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California Grange News



ISSUE ONE

*Official publication of the California State Grange
A Fraternal, Family Organization Serving California*

2009

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2009 Grange Scholarship Aps Due April 1

Applications available
February 1 - check
www.californiagrang.org
for applications online

Applications for the 2009 Grange Scholarships, available on February 1, are due into the State Office by April 1, 2009.

H. "Tom" Sawyer, President of the Grange Foundation, said the Foundation's Board is currently reviewing the program, including revisions of the application procedures, and that they are working to have them ready by the February 1 deadline.

According to the Scholarship Selection Committee for 2008, there were many incomplete applications last year. Failure to include such information as transcripts, recommendations, and an application letter which includes a short biography along with educational and professional goals will render the applicant ineligible.

Another requirement is that the applicant must be a member of a Grange in California. If the State Office cannot find the applicants name in the membership database, we cannot verify membership. Applicants should check with their Grange's Secretary to make sure their membership is in good standing.

Applications, when ready, can be applied for from the State Grange Office, either call the CSG at 916-454-5805, Ext. 600 or email info@californiagrang.org. The applications should also be available after February 1 online at www.californiagrang.org, and click on Grange Foundation. Please note that the 2008 Scholarship applications are being left posted so that potential applicants can see generally what they may need to include in their application. These forms, however, may change for 2009, and the older forms should not be used to apply for this year's scholarships. If you have questions, please inquire via e-mail to info@californiagrang.org.



NBC reporter Mike Lury (l) interviewed Legislative Director Mike Greene and President Randall Lewis on the steps of the State Capital in January. The news story on the Grange's NoBudget-NoPay initiative was aired on NBC stations from San Diego to Redding.

NoBudget - NoPay Initiative Gathers Steam; Donations Sought To Stoke The Fire

At the annual convention last October, the delegates approved the leadership of the Grange to move forward on a NoBudget-NoPay initiative that would cause legislators and the Governor to forfeit their pay and per diem beginning July 1st if a budget is not passed. The Constitutional deadline for passing a budget is June 15th of each year.

By taking on this challenge, the Grange is providing a great service for the people of California who overwhelmingly support the initiative. A recent survey conducted by SurveyUSA found that 67% of the public supports such an initiative.

By promoting this initiative we are also promoting the Grange as an organization capable of taking on significant issues of the day. The poll also found that over 70% of the public thought that such action would be effective in getting a budget on time.

"We're taking this one step at a time," commented President Randall Lewis. "We're a grassroots organization and we must depend

on support from our membership and the public to make this happen."

The Grange is asking its members to donate \$10.00 or more toward the cause. They are also asking Californians to donate whatever they can to provide us the financial resources needed to move forward on this project. It is estimated that it will require gathering a million signatures to put the initiative before the voters. Donation checks may be sent to the California State Grange, 3830 U Street, Sacramento, 95817 (please mark in the memo field of the check: NBNP), or donations can be made with a credit card at our new website, www.NoBudget-NoPay.org

Grange President Randall Lewis is appealing to Governor Schwarzenegger for support. Public Relations Director Bob McFarland will be appealing directly to community Grangers to put on fund raisers in support of the NoBudget-NoPay initiative.

For more information, phone the State Grange office at 916-454-5805.

CSG Officers and Directors Meet, Develop Plans For 2009

The Officers and Directors of the California State Grange gathered at the organization's headquarters in Sacramento for a two-day annual meeting, held January 9 and 10.

On hand were Master Randall Lewis, Overseer Martha Stefenoni, Lecturer Buzz Chernoff, Secretary Katie Squire, Treasurer Marion Nichols, Chief Deputy Jack Eyler, Executive Committee members Inger Bevans, Bob Clouse, Johnny Squire, and Bruce Brunell, Legislative Director Mike Greene, Youth Director Patty Allen, Youth Chairman Joseph Stefenoni, GWA Director Betty Eyler, Northern District GWA Director Julie Kroger, Pomona Marta Kroger, Community Service Directors Rich Saxe and Jan Saxton, and Public Relations & Membership Development Director Bob McFarland, Dorothy Brunell, Linda Chernoff, Nancy & Bob Alvarez and Frank Nichols.

"We identified growth of the membership as the top priority and agreed that the way to do this is by opening up our halls and sharing Grange Spirit with our community," stated Lecturer Buzz Chernoff, after the meeting. "What's most exciting is that every Officer and Director made a personal commitment to have their home Grange participate in at least one community event this year."

Buzz will working closely with newly appointed Community Service Directors Rich Saxe and Jan Saxton, and challenge Granges to put on at least one of three community events this year: a picnic, a talent contest or 4th of July parade.

Directors Rich Saxe and Jan Saxton moved from Membership to head-up the new Community Service Department, and will continue to administrate the State Grange Talent contest program.

The Public Relations Department will now encompass Membership Development, under the charge of Director Bob McFarland. Mas-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

The Granges of California provide opportunities to enhance our communities today for the generations of tomorrow by working to improve the quality of life through family, community and grassroots legislative action.- New Mission Statement drafted at the 2009 Officers & Directors meeting.

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Officers, Directors Stress Membership, Need To Help Local Granges Thrive

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

ter Lewis described Community Service, Public Relations and Membership Development as three legs of the stool that holds up the organization.

Participants made minor revisions to the California State Grange Mission Statement to read:

"The Granges of California provide opportunities to enhance our communities today for the generations of tomorrow by working to improve the quality of life through family, community and grassroots legislative action."

Directors stressed the importance for Grange members to get involved at the grass roots level for their programs to be successful. "The most important thing about what we do, is what you do," persuaded Legislative Director Mike Greene.

Participants reviewed the five priorities set by the National Grange for Grange activities this year:

- 1) Increase active membership and participation at each Community Grange.
- 2) Develop new leaders and give them opportunities at each Community Grange.
- 3) Revitalization of Community Granges.
- 4) Organize new Community Granges.
- 5) Re-emphasize and strengthen the family structure through the Junior and Youth Programs.

"Our Grange halls are our portal into the community. When we lose a Grange hall, chances are we will not be in that community again," stated Master Randall Lewis, emphasizing the need to keep Granges open and active.

Each Director and Chairperson gave reports on their programs last year and their plans for 2009. Much of the two-day meeting was devoted to open discussion with many good ideas shared.

"You can't help but be impressed with the talent we have represented in this room and the depth of their dedication to the Grange," commented Overseer Martha Stephenoni.

Conrad-Lincoln Bill Includes Significant Water, Infrastructure and Power Investments

Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND) and Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) today introduced legislation they authored to boost struggling rural economies with federal investment in water and infrastructure upgrades, expansion of rural health care, and new power generation and transmission projects.

"We have important plans for America's small towns," Senator Conrad said. "As we work to revitalize our national economy, we must also remember the important role our rural communities play. They are the backbone of our nation. It is time that we renew America's commitment to help them succeed and thrive."

"Across the country, working families are depending on Congress and the President to work together to craft an economic recovery plan that breathes life back into their communities," Senator Lincoln said. "The recovery package presents us with a great opportunity to invest in rural America by providing funds for critical initiatives that will create jobs and lay the foundation for future economic growth. Rural America must not be left behind."

The proposal — known as the Rural Revitalization Act of 2009 — would make significant investments in rural development priorities, including infrastructure projects, energy programs, housing assistance and rural health care.

For example, it will include funding to:

- o Upgrade and expand transmission lines;
- o Construct renewable fuel pipelines;
- o Build and maintain rural roads and highways;
- o Support rural hospitals and repair school buildings; and
- o Increase funding for small businesses in rural areas.

The senators said the needs of rural communities often go unnoticed in Washington, D.C., overshadowed by their big city counterparts. However, the Rural Revitalization Act would provide rural communities the ingredients necessary to compete in the global economy.

Numerous organizations have already publically endorsed the Rural Revitalization Act, noting that the legislation serves as a vehicle to jumpstart the economies of America's rural communities.

National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson said of the Act, "The provisions of the Revitalize Rural America Act are generally supported by National Grange-adopted grassroots policy and we applaud the co-sponsors for introducing this legislation. Rural communities desperately need new infrastructure development if they are going to compete in the world economy of the 21st Century.

"However, many of the provisions regarding building new transmission lines, building new pipelines and building new roads do not appear to contain sufficient protections for private property rights. A lack of recognition for private property rights in the legislation could lead to unnecessary litigation over these vital projects that may delay their implementation and blunt their effectiveness as economic stimulus during these tough economic times. The National Grange urges Congress and the President to take into account basic private property rights when evaluating, planning and implementing new infrastructure construction projects that will benefit rural communities. Rural Americans should not be

expected to give up their basic property rights in order to benefit from the economic stimulus package."

Features of the Act include:

Title I – Infrastructure

Sec. 101 – Electric Transmission Lines: To encourage investment in electric transmission lines, creates a new category of tax exempt bonds for publicly owned electric transmission facilities. The bonds fall within the regular state private activity bond cap limitations.

Sec. 102 – Clean Energy corridors: To support construction of electric transmission lines and renewable power projects, expands the ability of FERC to provide the citing authority for transmission lines (if a state fails to act within one year) to include lines from areas with high renewable energy capacity or to relieve capacity constraints. Requires the Department of Energy to conduct a study to determine which transmission corridors are necessary to maximize use of renewable energy.

Sec. 103 – Rural electrification loan program: To expand opportunities for electric cooperatives to upgrade and expand transmission services, increases the appropriation for USDA Rural Electrification Loan Program from \$93 million to \$180 million per year for 2009-2010 for 5 percent rural electrification loans, and boosts support for loan guarantees from \$6.5 billion to \$7.8 billion per year for 2009-2010.

Sec. 104 – Ethanol pipelines: Amends the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to provide a \$5 billion authorization for loan guarantees (covering up to 90% of the eligible cost) for the construction of renewable fuel pipelines or the modification of existing pipelines to transport renewable fuels. Increases the number of eligible projects for Department of Energy's Renewable Fuel Infrastructure Grants program from 10 to 20.

Sec. 105 – Transportation: Include \$5 billion for ready-to-go highway and bridge projects to be distributed through the regular highway formula with an additional limitation

that the funds can only be spent in areas that qualify as rural under the Farm Bill. Also, an additional \$568 million for the Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) program for maintenance and new construction projects.

Sec. 106 – Water Projects: Include an additional \$500 million for the Bureau of Reclamation's rural water program.

Sec. 107 – USDA water and waste-water projects: Add an additional \$2B to this program. This program has a \$1.5B backlog for complete applications and a \$2B backlog for incomplete applications.

Sec. 108 – USDA Rural Community Facilities: Provides for \$2.5B in direct and guaranteed loans (including \$100M for the cost of making and modifying loans) under this program. Also includes \$100M for grants (including costs for making grants). This money would supplement the building of rural hospitals, fire stations, and community centers.

Sec. 109 – USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grants: Add an additional \$100M for this program. These grants are made to public bodies and nonprofit organizations to facilitate development of small and emerging business enterprises in rural areas.

Sec. 110 – USDA Broadband Grants: Add an additional \$3B to make grants and loans under this program.

Sec. 111 – Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program: Provides an additional \$84M for this program, which assists rural business startups.

Sec. 112 – Economic Development Administration: Includes \$250 million for EDA public works and economic adjustment assistance. EDA has a backlog of projects, including important infrastructure-related assets such as water and sewer upgrades and expansions at industrial parks and manufacturing centers; alternative energy retrofits and modernizations at industrial parks, business incubators and other manufacturing facilities; broadband fiber optic backbones and networks; short line rail spurs, port improvements and other infrastructure; and job skills training facilities.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Proposed Septic Tank Regulations May Affect Many Grange Halls

The State Water Resources Control Board has proposed a new set of regulations governing the installation and inspection of all new and existing septic systems. The new regulations would take effect on January 1, 2010 and will have financial impact to residents, and Grange halls, that have septic tanks on their property.

