

NEBRASKA STATE GRANGE NEWS

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January, February, March 2010



**President's Report
Joe Fryman**

There are many Grange events to discuss so I will be brief in saying we have been "blessed" with a real old fashioned Nebraska winter and get right into the report.

We started the year 2010 with a Nebraska Grange Legislative work-Shop on January 30 at Chances R Restaurant in York, NE. The consensus seemed to be that any bill proposing new spending would be difficult to gain support toward passage, if not DOA. Look for Richard Janing's legislative report in this issue for a more complete accounting of the positions taken.

Our membership meeting scheduled for January fell victim to the winter weather as did several other Grange events. We will be re-

scheduling this meeting soon. In connection with this, there will be another Grange Growth Summit, this time in Kansas on April 23, 24 and 25. I am hoping folks from Nebraska will be able to attend to further experience what we did at last year's and to further motivate us to get going on our membership efforts here.

I attended the Conference of State Grange Presidents in Orlando on February 11, 12, 13, and 14. National Grange President Ed Luttrell, National Grange Membership/Leadership Director Rusty Hunt, and Executive Assistant/Meeting Planner Jessie Cope arranged and conducted the conference. Much of the conference dealt with setting up leadership teams in our states. It begins with setting up the team, next getting the teams to take responsibility for and be accountable for particular areas or tasks, and thirdly to be able to train new team members to enable it to be an on going team. A number of interesting and fun activities focused on communication. Prior to the conference, the National Grange Board of Directors met to deal with administrative issues. This was my first full meeting as a board member so the learning curve was steep but enjoyable. It was announced at the meeting that Communications Director Jennifer Dugent Wolff, who happened to be our National Grange Representative at our State Session

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

APRIL IS GRANGE MONTH!

April 16-18 Regional Lecturer's Conference in Kansas

April 23-25 Grange Growth Summit in Kansas

May 15 NEWS SHEET DEADLINE

June 10 National Grange President Ed Luttrell in Nebraska

June 26 Rededication of National Grange Building

July 8-11 Nebraska Grange Bus Trip to southeast Minnesota

July 16 State Grange Convention Planning Session and rehearsal of 5th and 6th Degree at Riverside Inn in Grand Island

August 7 5th and 6th degree presentation in Waverly

August 27-September 6 Grange booth at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island

September 10-12 Nebraska State Grange Convention Riverside Inn Grand Island

November 9-13 National Grange Convention in Charlotte, NC

last September, was resigning her position. Laura Auerbach will be hired to fill the position and from what we heard should make an excellent Communications Director.

The Nebraska Grange co-sponsored a Nebraska Senators Ag Breakfast in Lincoln on February 25. Several members of the NE Grange Legislative Committee have attended these bimonthly meetings and have shared Grange views with our legislators.

Our Regional Lecturers' Conference is scheduled for April 16, 17, 18, also in Kansas. I know State Grange Lecturer Darlene Janing would enjoy having some of your folks attend with her. You do not need to be a Lecturer to attend.

Don't forget that April is Grange month! It's a time to celebrate and publicize to our communities what the Grange does and can do for our areas.

National Grange President Ed Luttrell will be in Nebraska June 10 for a media event and to visit with Nebraska Grangers. There will be more about this in our next newsletter.

June 26 is the date set for the 50 year Rededication of the National Grange Building in Washington, D.C. Tours are being set up and lodging information is available for those planning to attend this milestone celebration. Look on the National Grange website, nationalgrange.org for more information for more on this and other Grange activities.

The dates for this year's Nebraska Grange Bus Trip are July 8, 9, 10, and 11. We will be heading for southeast Minnesota. If you want to go along or desire more information contact me and I will put you on the list and get information to you.

July 16 is the date set to plan our State Grange Convention. The afternoon planning meeting and state session will both be at the Howard Johnson/Riverside Inn in Grand Island. The afternoon of July 16 will be spent rehearsing the 5th and 6th Degrees. We are planning to

present the degrees in Waverly in the afternoon of August 7.

We are also planning to have a booth at the State Fair in Grand Island next fall. Fair dates are August 27 through September 6.

State Grange Convention dates are September 10, 11, and 12.

