



Empire State Granger
100 Grange Place
Cortland, NY 13045

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Master's Column



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Franklin County Pomona Grange Degree Day

A special Degree Day, sponsored by Franklin County Pomona Grange, will be held at the Malone Grange Hall, Malone, NY on Saturday, June 11, 2011. All first five Degrees of the Order will be conferred with tableaux. The time schedule will be:
2:30 p.m. - Opening the Grange in the 4th Degree
3:00 p.m. - Conferral of the 1st & 2nd Degrees

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4:30 p.m. - Conferral of the 3rd & 4th Degrees
6:15 p.m. - Covered Dish (Carry In) Supper
7:15 p.m. - Opening of the Grange in the 5th Degree and conferral of that Degree. Members of Franklin County Pomona Grange will be assisted by State officers and NYS Grange youth members in the conferral of the first four degrees and the 5th Degree will be conferred by the State Youth 5th Degree Team, which has members from all over the state. This is the same 5th Degree team who confers this degree at State Session annually.

Granges from any county are welcomed to bring both new candidates for initiation and any current members who have been just obligated. This will give all a chance to witness the degree conferrals in full form with tableaux. We in particular hope that candidates will be present from Franklin, St. Lawrence & Essex Counties.

Every family attending is asked to bring a special dish of your choice to share. Plastic table service, paper plates and hot & cold beverages will be provided.

For those Granges who have first time candidates for these five degrees, you should come provided with roses (real or plastic) to present to your lady candidates during the 2nd Degree. At the end of the 4th Degree, either a Grange Declaration of Purpose or a new folder called The Grange and You as well as a Welcome to the Grange certificate should be presented to each new member. Should your Grange wish, a 4th Degree and/or 5th De-

(Continued on page 2)

The Legislative Log



Roger Halbert
Legislative Director
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The first of the 2011 Regional Legislative Conferences was held at Oak Grove Grange in Dutchess County in early April. To an audience of thirty from Columbia, Dutchess, Orange and Sullivan counties, the legislators shared with us some definite thoughts about the recent passage of the state budget and other issues facing the legislature. We thank Oak Grove Grange for their hospitality which included a luncheon before everyone was homeward bound.

At the Dutchess County meeting, one challenge was thoughtfully proposed by Assemblyman Marcus Molinaro. He made reference to the many fine priorities of the New York State Grange in 2011. Especially interested in our long-standing position of "mandate relief," Mr. Molinaro commented at length on his recent appointment by Governor Cuomo to the Mandate Relief Redesign Team. The need to dramatically overhaul the state-mandate structure cannot be overstated. Our economic downturn and budget crisis have led to a severe reduction in revenues, requiring all of us to do more, with less. As has

too often been the practice, some in Albany believe our fiscal emergency justifies the shifting of costs to local units of government. In addition, public and legislative support for a property-tax cap has many local officials concerned with their ability to deliver programs mandated by Albany, provide their own core services and keep the lid on taxes.

Assemblyman Molinaro overwhelmed us when he said the Mandate Relief Redesign Team has compiled 6,000 pages of mandate relief areas under consideration... and more pages or issues will be added while their study and work continues. Here is the challenge to New York State Grange: While supporting mandate relief, to be truly effective and helpful to such bodies as the Mandate Relief Redesign Team, we must be specific in the areas in which we are most passionate. Standing Co-Chairs, here is an opportunity to review your areas of current Grange policy and see where specific issues can be listed with brief descriptions of the mandate relief we propose. There will most likely be some issues that are not currently addressed that maybe can generate a resolution from your local and/or Pomona Grange. This will strengthen our position in getting actual mandate relief enacted.

When you receive this edition of the Empire State Granger, we hopefully will have had a successful Regional Legislative Conference at Adirondack Grange, Lewis County on May 7.

Please keep in mind the resolutions for action by NYS
(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Master

gree pin may be presented to new members as well. Except for the roses, State Secretary Virginia Conner has all these Grange supplies on hand. Contact her at 607-756-7553 or virginia@nysgrange.org or 100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY 13045. Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to get your order by June 11th.

