Holding Steady

Dear Columbia Grange Members:

As we enter the 5th month of the pandemic, I’m taking time to revisit the original purpose of the Grange movement in this country and how it informs the work we do today.

The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry was founded after the Civil War in 1867 when President Andrew Johnson commissioned Oliver Kelly to create an organization that would bring people from the North and South together in a spirit of mutual cooperation to improve post-war agricultural conditions. Grange #1 was founded in 1868 in Fredonia, New York with seven men and one woman.

Paid agents organized local Granges to encourage families to band together to promote the economic and political well-being of their communities. Membership increased dramatically from 200,000 in 1873 to 858,050 in 1875. State and local Granges adopted non-partisan political resolutions including the regulation of railroad transportation costs and were instrumental in the formation of farm cooperatives and farm credit systems.

Today, the National Grange goal is to provide opportunities for individuals and families to develop to their highest potential in order to build stronger communities and states, as well as a stronger nation.

It has become clear in the past few weeks that we can’t accomplish this goal if we’re not working towards equity and justice for all. Please commit with me to speak out against racial injustice and hold Columbia Grange 267 accountable in this effort.

This is a moment of great potential and we can use our collective strength as an organization to find opportunities for transformation—let’s do it with love and a spirit of hope.

Thank you,
Carlyn Mitas, President
Columbia Grange 267

In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity.
— National Grange Motto

Grange Scholarship Recipients
We are happy to announce our two $1,000 scholarship recipients for 2020!

Simon Leone
Simon, son of Grange member and musician, Caroline Oakley is heading to Loyola University in New Orleans this fall to pursue his dream of becoming a professional musician. He began taking violin lessons at age five and has since learned guitar and piano. He believes “music is one of the most powerful things on this earth—music connects families, friends, and strangers and music breaks down race barriers, gender barriers, as well as age barriers.”

Willow Lakey
Willow, daughter of Grange Board member Rebecca Gandy is heading to the University of Oregon to continue her education. Willow credits her years in the Corbett school community for providing the inspiration, passion and motivation to continue expanding her skills, perspectives, and excitement for learning.

NEW Legislative Committee
Sara Grigsby and Clair Klock have gotten together to form a new Legislative Committee to assure Columbia Grange 267 members are aware of and active in Grange legislative policies/actions at the State and National levels. A few of the Committee goals:

- Gain an understanding of legislative topics relevant to our community by connecting with local organizations and community members;
- Facilitate discussion of topics relevant to Columbia Grange 267;
- Write resolutions based on local interests to the State Grange for consideration/testimony at annual State Grange Convention.

Sara and Clair will be discussing the Working Draft of a Legislative Committee Charter at our July 7th meeting. The draft Legislative Committee Charter is attached via email for your review.

Take Action!
You may have read the Oregon State Grange Newsletter for June/July entitled Take Action! Mark Noah’s Update in part reads, “Once again the US Postal Service is under attack. We all know how important the Post Office is for rural citizens and about the work of early Grangers in support of Rural Free Delivery...The current Congress passed in February the USPS Fairness Act which addresses this issue...(but) an identical bill is apparently languishing in the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs...call your Senator or Representative, let them know the US Postal Service is still a vital service and deserves support.

Here is a link to find your Representatives:
https://www.nationalgrange.org/contact-your-representatives/

Under Construction!
The amazing Amy Detter has taken on the huge task of painting the Grange Hall.

The woodwork (there’s so much of it!) has been spackled and sanded, and Amy is methodically applying two coats of paint to everything, including the ceiling.

Thanks to our Facilities Committee for creating a new cabinet to store books (Fritz!) and for installing our new acoustic panels.

We hope you’ll be pleased when we again, gather at the Grange (watch for Phase II of the state reopening).

Monthly (ZOOM) Grange Membership Meeting on Tuesday, July 7th, 6:30-7:30pm (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89049099723?pwd=djhOV59wUBmZVksdTVhBZ1hVdCzSQT09)