I will also mention that this year's National Grange Convention will be in Charlotte, North Carolina, November 9-13, 2010.

I have given you a lot of dates to remember so get out those calendars right now and save the dates for these Grange activities.

Finally, the next time you see me I should be able to fill you in on everything you ever wanted to know about sheep production and koala bears from "down under".

Good day, Mate!

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



**GRANGE FAMILY ACTIVITIES
Phyllis Tooker, Director**

This has been a rough winter as far as I am concerned, however when one is penned in it is a good time to get some things ready for the contests at the State Convention.

The State Executive Committee approved the things that are coming up for the Grange Family Activities at the meeting held the first Saturday in December. The list of the contest items that were approved follows:

2010 – CONTEST RULES FOR – BAKING—SEWING— NEEDLEWORK—CRAFTS

BAKING CONTEST:

Cash prizes will be awarded – 1st, \$6.00, -- 2nd, \$4.00, -- 3rd, \$2.00

CLASS 1 – Decadent Brownies

CLASS 2 – Cookies – Dough should be refrigerated before baking

CLASS 3 – Coffee Cake/Breakfast Bread

CLASS 4 – Fall Pumpkin Recipe (not pie)

CLASS 5 – Men's Choice

(All food items must be a baked item that does not require refrigeration)

All baking entries become the property of the State Grange and will be served, sold or auctioned off during the State Convention. Must include recipe with entry. Must be a Grange member to enter baking contest.

ALL CONTEST ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED IN 2010 HANDIWORK – NEEDLEWORK- CRAFTS – ETC.

Cash prizes will be awarded – 1st, \$5.00 – 2nd, \$4.00 – 3rd, \$2.00

CLASS 6 –Decorated Pillow Cover – (throw pillows, not pillow cases) May use any media.

KNIT OR CROCHET:

CLASS 7 – Doilies and Table Runners (Any kind of thread & yarn may be used)

CLASS 8 – Afghan

CLASS 9 – Knitted Clothing (Sweater, etc.)

CLASS 10 – Tatting (Any Item)

EMBROIDERY AND CROSS STITCH

CLASS 11 – Embroidery

CLASS 12 – Counted Cross Stitch

Any item can be made and any type embroidery floss may be used.

QUILTS:

Prizes will be awarded -- 1st, \$10.00 – 2nd, \$8.00 – 3rd, \$7.00

CLASS 13 – Quilt – Hand Quilted

CLASS 14 – Quilt – Machine Quilted
Prizes will be awarded – 1st--\$6.00,
2nd--\$4.00, 3rd--\$3.00.

CLASS 15 – Wall Hanging – Keep it
small enough to display easily

CLASS 16 – Quilted Table Runner

CRAFTS:

Cash prizes will be awarded – 1st,
\$4.00 – 2nd, \$3.00 – 3rd, \$2.00

CLASS 17 – Wood decoration or
craft

CLASS 18 – Scrapbooking page or
pages (only what's needed to tell the
story)

CLASS 19 – Plastic Canvas Item

CLASS 20 – Jewelry – Create your
own

CLASS 21 – China Painting

GENERAL RULES

In all of the above contest categories, the work must be solely that of the contestant. All contests (except baking) are open to Grange members & nonmembers. Professional, designers, teachers or anyone earning their living in these fields MAY NOT enter. A label must be attached to each entry with the following information: Contest Class, contestant name and address along with the Grange name and number. You may enter as many items as you wish, but you are only eligible to win once in each category.

JUDGING

All entries will be judged using the following criteria: workmanship, general appearance, design, harmony of color, and suitability of article to purpose.

TOYS FOR LOVING

The Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parents Association can use all of the toys we make. They use them to fill "Kits for Kids". These go all over the State. If you wish you may give your toys to your local rescue and fire department or other group that needs them. There will not be monetary awards for most toys made.

LINUS QUILT OR BLANKET

The Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parents Association tucks a quilt or blanket into the "Kits for Kids" and can use all we can give them. These can be any size from a baby blanket to twin bed. These need to be pretty and bright – something cheery.

PREEMIE ITEMS

These items have been donated to the Grand Island and Kearney Hospitals the last two years. If you know of a hospital in your area that would need these this year, please let us know.

