

National Grange Bonding Q&A

Bonding is a type of insurance coverage to protect the financial assets of your Community, Pomona or State Grange. Section 4.10.9 of the Digest of Laws of the National Grange stipulates that all Granges, at their own expense, are to be bonded or insured for employee dishonesty with coverage to include at least the Secretary and Treasurer of each organization. Here is more information so that you can make sure that your Grange is covered.

Q: How does bonding work?

A: The bond protects the Grange by covering financial losses due to fraudulent activities of an individual or group. Should any unfortunate loss or theft of your Grange's funds occur, you would file a claim. The bond would cover the Grange's financial loss.

Q: Can the National Grange help with this required bonding?

A: Yes. The National Grange has a blanket fidelity bond (also referred to as employee dishonesty insurance or crime coverage) available at a discounted group rate. The bond is issued through the National Grange Mutual Insurance Company in Keene, NH. Every Grange* is eligible to participate by enrolling through their State office. *except AK, CA, MN

Q: What does the bond cover?

A: The fidelity bond available through the National Grange covers all officers and members, not just the Secretary and Treasurer who are required to be bonded by the Digest of Laws. Basic minimum coverage is \$5,000 for a Community Grange, \$2,500 for a Pomona Grange, and \$25,000 for a State Grange. The bond coverage is for one calendar year beginning January 1st.

Q: How much coverage does our Grange need?

A: The basic minimum coverage is the lowest amount of coverage offered. In some cases this is enough for a Grange. In many cases, this amount is too low. An easy way to determine how much coverage you need would be to assess the maximum amount of money your Grange handles, including your bank accounts, financial assets, and cash you handle at Grange activities.

Q: How do we apply for bonding?

A: Every Grange that would like to purchase discounted coverage enrolls through their State Grange. At the end of each year, the National Master sends a letter and a rate schedule to each State Master. Each State Grange then offers this opportunity to their Pomona and Community Granges, collects their premiums and forwards a lump sum check with a list of participating Granges and amounts of their coverage to the National Grange office. Simply choosing your level of coverage and forwarding the premium to your State Grange adds you to the group policy. The date your funds are received at the National Grange office is the day your policy is effective. The rates are based on the policy beginning January 1st so be sure to enroll early to take advantage of a full year of coverage.

Q: How do I file a claim?

A: Should a loss occur, you would contact the National Grange office for instructions and claim forms. You should also call the National Grange office if you have any further questions about bonding. The toll-free phone number is: 1-888-4-GRANGE.

