



Empire State Granger
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Master's Column



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“WE ARE FAMILY”

Brothers and Sisters of the New York State Grange Family, I'm pleased to share with you the State Master's address to the delegate body of the 138th annual Session of the New York State Grange. The theme words for our next Grange year will be “We Are Family.”

The Family is that institution that holds a group of related people together for the

betterment of all. It's the kindnesses, courtesies, love, and support that is extended to everyone that makes life a great and worthwhile adventure. We, too, in the Grange are one great extended Family. We may not have blood ties to one another, but we still comfort, support, assist, and encourage each other as well as share our successes and failures, inspirations and commitments, and our knowledge and wisdom. Yes, indeed, we are a Grange Family.

I would like to pay tribute to our dedicated Family of State Officers, Directors, Special Deputies, Standing and Special Committee Chairs, and Members, whose interaction with each other over concerns, problems, decisions, and the like, are the ones who make this State Grange function to carry out the ideals, traditions, and values of our beneficent Fraternity. Former United States President John Quincy Adams was quoted way back in the 1820s that “if your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.”

State Officers have spent the last three years acting as Ambassadors for the New York State Grange by making official visits to Subordinates and Pomona's to bring the good news of the State Grange Family. In all cases, they have been courteously welcomed, shared a great deal of knowledge about how State Grange works, and came away with a good feeling that Grange Family principles and values are being upheld by our local Granges.

Some of the highlights of

the Directors this past year have been:

- Family Activities Committee – had the largest attendance ever at the FAC/ Lecturer's Conference at Headquarters last May including active interest in all the Family programs. They also put together a new cookbook featuring recipes for freezing, drying, canning, and pickling.
- Community Involvement/ Service – visited several Pomona areas across New York promoting how a Grange can get involved in their community. They offered suggestions for community projects and, by reviewing the reports turned in, several have been adopted.
- Junior Grange – had a most successful year with the addition of four Junior Granges: Reorganized are Yorktown #160 in Westchester County, Almond #319 in Allegany County, Patroon #738 in Ulster County, and a brand new Junior Grange was just chartered in Niagara County called Lockport-Oakfield #776. Some of the members even attended our State Session and they brought some craft projects to be judged.
- Sports – held successful dartball, bowling, and golf tournaments, and collected well over \$1200 for the Special Olympics Program. If that's not Family involvement, than what is?
- Lecturer – held a very successful Family Talent Contest along with the Youth Department Public Speaking program. This department participated in the Northeast Lecturer's Conference in Vermont and contributed a fabulous program on the

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The Legislative Log



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LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR NEW YORK STATE GRANGE 2011

Agriculture and Environment

- * Supports needed revisions to a federal milk pricing system to include regional order pricing, Class I base floor price of \$18 per hundredweight (cwt), low interest loans for dairy farmers, and a supply management program as endorsed by dairy groups.
- * Supports changing regulations of United States Department of Agriculture that makes food recalls mandatory and not optional for the manufacturer/processor and to include the identity of the manufacturer/processor and where the food products were distributed.

Urges continued appropriation of Environmental Protection Funds (EPF) for conservation projects and request the State Legislature to continue funding the New York State Agriculture Environment Management Program (AEM).

Education

- * Supports a true “wealth

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Thousand Islands.

- Legislative – conducted several regional meetings attended by local, state, and sometimes federal legislators to share our Grange legislative goals. The culmination of their work took place at our State Session with the adoption of over 100 resolutions of local, state and national interest.
- Youth – held two successful weekends, both winter and spring, with workshops on code reading, program planning, and community service, as well as public speaking contests. Public Speaking winners participated in the Northeast Youth Conference in Massachusetts and came home with the First Place Best of Show who will represent the Northeast Region at the National Grange's Evening of Excellence. An excellent drill team also participated in the Northeast competition and were proud to place third.
- Information – continues to issue our State Grange publication, the Empire State Granger, with color photos of Grange Family activities on the front and last pages. A Special Issue, highlighting all Grange department activities was distributed at the Winter Farm Show, Empire Farm Days, the NYS Fair, and at several county fairs and community days, and serves as an excellent membership tool to attract new people.
- Membership/Leadership – have completed work in revitalizing a Subordinate and Pomona Grange in Washington County, and are continuing work revitalizing Granges in both Cattaraugus and Onondaga Counties. The crowning glory is the reorganization of the Putnam-Westchester County Pomona Grange Family in southeastern New York with 40 new members! Officers have been elected and installed, major committee chairs appointed, and they are currently working on two legislative issues to be brought to the 2011

State Session. Additional wonderful news - a brand new Subordinate Grange is being organized in Niagara County as a result of the organization of Lockport-Oakfield Junior Grange two months ago. Special Deputies have been working with Granges who have internal concerns with the hope of revitalizing them to be an active Family organization again. Special Committees and Chairs were at work at our Annual Session reviewing, debating, and recommending resolutions of importance for the delegate body. The results of their deliberations saw 22 resolutions of national concern brought forward to the National session for consideration.

What are some of the new things going on with the New York State Grange?

Our website coordinator continues to update the New York State Grange website with Family related news – Junior Grange Camp Week, Youth Activities and Weekends, and several Family Activities Committee doings. We continue to add items of potential interest to Grange members. The recent addition is the New York State Agricultural Mediation Program which helped over 900 people last year from the agricultural community and addresses different conflicts and disagreements. Mediation is not just of an agricultural nature and can include small claims and unpaid bills, bank loans, Family issues of child custody and parenting plans, neighbor complaints, to name just a few. Visit our website at www.nysgrange.org for further details.

We are currently evaluating our Student Loan Program (Family issue) to bring the student applications and cosigners forms up to date. We now live in an advanced technological world and must keep our records up to date.

After a good 25 year relationship with the National

Safety Council, the New York State Grange has decided to discontinue the Defensive Driving Program. It all boils down to economics. We would still need to charge a \$25 fee for the course, but other groups out there such as retiree groups et. al. now offer the course for as little as \$10 per person, and there is no affiliation with the group required and no age restrictions either (Family). The course is also offered online with little to no cost to the individual. However, we strongly encourage Granges to continue sponsoring the course as a community service project, especially for those unable to take the course online. Feel free to contact Headquarters with suggestions for groups who now offer the low cost course.