POP TABS

Collect the tabs (include those from soup cans) for the Ronald McDonald House.

THE DICTIONARY PROJECT WORDS FOR THIRDS

Student dictionaries are available. While the price has varied the last couple of years the price is still very reasonable and the price includes shipping. Most schools need dictionaries as most do not have a classroom set and teaching a dictionary unit is very difficult. These dictionaries have so many extras in them and the students get very excited about having their own book. Your donation is tax deductible. The address for ordering these is as follows:

THE DICTIONARY PROJECT

P.O. Box 1845

Charleston, SC 29402

Contact person is Mary French and the Phone Number is 843-856-2706

Be certain to report this to the State Grange as both Grange Family Activities and Community Service projects.

If there is something about these contests and rules that you find confusing, give me a call or email and I will hopefully be able to clarify whatever is the problem. It has been suggested that I send out the year-end report now so that it can be filled out as you do things (before things

are forgotten and overlooked). I will be doing this soon and we will see if this gives us more complete reports at the end of the year.

I was given a recipe many years ago that seems to be a favorite with those who try it. The following recipe for Baked Pineapple goes very, very well with ham etc. Try it and see if you like it. If you take this to a potluck you might as well take the recipe along. It will save taking it later.

BAKED PINEAPPLE

1 can pineapple chunks or tidbits
(size of green beans)
1 cup grated cheddar cheese
1 cup sugar
2 tbsp flour
1 cup dried bread crumbs
2 tbsp butter

Drain pineapple, reserving juice. Mix drained pineapple with cheese and put in 8-inch square pan. Mix flour and sugar in sauce pan and add the reserved pineapple juice. Heat until mixed. Pour over pineapple-cheese mixture. Top with bread crumbs and dot with butter. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 - 25 minutes or until lightly browned.

NOTES: This is great with pork chops, roast pork, ham, and turkey. It can be made the night before, refrigerated and baked just before serving.

Fraternally,
Phyllis Tooker

**Nebraska State Grange
Deaf Education and Awareness
Scholarship
Nebraska State Grange
Scholarship
Deadline is March 15th.
For details and applications go
to
www.nebraskastategrange.org.**

**Program Director
Darlene Janing**

It's time to think spring even though the groundhog saw his shadow earlier this month. The days seem to fly by in spite of the cold wintry climate outside. It seems there's still cooking, cleaning, chores and snow to shovel. The manual things keep the body moving and now it is time to use the brain rather than the brawn.

First things first. Thanks to all of you who have taken time to look in your packets and see how you can make "old new again". Perhaps you have refinished, refurbished, reframed, recycled an article or thing so that you could enjoy it once again. A category in our photo contest this year will be just that. Before and after pictures or just before or just after pictures to show what you have made or are making something old is new again.

The Pen-In-Hand contest will also be the same theme.

Topic #1. Tell us about something you have done or seen or been a part of changing something old into something new again.

Topic #2. Share your thoughts about someone or something that influenced you along life's pathway. Please keep it short by using 300 or less words.

Photo contest categories are as follows:

- Digital Photos
 1. close-ups
 2. buildings
 3. landscapes
 4. human interest
 5. flowers/animals

- Regular film
 1. buildings
 2. landscapes
 3. people
 4. human interest
 5. flowers/animals

Just for fun: just for fun is just – it is for fun and not to be judged. Think of something that can be used to have the rest of us guess what it is.

Photographs will be judged on composition, arrangement, interest, presentation and techniques. **Entries are to be one photo per person per category.** Pictures need to be titled.

Kansas State Grange will be hosting the Cornstates (Rejuv) Conference April 16th-18th, 2010. It will be in the Kansas City area so please put that on your calendar. Details (when available) will be sent to the Presidents and Program Directors. Please let me know if you might be interested in going so we can carpool.

I trust you have stayed well and busy. Continue to lead your Grange and encourage them to keep learning and doing. Keep trying new things to keep the brain in shape along with the body. "Smile. It will make people wonder what you've been enjoying."

