

NEBRASKA STATE GRANGE NEWS

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October, November, December, 2011



President's Report Joe Fryman

Nebraska has a new Grange!

Thanks to the efforts of Nebraska State Grange Membership Director, Edgar Hicks, Carver Grange was organized in the Omaha area last October. The charter application had 19 people signed on with Edgar Hicks selected as President. Edgar has persevered in working with these folks to get this new Grange up and running. Congratulations Edgar, on your success! It is exciting to have this new Grange and these new folks as part of our Grange family. I, along with our State Executive Committee look forward to meeting these new Grangers in the near future and presenting them with their new charter.

I am including in this newsheet (see page 7) a separate article on the 145th National Grange

Convention held in Tulsa, OK earlier in November.

National Grange Communications Director, Amanda Brozana, announced at the convention that the National Grange rolled out a new website on November 1, 2011 and encouraged everyone to log in and check out the new system. The site is fresh and full of information. It is more user-friendly and adds a number of new features. One of the features soon to be set up is a members section where by each Subordinate and Pomona Grange can set up their own webpage. It will also provide a link to our Nebraska State Grange website. I encourage all our Granges to take advantage of this feature as a communication tool to announce and promote projects and events in their area. A Grange finder is part of the system whereby someone will be able to find the nearest Grange by entering a zip code. Check it out at nationalgrange.org.

I wish all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. My, how a year flies by!

**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**



Recipe for a Good Grange

One intelligent Master
One intelligent group of officers
One smart Lecturer
One smooth Executive Committee
One Grange Hall of "mixed nuts"
(commonly called members)

Mix with a barrel of fun, plenty of common sense, a generous amount of diligence, service, far sightedness, and cooperation and an unlimited supply of tact. Lastly add equal amounts of push, pull and pep. Although Grange is strictly temperate, put in enough "spirits" to give it an occasional kick.

Use a light but firm hand and stir with enthusiasm. Sweeten the Master occasionally with honeyed words. Use soft soap on members, rub it in. There is nothing like lubrication to prevent friction.

Introduce new ideas and allow to simmer. Season with a yearly project. Mix all together in one big Booster night. Cover with glory and honor.

Serve with hospitality and music to the whole community.



GRANGE FAMILY ACTIVITIES Phyllis Tooker, Director

National Convention is now over. Oklahoma didn't seem to want the tree we created and kept asking if we wanted to take it home so finally I did bring it home. We will use it to promote Nebraska and Grange but I don't know just how yet. I was told over and over again how lovely our tree was and I saw many people just standing and studying the ornaments showing the things about Nebraska. We were not able to use the ornaments that you donated this year. I would like your permission to keep these ornaments and use them for the three Nebraska is asked to donate each year for the National tree. I would like to thank Lila Tooker for designing the tree and helping to make everything. Judy Hansen. Darlene Janing, Charles and Gwenda Cogswell set the tree up and decorated it. I thank them for doing such a beautiful job. Once again you Grangers stepped up and helped where needed.

The contest for the food for next year will be Bundt Cake, Muffins, Drop Cookies, Cherry Recipe, Breakfast Bread/Coffee Cake and Men's Choice. More details and the whole contest and rules will be in the next newsletter.

The State Grange Convention and especially the Country Store always provides a wonderful setting for displaying many of the extra activities that are available for Grange members. The displays featuring the scholarships that are available through Grange were made by Judy Hansen and Shannon Cooksley. These were a wonderful addition to our room. The Country Store is also a good place to meet friends and visitors to our convention.

This year 8 Granges returned the yearend Family Activities report. The Granges that earned a Certificate of Merit were Alice Spath, Raymond

Grange and Nancy Armbrust of the Elkhorn Grange.