The regulations are required by a law (AB885) that was passed by the Legislature in 2000. These regulations would require inspection of all septic systems every five years for a fee of approximately \$325. Homeowners with septic tanks within 600 feet of bodies of water (lakes, streams, etc.) designated as "impaired" will be required to have a qualified professional determine whether the septic system is contributing to the impairment. If so, retrofit of the septic system with supplemental treatment will be required at an estimated cost of \$45,000 according to an analysis by the California Farm Bureau Federation.

Opponents of the measure, including State Senator Dave Cox whose First Senate District is largely rural with many constituents dependent on septic systems, are encouraging the

public to fight the regulations as proposed by the State Water Resources Control Board.

"As I opposed the original legislation, I must also oppose the proposed regulations by the State Water Resources Control Board," stated Cox. As I stated in a recent letter to the water control board, the "one size fits all" approach of this legislation and the proposed regulations will not work well in rural communities, and they will place an excessive burden on homeowners throughout the state.

"Residents in rural communities are already feeling the financial pinch of the downturn in the economy. Overburdening homeowners with more regulations that will require them to spend more money that they don't necessarily have is not the right approach," concluded Cox.

He added that apart from a minor sewage leak that occurred in Southern California, an incident that prompted this legislation, septic tanks have worked fairly well.





Summer Maddux and Kalie Benson get to know the Golden Bear at AgDay 2008

Grange to Participate In Ag Day 2009

Once again, the State Grange will participate in the annual California Ag Day at the State Capital on March 24. A variety of organizations and services that make up California's agricultural community will share information and resources from booths set up on the Capital lawn.

The State Grange will set up a booth to promote awareness, invite the public to join our membership, and support our legislative causes. Master Randall Lewis, Legislative Director Mike Greene and Public Relations Director Bob McFarland will join office staff to answer questions and pass out promotional materials, which last year included a legislative pamphlet, membership forms and a "What Is The Grange" coloring book for visiting classrooms.

Make plans to stop by the California State Grange booth on March 24 and say hello. California Ag day is well worth the time.

Rural Revitalization Act of 2009

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Sec. 113 – Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs): Modify QZAB rules to 1) allow new construction to qualify; 2) doubling the allocations already enacted in extenders for 2009 (from \$400M to \$800M); and 3) extending through 2010 at the higher \$800M allocation level. QZABs help school districts with low-income populations save on interest costs associated with public financing school (below the post-secondary level) renovations and repairs. Currently, QZABs cannot be used for new construction but can be used for the following activities: renovating and repairing buildings, investing in equipment and up-to-date technology, developing challenging curricula, and training quality teachers.

Sec. 114 – Farm Bill Energy programs: Provides \$1 billion in additional funding for USDA programs that support investments in advanced biofuel production, as well as expanding investments in rural renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Title II – Nutrition Assistance

Sec. 201 – The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): Provide \$100M in additional funding, including 5% for commodity distribution. TEFAP provides commodities and grant funds to State agencies to assist in the cost of storage and distribution of donated commodities in Senate Stimulus.

Sec. 202 – Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): Provide an additional \$50M in funding for this program, which provides supplemental foods to pregnant women, children up to age 6, and low-income elderly people.

Sec. 203 – Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program: Add an additional \$445M.

Sec. 204 – Food Bank Infrastructure Grants: \$30 million for this program, recog-

nizing the challenges food banks in rural areas are facing in delivering food to hungry people in sparsely populated communities. Congress authorized \$15 million for transportation and infrastructure grants in the Farm Bill. No funding has been provided for this initiative, which will be especially helpful to food banks delivering food to hungry people in rural communities.

Title III – Rural Housing

Sec. 502 Single Family Housing Loans: An additional amount to make \$4B in direct loans and \$18B in unsubsidized guaranteed loans to Sec. 502 borrowers. Also includes \$500M for the cost of making these loans.

Title IV – Rural Health

Sec. 401. - National Health Service Corps programs: Includes \$300M for each FY 2009 and FY 2010 above any other appropriated funds for the National Health Service Corps program, which helps to place health care providers in rural and underserved areas.

Sec. 402. - Improved access to ambulance services: Increases the rural bonus payment to 6 percent in FY 2009 and extends the 6 percent add-on through FY 2010. Moreover, the bill extends the "super rural" bonus of roughly 26 percent through FY 2010. Many rural ambulance services are volunteer and are having a hard time maintaining services in tight economic times.

Sec. 403 – Medicare Home Health: Includes a 5% increase in Medicare payment to rural home health providers. Many rural home health facilities operate on a negative Medicare margin because it is costly to deliver care to seniors in rural areas. This increase would help cover those costs and improve care to seniors in rural areas.



Conference Promises Fun Experience For Grange Youth

With a theme of "Plowing New Paths to the Future", the California State Grange Youth Program will hold a conference May 23 – 25 at the American River Grange Hall in Rancho Cordova, just east of Sacramento. The hall is located at 2720 Kilgore Rd. Take the Sunrise exit off of Highway 50, go south to Folsom Blvd (right next to freeway), turn west on Folsom to Kilgore, first stoplight.

"This conference, more than any other we've held so far, will be a fun and rewarding experience for everyone," promises Youth Chairman Joseph Stefanoni. The theme for this Conference is "Plowing New Paths to the Future."

Everyone is welcomed to attend the three-day conference. On-site registration will begin at 11:00am on May 23. Advanced registration is recommended. Limited rooms at discounted rates are available at the Comfort Inn.

A variety of workshops are planned, including Sign-A-Song, Public Speaking, How To Be An Ambassador, and Community Service. Fun activities will include a tour of the State Capital, games, dancing, a banquet and more. A registration fee of \$35 includes lunch and dinner on Saturday and Sunday. Breakfast will be provided by the hotel.

For more information email California State Grange: info@californiagrangegrange.org.

Budget Proposal Could End CTE

A broad-based coalition, GetReal, which includes business, labor and educators is warning that the latest budget proposal could devastate efforts to train the skilled workers needed to rebuild California's economy. The Grange has long-standing policy supporting CTE in California schools.

"We are deeply concerned by the proposal allowing school districts to divert revenue budgeted for career technical education to other budget areas as they see fit," said GetREAL co-chair Jack Stewart, president of the California Manufacturers and Technology Association. "This could be a devastating blow for career technical education (CTE)."

"CTE is one of the last electives in a sea of mandates," said GetREAL co-chair Bob Balgenorth, president of the State Building & Construction Trades Council. "CTE funding would surely be the first to be raided under the proposal as school districts scramble to fund those programs required by the Legislature."

"Since California does not include CTE as part of a balanced education, eliminating its funding protections essentially kills it — at a time when we should be nurturing it," said Balgenorth.

"To ensure the survival of CTE funding for it must be protected — either that, or CTE should be made part of required study," said Stewart. "Cutting CTE funding is one thing, but allowing those funds to be spent on non-vocational programs is totally unacceptable."

"Skilled workers built California's economy," said Balgenorth, "but we're seeing a sharp decline in the number of skilled workers because of the continuing assault on career technical education. Instead of reversing this

trend, the proposal could worsen it."

"Not only will a lack of skilled workers slow economic recovery in the short run, it will do serious long term damage to California's competitive edge," said Stewart. "Without CTE, we can't train enough skilled workers, and without them, we can't rebuild and sustain this economy."

GetREAL is a coalition of business, labor, agriculture, public safety, health care, child advocates and educators who believe California schools should provide a balanced education that includes challenging academic studies and career technical education for "hands on" learning.

Compared to other countries, U.S. flunks in teacher pay

Recent research has highlighted the important role of teachers in fostering student achievement. However, the United States lags significantly behind other countries in teacher compensation, which adversely impacts efforts to recruit high-quality teachers.

A recent study by McKinsey and Co. argues that good starting salaries are an essential ingredient for getting the right people to become teachers. Though people who enter teaching often cite a number of reasons, surveys find that unless school systems offer salaries commensurate with that on offer in other career opportunities, the teaching profession will not attract equivalent candidates. The McKinsey study shows that starting salaries in the United States are much lower than in other Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries.

In South Korea and Germany, starting

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California Grange News

Member, Pacific Grange Farm Group

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Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30a.m. - 4:00p.m.
*Official Publication Of The
California State Grange.*

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Talent, Art and Photo Contests
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Sewing, Toy Making, Cooking Contests
Speech Contests
Youth Activities
Grange Youth Fair Program

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California Grange News is issued bi-monthly (except September) at Sacramento, California. Subscription is a part of members dues. Non-member subscriptions \$10.50 per year.

DEADLINE

Please allow a leadtime of 8 weeks for publicized events and change of address. We welcome photos, color photos OK. If you wish your photo returned, please include a self-addressed, STAMPED envelope.

Deadline for copy is the first working day of the publishing month



Master's Memo

Randall Lewis,

Master
California State Grange
master@californiagrango.org

Well, it's a new year and things have really started off with a bang. I hope you are enjoying the exciting challenges with renewed energy and working hard to make our Granges in California the premier community service organization we really are. As I have been saying for the past couple of years, now is our time to return to prominence. If you stop and think about it, we are at a defining moment in the history of our nation. With a new President and the shift of power coupled with the difficult economic times we are now experiencing, most families are returning to the basic core values the Grange has always nurtured. The Grange will become a leader once again in our local communities, states and in the nation. All we have to do is open our doors and welcome new members into our Grange Family.



A perfect example of this is the Morro Bay Grange. Last year the few remaining members decided to give up their hall and close their doors because they were having trouble getting new members and were tired. No one cared enough about their Grange to even hold a community meeting where I could put on a program titled "Introduction to the Grange" and invite local residents to join us in serving their community. The keys and records along with the remaining funds were mailed to the State Grange office and they were finally done with it. I immediately asked the local Deputy to go over and change the locks on the hall so we could make sure the property was secure until we could determine what we were going to do.

Within a month or so there were about a dozen groups and individuals who were up in arms because they were locked out of the hall. The community wanted to know why the Grange in Morro Bay was closed. One person called and said "I have several adults and some students from Cal Poly SLO and we want to reopen the Grange." Others, like the 4-H, had been using the hall for 40 years for their meetings and wanted to keep the Grange open. There were individuals who used the hall for family gatherings, weddings, birthdays and even a traffic school was interested.

On December 18th we held a small meeting at the Morro Bay Grange hall attended by 15 or so members from the community who all were interested in becoming members and reopening the Grange. As a result of their interest on January 29th we will be re-chartering the Morro Bay Grange. The State Grange Public Relations and Membership Development Department sent press releases to the local papers, in addition to having the meeting announced during the Morro Bay City Council meetings. Also, their community service TV, channel 20, ran ads informing the public about the meeting on the 29th. We anticipate a crowd of around 50 people will be on hand to join the efforts and continue service to the community that originally began there in 1873. If your grange is having difficulty and needs our assistance please call your Deputy State

Master, the Chief Deputy or myself so we can assist you and develop an action plan to invite the local residents to join and become part of our family. We want to help you in any way possible.

NoBudget-NoPay: Donations are needed no matter how small to get this process going. We have not expended any money from the State Grange budget and have no plans to do so. As a grassroots organization I hope we can gather a few dollars from a lot of individuals both in the Grange and across the state in order to make this change to the State Constitution.

