JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

150th

ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF THE

COLORADO STATE GRANGE



Held at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites

In Brighton, CO October 5-8, 2023 In Memory 2022-2023

Animas Valley #194 Christie Chiton

Crescent #136
Daivd Tillman
Christopher Cleary

Florida #306 Aleta Khlare

Golden Gate #451 Jeanne Hostettler

Mt. Allison #308 Shirley Engler

Mount Lookout #339 Betsy Harrison

ONE HUNDRED FIFTYTH ANNUAL CONVENTION INDEX

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OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

Master/President	Betsy Huber, Lincoln Univ. PA			
Overseer				
Lecturer				
Steward				
Assistant Steward				
Lady Assistant Steward				
Chaplain				
Treasurer	Joe Goodrich, Middletown Springs, VT			
Secretary				
Gatekeeper				
Ceres				
Pomona				
Flora				
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE				
Leroy Watson –Walpole, NH Buddy Overstreet, San Antonio, TX	Lynette Shaeffer Lebanon, IL Betsy Huber , Master, Lincoln Univ. PA Susan Noah – Salem, Or Chris Hamp , Nine Mile Falls, WA			

DIRECTORS AND NATIONAL STAFF

Legislative Director, Burton Eller, National Grange Headquarters, beller@nationalGrange.org

Junior Grange Development Director, Samantha Wilkins junior@nationalGrange.org

Youth Development Director, Samantha Wilkins

Communications Director, Philip Vonada, communications@nationalGrange.org

Leadership/Membership Development Director, Amanda Brozana Rios, Membership@nationalGrange.org

OFFICERS OF THE COLORADO STATE GRANGE

Master Gary Wardle, Brighton
Overseer
Lecturer
Steward
Assistant Steward
Lady Assistant Steward
Treasurer Sheryl Ayers, Hesperus
Secretary
Gatekeeper Barry Willits, Hotchkiss
Ceres
Pomona
Flora
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
Tom CampionChairman
John CruzArvada
Roger Ayers
Pianist for Session

DIRECTORS

Legislative Director	Mike Lackey, Arvada
Co-Director of Family Activities	
Co-Director of Family Activities	Karen Baxter, Bayfield
Community Service Director	Lisa Mittan, Arvada
Director of Membership Development	Dominick Breton, Wheat Ridge
Director of Mandy Project	Cindy Greer, Hesperus
Directors of Junior & Youth Grange Activities	Kara Jacobs, Littleton
Director of Health Awareness	Louetta Phelps, Ignacio
Director of PR/IC	Elizabeth Hiner, Haiku, HI
Director of Real Estate	Mike Lackey, Arvada
Historian	Jeanne Davies, Highlands Ranch



150TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE COLORADO STATE GRANGE

Officers and Directors met on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 to unload the trailer and set up the building for the convention. The Worthy Master, Gary Wardle and First Lady Kathy Wardle provided a Pizza, Salad, dessert and beverages for the officers and directors present. Officers practiced the opening ceremony, marching, the sixth degree and fourth degree opening and closing.

CONVENTION MINUTES Thursday, October 5, 2023

The officers of the Colorado State Grange marched in under the direction of Lady Assistant Steward, Amy Peterson and Assistant Steward, Mike Lackey(protem). Worthy Master/President, Gary Wardle, opened the Grange in the sixth degree. The Grange was lowered to the fourth degree. Fourth degree members were admitted. Honored guests, Roger Bostwick, High Priest of Demeter and Melanie Bostwick along with Cindy Greer (National Ceres and Past State Master), Jeanne Davies (past National Overseer, Executive Committee, flora and Priestess Annalist and Past State Master), and David McCord (Past State Master) were introduced and greeted the delegated briefly.

Roll call of officers and Directors was taken with Ceres, Dorothy Dannels absent due to Leonard's surgery and Assistant Steward, Christopher Cleary (who passed away earlier in the year).

The convention agenda was adopted.

The partial credential report was given by the Overseer.

Master, Gary Wardle asked Overseer Harry Greer to fill the Masters station. Harry introduced Gary Wardle to present his "President's Report". The Overseer assigned the Ag committee the Ag section and Legislation committee the Legislative section of the report.

Treasurer, Sheryl Ayers gave her report high lighting Gary Wardle, past treasurer's beginnings and along with the secretary managing the day-to-day bills. The Executive committee takes care of the invested funds.

Secretary, Cindy Greer gave the Secretary's report. These reports were accepted.

Executive Chairman, Tom Campion gave the Executive committee report.

Jeanne Davies was escorted to the Master's station as Leadership Scholarship Foundation President Emeterios. The secretary read the Leadership Scholarship Report. Jeanne shared a few thoughts. Gary Wardle informed the delegates of the resignation of Jim Miller acting president and treasurer for the Leadership/Scholarship foundation and the need for board members.

The Grange closed in the fourth degree at 2:45 p.m.

150th Celebration kick-off Thursday, October 5, 2023

The 150th Celebration was held at the Brighton Armory and Performing Arts center. Gary Wardle shared some Grange History to begin the evening, explaining that the first year there were two conventions held. Blue table cloths and Happy birthday decorations were on each table. Cake, Ice cream and Veggies were served with lemonade and water. Gary Wardle presented each Grange present at the event with a 150th anniversary banner. Grangers enjoyed looking at the quilt display that was on exhibit at the center. Suzie Knight entertained the group with Broadway hits over the years.

October 6, 2023

The Second day of the 150th Annual session was opened by Worthy Master/president, Gary Wardle. Roll call of officers was taken. The Final credentials report was given with Dominic Breton and Kathryn Williams

being seated as delegates for Wheat Ridge Grange. Secretary reported 32 voting delegates. Election of Officer was explained and nomination for Master/President were taken. Roll call of Granges present was done by the Secretary as their delegates cast their ballots for Master/President. The assistants opened and read the ballots and the secretary recorded and reported that 32 ballots were cast for Gary Wardle.

Election of officer proceeded and committees began reporting as the ballot committee of John Cruz, Laura Anderson and Norm Union counted ballots. Good of the Order committee chair, Renee Caldwell presented GOTO 1. Discussion began, the resolution was amended and approved. Harry Greer was elected Overseer. Tom Campion was re-elected to the Executive committee for a three-year term. B.J. Bushman was elected Lecturer on the third ballot. Grange Activities committee chair, Ruth Wilson Franscisco presented GA#1 on quilts. The resolution was amended and adopted. Kendall Spoor was elected Steward. Mike Lackey was elected Assistant Steward. Laura Anderson was elected as Lady Assistant Steward. The meeting took a recess for lunch the membership lunch 11:30.

At 1:15 the Session was called back to order and election of Lady Assistant Steward was held with Laura Anderson being elected. Jeff Kloska of the Colorado Air and space port was introduced and presented a power point program with information about the space port. He answered a few questions and was then presented with a cook book and history books. The meeting was called back to order.

Ecology, Health, & Welfare chairman J. Kelly presented HEHW #1 on Social Activities. The resolution was amended and passed. Amy Peterson was elected Chaplain.

Legislation and Taxation Chairman, Lisa Mittan presented LG/T #1 House of Representatives and Senate term limits was presented, discussed, and sent back to committee. The Grange was closed in regular form at 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP LUNCH Friday, October 6, 2023

The membership lunch was catered by Dickies BBQ and met at the Brighton Recreation Center. Domonic Breton talked about membership. Gary Wardle presented membership gain awards to Sunflower and Florissant. Granges with a gain of one or two member: Mt. Allison, Garden Home, Colona and Cache La Poudre also received certificates. Door prize tickets were given out after the lunch for a drawing on Saturday.

MEMORIAL SEVICE Friday, October 6. 2023

The Memorial Service lead by State Chaplain, Loeda Westphal was held Friday afternoon. The theme was God's rainbow. The pianist was Ruth Wilson Francisco. Secretary, Cindy Greer read the names in the book of memories.

Eulogies for Christopher Cleary, Crescent Grange, Shirley Jo Engler, Past State Lecturer – Mt. Allison and Edrie Jeanne Hostetler, Past Delegate – Golden Gate were read. Flowers were present to the families representing these faithful Grangers. Three candles were lit following the draping of the charter.

COLORADO STATE GRANGE ALUMNI BREAKFAST Friday, October 6, 2023

The CSG alumni met for breakfast at the First Street Café for a Dutch treat cafe. There were 24 in attendance. Officers present were Idella Lewis, President; Lisa Mittan, Vice President. Barry Willits was elected as Secretary and Lisa Mittan moved up to President and Larry Corman moved up to Vice President. Roger and

Melanie Bostwick, National representatives were introduced and thanked for being present. Idella Lewis presented a program on stress. She shared that stress can be hereditary in some cases. She also shared that 40% of heart attacks have had some sort of stress. She encouraged us to check out an on-line stress test and then shared various stress relieving ideas and passed out dark chocolate, a stress reliever to everyone present. State Chaplain, Loeda Westphal offered a prayer of thanks for the food.

GRANGE GALA Friday October 6, 2023

State Lecturer, Elizabeth Hiner planned a "Raised Right Here" themed Gala at the Brighton Recreation Center. Pulled pork, salads, chips and beverages were served to the participants. Idella Lewis and Karen Baxter presented the Family Activities awards. Lisa Mittan presented the community service awards and Elizabeth Hiner presented the Lecturers awards. Roger Ayers of Marvel received the most awards for his entries. Elizabeth was thanked for her service as Lecturer and planning of this event. Following the Gala PICK held its annual meeting.

PAST MASTERS BREAKFAST Saturday, October 7, 2023

Main Street Café, Brighton, CO

Fifteen were present at the Dutch-treat Breakfast at the Main Street Café in Brighton. Breakfast was ordered and enjoyed. David McCord called the meeting to order and passed out large metal clips to everyone that could be used to stand a cell phone on, close opened bags or other things. Dave talked about several agriculture issues that we will be discussing later at the session.

Harry Greer will move up to Presiding Past Master. Roger Ayers was elected as Presiding substitute past master and Amy Peterson was elected as presiding PM Secretary. Amy Peterson offered a blessing over the meal. Count of Masters was taken with there being: Subordinate Masters -9, Youth Masters -4, Pomona Masters -8, State Masters -5. Roger Bostwick, National High Priest of Demeter was introduced. Alan Caldwell volunteered to take the record book and digitalize it for preservation. The meeting was adjourned.

Cindy Greer, Acting Secretary

CONVENTION MINUTES Saturday, October 7, 2023

Gary Wardle, Master/President opened the session in the fourth degree at 8:45 a.m. Roll call of officer was taken. The wheel was spun and the winner announced – they received \$24.00. Groups of five-150th bags were given out as door prizes. Election of Officers continued, alternating with committee reports. Harry Greer moved that the executive Committee approve the minutes from State Session. It was seconded and carried.

A video message from the National Master was shown to the delegates, she congratulated us on holding a state convention and informed us of the possible sale of the National Headquarters building in DC and that progress.

Sheryl Ayers, was elected Treasurer, Cindy Greer was elected Secretary, Barry Willits was elected Gate keeper, Yvonne Ludwig was elected as Ceres, Dee Dee Ramstetter was elected as Pomona and Terri Costeldia was elected as Flora. Gary Wardle made a special nomination to elect Ruth Wilson Franscisco as Pianist. Good of the Order committee resolution #2 was presented, discussed and sent back to committee for verbiage. Legislative committee chair Lisa Mittan presented LG/T #1, which was adopted. David McCord, Ag committee chairman presented Resolution AG #2 and it was adopted after discussion. Sheryl Ayers moved that Ag#1 be brought back to the floor as some committee members were in opposition and she wondered why. Seconded and carried. After discussion the resolution was tabled until next year so that more facts could be gathered.

Kathryn Williams moved that LG/T#1 be brough back to the floor. The motion was seconded and defeated.

The National Master's video message was shared with the group.

Gary Wardle called for a recess to prepare for installation of Officers. National High Priest, Roger Bostwick installed the officers of the Colorado State Grange. Kathy Wardle acted as Marshall with Trish Corman and Karen Baxter as regalia Bearer. Gary Wardle thanked Roger for a lovely installation ceremony.

