



Empire State Granger  
100 Grange Place  
Cortland, NY 13045

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## Master's Column



**Oliver Orton, Master**  
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One of the most important aspects of a student's life today is to obtain a good education in preparation for the future. Yes, I realize we are still in tough economic times today and many people, especially those who are recent graduates are having great difficulty in finding employment. It has been this way all throughout American history too! It seems that we are suffering an approximate

10% unemployment rate today, but can you imagine what must it have been like during the Great Depression years of the 1930's with almost a third of Americans unemployed. We Americans are a resilient people and as time slowly passed we overcame the many economic obstacles and our economy eventually did rise again.

Being a member of the Grange teaches us to have faith in God and nurture hope, as well as many other attributes to help make your life a success. Grangers throughout time have held steadfast to these values and traditions and that is why we have lasted well over 140 years as a rural family community organization. Just recently, I had several vouchers pass through my office for student requests for a loan from the NYS Grange Student Loan Fund. These students definitely have hope in the future as they continue to pursue an education for their future, no matter how bleak it might look today. They have Grange values and traditions in their hearts as they have not given up hope for their future.

In researching a history of our current Student Loan Fund, there have been many talented and dedicated individuals who felt that education should be a priority in a Grangers life so they volunteered their time to administer this fund. Historically, the Revolving Scholarship Fund, as it used to be called, was established by delegate action in 1923 and they began collecting funds for student loans. In 1925, a three person committee consisting of N.J. Gilmour (Onondaga Co.), E.J.

Walrath (Jefferson Co.), and Mildred G. Pratt (Oswego Co.) administered the fund through 1927. In 1927, prior to becoming State Secretary, Harold Stanley was appointed in charge and he continued in this post through his decades as State Secretary until he retired in 1974. From 1975 to 1979, Patricia Stedge (Onondaga Co.) was in charge and replaced by Joyce Church (Tompkins Co.) who administered from 1979 to 1998. In 1999, the Fund was coordinated by personnel at the State Headquarters in Cortland until 2009. In 2009, the current administrators, Daniel and Valerie Woolley assumed command. Here is a very worthy list of individuals who volunteered their time to make sure that loan money was available for Grange student use. We offer a special salute to all those who have served and if you wish any information on how this fund works, contact Dan & Val at 315-672-8082 or NYSG-SLF@twcnv.rr.com

## The Legislative Log



**Roger Halbert**  
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In the last edition of the **Empire State Granger** was listed New York State Grange's top legislative concerns for 2011. The recom-

mendations were made by the delegates at the annual meeting in October and the Executive Committee has determined a handful of issues that we believe are most essential to upstate New Yorkers in 2011. Now further action is needed... that's where each of you come into the picture!

Review the priorities as listed in the November/December issue of the **Empire State Granger**. Surely there is some topic that presents a special interest to you. Contact your Senator and Assembly Representative for the state issue you have selected or your U.S. Senator and House Member if it calls for action of Congress. Be sure to include reference that you are a Grange member, listing the name of the local Grange and the concern that you have. It can be simply stated, "As a member of \_\_\_\_\_ Grange, \_\_\_\_\_ County, I am concerned about \_\_\_\_\_.

Please sponsor or support legislation that would (oppose) or (support) (state the issue you wish to bring to their attention.) One last thing, please remember to PRINT your name legibly with your FULL ADDRESS so the elected official can return a reply to you. This can be easily accomplished on a postcard in about five minutes time!

Why not make the effort to alert your representatives on an issue that you feel is important? If you don't have a list of the priorities, you can go online at [www.nysgrange.org](http://www.nysgrange.org) and click on Legislative Issues. There is also a handy link to addresses for Senators and Assembly Reps. I would  
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#### Legislative

appreciate hearing from any of you who take the time to communicate a concern with an elected official... who was contacted and the issue you addressed. This will help me in my communication with them when I know that some of you have also asked for their action on some issue.

