

E-Newsletter August 2014



Issue – August 2014

A Midwest Safari for the whole family



Registration is currently open for the 148th Annual National Grange Convention. This year's convention promises to be the most fun, family-oriented event ever. Convention will take place November 11th through the 16th in Sandusky, Ohio at the Kalahari Resort, home of the country's largest indoor water park. The Kalahari Resort not only features the water park but boasts five on-site restaurants, a spa, a game room (with laser tag, miniature golf and duck pin bowling), and family suites to accommodate up to 12 people. The suites include balconies, fireplaces, full size refrigerators and full kitchens with pots, pans and service for 12. Cooking meals on site will be great for keeping costs down especially for larger groups.

There is always plenty of fun to be had at the Convention activities. You can participate in workshops to learn something new; peruse the Idea Fair to bring back programs for your Grange; and check out the Best of Show with displays of award winning crafts, community service books, the Quilt Block contest and the Photo Contest. The Evening of Excellence talent show is always a great show to attend and for even more fun you could drop by the youth costume dance. This year there will be a safari theme. If Grange traditions are more your style, don't forget to obtain or observe the Sixth and Seventh Degrees or spend some time in Session watching the Delegates and Officers discuss the business of the Grange.

The host committee comprised of members from the hosting states of the Midwest Region (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin), has been

preparing for a fantastic convention for all. They have planned tours to a NASA facility where you could learn about rocket launches and the Thomas Edison Birthplace Museum in a neighboring town. The Junior Grange tour will visit the Merry-Go-Round Museum to ride an old restored merry-go-round and see carvers handcraft horses for these historic rides. The host committee also promises an amazing hospitality suite to keep you well fed and they are collecting stuffed toys to later donate to children's hospitals and charity organizations.

This convention will be a great event from start to finish and will keep the whole family engaged and having fun. Special room rates are available only if you book by October 10th. There are lots of room types available so check out our website for a chart of options and book early so you are guaranteed the type of room you need. There is a discount for Early Bird Registration through October 10th as well so start making your plans now!

<http://bit.ly/conventionregistration2014>

National Grange names Legislative Affairs Director



J. Burton Eller, Jr., Managing Director of Burton Eller Associates in Washington, DC has been appointed Director of Legislative Affairs for the National Grange. Eller will be responsible for implementing the Grange public policy and government affairs agenda in the nation's capital while engaging grassroots Grange members in this process. He will represent the Grange before Congress, agencies of the Federal Government, coalitions, working groups, and other organizations. Another important responsibility of the Director will be to increase the organization's influence and visibility at the national level and to serve as a reliable resource on rural America, agricultural policy and other issues important to Grange members.

Eller, who starts September 1st, says he is "very excited to be working for an organization that has done so much for rural America and the rural community."

"We are pleased to have someone with Burton's agricultural experience and policy savvy in Washington join our team," said Grange President Ed Luttrell. "It is a pleasure to have him on our Grange team in Washington. Burton has been the head of two Washington

offices, CEO of two associations and Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture at USDA. His experiences with advocacy, coalition building, stakeholder management and executive leadership will certainly be valuable to our grassroots Grange mission”.

Eller operates a farm in southwest Virginia that has been in his family since 1868.

NGPR Shirt Sale



Earlier this year, our very own National Grange Public Radio suffered a catastrophic setback. The equipment used to produce and broadcast the station was damaged beyond repair by the severe weather that afflicted the area. As many of you know, National Grange Public Radio has become an excellent resource for Grange members and non-Grange members alike. Since it's inception in November of 2013, NGPR has been slowly but surely increasing not only the number of listeners, but also the types of informational, educational and informative programming that it has to offer.

To raise money for the new equipment, the National Grange held a Booster T-Shirt drive with all profits going to purchasing new equipment for NGPR. The shirts, emblazoned with the National Grange Public Radio logo, were one-of-a-kind and would never be sold again.

And the results were overwhelming. Over the 30 day period, we sold 88 shirts and raised \$1630 for National Grange Public Radio. We want to thank all of you that helped out this great cause. Your support will allow National Grange Public Radio to get back on the air and to continue offering high quality programming.