Florissant Grange represented by Alan Caldwell shared information about their Grange as the Spotlight on Grange. Photos of activities of their Grange were shown on the screen.

JG LUNCHEON Saturday, October 7, 2023

Gary Wardle welcomed everyone to the Junior Lunch that was held at the Brighton Recreation Center. Loeda Westphal offered a blessing for the meal. Kathy Wardle asked National Representative, Melanie Bostwick to share information about the Youth and Junior program. Melanie also shared a story of how she met Roger at a Grange event. Others shared information as well. Kathy then presented Junior Grange craft awards to Marvel, Mt. Allsion, Golden Gate, and Enterprise Granges.

Lunch was a catered sandwich lunch, with pasta salad, fresh fruit and cookies with beverages.

CONFERRING OF THE FIFTH DEGREE Saturday. October 7, 2023

Gary Wardle called the Grange back to order. He then raised the Grange to the fifth degree and introduced Harry Greer, State Grange Overseer and La Plata Pomona Grange Master, who gave the short form degree to six candidates. A short recess was called.

CONFERRING OF THE SIXTH DEGREE Saturday, October 7, 2023

Master, Gary Wardle called the Grange back to order for the sixth-degree presentation. Six candidates received the degree. The Rose drill was a lovely reading about the meaning of the different colors of Roses. Terri Costeldia, Dee Dee Ramstetter, Trish Corman and Karen Baxter assisted Flora, Yvonne Chapman with the drill.

The candidates receiving the fifth and sixth degree were: Shelly Griffin, Dee Dee Ramstetter, Cherry and Dick Ellis, Kathryn Williams, and B.J. Bushman.

Gary thanked all the officers for their work in the sixth degree.

After the degrees there was a short recess, the meeting was called back to order. Discussion was held on the 2024 state session. Retiring officers were recognized and thanked for their service: Loeda Westphal, Elizabeth Hiner, Yvonne Chapman, and J. Kelly. GA resolution #2 read the Thank you letter for session. The Grange was closed in regular form.

ANNUAL BANQUET Saturday, October 7, 2023

Tom Campion, Executive committee chairman welcomed the group. Amy Peterson, State Chaplain asked the blessing. The group enjoyed a dinner of beef tips, chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans or carrots, green salad,

rolls and dessert. The Raffle drawing was held at 7:15 p.m. with Alan Caldwell winning the quilt, Louetta Phelps winning the clock, Roger Ayers winning the Camden Bag, June Spriggs winning the Childs quilt, Mt. Lookout Grange winning the Lake Tahoe Photo, and Deb Flick winning the Table topper.

Quilts of Valor were presented to Ralph Pautz, Army Reserves for 32 years and Ed Shackley, Army, served in Vietnam. The Florissant Quilt of Valor group donated one quilt and Cindy Greer donated the other quilt. Renee Caldwell presented information about Quilts of Valor and shared information about the recipients.

Roger and Melanie Bostwick were thanked for attending the session as our national representatives and presented with a treasure box of flowers made from Pheasant feathers. The Bostwick's' presented Gary and Kathy Wardle items from Kansas. Participants were thanked for attending the session and making it successful. The Quilt of Valor recipients each shared thoughts and thanks. Participants were encouraged to continue to visit.

PRESIDENT/MASTER'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

Gary Wardle

Brothers and Sisters of the Colorado State Grange, fellow Officers and Directors and High Priest of Demeter Roger Bostwick and Sister Melanie,

Welcome to the 150th Annual Convention of the Colorado State Grange in Brighton, Colorado. It is my honor to serve as the president of the Colorado State Grange for the past two years. I want to thank all for your support and work for the Grange.

We will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Colorado state Grange over the next year. As we begin the new year, I would encourage all Granges to include celebrating the 150th anniversary during the year. We need to make membership development a priority each year. Our community service projects could include cooperating with other organizations. Promote the events and have membership information available.

This past year we were sorry to lose Homestead Grange and Grandview Grange. The good news is we had five Granges with a net gain in membership, good work. I worked with Lambert Grange and Green Valley Grange on membership this past year. The State Grange had a booth at the Colorado State Fair. Thank you, Cindy, for making the display and delivering it to Pueblo.

National Grange

In November, Kathy and I attended the National Grange convention held in Reno, Nevada. Congratulations to Cindy Greer for work as the Ceres of the National Grange. The National Grange Executive Committee continues to review offers to sell the National Grange headquarters building. They hope to have a firm sales agreement in December.

I attended the Masters Conference via zoom this year. I attended the Grange Insurance annual meeting this year via zoom. The Grange Insurance Company has reduced their support of the Granges by approximately 7% for next year. Betsy is working with the insurance company to stabilize their support going into the future.

The National Grange has received two grants this year. The first is a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute or PCORI grant. This grant is to help seniors prepare for any emergency where they might need to go to the hospital. Each Grange will receive information on the project early next year. The second opportunity is the Association for Progressive Communications or APC Grant. This will assist those who qualify in purchasing computers and paying for internet connectivity. Granges should contact Amanda Bozana at the National Grange for information.

Legislative

Thank you to Mike Lackey for his work at the Legislature this past year. There are two measures on the ballot this year that the Colorado State Grange urges Grangers to follow closely. The first ballot measure is HH which will reduce property taxes but will also reduce the Tabor Refunds. The second ballot measure is II which would allow the State of Colorado to retain Nicotine tax revenue above original estimates. We should all become knowledgeable on the ballot measures and vote in November.

The National Farm Bill expired on September 30, 2023. There is no new farm bill in the works. Several provisions in the Farm Bill are funded through the end of the year or December 31, 2023.

Trends in agriculture suggest that by 2040 there will be fewer than 100,000 production farms, and 5% of the farms will produce 75% of the food. Farmers continue to see profits fall. Sixty percent of the farmers are concerned that they may not be able to repay their operating cost loans. South Africa will likely become the breadbasket of the world. This will put American farmers in a tough competitive environment.

Thank You

I would like to thank all who assisted me this past year. Thank you to Cindy Greer for her assistance and work as secretary. I would like to thank the executive committee, Tom Campion, John Cruz, Roger Ayers, and Harry Greer for their work this past year. Thanks, to Sharyl Ayres for her work as treasurer. She has revamped the budget to allow for us to compare expenditures from previous years. Thanks to the department directors, Dave McCord, Agriculture; Lisa Mittan, Community Service; Domonic Brenton, Membership; Idella Lewis and Karen Baxter, Family Activities; Kara Jacobs, Youth and Juniors; Legislative/Real Estate, Mike Lackey; Publicity and Lecturer, Elizabeth Hiner; and Health, Louetta Phelps. A special thanks to Kathy Wardle for assistance with Junior Grange and planning for the convention this year. I also want to thank the special committee who worked to look at ways to reduce the cost of the Granger paper. There is a resolution for consideration by the delegate body this year. They are Tom Campion, Larry Corman, Lisa Mittan, Cindy Greer, Ruth Wilson Francisco, and Berry Willits.

Let us be ever mindful of our motto:

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

Report of the Treasurer

Sheryl Ayers

Our investments allow us to continue to feel financially able to continue for the foreseeable future. Those funds are in good hands and are being watched carefully by the Executive Committee, your State Secretary and the representatives of the various investment companies.

As of the end of September, we have the following "cash" assets:

Community Banks checking \$25,361.50

Community Banks Money Market \$250,000.00 (Castlewood sale, etc.)
Community Banks Investment Fund \$472,170.90 (Castlewood sale, etc.)

LPL Financial (Grandview sale) \$333,365.35 LPL Financial (Invested) \$387,941.18 Metrum Credit Union \$3,035.16 Metrum Emergency Fund \$9,141.72,

for a total of \$1,481,015.60.

Both of the accounts associated with Grange Hall sales are held by the State Grange for that Subordinate to use when they purchase/build a new hall/property or "for use in accordance with the general purposes of the Order." The "invested" funds in LPL are partially from the sale of the State Grange building years ago. I'm very grateful that others are making decisions regarding these invested funds and watching them carefully. The Grange, according to the National Digest, has safeguards in place for Granges being sold and for any/all funds being spent.

Thank you for entrusting me with the privilege and responsibility of being your treasurer.

Secretary's Report

Cindy Greer

There are always different things to do as the Secretary of the Colorado State Grange. Answering non-member questions about various Grange halls, or seeing if there is a Grange in a remote area to present a quilt of Valor have been a few of those questions this past year, as well as answering questions about the quarterly reports and other Grange related issues.

The biggest challenge is keeping up with the membership. When quarterly reports come in, I edit our membership list, by adding or deleting members and then for most subordinate Granges I do the same thing on the National Database, if I get interrupted doing that, I have forgotten one list, so it's a challenge.

Every issue of the Colorado Granger that is sent out results in a few of those papers being returned because people have moved and not notified the office or their own subordinate Secretary. One associate member was sent the Granger to three different addresses at different times with them all being returned to the office, it's at that point that I truly "give up". I don't know if it's a post office problem or something else, but there is only so much I can do.

The second quarter report showed that we have 953 individual members. Ten family plans, Thirty Associate members and 38 Junior or Junior 1+ members. There are 38 subordinate Granges, three active Pomona Granges and only one active Junior Grange at this time. Any Grange that has more than 13 Junior +1 members should truly consider forming a Junior Grange. We know that it takes adults to make the program work and that is always a challenge. Currently we have 1028 members on our data base which does include junior +1 members, but not Junior Grange members.

The first quarter reported 37 new members to the Grange. Redlands Mesa, Sunflower, Golden Gate, Crescent, Altona and Left Hand reported new members. The second quarter there were 27 new members reported by Lake Vista, Pleasant Park, Marvel, Golden Gate, Mount Lookout, Empire, Florissant and Animas Valley. The third quarter of 2022 we had 30 new members reported by, Sunflower, Lewis, Castlewood, Empire, Florissant, Mount Lookout, Altona and Colona. The fourth quarter of 2022 we had nine members reported by Sunflower, Animas Valley, Left hand, Garden Home and Mt. Allison. For a total of 103 new faces to our Granges. We have attempted to send each new family a welcome letter and information about the Colorado State Grange and the National Grange. Unfortunately, some of those attempts were returned because the address was incorrect sometime with no mail receptacle.

Publication Printers is the company who prints and mails the Colorado Granger. Tamara Accardi is the contact who takes the articles and pictures and formats them for us. She is a miracle worker at times and can get in items that I may have forgotten to send and double checks to see that she has all the articles listed. She's terrific at filling up space with additional information and had even gone so far as to find fill on her own from the National Grange website. Once articles are received in the state office, they are formatted to the right size and type of print (New times Roman, size 11) and then double spaced. The articles are emailed to Publication Printers along with photos and captions and a detailed check list of the articles included. From each subordinate and Pomona article dates are pulled for activities and events and compiled into a list of upcoming dates. A paper copy of each article is printed and mailed to Tamara via the USPS, just to ensure that she has everything and nothing got lost in cyberspace. After all this is done, I go through the membership list and sort it so that we *attempt* to send only one copy to an address and that list is sent and Publication printers mail merges the list onto the papers that are mailed out. Every time a Colorado Granger paper goes out, I've made a trip to the Post office in Durango and put a deposit on our EPS (Enterprise Payment system) account so that there is money to mail the Grange papers out to all of you. Fortunately, when I get a photo or an article that the State Grange computer can't open, I send it to my personal mac book pro and can usually convert it and send it back to the State Grange computer.

I recently discovered that the IRS changed their methods of operation in 2019 for Parent organizations reporting subordinate organizations. The IRS used to send us a list of what they had on record as subordinate organizations, but that changed in 2019 and they reversed the method and we are supposed to now send them a list each year of our subordinate organizations since we are the parent organization. After discovering this change (which took place before I was elected secretary) I sent an explanation along with the current list of subordinates. We are also to report those who have given up their charters each year to the IRS. I found this because I was trying to find out how to get a copy of the letter each subordinate Grange and Pomona Grange has that shows their EIN number and their tax except class (501c5...)

