

NEBRASKA STATE GRANGE NEWS

VOL. 62 NO. 2

April, May, June, 2015



President's Report Kevin Cooksley

Greetings once again, fellow Grangers. The summer is flying by! We continue to be blessed with some timely moisture, and the crops look very good.

Lila Tooker has done an impressive job, along with help from Tammy Fryman in pulling together the plans for the 2015 National Grange Convention in Lincoln, NE, November 9-14, at the Cornhusker Hotel. Lila has been holding monthly "Teamspeak" meetings via the Internet with our partnering states of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado. She is putting together and impressive list of guest speakers as well as tours for the attendees. There will be a more detailed report in the fall edition of the Grange News Sheet.

Our next meeting of the State Grange Executive Committee will take place on Saturday, August 8th at 9 AM in the Rivers Edge Motel in

Columbus, Nebraska. We will be finalizing plans for state convention there on September 11-13. Many of you will remember the motel site as the New World Inn, which was our convention site a few years ago. The motel has been renovated and is a marvelous place. We are looking forward to being back in Columbus and at a location affording our Grange friends in the Omaha/Blair/Lincoln area a shorter drive. We are hopeful that this will result in a larger attendance, as well. We are awaiting news from the National Grange on who will be the National Grange Representative to our annual session.

Our Executive Committee will be looking at ways to shorten our State Session up a little more, though it is tough to do. We already seem to be at a "no frills" point, but it would be nice to be done by noon on Sunday. Stay tuned for details. I also wish to remind your Granges to be mindful of the deadline for submitting resolutions to be considered at State Session. Our State Secretary, Judy Hansen, will be letting you know what that date is. We need to have good policy discussion as well as good policy, if the Grange is to remain relevant in shaping public policy at the State and National level. Your resolutions (and opinions) are crucial to ensure this process takes place, as well as to inform our members on issues they may not be aware of. So please take the time to discuss the issues with your local Grange members and decide if there are needful policy considerations

**Don't forget our
Grange Radio Program on
KNEB 960 at 1:20 p.m. and
KRVN 880, KTIC 840 at 1:40
p.m. on Fridays to help keep
you better informed about
Grange**



Schedule of Upcoming Events

August 8 Planning for state session
River's Edge Columbus
Exec Committee meeting
9 am

August 25 News sheet deadline
**Resolutions
Deadline**

September 11-13 State session at
River's Edge Columbus
1-402-564-1492

November 10-14 National Grange
Convention at Cornhusker
Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska



GRANGE FAMILY ACTIVITIES Phyllis Tooker, Director

A wonderful patriotic program reminded me that the Elkhorn Grange was organized 70 years ago May 8, 1945. Many have wondered why Elkhorn Grange has V.E. before the number 393. Elkhorn Grange was organized on the day that victory in Europe was accomplished in World War II and so V.E. was included in our name.

We always look forward to our State Grange convention in September. We meet September 11, 12 and 13 at the River's Edge Convention Center in Columbus. This is the same place that was called New World Inn when we met there before. Plan accordingly and get ready to bring things for the contests and the Country Store.

Heads up on the National Grange Convention that will be held at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln on November 10-14. Preliminary plans look like we are going to have some outstanding programs that you won't want to miss. This date is correct. The earlier date you may have is not correct. It was changed when Nebraska's football schedule was changed and put the Michigan State game in Lincoln on the date you originally had. Imagine the hotel problems if we had that conflict.

I was looking through my Mother's recipe box hunting for a recipe that I remembered from when I was a kid. I was surprised to find a recipe that was served at many Grange and Extension potlucks when Norm and I first came to Douglas County. This recipe was for Cherry Coconut Bars and was a favorite of ours. I thought that I had lost this recipe but I evidently just filed it in the wrong place. You will like this recipe even if you are not a coconut fan. (I'm not a coconut fan, but I love the recipe.)

Cherry Coconut Bars

2 cups flour
1 cup butter
¼ cup powdered sugar
Cut butter into the flour, sugar mixture. Put in jellyroll pan and press down. [It doesn't say what size pan. The crust needs to be at least ¼ inch thick.] Bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees.

Mix the following:

2 eggs
1 tsp. salt
2 cups sugar
¼ cup flour
1 tsp. baking powder
2 cups coconut
1 cup nuts [optional]
1 lb. can well-drained cherries

Mix all but cherries and put on top of baked crust. [This was very thick so I dropped spoonfuls over the crust and patted it down to make it fairly even.] Sprinkle with cherries. Return to 350 degree oven and bake for 20 min. or until lightly browned. When cool, the bars can be sprinkled with powdered sugar. [I didn't bother.] Note: I found that the cherries now only come in 15 oz. cans but it works just fine.

2015 – CONTEST RULES FOR – BAKING—SEWING— NEEDLEWORK—CRAFTS

BAKING CONTEST:

Cash prizes will be awarded – 1st = \$6.00, 2nd = \$4.00, 3rd = \$2.00
CLASS 1 – Chocoholics Delight
CLASS 2 – Nut Bread
CLASS 3 – Muffins – sweet or savory
CLASS 4 – Apple Recipe (not pie) Applesauce would count as apples
CLASS 5 – Drop Cookies
CLASS 6 – Men's Choice
(All food items must be a baked item that does not require refrigeration.)
All baking entries become the property of the State Grange and will be served, sold or auctioned off during the State Convention. Must include recipe with entry. Must be a Grange member to enter baking contest.