The Krystal Kandle project earned \$657 after expenses. We sold at the craft shows at Papillion LaVista High School, Fort Crook, St. John's Vianney and Holy Ghost. There are always many questions about Grange so we continue to put our organization's name and activities out to the public. Ed and Darlene Andersen again drilled all of the holes in the glass bricks and cleaned the bricks removing the paint that is on the bricks when the bricks are purchased. Phyllis Tooker put in the lights, made the bows and decorated the bricks. Darlene Andersen, Lila and Phyllis Tooker staffed the various booths. This year we sold 48 Krystal Kandles for the profit of \$657.00. Since this project was started in 2005 we have now sold 455 Kandles for a total profit of \$6371. I feel that this continues to be a wonderful project however we are running into some problems. The six inch square bricks are not the quality that we were getting. When the holes are drilled, everything seems fine but after the bricks sit for a short time they suddenly break. Only 2 out of 12 did not break when the Andersens drilled the last batch in August. The other problem is in finding a craft show that we can afford. Most of the craft shows have raised their prices so that a booth for one day is costing \$60 to \$70. The average price was \$35 to \$45 before. I don't like to have to sell 4 or 5 bricks before we make any profit. I booked shows closer to home this last year, because as you know, gas prices are a little high and those staffing the booths have always donated this cost.

The sugar Easter eggs continue to sell. The eggs made \$140 this year.

The Words for Thirds Dictionary Project has again done very well with six Granges donating 1808 dictionaries to third graders in their local schools. 138 $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds of pop tabs were collected for the Ronald McDonald House. 9 Granges participated in this project.

15 Linus blankets, 61 Toys for Loving and 10 Preemie Items were donated. The Linus blankets and the stuffed toys were donated to the Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Assoc. and the Preemie items went to the new Methodist Women's Hospital.

The collecting of used pill bottles was eliminated this year. When Dana College closed we lost the ability to have the bottles sterilized and so they could not be used. There were 27 entries in the baking contest, 18 in the needlework and 4 entries in the craft contest for a total of 49 entries.

The contest results are listed below:

Elegant Cup Cakes

1st – Marian Wilson Riverview 392
2nd – Charlene Zabel Western 408

Holiday Nut Bread

1st – Judy Hansen Riverview 392
2nd – Sandra Dunkel Weissert 419
3rd – Bobbe Dietz Custer Center 103

Bars

1st -Sandra Dunkel Weissert 419
2nd – Marian Wilson Riverview 392
3rd - Carolyn Cain Seward 399

Chocoholics Delight

1st – Darlene Andersen
Elkhorn V.E. 393
1st – Phyllis Tooker Elkhorn V.E. 393

Apple Pie

1st - Sandra Dunkel Weissert 419
2nd - Charlene Zabel Western 408
3rd – Nancy Miller Western 408

Men's Choice

1st – Charles Vossler Friend 390
2nd – Charles Cogswell Friend 390
3rd – Ed Andersen Elkhorn V.E. 393

Decorated Pillow Cover

1st – Nancy Miller Western 408
2nd– Phyllis Tooker Elkhorn V.E. 393
3rd - Bev Neal non-member

Doilies and Table Runner

1st – Bev Neal non-member

Afghan No entries

Knitted Clothing

- 1st – Eldine Dove Raymond 391
 2nd – Darlene Janing Geneva 403
 3rd – Sandra Dunkel Weissert 419

Embroidery

- 1st – Nancy Miller Western 408
 2nd – Ilene Collins Southwest 426
 3rd – Sandra Dunkel Weissert 419

Counted Cross Stitch No entries

Quilt – Hand Quilted

- 1st – Sandra Dunkel Weissert 419

Quilt – Machine Quilted No entries

Wall Hanging

- 1st – Bev Neal non-member

Quilted Table Runner

- 1st – Darlene Janing Geneva 403
 2nd – Sandra Dunkel Weissert 419

Wood Decoration

- 1st – Marian Wilson Riverview 392

Scrapbooking No entries

Plastic Canvas No entries

Jewelry

- 1st – Lila Tooker Elkhorn V.E. 393

China Painting

- 1st – Marian Wilson Riverview 392

Scherensnitte

- 1st – Phyllis Tooker Elkhorn V.E. 393

The Judges for the contests were Jeannie Jeary, Seward, Alice Doane, Waverly and Denise Kaelin from Ansley. Thank you so very much for your time and effort. You always do a wonderful job.

The auction netted \$1329.50, the Country Store made \$158.68, Krystal Kandles brought in \$657 and the Easter Eggs made \$140 for a total income of \$2285.18. The expenses for such things as prize money, ice cream social and hospitality room, National Reps gifts etc. were \$363.83 leaving a profit of \$1921.35.

The auctioneer for the prize winning baked goods was Charles Cogswell and his helpers were Lee Cain and Jr. Dunkel. Thank you for such a wonderful job and for making spending money so much fun.