I still find that Granges are not filing or having difficulty filing the 990N Postcard. The IRS requires that each subordinate and Pomona Grange file a 990N Postcard in order to maintain their tax-exempt status. Once the status is lost it will take a substantial amount of money and a complicated form to get it back, as some of our subordinate Granges can attest to. So, taking 5 minutes to complete the 990N Postcard is worth it. A subordinate or Pomona Grange secretary or treasurer are the only ones who can answer the questions which are relatively easy, but require their knowledge of that particular subordinate or Pomona Grange. I don't have the information to complete the post card for each Grange because I don't know how much money your individual group has brought in during the year. I can assume, but that would not be truthful.

Having the Treasurer, Sheryl Ayers, live so close has made things easier because I receive the checks and bills, track them on excel, and then hand them over to her for deposit or payment. I would like to thank Sheryl for all her help these past two years.

It has been a challenge at times, I'm sure there is more I could tell you, but I'm sure your head is already spinning. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your State Secretary it has been a joy.

"If you can't find Joy in what you are doing, it's probably time to move on to something you can find Joy in."

Annual Agriculture Report David H. McCord, Agriculture Director

As the Agriculture director I have prepared Agriculture Reports for the Colorado Granger

I attend Colorado Ag Council meetings during the legislative session and others as may be scheduled. This year there were about three meetings held at the Capital with none held during the final weeks of the session and no planning or legislative learning meetings. I did not participate in the Ag Day at the Capital held during the 3rd week of March. These previous major Ag Day "food feeds" sponsored by the Ag Council of Colorado's agricultural products held at the Capital have been diminished in emphasis due to "uncertain value" assertion. I do not agree with this but acknowledge the tremendous effort that went into these events.

Kay and I attended the following agriculture events: National Western Stock Show, Farm Show at Island Grove in Greeley, Arapahoe County Fair, Colorado State Fair (at the invitation of the Director of Ag.), grand opening of the Hydra (water) facility at CSU's "Spur" campus at the National Western grounds.

I monitor emailed ag related newsletters and notices from these groups and agencies for importance to Colorado State Grange members.

Colorado Department of Agriculture Colorado Horse Council Colorado Ag Water Alliance Colorado Corn Production Council's "Field Kernal's" Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association Colorado Ag Leader Program

Also, on behalf of the Colorado Muzzle Loader organization I am a member of the Colorado Wildlife Conservation Project created to oppose the Senate Bill (defeated) that would have prohibited cougar and wildcat hunting. Many wildlife and agriculture issues overlap: safe wildlife highway crossings, re-up of the Colorado Habitat Stamp, Gov. P's unwise appointments to the CPW Commission, U.S. Farm Bill, Colorado's wolf introduction, Denver initiative to shut down Denver slaughter houses, wild horse management, and now another initiative to prohibit mountain lion, bobcat and lynx hunting (mountain lions consume an adult deer or heifer size animal every 10 days to two weeks).

<u>FAMILY ACTIVITIES</u> Idella Lewis & Karen Baxter

FAMILY ACTIVITIES 2022-23

Family Activities Department had a very successful year at last year's State Session with 80 entries in baking and needlework with the following Granges participating. This was an increase in number of entries over the previous year.

Marvel 18 entries
Mt. Allison 17 entries
Golden Gate 22 entries
Maple Grove 8 entries
Florissant 5 entries
Enterprise 5 entries
Lewis 2 entries
Fountain Valley 2 entries
Florida 1 entry

Everyone who entered was a winner. Following the judging a bake sale was held with funds collected going to the Family Activities fund. It is always interesting to look at the exhibits that are on display. Encourage everyone in your Grange to enter something so we can have a nice display again next year!

A new category was added in the needlework division this year---machine embroidery.

The national quilt block contest provides an opportunity for Grange members and friends to collaborate in creating quilted items that can be donated or auctioned off for funds to provide additional service to community members in a nationwide effort. This year the national quilt block pattern was Nine Patch With a Half Square. Entries were due September 1st to the National Lecturer, Ann Bercher. The quilt blocks received are made into quilts to be displayed at the National Grange Session to be held in Niagara Falls, New York, in November.

The Family Activities Department had a very successful display of a total of 94 entries in the Baking and Needlework events at the 2023 State Grange Convention, including entries from the following Granges;

Golden Gate 28 Florissant 7
Marvel 16 Lewis 4
Mt. Allison 14 Florida 1
Maple Grove 13 Pleasant Park 1

Enterprise 10

Following the judging on Friday afternoon, a bake sale was held. Thank you to everyone who bought items which brought in \$95 which will be added to the Family Activities fund to help pay for the prize money.

Everyone was a winner just for participating by entering an item! Following are the results of the judging;

BAKING

Class A Cakes: 1st Sheryl Ayers, Marvel - 2nd Dorothy Dannels, Enterprise - 3rd Alyn Hansen, Golden Gate

Class B Altered Cake Mix: 1st Marlys Halbeisen, Maple Grove- 2nd Norene Hawthorne, Maple Grove -3rd Alyn Hansen, Golden Gate

Class C Yeast Bread: 1st Kayla Corman, Mt. Allison - 2nd Idella Lewis, Maple Grove - 3rd Sheryl Ayers, Marvel Class D Sweet Rolls: 1st Norene Hawthorne, Maple Grove - 2nd Cindy Greer, Marvel - 3rd Idella Lewis, Maple Grove Class E Bar Cookies: 1st Cindy Greer, Marvel - 2nd Norene Hawthorne, Maple Grove - 3rd Alyn Hansen, Golden Gate Class F Drop cookies: 1st Norene Hawthorne, Maple Grove - 2nd Jeanne Davies, Colorado State Grange - 3rd Dorothy Dannels. Enterprise

Class G Quick Breads: 1st Norene Hawthorne, Maple Grove -2nd Cindy Greer, Marvel -3nd Marlys Halbeisen, Maple Grove

Class H Fudge: 1st Marlys Halbeisen, Maple Grove -2nd Cindy Greer, Marvel -3rd Alyn Hansen, Golden Gate

Class I Canned foods: 1st Trish Corman, Mt. Allison -2nd Kimberly Lackey Tudor, Enterprise -3rd Ashley Lackey, Enterprise

Class 11 Jams: 1st Vickie Sutton Gallegos, Mt. Allison -2nd Cindy Greer, Marvel -3rd Kathy Gallegos, Maple Grove

Class 111 Juice: 1st Trish Corman, Mt. Allison -2nd Sheryl Ayers, Marvel

Class 1V Salsa & Tomatoes: 1st Trish Corman, Mt. Allison -2nd Kimberly Lackey Tudor, Enterprise -3rd Carol Lackey, Enterprise

Class V Pickles: 1st Trish Corman, Mt. Allison -2nd Karen Baxter, Mt. Allison -3nd Alyn Hansen, Golden Gate Class 1V Dried foods: 1st Kayla Corman, Mt. Allison -2nd Sheryl Ayers, Marvel -3nd Trish Corman, Mt. Allison NEEDLEWORK

Class A Afghan: 1st Polly Ford, Florida

Class B Sweater: 1st Karen Currier, Florissant - 2nd Alyn Hansen, Golden Gate

Class C Miscellaneous: 1st Ramona Miller, Florissant -2nd Marlys Halbeisen, Maple Grove -3rd Alyn Hansen, Golden Gate

Class D Hand Embroidery: 1st Marcia Phillips, Florissant -2nd Cindy Greer, Marvel

Class E Machine Embroidery: 1st Merle Sachse, Golden Gate -2nd Ruth Wilson Francisco, Lewis - 3rd Alyn Hansen, Golden Gate

Class F Pillow: 1st Ruth Wilson Fransisco, Lewis - 2nd Alyn Hansen, Golden Gate

Class G Recycled Item: 1st Merle Sachse, Golden Gate

Class H Machine Quilted Quilt: 1st Marcia Phillips, Florissant - 2nd Cindy Greer. Marvel - 3nd Karen Currier, Florissant **Class J Table Runner:** 1st Ruth Wilson Fransisco, Lewis -2nd Merle Sachse, Golden Gate - 3nd Alyn Hansen, Golden Gate

Class K Wall Hanging: 1st Merle Sachse, Golden Gate - 2nd Ruth Wilson Fransisco, Lewis - 3rd Cindy Greer, Marvel

Class L Adult Garment: 1st Alyn Hansen, Golden Gate Class O Stuffed toy: 1st Alyn Hansen, Golden Gate

Class P Quilt Block: 1st Karen Baxter, Mt. Allison - 2nd Cindy Greer, Marvel

Class Q Miscellaneous: 1st Karen Currier (silk scarf), Florissant - 2nd Karen Baxter, Marvel (pillowcase) - 3rd Merle Sachse,

Golden Gate (kitchen towel)

JUNIORS

Class H Quilt: 1st Melanie Price, Mt. Allison **Class P Quilt block:** 1st Melanie Price, Mt. Allison

Cookies: 1st Henry Greer, Marvel

Mandy Project 2023 Report Cindy Greer, Director

The Mandy project through the Colorado State Grange and P.I.C.K. has helped 145 Children obtain services pertaining to their hearing loss for the last 25 years. You should be proud of your contributions to this project. It's one way that we get the Grange name out to the public. Thank you for your continued support and promotion of this project.

Thank you to Amy Peterson, Audrey Maydew, Cyndi Charbonneau and Ruth Wilson Francisco for serving on the committee to review applications. Email makes sending copies of the applications and information easy and that is how we discuss and make decisions.

We received two application this year and the committee that reviews the application awarded each family \$1,500.00. \$1,000.00 from the Colorado State Grange Funds and \$500.00 from PICK funds.

Eliza McCullar, seven, of Longmont was diagnosed with mild sensorineural hearing loss in both ears after failing a school hearing screening. The cause of hearing loss is unknown but is most likely genetic. Eliza's audiologist recommended that she wear hearing aids in both years.

The families' goals are to provide Eliza with hearing aids so that she can continue to succeed at school and in her daily life.

Eliza is currently receivi8ng audiology services at Children's Hospital Colorado which does not accept Cigna Connect insurance and they have not been able to find another provider in their area who accepts their insurance and pediatric patients. Her father has been unemployed since November 2022. Her mom works as a part-time kindergarten paraprofessional during the school year.

Emilee Awe of Denver is 10 years old and attends Bradley International School. She suffers from a unilateral hearing loss (moderate) due to a bone that did not develop correctly in utero. Which was not discovered until shew as tested in school. Emilee's hearing loss has resulted in a slight speech delay that has improved with school-based speech language therapy sessions. She will require surgery to repair it which comes with major risks of complications and or complete hearing loss. She has decided she wants to continue with a hearing aid.

The families' goals are that she continues to nurture confidence with education and support of school and family.

A few months after discovering she was hard of hearing. Emilee was admitted into Colorado Children's hospital ICU with a life-threatening case of DKA (Diabetic Keto Acidosis). As Type 1 juvenile diabetes did not present

itself in an obvious manner. Her family was unaware until it was a very serious situation. Her mom has multiple sclerosis with bi-annual treatments in excess of \$110,000 each. Emilee is also receiving treatment At Children's Hospital Colorado.

Emilee handles both hearing loss and diabetes with confidence and stride. She is considered academically gifted and talented, has been the Optimist Club's Citizen of the month and is thought of as a classroom role model.

Donations for the Mandy project was received from Garden Home Grange this year.

People Improving Communities and Kids (P.I.C.K.)

Cindy Greer, Secretary/Treasurer

Our goals 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.

PICK has continued to offer opportunities for partnerships to apply for capital improvement grants or other grants. We worked with Animas Valley Grange on the possibility of applying for Grants as they need to have a new roof, in the end they decided not to pursue grants at this time.

We brought back the Silent Auction last year at the state convention. We had 16 items in the silent auction. The silent auction brought in \$259.00 which included a couple of donations from individuals. Pleasant Park donated a red white and blue crocheted Afghan which was auctioned off at the Final banquet for \$125.00. Billy Schufeldt, from Oklahoma, donated a Colorado Rockies hat from the silent auction to be auctioned off and it brought in an additional \$40.00. Total income for these two events was \$462.00. PICK had initially paid for the raffle tickets for the CSG raffle and we were reimbursed the \$33.00 for the cost of the tickets. \$478.00

ANNUAL REPORTS

PICK filed their two separate reports with the Colorado Secretary of State, as well as our yearly 990 with the Internal Revenue Service. This year we were eligible to file the 990N Postcard instead of the long 990 report (but we filled it out anyway just to have the information).