**News Letter Articles are due
by
May 15
Send to Judy Hansen
20657 State Highway 91
Blair, NE 68008
or
preferably by email**

**Legislative Committee
Richard Janing**

The Legislative committee, executive committee and others met on January 30, 2010 to review bills of interest that are before the second session of the 101 Unicameral.

Bills that were selected to favor are:

LB297 would provide state funded low interest loans to young farmers and ranchers and small business.

LB297 failed to advance from select file.

LB258 that will restrict driving privileges of underage persons who were caught with liquor in possession.

LB1077 to value farm land at 80% of value of production.

LB882 which further defines the process of disposing of dead farm animals.

LB865 is a bill relating to animal welfare.

LB1006 to change the birth date for entering kindergarten from October 15 to July 15th

proceeding the coming school year.

LB945 if becomes law will make text messaging while driving illegal.

LB650 will require UTV's and mini pickups to have a title and licenses. They will then be allowed on public roads with the exception of express ways or interstate highways. This does not apply to ATVs.

LB689 will provide that one-half of unused tax collected funds from corn and grain sorghum sales for the ethanol Incentive Fund be returned to the corn and grain sorghum boards and the other one-half to the state general fund.

LB836 is to create extended deer hunting for population control. Section 2 of this bill allows for a depredation season controlled by the game commission. Other sections of the bill provide unlimited hunting rights for land owners on their land and land they control. Hunting with a hand held light would also be allowed. A tax credit for deer killed would also be provided for in the bill. We favor only Section 2 of LB836.

Bills which we oppose are:

LB826 that would start the process of consolidating counties. This bill has since been killed in committee.

LB795 which will authorize NRD to provide law enforcement in and around NRD recreation projects.

Farm organizations and agencies are sponsoring breakfast meetings

with the senators again this year. The breakfasts are every two weeks during the session of the legislature. A Grange representative attends each breakfast. The Grange will be co-sponsoring with the Soybean Growers on February 25, 2010. Any Grange member may attend.

networking media to outline the community leaders in Grand Island that we can come in contact with. Via *LinkedIn* we will share the work of the National Grange and then ask for assistance in reaching out with personal contact to our potential supporters. A key collaborator and benefactor of the activities of our GI Grange would be the work of the Northwest H.S. FFA and its advisor, Jessica Hermansen. Hopefully we will get a chance to network with Jessica at the upcoming FFA convention in Lincoln.

In Omaha, my personal Grange initiative, that I have tabbed as "omahaGWCgrange" has two areas of focus: FFA and the agricultural committee work in the Unicameral of Omaha's State Senator Brenda Council (11th District). We have garnered about 20+ supporters for a North Omaha focused organization with interest in issues dealing with water, ag education (math/science), and nutrition.

Senator Council and I flew to Milwaukee in February to observe the urban farming operation of Growing Power (www.GrowingPower.org). During that time together I had a chance to share the history of the National Grange with the Senator. (Much of which she knew!) By the way, Growing Power employs 40 people with salaries that start at \$25,000. They generate gross income of "\$30 per square foot". Put that on a per acre basis!

The challenge for getting the *omahaGWCgrange* is trying to get the organizational initial members to meet at a time that will work for Senator Council. Hopefully there will be some positive news on this effort for our next newsletter.



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Call or email for information

Deaf Awareness Grant Program

For many years the National Grange conducted an active Deaf Awareness Program which led to many valuable projects that enabled our members to learn more about deaf people and their challenges. In many cases, great relationships were also built with the deaf community. A fund was developed within the National Grange Foundation for the purpose of supporting deaf activities within the Grange. Because funds are still available, this grant program is being offered to assist states with funding various deaf awareness activities.