The National Grange has again asked for three homemade Christmas ornaments to be used to decorate Christmas trees that are displayed at the National Convention in November. These trees are then donated to charities in the area. This year we are also supposed to decorate a Nebraska tree. All the host states are to decorate a tree for their state. The theme for the Nebraska tree is "There's No Place Like Nebraska".

A workshop on how to make the German Star Ornament and another paper ornament was presented by Lila Tooker. These stars were used to fill in around the pictures of Nebraska landmarks that are made of vellum..

The idea display table featured examples of the ornaments which are used to decorate the tree for the National Convention.

I did one Grange radio program in which I tried to emphasize the things that were available thru Grange Family Activities.

The trivia centerpieces at our meal functions were created by Darlene Andersen.

I want to give a special thanks to Nancy Miller and Mari Ann Pesek for taking over the Hospitality Room. You have done a wonderful job and I so appreciate it.

I am always so very grateful for all the help this department receives from everyone throughout the year and especially during the convention. I especially want to thank the members of this committee: Darlene Andersen (co-director), Sandra Dunkel, Charlene Zabel, Leora Anderson, Nancy Miller and Mari Ann Pesek. Of course we always appreciate the support and help that President Joe Fryman (National Executive Member) and First Lady Tammy Fryman give to us. Once again I could not do this job without the help of my family. Thank

you each and everyone for the wonderful backing you give to this department.

<p>Program Director Darlene Janing</p>

This is being written as the Thanksgiving week-end comes to a close. State Grange and National Grange are just memories but they leave in their wake lots of new ideas to share. Both were enjoyable and we give thanks for our Grange friends and the experiences that have been this past year.

The State Grange tour in September took the ladies to Hastings for lunch at the Blue Moon and then a short walk down the street to Bead shop to make a bracelet or earrings. Those not making a piece of jewelry visited with the ladies at the fabric store that is next door. The men toured the Pioneer seed plant near Doniphan.

Sunday morning Elizabeth Killinger from the Hall County Extension office present her program on Edible Weeds. Soon after that she was a guest panelist on Backyard Farmer on ETV.

The Nebraska State Grange photo contest 2011 continues to show good quality. Thank you Sandra Dunkel and Denise Kaelin for your assistance with the photo contest.

The results are as follows:

Digital	
Flowers	Jeannie Jeary....1st
Building	Margaret Smith.....1st
Human int.	Judy Hansen.....1st
	Joe Fryman.....2nd
Landscape	Jeanie Jeary....1st
Scrapbook page	Margaret Smith 1st
Regular film	
Buildings	Marian Wilson...1st
People	Leora Anderson..1st
	Marian Wilson. 2nd
Flowers	Marian Wilson.. 1st
Human interest	Leora Anderson.1st
	Marian Wilson...2 nd
Landscape	Leora Anderson..1st
	Marian Wilson..2nd
Best of Show	
Landscape.....	Jeannie Jeary

Thank you for your entries.

It was great to see the Best of Show exhibit at National Grange. The quality was good and the subject matter was varied according to the interest of the person taking the picture. Glass was not used, just a good mat to complete the artist's product. Now that I have seen what is expected and knowing your item will be presented well I would encourage you to continue selecting pictures for next year so that Nebraska can be represented.

The Family Activities had a Best of Show at National Grange. The items for that were also presented well. The Community Service books were also in the same room. There was someone in the room to answer questions whenever the room was open to the convention attendees. Looking thru the reports from other state showed many similar projects across the nation.

Richard and I were privileged to help our Nebraska co-chairs Margaret Smith and Jeannie Jeary in the hospitality room. This proved to be a different style of hospitality as the menu had been expanded. It was well received by those who stopped to rest a little and visit with fellow Grangers. Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas also hosted for a day.

The non-delegate tour was to the Cherokee National Museum. They showed how a village would have been set up in the 1700's and also one for the 1800's. The Guides taught us about the stick game and its function in their society. Each person made a miniature set of sticks.

It was a privilege to serve with our President Joe Fryman and our Secretary, Judy Hansen for the presentation of the sixth degree. It served as a good reminder of the values put forth in the ritual work.

National Lecturer Pete Pompper, Jr. gave a workshop for the Program Directors. There will be ideas to share in the days ahead. If you are looking for a particular subject for a program please contact me. It has been interesting how the social media of e-mail has help find information on different topics.