Mandy Project

This year the Mandy project did help two families this year as reported in the Mandy Project report for 2023. Eliza McCullar, seven, of Longmont and Emilee Awe of Denver is 10 each received \$500.00 from PICK.

<u>Partner activities:</u> We partnered with Billy Greer, (Marvel Grange member) who is working on establishing a rehabilitation and education center for raptors (birds of Prey). We applied to La Plata Electric Round up Foundation and Ballentine Family Foundation. We received \$1500.00 from La Plata electric for the project. We put up a Go Fund Me page for the project on Facebook and received one donation. The Ballentine family Foundation grant was reviewed at the end of August and we have been awarded \$2500.00 for Billy's project.

Shanda Price (Mt. Allison Grange member) requested to partner with pick to work on obtaining funds for her daughters' school cheerleaders. We did receive funding from La Plata Electric.

Board member Louetta Phelps mentioned a possible partnering project of getting tower gardens in elementary school classrooms in the future.

<u>Capital Improvement:</u> I met with Animas Valley Grange about partnering to seek funding for the replacement of their roof along with other projects. After much consideration they decided to not seek grants at

this time. Crescent Grange has indicated an interest in seeking grants in the coming year. PICK did subscribe to the Colorado Grants guide this year in anticipation of seeking grants.

Colorado State Grange utilized PICK to apply for a lodging tax grant from Brighton to assist in paying for the annual convention in Brighton this year. We did receive funding which enabled the CSG to hold the convention in Brighton.

The Board communicates via e-mail. Special thanks to President – Domonic Breton, Vice President – Marlys Halbeisen, Board members –Louetta Phelps, Gary Wardle, and myself. Election of officers for the board will happen at this year's state convention.

COLORDO STATE GRANGE LEADERSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Dear President Wardle, State Officers and Delegates to the 150th Annual Session:

It is an honor to present the Annual Report of the Colorado State Grange Leadership and Scholarship Foundation. I am pleased to report that the Foundation continues to be financially strong and providing financial assistance to young men and women who are members of a Colorado Grange or are children or grandchildren of Grange Members in Colorado.

This year's recipients of \$1,500 scholarships are:

	Attending	Representing
Katrina Borst	CU Colorado Springs	Florissant Grange
Rebecca Borst	CU Colorado Springs	Florissant Grange
Trent Boyncczski	Metro State	Golden Gate Grange
Evan Clark	Laramie County CC	Wheat Ridge Grange
Rebecca Davis	Western Colorado Univ.	El Paso Grange
Ashley Hoery	Colorado State	Green Valley Grange
Alex Kippis	DeVry Univ.	Cherry Creek Grange
Nicolas Paige	Colorado State	Golden Gate Grange
Chloe Roach	Colorado State	Golden Gate Grange
Azariah		
Van Nortwick	Bel Rae Institute	Castlewood Grange

Submitted on behalf of Foundation President Emeritus Jeanne Davies and Foundation Secretary Nicolas Maydew,

Jim Miller Acting President and Treasurer

Community Service

Lisa Mittan, Community Service Director

Eight combined reports were submitted, with five of these having the Community Service Form completed. Three of these reports used an old version of the form, for a previous Grange year, so the instructions were old and incorrect and the Lecturer's name and contact information was incorrect. One Grange used an old "Grange in Action" format. There were a lot of good and worthy programs and activities described in the reports submitted, that would certainly merit recognition for community service. Unfortunately, only five of the reports used the required form on which to provide information required by National Grange. Two of these did not have the details of programs to be considered for Community Service recognition

within the Community Service section of the Combined Reports, so they could not be considered for National recognition. Our Colorado State Grange sends our winning Community Service report to the annual National Grange conference that is held later in autumn, following our annual Colorado State Grange session. National Grange requires the front page of the report to be the informational form and that there are no more than four exhibits (photographs, flyers, etc.) for each event reported.

These instructions are provided on the Combined Reports form, which is emailed to key members of each active subordinate Grange within the state of Colorado. The instructions are also provided in the annual Handbook included in the Colorado Granger newspaper and on the Colorado State Grange website. The Community Service director's contact information is also provided on the form, in the handbook, and repeated in articles within the Colorado Granger newspaper. Additionally provided are offers of assistance with understanding or using the forms, and an offer to mail paper copies of the Combined Reports Form upon request for any Grange with members who do not want to use a computer to report on their Community Service activities and/or participate in the Lecturer Star categories contests.

It does appear that most of the active Granges within the state of Colorado are conducting community service programs and events. It also appears that most of these Granges do not want to report on these programs at the State Grange level, regardless of the opportunities for recognition, including monetary awards.

First Place – Marvel Grange #479; second place – Enterprise Grange #25 and third place – Animas Valley Grange #194. Each Grange was presented a certificate and cash award.

<u>Legislative Director Report</u> Mike Lackey, Director

Navigating Challenges and Cultivating Progress: Agriculture Highlights from the 2023 Colorado Legislature

Introduction

The agriculture sector in Colorado is not only vital to the state's economy but also plays a crucial role in providing food security and supporting rural communities. The 2023 Colorado Legislature recognized the significance of agriculture and addressed several key issues impacting farmers, ranchers, and the overall agri-food industry. In this article, I will delve into the agriculture-related highlights of the 2023 legislative session and how lawmakers aimed to foster growth, sustainability, and resilience within this essential sector.

1. Water Resources and Conservation

One of the most pressing concerns for Colorado's agriculture industry is water availability and management. The 2023 Colorado Legislature took significant steps to address this issue:

- Water Rights Protections: Lawmakers worked to protect agricultural water rights, ensuring that farmers and ranchers maintain access to water resources for irrigation and livestock.
- **Efficiency Measures**: The legislature passed bills promoting water efficiency practices, such as updating irrigation infrastructure and encouraging the adoption of water-saving technologies.
- Water Storage: Initiatives were launched to support water storage projects that could enhance water availability during times of drought.
- 2. Soil Health and Sustainability

Sustainable agriculture practices were a key focus of the 2023 legislative session, reflecting the growing recognition of the importance of soil health and environmental stewardship:

- **Soil Conservation**: Legislation was introduced to promote soil health and reduce erosion through incentives for cover cropping and regenerative farming practices.
- **Carbon Farming**: The state encouraged carbon farming initiatives that aim to sequester carbon in agricultural soils, contributing to climate change mitigation efforts.
- **Conservation Easements**: The legislature continued to support conservation easements to protect valuable agricultural land from development.

3. Supporting Small Farmers and Local Food Systems

Colorado's smaller-scale and local farmers received special attention during the 2023 legislative session:

- Farmers' Markets and Direct Sales: Lawmakers passed bills to simplify regulations and increase opportunities for farmers to sell their products directly to consumers at farmers' markets and through farm-to-table programs.
- **Agritourism Promotion**: Efforts were made to promote agritourism as a means of supporting small-scale farmers and connecting consumers with local food sources.
- **Farm-to-School Programs**: Initiatives were introduced to expand farm-to-school programs, providing nutritious, locally-sourced food to Colorado's students.
- 4. Pest and Disease Management

The legislature addressed pest and disease management to protect crops and livestock:

- **Invasive Species**: Lawmakers allocated resources for invasive species prevention and management to safeguard Colorado's agriculture from destructive pests.
- **Animal Health**: Initiatives were introduced to enhance animal health monitoring and disease prevention efforts within the livestock industry.
- **Crop Protection**: The state continued to support integrated pest management practices for crop protection, promoting environmentally friendly solutions.
- 5. Agricultural Education and Workforce Development

Recognizing the importance of a skilled workforce for agriculture's future, the 2023 Colorado Legislature took steps to support agricultural education and training:

- **Agricultural Scholarships**: Scholarships and grants were made available to students pursuing careers in agriculture, encouraging the next generation of farmers and agricultural professionals.
- **Workforce Training**: The legislature invested in workforce development programs to provide farmers and ranchers with the knowledge and tools needed to succeed in a rapidly evolving industry.

Conclusion

The 2023 Colorado Legislature demonstrated its commitment to the state's agriculture sector by addressing critical issues such as water management, soil health, small farmer support, pest and disease control, and workforce development. These legislative efforts aim to not only ensure the resilience and sustainability of Colorado's agriculture but also secure a prosperous future for the farmers, ranchers, and communities that rely on this essential industry. As Colorado continues to evolve, these measures will play a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of agriculture in the state.

Navigating the Flow: Key Water Policy Actions from the 2023 Colorado Legislature

Introduction

Water is a precious resource in Colorado, and the 2023 Colorado Legislature recognized its significance by taking a series of impactful actions to address pressing water-related issues. From water management and conservation to drought preparedness and infrastructure development, the legislature aimed to ensure the sustainable and equitable use of water resources in the state. In this article, I will delve into the notable actions and policies pertaining to water that emerged from the 2023 legislative session.

1. Drought Resilience and Water Conservation

Colorado has been grappling with severe drought conditions in recent years, highlighting the need for improved water conservation and drought resilience strategies:

- **Drought Planning**: The legislature allocated funding for drought preparedness and response efforts, which included improved water storage, enhanced monitoring, and early warning systems.
- **Urban Water Conservation**: Measures were passed to promote water conservation in urban areas through incentives, education, and efficient landscaping practices.
- **Agricultural Water Efficiency**: Initiatives were introduced to encourage and support farmers in adopting water-saving technologies and practices.
- 2. Water Infrastructure Investment

Maintaining and upgrading water infrastructure is essential for the state's water supply reliability and quality:

- **Infrastructure Funding**: The legislature earmarked funding for critical water infrastructure projects, including repairs and improvements to reservoirs, canals, and pipelines.
- **Aging Infrastructure**: Measures were taken to address the challenges posed by aging water infrastructure, with a focus on ensuring long-term functionality and safety.
- 3. Streamflow Management and Environmental Conservation

Balancing the needs of human water consumption with the preservation of aquatic ecosystems is a key concern in Colorado:

- **Streamflow Restoration**: The legislature passed bills to protect and restore streamflow in rivers and creeks, particularly during low-flow periods, to support aquatic life and recreational activities.
- **Fisheries Conservation**: Efforts were made to support the conservation of fisheries and aquatic habitats, with a particular emphasis on native and endangered species.
- 4. Water Rights and Compact Negotiations

Colorado's complex water rights system and interstate water compacts require ongoing attention and negotiation:

- **Interstate Compacts**: The legislature allocated resources for negotiations with neighboring states regarding interstate water compacts to ensure equitable sharing of water resources.
- Water Court Modernization: Initiatives aimed to modernize the state's water court system to improve efficiency and streamline water rights adjudication.
- 5. Water Equity and Access

Ensuring equitable access to water resources was a central theme in the 2023 legislative session:

- **Low-Income Assistance**: Measures were introduced to provide assistance to low-income individuals and communities struggling with water affordability issues.
- **Tribal Water Rights**: The legislature continued to work on tribal water rights settlements, acknowledging the importance of respecting Native American water rights and sovereignty.

Conclusion

The 2023 Colorado Legislature demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing the state's water challenges, recognizing the critical role that water plays in Colorado's environment, economy, and quality of life. Through investments in drought resilience, infrastructure, environmental conservation, and equitable access, Colorado lawmakers have taken significant steps to safeguard this precious resource for future generations. As the state

continues to face water-related challenges, the actions of the 2023 legislative session will be instrumental in shaping the future of water management in Colorado.

2023 Colorado Legislature Summary: A Year of Progress and Change

Introduction

The 2023 Colorado Legislature convened with high hopes and ambitious goals for the state. As lawmakers gathered in the state capital of Denver, they faced a myriad of challenges, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, economic recovery, and environmental concerns. Over the course of the year, the legislature passed a series of significant bills and resolutions that will shape Colorado's future. In this article, I will provide a summary of the key legislative achievements and notable developments that occurred during the 2023 legislative session.

