

The Grange and You



Welcome to the Grange

Welcome to the Grange

Presented to

for Becoming a Member of

_____ Grange No. _____

On This Date

Congratulations on Your Grange Membership

Welcome! You are now a member of the Grange and eligible to receive all of the benefits that the Grange offers its members, as well as participate in activities and programs available at your Grange.

This booklet is an overview of the Grange. It teaches you about the Grange and discusses ways that you can become an active member in this great organization.

You will find important information about Grange meeting procedures, officer positions and responsibilities, and committees. In addition, a brief overview of the degrees of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry is included. It is our hope that this overview will help you appreciate the rituals and traditions of the Grange.

Remember that the Grange offers something to everyone, so invite your family and friends to become Grange members too!

The Grange Emblem

The seven-sided emblem represents the seven degrees of the Grange and the seven founders: William Saunders, John R. Thompson, William M. Ireland, Aaron B. Grosh, John Trimble, Francis M. McDowell, and Oliver Hudson Kelley.



“P of H” stands for “Patrons of Husbandry.”

The name “Grange” was chosen because old English farm-estates, each completing a community, were called Granges.

The Sheaf of Wheat represents our interest in agriculture. The Grange was originally an organization of farming families, and while it now embraces both rural and urban members, it still has a strong rural and agricultural interest.

The Grange Officers

As a “people” organization, its officers and members develop programs and activities, which meet their needs and guide the Grange. As a Grange officer, the individual member has the opportunity to provide leadership in directing the Grange’s future.

Leadership is essential to progress. As the greatest training ground for new leaders, the Grange has helped many people become more confident in their public speaking and leadership abilities.

In the Grange, it is important to involve as many people and ideas as possible. Each Grange is encouraged to select its officers and committees very carefully. All members should have an opportunity to serve as an officer or on a committee.

The Grange Officers (continued)

Many of the officers' titles reflect the responsibilities performed on the early English farm called "The Grange." Grange officers are elected for a one or two-year term, except the Executive Committee members whose terms may be longer.

Master (President) Emblem – The Gavel

- Conducts meetings and provides general leadership for all activities
- Appoints the chairmen of all committees
- Convenes a yearly planning meeting
- Supervises the Granges ritualistic activities
- Serves as a delegate to the State Grange conventions



Overseer (Vice President) Emblem – The Gavel

- Assists the Master (President) in appointing committees
- Presides in the absence of the Master (President)

Lecturer (Program Director) Emblem – The Scroll

- Plans programs containing educational, inspirational, entertaining, musical, and recreational components at each regular meeting
- Conducts contests which provide members the opportunity to express their ideas, thoughts, and talents, as well as develop their leadership potential



Steward Emblem – The Spud

- Organizes sashes, emblems, and furnishings of the Grange meeting hall

Assistant Steward Emblem – The Pruning Hook

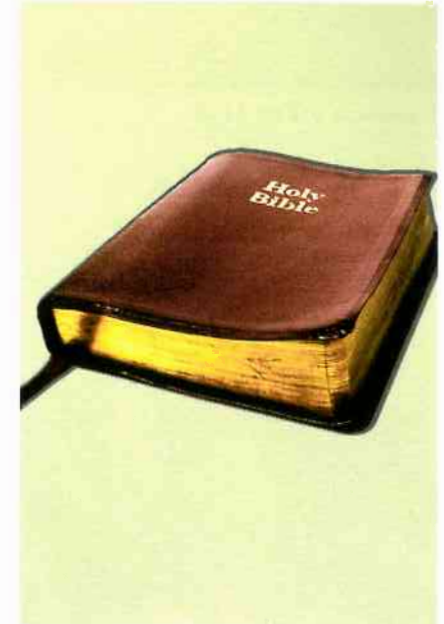
Lady Assistant Steward Emblem – The Shepherd's Crook

- Participates in the opening ceremony by escorting officers and guests
- Assists with other ceremonial duties



Secretary Emblem – Record Book

- Receives and reads the letters and communications for and to the Grange
- Keeps minutes of the meetings
- Collects the annual membership dues
- Receives all monies for the Grange



Chaplin Emblem – The Bible

- Opens and closes the Grange meeting with prayer

Treasurer Emblem – Keys of Treasury

- Receives all monies from the Secretary and pays all bills of the Grange



**Gatekeeper (Greeter)
Emblem – The Owl**

- Greets each member at the entrance to the meeting room before and during the meeting



**Ceres, Pomona, and Flora
Emblem –
Grain and Sickle (Ceres)
Fruit (Pomona)
Flowers (Flora)**

- These offices are held by women and are designed to show our respect for women and agriculture.