At the turn of the New Year, the New York State Grange will sponsor the 2011 Northeast Leaders' Conference at the Latham Holiday Inn Express, just north of Albany, from January 7 – 9. Participants are invited for New York State and our associate states in New England – Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. We are holding workshops for several Grange departments: Family Activities, Youth, Junior Grange, Legislative, Lecturer, Information, Membership/Leadership, and Community Involvement/Service. Each department will bring valuable information to be shared with your Grange committees at home. All Grangers are most welcome to attend the entire weekend conference,

but if you wish to get the most value for your dollar, consider attending the Saturday session on January 8th as a commuter. National Master Ed Luttrell will be conducting a workshop on Grange Teamwork, and Barbara Jones, the new National Grange Communications Director, will hold a seminar on how both Grangers and Granges can better communicate with each other. The highlight of Saturday's program will be a discussion and debate held by the Commissioners of Agriculture of both New York and Connecticut about "The Future of Agriculture in the Northeast." This will feature our own Commissioner, Brother Pat Hooker, and Connecticut's Commissioner, Brother Phil Prelli, who visited our Session in October as the National Grange Representative. You won't want to miss this day, Saturday, January 8th. There is a small registration fee for commuters, and both lunch and dinner will be available for those who choose. Your Pomona Grange has been notified with all the necessary information needed as well as it can all be found on the State Grange website.

On the weekend of September 24 – 26, I was privileged to attend a National Grange sponsored Pomona Grange Summit in western Pennsylvania. Planned for the east's most populous Grange states – New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio – participants also attended from four New England states, too. A great deal of serious discussion was held about the role of the Pomona

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Grange in our organizational structure, and serious debate took place over questions of what top three things should an ideal Pomona have, how many Granges should a Pomona have, how often should a Pomona meet, and how do you revitalize a Pomona Grange? Should you work at the Pomona level first which, in turn, should revitalize its Subordinates, or should you work on the Subordinates first which will then revitalize the Pomona? This last point needs a great deal more discussion. A summary of this Pomona Summit will be sent to each Pomona Grange to discuss and debate and, hopefully, this will lead to an informal State get-together to allow New York Grangers to contribute input into revising the Pomona Grange structure and its role in our Fraternity. As the current National Grange Digest of Laws for the Code of the Pomona Grange reads, and I quote, "If the number of Subordinate Granges included in the jurisdiction of a Pomona falls below two, the State Grange shall readjust the jurisdiction."

Many are wondering about the National Grange assessment to finance future National Sessions. In 2007, delegates to National Grange adopted a policy that points out that the National Grange Annual Session belongs to every Grange member across this great nation of ours. When the National Master, or other National personnel, is called to give testimony to Congress, or a lesser federal agency, they express the National Grange's point of view or legislative policy in question. They are speaking for not only 7th Degree members, but all Grangers across this land no matter what Degree affiliation they have. Thus, each Grange member should be proud to do their part to financially support the National Session. An assessment of \$1 per member per year was adopted, and the

New York State Grange decided to utilize fundraisers to meet our annual assessment rather than raise dues or bill each Grange. When you learn of these fundraisers, we strongly encourage the support of Grangers and friends. Our National Hosting Fundraising Committee is making plans for a Penny Social in Dutchess County on February 26, 2011. State Officers and Directors have been asked to provide both theme baskets and gift prizes for this event. Plans for two bus trip, one to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, this December and one to Newport, Rhode Island, next spring are also in the making. Details are available at Headquarters in Cortland. The Committee is also sold "used delights new to you" at their special table as well as the new FAC Cookbook and Grange Emblem Slate Trivets (hot plates). If you are interested in either item, please contact Headquarters to reserve or purchase a trivet or the new cook book.

Yes, we are a Grange Family in New York State. We are an extended Family who places faith in God, nurtures, hope, dispenses charity, and is noted for fidelity. Brothers and Sisters, we have many major decisions to make this year, and the future of this Grange rests upon these decisions. They should be made in the best interest of the entire Grange and not of anyone's personal preference. We are all in this together, and this Grange should function with the best qualified individuals who have the ability to serve and perform the duties pertaining to the office and perform them well. This tenant should be at the forefront of our decisions.

May Providence continue to guide the New York State Grange as "We Are Family" – America's oldest and only rural Family fraternal community organization with a history and tradition of the support of agriculture.

Now go into your communities and sing the praises

of our great Fraternity to the point that next year, how exciting it would be to convene the New York State Grange with an increase of 50 or more new Family members (delegates).

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Legislative priorities

adjusted formula' to address the inequity in state aid awarded to poor and affluent school districts which is favorable to high need rural districts.

* Urges state and federal legislation to set guidelines of outlining the many forms of bullying in our schools and to take appropriate actions in making bullying a punishable offense with age appropriate punishment.

* Seeks legislation for the immediate establishment and utilization of alternative assessments of learning standards that could be used for successful completion of state learning requirements with the provision of a high school diploma, subject to reasonable state review.

Health

* Recommends increased efforts and sanctions against individuals, agencies, and health providers who are found guilty of Medicare and/or Medicaid fraud.

State Government

* Supports a timely passage of the State Budget, elimination of the "3 person control" (Governor, Senate Majority Leader, and Assembly Speaker) in its development and an imposition on all members of the Legislature for each day of a late budget past April 1.

* Calls upon the Governor and NYS Legislature to inventory and review existing mandates to local governments and schools to work towards mandate relief legislation. Future mandates to be fully funded by NYS.

Consumer Protection

* Supports empowering the newly created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to ban banks, mortgage lenders, credit card companies and any other financial institutions from charging consumers fees for paper statements.

Resolutions passed at State Grange 2010 AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

New York State Grange...

- proposes that any attempt to amend the Labor Law in relation to farm workers be very carefully considered in concert with extensive research into the exact nature of farm work.
- opposes the repeal of the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922.
- supports Farmers' Markets, family farms and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's) producing and selling homegrown agricultural products.
- suggests that state regulations be implemented to allow a dairy or farm with a permit to sell and deliver unpasteurized milk in a suitable vehicle to a market site and/or allow an agent at the market to hold and properly handle any pre-ordered and pre-paid milk for a customer pick up.
- favors an indefinite moratorium in the hydrofracking process, the horizontal drilling for natural gas, until it can be proven by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Environmental Protection Agency that the hydrofracking process is not a threat to our natural resources of water and air or to our human health.
- supports the efforts of the agencies involved in the control of the Asian Carp infestation in the Mississippi River and Great Lakes system, and further, that the other states and Canadian

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provinces that border these systems be encouraged to be actively involved in the programs that are currently in place and any future measures to be taken to protect the fisheries of the Mississippi River and Great Lakes.

- supports the Department of Ag & Markets and the Farm Wine Producers' efforts to reinstate sale of wine by the glass at fairs, firemen's carnivals, church lawn fetes, etc., and urges the New York State Legislature to pass bills or legislation that would allow licensed wineries and farm wineries to sell wine by the glass at these events.

- urges and supports the establishment of additional mobile slaughter houses which can be moved and set up in a 24-hour period with the following units: one for slaughter; one for setting up the cuts of meat; one for refrigeration; one for waste; and one for a United States Department of Agricultural office, lounges, and showers so the meat can be inspected and approved.