Since National Grange the question of how many references are from the Bible in the ritual has been address. We each receive that questions and replies as different ones present what they find in their vast storage of information. Do you know how many there are?

Our wish for you as we close another busy year is: **Enjoy the spirit of Christmas and may your blessings be many. Merry Christmas and have a safe and well New Year.**

**Legislative Committee
Richard Janing, Chairman**

The Keystone XL pipeline issue took a different turn during the month of November. The special session of the Unicameral did not focus on the Keystone Company because if a law was passed that would result in the project being stopped or delayed Nebraska could be responsible for legal issues.

LB1 defines a major oil pipeline as one larger than six inches in diameter and establishes an application process for routing a major pipeline in Nebraska. Under LB1 the state has sitting authority for protection of land and natural resources for the economic and aesthetic benefit of the residents.

The Public Service Commission is responsible for approving siting applications and holding public hearings. The applicant will be responsible for the cost of the public hearings. An approved application will be necessary before the applicant is granted rights of eminent domain.

Under LB4 the state of Nebraska will be responsible for the cost of environmental impact studies as a means of protection from special interest groups having control of the environmental impact studies. LB4 will authorize the Department of Environmental Quality to work with the Federal government in conducting the environmental impact studies.

During the special session Keystone announced they would voluntarily move the pipeline route out of the sand hills.

President Obama announced the final approval of the pipeline will be postponed until the fall of 2012. At present some action has been taken in Congress to grant approval and start construction sooner than the fall of 2012.

The Grange did not have a position on the pipeline route but a resolution was offered at the 2010 State session to oppose routing the pipeline through the sand hills where the land surface is fragile and the water table is very shallow in places. The resolution was narrowly defeated.

The Congressional Super Committee which was charged with developing a plan to reduce the national debt by Thanksgiving ended in a stalemate.

It most likely will be January before a 2012 farm program plan will be announced. Program payments could be cut quite drastically due to high commodity prices and not much consideration given to high cost of production.

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Nebraska State Convention Margaret Smith

The Nebraska State Grange held its annual meeting at the Riverside Inn in Grand Island, September 9-10-11, 2011.

On Friday afternoon, Sept. 9, the men enjoyed a tour of the Pioneer Seed Plant at Doniphan. The ladies drove to Hastings to Julie's, a bead, yarn and needlework shop, where each lady had a chance to make a bracelet or other piece of jewelry with the material available in the shop.

After the tours the delegates began going over resolutions to form the State Grange Policy for the coming year. On Sunday the delegates passed a resolution favoring efforts to improve the availability of healthy and accessible food for all residents and resolutions against any oil pipeline passing over the Ogallala Aquifer in Nebraska and against abolishing carcass pricing in the meat industry.

The meeting officially opened on Saturday morning and the members heard the annual reports from National Grange President, Ed Luttrell of Sandy OR and State Grange President, Joe Fryman of Blair NE.

National President, Luttrell, gave some guidelines for Granges to reach for, good projects, participation by members, communicating with both Grange members and others in the community, utilizing the benefits available with Grange membership. He called on Granges to do Community Service Projects and document them.

State President, Fryman, stated that while most of Nebraska has fared better than the rest of the US economy, flooding has caused major problems in several parts of the state and drought has caused serious problems in many other places. He urged Grange members to support funding for crop insurance. In this time of high input costs it is crucial that this affordable risk management

tool be maintained. President Fryman also mentioned the need to educate consumers on the benefits of ethanol and other renewable fuels to our country. Other issues he touched on were: The Trans-Canada Keystone XL pipeline passage through Nebraska remains controversial. The Grange has been and needs to continue to be involved in bringing of GPS and Satellite communications to rural America at an affordable price. The Nebraska Grange continues to have a presence at the Nebraska Legislature, led by Richard Janing of Geneva, assisted by several other Grange members. Nebraska Grangers manned a booth at the State Fair in Grand Island. Several Nebraska members will attend and assist with the National Grange convention in November in Tulsa OK. The Grange can be relevant politically because of our nonpartisan philosophy. People are weary of all the partisan bickering. There is need for an organization that can work with all sides and still maintain our principles.

The Nebraska State Grange Scholarship winner this year was Garrett Tooker, son of Russell Tooker and grandson of Phyllis Tooker and former Nebr. State Grange President, the late Norm Tooker. Garrett thanked the State Grange for the scholarship, said that he was enjoying his classes in Mechanical Engineering at UNL and that until he was 5 or 6 he thought that he was related to everyone who came to the State Grange Convention.



