student, not the school. W9 Required.

Application forms and more information is available at: www.grange.com/scholarships/.

— SAVE THE DATE —
October 2-4, 2025
Colorado State Grange Convention
Douglas County Fairgrounds

CSG SCHOLARSHIP LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

Scholarship applications

DUE APRIL 15, 2025

Applications can be found at
Coloradogranger.org

Applicants must be a relative of A Grange member.
By-laws do not restrict schools to instate schools.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Call individual Granges for more information.

March 2

Animas Valley Seed Exchange & Seed Starting Demo, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

March 3

Marvel Junior Grange

March 5

Maple Grove Meeting, 1 p.m.

March 7

Marvel — Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Program: Melissa MacDougall.

March 8

Pleasant Park — Regular Meeting, 10 a.m.
followed with Potluck.

March 8

Florissant Pine Needle Basket Classes;
Seasoned and newbies, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

March 12

Enterprise — Grange Meeting, 6-8:30 p.m.

March 13

Golden Gate — Grange Meeting, 3 p.m.

March 14

Enterprise — St. Patrick's Day Irish Potluck, 6 p.m.

March 15

Mt. Allison — Visitation with
Business Meeting following, noonish.

March 15

Pioneer 4-H Club & Marvel Grange —
Baked Potato Bar and Dessert Auction, 6 p.m.

March 17

Animas Valley — What's Chaos Gardening, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

March 28

Florissant — Souper Supper and Quilt Show, 4:30-7 p.m.

March 29

Marvel Grange — Community Breakfast, 8-10 a.m.

March 31

Animas Valley — Natural Fiber Dying, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

April TBD

Florissant — Paint with Me Event

April TBD

Florissant — Annual Easter Party

April 4

Marvel Grange — Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Program: Sheryl Ayers.

April 5,12

Enterprise — filling Easter Eggs for the Egg Hunt,
10 a.m. until approximately 2 p.m.

April 8

Enterprise — Easter-themed Potluck, 6 p.m.

April 10

Golden Gate — Grange Meeting, 3 p.m.

April 12

Sunflower Grange — Chicken Talk: How to Raise Chickens
Kim Rankin and Sedalia Elementary students,
Meghan and Wesley Watts, other poultry raisers.

April 12

Pleasant Park — Regular Meeting, 10 a.m.
followed by Chili Dinner.

April TBD

Mt. Allison — 4-H Program and Highway Cleanup.

April 14

La Plata Pomona — Meeting at Florida Grange,
Host: Animas Valley, 7 p.m.

April 15

Colorado State Grange Scholarship Applications Due.

April 19

Enterprise — Easter Egg Hunt.

April 19

Golden Gate — Eggmania, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

April 21

Animas Valley Elemental: Reimagine Wildlife, 6:30-8 p.m.

April 27

Golden Gate — Community Brunch, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

May 2

Peak to Peak Chorale (Golden Gate), 7 p.m.

May 3

Darden Pomona — Meeting at Enterprise Grange
& Kentucky Derby Party to follow.

May 8

Golden Gate — Grange Meeting, at 3 p.m.

May 10

Pleasant Park — Regular Meeting, 10 a.m.
followed with Potluck.

May 10

Animas Valley — Working with Wool and other Fibers,
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

May 10,17

Sunflower — Annual Plant Sale and Small Business
gathering at BMan's BBQ, 9 a.m.

May 14

Enterprise — Cinco de Mayo-themed Potluck, 6 p.m.

May 19

Animas Valley — One-Room Schools in SW La Plata:
How a research project became a historical novel series.
By author Jean Campion, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

June 1

Great Plains Leadership Conference Registration Deadline.

June 7

Progressive Pomona — Potluck Lunch
followed by Meeting, 11:30 a.m.

June 7

Animas Valley — Bug Club Kickoff, 1-3 p.m.
(For Kids from 7 to 93)

June 22-23

Great Plains Regional Leadership Conference,
Canon City, Colorado.

June 30

Animas Valley — Plein Aire (Abstract) Painting Workshop,
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

July 12

Darden Pomona — Picnic at Pleasant Park Grange, 12 p.m.

July 14

La Plata Pomona — Grange Meeting at Florida, 7 p.m.

July 19

Animas Valley — Scarecrow Making Workshop,
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Sept. 6

Progressive Pomona — Potluck Lunch, followed by Meeting.

Oct. 2-5

2025 State Grange Convention (Session)

Nov. 8-16

National Grange Convention Cruise

Dec. 6

Progressive Pomona — Potluck Lunch, followed by Meeting.
Marvel Grange – *Line Dancing on Monday, 9-10 a.m.*
Florissant – Business Meeting the 2nd Monday of the month at 6 p.m.
Florissant – Gift Shop is Open Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday weekly.
Florissant – Every Tuesday Quilt of Valor Guild, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Florissant – Every Thursday is Community Potluck and Music.
Golden Gate Grange – AA – Every Tuesday, from 7 p.m.
Golden Gate Grange – Yoga – Wednesdays, from 3-4 p.m.

Master's Message

Gary Wardle, State Master
8606 Holman Circle, Arvada, CO 80005
303-349-7390 • Email: cograngepresident@gmail.com



Brothers and Sisters, thank you for all you are doing in your communities to make a difference. One of the thing Granges are recognized for is providing social activities for your neighbors.

Thanks to BJ Bushman for her assistance in finding the location for the state Grange convention this fall. The convention will be held in Castle Rock at the Douglas County Fair Grounds in the Kirk Building. The convention is scheduled for October 2 to 4, 2025. As you are doing fundraising this year, I hope you will think about supporting your delegates at the state convention. We work hard to keep the cost down, but it is costly to attend the convention. Also start considering resolutions. If there are concerns from your Grange consider resolutions for these concerns. You can use CHATGPT to help start writing the resolution. Input your issue and ask it to write the resolution. You can then edit the resolution to meet your needs.

Please submit a person to the executive committee to be honored with a Quilt of Valor at the convention. These recognitions are important to the people we honor.

Kathy and I were not able to attend the National Grange Leadership Conference this year. I had health issues and was not able to fly.

Colorado will be hosting the Great Plains Conference this summer. I hope some Colorado Grangers will attend. It is a good opportunity to meet Grangers from other states.

Thanks for all your efforts to promote the Grange and be relevant in your communities.

IN ESSENTIALS UNITY, IN NON-ESSENTIALS LIBERTY,
 IN ALL THINGS CHARITY

Colorado Granger OPTIONS form

How would you prefer to receive the Colorado Granger? Paper, Email or not at all?

Please complete to form below and either mail it or email it to the Colorado State Grange *only if you have not responded before or if you would like to make a change.*

_____ I(We) prefer to receive an **emailed** copy.

_____ I(We) prefer to receive a **paper** copy.

_____ I(We) do not want to receive Colorado Granger.

Your personal information (we want to be sure that we have your correct information)

Grange _____ # _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Please return this form to Colorado State Grange, 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO. 81326 or email the information to costategrange@gmail.com.

Granger Deadline And Guidelines

April 15, 2025, is the deadline for articles for the May-June 2025 edition of *The Colorado Granger*. You can send them to the State Grange Office, 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO 81326 or email costategrange@gmail.com.

We would appreciate your following these guidelines when writing an article.

- Name of Grange
- Contact person (with phone number)
- Upcoming dates

- Brief summary of what has been happening at your Grange — DO NOT SEND MINUTES
- Community Service Projects
- In Memoriam (Grangers who have passed away)
- Thinking of You
- (Grangers who are sick and shut in — include address if they would enjoy cards)
- Hats Off (Grangers to be recognized)
- You're Invited (activities open to nonmembers and visiting Grangers)

Colorado State Grange Website

Larry Corman takes care of the web page for the State Grange. He is requesting that Officers and Directors contact him with updates for their departments.

He would like to link the web page of each Grange to the State Grange site. Please contact him to have this done so Grange members and others can easily access your page for information.

Larry Corman: larry_corman@hotmail.com or 970-749-8438.

Please notify the State Grange Office of any address change.

Because it is 2nd class mail, the Grange is charged **59¢ per address change** the post office sends from the *Granger* mailings.

Email: costategrange@gmail.com
 Call 719-748-5008 or mail the form below.

FOR THE COLORADO GRANGER MAILING LIST

ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME _____ GRANGE # _____

OLD ADDRESS (IF CHANGE OR DROP) _____

_____ ZIP CODE _____

PRESENT ADDRESS _____

_____ ZIP CODE _____

(GIVE ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER)

Send to: **Colorado State Grange**
 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO 81326

Notes From The Secretary

Cindy Greer, State Master
7629 CR 100, Hesperus, CO 81316
719-748-5008
Email: costategrange@gmail.com



1st Quarter – January-March – Quarter ends March 31— Report due April 30.