Eligibility

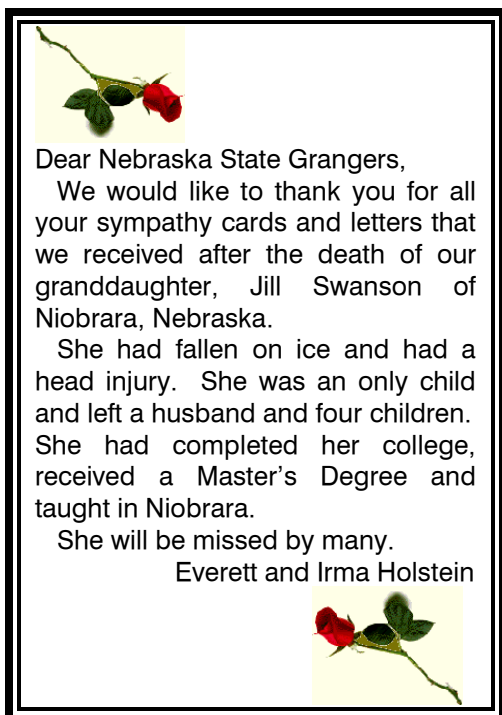
Any State Grange is eligible to apply for a grant to assist with a worthwhile project that may be planned within the state, using the attached application form as a guide.

Timeline

Grant applications will be due on June 30, 2010.

Guidelines

Grants up to a maximum of \$500.00 will be awarded to each approved application, and will be awarded to the State Grange. The State Grange will have the option of transferring those funds to the Community or Pomona Grange conducting the deaf activity included in the grant



The Grand Island Grange organizing initiative that was initiated two years ago with a visit by National Grange President Ed Luttrell and Membership Director Rusty Hunt is still reverberating within Nebraska Grangers who participated. We have approached the effort by public notices and an article written by the *Grand Island Independent* daily paper. However, the potential Grangers that attended our two sessions were all attracted by personal contact made with a current Nebraska Granger. Since the shotgun did not work, our intention is now to focus and broaden our outreach by using the personal laser contact approach. We have used the **LinkedIn** personal/professional

application. A maximum of three grants will be awarded in 2010. Grants may be awarded for any project that enhances deaf education. Preference will be given to high quality activities that involve significant numbers of individuals. Creativity and uniqueness of the projects will also be factored into the selection process.

Applications

The application should be in document form and include the following information:

Name of State Grange

Date of Application

Name of the Project

Description of the Project

Anticipated number of people involved

Anticipated impact on the Grange (State and/or Local)

Anticipated impact on the Community or State

Other anticipated results of the project

each month. So how can we go about getting a fresh start?

You could become the National Grange Leadership/Membership Development Director and go around the country and work with great Grangers from every state, who have the drive to get new members, start new Granges, and build the Grange into the best fraternal organization in the land (which is a great job, by the way). Or you could try any and all of these tips: **1.** Go out into you Grange's community and talk to mayor, assemblyman, commissioner, sheriff, and police chief to find out what is going on in the community and ask them how the Grange could help with those things. With this information, you can then begin a new project or activity. **2.** Ask somebody to join the Grange and then when they do, find out what is important to them and encourage your Grange to start a fresh program or activity to help that member accomplish their goals. **3.** Work with one of your State Grange membership teams to organize, reorganize, or revitalize a Grange. I have found no better feeling in the Grange than seeing a group of people get together to get a fresh start as a new Grange!

All three of the things that I have listed above can be done by a Grange member of any age. They are easy to do and can be done, in most cases, with little or no money. There are no special skills needed, just a desire and some initiative.

As Leaders, the fresh start comes by trying something new. The fresh start comes for us when we get to see one of these things through the eyes of a new member or someone that has never seen them happen before. The fresh start comes as we see there is a new and better way to accomplish our goals and we appreciate that learning and Page 6

adventure comes from trying something new.

Leaders need to experience a fresh start every now and then to help us avoid burn out or fatigue. We need to listen to the new members so we can remember when the Grange was fresh to us back when we started. Remember how we were just itching to start those first projects and activities? We need to get a chance to recharge our passions for the Grange and keep our energy up for those that look to us for leadership.

So, where are you today? Have you experienced a fresh start in the Grange lately or do you need one now? Do you know someone that could use a fresh start – either a brand new member or a long time Granger? Spring is just around the corner and with that brings fresh growth and new beginnings. Now, too, is the time for our fresh start!