Phil Prelli

The speaker for the noon Lunch was Phil Prelli from Winsted, CT representing the National Grange. Mr. Prelli is a member of the National Grange Board of Directors, past President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut State Grange, served as Commissioner of Agriculture for the state of Connecticut from 2005 to 2011 and was a State Representative before that. He and his wife Maureen have been members of the Grange for over 45 years. Prelli spoke of the differences in agriculture between Nebr. and Conn. The average farm in Conn. is 50 acres. The major crops there are nursery and greenhouse, Christmas trees, Dairy and broad leaf, shade grown tobacco, used to wrap cigars and some other specialty crops. They also have a lot of Aquaculture raising shell fish on Long Island Sound. Prelli reminded the group that the Grange is still an important organization needed to pull rural America together on such issues as rural mail delivery, roads, broadband service and community service. Values are the core of the organization and all Grange policy originates in the local units.



President Joe Fryman presents the Distinguished Service Award to Mary Bell Cooksley

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Mary Bell Cooksley, member of the Custer County Grange by President Joe Fryman. This award honored her many years of service in Grange, Custer County Fair Board, Nebraska State Fair Board, Elks Lodge, DAR,

Weissert Church and community organizations along with raising a large family and working beside her husband running a ranch where she is still plays an active role. Eight members of her family were there to celebrate with her. She told some of her experiences as a young teacher and wife of a soldier and Post Commander at Ft Robinson near Crawford NE.

Secretary of the Year, presented by State Sec, Judy Hansen, Blair NE, was Bobbi Dietz, Custer County Grange, Broken Bow NE

Community Service awards, presented by Chairman, Shannon Cooksley, Weissert NE

1st Place \$100 to Geneva Community Grange, Geneva NE

2nd Place \$75 to Elkhorn VE Grange, Elkhorn NE

3rd Place \$50 to Raymond Grange, Raymond NE

4th Place \$25 to Seward Grange, Seward NE

Program Director Awards were presented by Darlene Janing, Geneva Ne. Outstanding new director, Jim Peterson, Riverview Grange, Blair Ne. Outstanding long time director, Leora Anderson, South West Grange, Arapahoe Ne.

Pete McClymont of Holdrege, representing "We Support Agriculture" gave a very informative presentation about the threat that HSUS (Humane Society of the United States) presents to Agriculture. This organization is NOT connected to the Nebraska Humane Society. HSUS solicits funds from unsuspecting animal lovers under the guise of saving animals and uses less than 1% of those funds to help animals. All the rest goes to salaries, fund raising, filing lawsuits, legislative lobbying and ballot initiatives to place more and more restrictions of Agriculture. They have been successful in ending hog production on Arizona and Florida. If you wish to help animals support your local animal shelters. McClymont is past President of the Nebraska Cattlemen and now their Vice President of Legislative Affairs.

He is now president of "We Support Agriculture".

Brian McDermott, Public Relations/Marketing Specialist for American Income Life Insurance Co. from Grand Island, informed the Nebraska State Grange members about the Accidental Death Life Insurance available to Grangers at no cost or obligation. They also provide a discount health services plan and a child safe kit.

The entertainment for the Saturday evening banquet was a living history presentation from the Nebraska Humanities Council. Darrel Draper, represented Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the US, delving into his life after his presidency and bringing this historical icon to life. This was a wonderful mix of information and entertainment and made the audience feel that they had really been in the presence of this interesting National figure.

The Sunday Morning, Sept 11 program consisted of a Church and Memorial Service under the direction of State Grange Chaplain, Gwenda Cogswell of Friend Ne. Nebraska Grange members who have passed on in the last year were remembered. The church service consisted of hymns played on a trumpet by the brother of the Chaplain, Paul Ramp, music teacher at Litchfield, Ne. Each hymn was preceded by a brief history of why it was written. The services ended with a Poem "One Nation" read by Darlene Janing and written by poet R.P. Smith, of Broken Bow, just after the 9/11 tragedy in 2001.

The Lecturer's time planned by State Lecturer, Darlene Janing of Geneva, was on edible plants presented by Elizabeth Killinger from the Grand Island Extension office. She had pictures and explained how to tell which wild plants might be edible should a person wish to live off the land.