ALL CONTEST ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED IN 2015 HANDIWORK – NEEDLEWORK- CRAFTS – ETC:

Cash prizes will be awarded – 1st = \$5.00, 2nd = \$4.00, 3rd = \$2.00
CLASS 7 – Decorated Pillow Cover – (throw pillows, not pillow cases) May use any media.

KNIT OR CROCHET:

CLASS 8 – Doilies and Table Runners - Any kind of thread & yarn may be used
CLASS 9 – Afghan
CLASS 10 – Knitted Clothing (Sweater, etc.)

EMBROIDERY:

CLASS 11 – Embroidery
Any item can be made and any type embroidery floss may be used.

QUILTS:

Prizes will be awarded – 1st = \$10.00, 2nd = \$8.00, 3rd = \$7.00
CLASS 12 – Quilt – Hand Quilted
CLASS 13 – Quilt – Machine Quilted

Prizes will be awarded – 1st = \$6.00, 2nd = \$4.00, 3rd = \$3.00.

CLASS 14 – Wall Hanging – Keep it small enough to display easily
CLASS 15 – Table Runner – Quilted or not

CRAFTS:

Cash prizes will be awarded – 1st = \$4.00, 2nd = \$3.00, 3rd = \$2.00
CLASS 16 – Purse made from a man's tie (Contact Phyllis Tooker for pattern, if needed)
CLASS 17 – Wood decoration or craft
CLASS 18 – Scrapbooking page or pages (only what's needed to tell the story)
CLASS 19 – Plastic Canvas Item
CLASS 20 – China Painting
While the quilt block for the National Grange is part of the Program Director's Department, it will be judged by the judges for the above contests.

The general rules remain the same every year. The other programs, Toys for Loving, Linus blankets, Dictionaries for Thirds, Premie items and pop tab collection for Ronald McDonald House all remain the same as in past years.

**Program Director
Darlene Janing**

The sights and sounds of summer are all around us. What have you seen or heard? There are plenty of activities to keep our minds busy with work and play. Sounds of ball games, rain, wind, parades, fireworks, wheat harvest, irrigation and a still starry night. Now is the time to take those pictures for sharing at State Session in September.

Review your programs so that you will be ready to answer those report questions.

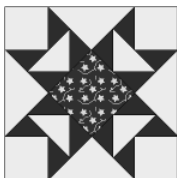
Report forms will be mailed out after the 1st of August.

The following is an article that can be used as a basis for discussion.

Seven Rules of Life

1. Make peace with your past so it won't mess up the present.
2. What others think of you is none of your business.
3. Time heals almost everything_ give it time
4. Do not compare your life to others and do not judge them. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
5. Stop thinking too much, it is alright not to know the answers. They will come to you when you least expect it.
6. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
7. Smile, you do not own all the problems in the world. This is a quote from "Whispers of the heart".

Have a great summer.



2015

QUILT BLOCK CONTEST RULES

The National Grange Quilt block contest is a contest that we are promoting to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the National Grange in 2016. The idea behind the contest

is to create a vehicle for our members to share their creative talents.

Rules:

A. The period of the contest runs from January 1, 2015 until September 15, 2015 deadline for submissions is September 30, 2015 to the National Lecturer:

James Tetreault
19 Parker Street
Winchester NH 03470.

B. Judging will be done prior to National Grange session.

C. Any entries received after the deadline will not be judged however, they will be exhibited at the National Grange session in Lincoln, Nebraska.

D. Pattern: this year's pattern will be the Northumberland Star

E. Colors for this year will be red, white and blue

Categories:

A. Individual quilt block to measure 12½"x12½"and must come unfinished-no batting/backing.

B. Quilted throw pillow finished size 18"x18"must come finished batted and backed.

C. Quilted table runners size 17"x56"must come finished!

All categories must use the Northumberland Star

All entries are property of the National Grange. All entries will be given proper credit and awards.

We ask that each entrant also submit the following information:

Name(s)

Grange

Name, #, State

Address/Hometown

Years of Grange Membership

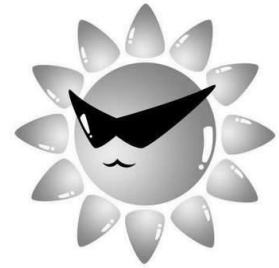
What is special about your Grange/hometown?

Photography Contest Information

1. Buildings
2. Landscapes
3. People
4. Flowers
5. All others

They must have a stiff backing, title on the front and your name, address and Grange on the back. This contest can be entered by Grangers and non-Grangers, but only Grange members can have a photo sent to National Grange in November.