To make sure there is enough food for supper, please contact Franklin Co. Pomona Master Georgianna Boyea with your intentions about the carry in supper and possible number of Grangers planning to attend: She may be reached at 518-483-6712 or georgianna0424@aol.com or 35 College Ave., Malone, NY 12953.

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Legislative

Grange are encouraged to proceed through the route of Pomona Grange, so the issue can be re-looked at by a broader group of members and/or refined if necessary. Resolutions are to be post-marked no later than September 1. If we ever get to the point of distributing the pre-convention packet of resolutions for consideration electronically, we probably could consider a later cut-off date in September and still have them in the hands of the Delegate-at-Large by October 1 as the By-Laws require. Our current practice is to distribute them at Legislative Day... this year, that is September 24, so save the date and plan to join us for an educational day.

IT'S ONLY MY OPINION

By Roger J. Halbert,
Legislative Director

The issue will be back again, trust me. And New York State Grange has no position on it...and maybe we shouldn't, similar to the sensitivity about abortion as it is difficult to legislate morality. Interpretation and personal

feelings will always come to the surface and cloud our objectivity when it comes to supporting or passing legislation on such a subject. We're talking about same-sex marriage. Some are saying at this point "I really don't need to read this" while others are saying "Let's see what he's going to say about this one!" So here goes...

First, I have no stakes in the game if such a bill goes down again in our State Legislature and likewise, I personally gain nothing if such a bill becomes law in New York State.

Having said that, let us look at some statistics. If you can believe half of what you hear, read or see in the various forms of mass media, recent polls show that a majority of New Yorkers support marriage equality. Reports indicate that the Governor and the democratic-controlled Assembly favor passage of same sex marriage legislation in New York. According to a recent poll, conducted by the Legislative Gazette, of the 62 senators, 15 of them are undecided. Senators Catharine Young, Roy McDonald, Kemp Hannon and Kenneth LaValle had no comment. Senators George Maziarz and Stephen Saland did not respond after several attempts. With the exception of Mark Grisanti who was not in the Legislature at the time, each of these Republicans voted against the measure when it was last voted on in 2009.

It is not yet known whether the Assembly or the Governor will introduce a "same-sex marriage bill" but the eyes appear to be on Governor Cuomo to introduce a bill in this session which concludes in late June. While Senate Majority Leader, Dean Skelos has stated publicly that he would not prevent a vote on that bill if the conference agrees that it should come to the floor. Along with 19 other Republicans and a conservative Democrat

Senator Ruben Diaz, Skelos would vote against the bill if it comes to the floor. Senators Kenneth LaValle and Joseph Griffo have stated "I cannot give an opinion until there is a piece of legislation in front of me." Twenty-nine of the senators who previously voted "no" on the bill have returned to office this year with 16 saying they will vote "no" again. Freshman senators Lee Zeldin, Jack Martins, Patty Ritchie, Tom O'Mara and Patrick Gallivan have joined them, bringing the current tally of senators who would definitely vote "no" to 21. The tally then shows that at least 26 senators would vote "yes" and at least 21 would vote "no" if a bill allowing same-sex marriage in NYS was voted on right now (mid-April as I write this, with fifteen undecided).

At this point you're still without a clue as to my position. I have a cousin who has lived a gay life style all of his adult life, having the same partner for nearly forty years. We have a gay couple who live up the street from us and a few blocks over, a lesbian couple also live in our small village. We have very dear friends who are a gay couple, having lived together and been accepted by each other's families years ago. And you know what, there are gay and lesbian individuals and couples who are active workers and supporters in your church and in our Grange organization. Is my life threatened by any of them or do they cause me undue stress? No. Are they well meaning, hard-working, dedicated community members who show compassion for their

neighbors and friends? Yes.

My denomination is dealing with this issue right now and so is our Pastoral Nominating Committee (of which I chair) who is faced with the issue of our acceptance of a pastoral candidate who might be gay or lesbian. Before leaving the subject, there are Bible scholars on both sides of the fence that can give many examples of scripture that would support their argument. I believe that our committee is coming to the conclusion that it is a personal issue, that we are all struggling as we discern the Word of God and we all agree that we are learning to be tolerant of others as we live with each other in spite of our differences...that is a true believer in God.