- opposes the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) proposed regulation that restricts the use of outdoor wood boilers/furnaces in rural New York State.

- actively seeks an at-large position on the New York State Beef Industry Council, by nominating a representative who would meet the Council's qualifications for a member who would maintain the board's objective of a well-rounded representation of the beef industry.

Reaffirmed policy...

- opposes any ban on sale of dairy products from cows injected with bovine somatotropin (BST).

- supports changing the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations regarding food recalls that will: (1) make it mandatory to inform the public and local health officials of the

recall of tainted food products, who the manufacturer/processor is and where the food products have been distributed. (2) require the USDA website to be more user-friendly so this information can be easily obtained by the general public. (3) require all recalls of tainted food products be made mandatory, not voluntary, by the manufacturer/processor.

- opposes any cutbacks in the federal daily inspections of meat processing plants, further that we oppose self-inspection of meat processing plants.

- opposes local regulation of pesticide usage and notification legislation.

- opposes legislation prohibiting the commercial and residential application of pesticides for pest control.

- opposes the importation of animals, meat, and meat products into the United States from any country having bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) until scientific data shows the supply is safe.

- opposes expanded regulation of wetlands less than 12.4 acres or any other wetland regulations that further restrict the rights of property owners.

- urges National Grange to use its influence to allow best management practices in national forests.

- recommends that State and National Granges monitor closely the proposals of the Great Lakes Basin and its possible adverse impact on the agricultural industry, and further to become involved in decision making as local and state governments address adoption and implementation of such regulations.

- supports legislation which would legally allow people to defend themselves from an attack by a rattlesnake or any other animal without concern of retribution from government authorities.

- supports legislation that requires the Department of Environmental Conservation

(DEC) to notify local residents of wild animal releases so they can be alerted to necessary safety awareness measures.

EDUCATION

New York State Grange...

- supports the preservation of the Head Start Program.

- supports legislation that would require legal action for bullying within our schools.

- supports a true "wealth adjusted formula" model that includes the following points:

- (1) elimination of the .65 floor that is built into the Income Wealth Index as most small and rural school districts have a wealth index well below .65, thus the Income Wealth Index penalizes High Need Rural Districts. It does not acknowledge the true level of need. (2) elimination of the "shares" approach to the current distribution of school aid, to address the higher levels of poverty and a greater disparity between poor and affluent school districts. It is an issue of fundamental fairness and a true wealth adjusted formula should be based on the ability to pay.

- urges our state government to introduce legislation that would make the act of bullying another person, with positive proof of bullying, a legal punishable offense with age appropriate punishment and further, that the Department of Education and/or Board of Regents set guidelines that outline all forms of bullying tactics, including the use of physical, verbal and cyber abuse on social networking sites on the Internet and the appropriate actions that should be taken in dealing with the students who are initiating the bullying and the necessary psychological assistance for those who are recipients of these bullying tactics.

- supports the concept of a statewide standardized testing program.

Reaffirmed policy...

- seeks legislation for the immediate establishment and utilization of alternative assessments to determine the successful completion of state learning standards subject to reasonable state review and the provision of a local high school diploma for school districts that provide alternative courses in multiple assessments responding to individual students' needs.
- seeks changes in state law entitling school districts and BOCES to full reimbursement for approved pre-school (3-5 year olds) special needs programs within the next school year.

- supports an amendment to Article 221 of the New York State Penal Law to address the possession of and intent to sell marijuana upon school grounds, which will give police departments and courts across New York State more power in keeping marijuana out of schools.

- encourages federal legislators to initiate legislation protecting the Upward Bound Talent Search designed to benefit low income students seeking college educations.

- appeals New York State public officials to implement new measures for financing public education, including the following suggested actions: (1) ensure equity in a State Aid formula for funding public education based on the taxpayers' ability to pay; (2) decrease the revenue raised from tax sources based on the value of dwellings; (3) refrain from imposing state mandated requirements upon school systems without corresponding state funding; (4) adjust the formulas on revenues earmarked as aid to education from state lottery and other future gaming activities so that the annual percentage is substantially increased from the current level; (5) maintain the enhanced STAR exemption for the town's neediest citizens, but also increase the STAR

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 exemptions for senior citizens specifically at all income levels; and (6) regain lost tax revenue from the above actions through income tax.
 - supports legislation to increase the unencumbered fund balance that school districts may maintain from year to year from two percent (2%) to five percent (5%).
 - suggests that the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare and our New York State Department of Education continue to support planning which will teach children the positive effects of dealing with each other kindly and fairly and about the negative impact of verbal, emotional and physical abuse on individuals and the possible end results of violence, injuries and death.

FEDERAL ISSUES

New York State Grange....
 - urges the New York State Legislature and the U.S. Congress to keep highway signs predominately in English only.
 - supports the enactment of the proposed Veterans Employment Assistance Act (S3234), or similar legislation, to provide our returning veterans with an opportunity for jobs, training and higher education.
 - supports legislation that would direct the National Park Service and the Department of Justice to immediately restore the Mojave Desert Veterans Memorial Cross.
 - opposes the elimination of Saturday mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).
 - supports empowering the newly created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to ban banks, mortgage lenders, credit card companies, and any other consumer financial institutions from charging consumers fees for paper statements.
 - encourages more aggressive enforcement of existing Human Trafficking Laws and

further recommends that Grange members should use resources to educate themselves and others about the dangers of human trafficking.

Reaffirmed policy....

- supports reforming campaign finance laws to include campaigns that are limited to 4 months prior to the primary and general elections.
 - opposes cross party votes during a presidential primary election, further that there be one set date for a National Presidential Primary Election Day.
 - supports government investment in research conducted by the private and public sector that will lead to the development and implementation of alternative technologies that reduce dependence on fossil fuel products.
 - supports ethanol production in New York State.
 - urges the U.S. Government to have the immigration laws strictly enforced including the deportation of illegal aliens.
 - supports legislation that would establish regulations requiring all shipping lines to change their ballast water in the open sea to curtail introduction of foreign species into our domestic waterways.
 - opposes the shipment of all grades of nuclear waste excluding low level medical radioactive waste on the St. Lawrence Seaway and to the importation of nuclear waste from foreign countries.
 - supports legislation that would allow the federal government to charge fees for the use of the National Parks for producing movies, videos, ads and commercials, with the income to be used to maintain and make improvements to the National Parks and Monuments.
 - urges the U.S. Congress to pass legislation which will give property owners some protection for the expanded scope of eminent domain procedures.
 - supports the "Notch Fairness Acts" to compensate "Notch Victims" (born 1917-

1926) with an immediate \$5,000 settlement plus monthly compensation based on a post notch formula.
 - supports legislation that would help stop the unauthorized sale of Social Security numbers and increasing the penalties for fraud that involves the use of another person's Social Security number.