Please mark on your calendar the following dates if you live near Dutchess or Lewis Counties. There will be a regional legislative meeting on Saturday, April 9 in Dutchess County and May 7 in Lewis County. The places for both meetings will be determined very soon but the dates and times are confirmed, both starting at 9:30 a.m. with light refreshments and concluding around 12 noon. These are opportunities for Grange members to meet elected officials and to let them know that Grangers have rural upstate New York at heart and their time spent with us is worth their time.

I have already received the first resolutions for 2011! Good work! Remember that resolutions that start at the local Grange level are encouraged to then pass through the Pomona Grange so that another group of people review the concern and that the call for action is clearly stated. Nearer the September 1 deadline, when a Pomona Grange does not meet, a resolution from a Subordinate Grange will be accepted, but typically, only under these conditions. Remember that resolutions are to be signed by two Grange leaders and sent directly to my home office: P.O. Box 321, 83 Spring Street, Gilbertsville, New York 13776. They ARE NOT to be sent to Headquarters.

Here's to many good discussions on current issues and concerns that affect our families, children, schools, health care and state and local governments. The new 2011 Legislative Handbook will be

sent to Grange leaders by late January... giving all of the positions that have been adopted by New York State Grange during the last five years. Of course they are also available at the State Grange website noted above.

#### IT'S ONLY MY OPINION

By Roger J. Halbert, Legislative Director

The calendar has hardly been flipped to 2011 and already there is talk about the next significant elections and the forecasts for 2012.

Before hopping too far along, it would do us well... and those that represent us in Albany and in Washington, D.C... to reflect a few more moments on 2010 before it leaves our memory banks. Economic recovery was too slow. The oil gushed far too long in the Gulf. The health-care law was too complicated (and still a great mystery on many accounts by those who voted it into law and those who are to implement it!). The unemployment rate is too high. The tea party became an annoyance (but a necessary wake-up call). The war in Afghanistan continues on and Vice President Biden stated on December 19 in a Meet the Press interview "that the troops will be starting their exit in July 2011 and come hell or high water, our presence there will be wrapped up by 2014." This sounds great if you're among the first troops to leave, but if you're one of the last to break up camp, good luck...and there doesn't seem to be any plan evident on just how we are going to accomplish that. The 2010 political wheel has been mired in muck both in Albany and in D.C....and the American public is in a foul mood, no wonder!

The common "John and Jane Doe" are still scratching their heads in bewilderment... thinking such thoughts... "the system bailed out the banks and the auto companies, starting with Bush and continuing under

Obama, the stimulus monies were distributed to generate a great turn around, a new health care has been passed with the elected experts still claiming they don't understand exactly what was passed into law and even ones who have read the several thousands of pages on the new health care system plead ignorant and are full of confusion... all of this and John and Jane Doe are still in the same position... their house has no equity value, with a higher mortgage than the house is worth and they still cannot find a job.

Like no other decade in recent memory (if at all), those in their 40's to 70's have a deep feeling of pessimism that their children will not have it better than they enjoyed. In a Wall Street Journal poll taken between December 9-13 this past month, 54% of those who responded said "it was a very bad or the worst decade in recent history." (Those who lived between 1929 and 1939 may have a different take on this but the percentage of those participating in this poll stands).

It doesn't take a Harvard graduate to realize we had better start asking serious questions on what kind of tax credits businesses need to keep their business in this country. We need to make USA competitive with the world... we are not currently doing so.

This concern is compounded with the recent figures from the 2010 census released in December and the results are not good for New York State. New York will once again be losing two

congressional seats in the House of Representatives. This will reduce the New York delegation in the House to 27, the lowest since 1823. New York lost two congressional seats following the 2000 census. New York's growth rate of 2.19 percent is well below the national rate of 9.7 percent. So, why are people leaving the Empire State? If we know for certain why people are leaving, we can take steps to keep people here.

Again, no Harvard graduate needed... some things should be improved as soon as possible. New York has some of the highest taxes in the country. Local property taxes in the state grew by 73 percent from 1998 to 2008. These taxes discourage businesses from relocating to our state, and, of course it's hard to retain residents and workers when they have to pay exorbitant property taxes.