We must remember that allowing "same-sex marriage" in New York State is not a gay rights issue... it is a human and civil rights issue of fairness and equality. Just as every heterosexual individual does not have deep yearnings to become intimate with any person of the opposite gender, the homosexual and lesbian, likewise, do not have these urges with every person s/he meets of the same gender. It goes far beyond the intimate lives of individuals. In our Grange meetings, we are proud to recite the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag (not done in most Grange states, but in New York State, it is) and we profess to support a flag that stands for "...justice for all." Individuals who have chosen a life partner of the same gender and live in a committed relationship should have the same spousal

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(Continued from page 2) **Only My Opinion**

rights of their heterosexual friends. It is time that New York State shows that the words "...justice for all" are not just said in rote, but are words in which we unconditionally believe and support.

Should we have Grange policy on "same-sex marriage in New York State?" Maybe not...maybe it is like my church that we will probably never totally agree on this complex issue, but we're learning how to live and respect each other's differences. Will our Governor and Legislators need to be more forthcoming on the subject? I believe they will and I, for one, believe we need to realize "same-sex marriage" is the only way to show true "... justice for all."

Hey, it's only my opinion!

State Lecturer



Sharon Croucher
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As I begin to write this column, I can see many signs of spring. The Canandaigua Lake Outlet rushes past with its muddy water overflowing all the way to the old stone barnyard wall. It is a ritual that repeats itself every year. Soon enough it will be a gentle sparkling stream again and John Reed will be planting corn where water stands today. The lawn is getting green and the daffodils are in bloom. Different birds have returned to the feeder and the barn swallows are trying to build next in our garage.

The earth is awakening one again. So too should there be a renewal of activity in our Granges. I hope there have been Grange Month celebrations going on across

the state. Let your community know about Grange. Now is the time to pull out the Grange plan for the year and the handbook to see what still needs to be accomplished.

Have you had a program that addressed the topic of obesity? You might plan a program that begins with a walk around the community. This would give members a chance to get some exercise and they might learn something new about the community. Perhaps the village parks department or a local landscaper would present a program that would lead to the Grange deciding to plant some flowers around the hall. The Grange would be building a better community by making its part of the community more attractive.

By the time you read this, the workshop day in Cortland will be over. Thank you to all who attended and to those who entered the contests. I will have the results of the Art, Photography and Talent Contest at the next writing. A special thank you to Jerry Batsford and crew for a great lunch and to my committee for all your help.

Information about the North East Lecturers Conference will be mailed in early May. The conference will be held August 1 – 4 at Bridgewater College in Massachusetts. I look forward to many New Yorkers in attendance to help with the program. There will be good workshops and lots of opportunities to meet and share with Grangers from all over the North East. Plan now to attend.

Support Junior Grange

State Grange Secretary



NYS Grange Secretary
Virginia Conner
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SPRING – where are you?? Let me send you directions to the Northeast!! Roger and I enjoyed our time in Florida and the Caribbean (his brother took us on a cruise). We returned to New York State rested and tanned but not ready for this cold weather!!

In my January column, I mentioned there are six Granges who are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year and I sent a letter to each. Those six Granges are: Pleasant Valley 1225, Washington Co; Shushan 1233, Washington Co; Belmont 1243, Allegany Co; Inavale 1248, Allegany Co; Baldwinville 1251, Onondaga Co and Mellenville 1255, Columbia County. However, as of April 20th I have not heard from any of these Granges. Are you not going to celebrate this significant milestone of your Grange? What an opportunity this is to make your community aware of the Grange's presence and the community services that have been given by your Grange for 100 years! I hope to hear from each of you soon.

It is encouraging to see new members listed on the quarterly reports. Keep up the good work by reaching out to your community citizens.

I am sure that a "Grange Bird" has flown into your county with the news that the State Secretary is serving her last term. And that bird would be correct. When I was asked in 1991 to consider being elected to this office, I

said I would serve for 10 years. Well, this October will complete 20 years and the time has arrived for me to step aside and let someone else have the honor of filling the office of Secretary. I am willing to discuss the responsibilities with anyone interested.

"Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one." Jane Howard (1935-1996) Writer

JULY 16 NATIONAL GRANGE GATHERING DAY PLAN YOUR EVENT NOW!

See page 8 for details
Report your event to the
State Grange Lecturer!

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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Before we begin our article we have one announcement, Saturday June 11, 2011 a Degree Day will take place in Franklin County. The first four degrees will be presented by Franklin Co. members. The fifth degree will be presented by the NYS youth. Complete information can be found in the Master's article of this publication. We hope to see as many as possible there- new member candidates to witness the degrees for the first time and present member to see the degrees again. Now we will get to our article.

During the last year in our Empire Granger and News letter articles, we talked about the need to recruit new members, the 4 step process for recruiting new members, the need to evaluate our membership and our community in picking projects for your Grange to do, and the need to include all committees in the process of picking these projects. We had as a main theme that the Membership/Leadership committee includes not just the assigned members but the whole membership. The committee must be active in reminding all members of this. They must also be an example for the rest of the membership by following the guidelines given.

The success of the Grange and its projects depend on the leadership of the Grange. One of the hardest parts of

being a leader is to get everyone to feel important and a real partner in the working of the Grange. Each person must feel that whatever he/she does for the Grange is as important as what anyone else does.

Everyone's contribution is needed to get the job done correctly and well. No one should be allowed to feel or act more or less important than anyone else. Rusty Hunt, National Leadership/Membership director sent out a very important tip in December 2010 for Grange leaders that will help and encourage all leaders to lead Grange projects to a successful end. It is titled Get Everyone in Your Grange Involved. Here is the tip:

"Wouldn't it be great if all of our members would participate in our Grange by helping with the projects, activities, programs and meetings? We have gotten them to join, now let's get them to engage. The first step in building Grange member engagement is for YOU to become engaged in the process. Do that and you will have earned the right to expect others to follow your lead. I like to call this, "set the example." And not only does this show others how to get engaged but it also teaches us exactly what they will have to deal with to engage. We then can sympathize with them when they sacrifice or laugh with them when things go great. Expand your personal communication to 1-2-3.

1. Share information in a timely manner through oral, written, and/or electronic means. I would like us all to expand our methods of communication. I'm on e-mail, Facebook, have a twitter account, I'm on Skype, participate in monthly internet conferences, have a cell phone, text, and even talk on the home phone once in a while. The National Grange is constantly updating the Website with the latest info. I try my best to be available by

(Continued on page 7)



National Grange Welcomes New Communications Director

On March 29, the National Grange welcomed Amanda Leigh Brozana to the staff as Communications Director in the Washington, DC office. Brozana, of Orwigsburg, PA., has a background in journalism, education and public relations, but said it is her rural upbringing that contributes most to her passion for working at the Grange.

"Pennsylvania -- whose No. 1 industry is agriculture -- is a very rural state. Everyone thinks of Philadelphia or Pittsburgh, but they forget when you drive the more than 300 miles between the two cities you find the heartland of America in the fields and on the main streets of small towns," Brozana said. "I believe in the life grown in rural America, and because of that, I'm happy to work for an organization with roots as deep and a reputation as strong as that of the Grange."

Prior to starting at the Grange, Brozana was a journalist at The Republican-Herald, a newspaper in Pottsville, Pa., covering the southern tier of Schuylkill County, and the agriculture and education beats.

Brozana, who holds a B.A. from Wilkes University, and M.A. from the University of Mississippi, also taught communications at Bridgewater State College, Stillman College and the University of Alabama, where she completed her doctoral coursework.

Grange Website and Electronic Social Media Code of Conduct

All websites, Facebook groups or pages, and all other internet based social media platforms representing the Grange must be under the jurisdiction of a Subordinate/Community, Pomona, or State Grange.

Each website must be clearly identified as being a Grange website and must have contact information on or within one easily identifiable click from the home or index page.

Each Facebook or other social media platform must be clearly identified as being a Grange sponsored page or group and have a Grange contact person easily identified on the page.

No partisan or sectarian comments, opinions, statements, or endorsements may be posted on the website or page.