GRANGE ISSUES

New York State Grange....
 - Election Committee will be comprised of non-delegates, unless there are insufficient non-delegates to serve on the committee, thereby allowing delegates to be present for the business or guest speakers that take place while the Election Committee deliberates.
 - supports the closure of the Bible upon the Altar when the Grange is at recess at all levels of our organization from the Junior Grange to the National Grange.
 - suggests the Legislative Conferences around the state include a session for attendees to discuss possible resolutions and how to write and present a resolution.
 - strictly forbids the consumption or use of alcoholic beverages in any Grange building or on Grange property.
 - delegates recommended the consideration of Myasthenia Gravis as a State Grange health project.
 - urges the New York Association of Conservation Districts and the New York State Grange to work in close coordination and communication to insure the annual meetings of both organizations do not coincide.
 - delegate body urges the New York State Grange Department Heads to coordinate their program year to run concurrently with other states in the Northeast Connection, to become effective as soon as can be arranged.
 - delegate body encourages the New York State Grange

to become involved on Grange Day in the Demonstration Kitchen at the New York State Fair to promote Grange.
 - recommends that National Grange either give a finite interpretation of clause #4 as to its actual meaning under Article XI 4.11.1 (H) regarding the sale of Grange real property, or remove it entirely to avoid Granges using it to bypass the intent of Article XI of having funds from real property sales given over to a State Grange trust fund.
 - delegate body accepts the proposed New York State Grange Budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.
 - delegate body accepts the submitted Officer and Committee reports for the 2009-2010 Grange year and commends these individuals on their accomplishments and, further, that the 2009-2010 reports from the New York State Grange Officers and Committees be printed in the Journal of Proceedings.
 - delegate body accepts the New York State Grange Headquarters Report for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.
 - delegate body accepts the amended New York Grange Headquarters Budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.
 - recommends the password taken at a State Grange Session be made optional with the State Grange to determine a method or system of identifying 4th degree members at their session and, further, that the National Grange also determine an optional method of determining 4th degree membership other than the password.
 - delegate body requests that the Master and Executive Committee investigate the possibility of moving the start of the State Grange session to begin on Wednesday, to end on Sunday, with the Youth and Junior Programs to be held on Saturday.
 - recommends that members who have not yet received the appropriate degree be allowed
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into the opening of the State and National sessions.

HEALTH

New York State Grange....

- recommends increased efforts to combat Medicare fraud.
- supports legislation that would have a uniform expiration date stamped, not coded, on all processed foods.
- urges the United States Congress to pass legislation which will provide amputees with the same amount of coverage as Medicare, which covers 80% of the cost for a prosthesis.
- supports legislation that requires all newly constructed and remodeled public buildings have all ground level exits made handicap accessible to accommodate those people with physical disabilities to get out safely and efficiently.
- supports legislation that would cover military dependent children with Tricare health care coverage to a maximum age of 26.
- supports legislation that would extend Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Veterans Administration (CHAMPVA) health care coverage for eligible dependent children to the maximum age of 26.
- supports Assembly Bill A4176 or similar legislation that would establish a fresh fruit and vegetable program in schools encouraging the purchase of locally grown produce when available, through direct payments from the state to the school food services for the purchase of these products.
- opposes any legislation which automatically makes it legal to harvest a deceased person's organs and/or tissue under "presumed consent".

Reaffirmed policy....

- supports the Emergency Services Volunteer Incentive Act which would help local communities reverse the

decline in the number of volunteers of firefighter and emergency services personnel.

- supports legislation that would provide annual funding for helicopter services as a part of New York State Rural Health Services.
- supports insurance parity for licensed Acupuncturists.
- supports legislation advocating lower premiums for supplemental health insurance.
- supports legislation that reduces taxes on federal annuitants, members and retirees of the uniform services and legislative branch employees.
- supports legislation to curtail fraud in the health care industry.
- supports legislation to limit the growth of all Medicaid costs.
- supports legislation that curbs spiraling health care costs.
- supports legislation that would allow the purchase of medications from Canada, and we further support continued legislative efforts to control medication prices in the United States with price bargaining between the Federal Government and pharmaceutical companies.
- urges the New York State Department of Health to redirect their research to include the possible effects on the environment and humans when using the spraying of pesticides as a way to control the mosquitoes and the spread of the West Nile Virus.

STATE ISSUES

New York State Grange....

- supports (A.9085) or similar legislation that would permit the electorate to recall an elected official for cause.
- supports amending the texting while driving law to make texting while driving a primary offense.
- supports legislation that would change the Environmental Conservation Law to require that handguns must

also be locked in a case or securely locked in the trunk of the vehicle while spotlighting.

- supports enforcement of the Vehicle and Traffic Laws regarding use and misuse of the slow moving vehicle emblem.
- encourages additional research into expanding the use of wind power as an alternative energy source where feasible.
- encourages all operators of animal driven vehicles to utilize safety devices for better visibility by motor vehicle operators.
- supports reducing hunting, fishing and trapping license fees.

Reaffirmed policy....

- supports legislation that would eliminate the mandated prevailing wage rates in New York State and allow municipalities and school districts to enter into competitive bids for both wage rates and materials.
- opposes any legislation that mandates year-round burial be available at all cemeteries, leaving the practice of providing such service optional to each cemetery association.
- supports increased police enforcement of existing laws and legislation that would tighten laws concerning illegal uses of handicapped/ special needs parking permits.
- supports legislation that would limit the use of eminent domain power to public projects.
- supports legislation that provides for continual sportsmen's rights and encourages youth to participate in outdoor sporting activities with proper adult supervision.

TAXATION & FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

New York State Grange....

- supports that State Parks and Historic sites remain open with the same hours of operation, same seasons of operation and the same levels

of access to public facilities at the same level of service of the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010 and, further opposes the closing of parks and historic sites as a way to close budget gaps.

- recommends simplifying the language that is used in the government's instructions for filing personal state and federal income taxes.
- favors that for every day without an adopted New York State Budget after the April 1st deadline, the New York State Legislators be fined two days pay until the budget is adopted, the fines to be imposed by the Attorney General.
- requests that the New York State Thruway Authority remove the collection of all tolls at Lackawanna Exit #55, Blasdell Exit #56, Hamburg Exit #57 and westbound at Eden/Angola Exit #57A.
- strongly supports legislation to prevent the Governor from issuing an Executive Order to hold back income tax refunds.
- favors legislation that would allow line items for each legislator's discretionary use, providing there is a source of revenue to cover all member items statewide without increasing taxes to do so; that all recipients must pass a legitimacy test by the Attorney General's Office and each elected Senator and Assembly Member would receive the same amount of funding for their member items.
- favors legislation that requires state lawmakers be reimbursed only the amount verified by submitted receipts not to exceed federal guidelines, and that the state Comptroller post lawmakers' total monthly reimbursements on the OpenBookNY.com website where the office currently posts agency spending.