Toy Drive Update



In July, we announced the Stuffed Toy Drive the Host

Region will be holding at the National Grange Convention. Due to the passing of Edythe Walter, some of the details have now changed. Instead of mailing them to her, they will now go to Ed Cochran, the co-chair of the Host Committee. You of course can still bring them to Convention to drop-off. Please make sure anyone who is working on this project for your State or Local Grange has this new information.

Ed Cochran
10034 Navarre Road, SW
Navarre, OH 44662

Believe in Yourself

By Michael Martin, Leadership/Membership Development Director



If, like me, you have belonged to the Grange since you were a child or teen, there is something about the Grange's "pull" on you that keeps you active and involved. Maybe you can't "put your finger on it," but there is definitely something "in your gut" that sustains your Grange membership. Believe in yourself. Believe in your gut-level emotional ties to the Grange. Believe in your Grange family and believe in your Grange heritage.

In today's culture of disbelief and the ever-seeking-something-new remedies for life's woes, our Grange heritage keeps us centered on the important things – family, faith, hope, and charity. Contemporary society needs the steadfastness of the Grange. The lessons about leadership that are inherent in our ritual and teachings are sorely lacking, it seems, in popular culture.

The steadfastness and harsh reality of the founding of our Order has been documented for all to read. Grange leaders today would benefit from pausing to look back on the dogged determination it took to create, manage and sustain our organization. In the Grange's early years, the daunting task of focusing the divergent perspectives of farm families in different regions of the nation into a national message of humanitarian demands for those who feed and clothe a nation fell to a determined group of Patrons. They forged a national message, hewn from thousands of local voices that changed the landscape of a nation. Creature comforts for those living in remote areas, equitable costs for producing and distributing the crops and products necessary to feed and equip a fast-growing nation,

all emerged from our Order.

The Grange has continued to improve life in local communities for nearly 150 years. Yet the mainstream media and most citizens are blissfully unaware of the profound impact brought about by humble, hardworking folk. Rural communities, dependent on volunteers for governance, protection and recreation, would have foundered without the civic leadership of Grangers. Grange members become leaders in our Fraternity and then utilized the skills they honed in the Grange to build community beyond the Grange hall.

Ours is a great story. A Greek philosopher is credited with saying, “those who tell the stories rule the world.” Public perception of the Grange is built upon the stories that people tell about us. If we do not exert the leadership to determine what those public stories will be, we become victims of uninformed anecdotes and our organization is perceived, perhaps, far differently than we would appreciate.

Who is telling your Grange’s story? It is up to us to craft our story and share it with the public. Grange leaders must overcome the inertia of remaining internally focused on ourselves. We must feel compelled to champion our cause boldly; share our good work widely. We must make certain those beyond our halls know and appreciate us for our example of civil discourse and for gender equality long before women accessed the ballot box in public politics. We must focus a spotlight on the leadership abilities of Grange youth, not in the context of youth groups, but in the context of our multi-generational organization. We are prideful of Grange youth as organizational leaders, not just leaders of their peers.

The Grange offers people something they are seeking and have a hard time finding; faith. People don’t want more information. They are up to their eyeballs in information. They want faith – faith in an organization’s goals, our success, in the story we tell...people are seeking what we offer. It is our job, and that of our leaders, to promote the wholesome values of the Grange. We are patriotic; we honor our Nation’s flag. We are a moral people; we pray for one another, across the denominations. We are focused on the greater community, not just on our own selfish interests.

Leaders lead by telling stories that give others permission to lead, not follow. The ultimate act of leadership is learning how to get out of the way. First, leaders must help others find their bearings, but once the vision is clear and understood, leaders need to realize they are NOT the story.

The great story of the Grange is not so much a story about change; it is, rather, a story about continuity. Continuity of a sense of family and community. Continuity of gender and generational equality. Continuity of the bedrock lessons so beneficial to all – faith, hope, charity, fidelity. Our task is to share our great Grange story with all who will listen or may not realize they would benefit from hearing. The late, great poet Maya Angelou said, “there is no greater burden than carrying an untold story.” Let us each, as Grange leaders, tell our story.