**Executive Committee
Emblem – Bank Book**

- Invests funds to strengthen the financial state of the Grange
- Acts with the Master (President) between meetings in time of emergency.



What Happens During a Meeting?

The opening and closing ceremony of a Grange meeting is very important because it offers members an effective procedure for conducting business.

Meeting Agenda

Opening Ceremony

The Assistant Stewards open the Bible and receive passwords from each member. However, many Granges have dropped this custom.

The Chaplain gives an opening prayer.

The Lecturer announces a group song.

The Master (President) leads the members in the salutation.

The members salute the American Flag.

Order of Business

The Secretary reads the records of the last meeting.

The Committees present reports.

The Secretary reads any letters, notes, and other communications to the members.

The Financial reports are presented.

Unfinished and New Business items are considered.

The Lecturer presents a program that may be educational and/or entertaining.

Closing Ceremony

The Assistant Stewards close the Bible.

The Lecturer announces a closing song.

The Master (President) leads the members in the salutation.

The Chaplain gives a closing prayer.

Grange Committees

Grange Committees are appointed by the Master (President) and the Overseer (Vice President) and are responsible for organizing and implementing their programs. If you would like to serve on a committee, please contact the Master (President).

Legislative Committees: Educates Community Granges about public policy issues of concern to members and encourages them to take action. Assists Community Granges in drafting resolutions to formally express their position on these issues. Community Grange resolutions may be referred to County and/or State Granges for further action, and the National Grange when appropriate. Community Granges and their legislative committees are responsible for implementing their policy resolutions, as well as supporting policy resolutions from County and State Granges, as well as the National Grange.



Agricultural Committee: Brings to the Grange's attention issues affecting agriculture through the resolution process.

Lecturer's Committee: Assists the Lecturer in the preparation and implementation of programs.

Women's (Family) Activities Committee: Conducts projects and contests, which encourage the development and use of the member's skills and talents.



Youth Committee: Develops programs and workshops to inform and discuss everyday concerns. Also, sponsors contests that encourage leadership development, public speaking, personal growth, community service, and education for teenagers and young adults.

Membership Committee: Implements the membership development program.

Publicity Committee: Reports information about Grange activities and efforts to the news media.



Community Service Committee: Develops projects, which improve the quality of life and the community.

Deaf Activities/ Family Health Committee: Promotes the Grange health program of deaf awareness and other wellness issues through community outreach and education.

Junior Grange Committee: Assists the Junior Grange and its leaders.

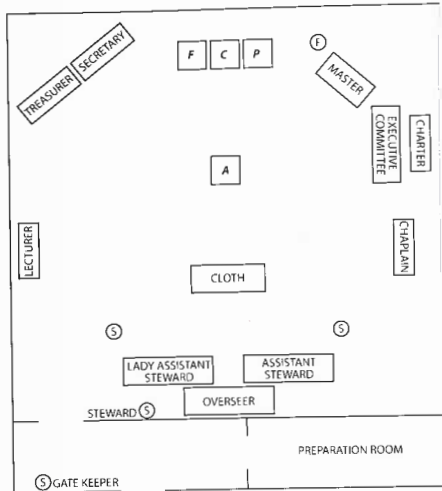
Social Committee: Provides times for fellowship before or following meetings.

Special Committees: Appointed for limited periods of time to manage and control special projects.



Plans for Subordinate Grange

Legend



F, C, P – are the stations of Flora, Ceres, and Pomona, the “Graces.”

A- is the Altar. During the Grange meeting, we refrain from passing between stations of the Graces and the Altar, except for officers on official duty.

F- the American flag is on display and saluted at every meeting.

Cloth- the location where the members have traditionally saluted the Overseer when entering a meeting late or leaving early. This process is no longer required in most Granges.

S- the Staves, upon which the emblems of the office are mounted. The Stewards and Gatekeeper carry staves when on official duty.

Charter- a certificate showing affiliation with the National and State Granges.

The implement case is displayed on the Master’s station. It contains the tools used to illustrate lessons in the first four degrees.

(NOTE: This traditional setting has been modified over time and by local custom.)