Reaffirms policy....

- urges our elected officials to take into consideration the need to lower the taxes in

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Resolutions

New York State that cause vibrant industries to leave the state for areas that present a better financial return because of lower taxing demands.

- urges the New York State Legislature to enact a law reducing the gasoline tax to lower the overall cost of a gallon of gasoline.

- urges that appropriate parties become aware of the study and the impact of the Northeast Corridor Highway (from Watertown to the state of Maine) on northern New York State.

- supports the examination of funding distribution to schools for the STAR Exemption Program so that equal distribution is given to upstate schools that are more susceptible to economic factors than are more affluent areas.

- strongly favors the Federal Government insuring the private Social Security accounts, in an effort to prevent fraud and misuse by private agencies.

State Grange Secretary



NYS Grange Secretary, Virginia Conner
100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY 13045
607-756-7553-
Virginia@nysgrange.org

A BIG THANK YOU to all Jefferson County Grangers who helped Roger and I unload the trailer at State Session. Your assistance is very much appreciated. Also THANKS to those from Jefferson and other Counties who stayed on Tuesday and assisted in reloading everything for the trip back to Cortland. A SPECIAL THANKS to the Cortland County Grangers who helped us put everything on the

trailer the Wednesday before Session and then reappeared on Tuesday night to put everything back into Headquarters. You are all special Grangers.

Several members asked me at Session if the \$1.00 increase in dues commenced January 1st. No, it does not. Your State Executive Committee decided to appoint a Hosting Committee and charged them to have fund raisers to establish a Hosting Fund which would cover the amount that New York would have to give for the National Grange Convention in New Hampshire in 2013. For those of you who were at State Session, you saw and heard how very active our Hosting Committee is with the many fund raising activities they are doing. Therefore, I urge you to support these fund raisers for the Hosting Fund so that we will not have to raise dues.

The supply of the New York State Grange Minute book has been depleted and it is too costly to have it reprinted. Therefore, I will be selling the National Grange minute book (they call it a Record Book) hence forth. The Record Book is basically the same except the roll call of officers is included on each meeting's minute pages. The size is a little different also (9 1/4 X 12 1/4")

Secretaries, please remember not to put anything metal into the minute books. It is very time consuming to have to remove staples, paper clips etc from minute books before they are taken to the Archives.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!



Community Involvement



Debbie Vail
6 Deforest Lane
Lagrangeville, NY 12540
Phone—845-724-5417
FAX—845-724-4217
E-mail—Dvvail@aol.com

It was GREAT seeing every one again at State Session this year. Watertown is a beautiful city. Maybe next time the weather will be a little nicer to us and not send the rain and wind to us. Thank you to Jefferson County Pomona for all their hard work and showing us a very nice time with some delicious food and ice cream. Is state session ever the same with out our ice cream social?

A BIG THANK YOU to all the Granges and Grangers the sent foods for our food drive. I believe we collected about 1,000 pounds of food this year for a food collection program in the Watertown area.

Congratulations to the following winners:

2010 Community Service Report Winners

1-25 Members:

- 1- Clifton Springs # 1042 Ontario County
- 2-Otselic Valley # 1398 Chenango County
- 3-Kelly Grange # 1301 Chenango County

26-50 Members:

- 1- Marcellus Grange # 464 Onondaga County
- 2- Greenfield Grange # 807 Saratoga County
- 3- Smithville Valley Grange # 1397 Chenango County

51+ Members:

- 1- Butternut Valley Grange # 1533 Otsego County
- 2- Stanford Grange #808

Dutchess County
3-East Pembroke # 1157
Genesee County

2010 National Community Service Report Winners

I know

- 1- Butternut Valley Grange #1533 Otsego County
- 2-Stanford Grange #808 Dutchess County
- 3- East Pembroke Grange # 1157 Genesee County
- 4- Marcellus Grange #464 Onondaga County

Next year let's try to have 10 counties have 100% participation with their reports. AS those who won can tell you the prize money has grown and every little bit helps the winning Granges and Pomonas. I am available to help any area out that would like a workshop to help your Grange excel in Community Service and becoming involved with other organizations to do the same. If you have any idea, questions or problems please feel free to contact me.

Family Activities



Brenda Noble
7973 Telephone Road
LeRoy, NY 14482
585-768-6632

I enjoyed seeing everyone at State Grange. The winners of the Cinnamon Roll Contest were 1st Gail Chamberlain – Washington Co.; 2nd Caroline Roberts – Cayuga Co.; 3rd Paula Turner – Steuben Co.; Hon. Men. Karen Wilcox – Jefferson Co., Linda Te Crony – Chautauqua Co., Millie Messimer – Seneca Co., Lynn Potter – Franklin Co., Mary Widger –

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Onondaga Co., Barbara Frank – Lewis Co., Margaret Russel – Dutchess Co.

We also received 4 awards from the Big E: Afghans 3rd Judy Batsakas; Doilies 1st Arlene Lewis; Adult Garment 2nd Shirley Hewlett; Wall Hanging 2nd Marietta Vaughn. I thank everyone for their participation and everyone who sent items for the sale. The cookbooks for New York are available at Headquarters for \$5, if anyone would like one.

Next year the baking contest is Chocolate Cake – Regular and Diabetic. Judging for Crafts and Needlework will be April 28 and 29 with the Conference on April 30 in Cortland. We will need items to Cortland by April 20. We encourage everyone to participate in the contests, so we can increase the number of entries!

Junior Grange

Gail Chamberlain, Director
3627 Cty Rte 21
Whitehall, NY 12887
518-499-1028
gchamberlainhome@excite.com

The Junior Grange is over 120 years old. Junior Grange members across New York State have been very active this year and have learned through their experiences. We have 34 Junior Granges with 291 members. As a state, Junior Granges are making donations to the Hearing Dog program, the Kelly Farm Project, the Susan Freestone Scholarship Fund and we continue to sell address labels for the “Juvenile Grange” Reforestation Project to replace the signs at the 11 areas where tree seedlings were planted by JG members from 1953-1965.

You know what is of interest in your community. Have you looked through the merit badge section lately? There are so many badges that can be earned as a group activity and others where

members can work on them as individuals and let's have a Super JG member this year. Scotland is the small world country and Okalahoma the Host study state. This year Junior Grange members can get out and promote their Junior Grange with the JG Member Recruiter of the Year. Look at our Membership Matters in Junior Grange 2011 program, in the National Handbook AND the State Junior Handbook.

Speaking of membership, we are excited to be working on new Junior Granges in New York in Niagara and St. Lawrence Counties.. If they can do it, so can you.