We are holding weekly meetings to monitor our progress and develop new strategies that will help us move forward with the initiative that was overwhelmingly approved by the delegates during the October Annual Membership Meeting. During the second week of December we received the proposed language of the initiative back from the California Legislative Counsel. You can see the language on the website we developed at: www.NoBudget-NoPay.org. Currently we are awaiting enough donations to come in and may send the language to a Constitutional Attorney. We want to make sure when the voters approve the initiative it will not be overturned in court. We are trying to get this done without the opinion costing any money and are currently researching the language ourselves.

Upon completion of the review we will file the initiative with the Attorney General's office and when it is returned we will be ready to start gathering signatures. Each Community and Pomona Grange Master will be sent copies of the petition and asked to gather as many signatures as they can. This is where we failed in 1993 when we did not collect enough signatures to qualify it for the ballot. Your hard work is going to be imperative if we are to be successful. We are also planning on putting the petition on the website so the California voters will be able to help us with the process. I have received many calls from individuals asking how they can help us, and offering their assistance once we start the process of gathering signatures.

We held the Officers and Directors Meeting on January 10th and 11th and then had the Deputies Conference on January 24th and 25th. The focus of the meetings was membership growth through community service and how we can assist our Community Granges. We modified the CSG Mission Statement slightly and it now reads: "The Granges of California provide opportunities to enhance our communities today for the generations of tomorrow by working to improve the quality of life through family, community, and grassroots legislative action." When a non-granger asks you "What is the Grange?" all you have to do is repeat this short mission statement. The conversation will go from there and you may get a new member out of it. All in all the two weekends provided a boost in

energy for each of us and we are looking forward to helping the Community Granges grow during the upcoming year.

I would like to thank Rich Saxe and Jan Saxton for taking over the Community Service Department. They are going to continue the Talent Contest and have consented to add working with local Granges to open up our halls to the community and developing programs to serve their neighbors. If we are going to be successful in regaining our prominence in the communities it will be through Community Service. Rich and Jan will be working closely with CSG Lecturer Buzz Chernoff and the local Lecturers.

We have combined membership development and public relations into one department so Bob McFarland's new title is the "Director of Public Relations and Membership Development." We will be designing new brochures and literature that will allow us to start a target marketing program designed to bring in new members for our local Granges. Also Bob is asking each Grange member to bring in one new member this year. That will double our membership and I am sure each of our Grangers knows someone who would really like to join. It is really as easy as that to grow our membership.

We are in the process of planning some Leadership Training programs using the Pomona Granges as a focal point so we can have discussions and share ideas with the leaders and interested members of our Granges. The sessions will take approximately 5 hours and I hope everyone will attend these sessions weather they are a current officer or not. The meetings are open to all Grangers. We will let you know when and where the meetings will be held.

Linda and I had a wonderful time installing the Officers of Butte County at the Palermo Grange hall and the Glen County Granges at the Jacinto Grange hall. It was nice being able to visit with everyone and have the opportunity to discuss some of the challenges we are facing. All the while feasting on the delicious food brought to the pot-luck dinners following the installation ceremonies. We installed a total of seven Granges over the two days of January 17th and 18th.

I would like to end my column by letting you know how proud I am of all your works. Our organization has come a long way over the past few years and we are now on the cusp of success. We have all made sacrifices and worked very hard to bring about the necessary changes that will carry us into the future. Keep it up and continue making the appropriate changes for the right reasons. Also, as the Overseer instructs in the Third Degree, "While you strive to make labor honorable, exert yourself to make it pleasant and cheerful for all around you." So I ask you, "Are we having fun?" May God Bless you and may God Bless the Grange.

**GRANGE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION
(Seattle, Washington)**

NOTICE OF 2009 ANNUAL POLICYHOLDERS' MEETING

The Annual Policyholders' meeting of the Grange Insurance Association will be held on Monday, March 16, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at Grange Insurance Association, 200 Cedar Street, Seattle, Washington 98121.

All Grange Insurance Association policyholders are welcome to attend. Signed at Seattle, Washington this 6th day of January 2009.

**David E. Suver, CPCU
Corporate Secretary
GRANGE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DIGEST

In accordance with G-24-88, the following summarizes the actions taken by the Executive Committee of the California State Grange at the meeting(s) indicated.

January 9, 2009

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the California State Grange was called to order at 8:05 AM by Chairman Robert Clouse. The roll was taken and Overseer Martha Stefanoni was noted as absent, she sent an email informing the committee as to her inability to attend due to lambing. Present: Randall Lewis, Ex. Committee Robert Clouse, Bob McFarland, Bruce Brunell, Inger Bevans, Johnny Squire. Also in attendance, State Secretary Katie Squire.

It was noted that the minutes of the previous meeting were not available at this time. Sister Squire was asked to take the minutes for the meeting.

Master's Report: Randall Lewis reported on the activities at the National Grange Session this past November in Connecticut. One important action is that the National Grange will be assessing each State Grange \$1 per member to cover the expenses of the National Grange convention. He did speak against this resolution, but unfortunately it was passed by the Delegates. The State Executive Committee needs to address how this matter is to be handled and the effects on the California State Grange. There is a change in the By-Laws of a State Grange may be suspended or revoked. Master Lewis spoke against this change, but it was also passed. Some additional clean up language was presented that clarified Golden Sheaf membership. Due to insurance concerns, the Junior Grange organization process was discussed. A clarification for the sale of property and the sale of real property was handled as well during the session.

The National Grange will hold the 2009 State Master's Conference in Arkansas in the middle of February. The location was selected due to the proximity to the Tyson Corp. It is hoped that the group may be able to influence Tyson regarding their marketing plan.

Nearly all of the resolutions that were carried by the California State Grange to the National Grange were passed or included in policy statements.

West Visalia property – the church that made the offer on the property has withdrawn their offer. Jim Olivias, who is the agent handling this property, suggested that we consider dropping the price to \$300,000 due to conditions in the real estate market in the Visalia area. The committee discussed lowering the price and what price is the lowest that

they will go.

Moved by Randall Lewis and seconded by Bob McFarland to lower the listing price for the West Visalia Property to \$350,000. Motion carried unanimously.

It was decided at the time of the move to not continue utilizing Crossroads for janitorial services for the California State Grange offices. They still cover the UC Davis facilities as well as other locations within the triangle and service the landscaping. The janitorial needs for the CSG Office are being handled in-house at this time.

Dows Prairie Grange has submitted a new request for a Grange Hall loan; they would like to renegotiate their current loan.

The paperwork for Meadow Vista Grange has been processed and a check has been cut. For clarification the Executive Committee approved Meadow Vista's application for a Grange Hall loan amounting to \$17,000 for hall improvements. This action was approved at the September meeting of the Executive Committee.

Further discussion was undertaken regarding the Grange Hall loan fund and how it operates.

Amy Self, Office Manager, entered the meeting at 9:18 AM.

Accounting - Bellevue Grange is asking for a release of funds from their Asset Management fund to cover monies that they expended helping Sebastopol Grange. Sister Self is awaiting a copy of the minutes from the Grange; all other paperwork has been received. It was noted that the release of funds had been approved pending receipt of documentation.

Sister Self reported that the financial paperwork is not complete at this time. There is so much going on at this time that is taking her time away from the accounting. At this point she needs a month, full time and uninterrupted, in order to get the paperwork in good order.

Property Management was discussed. There is a need to address problems in the process as it is effecting the Accounting department as well as the Granges. A procedure for Granges that are in transition or being reorganized needs to be developed so that any Accounts Receivable from Granges can possibly be moved into Notes Receivable.

Robert Clouse appointed a Fund Recovery Committee to develop a policy for recovering these funds from Granges. Chairman Inger

Bevans, Bob McFarland, and Johnny Squire are to work with Amy Self and Master Lewis on this matter, with a report to be given at the next meeting.

The Bridge Loan from Prunedale Grange was discussed, as well as the money still payable for past due interest.

Clarification is needed regarding the funds that came in as donations for the membership development talent show. The money has been credited to the Membership Account.

It was pointed out there is still quite a bit of money that is over 180 days past due, from individuals, businesses and Granges.

GIA WIN-WIN Committee: Master Lewis provided some background information regarding this committee; it was organized during the term of Bill Steele, but never really met. It has recently been reactivated by National Master Ed Luttrell, with a new group of people. They are meeting and had a Team Speak meeting this past week. Randy participated in the meeting; Bob McFarland was the only other person from California. The contract has been signed through 2010.

No Budget - No Pay: Amy reported that a new accounting department, the Dupray Leg-

islative Account, has been opened within the California State Grange. This will allow us to track the expenses and income for this activity.

Convention: This past year we did not make the required number of room nights, but the hotel did not charge the adjusted fees for the use of the facilities. The costs are less than normal as there were surplus materials left from prior years that were used this year. The surplus has been brought down and it will not be available in the future.

Public Relations: With the creation of this department some items, like Ag Day, were moved within the budget to Public Relations for correct accounting.

Rental Properties: Repair and maintenance has gone up, especially for the GBO building. Amy was directed to keep expenses for 2101 and 2103 separate unless a single renter is found for both units.

Sister Self departed the meeting at 11:15 AM.

It was moved by Bruce Brunell and seconded by Bob McFarland that the Master's appointment of Barbara Geiger as interim

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Budget Proposal Could End CTE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

salaries for teachers are about 141% of per capita GDP, while the figure for the United States is only 81%. In fact, all countries in the survey sample pay their teachers a significantly higher relative wage as a starting salary compared to the United States. Additionally, students in countries with higher paid teachers did at least as well, and often better, as their American counterparts in international tests in science and mathematics.

California manufacturers have a substantial stake in our high school career technical education programs and rely upon them for critical workforce both from college and straight out of high school. These high wage employers have suffered as a result of a 40 percent decline in student access to these

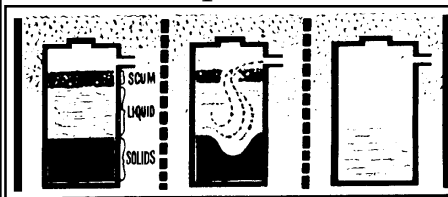
programs over the last 20 years.

According to GetReal, these programs are absolutely essential to California's economic recovery and one can argue the lack of access to these courses has contributed to the overall problem. Our students need relevance in their high school course work to find their path to success. Without it we are left with more dropouts -- already above 30 percent -- and too many high school graduates with limited workforce skills or college inspiration.

The media, the Governor, the Legislature and CTA must understand that they have whittled these critical career programs down to the bone and, for now, we must at the very least protect existing funds or risk our economic recovery and our students' success.

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Before treatment Septi-Zone is added Clean Tank

Eliminates the need for costly, routine cleanings. Septic tanks must be kept free-flowing or they require pumping out at routine intervals. Neither yeast nor chemicals can maintain the enzyme/bacteria balance necessary to liquefy the organic matter. But *Septi-Zone* will dissolve, digest and liquefy all organic waste matter including paper, fibres, cotton, sludge, greases and fats. Regular use of *Septi-Zone* will give you a trouble free sewage system for just pennies a treatment. **Excellent for cesspools too!**

Formula For Ordering

For normal maintenance, allow one pound per 1,000 gallon septic tank capacity to start, and then 4 ozs per month. If you have a problem, add one pound per week until the problem clears. Minor problems may take 3-4 weeks, major problems may take 5-8 weeks. *Add 50% to above if garbage disposal is hooked into septic tank*

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Septi-Zone saves money and inconvenience by doing away with pumping out septic tanks periodically. A small amount of *Septi-Zone* converts all wastes into liquid. It will clean the lines leading to the septic tank. It goes to work immediately, digest the solids, cleans the walls and then travels to the drain fields. It opens the earth and lets the earth absorb.