2nd Quarter – April-June – Quarter ends June 30 — Report due July 31.

3rd Quarter – July-September – Quarter ends September 30 — Report Due October 31.

4th Quarter – October-December – Quarter ends Dec 31 — Report Due January 31.

June 1 – Registrations due for Great Plains Conference.

June 20-21 — Great Plains Leadership Conference in Canon City.

October 3-5 — State Session, Douglas County Fairgrounds.

I would like to thank the people who attended our Secretaries Zoom meeting on January 31. I almost forgot about the meeting so I'm pleased with those who did remember it! We reviewed the quarterly report and answered questions about the membership categories and clarified when the quarters are. Please note the list above. It should help you. We also discussed the Grouper insurance program, which is currently on hold as they are making some changes and we discussed recognizing members.

Lecturer

BJ Bushman, State Lecturer
303-550-7901

bushman.bj@gmail.com

8033 Sabino Lane
 Castle Rock CO 80108



Stuck in the snow, or just inside on a cold dreary day? Thoughts of spring could lighten the mood! Is your Grange a food producing group? Planning a garden patch can be an uplifting activity! If you have the means of supplying fresh grown food for your family, neighbors, and friends, then your Grange could multiply their efforts and create a program that would qualify for the National Grange Project Sustenance!

Activities surrounding the various categories of this project could be

based on your own personal garden, a community garden, or a co-op garden. The options are limitless! How inspiring to research your growing zone and plan your plot to its full potential! What grows well in your area, with your soil type, rainfall, etc? What foods can be staggered to produce at varying times of the growing season to lengthen harvest time? Who can you provide fresh produce to that would receive a great benefit?

If this seems like a possible undertaking for your Grange, then

Chaplain's Corner

Amy Peterson State Chaplain
970-749-9374
amyloupeterson@gmail.com



I live in the country away from all the hustle and bustle of city or town life. I chose this life because it is quiet and I feel safe in my home. Safety and comfort are what we all want and need in this wayward world. The best way to be safe for this life is to fall into the arms of Jesus. Jesus was sent to this world to give us salvation and safety in Him. "For God did not send His Son into this world to condemn the world but to save the world through Him." John 3:17 (NKJ).

God wants us to have comfort and safety in our lives, and the best way to do that is to have faith in God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Stay in His word and trust in Him for all circumstances. Lean on Him when the going gets tough and pray for His will in all things.

Remember Psalm 23:4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." (KJV). God wants us to have com-

fort and peace in our lives, when circumstances arise and we can receive that from Him and His word.

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4 (NIV). Having Jesus in our hearts is our safety and comfort when we love and trust Him to hold us in His arms throughout all things. He is our safety and comfort always.

COLORADO STATE GRANGE MEMORIALS

Memorial donations to honor members and past members who have passed away should be made payable to **CSG Leadership/Scholarship** and mailed to the State Grange office, 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO 81326. Memorial donations are listed in the Book of Memories and included in the Memorial Service at the State convention.

We have received donations in memory of the following:
 Bob Kuehster, Pleasant Park Grange.
 Susan Urban, Golden Gate Grange.

Mandy Project

Cindy Greer, Coordinator
 970-588-3386 • Email: hcrdgreer@frontier.net

Wouldn't you Love to see a child who has hearing issues receive some assistance to make life easier for their families? If so please take time to promote the Mandy project to your local school or to your local audiologist or hearing aid supplier. They will know who needs assistance and could benefit from the Mandy project.

If you need Mandy project brochures please contact me and I will be happy to send you as many as you want.

Visit the Colorado Grange website
 at www.coloradogranger.org

It's that time of year when I'm sure your Grange has received a notice from the secretary of state that you need to renew your registration. Each Grange that is registered is responsible for completing this and paying their fee.

The Great Plains Leadership Conference will be held in Canon City this year with Colorado Hosting. The workshop schedule is still in the process of being finalized. The group will be venturing out to the Royal Gorge on Saturday afternoon. We hope that some of our Colorado Grangers will take advantage of this opportunity to join others from Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas for some Fun and learning.

We've attended many of these conferences and always came back with some ideas for improving our Granges and our lives as well as renewing friendships and making new friendships.

This conference is for Grangers of all ages.

check out the specifics and various options on the National Grange website under the Project Sustenance tab. Here is the link: <https://www.nationalgrange.org/project-sustenance/>. When you open this up, you will see the many options for this project and ways to bless your community.

If gardening and growing things is not your cup of tea, then how about another springtime activity? Our trees, bushes, and flowering plants will soon be visited by a myriad of winged creatures! Visitors from birds to bees will soon fill our yards and fields. What project could benefit these guests and encourage pollinators to our areas? Use your imagination and create a birdhouse, bird feeder, or some sort of nesting box.

I love that as Grangers we can choose to continue the work of the land, whether it be small scale or large. We can participate actively by working the soil, or we can support those who do. Take an interest in those 4-H kids working on their projects to grow plants and animals. Support an FFA student in the same way. They all have projects and taking an interest in our youth is so vital.

Let those creative juices flow in your dreams and plans for spring-time!

The Colorado Granger

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Flora..... Terri Costeldia

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 Roger Ayers,
 Tom Campion, Mike Lackey



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Idella Lewis and Karen Baxter, State Activities Co-Directors
Idella Lewis, 303-274-9390
Email: idellamlewis@gmail.com
Karen Baxter, 14857 CR 240, Bayfield, CO 81122
970-259-1595



The National Grange quilt block contest directions are available for everyone to start working on now. The pattern is for a canning jar. Since the National Grange does

not have a Family Activities Department, the quilt block contest is under the National Grange Lecture Department. The contest is open to members and non-members. The

quilt blocks are sent on to the National Grange Lecturer and made into quilts. Take on a challenge to participate in this event!

State Grange Quilt Block

There are three categories for quilt blocks this year. One is the National Quilt Block which is the Mason Jar Block — directions are in this *Granger* (see below). NATIONAL ENTRIES ARE DUE SEPT. 1 TO THE NATIONAL LECTURER. Another is the Quilt of Valor or Patriotic block which is the “Thank You Stars” block by Marianne Fons — You can get the directions from the State Grange office. These need to be Red, White, and Blue. The third category is a block of your choice. The State blocks are due at State Session. ALL BLOCKS ARE TO BE 12 INCHES.



2025 National Grange Quilt Block Contest

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Quilt Block Contest provides an opportunity for Grange members and friends to collaborate in creating quilted items that can be donated or auctioned for funds to provide additional services to community members in a nationwide effort

RULES

- A. The National Grange Quilt Block Contest is open to everyone – Grange members and members-to-be.
- B. All contest entries must be received by the National Grange Lecturer by **September 1, 2025**. Send entries to:
- | | |
|--|--|
| Tom Gwin, National Lecturer
PO Box 1186
Olympia, WA 98507-1186 | or by UPS to:
924 Capitol Way S., #300
Olympia, WA 98501 |
|--|--|
- C. Any entries received after the deadline will not be judged.
- D. The quilt block you enter in the contest for judging must be made by you.
- E. There is no limit on the number of quilt blocks a person may submit, but **you may submit two (2) quilt blocks for judging**.
- F. All entries will be retained by the National Grange to be made into finished quilts and other items to be sold at a later date.
- G. A 2025 Quilt Block Contest Entry Form must be completed for the block to be judged.

GROUPS

- Group I – Adult (Age 14+)
- Group II – Junior (Age 13 and under)

PRIZES

- Monetary prizes will be awarded for 1st (\$50), 2nd (\$30), and 3rd (\$20) place in each Group.

Any questions? Contact Tom at lecturer@nationalgrange.org



2025 National Grange Quilt Block Contest

CANNING JAR PATTERN

FABRIC REQUIRED

- 1 – fun fabric print of your choice for the jar, cut at 6.5 inches x 8.5 inches
- 1 – gray or black fabric, cut at 1.5 inches x 4.5 inches for the lid
- 6 – white; cut at 1.5 inches x 1.5 inches square
- 2 – white strips; cut at 2 inches x 6.5 inches
- 2 – white strips; cut at 3.5 inches x 12.5 inches

INSTRUCTIONS

You may watch a tutorial on the canning jar quilt block at <https://madamsew.com/blogs/sewing-blog/canning-jar-block-tutorial> Please note we are only using the **large canning jar**. Sides and top/bottom must be added to have a size of 12 ½ inch unfinished square block, which will then finish out to a 12” finished block.