I want to give a big THANK YOU to the Special Junior Deputies that assist me as State Director to help you throughout New York State. They are Marilyn Brands from Dutchess Co, Doris Kent from Chemung Co and Linda Kesby from Chautauqua Co. We are sad to have Doris leave us, but we know she will always be there to lend a helping hand. We welcome Kristie Miller from Genesee Co as Special Junior Deputy, she will be a great asset for all of us. Whether it is your Junior Grange, your county, starting a Junior Grange in your area, whatever and wherever you need help or assistance we are here for you, just ask.

I leave you with these thoughts –
MOTIVATION – is a fire from within. If someone else tries to light that fire under you, chances are it will burn very briefly.
COMMITMENT – success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go.
TEAMWORK – when we all work together, we all win together.

State Grange Fundraiser

This fundraiser benefits the State Grange and each participating Grange

It is no secret that in today's economy, organizations such as the Community Granges and NYS Grange are struggling to make their budgets balance.

On approval of the NYS Grange Executive Committee, I have agreed to chair another fund raiser which would benefit both the Community Granges as well as New York State Grange. Junior Granges are also welcomed to participate with this project.

Gertrude Hawk Candy Bars would sell for a \$1.00 each with the Community Grange earning \$23.00 and NYS Grange \$22.00 on a variety of 100 candy bars sold.

In order to keep all of the money as profit, candy would have to be picked up at State Grange Session in Watertown (Oct 15-19). Prior to this paper issuance, candy was also made available at the State Legislative Day in Cortland on September 18 and the regional day at East Pembroke Grange on October 2. Orders maybe communicated to me in advance at the below listed avenues.

In order to minimize the bookkeeping, candy must be gotten in quantities of 100 bars at \$77.00. Hopefully payment can be made at the time the candy is picked up. I would appreciate if writing a check, that it is made payable to my attention so that I can pay for the candy and also settle up with NYS Grange.

Thanking you advance for helping out!

Roberta Halbert
P.O. Box 102
Gilbertsville, NY 13776
PH: 607-783-2445
e-mail: berth@frontiernet.net

Chaplain's Corner

Martha Woolley, Chaplain
New York State Grange
8903 Farmington Road
Forestville, NY 14062
716-965-4292
mcfwoolamb@froggernet.net

Thank you to all who were involved in my special surprise-being honored with the Gerald Eastman Award

Thanks to Irene Fasset for her lovely music and coordination for the session. To Ryan for art work on the Memorial Service bulletins and Virginia, Roger and the office staff for their efforts in printing. Thanks to Jerry Batsford, the Croucher brothers sound system and all others who worked so diligently to make State Grange a successful and enjoyable experience.

As we notice the corn fields and think about the maze that can be created-and how lost at-a-dead-end a person could feel, remember someone who oversees the whole area can guide you out to safety.

Likewise, keep in mind that when we are lonely, fearful or think we are at a dead end, we can look up to our Lord and Savior who will guide us safely through the maze of life safely to our destination.

Our thoughts are with those who are ill and those suffering for the loss of loved ones. Be with each household represented.

Historian

Carol Bailey 3033 Middle
Sodus Road
Lyons, NY 14489
Phone—315-946-4379

Did YOU KNOW...

That in the early days of the Grange members wore aprons? The men wore pouches that were russet in color. The women members wore aprons of white. Maids'

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(Continued from page 8)

Historian

aprons were large like a work apron. Gleaners had the left corner brought up and fastened at the waist with the right corner held in the left hand so as to hold the gleanings. The matrons' apron was smaller. Both the white sashes and aprons were trimmed with red. The men's sashes were russet and fastened with an agate button.

The various colors were symbolic of Grange ideals. White represented faith, purity and sincerity. Russet is the general color of the plowed ground and so symbolized earth where sustenance came from. Red or scarlet suggested honor or royalty and also intensity and earnestness. Pink, the combination of red and white, signified the combination of both, but also youth, modesty and springtime. Gold represented truth and fidelity.

There are also specific instructions for the sizes of both the pouches and the sashes contained in the book *Mentor in the Granges and Homes of P. of H.* This book was written by A. B. Grosh and published by Clark and Maynard, New York, 1876. Grosh was one of the founders of Grange and served as its first chaplain. He also authored the "Odd Fellows Improved Manual."

The book tells of the formation and contains introductory remarks for the degrees. Lessons of the degrees are discussed at length with insight. Emblems of the degrees are also talked about.

The importance of education both in the Grange and homes is discussed. Libraries, reading rooms, newspapers, conversational meetings, discussions, and recreation such as fairs and music are mentioned to great extent. Holidays and church were important aspects of a Granger's life. Children were recommended to be welcomed and both young and old were expected to work together.

There are even some hints for the household and that the farm home should be peaceful and happy. Grosh stressed the importance of women throughout the book.

Pomona Lecturers

Bus Trip

NYS GRANGE NEWPORT LIFESTYLES

Rhode Island

May 31-June 3, 2011

Tuesday May 31

7:30am Depart Syracuse
(location TBA)

8:30am Depart Rome-
Staples, Erie Boulevard -
break stop

11:00am Depart Albany
(location TBA)- break stop
for lunch on own

Travel to the Ocean State of Rhode Island for a springtime visit to Newport, the sailing capital of America. Check in to the Best Western Mainstay Inn (151 Admiral Kalbfus Road Newport 401 849-9880) This will be our home for three nights. The hotel, located less than a mile from historic downtown Newport, features an outdoor pool, restaurant, lounge and many other amenities, and is located across the Street from the Newport Grand Casino. A fabulous dinner is included at one of Newport's historic, Victorian landmark restaurants. Pre-Select Baked Scrod, Prime Rib or Baked Chicken Breast
After dinner there is time for an optional walk along the Cliff Walk.

Wednesday, June 1

Deluxe continental breakfast included at the hotel. Meet a local guide for a tour of Newport scenic highlights, including a tour inside one of Newport's most elegant mansions. Travel along the spectacular Ten Mile Ocean Drive and Bellevue Avenue mansion area. Hear stories of the 'gilded age' when society's

millionaires competed to build their summer "cottages" -cottages that ranged in size from 40-70 rooms! Stop and take a self-guided audio tour of the most impressive of these estates, The Breakers, built by Cornelius Vanderbilt. Take some time to explore the Brick Marketplace along the waterfront where you'll find many shops, art galleries and restaurants for lunch on own.

This afternoon, see how the other half lived as you take a special "Behind the scenes" tour of the elegant Elms Mansion. On this unique tour, see the "back stairs" of this French-style chateau built in 1901 for a Philadelphia coal magnate, where more than 40 men and women worked and slept. Marvel at the advanced technology of the period; one of the first Newport houses to be fully electrified. Then climb the stairs to the third floor staff quarters where you'll photograph and hear detailed histories of several of the men and women who serviced the house in its heyday. Wind up your tour by stepping out onto the roof that served as the staffs porch, and up onto the viewing platform where you'll get a spectacular view of Newport harbor. Dinner included tonight at an upscale beachfront restaurant in Newport. Take a stroll along the beach after dinner if you'd like.