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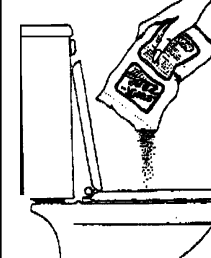
When the septic tank overflows into the drain fields methane gas is released. *Septi-Zone* prevents this. *Septi-Zone* is easy to use. Simply pour and flush toilet. Harmless to humans and animals. Will not harm plants, trees or plastic pipes.

No More Sudden Explodings.

Even if the septic system is working at present, *Septi-Zone* makes sure that the septic system does not all of a sudden "EXPLODE". *Septi-Zone* will keep the septic tank always trouble free.



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DIGEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Chaplain. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Grange Rehab Committee: Dale Baker, Howard Sihner and Jonnie Sihner joined the committee at 11:30 AM. Brother Clouse gave some background information about the committee. El Camino Grange was discussed. Brother Sihner described El Camino Grange and the challenges that are faced. It is placed on a one acre lot. It has a partial attic and a partial basement. The basement floods at times, and the hall is situated below the grade of the road. The hall is in need of repairs and paint. It has P.G.E. electrical service, a well and a septic system that may be less than adequate. A propane tank provided fuel for the heater; the tank is no longer there. According to uncollaborated evidence Kathy Parra, leader of Independent Junior Grange, was able to get use of the hall in 2003 for the Junior Grange. She then sublet the hall to a business. The property is now zoned residential, while the Grange was grandfathered in. The business owners then modified the hall, using crude carpentry, to incorporate living quarters into the layout. There is insurance on the hall and the taxes are current. These have been paid by Kathy Parra. There has been a group of Junior Grange-age young people meeting for craft projects twice a week, every two weeks. There is an odor of mold/mildew in one room that is being used for storage. There are leaks in the roof and problems with access. In 2006 Kathy Parra paid \$5000 for the repair of the roof. Several vehicles are one the property. The current handwritten lease is \$200 per month plus improvements of \$300 each month, payable to Independent Junior Grange. Recommendation of the committee: The hall is not currently suitable for meetings and public events. A current appraisal needs to be obtained. The insurance carrier and tax collector have been notified that the California State Grange is to be billed for these. The current tenants are interested in buying the property.

The committee broke briefly for lunch. The meeting continued during lunch.

Elk Grove Grange: Howard Sihner presented a new lease agreement for the use of Elk Grove Grange Hall by the mortuary next door. The number of hours available for Grange to use the hall has been increased to 24 hours per month and the lease will be reviewed annually.

Fowler Grange: Robert Clouse discussed how the city of Fowler is expressing interest in leasing the Fowler Grange Hall for meetings of the city as well as other organizations with the community.

Delhi Grange: On the return trip from Fowler the group stopped at Delhi Grange. Additional vandalism has occurred to the hall. An appraiser has been sought to determine the value of the property. The minister of the Pentecostal Church has offered \$65,000 for the property As Is. Recommendation: consider the offer and carry the paper for the loan, with a payment that is reasonable for the church to make the payments, and as mortgagee have the California State Grange listed as an additional insured on the insurance.

It was moved by Bruce Brunell and seconded by Bob McFarland that the Pentecostal Church be asked for \$2000 down, title costs be split, total for the property of \$65,000 at 6% and no prepayment penalties for the purchase of Delhi Grange Hall. Motion carried unanimously.

Vista Grange: Vista Grange was discussed by the committee. Bob McFarland expressed

opposition to unlimited spending toward attorney fees in the legal action regarding Vista Grange Hall. It appears that additional costs will be incurred to bring this to its conclusion. The committee expressed concerns as the costs for this are not in the budget. Any additional expenses must be discussed by the Executive Committee prior to disbursement. It was noted that the legal fees for Vista Grange have been carried on the books as an Account Receivable and this issue will be addressed.

The Committee moved into executive session at 2:02 PM for the discussion of personnel matters.

The meeting reconvened at 4:37 PM.

It was moved by Johnny Squire and seconded by Bruce Brunell that the lease agreement for Elk Grove Grange be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Bruce Brunell and seconded by Bob McFarland that the Grange Rehab Committee will function under the direction of the Master. Motion carried unanimously.

Master's Compensation: This past year the full amount for the taxes on the housing allowance was deducted at the end of the year. The deduction was made in accordance with IRS laws. The Master requested that he be reimbursed for the difference in the taxes owed and what he paid. Inger will work with the accounting department to remedy the situation.

It was moved by Bruce Brunell and seconded by Bob McFarland to accept the request for release of Asset Allocation Funds for \$9721.95 from Bellevue Grange. Motion carried unanimously.

People for the USA and Greenhorn Granges are working toward merging their membership.

Community Service/Membership/Public Relations: Master Lewis has asked Jan Saxton and Rich Saxe to head up the Community Service Department. Their membership work has opened up our halls and brought in new members. He has also asked Bob McFarland to serve as the Membership Director. Bob spoke briefly about his ideas and asked to present at the officers and directors meeting.

It was moved by Inger Bevans and seconded by Bruce Brunell that the Dow's Prairie Grange Hall Loan be refinanced at 5% for 5 years. Motion carried unanimously.

Associate Membership: The Master would like to set up a "Friend of the Grange" classification within the Associate Membership class. This would provide Grange benefits, but not provide a vote within the Grange. They will fill out an application online, as a membership class the National Grange will receive \$10. As the committee discussed the matter further several ideas were broached. It was suggested that more thought be given and additional discussion take place at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: March 14 & 15, beginning at 8:00 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Squire, Secretary

"Be Kind To
Humankind"

Winter Tips From GIA President Ryan Dudley

Winter storms continue to sweep across the country and if you haven't already prepared for winter you still have time to get prepared.

This is the season for fires from heat sources. Some of the most common fires are from chimney fires, stove fires and space heaters. However, there are sensible precautions you can take to avoid these fires.

Caution: Before using any heating device, install carbon monoxide detectors in several parts of the house. Never use a kerosene heater indoors.

Stove installation

Hire a professional installer who is licensed and certified. He/she will make sure the stove is properly installed using the proper materials, parts, clearance, and floor protections. Stove placement must allow for access to proper venting and electrical sources and must meet minimum required clearances. Certified installers operate according to these guidelines.

Use noncombustible floor protection near the stove.

Keep the stove clear of all combustible materials.

Inspect chimney before installation. Relining may be required.

An outside air source may be required for houses with tight construction or strong kitchen, bath or other exhaust fans.

Manufacturer's instructions must be closely followed regarding sealing joints and seams, particularly of pressurized mechanical exhaust vents.

Regular maintenance is critical to ensure safe operation.

Fireplace

This popular heat source is found in homes throughout the United States, but requires proper maintenance and caution to ensure safe operation.

- Annual inspections are required by a professional chimney sweep.

- Regular cleaning will keep the fireplace free of obstructions and creosote.

- Have a removable cap installed at the top of the chimney to keep out debris and animals.

- Install a spark arrestor that has 1/2 inch mesh.

- Maintain proper clearance around the fireplace and keep it clear of combustible materials such as books, newspapers and furniture.

- Always close the screen when in use.
- Keep glass doors open during the fire.

- Use a fireplace grate.

- Approved fireplace tools are recommended.

- Never burn garbage, rolled newspapers, charcoal or plastic in the fireplace.

- Avoid using gasoline or any liquid accelerant.

- Clean out ashes from previous fires and store them in a noncombustible container with a tight-fitting lid. Keep the container outside and away from the house.

- Never leave a fire unattended.

- Make sure the fire is completely out before closing the damper.

- Gas fireplaces require specific maintenance:

- o Adjust the milli-volt output.

- o Keep the glowing embers and logs clean.

- o Inspect and clean the air circulation passages and fan.

- o Clean the glass as needed.

Space Heaters

These appliances can be an affordable option for heating a small space, but they also are the leading source of house fires during winter months.

- Look for products that have been tested by UL.

- Buy a model with an automatic shut-off feature and heat element guards.

- Maintain a 36-inch clearance between the heater and combustible materials, such as bedding, furniture, wall coverings or other flammable items.

- Do not leave a heater unattended.

- Electric heaters should be inspected prior to use.

- o Check the cord for fraying, cracking and look for broken wires or signs of overheating in the device itself.

- o Use only heavy-duty extension cords marked with a No. 14-gauge or larger wire.

- o If the heater's plug has a grounding prong, use only a grounding (three-wire) extension cord.

- o Never run the heater's cord (or any cord) under rugs or carpeting.

- Liquid-fueled heaters must be operated using only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer.

- o Never use gasoline or any other substitute fuel.

- o Allow the heater to cool down prior to refueling.

- o For additional information, visit www.oilheatamerica.com.

With a little preparation, you can have a safe and warm winter.

Looking For Grange NEWS ?



Take a look at what the PR Department is saying about the Grange. View the press releases sent throughout the state about Grange activity and see photos of these events. Visit the new CSG online Pressroom at

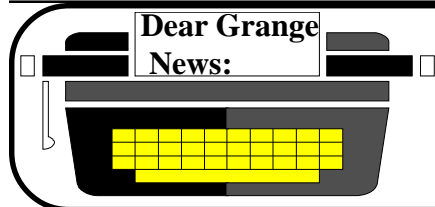
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Don't want to wait to read your California Grange News for it to come in the mail? Want to see all those photographs in living color? Visit the State Grange website at

www.californiagrangegroup.org

and go to "news" on the home page. Some back issues are also available here.





Letters To The Editor

will be published from Grange members. Letters must be signed, the senders address and Grange name must be included. Names will not be published if writer wishes. Unsigned letters will not be published. See page 4 for mailing address

In response to the letter to the editor regarding Identity Theft Program.

Last month's "Letter to the Editor" in the California Grange News was an excellent article to build awareness of Identity Theft. This is a great opportunity to educate our Grange members. It just goes to show that no matter how diligent you are, everyone is at risk. As we read in last week's article, education will be a deciding factor in how much damage each individual will incur. Our author last issue may be looking at some rough waters ahead. Let's take a closer look at why.

In the opening paragraph the consumer hits the nail on the head. With worldwide Identity Theft growing by leaps and bounds, it's imperative to have a company watching your back. The Federal Trade Commission alone receives over 27,000 complaints a day, and the problems range anywhere from small charges from your bank or credit card, to spending time in jail for a crime you didn't commit. Unfortunately, it's impossible to prevent identity theft from occurring. However, a credit monitoring system and access to legal counsel is a necessity. Notification month-to-month that nothing has reached your credit report and damaged your credit rating IS a great relief.

In the next 2 paragraphs the writer talked about how her bank noticed there were several unusual charges on her credit card. Her bank immediately put a hold on the account, and then called to verify these amounts. Since she originated the charges they removed the hold. A couple of months later her bank called again and this time the charges were originated in Texas! In that instance it was an ID Thief. Her concern was that her credit monitoring service emailed her saying that there was no activity on her credit report.

Before addressing why her credit monitoring system didn't notify her, it's important to consider how the thief got our authors information. We don't know if the thief bought the credit card number somewhere or obtained her social security number to gain access to the card. In either case it's very important to notify the credit bureaus that this has taken place. If this ever happens to you, make sure you notify your Identity Theft Shield immediately so they can contact the credit bureaus on your behalf and place a fraud alert on your account. This is critical because if there are future attempts to use your information a fraud alert can often prevent continuous damage. Statistically you are more than twice as

likely to be a victim once you have had some form of ID Theft. Now let's examine what happened...

...Why didn't she receive a credit alert from her monitoring service?