No negative or inflammatory (designed to insult or belittle) comments, opinions, or statements toward any Grange or level of the Grange or toward any member of any Grange may be posted on the website or page.

No inflammatory (designed to insult or belittle) statements, comments, or opinions toward any non-member, including public officials may be posted on the website or page. All policies of the Grange posted on the website or page must be clearly labeled as to which Grange or level of the Grange that has adopted the policies.

All content, including advertisements, must be within the guidelines of the Digest, By-Laws of the State Grange with jurisdiction, and By-Laws of the Grange operating the website or page. Adopted February 25, 2011 by the National Grange Executive Committee

**SCHEDULE EMPIRE FARM DAYS
NEW YORK STATE GRANGE FAMILY TENT**

AUGUST 9, 10, 11 2011

9:00-9:25 SEARCH & RESCUE DOG "OBI" - SHIRLEY & PETER LAWATCH

9:30-9:40 COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM - LIZ & STEVE

9:45-10:10 JUST RELAX - SHARON & KATHLEEN

10:15-11:00 HEALTH SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED - DENNIS & CINDY"

11:05-11:50 CORNELL COOP EXT- SENECA COUNTY - MO & PATTY

12:00-12:50 NY STATE GRANGE YOUTH - RYAN & DANNY

1:00-1:25 SENECA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - FRAN BARBIERI

1:30-1:55 YOUNGIVITY - LONNELL & MARY JOHNSON

2:00-2:45 HEALTH SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED - DENNIS & CINDY

2:45-3:15 TUES & THURS - MUSIC OF YOUR LIFE

3:15-TIL TUES & THURS - POCKET CHANGE BAND

3:00-TIL WED ONLY - JERRY & FRIENDS BAND

ADDITIONAL DISPLAYS IN TENT

MEMBERSHIP - NEW YORK STATE GRANGE

SENECA COUNTY GRANGE - KNIVES & SHARPENERS

JEWELRY, PILLOWS, MANY CRAFTS - MARYLIZ CISCO

WOODEN CRAFTS - ROBERT ROEMMELT

NUMEROUS CRAFTS - SANDY & STEPHANIE COPE

QUILTING CRAFTS - SANDI BASSETTE

EDUCATIONAL BOOKS - KAREN MARTIN

NYS COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME DISPLAY - BOB SWARM

**Chaplain's
Corner**

Martha Woolley, Chaplain
New York State Grange
8903 Farmington Road
Forestville, NY 14062
716-965-4292

mcfwoolamb@froggernet.net

**The Legend of The Sand
Dollar**

There's a pretty little legend
That I would like to tell
Of the birth and death of
Jesus
Found in this lowly shell.

If you examine closely,
You'll see that you find here
Four nail holes and a fifth one
Made by a Roman's spear.

On one side the Easter lily,
Its center is the star
That appeared unto the shep-
herds
And led them from afar.

The Christmas poinsettia
Etched on the other side
Reminds us of His birthday,

Our Happy Christmastide.

Now break the center open
And here you will release
The five white doves await-
ing
To spread Good Will and
Peace.

This simple little symbol,
Christ left for you and me
To help us spread His Gospel
Through all eternity.

For April-Grange
Month: Congratulations to
those celebrating longevity
and welcome to those begin-
ning.

Thanks to all who -in the
interim- keep Grange princi-
ples and goals spinning.

**National Grange
Fly-in**

Come join us in Wash-
ington, D.C. as we meet
with our Congressional
Delegations and advocate
for a stronger rural Amer-
ica on May 22-24. The
National Grange will con-
tinue carrying the torch of
celebrating our citizenship
by planning meetings with
attending Grangers and
their National representa-
tives, as well as hosting
expert-lead briefings on
current legislative issues
facing our Congress.