Resolutions for the 2015 Nebraska State Grange Convention are due August 25. Please send resolutions to State Secretary Judy Hansen, 20657 St. Hwy 91 Blair NE 68008 or email them to jhans@pointnet.com



**NATIONAL GRANGE POLICY
UPDATES and NEWS**

**Action Alert: Waters of the U.S
Comment Period Extended to
November 14**



We urge our State Grange partners who have not already done so to submit comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in opposition to the proposed rule which would essentially expand EPA and Corps of Engineers jurisdiction over all waters of the United States. Practically all farmers, ranchers, land owners, rural small businesses and rural homeowners will be affected should this regulation become final as proposed.

EPA has been given regulatory powers over navigable waterways by Congress. The proposed Waters of the U.S. regulations will give EPA and the Corps new jurisdiction over most rural lands and surface water in America. With such authority, the EPA and Corps would have the legal right to oversee land use and production practices all across the rural landscape. This is not necessary. All waters of the U.S. are not threatened, endangered or impaired. For those waters that are below current standards, EPA already has ample statutory authority

to take action on a situation-by-situation basis. This proposal is increasingly being viewed as a regulatory overreach by the executive branch of the federal government.

We urge you to file your State Grange comments by Friday, November 14. Please encourage all Pomona and Community Grangers to file comments as well. Ask EPA to withdraw the proposal.

To Ensure the Best Outcomes for Rural Americans, Better Provisions Needed in Federal Broadband Plan

Today's global economy demands that every participant have access to reliable, high-speed Internet in order to attain a level playing field to actively participate in the virtual business marketplace. Although rural America constitutes 15% of our total population, it is these men and women and families who keep food on our tables, fuel in our cars and provide energy for our homes and businesses. We owe it to them to implement the infrastructure to provide broadband internet services. Americans living in rural areas still lack access to this vital resource.

Historically, rural areas have been the last to gain access to new conveniences. Broadband Internet, however, is not merely a convenience—it is essential to the business of agriculture, farming and ranching and nearly every other aspect of life in rural America. Rural communities are profoundly and adversely affected by poor access to high-speed Internet. Right now we have the chance to change that once and for all with appropriate reforms during Phase II of the Connect America Fund (CAF) plan; it's up to the Federal Communications Commission to make the right choices.

There's a lot at stake with the CAF initiative, so we must get it right; the consequences, good or bad, could stretch over decades. The National Grange has always advocated for

updating rural infrastructure, as it did for the railroads and rural postal delivery, and now the emphasis is with rural broadband Internet. Modern farming and ranching is like any other business; it relies heavily on technology and information. Dairy production and crop yields can be monitored and data shared in real time between different farms and the marketplace. Commodities prices can also be followed to help determine what crops to plant and when to harvest.

CAF was first developed in 2011, with the goal of connecting as many as 7 million un-served rural Americans by 2017 and all of the country's 19 million un-served individuals living in rural areas by 2020; yet it still is not finalized and hasn't even begun to be put into practice. CAF calls for \$1.8 billion in funding, but how best to use this funding to effectively build out broadband infrastructure to rural areas is the real issue at hand. Regrettably, it seems significant changes need to be made to the existing plan during Phase II to deliver the most essential outcomes.

The plan is centered on more than doubling required download speed from 4 Mbps to 10 Mbps. That would be fantastic, but it won't make a big difference if other related aspects of the CAF plan are not improved as well.

Consider the way in which broadband coverage is measured. Right now, "Census blocks" are used, and as long as part of the block has access, it is counted as being covered. Yet within each "block" there are households left without the service, perpetuating the digital divide for those individuals and families while keeping up the appearance of closing the gap in access. Higher standards and independent verification of different providers' broadband coverage claims can ameliorate this problem.

Moreover, unlicensed, fixed Wireless Internet Services, or WISPs, are being treated as suitable alternatives to real facilities-based fiber

infrastructure, not true. The FCC's regulatory assumption is that a WISP provides reliable connectivity to an entire area, but that just isn't accurate. Capacity can be very limited in these networks, and there are issues like line-of-sight (LOS) and spectrum interference. WISPs really aren't acceptable as primary infrastructure, but can be useful in a supporting function.

Providers still need better incentives to build out the infrastructure to reach rural areas, the most isolated, and hard-to-reach areas. Connect America Fund (CAF) resources can be used to share some of the financial burden for those efforts. Providers should be held to elevated but reasonable standards and need enough flexibility to handle the unexpected hindrances that are bound to occur with a project like this.

Finally, let's extend the planned funding period to a full ten (10) years to ensure this work is steadily and properly carried out.

Perhaps most important, our families and communities can be strengthened through better access and higher download speeds. Jobs can be created and local economies improved. Services that eliminate some travel over large distances in many rural areas, such as telemedicine and distance learning, can save energy, develop a better rural workforce and improve quality of life. The majority of our nation's farmers and ranchers are small business owners, internet utilization informs them of new agricultural technologies to enhance their production thereby providing higher yields to meet our growing demand for food, fiber and fuel

**News Sheet Articles are due
By**

August 25

**Send to Judy Hansen
20657 State Highway 91
Blair, NE 68008**

**or
preferably by email
jhans@pointenet.com**