Use 1/4 inch seams on all pieces.

- Sew 2 white 1.5 inches x 1.5 inches square to each end of the gray/black strip that is 1.5 inches x 4.5 inches. You will now have a white 1.5 x gray/black 4.5 x white 1.5 strip. This should measure a total length of 6.5 inches. This is the jar lid.
- Sew 4 white 1.5 inches x 1.5 inches onto the jar fabric at the corners using a diagonal stitch line. You will cut off the corner and press the 1.5 out to make the jar. This piece will remain at 6.5 inches wide x 8.5 inches tall.
- Sew the lid strip to the top of the jar block and align the seam lines. Press the block flat. This piece will now be 6.5 inches wide x 9.5 inches tall.
- Top/Bottom Borders: Add the top and bottom borders by sewing the 2 inch x 6.5 inch strips to the top and the bottom. The piece will now measure 12.5 inches tall x 6.5 inches wide.
- Side Borders: Add the two 3.5 inch x 12.5 inch strips to the sides.
- Press and square up your block to an unfinished size of 12.5 inches x 12.5 inches.

GROUPS

Group I – Adult (age 14+)
Group II – Junior (ages 5-13)
Two blocks may be entered by each person for judging. The jar print fabric must be different for each jar. Additional blocks may be submitted for non-judging and will be considered a donation.

PRIZES

Monetary prizes will be awarded for 1st (\$50), 2nd (\$30), and 3rd (\$20) in each group.

ENTRY DATES:

All entries are to be submitted no later than September 1, 2025. Mail the completed block and entry form to: Tom Gwin, National Grange Lecturer, PO Box 1186, Olympia WA 98507.

If sending UPS: 924 Capitol Way S. #300, Olympia WA 98501.



2025 National Grange Quilt Block Contest

ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Grange Member: ☐ Prospective/Not Yet a Member: ☐

Grange Name: _____ No.: _____ State: _____

☐ - Group I – Adult (Age 14+)

☐ - Group II – Junior (Age 13 and under)

All contest entries must be received by the National Grange Lecturer by **September 1, 2025**.

The quilt block you enter in the contest for judging must be made by you.

Please make as many blocks as you wish, but **choose two blocks to be judged**.

Each contest entry must have a completed Entry Form.

Mail entries to:
Tom Gwin, National Lecturer
PO Box 1186
Olympia, WA 98507-1186

or by UPS to:
924 Capitol Way S., #300
Olympia, WA 98501



2025 National Grange Quilt Block Contest



Quilt Block Contest 2025

Make Plans Now To Attend The Colorado State Grange Convention At Douglas County Fairgrounds, October 2-4, 2025.



P.I.C.K.

People Improving Communities And Kids

Cindy Greer, Secretary/Treasurer
7629 CR 100, Hesperus, CO 81316
970-588-3386 • Fax 970-588-3871
Email: hcrdgreer@frontier.net

In 1999 members of the Colorado State Grange suggested that we form a 501(c)(3) organization in order to be able to seek funding for the Mandy Project, which is to help families of children who have a hearing loss. Permission was granted and a group of individuals met to discuss all the possibilities and apply for this tax-exempt status. The group decided to expand the vision so that PICK would focus on five areas in which the Grange is involved. After receiving initial tax-exempt status, the IRS required PICK to work for a period of time as a 501(c)(3) organization and full tax-exempt status was granted in 2005.

The goals of PICK are to build: people by recognizing leadership abilities and encouraging talents; family by offering a family-oriented environment and emphasizing family values; community by working together in a team spirit, providing service and community outreach.

The current programs, activities, and accomplishments of PICK help expand the vision of the State Grange and explore new avenues of funding which will enable the members to create interest in the organization. We focus on five areas:

- **Mandy Project** — helps families of children with a hearing loss obtain needed equipment that insurance does not cover.
- **Youth and Juniors** — We organize and sponsor educational camps, seminars, and retreats focusing on leadership, strength-

ening community involvement, developing and enhancing awareness of cultural and social unity specifically for youth.

- **Community Improvement** — Granges implement projects in their community that will improve the quality of life and preserve history. Many of these activities take place in Grange halls throughout the state. Grange halls are community centers in most communities where they are. Keeping the halls in useable and attractive condition is essential to their communities.

- **Women’s Resources** — We encourage Granges to sponsor programs and opportunities that provide women resources they would not otherwise get in their community.

- **Creative and Performing Arts** — We promote the arts through various contests that are open to public participation.

PICK has secured grants for the Mandy project and several times has received grant money from the Coors Family Foundation to assist Granges with capital improvement projects.

We build:

People by recognizing leadership abilities and encouraging talents.

Family by offering a family oriented environment and emphasizing family values.

Community by working together in a team spirit, providing service and community outreach.

Celebrating the U.S. 250th Anniversary — Contests take place September 2025 so that they can be shared with Granges throughout the state for 2026. Open to non-members.

Purpose: To help Americans show their pride and love for our country during the Semiquincentennial/Bisesequincentennial of the United States of American and Colorado State’s 150th.

Age divisions:

1. Adults: 24 to 55
2. Seniors: 56 and up
3. Youth: 14-18, 19-23
4. Children: 5-7, 8-10, 12-14

A. **Poetry** — Theme: American Pride.

B. **Essay** — Theme: What does American Mean to you? Why is the constitution important?

C. **Art** — (could be a collage, a painting, a drawing , etc). Entries will be photographed and utilized to help Granges publicize events they hold during 2026 in celebration of the U.S. 250th anniversary and Colorado state’s 150th.

Prizes for each category will be as follows:
First Place: \$25
Second Place: \$15
Third Place: \$10

Real Estate Management

Mike Lackey, State Director
303-521-8773
Email: thelackeyteam@gmail.com



Colorado’s real estate laws have recently changed in several ways, including new protections for homeowners, new requirements for buyer-agent agreements, and new eviction requirements.

Homeowner Protections

- **House Bill 24-1337**
Protects homeowners in common interest communities (HOAs) from foreclosure if other homeowners don’t pay their HOA fees. The bill limits attorney fees that HOAs can collect.
- **House Bill 24-1098**

Requires a cause for eviction of residential tenants, with some exceptions. This bill went into effect on April 19, 2024.

Buyer-agent agreements

- **Written buyer agreements**

Starting August 17, 2024, buyers must sign a written agreement with an agent before touring a home.

- **Buyer agency agreements**
Buyers can sign an agreement that commits them to an agent for a specific period of time.

- **Compensation agreements**
Buyers can sign an agreement that commits them to paying the agent for their services.

Other changes

- New rules for realtor compensation.
- New electronic filing system for tenants in County Court actions.
- New restrictions on when an association may foreclose on a lien.
- New right of redemption for 180 days following a foreclosure sale.

Legislative Activity

Mike Lackey, State Director
303-521-8773 • Email: thelackeyteam@gmail.com

Lobbying by Nonprofit Entities

Concerning lobbying on behalf of a charitable tax-exempt nonprofit entity.

Session:

2025 Regular Session

Subject:

Business & Economic Development
Bill Summary

Currently, a lobbyist may be either a professional lobbyist or a volunteer lobbyist. A professional lobbyist must register with the secretary of state before conducting lobbying activities with one or more covered officials. For each month in which a professional lobbyist lobbies one or more covered officials, a professional lobbyist must complete and submit a disclosure statement to the secretary of state.

The bill creates a new category of lobbyist for nonprofit lobbyists and exempts nonprofit lobbyists from the registration and disclosure state-

ment requirements for professional lobbyists. A nonprofit lobbyist is a lobbyist who is exclusively employed by a single nonprofit entity and who lobbies as an incidental part of the lobbyist’s duties with the nonprofit entity. A nonprofit entity may use a nonprofit lobbyist to lobby a maximum of 30 days during a state fiscal year, with a maximum of 20 of those days occurring when the general assembly is in session. A nonprofit entity that employs a nonprofit lobbyist must report to the secretary of state the following information within 72 hours of engaging in lobbying of one or more covered officials:

- The name of the nonprofit lobbyist;
- The full legal name of the nonprofit entity on whose behalf the nonprofit lobbyist lobbied;
- The date on which the nonprofit lobbyist engaged in lobbying;



Agriculture Report

David H. McCord, State Director
David • 303-388-1259
Email: dmccord60@earthlink.net

The below text is AI generated, ChatGPT, about our agriculture. Thanks to our daughter Jill for her tech skills. I added minor edits to delete not needed symbols and add paragraph breaks.