Governor Andrew Cuomo has promised to give immediate attention to the property tax crisis. Cuomo and the Legislature need to work diligently to make us more business-friendly, which includes lowering our electricity rates. New York's rates are among the worst in the nation, making it more difficult to run a business here.

As if those factors weren't bad enough, add harsh, cold winters and an aging population. Many people relocate to Florida or some other warm place after they retire, leaving fewer numbers to pay New York's tab.

There's not much we can do about the weather, but

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Legislative

these other issues should be tackled head-on as soon as possible. New York State is in a mess! We were once considered among the best... we can't wait around much longer. Hopefully the flip flop of the Senate in New York State and the House in our nation's capitol has sufficiently awakened the giants that lead us and influence what happens in our lives. We want action, no more lip service!

We have a shift in New York State government and now a significant shake-up in our nation's House of Representatives. No incumbent President has been re-elected to a second term since F.D.R. when the unemployment rate has exceeded 8 percent. We have been hovering around 10 percent the past few months. Obama and the new Congress need to focus...and quickly... on our nation's economic woes. As I see it, our elected officials have less than two years to start getting us on the right track so our children and grandchildren WILL have it better than we ourselves have enjoyed.

**Hey, it's only my opinion!**

## Historian

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Lyons, NY 14489  
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### DID YOU KNOW...

That the first mention of a Grange historian is in 1923. John S. Bartwell of Allegany Co. was the first followed by Sherman Lowell of Chautauqua in 1924. Leonard Allen began his tenure in 1925 and continued until Elizabeth L. Arthur took over in 1934. L. Ray Alexander was historian in 1973 and several others have served since his tenure. I need to research the years for Arthur and Alexander as well as all the others.

I found the above information while looking up something else. Here are a few more tidbits that I found interesting:

In 1904 a new plan of electing State Grange officers was devised by a special committee. Harlan P. Dunlap of Jefferson County was the chair of this committee. This was during Master Norris' tenure.

The Grange building at the NY State Fair was used for the first time in 1909.

1940 was the first time delegates had access to printed resolutions during state session. The delegates in 1939 approved that action.

The pledge to the flag after the altar presentation was authorized in 1951.

I found these items while hunting for information on some Chautauqua County Granges for a man who was working on his genealogy. All of the information is from the 100 year History New York State Grange 1873 - 1973 by L. Ray Alexander.

When I gave my annual report at our state meeting in October I made a suggestion about picture and photographs. Many halls have photographs hanging on the walls. Many times there is no information with the picture. If an interested person in each Grange would take it upon themselves to identify the people and the event, what a lot of history would be preserved. At our Grange museum we receive pictures with no information. They are really useless. Get that information down before there is no one who recognizes or remembers these events that were important enough to be recorded.

One of the nicest pictures is in my own Grange, Eureka. We have all of the men and women who served in the armed forces during WWII in individual photos within a large frame and they are all identified. One of our members asked about it at our first meeting in November. It

provided part of the lecturer's program that night!

## Penny Social

### Fundraiser for National Grange Convention

Have some fun, win some prizes and help bring the National Grange to our region

"Have you been closed up for winter long enough? Do you have "cabin fever" and just need to get out of the house? Well, the following is the best opportunity to both get away from your "cabin fever" and support the New York State Grange as well.

In our continuing efforts to fund raise for the National Hosting Fund, rather than having to consider any type of dues increase, we are holding a benefit "Cabin Fever" Penny Social in the Hudson Valley.

Sponsored by the State Grange Officers and Directors, our Penny Social will be held on Saturday, February 26, 2011, at the Oak Grove Grange Hall. Admission will be \$2 and we will give you 200 penny tickets to bid with. You are also free to buy as many other penny tickets as you may need. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. so you can place your bids and the calling will be at 7 p.m. Prizes available will be large gift baskets, homemade baked goods, special gift certificates, and many other prizes. Light refreshments will also be available as well as coffee and cold drinks.

Oak Grove Grange is located in Wappingers Falls, New York, at the intersection of New Hackensack Road and St. Nicholas Road directly across from the Dutchess County Airport. Our bad weather date will be Sunday, February 27th beginning at 2 p.m. For any kind of information, please call me at (845) 868-7869 or e-mail me at ksorton@juno.com."