Thursday June 2

Deluxe continental breakfast included at hotel. Take a narrated one hour Newport harbor cruise on Narragansett Bay. Sail under the Newport Bridge, past Rose Island, Fort Adams and some of the famous mansions. Then you'll be treated to a hearty lunch buffet at the Newport Playhouse, followed by a theater performance of 'The Love List', a comedy by Norm Foster.

Before returning to the hotel, tour the National Museum of American Illustration, featuring works by famous illustrators such as

NC. Wyeth and Norman Rockwell, among others. The exhibits are housed in an ornate mansion, Vernon Court, built in 1898, and is surrounded by beautiful gardens.

Dinner on your own tonight at the hotel restaurant, or downtown Newport.

Option: Ghosts of Newport walking tour is available for an additional \$15.00 per person. A minimum of 20 people required. On this lantern-led evening stroll, discover the legends of this city-by-the-sea. Find out who haunts George Washington's Revolutionary War headquarters and why do people continue to hear a mysterious drum beats as they walk the bricks of Blood Alley?

Friday June 3

A deluxe continental breakfast is included before departure. Take a guided tour of the Touro Synagogue. This house of worship has the distinction of being the oldest synagogue in the United States and is also considered to be one of the most architecturally distinguished and historically significant buildings of 18th century America. Approximate return times are early evening in Albany, and 7 and 8pm in Rome and Syracuse.

**COST PER PERSON
TWIN OCCUPANCY
\$584.00**

**TRIPLE OCCUPANCY
\$574.00**

**QUAD OCCUPANCY
\$569.00**

**SINGLE OCCUPANCY
\$719.00**

**PAYMENT POLICY
A \$50.00 deposit is required
with reservation.**

Full payment by April 21.

**For reservations contact:
Kathleen Hughes, East
Floyd Road, Holland Patent,
NY 13354**

(315-865-8334) 8972

kathleenehughes@aol.com

State Lecturer



Sharon Croucher
2514 County Road 25
Clifton Springs, NY 14432
315-462-3067
E-mail croubr@fltg.net

State and National Grange Conventions are history and we are again in the midst of the Holiday Season. What a busy but happy time of the year! I want to thank all those who helped with the programs and display area at State Session. It was greatly appreciated. New York's Best of Show painting and photograph were admired by many in the display room at National Grange. Laura Kauppi represented New York very well at the Evening of Excellence.

The new Lecturer's projects for this year are heart disease and obesity. These topics offer many opportunities to provide educational programs for our members and for the general public. How about starting a "Grangers on the Go" walking or exercise group? I'll be excited to see what innovative programs are developed by our Grange Lecturers.

Now is the time to be taking those photographs and working on art and talent entries. Art and photo entries are due at State Grange headquarters by April 15th. The talent contest will be held April 30th. Photographers take note-National Lecturer, Pete Pomper, has announced that there will be a National Grange photography contest in 2011. Each state will be allowed to submit one entry. More details will be forthcoming.

I hope that submissions for the Pin-in-Hand writing project will increase this year. The writing may take any form-essay, poetry etc. This

year's topics are: "Building Better Communities with Love", "Alternative Energy" and "Grange: An Organization with a Past, but more of a Future".

Membership recruitment is every member's responsibility and Lecturers need to do their part. I challenge you to join with your Membership Team to hold outstanding programs and community events that will attract potential members. The Sally Benson Award recognizes an outstanding open meeting planned by the Lecturer.

There will be a mailing early in 2011 with report forms etc. If you have any questions, please contact me.

I wish for you a Merry Christmas surrounded by family and friends and a Happy New Year.



National Grange Launches E-Membership Program

(Washington, DC)—Ed Luttrell (Sandy, OR), president of the National Grange, announced at the 144th National Grange Convention held in Charlotte, NC, that the Grange has launched an E-Membership Program, which is open to the general public.

E-Membership is a new class of membership that informs members of legislative work from a non-partisan point of view as well as reports the latest achievements of the Grange.

E-Membership offers access to many of the quality financial benefits that Grange members have traditionally enjoyed for

years. It also offers the opportunity of being an important part of America's oldest family-based organization.

E-Members receive newsletters directly to their e-mail, stay in touch with what the National Grange is doing across the country, receive information on a variety of issues, including the bi-monthly "The New Grange," and the highly-respected monthly legislative newsletter "View from the Hill."

For more information, visit the website at <http://nationalgrange.org/civccrm/index.php>

New Grange Members

Albany Co.
Bethlehem #137
Joanne Margiasso
Sam Messina

Chenango Co.
Oxford #894
Joseph Hale
Sherburne #1400
Alfred Young

Genesee Co.
Corfu #142
Jeannie Lehtonen
Karl R. James
Penny James

Susan M. Schultz
Oakfield #813
Kim Mansfield
Toby Mansfield

Herkimer Co.
North Star #686
Nancy Difondi
Oneida Co.
Floyd #665

Harley Buczkowski
Onondaga Co.
Marcellus #464
Shelby Moore
Orange Co.
Balmville #982
Angela Hare
Terry Harrelson

Oswego Co.
Mt. Pleasant #349
Penny Kay Smart
Otsego Co.
Butternut Valley #1533

Katherine Bakhuizen
Nancy Bakhuizen
Jill Foerster
James Wing

Rensselaer Co.
Brunswick #1337
Heather Daigneault
Florence Strang
Austin Subcleff
Sharon Waters

Saratoga Co.
Corinth #823
Nick Companion

Schenectady Co.
Glenville #1531
William Fairchild
Tim Stannard
Daniel M. Testo

Patricia L. Testo
Glenridge #1544
Arlene Melkejohn
Steuben Co.
North Cameron #355

Kristen Stewart
Ulster Co.
Highland #888
Ron Kette
Patroon #1519
Louanne Maulsby
Arthur Ricks

Blue Print for Rural America 2010 Contains the Following:

- [Build a Solid Foundation of Prosperity for America's Family Farmers, Ranchers, and Foresters](#)
- [Respond to the National Financial Crisis Sweeping Across Rural America](#)
- [Expand Telecommunications Services in Rural Areas](#)
- [Achieve Energy Security for Rural America](#)
- [Improve the Quality and Availability of Rural Health Care](#)
- [Promote Practical and Effective Immigration Reform](#)
- [Support Transportation Improvements that Protect the Freedom of Mobility](#)
- [Strengthen Civic Participation in Our Society](#)
- [Enhance Public Safety and Homeland Security in Rural Areas Improve the Quality of Rural Education](#)