Family Activity project results were given by FAC chairman, Phyllis Tooker of Ralston. 1808 Children's Dictionaries were presented to 3rd graders around the state by local

Granges participating in the "Words for Thirds" project. 15 Linus blankets and 51 stuffed toys for children in need were donated and 10 preemie caps were made to be donated to the New Methodist Hospital where they were much appreciated.

Convention Picture Highlights



Shannon Cooksley presents first place award to Darlene Janing of Geneva Community Grange #403



Lila Tooker demonstrates how to make German Star decorations.



Theodore Roosevelt
Aka Darrell Draper.

In Memoriam

Mary Bell Cooksley

Sep 12, 1920 - Oct 20, 2011

Mary Bell died at her home at the age of 91. Mary Bell was born on French Table near Weissert to Frank Joseph and Hetty Bell Haumont. She attended elementary school (1-8) at Elton School; Rose Valley School for grades 9 and 10; and graduated from Broken Bow Public Schools in 1937. She was valedictorian of her class. She then attended the University of Nebraska graduating in 1942 with a Bachelor of Science degree. After her education she taught Home Economics at Page, NE. On December 25, 1942, she was married to U S Army Lt. Leo C. Cooksley. Following his nine years of military service, they moved in 1949 to their farm near Weissert where they raised their family. Mary Bell was active in D A R, Broken Bow Elks Lodge 1688, Weissert Church of God, American Shorthorn Association, Nebraska Association of Fair Managers, Custer County Agricultural Society, Nebraska Grange, Nebraska Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Nebraska Admirals Association as well as many other organizations. She is survived by her 6 children: Mary Lea Wallace (Charles) Norman, OK; Kenton C. Cooksley (special friend, Faye Coakley), Sierra Vista, AZ; Kevin T. Cooksley (Shannon), Weissert, NE; Crystal Bell Schweiger (Robert), Idaho Falls, ID; Kerry A. Cooksley (Terry), Alda, NE; Kourtney G. (Jimel) Cooksley of Chadron, NE. She is also survived by 14 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. Funeral services were held on Wednesday October 26, 2011 in Broken Bow.

New Benefit for Nebraska Grange Members

We are pleased to announce that all members of the Nebraska State Grange now have new benefits at **NO COST TO YOU.** These benefits are jointly sponsored with American

Income Life Insurance Company, a company servicing working families for more than 50 years.

Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefit of \$2000 per member is being provided at no charge to each Grange member in good standing. A letter of information with a return card has been sent to current members. Those who return the card will also receive a health service discount card for your family at no cost that provided household discounts of 20-60% on prescriptions, hearing care, vision care/products, chiropractic care, with optional dental care available.

In addition, child safe kits are available at no cost. These kits are endorsed and supported by the International Union of Police Associations, the American Federation of Teachers and the American Federation of School Administrators. The kits gather vital data, photos and fingerprints from your children so they are ready for authorities in the event of an emergency.

For more information, contact the American Income Life Company at 1-800-495-1213.

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145th National Grange Convention

The National Grange held a "Party on the Prairie" in the form of the 145th Annual National Grange Convention November 8-12, 2011 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The party was hosted by the Great Plains Region, which includes Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Nebraska. Nearly five hundred folks attended the session.

Preconvention activities began on Saturday, November 5. The day was highlighted in the evening by a 5.7 magnitude earthquake to get things shaking. It was a new experience for many of those attending and was quite the topic of conversation on Sunday. Nebraska State Master Joe Fryman served on the Agriculture Committee and Nebraska Grange First Lady Tammy Fryman served on the Citizenship Committee. Nebraska was recognized for having the most recently organized Subordinate Grange in the nation, which was Carver Grange in the Omaha, Nebraska area.