1. Pandemic Response and Healthcare

COVID-19 continued to be a central focus for the Colorado Legislature in 2023. Lawmakers worked to ensure that the state's healthcare system remained resilient and accessible. Key initiatives included:

- **Vaccination Campaign**: Colorado expanded its vaccination efforts, making COVID-19 vaccines readily available to all residents. The legislature passed bills to support vaccination outreach and education.
- Healthcare Access: Efforts were made to improve access to healthcare, particularly in underserved
 communities. Telehealth services were expanded, making it easier for individuals to access medical care
 remotely.
- **Public Health Preparedness**: The legislature allocated funding to bolster the state's public health infrastructure, ensuring that Colorado would be better prepared for future health crises.
- 2. Education and Childcare

Education remained a top priority for the Colorado Legislature in 2023, with a focus on improving K-12 education and expanding access to affordable childcare. Key measures included:

- **Education Funding**: The legislature increased funding for public schools, prioritizing resources for schools in disadvantaged areas.
- **Early Childhood Education**: Lawmakers invested in early childhood education programs, making preschool more accessible to families.
- **Teacher Support**: Initiatives were passed to support teachers, including professional development opportunities and increased compensation.
- 3. Climate and Environment

Colorado continued to address environmental concerns in 2023, with a strong emphasis on combating climate change and protecting natural resources. Key actions included:

- **Renewable Energy**: The legislature passed bills to accelerate the transition to renewable energy sources, setting ambitious clean energy targets for the state.
- **Environmental Conservation**: Efforts were made to protect Colorado's natural landscapes, including measures to reduce plastic waste and promote sustainable agriculture practices.
- **Wildfire Mitigation**: In light of the increasing threat of wildfires, lawmakers allocated funds for wildfire prevention and preparedness measures.
- 4. Criminal Justice Reform

Colorado made significant strides in criminal justice reform in 2023, with a focus on reducing incarceration rates, addressing systemic inequities, and enhancing community safety. Key reforms included:

- **Sentencing Reform**: The legislature passed bills aimed at reducing mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent offenses and providing alternatives to incarceration.
- **Police Accountability**: Efforts were made to enhance police accountability and transparency, including measures to address misconduct and improve community policing.
- **Restorative Justice**: Colorado expanded its use of restorative justice programs, focusing on rehabilitation and reintegration into society.
- 5. Housing and Economic Recovery

The state's housing crisis and economic recovery were central themes in the 2023 legislative session:

- **Affordable Housing**: The legislature took steps to address the housing affordability crisis, including measures to increase affordable housing stock and protect renters' rights.
- **Economic Stimulus**: Lawmakers allocated funding for economic stimulus programs to aid businesses and individuals affected by the pandemic.
- **Workforce Development**: Initiatives were passed to invest in workforce development and retraining programs, helping Coloradans adapt to changing job markets.

Conclusion

The 2023 Colorado Legislature was marked by significant achievements in healthcare, education, environmental conservation, criminal justice reform, housing, and economic recovery. Lawmakers worked diligently to address the pressing issues facing the state and laid the foundation for a more equitable and sustainable future. As Colorado continues to evolve, the decisions made during this legislative session will play a vital role in shaping the state's trajectory in the years to come.

Lecturers Contests winners report

Star Report Entries

Animas Valley #194, Marvel #479, Florida #306, Mt Allison #308, Enterprise #25, Maple Grove #154, Darden Pomona #1

The winners or the Lecturer's Program

Roger Ayers, with 11 winning entries across several categories. All of Work Bench and Hobby Corner, all pieces are wood working

Cindy Greer, with 8 winning entries across multiple categories of Hobby Corner. Fine Arts and Photography

Renee Caldwell, with 5 winning entries across multiple categories of Hobby Corner and Pen in Hand

Sheryl Ayers, with 2 winning entries for Pen in Hand

Carol Lackey, with 2 winning entries in Fine Arts

Ashley Lackey, with 2 winning entries Fine Arts

Kirk Ramstetter, with 2 winning entries in Photography

Tina Borst, with 1winning entry Fine Arts

Deanna Bartlett, with 1 winning entry Hobby Corner

Idella Lewis, 1winning entry in Scrapbook

Trish Corman, 1winning entry in Photograph

Phil Chase, with 1 winning entry in Hobby Corner

Vicki Sutton Gallegos, with 1 winning entry in Hobby Corner

Doug Hawthorn with 1 winning entry in Scrapbook

Pauline Ford with 1 winning entry in Hobby Corner

Grange Scrapbooks

Florissant, Enterprise, Marvel

Best in Show – Weather Gnome by Roger Ayers

Participation – Maroon Bells by Mark Harter Grange with most entries – Marvel

Judge: Sandie Mackenzie

Colorado State Junior Grange Contest Winners 2023

Crafts - Holiday Decorations

Under 5 - First: Ruger Phelps

Ages 5-9 - First: Sierra Phelps - Second: Henry Greer- Third: Elayna Simons

Ages 10-14 - First: Brianna Greer - Second: Emmett Greer - Third: Jacob Greer

Recycled Crafts

Under 5 - First: Ruger Phelps

Ages 5-9 - First: Henry Greer - Second: Elayna Simons - Third: Sierra Phelps

Ages 10-14 - First: Jacob Greer - Second: Brianna Greer

Nature Craft

Under 5 - First: Ruger Greer

Ages 5-9 - First: Elayna Simons - Second: Flynn Simons - Third: Millie Peine

Ages 10-14 - First: Jacob Greer - Second: Addie Peine - Third: Cayden Simons

Textiles

Ages 5-9 - First: Flynn Simons - Second: Elayna Simons

Ages 10-14 - First: Jacob Greer - Second: Cayden Simons - Third: Zion Simons

Miscellaneous

Under 5 - First: Ruger Phelps

Ages 5-9 - First: Sierra Phelps - Second: Flynn Simons - Third: Elayna Simons

Ages 10-14 - First: Cayden Simons - Second: Zion Simons

Special Gifts

Under 5 - First: Ruger Phelps

Ages 5-9 - First: Henry Greer - Second: Elayna Simons - Third: Sierra Phelps

Ages 10-14 - First: Emmett Greer - Second: Zion Simons - Third: Cayden Simons

Patriotic

Ages 5-9 - First: Henry Greer - Second: Taven Koeslke - Third: Elayna Simons

Ages 10-14 - First: Brianna Greer - Second: Abbey Koeslke - Third: Jacob Greer

Agriculture

Under 5 - First: Ruger Phelps

Ages 5-9 - First: Sierra Phelps - Second: Henry Greer

Ages 10-14 - First: Brianna Greer - Second: Jacob Greer - Third: Emmett Greer

Woodworking

Ages 5-9 - First: Taven Koeslke - Second: Millie Peine - Third: Elayna Simons

Ages 10-14 - First: Zion Simons - Second: Emmett Greer - Third: Brianna Greer

Super Hero

Ages 5-9 - First: Taven Koeslke

Ages 10-14 - First: Abbey Koeslke - Second: Brianna Greer - Third: Jacob Greer

Photography

Scenes Ages 5-9 - First: Elayna Simons - Second: Flynn Simons

Ages 10-14 - First: Zion Simons

Animals - Ages 5-9 - First: Elayna Simons - Second: Flynn Simons

Ages 10-14 - First: Cayden Simons - Second: Zion Simons

People Ages 5-9 - First: Elayna Simons - Second: Flynn Simons

Ages 10-14 - First: Cayden Simons - Second: Zion Simons

Sunsets, Sunrises - Ages 10-14 - First: Zion Simons

Art Contest

Other Mediums

Under 5 - First: Phoenix Cordera - Second: Ruger Phelps

Ages 5-9 - First: Sophia Cordera - Second: Henry Greer - Second: Flynn Simons - Third: Elayna Simons

Ages 10-14 - First: Jacob Greer - First: Zion Simons - Second: Brianna Greer - Third: Emmett Greer

Canvas art - First: Kylin Young - Second: Sophia Cordera - Third: Braelyn Young

Watercolor

Under 5 - First: Ruger Phelps

Ages 5-9 - First: Henry Greer - First: Sophia Cordera - Second: Elayna Simons - Third: Flynn Simons

Ages 10-14 - First: Cayden Simons - Second: Brianna Greer - Third: Addie Peine

Executive Committee Chair report

It has been my honor to serve on your executive committee and as its chairman for the past year. I want to thank committee members Roger Ayers and John Cruz plus Worthy Master Gary Wardle and Worthy Overseer Harry Greer. Together we make up the Executive Committee. We also have as exofficio members Worth Secretary Cindy Greer and Worthy Treasurer Sheryl Ayers. Their knowledge and help are invaluable to the workings of the committee.

You will find in your packet the minutes of the committee meetings which include the work done by e-mail between our regular Zoom meetings. We only had one face-to-face meeting this past year which was after the convention at the Good Shepard Church. Meeting by Zoom and e-mail saves the Grange lots of money and the members much time.

One of our primary tasks is to manage the Grange investments. We strive to be balanced in our approach. As you look at the treasurer's report, keep that in mind and see if we've done well.

Another job that has taken some time is the status of our paper "The Colorado Granger." I was asked to chair the special committee that was appointed last year. A resolution has been submitted. I'm sure the Executive Committee will continue to look for savings in this area.

I would be remiss if I didn't offer the thanks of the Granger committee and the Executive Committee to Larry Corman for his Zoom connection.

If after you read the minutes you have concerns, questions or suggestions please bring them to the committee. If that happens at home, our e-mails and phone numbers are easy to find.

Fraternally,

Tom Campion

Executive Committee meeting minutes

Executive committee minutes 9/24/22

Larry Corman opened the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Those present: Larry Corman, Harry Greer, Tom Campion, John Cruz, Roger Ayers, Sheryl Ayers, Cindy Greer and Gary Wardle. Harry moved that Tom Campion be elected chairman of the executive committee. Seconded and carried. Tom thanked Larry for his efforts and service over the years.

Bills were discussed. Lecturer and Junior awards need to be divided out. Gary moved to pay the bills for the convention. Seconded and carried.

Gary moved we donate to the National Grange Foundation in lieu of gifts for delegates. Seconded and carried.

Gary asked where we want to start looking for convention for 2023. Gary said that they are considering closing the Castlewood Grange. He asked what the executive committee thought about the building. Discussion was held. The dates for State session in 2023 are September 20-23, 2023. Gary will check with the Grange Hall at the Meadows in Castlerock and perhaps working will Redlands Mesa in 2024. Harry moved that if Gary finds that Castlerock is getting booked up, that he books them. Seconded and carried.

The next meeting was set for: December 7, 6:00 p.m. Larry will arrange for a zoom meeting as long as we remind him.

Meeting adjourned.

Cindy Greer, Secretary

October 19 Tom Campion moved the minutes from state session be approved. Seconded and carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING

December 12, 2022 6:00 p.m.

Tom called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Those present: Sheryl & Roger Ayers, Harry & Cindy Greer, Gary Wardle, and Tom Campion

Gary moved the minutes from the meeting after state session be approved. Seconded and approved.

August thru November bills were sent out for review. Discussion was held. Gary moved the bills be approved. Seconded and carried.

Discussion on receipts was held. Gary Wardle moved we accept the receipts. Seconded and carried.

Communication:

- Colorado Foundation for Agriculture Annual Report and Thank you for support
- Kennebec Wealth Management Christmas greeting and note about touching base soon. Rachel Kuss
- 2021 National convention committee Refund on \$ sent for convention not used. Treasurer will decide the best place in quick books to record it.
- National Grange \$250.00 for Community Service. Gary Wardle will contact C.S. Chairman about distribution.

EX Comm work done by email:

October 19 the minutes from State convention were approved by e-mail.

November 10, Tom Campion moved we reimburse Florida Grange for deposit on upcoming work on windows from Eureka custodial funds. Seconded and approved.