Colorado Agriculture: Present and Future (2024-2034). Colorado’s agriculture is a cornerstone of its economy, culture, and heritage. With diverse landscapes ranging from the Great Plains to the Rocky Mountains, the state supports a wide array of agricultural activities. As we look to the future, understanding the current state and projecting the trends in Colorado agriculture is essential for

farmers, policymakers, and residents alike. Current State of Agriculture in Colorado Colorado’s agriculture is characterized by its diversity and resilience. The state produces a variety of crops, livestock, and dairy products. Key agricultural outputs include corn, wheat, hay, and potatoes, along with significant contributions from cattle, sheep, and dairy farms. Specialty crops like hemp and hops are also gaining traction.

Economic Impact: Agriculture contributes over \$40 billion annually to Colorado’s economy and supports more than 170,000 jobs. The state’s agricultural exports are crucial, with



Community Service

Lisa Mittan, State Director
4956 W. 66th Ave., Arvada, CO 80003
Email: mittan42@msn.com

Hello Grangers! Happy Spring! There have been some significant changes to how National Grange will be managing recognition of local Granges’ work on Community Service programs. They will no longer be accepting reports on programs that have won state-level Grange annual contests and then choosing a National Grange winner.

Colorado State Grange will still be evaluating your Community Service reports and awarding cash prizes for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. As of now, we will still be using the combined reports form, in order to help you all to NOT have to duplicate your reporting for Community Service and Lecturer Star submission.

There is a new organization structure for the reports for this year, to help with this goal of minimizing that effort for you even more. Those of you who have been providing reports for the past four or five years will recognize this change to return to a format that focuses on the Lecturer Star reports and uses the Community Service section of the report to simply direct us to reference the details in the sections for the different colored stars.

National Grange is doing something very interesting now! The National Grange Community Service committee would like you all to do simple, one-report-per-program reports for your Community Service programs and submit them directly to them, throughout the year. Here is the link to the reporting form they have created for this: <https://www.nationalgrange.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Share-Your-Projects-Story-fillable2.pdf>

[nationalgrange.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Share-Your-Projects-Story-fillable2.pdf](https://www.nationalgrange.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Share-Your-Projects-Story-fillable2.pdf)

A copy has also been included in the packet of forms I have emailed to those of you who have provided your email address for me to send you the Combined Reporting Form. Email is the only way that National Grange will be able to accept your submissions of these reports during the year. For more information, please see the National Grange Community Service page at <https://www.nationalgrange.org/our-values/community-service/>

IMPORTANT NOTE — There is a section on this page for Community Service Report Form. This section (and related form) is ONLY for state-level Grange to report on how many of our local Granges that are registered as “active” have submitted their Community Service reports for state-level recognition. In order for Colorado State Grange to receive a cash award, we have to have at least 25% of these “active” Granges submit Community Service reports.

We have not received a cash award from National Grange for a few years. We’re hoping that changing up our Combined Reporting Form back to an easier format will help more of you to decide to send one in. If you didn’t get an email from me with the new forms and want to get them, please let me know. Email me at mit tan42@msn.com or call/text me at 720-413-4106. I am also available to answer questions or help with the forms in any way I can.

- Any matter about which the nonprofit lobbyist lobbied for the reported day; and
- The bill number of the legislation about which each nonprofit lobbyist lobbied for the reported day and whether the nonprofit entity is supporting, opposing, requesting amendments, or monitoring the legislation.

A nonprofit entity may submit a single form for more than one nonprofit lobbyist if more than one nonprofit lobbyist lobbied for the nonprofit entity on the same day.

A lobbyist who was a nonprofit lobbyist but no longer qualifies as a nonprofit lobbyist or who is employed by a nonprofit entity that does not comply with the timing limitations, and who meets the requirements of a professional lobbyist, must register and file disclosure statements with the secretary of state beginning in the month in which the lobbyist first lobbied as a professional lobbyist and must comply with the regulations imposed on a professional lobbyist.

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced.)

beef, dairy, and wheat being major contributors to international trade. [DMc note, AI missed potatoes, major export to Mexico.]

Sustainability Efforts: Colorado farmers are increasingly adopting sustainable practices to combat challenges like water scarcity, soil erosion, and climate change. Techniques such as no-till farming, crop rotation, and precision agriculture are helping to maintain productivity while preserving the environment.

Challenges Facing Colorado Agriculture

Water is a critical resource for agriculture, and Colorado faces significant challenges related to water availability. With increasing urbanization and climate change, managing water resources efficiently is paramount. Rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns are impacting crop yields and livestock productivity. Farmers are adapting by altering planting schedules, diversifying crops, and investing in climate-resilient infrastructure.

The agricultural sector is experiencing a labor shortage, exacerbated by immigration policies and a declining interest in farm labor among younger generations. Mechanization and automation are being explored as potential solutions.

Future Trends and Projections (2024-2034). The next decade will likely see increased adoption of advanced technologies in agriculture. Drones, sensors, and data analytics will become integral in managing farms more efficiently. Precision agriculture will enable farmers to optimize inputs like water, fertilizers, and pesticides, reducing waste and improving yields.

Sustainability will continue to be a major focus. Renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, will power more farms. Regenerative agriculture practices will help restore soil health and sequester carbon, contributing to climate change mitigation.

With changing climate and market demands, Colorado farmers will diversify their crops. Specialty crops like hemp, quinoa, and organic vegetables will gain popularity. Additionally, local food movements will encourage the growth of niche markets and direct-to-consumer sales. Innovative water management techniques will be crucial. Efficient irrigation systems, water recycling, and policies promoting water conservation will help address the challenges of water scarcity. Collaborative efforts among farmers, government agencies, and researchers will be necessary to develop sustainable water use strategies.

Government policies and support programs will play a vital role in shaping the future of agriculture in Colorado. Incentives for sustainable practices, investment in agricultural

(Continued on Page 5)

Deadline for the May-June 2024 Issue Of The Colorado Granger Newspaper Is April 15, 2025.

April 19, Saturday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. — Eggmania.

April 27, Sunday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. — Community Brunch.

May 2, Friday, 7 p.m. — Peak to Peak Chorale.

May 8, Thursday, 3 p.m. — Grange Meeting.

Yoga — Wednesdays, from 3 to 4 p.m.

AA — Every Tuesday, from 7 p.m.

Our Health Awareness Chairwoman, Marge Frueh, has updated and organized the supplies in our First Aid Kit. Marge has also researched vendors for an AED (defibrillator). Thanks to the folks who have already contributed to the fund for this critical piece of equipment for our Grange. If you would like to make a donation to the AED Fund, send it to Golden Gate Grange, P.O. Box 925, Golden, CO 80402.

We will soon be upgrading the lighting in both the main hall and the dining area to new LED fixtures and bulbs. Grange member Corey Stone is coordinating the purchase and volunteering his time and expertise in the installation of the lights.

Eggmania has been a popular event for many years. Children and adults bring eggs to be dyed and decorated for Easter. Why do this messy project at home? Come to the Grange and we will have all the materials you need! There will be an Indoor Easter Egg Hunt for the kids! Join us for the fun on Saturday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The popular Community Brunch will be held on Sunday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. A wide variety of delicious brunch items will be served including pancakes, sausage, yogurt, fruit, baked goods, bagels and cream cheese, and more! We will be honoring our Granger and Citizen of the Year and our Grangers with 20 years of membership!

Peak to Peak Chorale will return to the Grange with a musical program on May 2, at 7 p.m. Enjoy the vocal talents of this popular Canyon group which includes a Grange member.

Every year we hold a Hydration Event where we collect water and sports drinks for the Golden Gate Fire Protection District Volunteers. This is an important way we can support our men and women of the GGFPD during the most critical fire months of the year. The collected items are used both during training sessions and emergency situations. Please bring unexpired water and non-carbonated sports drinks from May 10 to May 18. They can be left on the covered patio. Thank you in advance. We are always grateful and humbled by your response to this worthy cause.

Another way to volunteer for our Canyon is to join us on Sunday, May 18, at 7 a.m. for the annual Canyon Cleanup Day. We have been assigned the area from Crawford Gulch to just east of Galbraith Open Space for roadside cleanup. This entails bagging debris along the roadside — you do not have to go down the hillside into Tucker Gulch, but if you see a major problem (such as someone has dumped trash over the edge of the gulch) we will give that information to Jefferson County. They will send a crew to remove the debris. Wear closed toe shoes and bring work gloves. We will provide safety vests and grabbers to help with the pickup. Call Terri Costeldia (970-640-7185) for more information or to sign up.