This is relatively easy to address. All credit monitoring systems are designed to monitor your credit report as reported to the 3 official credit bureaus (Experian, TransUnion and Equifax). The credit repositories are not designed to link with your individual bank accounts. Here are a couple examples of how credit monitoring works: Last month I opened up a Target credit card. The next day I got an email alert from the Identity Theft Shield asking me to log into my account online and verify that it was in fact me who opened the account. When I moved recently I received another email prompting me to log into my account to make sure it wasn't a thief trying to get my personal information delivered to another location. Due to the fact that mail theft is also a tremendous problem the Identity Theft Shield also monitors the U.S. Postal System. In either of those situations if it was not me, I would immediately notify Pre-Paid Legal Services of the discrepancy.

To my knowledge there is no system available to track and monitor every transaction that takes place on your credit card and bank statements. This is why it's very important to track day-to-day entries in your accounts. Generally banks or credit card companies have systems in place to detect abnormalities in your spending habits. The author probably doesn't post charges out of the country very often and probably doesn't routinely spend \$400 at gas stations. This is precisely why her bank red flagged her account when these transactions occurred. Many ID Thieves know the systems are designed to red flag any significantly unusual charges, so some thieves charge very small amounts hoping it will go undetected by the consumer. Over time it adds up and if the consumer doesn't check their account routinely they know that they have an unsuspecting customer at their disposal. This makes for a prime target for a major theft down the road.

It is the responsibility of the consumer to keep track of day-to-day transactions. To illustrate this, in a publication released in 2006 by the Federal Trade Commission entitled "Take Charge: Fighting Back Against Identity Theft", they talk about the Fair Credit Billing Act on page 19. It states: "The Fair Credit Billing Act establishes procedures for resolving billing errors on your credit card accounts, including fraudulent charges on your accounts. The law also limits your liability for unauthorized credit card charges to \$50 per card. To take advantage

of the law's consumer protections, you must:

- Send your letter so that it reaches the creditor within 60 days after the first bill containing the error was mailed to you. If an identity thief changed the address on your account and you didn't receive the bill, your dispute letter still must reach the creditor within 60 days of when the creditor would have mailed the bill. This is one reason it's essential to keep track of your billing statements, and follow up quickly if your bills don't arrive on time.

Because the banks system caught the unusual transactions on the authors' behalf, they thankfully never made it to her credit report. Therefore, there was nothing to report from a credit bureau stand-point. However, if the bank didn't notify her and the charges went unnoticed, they would eventually make their way to a debt collector. This starts the process in destroying your credit. With no monitoring in place, most likely she wouldn't know until significant damage had been done. This is how consumers are caught off guard when they receive letters from debt collectors. And when dealing with ID Theft you are usually guilty until proven innocent.

There are numerous ways that a thief can use your information that would never cross the traditional banking system. Here are a few examples (and there are hundreds): A thief uses your Social Security number to open up a new utility, phone or credit card account. In those cases it's unlikely a bank will notice because it will not show up in an existing credit card or bank account. It will most likely show up as a new account opened on your credit report. If you don't have credit monitoring in place, often you won't know until it's too late and the damage is done. This is why it's IMPERATIVE that you have credit monitoring in place. You need to make sure that if your information gets accessed from one of hundreds of ways it will not involve your bank or existing credit cards, you'll have a heads up before further damage is done to your credit report. The excellent thing about the CSG's ID Theft Shield and Pre-Paid Legal Service is that when something happens in any

area of ID Theft, they will work to restore any damage done, instead of you having to take care of it on your own. They provide this service no matter what area of ID Theft takes place. It's also critical you have access to an attorney to help you respond, or in many cases respond for you in the event that a debtor contacts you to collect a debt you don't owe. One thing the letter's author may want to inquire about is the charge of \$13.13 to cancel her card, reverse charges she never made, and open up another one account. She may be entitled a refund. That would be a great question for our attorneys at Pre-Paid Legal.

Financial Identity Theft just scratches the surface. Next week we will take a look at 5 major types of ID Theft. In addition, we will address 2 other important issues: How could someone run up a bill in another state? And why have banks started to notify their consumers if it's our responsibility to check our own information?

For more questions or further education, please contact Orangevale Grange member Tony Lamm at tlamm@prepaidlegal.com or 916-995-2697.

*Tony Lamm
Certified Identity Theft
Risk Management Specialist*

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Join the Master

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"Cyberside Chat"



Meet the Worthy Master on GrangeSpeak for a discussion the last Wednesday of every month. The Master will be on-line from 7:00 PM until 8:00 PM discussing topics of interest.

To get GrangeSpeak, contact Randy Lewis or Bob McFarland, 916-454-5805



Community Service

JAN SAXTON & RICH SAXE
STATE CHAIRMEN
Comserv@californiagrango.org



Introducing Our New Directors

This year Jan Saxton and Rich Saxe will be heading up the California State Grange's new Community Service Department. Times are tough, and our communities need us! Our plan is to help you offer programs and events that will serve your neighbors, bring them into your halls and turn them into friends and new Grange members.

The California Grange Statewide Talent Contest is moving to our new department with us, and is just one of the many ways we will be engaging with our local communities this year. Master Randy Lewis has directed us all to "open up those Grange hall doors and get new people in" and we will help you do just that, every way we can.

For those of you who don't necessarily think of a Talent Contest when you think of "community service", you might try looking at it this way: the Statewide Grange Talent Contest gave everyone in those local communities the opportunity to perform on stage in front of a warm and enthusiastic audience, and go home with a cash prize, a ribbon or a trophy, which helps build skills and, most importantly, confidence. What a great thing to do for the young people in your town (and for us 'old kids' too!). We know that most Granges around the state have many community service projects that they participate in every year, and we're delighted to be part of that tradition. We hope to inspire you to do more; to find creative new ways to engage with local individuals, organizations and groups in your town to introduce new people to the Grange, make friends with them, and invite them to join with us in this great enterprise.

Keeping our Halls open and available to our communities is one of the greatest services we can offer, and engaging our local folks in projects that benefit everyone is the best way

to make friends, gain the support of your neighbors and attract new members to the Grange. People want to be a part of something that feels good and does good—we can make our Grange Halls the place where all of that happens.

The best way to start would be to take Brother Buzz, our State Lecturer's, challenge: commit your Grange to at least one new activity this year that connects your membership with the broader community. Hold a Talent Contest (we'll help you, it's easy!), enter your Grange in your local Fourth of July parade (build a float, march with a banner, have a kazoo marching band), organize a regional Grange picnic and invite the local folks to join in (potluck food, games and fun!—the best part about a "regional" picnic is getting to meet other Grangers in your area & having fun together—you might even choose to have the picnic at one of the halls in your region that could really use the attention, giving a neighbor Grange a boost!); or come up with another activity that will build friendships between your Grange members and the people of your town or neighborhood.

Your new community service department is here to assist you in serving your local communities, and the Grange is uniquely positioned to help out our friends and neighbors. We will help you find out what programs might work in your area. It's time for us to step up and ask our neighbors to get involved as well. We want to help you reach out and engage those folks in your community who make things happen and get things done. If you need ideas or assistance getting started please give us a call, 831-726-3609, or send us an email, Comserv@californiagrango.org. Let's get to work and make Brother Buzz proud!



Richard Saxe (l) makes a point at the recent Officers and Director Meeting at the State Grange. Sitting next to him is co-Director Jan Saxton.



Membership Matters

BOB MCFARLAND, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR
MEMBERSHIP@CALIFORNIAGRANGO.ORG



With Rich Saxe and Jan Saxton appointed as our new Community Service Directors, Master Lewis has decided to make Membership Development a part of the Public Relations Department, as the two go hand-in-hand. I'm grateful for the opportunity to promote awareness and interest in our organization.

Jan and Rich will continue their successful talent show program and working closely with Lecturer Buzz Chernoff, will develop new programs this year.

There are some things in life that you just can't get your head around. For me, examples would be gasoline, why some kids wear their pants down around their knees, or how we pronounce the word "bologna". And I'd have to add to the top of that list, our declining membership in the California State Grange.

It's hard for me to get my head around it because, like you, I love the Grange. We fill our bellies and our hearts. We build our spirits and our halls. We care for each other, and for others. And it's fun. Why wouldn't everyone want to join and share in these rewards?

Those of you that have been Grangers long enough remember how in 1993, the Grange Insurance Association decided to remove the requirement that you had to be a Grange member to get Grange insurance. That may have been a profitable decision for some but there were consequences for the membership of the California State Grange.

We shouldn't have become dependent on a benefit provider to do our membership recruiting work for us. Membership growth is our responsibility and a duty we should gladly accept.

The truth is, over the last ten years we've lost 60% of our membership and closed 63 Granges. Unless we face the truth, we can't find the solution.

There's no sense crying over spilt milk. Folks living in New Orleans could not prevent Hurricane Katrina. And like those folks in New Orleans, we must come together and re-build.

To my way of thinking, there can be no greater priority for Grangers than to reverse our declining membership. Our very survival depends on it.

Honey Linked To Delayed Ageing, Cancer Prevention

Honey could be used to target age-related problems including memory decline, scientists have discovered.

Studies on mice found that those on diets including honey had better spatial memory and were less anxious.

Lynne Chepulis and Nicola Starkey of the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand, raised rats on diets containing either ten per cent honey, eight per cent sucrose or no sugar at all for 12 months. According to the New Scientist magazine, honey-fed rats spent almost twice as much time in the open sections of an 'assessment maze', which the researchers say suggests that they were less anxious. They were also more likely to spend time in new sections of a Y-shaped maze, suggesting that they knew where they had been before and had better spatial memory.

The researchers propose that honey may

Brothers and Sisters - the time for naysaying is over. Since 1867, generations of Grangers have carried and passed the torch to new generations. The principles on which our organization was founded have value today. Family. Community. Country.

If you are one of those that has given up on a new generation of Grangers, then you've given up on yourself. If you are one that believes older Grangers have nothing to contribute to our future, you've got a lot to learn.

Together, we combine wisdom and inspiration, strength and perseverance, principle and purpose. Together, there is nothing we cannot do.

One-On-One. Let each and every one of us accept a simple challenge for 2009. Let each of us bring in one new member. And if each of us brings in just one new member in 2009, we will have doubled our membership! It is that simple.

Get a friend, a family member, your hair stylist, or the cop that pulls you over to give you a ticket to join. You have a whole year to bring just one new member into your Grange.

The California State Grange will help in this effort with a new plan for membership growth in 2009 that proposes to provide new benefits for members, open more Granges than we close, and reach out to Granges with information, resources and assistance.

As much as our resources will allow, we're available to come to your Grange and share ideas. You can reach us at (916) 454-5805 or via email: membership@californiagrango.org

We're looking forward to a productive and rewarding year. — Bob McFarland, Director of Public Relations & Membership Development.

Progress has been made, but there is still work to be done. May we all find our own gentle strength to grow and help others.

-Susan Garza

improve memory due to its antioxidant properties, which help to prevent free radicals damaging cells in the body. Another report cited honey as a cancer fighting agent.

"Propolis, a resinous substance collected by honeybees from various plant sources, possesses various physiological activities such as antitumor effects. We have previously shown that propolis of Brazilian origin was composed mainly of artemillin C and that its constituents were quite different from those of propolis of European origin," scientists writing in the journal Cancer Letters report.

The researchers concluded: "Artemillin C may prove useful in the development of agents and foods with therapeutic or preventive activity against tumor angiogenesis."...





Thelma Meyer: A Life In The Grange

by Bob McFarland

In 1930, a skinny little farm girl named Thelma along with her older brother Elbert joined the Millville Grange, located in the picturesque countryside just east of the town of Redding, California. She was 15 years old. Seventy eight years later, at the age of 93, Thelma Meyer is still a member of the Millville Grange and, at one time or another, she has held every office in the Grange except Master.