Priority Issues of Concern to Rural Americans and our Nation's

Family Farmers, Ranchers, and Foresters in the Year 2010

Calendar of Dates 2010

January 1 - Junior Grange Annual Dues & Donation Report to State Secretary
 January 7 - 9 - Northeast Leaders' Conference, Latham Holiday Inn Express (north of Albany)
 January 14 - 16 - Youth Winter Weekend, Bethlehem Grange, Albany County
 January 21 - 22 - Executive Committee beginning 1 p.m. Friday
 February 26 - State Officers Penny Social, Oak Grove Grange, Dutchess County, 7 p.m.
 March 11 - 12 - Executive Committee beginning 1 p.m. Friday
 April - Grange Month (Choose any Week to Celebrate!)
 April 9 - Legislative Regional Meeting, Dutchess County
 April 15 - Art and Phot entries due at headquarters
 April 20 - FAC Crafts, Handiwork, Quilt Project, Needlework Entries due at Headquarters
 April 24 - State Dartball Tournament at Headquarters
 April 29 - May 1 - Youth Spring Weekend, Albright Grange, Cortland County
 April 30 - FAC/Lecturer's Conference including Talent Contest at Headquarters
 May 7 - Legislative Regional Conference, Lewis County
 May 31 - June 3 - Bus Trip to Newport, Rhode Island, Benefit: National Hosting Fund
 June 5 - State Bowling Tournament, Cort-Lanes, Cortland
 June 30 - Junior Grange Membership Report due to State Secretary
 July 8 - 10 - Northeast Youth Conference, Maine
 July 10 - State Golf Tournament
 August 1 - 4 - Northeast Lecturer's Conference, Bridgewater College, Massachusetts
 September 1 - Community Service Reports and Scrapbooks due to Debbie Vail, Director
 September 3 - Grange Day at New York State Fair
 September 15 - Lecturer's reports, Pen-in-Hand, Sally Benson Award applications due to State Lecturer
 September 15 - Membership/Leadership Essay Contest & Annual Report for Community & Junior Granges due to Al & Vinni Kirmss, Directors
 September 15 - Robert A. Earlandt Memorial Award Application to State Youth Director
 September 24 - State Legislative Day at Headquarters
 October 1 - Degree Day, Freedom Plains Grange Hall, Dutchess County, 2 p.m.
 October 21 - 25 - 139th Annual New York State Session, Hudson Valley Resort and Spa
 October 21 - Junior Grange Craft Projects and Lecturer's Symbol Craft are due at State Session
 October 22 - Frosted Chocolate Cake Entries due at State Session
 October 22 - 6th Degree Conferral at State Session, 7:30 p.m.
 November 6 - 12 - 145th Annual National Grange Session in Tulsa, Oklahoma

Trees For Troops

The following is an article that Granges may find interesting. It seems a great way to support Grange ideals and a great community service opportunity.

Clifton Springs, NY – Clifton Springs Grange assisted with packaging and shipping of Trees for Troops at the Darling's Tree Farm. Growers from across the State and Nation are donating Real Christmas Trees as part of the nationwide Trees for Troops program, sponsored by Christmas Tree Farmers of New York, the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation and FedEx Corp.

This holiday season, Trees for Troops is expected to collect and deliver more than

16,500 Real Christmas Trees to military families across the United States, as well as to soldiers serving overseas.

"People appreciate the sacrifices military members and their families make each and every day," says Dick Moore, President of the National Christmas Tree Association and owner of Moore Tree Farm LLC in Groton, N.Y. "And, as Christmas Tree farmers, we want to provide a little Christmas spirit and maybe start a new tradition with military families to be able to experience a traditional Christmas with a Real Tree."

Since the program's inception in 2005, more than 800 Christmas Tree growers from across the United States have

generously continued to provide fresh-cut Christmas Trees to military families. To date, this program has touched the lives of more than 66,000 military families at more than 50 bases across the United States and overseas.

"Trees for Troops is a great program! It is a win-win-win situation for everyone involved," says Christmas SPIRIT Foundation chair Nigel Manley, a Christmas Tree grower in Bethlehem, N.H. "Christmas Tree growers love doing something for a cause, the military is appreciative of what they receive and FedEx makes it so easy for everyone involved."

The collection and delivery of trees will take place from the end of November through the beginning of December. Consumers may

make contributions to the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation at

www.ChristmasSPIRITFoundation.org.

More information is also available at

www.TreesforTroops.org.

Darling's Tree Farm has been participating in this endeavor since its inception. The Darlings are co-chairs for the distribution of trees from New York tree farmers, organizations and individuals. Over 1000 trees from across the state will be delivered to Ft. Drum in Watertown, West Point, Ft Story, VA, a Coast Guard unit in Cape May, NJ and various National Guard units across the state.

The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation, the 501(c)(3) charitable branch of the National Christmas Tree Association, advances the spirit of Christmas for kids, families and the environment. Trees for Troops® is among the Foundation's projects. For more information, please visit:

www.ChristmasSpiritFoundation.org.

The National Christmas Tree Association is a non-profit trade association made up of farmers and retailers who grow and sell Real Christmas Trees. The association provides information about the industry, as well as providing a zip code locator to help consumers find a farm or lot near them. The association was founded in 1955 and is headquartered in Chesterfield, Mo. For more information, please visit www.RealChristmasTrees.org.

FedEx Corp. provides customers and businesses worldwide with a broad portfolio of transportation, e-commerce and business services. Consistently ranked among the world's most admired and trusted employers, FedEx inspires its more than 290,000 employees and contractors to remain "absolutely, positively" focused on safety, the highest ethical and professional standards and the needs of their customers and communities.

State Grange



Ted Schwabrow installed as Executive Committee member of State Grange



Youth 5th degree team



(left) Roger Halbert receives top National Grange honor for community service. (right) Top three National Community Service Awards.



Dairy Princesses serve milk punch at State Session Banquet

(above) State Master receives a new hat and bow tie. "Really Colorful". (below) State Master with Ag Commissioner



Gerald Eastman Award winner Martha Woolley.



Make a Difference Day donations at State Session



Dryden Grange hosts a Meet The Candidates program on Oct 19 at the Dryden Fire Hall together with the Tompkins County League of Women Voters. Assembly woman/candidate Barbara Lifton is shown speaking to the group of around 50, with Assembly candidate Tom Reynolds shown seated in the rear.

National Grange



State Master receives the Distinguished State Grange Award at National Session



Delegates visited the Billy Graham center during the National Convention. (above) Home of the Graham Family where Billy grew up on the farm. (below) Animated talking cow that told delegates about Billy's childhood



Other Grange News



Clifton Springs Grange helped load "Trees For Troops" to go to Military Families at Fort Drum near Watertown