Yoga is held on Wednesdays from 3-4 p.m. If you haven't been to a class before Instructors Judy and Susan will provide a class that will offer alternatives for all levels.

Website: www.GoldenGateGrange.com/Facebook: Golden Gate Canyon Community.

Grange phone: 303-273-9516.

Jayne Ruesch

(Continued on Page 7)

Darden

Jefferson County

Contact Idella Lewis, idellamlewis@gmail.com, 303-233-3393, for further information.

May 3 — Darden Pomona meeting at Enterprise Grange and Kentucky Derby Party to follow.

July 12 — Darden Pomona picnic at Pleasant Park Grange 12 p.m.

Darden Pomona met at Wheat Ridge Grange in February. Each Grange reported on their activities.

The next meeting is May 3 at Enterprise Grange with a potluck and the Kentucky Derby Party.

Remember to wear your fancy hat and be dressed in your finest attire!
Idella Lewis

Enterprise Grange

Contact Carol Lackey, carollackeyhomes@gmail.com, or 303-521-4477, for further information.

March 12, Wednesday — Enterprise Grange Meeting — 6 to 8:30 p.m. We will have our Irish-themed Potluck beginning at 6 p.m. in honor of St. Paddy's Day. Corned Beef and Cabbage will be made by Lisa Mit-tan. Grangers to bring sides and desserts that are green or Irish themed! Irish music will be provided by the lecturer, Dorothy Dannels. Planning for the Community Service Award program, our Community Garden, and filling in more details on the Annual Easter Egg Hunt will follow. Debbie Kuntz has offered to assemble eggs that were given back to us last year and find their matches. Thank you, Debbie!

April 8, Wednesday — Easter-themed Potluck will begin at 6 p.m. This is our Community Service night and any plans will be discussed at our March meeting. More details to follow.

April 5 and April 12, Saturdays — 10 a.m. until approximately 2 p.m. we will be filling Easter Eggs for the Egg Hunt. We are planning to fill between 8,000 and 10,000 eggs this year. The 4-H group will be there but we can always use more help. Even if you can only help for an hour, it's a big job, so any help will be appreciated. If we get done the first Saturday, we will be able to cancel the 12th.

April 19, Saturday before Easter — This year's Easter Egg Hunt, in cooperation with House2Home Real Estate, will be held again at Robby Ferrufino Park located at 9001 W. 74th Avenue in Arvada, CO. The hunt is divided into age groups but all groups will hunt at 10 a.m. sharp. Please try to arrive by 9:30 a.m. We will have refreshments, professional photography with the Easter Bunny, bubbles, chalk art, and games to play, so we want to make sure there are no disappointments on the hunt itself. The fire department has also offered to bring one of their fire trucks. Please bring your own Easter Baskets. If you can volunteer to help set up or clean up or help with organizing the children, we would appreciate all the help we can get!

May 3, Saturday — Pomona meeting at the Enterprise Grange. The meeting will begin at 3 p.m.



Quilt of Valor which was presented to Ralph Pautz at the 2023 State Grange Session, was displayed at Maple Grove's February meeting.

Potluck and games to follow at 4 p.m. The Kentucky Derby post time will be 4:57 p.m. playing on our TV. Our theme, of course, is the Kentucky Derby. Ladies come with your special derby hats and men get spruced up in your Fedora, Bowler, or any other dress hat you can find. Time and other details can be found under Idella Lewis' article under the Pomona in this *Granger*.

May 14, Wednesday — At 6 p.m., we will have our Cinco de Mayo-themed Potluck. Mexican dishes, sides, salad, and desserts will be on the menu. Bring your favorite dishes. A business meeting will follow potluck where we will discuss the possibility of off campus activities for the summer. We will also vote on 2025-2026 officers and choose delegates for the 2025 State Grange Convention.

Our January meeting took place on Wednesday, the 8th. Our potluck started at 6 p.m. We had left-over Christmas turkey and ham that we decided to enjoy. The rest of us brought sides and we all had a delicious meal of mostly leftovers. At the meeting we decided not to have our Friendship High Tea in the future. It was an amazing event in the past but the work has become overwhelming. We have decided to take all our tea cups and make them into a darling arrangement to sell at craft fairs next fall. We will set days to work on them each month.

We had to cancel our February meeting due to bad weather. We are looking to replace it at a later date.

Carol Lackey

Maple Grove

Contact Idella Lewis, idellamlewis@gmail.com, 303-233-3393, for further information.

March 5, Wednesday — Maple Grove Meeting 1 p.m.

A recognition of members and their years of membership was held at the February meeting.

A Quilt of Valor was displayed which was presented to Ralph Pautz



Maple Grove members Ruth and Ralph Pautz.

Below: Maple Grove members were recognized with certificates for their years of membership, including six Golden Sheaf members, at the February meeting.



at the 2023 State Grange Session held in Brighton, The quilt was made by Cindy Greer and a quilt group in Durango. It is absolutely gorgeous and Ralph is honored to be the recipient.

Marlys Halbeisen told about the history of the Grange from its beginning for our new members and guests. Certificates were presented to the members with their years of membership. There are six members who are Golden Sheaf members. (50+ years of membership.)

Following the presentation, everyone enjoyed sharing a variety of refreshments.

Idella Lewis

Pleasant Park

Contact Yvonne Ludwig, Master, for information, at 303-838-4805, 22551 Pleasant Park Road, Conifer, CO 80433.

March 8 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with potluck.

April 12 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed by Chili Dinner.

May 10 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with potluck.

We are grieving the loss of Robert (Bob) Kuehster. He passed away on January 31 at the age of 98. He was buried at Pleasant Park Cemetery on February 8, and a reception followed at the Pleasant Park Grange Hall. A beautiful Celebration of Life was held at the Creekside Bible Church in Castle Rock on February 10 where he had been a member for several years. Bob had belonged to the Grange for the majority of his life following in his parents' and grandparents' footsteps. He will be remembered for his beautiful smile and commitment to making the Pleasant Park Grange successful. He made everyone feel welcome and important to him.

Save the date: The annual Chili Dinner is scheduled for April 12, 2025. It is complimentary this year.

The Pomona Picnic is scheduled for July 12, 2025.

Jon Kullmann, Lecturer, is educating members about the origin and rituals of the Grange as part of the programs for next year.

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings the second Saturday of every month at 10 a.m.

Yvonne Ludwig



IN MEMORIAM

Robert D. Kuehster

Passed away January 31, 2025

Age 98

Was born in Littleton, Colorado, to Carl L. and Gertrude A. (Huebner) Kuehster. He was raised at the Kuehster Homestead in Pleasant Park, CO. He married his loving wife Jean Douglas, and they made their home in Castle Rock in 1952.

Bob thrived at helping others through his faith in Jesus, his business, and his community work.

He was preceded in death by his wife Jean. He is survived by his son Richard Kuehster and wife Susan, son Steve Kuehster and wife Mary, and daughter Luann Goodnow and husband Mike.

Bob and Jean were blessed with seven grandchildren and eight grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends — all of who were dearly loved by Bob.

Bob was a member of the Pleasant Park Grange and active until the time of his passing.

Golden Gate

Contact Terri Costeldia, terri.costeldia@hotmail.com, 970-640-7185, for further information.

March 13, Thursday, 3 p.m. — Grange Meeting.

April 10, Thursday, 3 p.m. — Grange Meeting.

April 15, Tuesday — Colorado

Agriculture Report

(Continued from Page 4)

al research, and support for young farmers will be key areas of focus.

The future of Colorado agriculture is promising, but it will require adaptability and innovation to overcome challenges. By embracing new technologies, sustainable practices, and collaborative efforts, Colorado's agricultural sector can continue to thrive and contribute significantly to the state's economy and well-being. The next decade will be pivotal in ensuring that Colorado remains a leader in sustainable and productive agriculture.

[DMc note, I seek your thoughts on the above. I do not plan further AI ag discussions.]

Patrick Davis is coordinating

an energetic effort to modify and end wolf introduction in Colorado. SmartWolfPolicyCO.com is a platform dedicated to supporting this campaign. This initiative seeks to educate the public on the implications of the current law, recruit volunteers and advocates who share the same concerns, collect donations, and gather signatures to get the initiative on the 2026 General Election ballot. Instead of deleting the statute verbiage from the wolf initiative 114 of four years ago, it would add text (in capitals): Take the steps necessary to begin reintroductions of gray wolves by DECEMBER 31, 2023, AND END REINTRODUCTIONS OF GRAY WOLVES BY DECEMBER 31, 2026.