## Cable and Phone problems

It has been reported to the New York State Grange that in some isolated rural areas of Dutchess County, the telephone company Verizon is refusing to install new replacement lines for both telephone and cable as it is too costly for them. Some areas went without both telephone and internet service for as much as six days. Residents kept calling and complaining until something was finally done. The New York State Grange wants to know if any Grangers are aware of this happening in other rural areas of New York State serviced by Verizon. Please call, e-mail, or fax the New York State Grange Headquarters in care of Oliver J. Orton, Master/President with any information you may have. Phone: (607) 756-7553; Fax: (607) 756-7757  
E-mail: nysgrange@nysgrange.org

## Use the Grange Trademark

If you are using the Grange emblem or the word Grange in a title of your advertising, you can assist in protecting the trademark by using the trademark symbol TM

This symbol should be near the word or emblem to let everyone know that these are trademarks of the Grange.

The Grange has expended nearly \$1,000,000 over the past few years to protect the name of the Grange. Please do your part!



## LEADERSHIP and MEMBERSHIP



Vinnie and Al Kirmss  
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Well another year has come to an end as stated by the calendar, by our having to return home after spending most of the last six months in North Carolina helping take care of our new twin granddaughters, and by State and National sessions being completed. We are set to flip the calendar to 2011, return to our "normal" lives and begin to pick up Grange duties. We are ready to start a new year. Are you and your Grange? Now is a very good time to take a look at what our Grange has done and is doing. What your Grange has accomplished in 2010 and what would it like to accomplish in 2011. We make New Year's resolutions in our personal lives why not in our Grange lives?

As Membership/Leadship Directors we are often asked "What can my Grange do to get more members?" The only real answer we can give is "We cannot tell you what to do but can help you find an answer." The answer is different for each Grange. Each Grange has a different list of members, a different physical meeting and activity place and a different Community.

Therefore the first and most important part of increasing membership is to evaluate your membership. What is it capable of doing – physically, emotionally, and financially? This is important because if you try something that for some reason you

really are not able to complete and you realize this from the start you set yourselves up for defeat and disappointment. Take the time to really look at your situation and the list of tasks that you want to do. Pick the ones that you know your membership will be able to complete, will feel good about and will gain some community recognition.

The next thing to look at is your community. Every Grange has a community. It may not be a named community such as our Grange has – Ravena Grange (Albany Co.) in Coeymans Hollow NY. We have a stated community Ravena and Coeymans Hollow. However your community may be an unstated Community such as Hiawatha Grange (also in Albany Co). There is no community named Hiawatha in Albany Co. so their community is the Westerlo/Greenville area of Albany. Every Grange's membership comes from some community and that is the community that Grange serves. This is the Community that your Grange must evaluate to find a need that your Grange can fill. In looking at the need your Grange should also consider other people and organizations that may be able to help the Grange in filling this need.

This brings up another point, membership growth is not just the job of the membership/leadership chairman and committee. It is the function of all members. Finding a need of the community and how to fill this need should involve the family activities committee, the community service committee, the youth committee and the Junior Grangers. In other words all committees and all Grangers should be involved.

If you look at the 2010 - 2011 Handbook you will see how the Directors tried to put together a set of recommendations for projects that involve all committees. The beginning of a new year may be a good time to take an-

other look at the handbook. There is a lot of valuable information there. It may be a valuable move to have a special meeting of all the committees to start this process of evaluation. Have a brainstorming session to determine some projects to present to the Grange as a whole.

Remember while doing this process that when Granges demonstrate a positive attitude, stay active in the community, and fulfill the needs of its members, the stage is set for Grange ambassadors to become successful recruiters. As a Grange ambassador, you are vital to your Grange's success by doing the little things that make a big difference in a growing Grange. The focus of any recruiting effort should be to attract active members rather than just looking for numbers. The more your Grange is doing to meet the needs of your membership and your community, the easier it becomes to attract new members to participate in your Grange. We commend you for taking a leadership role in the future of your Grange. With patience and dedication, these simple steps outlined here will aid you in becoming a successful Grange recruiter by being a Grange ambassador to your community.