Granges:

Castlewood – Gary Wardle attended a meeting the Sunday after National Grange convention and they unanimously approved the sale of their Grange Hall. He said the inside of the hall still looks good; heaters are the biggest expense. He asked them to get an appraisal and an environmental survey. Castlewood will need financial assistance to get these things done. The state Grange will need to transfer funds from invested fund to help and when they sell the building we will be reimbursed. There is a Hindu church who is renting the building that is interested in purchasing it. Tom Campion asked if we could ask Mike Lackey to review the appraisal to see if it is a decent appraisal. Gary agreed. Gary thinks we need to set aside \$10,000.00 for these expenses. Harry Greer moved we set aside at least \$10,000.00 to help Castlewood with survey expenses with the State Grange being reimbursed after the sale. Seconded and approved. Harry Greer moved we allow Gary to be our moderator with Castlewood and to contact Mike Lackey for them to sell the building. Seconded and carried (reluctantly). Gary Wardle will try to send Skip & Joan Hill an e-mail this evening and an official letter later in the week.

Florida – The \$1500.00 was for the contractor to purchase the materials.

Gary Wardle said Judy Reed is now the Master/President of Lambert Grange. Gary is going to Lambert tomorrow. Judy has 15 people ready to join the Grange and they have 4 or 5 officers ready to install.

Pleasant View – No Quarterly reports for 22 to date – Gary will contact them

Grandview – No Quarterly reports for 22 to date – Cindy will contact them via phone.

Old Business

State Session – Gary was wondering if whoever buys Castlewood might let us rent the building. Tom C asked if there were any other Granges in the area that might be useable. Wheat Ridge, and Maple Grove both have stairs. Westminster was suggested, Gary will contact them. Tom suggested Altona as a possibility. He talked about

contacting Masonic lodges. There is an old armory that might be useable, we would have to work with PICK to apply for the use. There might be a hotel that has a conference room that we could possibly use if the rent was not too high. Sheryl a suggested a church.

Granger study committee – Lisa Mittan, Barry Willits, and Cindy Greer, Maybe Larry Corman, and Ruth Wilson. He might talk to those at Lambert to see if anyone else would be interested. Ex committee representative – Tom Campion and he will chair the committee unless the group wants to elect their own chair.

Review of Financial books for two years - Sheryl will contact Valerie Borge about reviewing the books after the first of the year. We will ask her about doing our 990 reports. Sheryl and Cindy will check to see if they might be able to complete it for this next year.

New Business:

Discussion was held on having a ZOOM account of our own. Roger Ayers volunteered to investigate what it will cost and will get back to everyone later.

Raffle License Renewal – Gary Wardle moved we renew the Raffle License. Seconded and carried. Cindy Greer will fill out the paper work and get with Larry Corman on reimbursement.

Gary Wardle moved we bond the State Grange for \$25,000.00 again. Seconded and carried. Cindy sent out an email to all those who had purchased Bonding insurance earlier to see if they wanted to purchase for 2023, some had forgotten or didn't seem to know about it and some are sending in their money.

Gary Wardle talked about the National Membership Fellowship program and their need for financial assistance. Harry Greer moved we donate \$200 to the Membership Fellowship program and if possible, to have Leadership/scholarship foundation support it. Seconded and carried. Gary will notify Amanda Brozana Rios, National Membership Director of our support.

Sheryl Ayers, Treasurer asked the board to consider transferring money from the invested funds into the bank account. Amounts were discussed and who was able to transfer funds. Gary moved we transfer \$35,000 from invested funds to the State Grange checking account. Seconded and carried. (plus, the \$1500.00 for Florida) for a total transfer of \$37,000.00.

Master's report – Gary Wardle reported that he and Kathy did attend National. Harry & Cindy and Lisa and John Cole were also there. National still has not sold the building. They have had several interested and one is considering now. Travel has been cut for directors until the building sells as well as the number of nights covered for delegates and officers at next year's convention has been reduced. He will send in his financial report/bill soon. He will be at Lambert Grange tomorrow night. Redlands Mesa Grange has been invited. He has been to Wheat Ridge, Enterprise and Darden Pomona meetings and Christmas parties. He spent a lot of time on the phone and e-mail with Judy Reed on Lambert issues.

Overseer's Report - Harry Greer went to National Grange convention and has participated in local Grange activities.

Ex committee report

Tom C – Said there are some things going on at Marvel.

Roger A – Tom covered everything.

Treasurer report – Sheryl Ayers asked for input on outstanding checks. One is a Mandy project, J. Kelley's check for \$300.00 has not been cashed. Sheryl will check on these checks. Cindy will check with the parents on the Mandy project.

Sec report – JOP and Rosters have been completed and sent out, as well as Password for 2023. The fourth quarterly reports were sent out to secretaries as well. She is currently working on the handbook and Granger for January. She also attended National Session in Sparks, NV.

Date of Next Meeting: February 13, 6:00 p.m. via zoom.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING February 13, 2023

Tom campion called the meeting to order. All members were present. We lost Tom, so John Cruz took over the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Bills Paid were accepted by motion seconded and carried.

Receipts were reviewed and approved by motion and vote.

Communication:

COLOADO Foundation for Agriculture.... Thank you for support

EX Comm work done by email:

January 19, Harry Greer moved we accept the offer for the Castlewood Grange. Tom seconded the motion.

Motion carried as of Jan 22. Those in favor: Harry, Tom, Roger and Gary.

Granges:

Castlewood – Gary is working on the paper work to finalize the sale.

Grandview – Gary talked to Jeanne and she shared that they had voted earlier in the year to give up their charter. Cindy clarified that the dues for 2022 would be taken out of the sale of the building since we have already paid National and haven't dropped the member.

Old Business

Cindy reported that the Raffle License was approved.

State Session – Gary talked about several possible locations.

Review of books has not yet happened, but Sheryl promised to work on it.

New Business:

Master's report – Gary reported that he's been working on state session and will virtually attend Grange Insurance Association meeting.

Overseer's Report – Harry reported on the local activities he has been attending.

Ex committee report – Each shared their activities.

Sec reported on office activities.

Date of Next Meeting: April 17 at 6:30 p.m. via zoom

Meeting Adjourned.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING April 17, 2023

Chairman, Tom Campion called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Those present were: Tom Campion, Roger Ayers, Gary Wardle, Harry & Cindy Greer, and Sheryl Ayers.

Gary Wardle moved the minutes of the last meeting be approved. Seconded and carried.

Harry Greer moved that the bills paid be accepted along with payroll taxes that will be paid later this month. Seconded and carried.

Sheryl Ayers was wondering about unemployment insurance and why we are paying it and maybe we should not be paying it because the officers are elected.

Gary Wardle moved we accept the report of receipts. Seconded and carried.

Communication:

Grange Insurance Association – annual distribution letter and check.

National Grange – Journal of proceedings

United States Liability Insurance group – Survey questions

EX Comm work done by email: none

Granges:

Castlewood – Investment of their money – Gary has tried to call Chip and he hasn't responded. The Treasurer had some options for 6 months CD's and LPL had suggested treasury bonds. Length of time was discussed. Suggested that we put \$250,000 in CDs at Community Banks, (possibly 100,000 in a money market and the rest in CD's) and the rest in LPL investments. Sheryl will do some checking at the bank about cd's and money market. Harry moved we invest 461,400.85 (approximately) with LPL and 250,000.00 with Community Banks. Seconded and carried.

Green Valley and Homestead – have both called and are considering turning in their charter. Green Valley's deed appears to be owned by Green Valley. Homestead lost their building many years ago.

Lambert – Judy Reed emailed Gary stating that she was considering turning in their charter also.

Old Business

State Session – Gary Wardle submitted a grant application and the committee meets on Wednesday. He applied for a \$5000.00 grant with the help of PICK. The Armory (Strong Street in Brighton). rental of facility is around \$3,300.00 the remaining amount could be used for meals. Gary sent out a document with catering information. There is a local restaurant that can be used for the Breakfasts. Armory has a big area where we can have displays. Our 150th anniversary is starting and Thursday evening he thought we should have a party and invite Suzie Knight to entertain at the birthday party. There are local hotels that can be contacted for rates. Sugar beet Factory and Bramley Farm, Birds of Prey might come in with a demonstration and talk or could be tours. The library has connections with the Armory. National representative was discussed. Harry suggested Roger Bostwick for our National representative. Phil Vonada and Amanda Brozana Rios were also suggested.

Review of books – Sheryl has tried to call the Valerie Brogue and has not received a return call. Gary knows someone in Brighton that he will talk to.

990 filing - Larry Corman is going to file an extension and work on the report.

Raffle prizes – Cindy thinks that we have a quilt and she has made a Camden bag (quilted bag). Gary offered a mounted photo of Lake Taho area and Roger offered a Grange clock. We will need to have the location before we can have tickets printed. Purpose of Raffle was discussed – Help people attend National and other conferences. Golden Gate has a possible youth ambassador. Gary sent them information.

Granger study committee – Tom Campion shared that the committee has an article and a survey that will be put in the next Granger, and we hope we get good response. After the responses are received the committee will write a resolution. The committee needs to set a deadline for the survey to be returned by July 1. New Business:

Harry moved we take \$600.00 out of the account to go towards Great plains expenses, not to exceed \$200.00 per couple/family. Seconded and carried.

Colorado's turn to host the Great Plains conference is in 2024. Gary suggested the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park. We should start looking and have something in place by National or January.

Master's report – Gary Wardle reported that he had been to Enterprise's Easter egg Hunt. Installed Master at Wheat Ridge and initiated a new member. And has been dealing with Granges that call with issues.

Overseer's Report – Harry reported that he had been to Marvel's visitation and Mt. Allison Visitation. Marvel has breakfast at end of month and is getting ready for county fair.

Ex committee report

Tom Campion reported he attended Mt. Allison Visitation also.

Roger Avers said that Harry covered everything going on here.

Secretary Report for April

- Donna Beck from Pleasant Park had an inquiry about Wild Rose Grange from a student. Sent her a copy
 from History book and then she purchased a copy of the new History book. Sent book, billed and
 received payment.
- Judy Jackson Cache La Poudre Grange filing with secretary of state periodic report help.
- Anita Woodward, Pikes Peak Grange send a template for audit as ex committee wanted to have an audit on books.
- Talked to someone wanting information about Victory Grange gave them Dave McCord's contact information.
- Wrote a letter of authorization for Gary Wardle to sign Castlewood documents and had it notarized, scanned and emailed to Gary.
- Clear Creek Valley Grange yearly quarterly report received sent letter inquiring about members who are not on list. They reported 7 our list only has 4.
- Completed Granger in March.
- March 9 made a deposit at Post office on EPS account.
- Talked to Henry Periot from Altona Grange about Exempt property report 3/8/23
- Talked to Ann Christen about dissolving The Homestead Grange.
- Emailed LPL Financial statement to Ex committee.

- Answered question from Jane Ruesh, Golden Gate Grange about voting procedure.
- Helped Loeda Westphal find Scholarship application
- Working on Granger currently and receiving quarterly reports.
- Made deposit on EPS account and mailed the exempt property reports to the Department of Labor.

Date of Next Meeting: June 19, 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting June 19. 2023 via zoom

Tom Campion called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Those present were Harry & Cindy Greer, Gary Wardle, Sheryl Ayers, Roger Ayers, and Tom Campion.

Gary Wardle moved the minutes be approved. Seconded and carried.

Harry Greer moved acceptance of bill paid. Seconded and carried.

Harry Greer moved acceptance of Receipts. Seconded and carried.

Communications:

Secure Insurance notification of changes which was scanned and sent out via email.

Ex comm work done by email

May 2 Harry Greer moved that we invest the remaining Castlewood money in money Market accounts in Community Banks of Colorado. The motion was seconded and carried.

May 11 Gary Wardle moved we approve \$39.00/month for Survey Monkey for the Granger survey questions for two months. Seconded and carried.

May 22 Gary Wardle moved we approve the request from Florida Grange for funding of window repair/replacement from custodial funds for Eureka/Florida Grange. Seconded and carried.

Granges:

Lambert Grange – Gary Wardle shared that Judy Reed came home from Arizona and found out that the basement walls on the house they were renting were damaged and the county does not allow families to live in RVs, so they are moving back to Arizona. He received an email from Cassandra Shenk who was involved before and is interested reorganizing the Grange. He plans to meet with both Judy and Cassandra early in July. He has not heard anything else from Green Valley since he met with them. Homestead sent in second quarter dues. Pleasant View is the only Grange that has not paid any dues this year. Tom Campion said he would still be willing to help with Lambert after he gets back from a trip.