Fellows Announcement

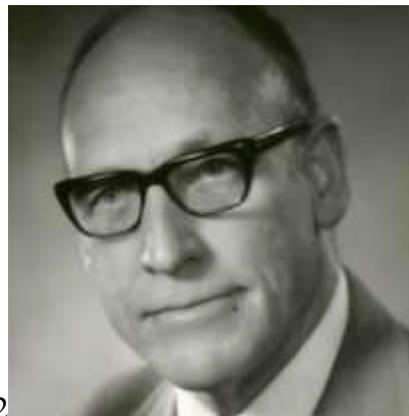


Last year's Communications Fellows who served at the 147th National Grange Convention in Manchester, New Hampshire.

In preparation for the 2014 National Grange Convention in Sandusky, Ohio, the National Grange Communications Department has selected its six DCI Communication Fellows. They are as follows: Karie Blasingame, Illinois; Chris Szkutak, Massachusetts; Suzy Ramm, Oregon; Lindsay Schroeder, Pennsylvania; Lisa Beckman, Washington; Amanda Bird, Louisiana and Deb Gegare, Wisconsin. This marks Deb's third year as a DCI Communication Fellow. She will be a valuable asset in training and managing the new fellows. We can't wait to get to work!

Memorial Notice – John D. “Jack” Silvers

Past National Delegate 1971-1983



Past National Executive Committee 1976-1992

Jack Silvers, Master of the Washington State Grange and National Delegate from 1971-1983 and on the National Executive Committee from 1976-1992 passed away July 21, 2014. He was born on September 27, 1922 in Yakima, Washington to George and Mabel Silvers. He graduated from Zillah High School in 1940 and attended Washington State University for two years before being called back to the farm during the war years.

Jack was a fruit grower on Buena Heights. Always interested and involved in the community and legislative activities, Jack joined the Buena Grange in 1944. Jack was a member of Big Y and Snokist for 60 years, beginning in 1945 at Zillah. Jack joined the Zillah Masonic Lodge in October of 1946. Jack was instrumental in starting the Grange Library Museum at Central Washington Agricultural Museum Association in Union Gap. He is also a life member of Washington State Horticultural Association and honorary

member of Future Farmers of America and Future Homemakers of America.

First elected to office in 1949, Jack served 40 years as an elected officer of the Washington State Grange, including 14 years as Vice President and 12 years as State President. He was also a member of the national Grange Executive committee for 16 years, retiring in 1992. In these positions, Jack served on a multitude of legislative advisory committees and was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the National Advisory Committee on Vocational Education for two years. Jack also served on the State Vocational Education Advisory Committee. In 1977 he met privately with President Carter at the White House to discuss western water issues.

Jack served on the State Tax Advisory committees under Governors Dixie Lee Ray and John Spellman. He also served as Chairman of Washington Highway Users Conference for six years, meeting weekly during the Legislative sessions to discuss Highway issues.

Jack's favorite hobby was traveling. He made 36 trips to many parts of the world and enjoyed sharing these experiences with others. In 1963, as Vice President of a newly formed travel agency, he started a program of FFA tours to Europe and the Iron Curtain countries under the Eisenhower People to People program in cooperation with the Ag Education Travel Company of Spokane. Three years later, Jack began escorting international adult tours and later began organizing cruises.

He is preceded in death by his parents, George and Mabel Silvers, a twin brother, Charles, and sisters, Mildred Silvers and Frances Silvers Conway. Survivors include his niece, Janet Batchelor of Oakridge, Oregon and nephew, Jack Conway, of Guntersville, Alabama, along with two great nephews and two great great nephews, and special friends, Liz Wade, of Naches, and Don Deccio, of Yakima.

A graveside service is planned for Saturday at 11:00 AM at the Zillah Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Yakima Memorial Hospital Foundation, or Grange Library (PO Box 3008, Union Gap, WA, 98903). Valley Hills Funeral Home is in care of the arrangements. Online tributes may be shared with the family at www.valleyhillsfh.com.

Neopolitan Angel Food Cake



1 Angel food cake mix

Chocolate ice cream, softened

Strawberry ice cream, softened

Vanilla ice cream, softened

2 Boxes dessert topping mix or whipped cream

Mix and bake cake as directed; cool. Slice into three layers. Spread chocolate ice cream on one layer, strawberry ice cream on second layer, and vanilla ice cream on third layer. Freeze; frost with dessert topping mix. Place back in freezer; slice with serrated or electric knife to server

Yield: 12 servings

Mrs. F. Grove Miller, Maryland State Grange
From The Grange Cookbook: Desserts