Attendees will be
treated to a VIP Tour of
George Washington's
Mount Vernon Estate and
Gardens in Alexandria, VA.
Although primarily recog-
nized for being our first
President and Father of
our Country, what George
Washington enjoyed most
was farming and animal
husbandry, which is evi-
dent in every plant and
animal on his estate and
can be traced back to the
original seed and livestock

Register On-Line
www.nationalgrange.org

Or

Contact NYS Grange
607-756-7553

Calendar of Dates, 2011

May 1 - State Dartball Tournament, Headquarters

May 7 - Legislative Regional Conference, Lewis County

May 29 - Chinese Auction, Curriers Grange, Wyoming Co. Benefit National Hosting Fund

May 31 - June 3 - Bus Trip to Newport, Rhode Island, Benefit: National Hosting Fund

June 5 - State Bowling Tournament, Cort-Lanes, Cortland

June 17-18 - Executive Committee, 7 pm Friday

June 30 - Junior Grange Membership Report due to State Secretary

July 8 - 10 - Northeast Youth Conference, Maine

July 10 - State Golf Tournament

July 29 - Executive Committee, 1 pm Friday

August 1 - 4 - Northeast Lecturer's Conference, Bridgewater College, Massachusetts

August 9 - 11 - Empire Farm Days, Seneca Falls, Visit the Grange Tent

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. Earland Memorial Award Application to State Youth Director

September 23 - Executive Committee, 10 am Friday

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 - Chocolate Cake Entries due at State Session

October 22 - 6th Degree Conferral at State Session, 7:30 p.m.

October 25 - Executive Committee, following State Session

November 8 - 12 - 145th Annual National Grange Session in Tulsa, Oklahoma

Sports



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Cortland, NY 13045
607-835-6127
gablab1652@yahoo.com

Spring has finally arrived and it's time to get outside and enjoy the summer. By the time you read this article we will have had our first event for the Sports Department. Our Dart Ball Tournament will have been held. I will report in the next Granger who were our State winners. This year I expect to have 4 teams playing again. I also have a possible new region that is working on getting a team to come to State. I hope that we can have an extra team who wants to join us.

You should be finalizing your bowling teams as our tournament is going to be held on June 5th and will be at Cort-lanes. If you didn't receive an application and want one please let me know so I can get one to you. This will be our 40th year. It would be nice if we could get 40 teams total.

July 10th will be our golf tournament and if you need information please contact Carl Bullock. We travel back to the northern region again and next year we are going to the western region. Now if we could get some teams from the eastern region we would like to travel that way. I know a lot of golfers play in the eastern part of the state. I would like some teams to come join us for a fun Captain and Crew golf day.

I attended the directors planning weekend on the 1st and 2nd of April to help plan our departments programs for the next two years. Our goal will again be to Sponsor Special Olympics. Our entry fees will include an extra \$1.00 per person and I think

we will hold raffles like 50-50 to raise more money. We will accept any other donations by grangers or granges to help our fund. This will be submitted to the Ex. Committee for approval when I send them in June. Once approved they will be in effect for 2012-2013.

Please remember that we are still doing the same this year and raising money for the Special Olympics. Have fun and come join us for our Bowling and Golf.

One other note is in the directory under Sports my phone number should be 607-835-6127.

Community Involvement



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

Well it's great to see that spring has arrived on the calendar and we have had several warm days. My hope that every Grange and Grangers creative juices are running and that the planning and starting their Community Service Projects has begun. Please remember that they are due to me on or before **September 1, 2011.**

The Community Service/Involvement department is working on a display that can be taken to workshops, events etc. A display will also in the lobby of State Headquarters towards the end of summer. I would like to ask my fellow Granger for pictures or anything else small that could be put on the display board. Any thing sent I would prefer to be a copy, since I can not promise their safe return. Any ideas are gladly welcome. I can always use all the help I

can get.

Being that the nice weather is here again it's time for my visits to various Granges to discuss Community Service / Involvement. I would like if possible to put 2 in on a weekend since some counties are a day's drive. Or have several Pomona Granges that are fairly close come together for 1 session. Please let Oliver or myself know if you would like a visit.

Keep up the GOOD work, and if you need help just ASK!

Family Activities



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

If anyone needs the corrected score sheet for the Chocolate Cake Baking Contest please let me know. It is not to have any frosting. They were also corrected for the scoring.

We will need items to be sold for the Big E. This supports the building and the judging of entries. Items that sell well are aprons, baby sets, scrubbies, kitchen towels, hats, mittens especially adult size. If you have anything they need to be sent to me or Eileen Johnson by August 20th to be forwarded.