"Growing up, every second and fourth Fridays were Grange meetings. That was our social life." The town of Millville was so small, says Thelma, "You had to be careful what you said about the neighbors because everybody was related."

"Mom and Dad were members. My Grandfather was the Master of the Santa Rosa Grange.

The Millville Grange started in 1929 with 69 charter members that met in the Odd Fellows Hall. By 1932, they had grown to 150 members. They found an old two-story church in Olinda and moved it to a piece of property in Palos Cedro, still keeping the Millville Grange name. A Grange co-op feed store was opened on the bottom floor.

In 1943, following a dance at the Grange that went until 2:00am, the hall burned down. Speculation was that the fire started from a cigarette butt setting off alfalfa in the store. A new Hall was built on the same lot and dedicated in 1944, where it remains to this day.

Thelma met her husband Donald at the Millville Grange. They both attended the local high school. They were married in a ceremony at the hall in 1936. Together they

raised five kids; four boys and one girl on their 500 acre cattle ranch in Bella Vista.

Thelma is famous for her pickles. Several times, her pickles won "Best of Show" at the California State Grange Expo. "I don't know why," she says modestly, "We all used the same recipe. Mine were just better."

Thelma's sister Joy Beatie served for many years as the California State Grange GWA Chairwoman, "Back when the GWA was known as the Home Economics Committee", states Thelma.

Thelma worries about the decline in membership in the Grange. "I think people just have too many activities going on to get interested." She remembers the Millville Grange used to put on dances regularly, bringing in many new members from the community.

Niece Betty Stevenson, a 31 year member of the Millville Grange says of Aunt Thelma, "She's always done her Grange assignments and gone beyond the call of duty. For years our Millville group entered in the State talent contest went on to the National competition, all because of Thelma's work."

Betty recalls swimming with Thelma in Cow Creek and softball games where Thelma would "knock 'em out of the park." Thelma is also known for her gardening skills and beautiful flowers.

At 93 years old, Thelma Meyers looks back on a lifetime in the Grange, starting as a young girl and eventually raising her own children as a Grange family. Her dedication, achievements and marvelous history are an inspiration for all of us who proudly count ourselves as members of the Order.



Thelma Meyer has a scrapbook full of memories of the Grange



Millville Grange Hall ca. 1936



Donald and Thelma Meyer in 1936

Aprons

I don't think kids today know what an apron is. The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples or pecans that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

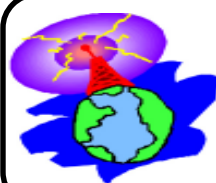
When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

REMEMBER:

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

Today's generation would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron, but I never heard about anyone catching anything from an Apron.



Public Relations

Sharing the "Secret" that is Grange

Bob McFarland, Chairman,
Public Relations Committee
PR@californiagrango.org



We begin the second year of our Public Relations Department having learned many valuable lessons from our inaugural year, and grateful for the support and encouragement we received from so many Grange members.

In 2009, we hope that more Granges will take advantage of our department to help promote community programs and events. It will be a kinder, gentler Public Relations Department. PR press kits will be made available with basic how-to information, and examples for creating press releases and getting the word out to your local media.

We will continue our goal to have a Public Relations representative from the membership at every Grange. Two of the three District PR Directors have been appointed. Lucette Moramarco continues as our Southern District PR Director. Cheri Bunker has been appointed as our new Central District Director. Our Northern District Director has yet to be announced. Please contact me, if you have an interest.

We're going to come up with the definitive "elevator speech" to answer the age-old question, "What is the Grange?" Although, on a recent National Grange TeamSpeak conference, the Youth leadership expressed that for their recruitment efforts, they don't worry about answering the question. Instead, they

interest new recruits by talking about the fun activities they did at their last meeting. There is wisdom and a lesson in that approach for all of us. The next time someone asks you, "What is the Grange?" try telling them about the good times you have at your meetings and socials, and the rewarding work you do in your community.

Beyond the good work local Granges do, we make an even greater impact with regional and state-wide programs and events. Examples being our Safe Food Round Table, Water Symposium, and California Ag Day programs. Recently, PR arranged an interview with President Lewis on the No Budget - No Pay initiative that was broadcast simultaneously on NBC television stations from San Diego to Redding.

Communication and sharing between Granges improves and strengthens our organization. Public Relations will continue to support and promote co-operative events such as regional picnics, workshops and fund raisers.

The resources of the Public Relations Department are there for your use. We like hearing from you. We enjoy fussing over your accomplishments. We look forward to an exciting and rewarding year. - Bob McFarland - Director of Public Relations - pr@californiagrango.org, (916) 454-5805.



Lecturer's Notes

Gerald "Buzz" Chernoff, Lecturer
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toohighranch@hotmail.com

We are living in difficult times. The economy bounces somewhere between a deep recession and a depression; small companies are folding; banks and giant businesses are being bailed-out; the national budget is a trillion dollars in the red; the state is broke; the CSG is running on a loan; it reminds me of the stories my folks used to tell about the hard times during the Great Depression. They talked about how hard it was but they also talked about a sense of common purpose in their community. They were not alone. The National and CSG membership grew following both the depression in 1870 and the Great Depression. Hard times bring folks together. Following the depression of 1870 the Grange became the place in the community where folks came together for social and educational programs and forming cooperatives for buying food and conducting a variety of farm-related activities. While not all Granges may be in a position to start a food buying club or co-op today, we can all open our doors to the community and get through these hard times together.

The CSG Officers and Directors have set membership growth as their top priority. To put this in action, I will be asking each Community Grange Lecturer to put on at least one community event this year. Everybody loves a parade, and a great way to show your presence in the community is to participate in your local 4th of July parade. If you're not up to making a float, how about entering a drill team? My Grange in Garden Valley has the 'Marshall Grange Up Your Kazoo Band and Precision Drill Team' that is always a hit at local parades. If a parade isn't your Grange's cup of tea, how about hosting a Talent Contest? Rich Saxe and Jan Saxton are coordinating the contests again this year, and will be contacting each Grange. The Talent Contest is a fun event that will fill your hall, and Jan and Rich have made it really easy to do. You say you don't have a Grange Hall, or you're just not into a parade or a contest. How about an old fashioned picnic with potluck food, a pie-eating contest, horse shoe throwing contest, sack race and tug-of-war? All you need to do is choose a place, invite the Granges in your Pomona and region, advertise in your community, and sit back and have a good time. Still not interested? Okay then, come up with some other event that gives your Grange exposure in the community, and share it with me so I can pass the idea on to other Granges who might be interested. No matter what event your Grange chooses to do, the important thing is to do it. To set an example, Officers and Directors of the CSG have committed to putting on at least one of these types of events in their home Grange. If these folks can get it together to put on an event in their Grange, then surely your Grange can too. It would give me great pleasure to stand up at the next convention and report that every active Grange in California put on an event that included their local communities. Make me proud, okay?

Once in the Grange, why not do some projects with your new members for entry into the Grange Expo. This year's book is now on the CSG website, and it is filled with all sorts of categories that should cover just about anyone's talents or skills. Check out the book, pick a project, and let the fun begin.

As I said at the beginning, we are living in difficult time. But we are also living in a time when there is an increasing need for a sense of

community, and by opening our halls and our hearts, our Granges can fill that need.

Speaking of needs, there was a philosophy teacher who stood before his class and he had placed some items on the table in front of him. He started the class by picking up a large empty mayonnaise jar which he proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked his students if the jar was full. They all agreed that it was. He then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly and the pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked his students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. He then picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up even more space. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'yes.' The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

'Now,' said the professor as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things: your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions. If everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else, the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical check-ups. Take your spouse out to dinner. Take a trip or visit a place that you've always wanted to see. There will always be time to clean the house and do the laundry. Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.'

One of the students raised her hand and asked what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. 'I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem there's always room for a cup of coffee with a friend.'

Keep smiling, be safe, and happy trails until the next time

Get updated and useful information to build your Grange such as:

- ☛ Instructions on How to Use this Guide
 - ☛ Sales Items Suggested for New Granges
 - ☛ Organization Application for Subordinate Granges
 - ☛ Four Step Brochure for Being a Grange Ambassador
 - ☛ What Do I Need Now that We're Chartered?
- Much more.....

www.nationalgrange.org

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2009 Junior Grange Programs

National Programs (Program Guide 2009)

There are two new programs besides the usual ones listed below. As the Junior department works on increasing membership this year, the following programs will play a critical role.

Junior Grange Member Recruiter of the Year - Who are the best promoters of Junior Grange? Junior Grange Members, of course.

Membership Matters in Junior Grange - a call for each Subordinate/Community Grange to organize/reorganize a Junior Grange. Why? Because membership matters in Grange at any age. We are a family organization that must strive to offer opportunities for everyone in the family.

Children bring an opportunity for growth and excitement for everyone in your Grange. The Junior Grange and Subordinate Grange work hand in hand to develop and create opportunities within your community. Everyone benefits from working together.

Just imagine the possibilities.

No Child Left Inside - The purpose of this program is to encourage our Juniors to become active young people that appreciate and enjoy being outside.

National Junior Grange Creative Art Contest - Draw a picture of your favorite place when you are outside.

National Junior Grange Creative Writing Contest - Write about your favorite place outside.

Kelley Farm Project - Junior Granges raise funds for the Kelley Farm.

Super JG Award - Junior Grangers who meet certain requirements and pass the Super JG quiz receive a special pin type award.

Small World - Country Study - Canada: Juniors will learn about our northern neighbor.

Host Study State 2009 - Michigan: Grand Rapids will host the 2009 National Grange convention.

Junior Regional Public Speaking Contest and the *Sign-a-Song Contest* - Manually Sign the Alphabet Contest - winners from these contests at Family Camp go on to compete in these contests at the Western Regional Conference. The winners there are eligible to go to National to compete. Juniors are also invited to share a talent or skill at the Regional and/or National level.

Merit Badges - there are 14 badges available to earn in three categories: Grange Ad-

venture, Discovery Network and Team Up America.

Details and requirements for these programs are available in the Program Guide downloadable at the National Junior Grange website: www.nationaljuniorgrange.org/ or you can contact me and I will make sure you receive one.

California State Programs

Expo Contests - Juniors can enter any of the Expo Contests. The following contests are sponsored by the State Grange Junior Department.

Small World - Country Study - Canada: Craft contest - build a totem pole out of whatever materials you can find, paper towel rolls, cereal boxes, etc.

Host Study State 2009 - Michigan: Craft contest - construct an automobile, no kits allowed.

Holiday Craft - Autumn Harvest: decorate an artificial pumpkin. There will be two categories: Carved or Painted.

The National Creative Arts and Creative Writing Contests are also Expo contests.

Junior Grange Community Service Award - Junior Grangers are encouraged to do community service. A Community Service Certificate Award is available from the National Junior Grange Director. Details and awards for California are still to be determined.

To aid in advertising the Junior Grange program, I will be putting together a kit of flyers and materials to use in a display. If you have any suggestions as to what should be included, please let me know.

In the Guidebook for Junior Granges you will find all the information you need to start and run a Junior Grange. The Guidebook is available for download at the National Junior Grange website:

www.nationaljuniorgrange.org/.

I also have copies available that I can mail out. If you are interested in starting a Junior Grange this year or in the future and/or would like to be added to my email/mail list to receive my Junior Leaders newsletter and other Junior Grange information, email, call or send me your address.