Old Business

State Session, Harry Greer moved that the Officer reimbursement be the same as last year. \$.40/mile, \$300.00 maximum for lodging (If two or more family members are State Officers or Directors, the second person will receive up to \$50.00) Seconded and carried.

Gary Wardle shared information about meals for state session. The breakfast will be Dutch treat at a local restaurant. Dickey's BBQ will cater Friday's lunch and Delish Catering has been contacted for Saturday's lunch (Sandwiches, salads and Chips); Banquet Chicken and beef tips, with salad, vegetable and dessert. With the Grant funds received we can leave the prices the same as last year and use the grant funds to cover the additional cost. The Grange will have to do their own beverages.

Lunches will be \$10.00 for adults and the banquet will be \$20.00 for adults.

Harry Greer will do the short form for the fifth degree

Tom Campion will take care of purchasing the fruit for the 6^{th} degree.

Susie Knight will cost \$200.00 which Gary W. said the money allotted for him as an officer could cover that, since they live only about 5 minutes away and won't have hotel expenses.

150th commemorative gift was discussed. Harry suggested that we might consider a banner for each Grange that attends the convention. Maybe something for Awards at Gala. Ideas can be shared through e-mail to Make a decision.

Harry Greer moved the State session fee remain at \$30.00. Seconded and carried.

P.A. system – Harry asked if we can bring one in. Gary will ask them.

Piano is also needed at the hotel, probably need a key board. Ideas needed. We will send out an email to officers and directors for ideas.

Hospitality room will be with displays at hotel.

Roger Bostwick will be our National Representative.

National Legislative Director had sent an inquiry about something in our publication. Cindy sent him information and he had recently inquired about finding a Grange member who has had cancer treatments and is finished with cancer treatments. One thought was Marge Sassman. Gary mentioned someone from Enterprise who Mike Lackey could give us contact information for.

Great Plains – Harry Greer reported that there were 4 from Colorado in attendance (Harry & Cindy, Gary and Kathy Wardle). Kansas and Nebraska were not represented. Youth and Junior representative were in attendance and presented workshops, and a lot of good visiting. Gary added comments about their trip home - adventures of weather.

Review of Books proposal was discussed. Sheryl talked with Steve Oldfield and he said he would be willing. He had asked if our budget was in quick books and it is not because what we passed doesn't match the accounts in quick books. Sheryl asked Mr. Oldfield if it could be put in now and he said it was possible. She told him what we had budgeted. All were in agreement with using Mr. Oldfield. Gary asked if Mr. Oldfield would need to give a proposal. Harry Greer moved that Steve Oldfield be contacted to review our books. It was seconded and carried.

Discussion was held on what was needed to make our budget compatible with quick books.

<u>Master's report</u> – Gary Wardle has been attending all of Wheat Ridge and Enterprise meetings. Been talking to Lambert Grange and getting things lined out for state session.

<u>Overseer's report</u> – Harry Greer shared that he has been to a Pomona meeting, Mt. Allison's visitation meeting and Marvel 's breakfasts. They went to Kerrville, TX for Great Plains and looking forward to going to the Grange Revival in Michigan.

Ex committee report

Tom Campion – shared that the Granger committee work closes out July 1. Larry Corman has been getting more comments. Recently the Colorado Gov proclaimed CoCoRaHS day. Tom C will leave July 11 for Michigan. Sec report – Submitted first quarterly report to National, sent new members letter and brochures. Granger articles sent to Publication Printers. Printed ballots for State session and perforated them. Took her ½ hour to send the minutes tonight because computer was not cooperating. We should think about purchasing a new computer after state session if not before. This one is 7 years old.

Date of next meeting will be August 21, 2023 - 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING August

Date: August 21, 2023

Tom Campion Called the meeting to Order at 7:36 p.m. Those present were Gray Wardle, Roger Ayers, Sheryl Ayers, John Cruz, Harry Greer, Cindy Greer, and Tom Campion

Roger Ayers moved the minutes of the previous meeting be approved. Seconded and carried.

Roger Ayers moved we accept the Bills Paid. Seconded and carried.

The receipts were accepted by consensus

Communication:

LPL Financial Statement confirming update to our account statements.

Marlys Halbeisen.... Metrum Community Credit Union bank accounts – Address changed as well as email address. Gary Wardle asked if we would keep the affiliation for other member to use the credit union. Tom suggested we find out if it is necessary for us to have an account there for other Grange members to have accounts there. Cindy will check with Metrum to see if there are any requirements.

EX Comm work done by email: None

Granges:

Lambert: Gary Wardle met with Lambert Grange. Judy has moved. Helen Denison has agreed to be the Master. The bank account was transferred into Gary's name until they have a meeting and have minutes to elect officers. They had a list of potential members to contact.

Old Business

State Session: 150th banner designed by Kathy Wardle– will cost \$18.00 to print. Harry moved we purchase the minimum. (15) Seconded and carried. Gary will send a letter out to Masters to see if additional ones are needed.

Gary and Kathy purchased 150th grocery bags which will be used for delegate information at state session.

Cindy Greer has talked to a person at her church about using a key board and it is secured for state session.

Roger Bostwick will be our National Representative. He will drive and Gary will make arrangements for a room.

Gary Wardle is still working on speakers. He will meet with hotel next week about rooms and will ask about hospitality room.

Review of books: Sheryl reported that Steve Oldfield wanted to compare the budget to what is on quick books, but the line items do not match so Sheryl Ayers has worked on it but has not yet gotten it done. Discussion held on possible combinations of categories that would have sub categories.

Granger review committee – Tom Campion said the committee had received about 74 responses from survey. The committee will have a zoom meeting on Aug 29 for committee to decide what to present to state session.

State Fair exhibit – Harry and Cindy will take it up August 24 (Thursday) to set up the display. The display will focus on the Affordable Connectivity Program. Gary will take it down September 6. Gary has not heard about any information on the health issue that his family did a video on for the grant that National got. Part of the requirements of the grant was to have information out to a large number of people and they could count all who attend the state fair. He will check to see if that information is available for this year.

New Business:

Metrum Community Credit Union accounts – Two accounts – One is Emergency Relief Program with 9,141.72 and the other is just a state Grange account with 3,035.88. We will decide whether to update account or withdraw fund. Tabled until September

The budget that Sheryl created was reviewed and adjusted. Sheryl suggested that we adopt a budget after she applies new names to match quick books. It will be sent out via e-mail. Tom C asked that a note at the bottom have names changes to help us all understand.

Master's report – Gary reported that he had gone to Lambert to help them get reorganized. He participated in a video with his family on a rural health grant which helps people think about what they have to do if they have to go to the hospital and plans on how they will be taken care of after hospitalization. He had another zoom meeting to talk about Hemp and Marijuana. Delegates passed a resolution from CA to have a committee study Hemp and Canibas growing and selling which will have a resolution back to National. Helped Wheat Ridge Grange do Pancake Breakfast, Enterprise Community night and installed new members at Sunflower, election still coming up.

Overseer's Report – Harry Greer reported that in Early in June they went to Great Plain in Texas and July went to the Grange Revival in Michigan. Next week going to State Fair, Marvel's breakfast in July and one coming up in September. Ex committee report –

 $Tom-Was\ planning\ to\ go\ to\ Michigan\ but\ health\ issues\ prevented\ that\ trip.$ He is looking forward to State session and Lambert.

John – went to Maple Grove meeting and no one knew the new password. Wondered who it was sent out to. It was sent out to Master's.

Roger – Has been working in wood workshop according to Tom.

Sec report – Cindy reported that the Colorado Secure Retirement program required all businesses with employees to file who had five or more employees. She didn't think it applied to the CSG but after several emails stating that we were not in compliance she telephones and found out that they did need the CSG to file. Which was done via phone. She will get state quarterly report done and sent to National tomorrow. She has helped two Granges with 990N (Pleasant Park and El Paso). She reported on computers she had looked at as a replacement for the one we currently have. It is running slow probably due to age and drive.

Date of Next Meeting: Saturday after Banquet at state session Meeting Adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS **2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION COLORADO STATE GRANGE**

Committees are identified as follows:

Agriculture, Cooperatives & Water Resources	AG
Legislation & Taxation, Ecology, Health, Education & Welfare	L/T
Ecology, Health, Education, Welfare	EHEW
Highways and transportation	H/T
Good of the Order	
Grange Activities	GA
Budget	

TITLE	DELEGATE ACTION
L/T 1 – Senate and House of Representative Term Limits	Amended & Adopted
EHEW 1 - Social Activities	Amended & Adopted
H/T 1 - High Visibility Clothing	Amended & Adopted
H/T 2 - Posting of Vehicle Fuel Taxes	Amended & Adopted
AG – 1 Better Management of Wild Horses and Burros in the U.S. West	Tabled until 2024
GOTO 1 - Colorado Granger	Amended & Adopted
GOTO 2 - Amending of National Grange Digest Regarding Interest Earned on Custodial Account	s Amended & Adopted
GA 1 - Quilt Block	Amended & Adopted
GA – 2 - Thank You	Adopted

Resolutions adopted at State Session

L/T 1 - Senate and House of Representative Term Limits

WHEREAS, many of our U.S. congress people, elected to represent their constituents in their states are often reelected to multiple terms and occupy those seats for two or more decades; and

WHEREAS, these elected senators and representatives often run unopposed, so there is no opportunity for their constituents to choose someone else; and

WHEREAS, the actions of each elected members effects all of us, in every state and

WHEREAS, all of us, of all ages, could benefit from new ideas and the perspectives of the newly elected now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Colorado Grange supports implementation of term limits for the U.S. Senate to two -terms, and the U.S. House of Representatives to five-terms.

EHEW 1 - Social Activities

WHEREAS, We know how to take care of ourselves by proper diet and exercise and

WHEREAS, there have been studies that show socialization is as vital to our health and longevity and

WHEREAS, socialization increases our level of self-esteem and lowers our level of anxiety and depression therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Granges offer more opportunities for social activities in their communities.

H/T 1 - High Visibility CLOTHING

WHEREAS, Coloradans are a healthy, athletic bunch, and

WHEREAS, we are all encouraged to walk, jog, and bike for improved health and to minimize auto use for transportation, and

WHEREAS, these activities often occur on public roads and streets during the dark after sunset or very early in the morning before sunrise, and

WHEREAS, clear visibility of participants is critical for their safety given vehicle traffic especially during the dark hours, and

WHEREAS, roads and streets often are narrow, lack adequate shoulder width, or lack adjacent sidewalks and trails, and

WHEREAS, protection of pedestrians and biker safety is critically important, therefore be it **RESOLVED**, Grange members in Colorado encourage their friends that are-encourages walkers, joggers, and Bicyclists to wear high visibility clothing when engaged in these activities on streets and roads.

H/T 2 - Posting of Vehicle Fuel Taxes

WHEREAS, taxes from federal, state, and local jurisdictions are collected at each point of sale of vehicle fuel, and

WHEREAS, consumers may have limited or no information on fuel taxes collected, how much they are, what they are for, and the taxing authority identity, and

WHEREAS, consumers will benefit by improved understanding about the fuel taxes they are paying and to what authority, and

WHEREAS, consumers could make improved selections on where to purchase fuel if they understood the amount of taxes assessed in each jurisdiction, therefore be it

RESOLVED, Colorado State Grange ask the Colorado Department of Revenue to require vendors to post a statement or placard that is legible at each fuel pump showing how much tax is collected on each gallon of fuel sold from that fuel pump, and to what agencies and jurisdictions the tax is remitted.