Youth

Julia Masti
Youth Director
4848 Co. Rt. 10
Cameron, NY 14819
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mastifarm@aol.com

The youth would like to thank Veteran Grange for hosting spring weekend. Congratulations, to all those who participated in the

speech and sign a song competition. Next we will be doing the 5th degree in Franklin County at Malone Hall on June 11th for more information call your youth team.

See Master's Column!

Support Grange

Youth

Junior Grange Camp 2011

Dates:

June 26 thru July 1, 2011

Contact:

David or Traci Crane
PO Box 104, Avoca, NY
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Applications have been mailed and are already starting to come back.

With the exception of camp nurse all positions have been filled.

If there is any one out there that would like the opportunity to be Grange Camp medic please call or e-mail me at the above address or phone. Minimum requirements can be discussed, EMT included. Only 2/12 months to go.

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

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Leadership/Membership being open to communicating with each person by the means that they prefer. We all should be open to communicating in whatever medium that the targeted members feel most comfortable. Now that we are opening up new lines of communication, we need to be prompt with our info. Get it out to our members as soon as possible. This will make them feel important and show them that we are engaged and that we want them to engage also.

2. Enhance understanding of the information by describing how Grangers should apply it in their Grange activities. Now that the info has been shared, follow up with more details about how it will make things better, stronger, and more fun. This is where we can make it more personalized and appealing to our members.

3. Reinforce key messages through repetition. We should always follow up our communications with reminders and make sure that nobody forgets. I have always believed in the old speakers rule; tell them what you are going to talk about, tell them what you came to talk about, and then tell them what you just told them. Repetition is always a good way to make sure that your message will get across and be understood.

Accentuate the positives. Help team members see and understand the positive aspects of change activities and initiatives through group discussions. Ask the team to respond to questions such as: What are examples of changes that have benefited us in the past? If you had to identify two things that are positive about this change, what would they be? It is always good to get teams engaged in a discussion. It makes them feel that their input is important and that you care about them. Teams that allow their members to have input on the process

experience a higher level of "buy in" by the team members and experience a higher level of success than teams that don't.

Let the "big bosses" know. Forward complimentary e-mails, make a Facebook post, or tweet on Twitter about your team's performance or behavior to the State and National Granges. Add your personal congratulations and cc the team. Most people will appreciate the pride you have in them and the work they do – and your willingness to tell those who are higher up. If we do these things we will encourage members to get engaged and stay engaged. After all, isn't that what we want? "

Granges Leaders must demonstrate a positive attitude toward the Grange and its community, and fulfill the needs of the Grange and Community members. As a Grange Leader, you are vital to your Grange's success by doing the little things that make a big difference in growing the Grange. You set the stage for other Grange Leaders and Members to become successful recruiters. The more you are doing to meet the needs of your membership and your community the happier and more enthusiastic your members will become. Then 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. We know that you all want the best for the Grange and will bring out that desire in a real Passion as you lead the Grange this year.

Once again, we remind all committee chairs and all members to take a look at the handbook for 2010 and 2011. This year there is a whole plan for the Membership/Leadership committee. First of all there is an essay contest for 2011 the topic is "How I sell the Grange?" The directions are in the handbook. All entries are due to us by Sep-

tember 1, 2011. Secondly, there is a community involvement project that we are asking each Community and Pomona Membership/Leadership committee to take part in. Again please check your handbook. Finally there are several forms included in the handbook to help the committee. The most important of these is the new Membership/Leadership annual report. This is to be filled out by every Pomona and Community Grange by September 1, 2011. What we are saying is PLEASE CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP/LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK – it contains a lot of information.

PLEASE LOOK AT THE WHOLE HANDBOOK!