**BY-CRACKY
SEE MACKAY
for your
GRAIN, SEEDS
& FEED**

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Omaha, NE 68138
Phone 895-4060**

**National Grange
News**

**Grange President Scolds
Government on Broadband Policy**
State Grange President Calls Texas a Leader in Protecting Property Rights
(Elmendorf, TX, February 1, 2010–
National Grange President Ed Luttrell and Texas State Grange President Jack Smithers spoke today on

**MEMBERSHIP TIP
Rusty Hunt
Leadership/Membership
National Grange**

Sometimes wouldn't you just like to have a fresh start? As leaders in the Grange, we sometimes find our ideas and ourselves in a rut. We deal with the same problems and frustrations or we just seem to do the same old thing over and over and over. It would just be great if every once and a while we could get that chance at a fresh start at something. But how do we do that when it often seems as nothing in the Grange has changed? We have the same activities and programs, which are still working to encourage us or raise the funds needed to keep us going. We have the same officers, the same members, and meet on the same first Monday of the month; and it seems like we get the same 14 –16 members attending these meetings

national communications policy and individual property rights during a press conference held at the Davy Crockett Grange in Elmendorf.

Leading off, National President Luttrell described a recent Grange letter to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski expressing deep concerns that the Commission's policy focus is shifting from developing a National Broadband Plan encouraging universal deployment and adoption of broadband services to underserved rural, farming, and tribal communities, to a policy focused on regulating broadband network management practices. Luttrell stressed that the Grange believes deployment of broadband across the country and especially in rural America should be the Federal Government's number one communications priority. He stated that the Commission should not be burdening "technology that it has little first hand knowledge using" with unnecessary management regulations.

Luttrell explained how, over its long history, the Grange has been a consistent champion of bringing the benefits of universal access to communications to all Americans. The 140 year old rural advocacy organization was instrumental in the Federal Government's establishment of Rural Free Delivery mail, promoted universal rural telephone service and fought for commercial licensing of radio and television stations rather than direct government operation. "As new communications technologies evolve, the Grange will continue to represent rural America's right to equal access," Luttrell concluded.

Luttrell of Sandy, Oregon was elected in November 2009 to his second two-year term as National Grange President. He is a past president of the Oregon State

Grange and has served on the boards of the Oregon Lands Coalition, Grange Mutual Insurance Company, and Timberland States Insurance Company.

"Texans value their land and their right to own it and live on it. That's why this state was quick to pass legislation protecting individual property rights after the Supreme Court's poorly reasoned decision in Connecticut," declared Texas State Grange President Jack Smithers. In 2005 the Supreme Court ruled that the city of New London, Connecticut could take Suzette Kelo's home as part of a redevelopment plan, because the economic growth would benefit the entire community. Kelo's home was razed, the development plan failed with a faltering economy and the land sits vacant today. In response, Texas voters passed Proposition 11 by a margin of 81% to 19%. Proposition 11 specifically prohibits the taking of private property to give to another private entity for the purpose of economic development or enhanced tax revenue and requires a two-thirds vote of the Texas Legislature to approve taking by the State or the general public.

"Local and state officials do not have the wisdom nor the right to take private property based on their own economic forecasts, which may be influenced by developers. We have protected the Suzette Kelos of Texas and we will see to it that those who do have to give up their land for the public good are properly compensated," Smithers assured the audience.

After twelve years as President of the Davy Crockett Grange, Smithers was elected state president in July 2008. He is a twenty year U.S. Army veteran. He and his wife Margaret

have a son and a daughter and four grand children.

Luttrell concluded the press conference by relating the National Grange battle to protect its name and trademarks from corporations. The name "Grange" has many positive connotations thanks to what the Grange has done over the last 140 years. Companies large and small want to use the name to their own benefit and the Grange has had to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years protecting the name. Now the Grange is seeking legislation similar to that protecting the Red Cross, Olympics, Smokey the Bear and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. "Such legislation would cease the diversion of National Grange funds that would be otherwise used in supporting community service activities at the local level," Luttrell explained.

Founded in 1867, the Grange is the nation's oldest rural advocacy organization. With over 200,000 members, it is active in Washington, DC as well as in the capitols of 40 states across the country. Under the Grange system, the setting of legislative priorities for the coming year starts at the local level, moves up to the state level and is finalized at the annual national convention held every November. The top national priorities are published in the Grange's annual *Blueprint for Rural America*, which is available at www.nationalgrange.org under Legislation.