Grange Degrees Conferred by the Subordinate

	Lesson	Scene	Candidates
First	Faith	Spring	Laborer/Maid
Second	Hope	Summer	Cultivator/Shepherdess
Third	Charity	Autumn	Harvester/Gleanor
Fourth	Fidelity	Winter	Husbandman/Matron

Grange Degree Conferred by the Pomona Grange:

Fifth Degree is symbolized by the Grace, Pomona.

Grange Degree Conferred by the State Grange:

Sixth Degree is symbolized by the Grace, Flora.

Grange Degree Conferred by the National Grange:

Seventh Degree is symbolized by the Grace, Ceres.

Resume of Subordinate Grange

The Grange degrees are learning opportunities for each member. As we progress through the degrees, more knowledge will be presented through the use of symbols. By using farm tools such as – the ax, the plow, the harrow, the spade, the pruning knife, and the hoe – valuable lessons are presented. The first four degrees are based on the seasons of the year and usually presented by the Subordinate (Community) Grange.

First Degree

In the spring, men and women enter the Grange seeking employment and participation, becoming brothers and sisters in our fraternity. Met by many obstacles to achieving their goal of wisdom and knowledge, the new members are encouraged to be faithful. We learn that the Grange’s highest and first objective is to “develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood.” Though the search for wisdom and knowledge is often slow, we must always be open to learning.

It is in the first degree that women are recognized as equal partners with men. Together we are “the educators of youth and co-students through life; therefore, both must acquire knowledge and wisdom.”

The symbols of the degree, taken from the farm: the ax, which teaches perseverance; the plow, which stresses the importance of preparing the mind for growth of knowledge and wisdom; the harrow, which encourages study in preparation of life's work, and the spade, representing thoroughness.

The Laborers and Maids are encouraged to look beyond a person's outward appearance and look to the mind and heart to measure a person's worth.

As a family organization, the Grange symbolically closes its doors during meetings to guard against intrusion from the outside. To show respect to women and reverence to the Bible, members are asked to not pass between the Altar and the Graces except when instructed by the Subordinate Manual.

At the close of the first degree, each new member is given kernels of corn, the symbol of Faith, and is encouraged to use some for their own benefit but to save the best for seed.

Second Degree

In the summer, men and women enter the Grange seeking advancement and education. We learn that in planning a project or progressing to a new stage of life, one must prepare and plan well in Hope of achieving the goal.

The symbols of the second degree taken from the farm are: the hoe, which represents the cultivation of the mind which destroys error and keeps the mind ready to learn and apply new skills, and the pruning knife, which directs us to remove "idle thoughts and sinful suggestions" from our minds.

The Cultivators and Shepherdesses are reminded that a person's worth is not judged by wealth or status in the community but by moral and mental worth.

Third Degree

In the autumn, new members seek to become Harvesters and Gleaners in the Grange. Charity guides this degree and reminds us to care for the mind and body when reaping our rewards. "Gather only the good seed...

Use judgement..." and "let your example be such that others may profit by it."

As Grangers, we are again encouraged to study and share our knowledge with others. "Be faithful, be hopeful, and be charitable."

All labor is good when we honor it, dignify it, and see through it the advancement and happiness of others.

Fourth Degree

In the winter, after all the crops have been harvested and stored, the family gathers in the home where the fruits of its labor are finally enjoyed.

We are reminded in the fourth degree to remain faithful to our obligation. Fidelity to the Grange is expected.

In an expression of fidelity and devotion, Ruth of Mo'ab remained steadfast and faithful to Naomi in her time of need. In the Grange, our members pledge the same fidelity to each other in a pure friendship enduring though life.

As Husbandmen and Matrons, members are encouraged to care for children and teach them to love and understand rural life.

Fifth Degree

The fifth degree is conferred by the County or Pomona Grange. The Degree reminds us that success is achieved by perseverance.

Sixth Degree

A State Grange may be chartered when six or more local units are functioning within a state. State Granges meet annually, confer the Degree of Flora, and adopt a legislative policy for implementation.

Seventh Degree

The highest level of the Order, the National Grange, meets annually and adopts legislative policies. The Assembly of Demeter – members who have attained the highest ritualistic rank in the Order of Patrons of Husbandry – confers the degree of Ceres.

to the Grange

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The National Grange

1616 H Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20006-4999

1-888-447-2643 Fax: (202) 347-1091

www.NationalGrange.org