*The Grange is a family fraternal, community service organization with roots in agriculture. We develop personal leadership skills in our members and strengthen our communities through local involvement. Faith, family, patriotism and activism are the foundation of our values.*

### **We are America's Family Fraternity! WE ARE THE PLACE TO GROW!**

We have a lot to be proud of and a lot of good things to sell. We are not a secret; let's get everyone to know the Grange. We are always available to help any Grange that

wants to improve its image in the community and sell itself to get new members. You can always contact us at:

avkirmss@aol.com or  
518-756-8721.

**TO ALL A VERY HAPPY  
NEW YEAR BOTH IN  
YOUR OWN LIVES AND  
YOUR GRANGE LIVES!**

## **Youth**

Julia Masti  
Youth Director  
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mastifarm@aol.com

The spring youth weekend will take place on April 29, 2011 through May 1, 2011. The weekend will be held at the Veteran Grange in Chemung County. We will have the speech, sign-a-song and talent contests. The entries for the speech competition must be called in by April 15 to 607-661-0647 or 607-776-3625. The youth will also have a dartball team for the tournament on Sunday, May 1, 2011

More details to come in early spring.

## **Chaplain's Corner**

Martha Woolley, Chaplain  
New York State Grange  
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Forestville, NY 14062  
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mcfwoolamb@froggernet.net

As we contemplate a new year of days on our 2011 calendars, we have probably indicated dates, places, and times that we anticipate attending. There may be times that something unexpected happens that changes our plans. No matter what it is, we can be assured that God is with us. "This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it." Perhaps a phone call, letter, or a visit from a friend will be a special blessing that the day may bring - or we could even be that blessing to someone else. We are

*(Continued on page 6)*

# New Grange Members

## *E-Memberships Now Available*

### What is E-Membership?

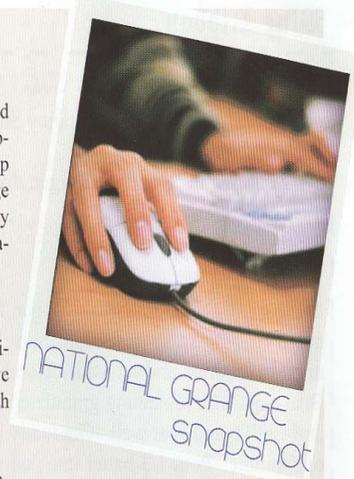
E-Membership is a new class of membership that keeps you informed of legislative work from a non-partisan point of view as well as keeping you up with the latest achievements of the Grange. E-Membership gives you access to many of the quality financial benefits that Grange members have traditionally enjoyed. It also gives you the opportunity of being an important part of America's oldest family based organization.

### What benefits will you receive?

You will receive newsletters directly to your email, such as the bi-monthly "The New Grange" as well as the highly respected legislative newsletter, "View from the Hill". Both publications are filled with information about the Grange and its contributions to America.

Registered E-members will have access to a number of Grange benefits, such as discounts on car rentals, hotel accommodations, prescription drug coverage and so much more.

Sign up today for a one year membership for the low price of \$12 by signing up through the National Grange website at: [www.nationalgrange.org](http://www.nationalgrange.org)



# Calendar of Dates, 2011

- 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

- Chemung Co.**  
Veteran #1108  
Karen Durfey
- Chenango Co.**  
Smithville #1397  
Ellen Palmer
- Dutchess Co.**  
Stone Church #1561  
Yvonne Witschard
- Franklin Co.**  
Malone #959  
Roy Atkinson  
Alyssa Lucia
- Orange Co.**  
Hamptonburgh #950  
Richard Rasmussen
- Otisville #1020**  
Anita Goldsmith  
Charles Krogslund
- Oswego Co.**  
Richard #993  
Cheryl Olin
- Otsego Co.**  
Hinman Hollow #1331  
Louise B. Lauria  
Rocco J. Lauria  
Robin Phillips
- Springfield # 1253**  
Brenda Collinson
- Schoharie Co.**  
Breakabeen #767  
Deveral Watson
- Wayne Co.**  
Clyde #33  
Gerald Fremoun  
Jane Roberts  
Jean Roberts  
Rebecca S. Wright
- Wvoming Co.**  
Curries #1273  
Virginia Blom  
Chris Bogue  
Ashlie Dabolt  
Judy Chapman  
Carol Gilbert  
Kayla Gilbert  
Glenn Gunner  
Patricia Gunner  
Linda Haley  
Corinna Herring  
Susan Kozlowski  
Nancy E. Lemke  
Diana Lewis  
Bonita Linhardt  
Barbara Lowe  
Donna Lyon  
Claudia J. McLaughlin  
Kathy Roberts  
Mary Lyons