2025 National Grange Lecturer’s
Design-a-Program Contest

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Grange Lecturers are frequently designing and creating programs for their home Granges and communities. We encourage Grange members to share these programs and the steps they take so that other Granges could potentially replicate the programming without “reinventing the wheel.”

RULES

- A. The National Grange Lecturer's Design-a-Program Contest is open to any Grange member – not just Lecturers.
 - a. Any program, event, fundraiser, educational event, speaker, or game are acceptable. Think outside of the box
 - b. This program is open to Pomona, Subordinate/Community, and Junior Granges, as well as Statewide departments (Youth, Junior, Community Service, etc.)
- B. All contest entries must be received by the National Grange Lecturer by **September 1, 2025**. Submit entries at: <https://grange.biz/grangeprogram2025>
- C. All entries must be received electronically as a single file. (If you need assistance creating a PDF file, please email National Grange Communications Director Philip Vonada at pvonada@nationalgrange.org)
- D. Divisions
 - a. Internal Grange program for Adults
 - b. External Community program for Adults
 - c. Program designed for children
- E. Entries must include a written description that includes:
 - a. The format of the event (lecture, hands-on, fundraiser, etc.)
 - b. Goal of the program (what did you intend as the main takeaway by attendees)
 - c. Detailed plan for the program, including any preparations done in advance
 - d. Specific materials needed
 - e. Time required
 - f. Length of program
 - g. Minimum number of participants needed
 - h. Summary of how the program was received and any feedback from attendees
 - i. Link(s) to any videos, PowerPoints/slideshows, or multimedia used during the event.
 - j. 2-3 photos of the program/event happening
- F. Judging criteria is as follows:
 - a. Informative and factual (30 points)
 - b. Interest Factor (20 points)
 - c. Interactive/engagement potential (15 points)
 - d. Creativity in concept (15 points)
 - e. Professional (grammar, language, approach, etc. (10 points)
 - f. Reflective of Grange principles/values/issues of interest (10 points)
- G. Any entries received after the September 1, 2025 deadline will not be judged.
- H. Winners will be announced at the 159th National Grange convention.
- I. By entering this contest, you understand that your program may be posted on the National Grange website for use by other Lecturers.

PRIZES

- Monetary prizes will be awarded to the host Grange for 1st (\$50), 2nd (\$30), and 3rd (\$20) place in each Division.
- Ribbons will be awarded to all entrants.

ENTRY

- Submit entries at this link: <https://grange.biz/grangeprogram2025>
- Or mail to:
Tom Gwin, National Lecturer
PO Box 1186
Olympia, WA 98507
- Or by UPS:
924 Capitol Way S., #300
Olympia, WA 98501



2025 National Grange Lecturer’s
Creative Writing Contest

STATEMENT OF INTENT

To inspire members and friends of the Grange to submit their writings which will promote creativity, encourage writing skills, and provide exposure for writers. Submitted writing entries will become the property of the National Grange and may be used in National Grange publications, marketing, merchandise, and virtual media.

RULES

- A. The National Grange Creative Writing Contest is open to all Grangers and yet-to-be Grangers
- B. Writing entries must be received electronically as a single (1) file no larger than 10MB via the link: <https://grange.biz/grangecreativewriting2025> by **September 1, 2025**.
- C. Classes
 - Class 1 – Poetry, maximum 300 words. Theme: “The Grange of the Future.”
 - Class 2 – Essay, maximum 1,000 words. The purpose is to inform the reader. Theme: “The Grange is Important Today Because…”
 - Class 3 – Short Story, maximum 1,000 words. The purpose is to entertain the reader. Theme: “It Happened In/At Grange.”
- D. Each individual is limited to one entry in each class. Each class entry must be submitted separately.
- E. Judging criteria: originality and organization; adherence to topic and contest rules; and grammar, spelling, punctuation, and neatness.
- F. Any entry deemed inappropriate will not be judged or exhibited in the National Grange Creative Writing Contest.
- G. Any entries received after the September 1, 2025 deadline will not be judged.

PRIZES

Monetary prizes will be awarded for each division: 1st (\$50), 2nd (\$30), and 3rd (\$20). The top three entries may be featured in future marketing or promotional items from the National Grange.

Questions? Contact Tom Gwin, National Lecturer, at lecturer@nationalgrange.org.



2025 National Grange Lecturer's
Garden Design Contest

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Share gardening experiences, large or small, that connect us to the larger picture of agriculture, growing and nurturing plants for a variety of purposes.

RULES

- A. The National Grange Garden Design Contest is open to everyone.
- B. All contest entries must be received by the National Grange Lecturer by **September 1, 2025**. Submit entries at: <https://grange.biz/grangegarden2025>.
- C. All entries must be received electronically as a single PDF file. (If you need assistance creating a PDF file, please email National Grange Communications Director Philip Vonada at pvonada@nationalgrange.org)
- D. Groups and Divisions:
 - 1. Junior Grange (age 5-14) – any kind of garden
 - 2. Adult (age 14 +)
 - a. Container Garden
 - b. Raised Bed Garden
 - c. Ground Space Garden
- E. Definitions:
 - a. **Raised Bed Garden:** Raised beds are freestanding garden beds constructed above ground level. "Raised bed" means that the soil level in the bed is higher than the surrounding soil and implies a size small enough to work in without stepping onto planting area. Raised beds are enclosed with box-like frames to provide structural support and prevent erosion and may be constructed using a variety of materials. Beds can also be elevated for gardeners who want to avoid bending to the ground while working.
 - b. **Container Garden:** A container garden can be a single pot with one or more plants in it, or several containers with multiple plants in each or a single plant per container, or a mixture of containers with various configurations of plant mixtures. Containers may be pots made from a variety of materials, baskets, planters or other objects that work effectively as a home for garden plants.
 - c. **Ground Space:** any area of a ground level space cordoned off for growing garden plants (fruits, vegetables, flowers and other plant materials). Plants must be directly planted into the soil. Configurations of this garden plot may be in rows, square foot or broadcast.
- F. Entries must include a written description that includes:
 - a. Name of gardener, Group and Division (ex. Individual Adult: Container) Grange name, number and location, contact information including mailing address, email address, and phone number.
 - b. Purpose of the Garden: examples include purposes such as: herbs, produce for fresh use, produce for preserving, gifting, cut flowers, pollinators, etc.)
 - c. List of all plant varieties in the garden: (ex. Early Girl Tomato, Malabar Spinach,
 - d. Three photographs: one at the completion of planting, one mid-season and one in late August.
- G. Any entries received after the September 1, 2025 deadline will not be judged.
- H. Winners will be announced at the 159th National Grange convention.

PRIZES

- Monetary prizes will be awarded for 1st (\$50), 2nd (\$30), and 3rd (\$20) place in each Division.
- Ribbons will be awarded to all entrants.

ENTRY

- Submit entries at this link: <https://grange.biz/grangegarden2025>



2025 National Grange Lecturer's
Design-a-Program Contest

ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Grange Member: ☐

Grange Name: _____ No.: _____ State: _____

Please use the Grange for which this program was designed.

Please select your Class

- ☐ - Internal Grange program for Adults
- ☐ - External Community program for Adults
- ☐ - Program designed for children

All entries must be received by the National Grange Lecturer by September 1, 2025.

Submit entries at this link: <https://grange.biz/grangeprogram2025>

Or mail to:
Tom Gwin, National Lecturer
PO Box 1186
Olympia, WA 98507

Or by UPS:
924 Capitol Way S., #300
Olympia, WA 98501

Progressive
Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas & Elbert Counties

Contact Judy Harrison, 303-598-4330, for further information.
June 7, 11:30 a.m. — potluck lunch followed by meeting.
September 6 — potluck lunch, - followed by the meeting.
December 6 — potluck lunch followed by the meeting.

March 1, Progressive Pomona met at B-Man's BBQ in Sedalia, with Sunflower Grange hosting. We were very happy to have State Master Gary Wardle and Kathy with us to install Sunflower's new officers. It is always a real treat to see any of the Grange ritual. We will be meeting June 7 at Windcrest in the Henry's Crossing Building. Contact Judy Harrison at 303-598-4330 for more information..

Judy Harrison

Sunflower

Contact Cherry Ellis, 303-581-7672, cherryellis5@yahoo.com, sunflowergrange.org, P.O. Box 221, Sedalia CO 80135, for further information.

Grange meetings second Saturday of the month at the Sedalia Firehouse Training Room, 1 to 3 p.m.

Local History Book Club third Thursdays at 1 p.m. at BMan's BBQ in Sedalia; discussing Men of Sedalia.