BETTER MANAGEMENT OF WILD HORSES AND BURROS IN THE U.S. WEST

- 1. **WHEREAS**, horses seen in the American West today are descended from a domesticated breed from Europe and the Middle East and are therefore a non-native species, not descended from the North American horse relative that became extinct 11,000 years ago, and
- 2. **WHEREAS**, the horses and burros of today are a beloved icon but damage crucial wildlife habitat and require improved and sustainable management practices, their numbers and impacts are difficult to control amplifying their effects on native habitat and wildlife, and
- 3. **WHEREAS,** horse and burro overpopulation have surpassed management levels set by federal agencies for federal lands and are damaging native plant and animal species, and
- 4. **WHEREAS**, the diet of horses and burros overlaps with that of bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, and pronghorns leading to declines in these species, and
- 5. **WHEREAS**, areas inhabited by horse overpopulation tend to have fewer plant species, less shrub cover, lower occurrence of native grasses, more invasive plants, and fewer small reptiles and mammals that depend on burrows and brush cover to otherwise survive horse-occupied sites, and
- 6. **WHEREAS**, horse and burro overpopulations are a distinct and serious threat to ecosystem health due to landscapes damage by trampled vegetation, hardpacked soil, stream and spring damage, and over-grazed forage plants, and

- 7. **WHEREAS**, because these animal populations are capable of doubling every four to five years without management, horse populations can increase to a point where forage and water will become limited leading to starvation and dehydration, and
- 8. **WHEREAS**, the current policies and practices of the federal government are not solving the issue, are consuming significant resources and doing a disservice to native wildlife, livestock, and the horses and burros themselves, and
- 9. **WHEREAS**, there is a need for better federal and state management of horses and burros comparable to their management of all the rest of our wildlife in the United States; the federal agencies having sole jurisdiction over wild horses and burros, and
- 10. **WHEREAS**, since 2007 the slaughter of horses for meat is prohibited in the U.S. but is legal in Mexico and Canada. Now therefore be it
- 11. **RESOLVED** that Colorado State Grange encourages a cultural shift to support humane export of surplus horses to countries that allow processing of horses into consumer products, and be it further
- 12. **RESOLVED** that Colorado State Grange supports adequate funding and authority for federal and state agencies tasked with managing wild horse to implement available population controls and to capture and hold surplus horses for adoption, training, or humane disposal.

TABLED for additional information

GOTO 1 - Colorado Granger

WHEREAS, delegates at the 2022 State session suggested that a committee investigate alternatives for The Colorado Granger publication due to increasing costs (approximately \$1,900 per issue) and

WHEREAS, the committee's research resulted in learning that newsprint is the least expensive form of publication and

WHEREAS, the survey distributed in the Colorado Granger resulted in a 10% response rate from members and

WHEREAS, Colorado Grangers need both paper copies of the publication and a digital option and

WHEREAS, The Colorado State Grange database of members has approximately 32% of the members email address information and

WHEREAS, a desk top publication would be very time consuming for a member to take on and could result in word count limitation on articles and a strict limitation on pictures as well as other factors and

WHEREAS, dues increase to cover some of the cost of the publication could result in

a loss of membership, and

WHEREAS, a digital format is available at coloradoGrange.org/Granger.html for members that wish to access the Granger digitally and not provide their e-mail address to the Colorado Grange state office, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Colorado State Grange require members to **OPT IN** to continue to receive the Granger in a paper format, and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Colorado State Grange require members to **OPT IN** to receive the Granger as an e-mail attachment by providing an e-mail address to the Colorado State Grange state office, and further be it

RESOLVED, That the Colorado State Grange Executive Committee continue to research other printing and layout options for cost reduction.

GOTO 2 - Amending of National Grange Digest Regarding Interest Earned on Custodial Accounts

WHEREAS, the National Grange 2023 Digest (Article XI - SALE, ENCUMBRANCE OR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY OR INSURANCE SETTLEMENTS AND CLAIMS OF SUBORDINATE OR POMONA GRANGES 4.11.1 (I) states:

All earned income derived from such custodial account shall be the property of the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange, provided, however, that the said State Grange in its sole discretion may be paid up to ten percent (10%) of such earned income as a custodial fee for administering the custodial account.

WHEREAS, many State Granges struggle financially and

WHEREAS, the Grange Insurance Association is decreasing their financial contribution to State Granges and WHEREAS, the State Granges are currently entitled to only a one-time 10% administrative fee on these custodial accounts and

WHEREAS, the State Granges cannot use the interest earned on these custodial accounts for State Grange operational needs and

WHEREAS, many Grange states can benefit greatly financially if they could use the interest earned on these custodial accounts for their operational needs; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange Digest Chapter 4 (I) be amended to read:

TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY OR INSURANCE SETTLEMENTS AND CLAIMS OF SUBORDINATE OR POMONA GRANGES 4.11.1 (I):

All earned income derived from such Trust shall be the property of the State Grange.

GA 1 - Quilt Block

WHEREAS, Colorado State Grangers have provided quilt blocks for the National Grange quilt block contest and occasionally a state quilt; and

WHEREAS, the Family Activities Committee would like to revive the Colorado State Grange quilt block category and to add a quilt block contest for a Colorado quilt of valor; now **therefore be it**

RESOLVED, that the Colorado Grange encourage the Family Activities Committee to add two quilt block contests: (1) a Colorado-themed quilt block and (2) a quilt of valor block. Quilt blocks should be 10 ½" x 10 ½" unfinished. Each Colorado-themed block shall have the participant's Grange name embroidered or written somewhere on the block. The blocks from these contests will become the property of the Colorado State Grange to be made into quilts, possibly one to be raffled and one as a quilt of valor to be presented to a veteran.

GA – 2 - Thank You

WHEREAS, the Colorado State Grange has many members and others who have done things to make the 2023 Colorado State Grange session successful, and

WHEREAS, many volunteer house have been spent making the 2023 Colorado State Grange session successful, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following be recognized:

Holiday Inn Express for providing the facility to have the session in and for providing delicious breakfasts.

Elizabeth Hiner for serving as state Lecture. Gary and Kathy Wardle for being the leader of the 150th Anniversary kickoff celebration and arranging the Program, refreshments and entertainment. Ruth Wilson Francisco for serving as pianist and providing beautiful music during the session. National representative, Roger and Melanie Bostwick, from Kansa. Loeda Westphal for a meaningful memorial service. Yvonne Chapman for her work on the 6th degree. Idella Lewis and Karen Baxter for their work on the family activities event. Cindy Greer for all her work as Secretary at the session and through the year.

Kathy Wardle for organizing the Jr. Display.

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE DELEGATES FOR 2023

POMONA GRANGES

Darden Pomona #1	Idella Lewis & Marlys Halbeisen
Progressive Pomona #4	Jeanne Davies
La Plata Pomona #10	Harry Greer & Cindy Greer
SUBODINATE GRANGES	
Cherry Creek #58.	Judy Harrison
El Paso #480	Loeda Westphal
Enterprise #25	
Florida #306	Amy Peterson & Elizabeth Hiner
Florissant #420.	Alan Caldwell & Renee Caldwell
Golden Gate # 451	Terri Costeldia & Dee Dee Ramstetter
Lewis #406	Ruth Wilson Francisco & Sherry Griffin
Maple Grove #154	John Cruz & J. Kelly
Marvel #479	
Mt. Allison #308	Larry Corman & Trish Corman
Pleasant Park #156	Yvonne Ludwig & Donna Beck
Redlands Mesa #487	Barry& Jean Willits
Rose Hill #256	Norm Union
Sunflower #162	B.J. Bushman
Victory #452	David McCord
Wheat Ridge #155	Dominic Breton & Kathryn Williams

		Colorado State Grange budget 2024	4			
Acct No.	Acct No.	Acct title INCOME	22 Actual	23 as of 6/30	2024 Budget	TOTAL
	4000	Interest earned	\$ 5.09 \$	\$ 13.63	\$ 28.00	
4000.1		Dividend	35.00		\$ -	
4200		Convention Assessment				
	4201	Convention Meals	\$ (152.00) \$	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,900.00 \$	
	4200	Convention Assessment -other	840.00		800.00	¢
	4200	Total convention assessment				\$ 2,700.00
43400		Direct Public Support				
	43410	Corporate Contributions	\$ 1,086.00 \$		\$ 1,000.00	\$
		Direct Public Support Total	201.00			1,000.00
	43450	Individ, Business Contributions	\$	\$	\$ - \$	
45000		Investments	э 36,500.00	э 36,500.00	э 30,293.00	
46400		Other Types of Income				
46420		Items for Sale				
	46410	History books	\$ 48.50 \$	\$ 32.00	\$ 16.00	
	46420	Items for Sale - Other	160.00		\$ -	
	46400	Items for Sale Total			\$	\$ 16.00
	46400	Other Types of Income-other	\$		500.00	\$
		Total Other types of Income	3,588.00			516.00
47200		Program Income	¢		Φ	
	47210	Degree Fees	\$ 24.00 \$		\$ 30.00 \$	
	47220	Bonding	581.00		700.00	
	47230	Membership Dues	¢	Φ	Φ	
	4120	Subordinate	\$ 39,641.25 \$	\$ 17,995.75	\$ 36,000.00 \$	
	4170	National Grange Supporting (GIA)	21,480.00 \$		19,000.00	
	47230	Membership Dues-other	122.60			\$
	47200	Program Income TOTAL				55,730.00

		TOTAL INCOME				\$ 90,267.00	
5000		Expense Salaries	\$		\$	\$	
	5000.1	State Master/President	12,890.00 \$	(6,445.02 \$	12,890.00 \$	
	5000.2	State Secretary	20,490.00 \$		10,245.00 \$	20,490.00 \$	
		TOTAL SALARIES	33,380.00 \$		16,690.02 \$	33,380.00 \$	
5130	5040	Colorado Granger Donations	12,891.03	,	7,056.33	15,000.00	
	5130.1	Within Grange	\$ 1,600.00			\$ 200.00	
	5130	Donations - Other	\$ 60.00			\$ 300.00 \$	
5140 5320		Dues and Subscriptions National Dues	\$	-		300.00	
	5320.1	National Convention Assessment	\$ 1,117.00 \$			\$ 1,100.00 \$	
	5320	National Dues - other	14,863.50			11,000.00	
5340		Office Rent	\$ \$	-	\$ - \$	\$ - \$	
5380		Postage and Shipping	1,183.32	,	79.02	500.00	
6000		Program Expenses				\$	
	6010	Executive Committee	\$ \$	-		100.00 \$	
	6020	Family Activities	453.00 \$			450.00 \$	
	6030	Junior Grange Activities	253.00 \$			250.00 \$	
	6040	Lecturer Activities	151.95 \$			650.00 \$	
	6050	Legislative Committee	40.00			200.00 \$	
	6060	Membership Committee	\$	-		800.00 \$	
	6070	Public Relations Committee	\$	-		100.00 \$	
	6080	Youth Committee	\$ \$	-		400.00 \$	
	6090	Community Service	225.00			450.00	\$
		TOTAL					3,400.00

60900		Business Expenses	d)		Ф	
	60910	Bonding	\$ 906.00 \$		\$ 750.00 \$	
	60920	Business Registration Fees	48.89		60.00	¢
61200	62110 62140	TOTAL BUSINESS EXPENSES Contract Services Accounting Fees Legal Fees	\$ 400.00 \$ 10.00		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 810.00
65000		Operations				
	65030	Printing and Copying	\$	\$	\$ 100.00 \$	
	65040 65050	Supplies Telephone, telecommunications	929.22 \$ 1,482.00	370.03 \$ 740.52	900.00 \$ 1,482.00	\$
		TOTAL operations			r).	2,482.00
65100	65120	Other Types of Expenses	\$	\$ 875.00	\$ 2,200.00 \$	
	65120 65100	insurance, liability, D and O Other Types of Expenses - other	1,178.00 \$	875.00 \$	2,000.00 \$ 200.00 \$	
66000		Payroll Expenses	4,674.58	2,921.54	2,895.00	
68300	68310	Travel and Meetings Officer Expense (St Session)	¢.		¢.	
	68311.1	Mileage	\$ 2,349.28 \$		\$ 2,300.00 \$	
	68311.2	Lodging Conference, Convention Meeting-	4,136.18 \$		4,000.00 \$	
	68310	other	4,233.41 \$		5,700.00	\$
		TOTAL officer expense (St Session)	10,718.87 \$	\$	\$	12,000.00
68320		Master's National Conv Exp	1,099.10	1,272.35	2,000.00 \$	
68330		Master's Expense			500.00	
		TOTAL EXPENSES				\$ 90,267.00