A lot of important information for everyone is contained in this book. Plans for your Grange should involve all Committees and members not just the CWA or FAC or Lecturer. If plans involve everyone the energy and enthusiasm will increase. Members will want to share with others what they are doing in the Grange. The less we compartmentalize the functions of the Grange the more participation will happen. The lecturer will not feel she has to do all of the programming. The CWA will not feel that they are the only ones to do Community service. If the lecturer and the CWA work together they can get more done with less burn out. This all become membership/leadership because the happier our members are the better members and sellers everyone will become. The members need to feel that the Grange gives them something of value or makes them feel needed and more a part of the community. If they feel that all they do is attend meetings that really get little of real value done then they will lose interest in the Grange. THE JOB OF THE MEMBERSHIP/LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE AND ITS CHAIRMAN and

ALL MEMBERS IS TO SELL YOUR GRANGE. We, as Directors, hope that all Community Granges have or will have such a committee and that they will work to accomplish this. Remember:

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.

EMembership

EMembership 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.

EMembership 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.

Sign up today for a 1-year membership for the low price of \$12 and start receiving discounts on car rentals, hotel accommodations, prescription drug coverage and so much more.

NATIONAL GRANGE

of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry



Nationwide Grange Gathering July 16, 2011

From the National Lecturers Office

National Master Ed Luttrell after last National Grange session asked what we as an organization were going to do to follow up on the success of the rededication of our building in Washington DC. This event was an overwhelming success not only in the number of Grangers who attended but also in a renewed energy for our organization. After discussing several ideas with some Grangers I proposed we hold a **Nationwide Grange Gathering** on July 16, 2011. The intent is to build on the energy and enthusiasm that has been building within our Granges for the past few years.

This event will be overseen by the National Lecturers office as far as sending out event ideas and for collecting information about what Granges did at their Grange Gathering. With the purpose of putting together a video to show at this year's NG session celebrating what Granges did.

What do I mean by a Grange Gathering? This should be event that brings Grangers together to celebrate who we are and our core values. It could be an event where we say thank you to our members for all their hard work with a dinner. It could be getting together and doing a community service project that day as a group effort. Granges could get together for an old fashion cookout and sing Grange songs around a campfire. States that have Grange camping caravans they could all gather at a Grange hall that day (weekend). A State, Pomona or even Granges regionally in a state could have a dinner dance or a mini-golf tournament. You could hold a membership rally as you use this event to reintroduce your Grange to the community.

Where are these ideas from? Some I have thought of but most were from conversations I have had with other Grangers. Some of them are events that Granges hold now or used to hold. As you can see it is up the Grange hosting the Gathering what they do.

Who will coordinate the Grange Gathering? Good question, this event **will not** be held at one location sponsored by the National Grange like the rededication was last year. We realized that travel is an issue with raising costs this year. So the intent is to have State, Pomona, Subordinate or State Committees host an event which will allow more members to attend. My suggestion would be that a State Grange either allow a State Committee or appoint someone to act as a point of contact (POC). That way a member would have someone to contact if they wanted to attend a Gathering event and there was not one near them or if a Granger was on vacation they could find an event near them. This POC would not be an event planner but the person with the event calendar (every Grange has one) for informational purposes.

So, why not just have one State coordinated event? Actually if a State Grange wanted to they could but with the size of some of our states holding an event in one location could be prohibitive for some members to attend. Where if a regional, Pomona or Community event would allow more members to attend and be part of the Gathering. But, I can see where some States I can see where there will be events held by all the above which would impact the largest number of members.

Will National Grange have any suggested themes? Yes the intent is for each Department and some Officers to put together a list that Granges could use. This will be made available soon on the website.

Speaking of the website is that the only place to get information about the Gathering? No I am in the process of setting up an event page on Facebook which will be used as source of information. This event page will be available by April 1st and can be found by searching the name "Nationwide Grange Gathering". We will also utilize the blogs on the National Grange website to get information out.

You mentioned gathering information? Why yes thank you for asking. The intent is to put together a video of pictures and video taken of the events that day. I will also ask that you send in other information which will be sent using a form on the NG website also. Yes I will also take them via email and USPS.

Who should I contact with any questions? For now me at NLecturer@gmail.com and eventually who ever is coordinating an event you wish to attend.

The Coordinator For New York is:
State Grange Lecturer, Sharon Croucher

Please send reports of your activities to:

2514 County Road 25, Clifton Springs, NY 14432

E-mail: croubr@fltg.net

Questions - Call 315-462-3067