February 22 — Chet Hier Celebration of Life.

March 1 — Progressive Pomona meeting and installation of Sunflower officers by Gary Wardle, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at BMan's BBQ in Sedalia.

April 12 — Chicken Talk: How to Raise Chickens – Kim Rankin and Sedalia Elementary students, Meghan and Wesley Watts, other poultry raisers.

May 10 or 17 — Annual Plant Sale and Small Business gathering

Darden
Jefferson County

▪ **Golden Gate**

IN MEMORIAM
Susan Carol Urban
February 8, 1958 –
December 24, 2024

Susan Carol Urban passed away peacefully on December 24, 2024. Susan was born in Detroit, Michigan on February 8, 1958. She graduated from East Detroit High School in 1977 where her husband, Michael, had graduated the year before. They didn't officially meet until they both had moved to Colorado. They married at Mother Cabrini Shrine on August 18, 1984.

Susan earned a degree in Accounting from Arapahoe Community College. She and Mike founded Thermal Solutions in 1997 where Susan headed its HR Department. Volunteering and in paid positions, Susan held numerous positions at Leawood Elementary, Collegiate Academy, and Bell Middle School where she served as the Clinic Aide and Financial Secretary.

Susan loved the mountains, having homes in Golden Gate Canyon and Grand Lake. Her love of the outdoors and sports took her to travel worldwide skiing, ice skating, scuba diving, and sailing. She was proud to hold the title of an ASA-Certified Sailing Captain.

Susan was active in the community and Golden Gate Grange. She was an enthusiastic member of the Line Dancing group and hosted Valentine's Day dances at the Grange for several years.

Susan is survived by her husband, Michael; four sons, Jason, Ryan, Alex, and Sam; mother, Joan; step-father, Robert; three sisters, Ann, Sandy, and Tracy; brother, Tony; and nine grandchildren, Remi, Evelyn, Ryker, Michael, Mason, Wyatt, Ava, Hanna, and Leah. She is preceded in death by her father Salvatore.



Chet Hier and his book.

at BMan's BBQ, 9 a.m.
October: Colorado Grange Convention in Castle Rock.

As a relatively new Grange, Sunflower has had ups and downs in membership as it becomes established again in Sedalia. Candidates for office have been scarce and holding elections difficult. Elections scheduled for August had four members volunteer for office; no vote or installation took place before they assumed duties.

Unfortunately, communication broke down with some volunteers, leaving important business undone; new officers were needed. So, during the whole month of January, an official Grange election was held by email, which allowed previous volunteers an opportunity for an official vote, and allowed new candidates to come forward.

Members voted by email and paid dues by mail. The goal was having all dues-paying Sunflower Grange members vote. By the end of January, 16 members had voted for these candidates: Master/President Cherry Ellis, Lecturer Diana Bates, Chaplain Margaret Ellis, Executive Committee Bruce Hier and Billy Moore. Officers will be sworn in by State Grange President Gary Wardle at the March 1 Progressive Pomona meeting. Following Grange guidelines for elections and taking sufficient time made the whole process much clearer.

At January's meeting, Dave Starr gave an introduction to Square Dancing. Back in the day, Sunflower had a square dance group. Pike's Peak and Maple Grove Granges currently have square dancing lessons, and Sunflower hopes to have lessons, too, if a venue can be found. Dave is a great spokesman for physical and mental health benefits of dance, and for pure enjoyment he derives from dancing. We can all use more joy in our lives. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbbUpVMdd7U>.

On February 22, Sunflower's Executive Committee member Chet Hier's committal service was held at Bear Canyon Cemetery, and Celebration of Life was held at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge in Castle Rock. <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/castle-rock-co/chester-hier-12108831>.

February — Girl Scout Cookie Month. Jami Lopeman, mom of our local Girl Scout Olivia, sent this report on 2025's Cookie Sales. "February is the time of year the Girl Scouts are out in full force with cookies. It has been a little bit of a challenge this year with the King Soopers strikes. You see, King Soopers is one of the prime locations that the Girl Scout Council sponsors. Each store and time slot is chosen by a troop. When opening day for booth sales came this year, many troops' chosen locations did not allow sales booths; all King Soopers on strike canceled booth sales. Girl Scouts were creative and resilient, though, and found sale space at other Council-sponsored businesses such as Safeway, Sam's, and Walmart. Sedalia's community supported our local Girl Scout Olivia. She was able to sell at Sedalia's BMan's BBQ and O'Briens Cafe.

This year Girl Scouts have unfor-



Sunflower Grange's local Girl Scout Olivia sold cookies at Sedalia's BMan's BBQ and O'Briens Cafe this year.

tunately received many more "no" than "yes" responses when asking, "Would you like to buy cookies?" Cost is a factor; cookies went up in price this year, but so did everything else. For the Scouts, cookie sales are not just about fundraising. Girl Scout Cookie sales teach girls about being entrepreneurs, about supporting their troops, learning to talk to people, and learning to handle money. For each package sold, \$1 goes back to the troop for activities. Olivia's troop loves going to Girl Scout camp in the summer. Summer camps aren't cheap, so the girls use the money earned from cookie sales to pay for camp tuition.

If you see a Girl Scout selling cookies, buy a box to acknowledge her hard work and commitment to her organization. Remember, it's not an easy task at any age to ask strangers to buy something. Support the long tradition of Girl Scout Cookie Sales! Enjoy a box of Thin Mints, Samoas, or Toffee-tastik."

Ten members attending February's Grange meeting helped Lecturer Diana Bates plan the 2025 Grange

March-April 2025, The Colorado Granger, Page 7 and Brian at BMan's will add some special treats. The event will be BYOB "Bring Your Own Basket."

Eggs will be a topic at the April 12 Grange meeting. Chicken Whisperer Kim Rankin and her Sedalia Elementary students along with Meghan and Wesley Watts and others will talk about How to Raise Chickens to have egg producers close to home.

This May (10 or 17) Sunflower's annual fundraising Plant Sale at BMan's from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. will expand to include small businesses (some involved in agriculture), crafts, music and children's activities. Towns like Sedalia cannot exist without their small businesses. We hope to see some Granges and other organizations there, too. Start your seedlings!

At the June 14 meeting, Charlie Dunham of Colorado Computers, who has been a great resource with computer issues for some of us, will give a presentation about hacking, cybersecurity, and other IT topics.

This summer, Sunflower gets to sponsor Bruce Hier and the band Sideways Seven for more very well-attended concerts at Bman's BBQ. Several hundred participants enjoy socializing, eating barbeque, and dancing under the stars.

Fall we hope for a good harvest for a Tomato Tasting and Harvest Festival and weather for growing giant pumpkins for Billy Moore's Bud's Bar Pumpkin Weigh-in on the "First Friday after the First Frost." Will Guy Elder finally win the competition?

The Colorado Grange Convention will be held in Castle Rock this fall. What a great time for local Grange members to attend.

Diana Bates, Jami Lopeman and Cherry Ellis

The Colorado Granger Available Online

If for some reason you don't receive a paper copy or you prefer to read the paper online, you can obtain a copy at Colorado State Grange (colorado.grange.org). This is the State Grange website, scroll down on the left hand side to the *Granger* (newspaper) and click on it, which will take you to the papers which are categorized by year.



2025 National Grange Lecturer's Virtual Photo Contest

STATEMENT OF INTENT

To encourage members and friends of the Grange to submit photos that can be used in National Grange publications and virtual media. Submitted photos will become the property of the National Grange and may be used in National Grange publications, marketing, merchandise, and virtual media.

RULES

- A. The National Grange Virtual Photo Contest is open to all Grangers and yet-to-be Grangers.
- B. Photos must be received electronically as a single (1) file no larger than 10 MB via Google Forms at <https://grange.biz/grangephoto2025> by September 1, 2025.
- C. Divisions – there are four divisions:

ADULTS	JUNIORS (age 5-14)
➤ Agriculture/Farming	➤ Agriculture/Farming
➤ America the Beautiful	➤ America the Beautiful
➤ Bridges	➤ Animals/Pets
➤ Say it with Flowers	➤ Water
- D. Each individual is limited to entering a total of **four (4)** photos across all categories.
- E. Entries must be no more than one (1) year old at time of submission.
- F. Any photograph deemed inappropriate will not be judged or exhibited in the National Grange Virtual Photo Contest.
- G. Any entries received after the **September 1, 2025** deadline will not be judged.

PRIZES

Monetary prizes will be awarded for each division: 1st - \$50, 2nd - \$30 and 3rd - \$20.