For more information contact Suzy Moramarco, suncette@cox.net or 760-489-9502 or write me at 210 W. Vermont Ave. #106, Escondido, CA 92025



AT THE GATE

JUNIOR GRANGE DIRECTOR

Suzanne Moramarco

E-mail: JuniorDir@californiagrangec.org

In December I was saddened to hear that one of our newest Junior Granges was closed due to lack of support from its sponsoring Grange. Although chartering a Junior Grange is a great accomplishment, the work for a sponsoring Grange cannot stop there. The first couple of years are crucial for establishing a Junior Grange. Maintaining and increasing membership are an important part of the process. This cannot happen without the support of the sponsoring Grange. Offering a place to meet and have activities is the main responsibility. Spearheading or participating in fundraisers, providing refreshments, or cheering the members on at the county fair are some of the ways you can show support. Asking Junior members to help with your fundraisers by selling tickets, serving meals, or helping with clean up also benefits everyone.

Membership Matters in Junior Grange is a new National Junior Grange call for each Subordinate/Community Grange to organize or reorganize a Junior Grange. As Grange is a family organization we should be offering opportunities for everyone in the family. The Junior Grange and Subordinate Grange can work together to develop and create opportunities within your community. If you are inter-

ested in starting a Junior Grange, contact me (see info. above) and I will send you a Junior Grange Guidebook. This guidebook contains all the information needed to start a Junior Grange. I can also add you to my email/ mailing list to receive Junior Grange news. The Guidebook can also be downloaded at <http://www.nationaljuniorgrange.org/Guidebook/guidebook.htm>.

No Child Left Inside is the theme of the 2009 Program Guide of the National Junior Grange. The purpose of this program is to encourage our Juniors to become active young people that appreciate and enjoy being outside. The Small World - Country Study is Canada this year; the Expo contest is build a totem pole out of whatever materials you can find, paper towel rolls, cereal boxes, etc. The Host Study State 2009 is Michigan; the Expo contest is construct an automobile, no kits allowed. This year's Holiday Craft is Autumn Harvest; decorate an artificial pumpkin. There will be two categories: Carved or Painted. More information on the National Programs can be found at the National Junior Grange website: www.nationaljuniorgrange.org/. Information on the Expo contests can be found in the 2009 Expo Book.



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We can do it.



Rx Health Matters

By Jim McDaniel
California State Grange
Health Committee Chairman

Hopefully there will be some room for some reflections on health even though we are strapped for cash, and thus less issues of CGN.

Most important to me right now and to many readers, is the vital message—"QUIT SMOKING". Very recently my oldest son died, as the autopsy showed, from heavy prolonged use of cigarettes that completely destroyed his lung capacity and damaged his vascular and his intestinal function. The result was months of suffering and an early death.

Like many, my son had tried to quit, but the addiction was as fearful as that caused by heroin use, always won. Now my other sons and friends, who are addicted, are trying new procedures and medical help to stop, but not reverse, smoking damage in its tracks. We see local granges as places where "open to all", well publicized forums featuring well-qualified authorities who can talk and respond to questions. STOP SMOKING!!!

By now, I am sure everyone has dumped all standing water, put mosquito fish in all ponds at home, wear good cover-up garments mornings and evenings when outside and spray well with insect repellent containing DEET. More batches of mosquitoes have tested positive for West Nile Virus so far in 2008 than in previous years.

Early reports show that statewide, dead birds have been infected with West Nile. Don't touch dead birds but try to put them into zip-lock bags and get them to a testing point, usually the nearest health department.

So far, at this writing, there are fewer cases among humans and horses than in 2007 at this time.

Be careful what medications you take. So far, over 1000 people have died from using an illegal form of the painkiller Fentanyl. This prescription painkiller is administered through a patch, usually for cancer patients. It is also a

euphoria-inducing narcotic, 30 to 50 times more powerful than heroin. The makers of Fentanyl, based in Toluca, Mexico, have had their production shut down by authorities.

Check any medicines you take very carefully with your doctor. Give each doctor treating you a complete list of all prescriptions by all treating doctors and all over-the-counter drugs as well, with accurate dosages. Some medications cancel each other out and some are harmful when taken in conjunction with others. This can be very important to you.

Thousands of cases of salmonella poisoning sickened people in 43 states. Was it from tomatoes? From jalapenos? Officials aren't certain yet. Last year we were warned to avoid spinach. In any case, as many hands harvest and package vegetables we buy—we had better wash them as carefully as we can to enjoy raw or cook them well if we use them that way. A good way, for a lot of reasons, may be "grow your own". That's what McCloud Grangers do in partnership with the local health clinic.

We are warned again that excessive cell phone use is dangerous. Dr. Ronald Heberman, a director of the University of Pittsburg Cancer Institute, urges restricted use of cell phones and that children should use cell phones only for emergencies. Many brain tumors appear to be the result of cell phones' electromagnetic fields. A 2008 University of Utah analysis looked at nine studies and concluded there was an overall risk of brain tumors among cell phone users. Studies last year in France and Norway concurred.

Studies continue, but meanwhile, let's limit our cell phone use to really necessary calls.

In spite of inflationary food costs or maybe because cheaper foods are often the wrong foods, obesity is still a leading national problem. Children are being given anti-obesity

drugs as it seems impossible to get many of them to change lifestyles and replace sitting in front of computers and televisions instead of spending a portion of their time outdoors exercising by playing sports, hiking or camping and swimming.

Many children now require treatment for type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol or acid reflux—all of which are related to obesity.

Granges can involve more children in outdoor activities like gardening, camping and many other programs.

Local community granges should be alert to problems seen in many schools where physical education is not offered and their cafeterias still do not offer food choices with alternatives to those heavy with fat and carbohydrates.

Lindsey Mac In Concert At Marshall Grange



Grange Presents is pleased to announce that singer-songwriter Lindsey Mac will be returning to the Marshall Grange Hall for her third concert on Saturday, January 31 at 7 P.M. She will be joined by local guitarist Thom Bentley and In Full Swing who will open the show with some hot swing music. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, and can be purchased at Cherry Records in Auburn, Main Street Café in Georgetown, Rose's Garden Café in Garden Valley, or by phoning 530-642-8671.

Lindsay is a wonderful performer who won over the audience at her last two Garden Valley concerts. She writes catchy songs with clever lyrics, sings with mischief in her voice and magically engages the audience by introducing most songs with a story told with a twinkle in her eye that makes you feel that she is speaking directly to you. After her last concert in Garden Valley someone was overheard saying, "I just want to go and tell every-

Restaurants and food servers seem ready to cut back drastically on using trans-fats in foods served. Heart problems can be reduced greatly by this movement. Legislation now proposed proves more of the right people are concerned.

In closing, I realize that I could have covered so much more. If the economy still makes it possible, we see that science is closer to an AIDS vaccine, closer to finding curbs for Alzheimer's and finding ways to cope with diseases that have become resistant to current antibiotic treatment, i.e.; some strains of gonorrhea, tuberculosis and some of what we used to call "childhood diseases".

Let us all be sure that America knows the Grange is supportive of progress in the health field and that the Grange is a leader in health education as well as in many other areas.

one about this crazy genius girl with her strapped-on cello."

Classically trained at the Royal College of Music in London, the San Francisco Conservatory and Berklee College of Music in Boston, she now strums the cello like an acoustic guitar, creating sounds that range from the sweet to the scary. Her newly released second CD "Stop Thinking" was named the #2 album in Music Connections Magazine's top 25 albums for 2008. You can hear some songs off the album at www.lindsaymac.com.

Lindsay was the winner of the prestigious Emerging Artists Award Showcase and a main stage appearance at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival which included musical legends like Judy Collins and The Nelds. She has opened for several national acts including KD Lang, "folk goddess" Catie Curtis, and Vance Gilbert.

Don't miss your chance to see her locally on Saturday January 31 at the Marshall Grange Hall, located at 4940 Marshall Road in Garden Valley.

Driving directions may be found at www.marshallgrange.org and for further information call 530-642-8671.

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For information on advertising in the Grange News Directory, see the coupon on page 14, or call (916) 454-5805

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Aromas Grange
Monterey County
By Jan Saxton

On May 13, 1977 the Aromas Grange #361 formed the Teressie White Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor a fallen member. Teressie White was an active member of the Aromas Grange for 42 years before she was killed by an intruder in her home. At the request of her family, and with their support, the scholarship fund was formed in her memory. The first action the Grange took after creating the scholarship was to commit the receipts of the January pancake breakfast every year—the month of her birthday—to build the memorial fund. It opened with a balance of \$554. The first scholarship on record was \$100 given

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David & Bernice Longway Administrators and Grange Members

to Pat McCandless in October 1978.

Over the years the fund grew slowly until August of 2003, when the First live scholarship auction was held during the town's annual Aromas Day celebration, raising over \$3,700 for the scholarship fund. It was the first time any single fundraiser had ever raised more than \$1,000-it was very exciting. The community was wonderfully supportive, donating a dazzling array of auction items, both from businesses and individuals. During the process of soliciting auction items, the Auction volunteers realized that 501(C)3 status would be an important next step so that future donations could be tax deductible. The scholarship committee concurred, and in 2004 began to take the steps needed to incorporate.

The TWMSF is now a registered 501(C)3 public benefit corporation. That means that donations to our fund are tax-deductible, plus we are eligible for grants from other charitable foundations. We were delighted in 2007 to receive our very first grant, in the amount of \$5,000, from The Boye Foundation.

The seven scholarship applications we received this spring were from seven of the most incredibly well-qualified students we've ever seen. Their GPAS ranged from 3.72 to 4.1 and each had multiple pages of community service and local youth group and school leadership experience. They were such a stellar group, each of them so deserving of our support that we decided to award seven \$1,000 scholarships.

The Boye Foundation grant is what made this possible; we are hoping to find other grants to add to our fundraising efforts so that we can continue to recognize excellence in academic achievement and community service at this level. Our next Aromas Day will be on August 24th. If you happen to be in the central California area be sure to come by and enjoy an old time 'Day in the Country' - complete with parade and live music on stage, classic cars, antique tractors, petting zoo and pony rides, dunk tank, climbing wall, great food, free horse drawn wagon rides and more!

American River Grange

Sacramento County

By Shelly Lembke

American River Grange Will Celebrate 135th Anniversary With Picnic & Dance

The American River Grange has at one time or another been many things; a cigar store, a church, even a morgue. One of the first halls built in California, the American River



Master Bill Thomas shows off some of the historical artifacts of his 135-year old Grange

Grange is preparing to celebrate its 135th anniversary in the original building that still serves as a Grange today.

The American River Grange Annual Anniversary Picnic and Birthday Ball will take place March 21. The doors will open at 11:00am and lunch will be served. A variety of activities are planned to entertain all ages, including music, old-time photos, and buggy rides. Grange members will be dressed in period costumes and historical documents from the Grange will be on display.

At 5:00pm, dinner will be served. A dance featuring authentic music will follow beginning at 6:00pm. Donations to offset the cost of the meals will be collected at the door.

For more information, please contact Shelly Lembke at (916) 361-1234.

Elbow Creek Grange

Tulare County

By Denise Athy & Richard Jones

Craig Russell, born and raised in Visalia, was the recipient of our 2008 Elbow Creek Grange Scholarship. Craig plans to obtain an AA degree before transferring to a university to earn a degree in Agricultural Engineering. He was very active in the FFA throughout high school, and designed and fabricated all of his projects in AgMechanics program.

A special project for the Christmas Season was the Valley Oak SPCA. Grangers brought items to donate to these

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Email:

Membership@californiagrangegrange.org
www.californiagrangegrange.org

animals, such as toys, harnesses, blankets, food, towels, litter, leashes and of course, money.