## State Grange Secretary



NYS Grange Secretary  
Virginia Conner  
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NY 13045  
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Virginia@nysgrange.org

REMINDER to all Granges who have not sent in your Bonding Insurance payment -- please do so soon! Thank you to the Granges who were on time with your bonding payment.

There are six Community Granges who are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011. Those Granges will be receiving a letter from me soon asking for your date of celebration.

The Executive Committee has voted to continue the New/Reinstated Member Incentive Award Program for 2010-2011. Which Grange will take in the most new members? It can be your Grange that I send a check to for \$10.00 for each new/reinstated member!

My vacation dates to be away from the office are February 6 – March 30, 2011. Closing Thought: Positive thinking is still free!

## Community Involvement



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

I hope everyone has had a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Now is the time to start planning your year of Community Service

and Involvement. Let's think of what we do differently this year or what changes might make our current projects even better. Have you thought about how you can bring in new members from you community events? We need to honk our horns as we did on New Years to tell our communities we are here and we would like you to join our family's fun and work.

It time to remind our younger members that now is their time to shine and help change the community in way we haven't thought of before. Don't forget to invite the press to all our events, offer them a free meal at your next event. You might find this may be the key to the future in getting them back again for good press coverage.

While we were packing up in Watertown this fall I left my BIG coffee cup under the table where we collected the food we donated. If any one has it or knows where it is please let me know. In advance thank you.

Once again all reports need to be to me on or before September 1, 2011. Even if you're not able to do a scrap book please at least fill out the report. Remember we would like to see 100% from each county. Many counties did not participate at all; PLEASE try this year. Lets see the numbers go up not down in the reports sent in.

If anyone would like help or a workshop on Community Service/ Involvement please contact me and we will set something up.

Once again thank you for all you hours of hard work.

## Sports



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The sports department had

as part of its program a commitment to contribute to the special Olympics. Each sport added a small amount to the fees to make contributions. The following is a letter of thanks from Special Olympics.

*Letter to all Grangers who donated to the Special Olympics program through New York State Grange Sports Department:*

*Thank you for the support of the New York State Grange. We will use the funds raised by your members to support events for our athletes right here in New York State. The friendship and support of the Grange members is so important because we never charge our athletes or their caregivers for any of the training or competitions we provide. Please express our gratitude and appreciation to all who helped with this effort.*

*Regards, (s) Neal J. Johnson,  
President & CEO of Special Olympics New York*

## Family Activities



Brenda Noble  
7973 Telephone Road  
LeRoy, NY 14482

The crafts and handiwork contest is due to Cortland by April 20, 2011. The quilts this year are baby size. Changes for the Big E include: the wall hanging will have size limits no smaller than 18" x 18" and no bigger than 45" x 45"; the afghans are to be no smaller than a twin size. Youth are encouraged to enter the Big E contests as well. They will be judged separately from the Subordinates.

The corrected form for the Chocolate Cake contest was sent with the report forms for

2010. There will be Regular and Diabetic categories, so each county could have an entry for each one.

The cookbook for the Northeast on Soups, Salads, and Appetizers is still being put together and will be reviewed. When the book becomes available I will let everyone know. New York's cookbook is still available at Headquarters for \$5.00.