Nebraska co-coordinators for the convention were Jeannie Jeary and Margaret Smith. A big thanks goes out to these women for all the work they put in over the past year organizing and carrying out much of the Nebraska efforts in hosting this event. One of their responsibilities was to organize, supply, and staff the Grange hospitality room at the hotel on Wednesday, November 9. Three hundred Nebraska made Runzas were transported to the convention and served to those in attendance. Thanks to the all the Nebraska women who helped in the kitchen. Many folks felt that this was one of the best hospitality rooms they had ever experienced at a Grange convention. Good job ladies! Sixteen Grangers from Nebraska attended part or all of the convention. We were fortunate Past Nebraska and National Grange Master Ed Andersen and Past Grange First Lady Darlene Andersen were able to attend this year. Nebraska Grangers attending the convention were Ed and Darlene Andersen, Charles and Gwenda Cogswell, Shannon Cooksley, Ted and Alice Doane, Joe and Tammy Fryman, Judy Hansen, Richard and Darlene Janing, Jeannie Jeary, Peggy Merryweather, Margaret Smith, and Phyllis Tooker. Nebraska Grangers taking part in the sixth degree conferral were Judy Hansen, Secretary; Darlene Janing, Executive Committee Member; and Joe Fryman, Overseer. A group of ladies

from Texas performed a beautiful rose drill as part of the degree work.

2011 was an election year for all National Grange officers except two Executive Committee members. Newly elected National Grange officers were Christopher Johnston, Michigan, Gatekeeper; Barbara Borderieux, Florida, Chaplin; and Christine Hamp, Washington, Pomona. All other National Grange Officers were reelected.

The Assembly of Demeter met and elected Bruce Croucher, New York, High Priest of Demeter; Dan Bascom, New Hampshire, Priest Archon; and James Owens, Maine, Priest Annalist.

The 146th National Grange Convention will convene in Boise, Idaho on November 13-17, 2012.

The 2015 National Grange Convention will be in Lincoln, Nebraska at the Cornhusker Hotel. Exact dates not yet determined.

National President Calls for Common Sense Decision Making During Address

TULSA, Okla. - During his annual address Tuesday, Nov. 8, National Grange President Edward Luttrell said the organization must be a leader in advocating for rural America, American values and common sense decision-making.

Luttrell began his address by stressing the need for continued advocacy by the organization for rural broadband build out and a viable U.S. Postal Service for rural residents in front of an audience gathered for the 145th Annual National Grange Convention.

Saying local post offices are "at the heart of our hometowns," Luttrell called for any changes to the USPS be done with the impact to rural America in mind.

In the light of proposed closures of post offices and the USPS request to change service schedules, Luttrell said the Grange "believes that all reforms should be fully debated while keeping in mind that the rural mail customer is much more likely to

rely on USPS services in light of the current digital divide."

"We suggest that Congress allow the USPS to be innovative in the modern business world and develop a competitive culture within their employees," Luttrell said.

Regarding the digital divide, Luttrell said it is necessary for rural America to have access to broadband services in order to "shorten the distance between rural America and state-of-the-art learning and healthcare."

"Doing more with less is something that rural Americans know very well. Broadband allows its users to do many things, but most importantly it makes us more efficient at home and at work," Luttrell said. "Living on a back road should no longer translate to being denied access to cutting edge communication."

During the speech, Luttrell also outlined the Grange's position on energy, saying it is "the lifeblood of our economy and it is a major factor in the quality of our life."

Luttrell said the Grange would like to see the immediate removal of "legislative and regulatory roadblocks to allow clean energy production to be brought on line within the next ten years."

Further, Luttrell said the organization "is not opposed to common sense regulations," but wishes for President Barack Obama to "halt the growth of onerous federal regulations during this time of economic uncertainty."

"Common sense spending" is equally necessary, Luttrell said, in order to "bring fiscal responsibility back to our nation."

"The Grange asks each elected official to lay aside their partisan politics and work together to ensure that a balanced budget is achieved," Luttrell said.

Sometimes more than regulation, the perception of the agricultural industries by the public will shape those industries, Luttrell said, stressing that those working in agriculture must "become educators and creators of public opinion."

Luttrell said it is imperative for producers to "communicate through all the mediums used by the consumers to ensure that agriculture is judged on facts, not myths."

For all of these things, Luttrell said the Grange is "ready to work with thousands of communities, to advocate in State Capitols around our nation and to stand firm in Washington, D.C., on the common sense principles of American values."

National Grange Commits to Support USPS in Reforms

TULSA, Okla. -- The National Grange hosted a luncheon panel focused on the United States Postal Service on Nov. 7 during its 145th Annual Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The U.S. Postal Service was represented by 30-year veteran and Regional Vice President of Operations Linda Welch, who provided a clear picture of the legislative changes necessary for the second largest non-government employer in the United States to evolve, survive and compete.