The top three photos in each division may be featured in future marketing or promotional items from the National Grange Lecturer.

Questions? Contact Tom Gwin, National Lecturer, at lecturer@nationalgrange.org



Mt. Allison
Contact Larry Corman, larry_corman@hotmail.com, 970-749-8438, for more information.

- Upcoming Events:
- March 15, noonish — Visitation with business meeting following.
 - April TBD — 4-H program and highway cleanup.
 - April 14, 7 p.m. — Pomona meeting. Host: Animas Valley.

We met in January for a planning meeting for 2025. Our plan is to have a business meeting every other month (odd months) and programs during the other months. Our goal is to reach out to the community more with a variety of programs that are available to the community.

Our first activity was a game night on February 8, along with a potluck. We had several attend and it seemed like everyone had a good



Mt. Allison’s game night featured games like Bunco and 31.

time (both playing, visiting, and eating). Thanks to Sherri and Dan Figgs for introducing everyone to the game of 31.

Pencil in on your calendars: the Memorial Day potluck (May 26) after the ceremony at the Allison cemetery. June 14 will have us doing another Hamburger grill along with participating in the TARA Treasure Trail yard sale. This year we will open the yard sale to the community



with community members donating the \$10 entry fee to TARA.

Enjoy what’s remaining of winter — we basically missed it in South-west Colorado.

Larry Corman

Marvel
Contact Cindy Greer, 970-749-8108 or hcrdgreer@gmail.com for further information.

March 15 — Pioneer 4-H Club & Marvel Grange Baked Potato Bar and Dessert Auction.

March 29 — Community Breakfast 8-10 a.m.

April 4 — Business Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Program: Sheryl Ayers.

January 18 we held our annual Chili cook-off and dessert auction. We began at 6 p.m. with six green chili entries and four red chili entries; 36 were in attendance. In the Red chili division Shauna Dreb took

1st place and received \$20. Second went to Cindy Greer \$15, and third went to Tom Campion \$5. In the Green Chili division Frances Horvath took 1st and received \$30, Ernie Army was 2nd and received \$20, we had a tie for third between Sandy Valencia and Marlon Greer each receiving \$5. Others who entered chili were Georgia Miller and Isaac Greer. The dessert auction had 19 items. The auction raised around \$1,273.00 which will be used to help local individuals this winter with electricity or other necessities.

We voted to again cater the Basin CO-OP Banquet on May 6. We also voted to pursue some grants for building improvements.

Sandy Valencia shared Presidential trivia of those presidents born in



Auctioning off desserts at Marvel Grange’s annual auction.



Marvel Grange’s Dessert Auction raised \$1,273 which will be used to help local individuals this winter.

February for the program.

The Valentine’s Fundraiser was held on February 14. Melissa MacDougall agreed to take the reservations via email and phone. We had 32 reservations for dinner for two seatings, one at 6 p.m. and one at 7 p.m. We set up tables and decorated on February 12. We offered a choice of two dinners: Prime Rib or Chicken with baked potatoes, salad, green beans, rolls, beverages, and dessert of Cherry Delight or Strawberry shortcake. Thank you to the members who helped cook and serve. Thank you to Kathy Hogan for being this year’s coordinator.

Cindy Greer

Marvel JG
Contact Cindy Greer, leader, 970-588-3386 or hcrdgreer@frontier.net, for further information.
April 21 — Junior Grange 10:30 a.m.

Two juniors and one guest participated in February making a lawn tractor or tic tac toe game from Home Depot. The kids watched a video on Water and attempted to define Hydroponics. This is part of the National Junior Grange Agriculture project. We have prospects of four new junior members and one pre-junior member.

Cindy Greer



Great turnout for Marvel’s Chili cook-off with six green and four red chili entries.

Rose Hill
IN MEMORIAM
Norman James Union
January 4, 1941 –
February 5, 2025
Commerce City, Colorado

Norman James Union passed away peacefully on February 5, 2025, surrounded by family in Brighton, Colorado.

He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on January 4, 1941, and raised in Akron, Ohio. Norm attended Ohio State and graduated from Kent State after serving his country for three years in the Army. He went to most European Countries during his service and most U.S. States after the Army and before marrying Janet Swank. Janet and Norm had a daughter, Sarah.

Janet and Norm met during a bike trip sponsored by Colorado Mountain Club. They traveled and hiked U.S.-wide and enjoyed square dancing. They began the *Commerce City Beacon* in March 1988, and Norm’s Printing in 1982. Norm ran Norm’s Printing until November 2023 when he moved to assisted living in Brighton.

Norm was very community minded and volunteered his time endlessly, especially in the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, founding father of the Commerce City Historical Society, and active in The Rose Hill Grange and Colorado State Grange. Norm was the President/Master of Rose Hill Grange at the time of his death and had served on the Colorado State Grange Executive committee



for one year; he was also a delegate at the state Grange conventions numerous times. Norm loved spending time at the Casino and eating great food. He was a true Patriot.

He is preceded in death by his wife Janet, and his daughter Sarah, and his parents. He is survived by: sister, Lois; sisters-in-law, Barbara and Carol; brothers-in-law, Robert and Walter; and nieces and nephews, Paula, Ronnie, Lee, Maggie, Paul, Alex, Stacey, Kim, Jo, and Stan.

Visitation was Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at Horan & McConaty, 9998 Grant Street, Thornton, Colo.

Funeral Service was Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at Horan & McConaty, 9998 Grant Street, Thornton, Colo. Norm will be laid to rest with his wife and daughter in Elmwood Cemetery, Brighton.



Florissant
Contact Renee Caldwell, 719-748-5004, florissantgrange@gmail.com, for further information.

Upcoming Events:
Every Thursday is Community Potluck and Music.
Every Tuesday the Florissant Grange Quilt of Valor Guild meets from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Business meeting is the 2nd Monday of the month at 6 p.m.

Gift Shop is open Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday weekly.

March 8 -- Pine Needle Basket Classes; Seasoned and newbies, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

March 28 — Souper Supper and Quilt Show 4:30-7 p.m.

April (tbd) – Paint with Me event.

April (tbd) – Annual Easter Party.

Paint with Me class had to be divided into two classes because of the great response we had. We had a great time painting a Winter mountain scene.

We had a plumbing issue during January which started Christmas Eve. We hired several different companies to try to find the issue. We finally had to send a camera down the sewer pipe

and finally found the problem. Estimates to fix it were a pretty penny and we were trying to figure out this dilemma when one of our Grangers stepped up and said he would fix it for us. Another of our Grangers provided the nicest porta potties we have ever seen for our visitors to use in the meantime. When they were finally able to dig, they found that the issue was actually caused by another company who had dug a trench to install and broke the sewer pipe. The company responsible stepped up and paid for all the work that had to be done. Love our community and local businesses.

The Florissant Grange Quilters awarded five Quilts of Valor in January and February. We are working through a nice list of Veterans to award in the near future. We also have four Purple Heart Quilts of Valor to work on and award in May for Memorial Day. And finally, we are working on quilts for the upcoming Quilt Show at the end of March as a fundraising event at our Grange.

It has been unusually cold here in Florissant, but even so, we actually had two Winter Campers with Harvest Host. Unfortunately, the Gift Shop has suffered because of this bitter cold, but because of the success it has had in the past, we will keep it open and hopefully things will start warming up now that January is over.

Renee Caldwell

2025 Great Plains Regional Conference Registration Form

June 20-21, 2025

Quality Inn

3075 E. US 50

Canon City, Colorado

Make your own room reservations: (719) 275-8676

King Size, \$118 + taxes per night-Reserve under National Grange Great Plains Conference

Contact Gary Wardle (303) 349-7390 or Kathy Wardle (720) 354-1196 with questions.

Name _____ Phone _____

Member type: Subordinate Member _____ Youth _____ Junior _____ Age 5 and under _____

Address _____

Email _____

Grange state and subordinate Grange name _____

Health Conditions, dietary restrictions, food allergies: _____

Registration Fee: \$75.00 _____ includes Saturday afternoon Group fee Royal Gorge Experience (bridge walk and/or gondola) PLUS Conference

\$45.00 _____ optional fee for just Conference

5 and under: free

Meals: Continental Breakfast included with stay.

Friday evening at 5:00 pm: Build your sandwich

Saturday Lunch and Dinner will be provided

Each State is asked to prepare and present a 30-45 minute program.

By June 1, 2025 please send money and registration form to:

Colorado State Grange c/o Cindy Greer

7629 CR 100

Hesperus, CO 81326

Phone (719) 748-5008. Email: costategrange@gmail.com