*(Continued from page 4)*

*Chaplain*  
mindful of those who have traveled this earthly path before us and have received their "Well done, good and faithful servant." May we also be mindful of those who are adjusting to the loss of loved ones -finding ways to help and comfort them. "You do not know what a day may bring." Proverbs 27:1

## Scholarship Deadline

- DeNise Agriculture Scholarship is available to Grange, FFA and 4H members in an agriculture related field
- The June Gill Nursing Scholarship - for Grangers pursuing a career in nursing
- The Caroline Kark Award for Grangers interested in a career in working with deaf or hearing impaired people
- Susan Freestone Award- for Junior Grangers seeking higher education in New York State
- Grange Student Loan Fund- for Grange members as college financial aid. Low interest loans.
- P.A.C.C. (Patrons Agricultural and Consumers Cooperative) for children and grandchildren of PACC members. Grange membership is also considered.
- Cornell Grange Scholarship Applications for all awards are available from the New York State Grange Headquarters.

**Application Deadline is April 15**

## State Lecturer



Sharon Croucher  
2514 County Road 25  
Clifton Springs, NY 14432  
315-462-3067  
E-mail [croubr@fltg.net](mailto:croubr@fltg.net)

We just returned home from a very successful Northeast Leaders Conference in Latham, NY. It was great to see New York well represented. The opportunity to talk and share with Grangers from many states expands our thoughts and ideas.

The State Lecturers met to begin planning the Northeast Lecturers Conference which will be held August 1-4 at Bridgewater University in Bridgewater, MA. There will be a program presented by each state as well as a workshop by each state lecturer. We also expect the National Grange Lecturer, Pete Pomper, to attend. The general theme is **"Season it..."**. New York's program title is **"Savory"**. I'm collecting any information I can find about the herb or any other meaning of the word savory. I would appreciate anything you might like to share. We will need program participants so plan now to attend the conference.

During the Lecturer's workshop, we brainstormed two topics—"What Program have you always wanted to present but were afraid to try?" and "How can the Lecturer's department work with the membership team to grow the Grange?". My hope is that Lecturers will expand the concept of their role in having a thriving Grange.

We all have our "tried and true" program ideas that seem to work well in our Granges. They are things that our members enjoy and expect. These are important and I am not suggesting that they be

eliminated. What I am suggesting is a "tried, true and **NEW**" philosophy. You might choose to introduce one new element to each program or to periodically present a completely different type of program. How do your members respond? How might this affect membership recruitment?

I am working on a mailing that will be sent to all lecturers soon. If you are a lecturer and have not received the mailing by mid-February, please let me know.

***"Some people complain that God put thorns on roses while other praise Him for roses on thorns" Anon***

Try to keep sight of the roses as you work through the thorny challenges of growing this great organization.

## Ideas for You Tube

During the Communication workshop a suggestion was brought forward that Grange might get a great deal of "Great Publicity" if we were to post a video on "You Tube" an internet publishing site. It would be something that would be so interesting that people seeing it would want to forward the video to all of their friends. It would need to show Grange in a very positive way so that people would think of Grange as a modern, involved organization with high values. Values, family orientation and community involvement are the cornerstones of Grange.

Please submit your ideas for a video, short (about 5 minutes) to the Publication Director, Bruce Croucher, E-mail [croubr@fltg.net](mailto:croubr@fltg.net).

We will discuss the submissions with the State Master and Executive Committee and perhaps we can join others in this exciting internet media. National Grange currently posts videos.

# 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 hundred-weight (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 make 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 Environmental Management Program (AEM).

### Education

\* Supports a true "wealth 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 sets 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 passed 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.

## Submissions for Empire State Granger

We are very interested in publishing positive articles about Granges. If you have an event or participate in a Community Service, please submit an article. Include original pictures, (not copies from a newspaper). Typewritten or electronic submissions are preferred (no FAX). Send To: Bruce Croucher, 2514 County Road 25, Clifton Springs, NY 14432 or E-Mail to [croubr@fltg.net](mailto:croubr@fltg.net)



Above: Example of an Historic Theater Scenery Curtain from Elizabethtown and Lewis NY. See article below. Your Grange may have one or more of these scenic historic paintings. Please check.