"We have a universal responsibility to provide universal service to every American citizen, and we want to continue doing that in the most cost-effective way," Welch said. "Like the Grange, we've been around for a long time and, with the help of these legislative changes and our continued commitment internally, we look forward to continuing to serve your needs no matter what they are and no matter where they are for another 200 years."

National Grange Legislative Director Nicole Palya Wood responded to Welch's comments by highlighting the National Grange's role early on in the battle for Rural Free Delivery and recognized that the preservation of the U.S. Postal Service is a top priority.

"The National Grange is committed to working with and advocating for the USPS as they pursue legislative reforms to become more financially autonomous and competitive in an evolving marketplace," Wood said. "In areas where high-speed internet is not available, too many of our rural

neighbors depend solely on the USPS for their connection to retailers, prescription services and family to let this establishment fail. Not to mention the disastrous economic ramifications of letting the second largest employer in the U.S. close its doors."

Grange Leaders Say Proposed Regulations Against Teen Farm Labor Could be Detrimental to Agriculture, Entire Generation

The National Grange recently took a stand against proposed regulations by the U.S. Dept. of Labor that would limit the ability of teenagers to assist in farming operations across the country, calling the proposal "destructive" to the agriculture industry.

National Grange Legislative Director Nicole Palya Wood said the regulations take aim at many of the daily chores of rural youth and seek to drastically narrow the exemptions provided to these family farms by redefining farm ownership.

"With farming operations becoming more and more efficient and complex, this new language could leave many of our rural youth prohibited from the farms that are their heritage," Wood said Tuesday.

Ed Luttrell, president of the National Grange, America's oldest agriculture and rural America advocacy organization, said the proposed regulation goes against the grain of the American values many Grange members hold dear.

"So many of us grew up on farms, and our parents and neighbors helped us learn work ethic by giving us the opportunity, when we proved ourselves ready, to have more and more responsibility," Luttrell said. "This proposed regulation is big government stepping in to tell us when a child is ready to learn the value of work and become a contributing member of their community based on age, not on maturity. American values and a good work ethic start at a young age, and the lessons these kids learn

even doing small chores are invaluable."

The regulation, Luttrell said, "will have a direct and detrimental impact to agriculture, and would further exacerbate one of the most serious problems we as a nation face: the failure to see value in hard work."

"In our organization, many, if not most, of our leaders learned our work ethic on the farm. Even though many of us chose not to become farmers directly, we learned everything about what it is to put in a full and hard day's work, to have accountability and to do a job with pride from our time on the farm," Luttrell said. "The idea to limit on farm employment for teens is destructive to not just the agriculture industry, not just specific farm families, but to their entire generation."

Many groups have argued against the proposed regulations, citing an even more removed view of the agriculture industry for the American public.

Luttrell said the proposed regulation would "limit the exposure young people have to farming and could have a lasting impact on agriculture."

"Most children and teens have never been on a farm. Those who have, and who wish to work on one, are more than likely going to be the producers for the next generation," Luttrell said. "If we don't engage young adults in farming practices and encourage their interest in agriculture, we may threaten our very supply of food and fiber. Consider that a majority of current farmers are 55-years-old or older. Without training and encouraging youth to farm, we are soon going to run out of knowledgeable and motivated agriculturalists. This proposal makes that an even greater likelihood."

Wood also cited recent predictions that show U.S. farmers and ranchers must double production by 2050 to fulfill global food needs.

"We must commit to a safe but vibrant and expanding legacy of future growers, farmers, and ranchers rather than restrict their

access, education, and involvement in family farms," Wood said.

Luttrell said the U.S. Dept. of Labor's citation of safety concerns regarding teenage farm labor are valiant but the proposed regulation as a whole is more hurtful than helpful.

"As a family organization, the safety and well being of our youth is a top priority for the Grange, because we know that we are training tomorrow's farmers and ranchers. Bestowed with that responsibility, we also understand that it is necessary to provide a safe and secure setting where our youth can develop their interests in agriculture and carry that knowledge into the future," Luttrell said.

Luttrell also said the proposed regulation would make farming and ranching an even more expensive endeavor, and said burdensome and unnecessary regulations are something the Grange actively lobbies against.

"I think this regulation is unnecessary and is going to add to the cost of doing business in America," Luttrell said.



May all the beauty of this wondrous season fill your heart with peace and joy!

**News Sheet Deadline is
March 15, 2012**