**Gilroy Grange
 Santa Clara County
 By Wilma Ash**

Elizabeth B. Cullen, 92, a 78-year member of the Grange, passed away on January 23, 2009. She was a life-long resident of Gilroy. Prior to her marriage to Lawrence J. Cullen in 1937, she was a telephone operator for the Gilroy Telephone Company. She and her husband loved to travel, a practice she continued for many years after her husband's death. The family asks that remembrances be made the charity of your choice in her name.

**Honey Lake Valley Grange
 Plumas County
 By Norm Carpadus**

Vintage Honey Lake Valley Grange Is Open for Business. On a cold day in November, Chief Deputy Jack Eyler accompanied by GWA Chairwoman Betty Eyler and Public Relations Director Bob McFarland journeyed to the little town of Johnstonville in the high dessert area of Northeastern California near Susanville. They were there to re-organize the Honey Lake Valley Grange. It was even colder inside the hall, where there was no oil to burn in the heaters. Never-the-less, it was a good day for Brother Jack who managed to obligate 22 new members and elect a full slate of officers, including a new Master, Barbara White.

Barbara and the energetic membership wasted no time in sprucing-up the place, trimming trees and removing weeds and brush.

Deputy Master Norm Carpadus and his wife Marsha attended the next meeting and the new membership much appreciated them sharing their wealth of knowledge on the Grange.

Many of the Honey Lake Valley members have kids and there is a strong interest in the Youth Fair Program. Look for great things to come from this newly re-organized Grange.

**Humboldt Grange
 Humboldt Co.
 By Fern Miller**

One of the projects Humboldt Grange #501's Ladies Workshop participates in is the recycling of dolls. During the year Janet Miller collects dolls and doll clothing from garage sales and donates them to the Grange.



They are then refurbished, cleaned and dressed for donating to various organizations around the holidays. This year dolls were donated to Probation and Parole, Gabe

Charlton and Darren Ghisetti pictured in the photo, as well as Toys for Tots and Betty Chinn for the homeless. The ladies who help dress the dolls have a great time while giving to the community. Any organization that would like to be remembered when the dolls are distributed should call 442-4890 and leave a message. Someone will get back to you.

Velva Angell, a Humboldt Grange Women's Activities member, knits hats for preemie babies during the year. We recently donated 20 hats to St. Joseph's Hospital Childbirth Unit. The hats will be given to new preemie babies to help keep them warm. This is just one of the many community services the Grange participates in. Anyone wishing to help with the knitting of the hats can also call 442-4890 and leave a message.

During the 2009 year we are hoping to do more projects that give to the community.

**Lookout Grange
 Modoc County
 By Norm Carpadus**

On the 4th Saturday of the month, we host a breakfast for the community. For seniors over the age of 60 the breakfast is free, for all others the charge of \$3.50 per person. Come join the fellowship.

**McCloud Grange
 Siskiyou County
 By Jim McDaniel**

McCloud Grange made history at the monthly July meeting for the first time in that grange's ten year history. We set up our hall in the traditional fraternal style, using a lot of borrowed equipment from neighboring Gazelle Grange. Our many new members enjoyed the experience and performed well in unfamiliar roles.

We draped the charter for our son, Kenneth. Chaplain Jimmy Chilton and new member Hope Carrillo as Ceres, did a beautiful job.

As Deputy, I recommend that all granges hold similar meetings at least once a year.

At McCloud we have networked with the local clinic where Physician Assistant Denis Hentrich, who has a great interest in gardening, has joined with us in getting an impressive community garden planted on local high school property. Networking has helped McCloud Grange acquire eighteen new members.

We will seek a grant by early September so we can expand our garden and build raised growing beds that will accommodate gardeners using wheelchairs.

New young members with children are very interested in what a new Junior Grange can offer.

As I always say, "Grange is definitely on the Verge of a Surge!"

**Orangevale Grange
 Sacramento County
 By Bob McFarland**

The Orangevale Grange will sponsor a fun bus trip to Pier 39 in San Francisco on February 28, leaving the Grange

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hall at 8:00am. Cost is only \$24 per person. For reservations and information, call Harold at (916) 348-5552.

Our meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of each month, starting at 7:30pm. Our famous breakfasts are served on the 2nd Sunday of the month from 8 to 11 am. The annual Family Fair is being planned for April.

**Mt. Vernon Grange
Placer Co.**

By Elsa Hazen

Mt. Vernon Grange is in the process of planting 10 Scotch Pine trees as a continuation of their varied landscaping projects. Jack Anderson is the master gardener in this endeavor.

Our community public relations are enhanced by the use of Mt. Vernon Grange Hall for election training purposes. Over 100 participants weekly are involved in this educational training, giving them a fine opportunity to visit and perhaps hopefully join the Grange.

We look forward each year for honoring our past masters. Usually we have 14 or more past masters in attendance. Their comments about their years of service are enjoyable. Next they will be honored during the March meeting. Corned beef and cabbage will be on the menu to salute St. Patrick's Day and the Irish. We will see a lot of green that day.

Mt. Vernon Grange hosted the installation of all Placer County Pomona and Subordinate Grange officers. The yearly Christmas party with exchange of gifts and goodie bags concluded the well attended event. Evelyn and Claude Campbell presented a timely skit, adding to the festive occasion.

We recognize and congratulate the GWA for their dedication to the Shiners Hospital. We are all proud of the California State Grange plaque presented by the Shiners, indicating continual donations of various materials and cash. GWA women deserve this recognition. A class act.

Once again we were privileged to have Leslie Parker and her husband present a program regarding Grangers helping Grangers in immediate need after a disaster in their lives. This Family Health Resources and alliance of Great Granges activity provides members with information and guidance. Leslie regularly provides our members with current and relevant data and information that is indeed helpful.



Pleasant Valley Grange cooks and servers prepare for the Great Crab Feed at the Hall on February 28th.

**Pleasant Valley Grange
El Dorado County**

By Bob McFarland

The Pleasant Valley Grange will hold its 10th annual Crab Feed on February 28. The cost is \$40 per person. Doors open at 6:00pm and dinner is served at 7:00pm. Fabulous prizes will be raffled-off. The dinner includes green salad, clam chowder, French bread, ocean-fresh crab and cheese cake. The Pleasant Valley Junior Grangers (pictured) will be there to see you are satisfied.

The Pleasant Valley Crab Feed enjoys the reputation of being the best crab feed in El Dorado County and sells-out every year. Advanced tickets are available by calling Lisa at 530-644-8042.

At the Pleasant Valley Grange in El Dorado County, California, the Junior Grange and Cub Scouts joined forces and yesterday delivered a check for \$124.50 to the local Gold Oak Elementary School to purchase a much-needed storage bin for playground balls and equipment.

Principal Sylvia Shannon accepted the check on behalf of the school. "This is fantastic," commented Shannon. "We've been wanting this equipment for years but we don't have the money for these kinds of improvements. We're thrilled to learn of these kids' efforts to help themselves and their friends. There can be no better learning experience."

Delivering the check and representing the Junior Grange and Cub Scouts Pack 460 were: Nathan and Matthew Blum, Morgan Friday, Kyle Nestor, Cash and Owen Rion and Colby Wydeveld. The Pleasant Valley Junior Grange and Cub Scout Pack 460 earned every penny of the contribution themselves by selling popcorn, candy and sodas at a Community Movie Night they sponsored on September 26 at the Grange Hall. In this rural area in the foothills of California gold country, Community Movie Nights have been popular and have promoted interest in the Grange and the Cub Scouts.

The Junior Grange and Cub Scouts came together last spring. The Junior Grange wanted to increase membership and the Cub Scouts needed a place to call home. The two organizations compliment each other well, sharing common goals of teaching leadership and providing community service. The Junior Grangers and Cub Scouts often meet together and participate together in programs and activities.

**Sebastopol Grange
Sonoma County**

By Martha Stefanoni

Sebastopol's Polenta Dinner. :

Event: Polenta & Stew Dinner
When: Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009
Where: Sebastopol Grange Hall - 6000 Sebastopol Rd. (Hwy. 12) 1 mile east of Sebastopol

Time: 4:30 - 7:30pm
Advance Donations: Adults - \$10/Child (ages 5-10) \$5. At the Door: Adults - \$12.50 / Child \$ 6.25

For Tickets or further info call - Pat at (707) 584-5336

Proceeds benefit Sebastopol Grange projects including scholarship, local 4-H & FFA groups and the Hall renovation fund.

**Western Yolo Grange
Yolo County**

By Marian Nichols

Nine entrants in Western Yolo Grange's talent night entertained over 60 guests. West-

ern Yolo Grange #423 held their contest on the afternoon of July 4. Free admission, refreshments, and great talent was a good membership project. Frank Nichols (President/Master of the Grange) won the Senior division and the African Gospel Dancers won the Junior division.

Western Yolo Grange is very active in their small community in Capay Valley; We host the Annual Almond Queen dinner, and recently co-hosted a garden tour and served over 100 lunches. We participate in roadside cleanup, sponsor the Guinda Park, support the local 4H and present several scholarships to the local school each year. We sponsor the W. Yolo Grange chorus, which performs at convalescent homes, community events, and the Yolo Co. Fair. Support the annual Christmas play and make the hall available to rent for community events and also rent the Commercial kitchen. We have been adding new members and family members to help the Grange grow and try to be a good neighbor in our community



**Windsor Grange
Sonoma County**

by Cherry Betschart

Last July, the Grange's "corn on the cob" dinner (the Grange furnished the corn, members brought assorted foods and compliments) proved a rousing success.

Our guest speaker, Hon. Joshua Norton, 'Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico,' talked very colorfully on the early west and goldmining in California.

Pictured above are Grange Master Paul Hanks, Hizzoner Emperor Norton, and "Prince" Charley Betschart. To cap the evening, His Honor dubbed Prince Charley Betschart Arch Duke of Windsor and Imperial Knight of the Realm.

Parting Shot

My Grange Is Your Grange

"Everything is interdependent. Everything is interconnected. So my interest is very much linked to everyone's interests. Our survival and our future are very much linked to one another. Therefore, the destruction of your so-called enemy is actually the destruction of your self."

-Dali Lama

GIG ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2009-2010

Grange Insurance Group Chairman of the Board, D. Thomas McKern, is pleased to announce that GIG will again fund 25 scholarships for the 2009 – 2010 school year, totaling over \$26,000. In addition, GIG is honored to award the \$1,000 Paul and Ethel Holter Memorial Scholarship, funded by a gift of Mrs. Holter's estate, and the \$500 Dee and Ina McKern Memorial Scholarship, funded by a gift from the McKern family. Other privately funded scholarships may also be awarded.

Applicants may apply for a scholarship in either academic or vocational studies. The top scorer in each category receives \$1,500 and each additional winner receives \$1,000. Alternates are named in case a winner is unable to use the award.

Eligibility requirements (applicants must meet one of the following):

- ◆ Current GIG policyholder (or children or grandchildren of GIG policyholder) in California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, or Wyoming
- ◆ Grange members (or children or grandchildren of Grange members)
- ◆ Children or grandchildren of current GIG company employees
- ◆ A previous recipient of a GIG scholarship

Children or legal wards of officers or directors of GIG are ineligible.

GIG's scholarships may be used at any institution offering courses leading to a certificate or degree in a recognized profession or vocation, including: community colleges, business colleges and technical institutes, as well as institutions offering an academic degree program. Vocational scholarships are specifically intended for use at community colleges, technical or business schools or other accredited institutions which offer vocational training which does NOT lead to a two or four year academic degree.

The committee will base its awards on the following:

- Scholastic Ability (copy of official grade transcript required)
- Neat and complete essay written by Applicant

Application deadline is April 15, 2009. (Postmarked)

Please complete the following request form for an application for a Grange Insurance Group Scholarship:

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Please send a GIG Scholarship Application to:

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