**New Search for Historic Theater Scenery in New York**

A search for historic painted scenery is now underway in the northern half of New York. These local treasures were created between 1890 and about 1940, the heyday of vaudeville and variety shows. They are still to be found in town halls, grange halls, opera houses and community theaters, even though they are rarely used for theatrical performances today. They often contain richly painted romantic scenes with country or street scenes. They are usually “roll drops” on wooden or metal rollers and they sometimes feature advertisements for local businesses such as dairies, piano movers, car dealers and beauty parlors. With the arrival of movies and then television, the use of town halls and grange halls as cultural centers declined, and after WWII, the tradition of creating painted roll drops simply disappeared. However, much of the historic scenery remains either on stage or in storage, sometimes in good condition but more often neglected, torn and very dirty.

Curtains Without Borders is a conservation team that has stabilized all 185 historic painted theater curtains in Vermont. In 2009, we surveyed New Hampshire where we documented over 130 pieces of historic scenery and in 2010 we began a survey for the state of Maine. In New York, we are concentrating on the northern half of the state, where scenic studios from Troy and Buffalo produced roll drops all over New England. At [www.curtainswithoutborders.org](http://www.curtainswithoutborders.org) you can find photographs and information about many of these local treasures.

The goal of this project is to locate and document as many pieces as possible. Eventually, Curtains Without Borders intends to do a national search, along with research about artists and scenic studios. We also want to encourage people to care for these huge treasures, whether they simply wrap them in Tyvek to protect them from dirt and mice, or whether they decide to restore them for public display. Funding for the New York survey has been provided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Bay and Paul Foundations of New York. Another partner in this effort to locate and document New York’s historic scenery is the New York State Grange.

We need your help! For more information and to contribute any information, please call Christine Hadsel at 802-598-5867 or email: [curtainswithoutborders@gmail.com](mailto:curtainswithoutborders@gmail.com).

# Northeast Leaders Conference

Latham NY, January 7, 8, 9, 2011. Leaders from across the Northeast gathered at the Holiday Inn Express Conference Center in Latham for the annual regional conference.



Roger Halbert and Patrick Hooker, Commissioner of Agriculture, NY Future of Agriculture in Northeast

Oliver Orton, State Grange Master of New York welcomed everyone to the conference. It was a very snowy day and several found the trip interesting to say the least. The following State Masters introduced members from their respective states that were attending: Jim Owens, ME; Errol Briggs, VT; Jim Tetreault, NH; Steve Logan, RI and Jodi Cameron,

CT.; Cal Chase, MA. Debbie Vail, conference coordinator introduce those from NY.

National Grange Master, Ed Luttrell introduce Barbara Jones, Communications Director of the National Grange, who was present to assist in the communications workshops. He also introduced the newly appointed National Junior Director Diane Szkutak from Massachusetts.



NY State Grange Lecturer, Sharon Croucher conducting a workshop.



Communication, Public Relations workshop attendees.

Workshops were presented for Lecturers, Masters, Legislative Directors, Communication Directors, Membership Directors, Youth and Junior Directors, Community Service Directors and Family Activity Directors. In addition there were breakout sessions where plans were made for several activities in the region, including the Northeast Lecturers Conference, The Big E and the Go To Church Sunday service.

One of the highlights of the weekend was a presentation by Patrick Hooker, NY Commissioner of Agriculture and Phil Prelli, CT Commissioner of Agriculture. Both are Grange members in their respective states. The Theme was “The Future of Agriculture in the Northeast”. Dairy and Specialty Crops were major concerns in the upcoming Farm Bill. Both commissioners were very pleased with the non-partisan cooperation of all of the regional commissioners, including PA and NJ.

National Master, Ed Luttrell presented a workshop entitled “Grange Teamwork, Solving The Puzzle”. Some of the ideas presented were: Teamwork is a coordinated group with a shared purpose; Teamwork creates the power of unity and provides a shared reward; Leaders are responsible for team building; Teams need a variety of talents, interests and skills; Discipline and focus are needed for success; Communication is vital for success; Collecting and sharing information is valuable; Long term growth is essential and Developing new leaders is rewarding.