



The

New

# York State Grange



Newsletter

April, 2011

## State Master

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One of the major goals of the National Grange for 2011 is to ask each State Grange to devise some type of plan to help Pomona Granges become revitalized. One of the biggest problems across the nation is that Pomona Granges do not know what they are supposed to do. So, they become a very weak link in the Grange chain from Junior up through National. Your New York State Grange, after attending a National Conference on revitalizing Pomona Granges, appointed a Special Committee who did the following things:

- 1) Reviewed completely a survey sent out by National Grange last fall to only those who had electronic communication seeking their input about what is a Pomona Grange, what is it for, what is it supposed to do, and what they, as individuals, feel the importance of a Pomona Grange is.

- 2) The Committee then thoroughly reviewed Chapter 7 of the National Grange Digest: Code of Pomona Granges, which clearly states the purpose of the Pomona Grange, the duties of the Officers, and the responsibilities of this branch of the Order.

- 3) The Committee made a comparison of 8 sample Pomona Grange Schedules from across New York State and came up with a "bare bones" Pomona Agenda which we feel must be followed at each Pomona Meeting to make that meeting both successful and meaningful.

- 4) A series of Regional Meetings have been planned across the State with 1 Committee Member conducting each regional session and, if this plan is to work in New York State, we must have the cooperation of the Pomona Masters, Pomona Lecturers, and Pomona Secretaries of every county or region! All Regional Meeting except 2 will be held on Saturday, July 16th beginning at 1 p.m. This is the nationwide Grange Gathering Day proposed by the National Lecturer. By

now, each Subordinate and Pomona Lecturer should have received a communication in this regard from State Lecturer Sharon Croucher. To put it simply, each Grange at every level is asked to plan something no matter how big or how small on July 16th. Your New York State Grange has chosen this as the date for these Regional Meetings.

As of this writing, the following are the tentative host locations of the first 6 Regional Meetings: Malone Grange Hall (Franklin County); Glenridge Grange Hall (Schenectady County); Highland Grange Hall (Ulster County); Chenango County Grange Hall (Chenango County); Stephens Mills Grange Hall (Steuben County); and Evans Grange (Erie County). We carefully checked the summer schedule for County Fairs, and there is no conflict with the Counties to be assigned to these 6 locations on July 16th. The remaining 2 will be held on Saturday, July 9th because the Counties involved in these would have a County Fair conflict. These 2 locations

are Seneca Grange Hall (Seneca County) and Ricard Grange Hall (Oswego County).

Each Pomona Master, Lecturer, and Secretary will receive a personal invitation to participate at the Regional Meeting closest to their County. If the location needed to be changed, it will be reflected in that letter. Please save these dates on your personal calendars now because the only way this is going to work is if the Pomona leadership in each County is willing to attend, discuss, and participate in this revitalization effort of Pomona Granges.

## **Leadership/ Membership**

Al and Vinni Kirmss  
518-756-5721

In the last Empire Granger we mentioned the 2010-2011 New York State Handbook. All committee chairs should have received a copy of the section for their committee from their Subordinate or Pomona secretary however I received an e-mail from a Granger stating that she had not seen one and was interested in getting more information on the contests and reports. Therefore, I am using this newsletter to give the information for the membership/ leadership area.

First is the Membership/Leadership essay contest. This is a new membership contest to get people thinking

about the Grange. We hope that you will take the time to think about what you love about the Grange and why. Write it down and send it in. We ask all Community and Pomona Membership/Leadership Committee chairpersons to support and work on this contest. We will try to publish all entries in a booklet available at State Session. Write an essay to answer the following question:

### ***2011 – How I sell the Grange in my community?***

The essays are due to the Membership/Leadership Director by September 1. This contest will be open to all Grangers, including Juniors. The categories are:

Community: CAT 1 Youth (14 to 35)

CAT 2 Young at Heart (over 35)

Junior: CAT 3 Ages 5 to 8

CAT 4 Ages 9 to 11

CAT 5 Ages 12 to 14

Length: Maximum one page typed double-spaced. Remember, it is what you say not length that counts.

The contestants: name, address, Grange, Grange Number and CAT on a separate page.

Entries may be sent either individually or as a group by your Grange Secretary or Membership/Leadership Chairman to the State Membership/Leadership Chairmen Al and Vinni Kirmss at:

**1362 SR 143**

**Coeymans Hollow, NY  
12046**

**Or emailed to:  
AVKirmss@AOL.COM**

Either way please indicate on the envelope or subject line “Essay Contest”.

Secondly is the membership/leadership community project. In keeping with the general NYS Grange theme of “Building a Better Community”, the Membership/Leadership Department is asking each Community Grange to develop a project that links with other Community organizations or town services (e.g. library, park service, and little league). We all know that in all communities many organizations – political, fraternal, and religious - do various projects that help either individuals, special groups or the community as a whole. Often, the main sponsoring organization needs help in organizing, publicizing, setting-up, and doing the project. The Grange has the resources to help in these needs. We have people with a lot of skills and knowledge. This next year the Membership/Leadership department wants each Community Grange to find one such organization and help in their project. We do not mean just giving money, we mean giving of our time, skills and knowledge to help another organization realize the most successful results of their efforts. This is not to get the Grange to sponsor another activity, but to aid

someone else (another organization) to have a more successful event and to get more recognition for the Grange. This may be done as an individual Grange, a group of Granges or a Pomona project. Please include a detailed description of the project and the Grange's participation and pictures with your Membership/Leadership Report.

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

## Youth

Julia Masti  
607-776-3625  
mastifarm@aol.com

Submitted by Ryan Orton

The Youth conferred the 5th Degree during the Franklin County Degree Day Festival on Saturday, June 11th. They sure know their Grange ritual and did an excellent job with the conferral. The next time to see the Youth confer the 5th Degree will be at State Session in October - we hope you plan to witness the conferral, especially if your Pomona has new members. Check out the official State Grange Program when it becomes available for the time and location of the Degree.

## Chaplain's Corner

Martha Woolley, 716-965-4292

I have been invited to speak to the graduates at Forestville Central School and have been assigned 3 topics which are to be covered briefly. (Imagine my challenge!)

Why Bother? "Learn to read so you can read to learn" The dictionaries that Villenova Grange presented to the third graders have a regular dictionary in the front with guide words at the top of the pages. I have them look for "interest."

The books include U.S. President resumes, solar system, countries, sign language, etc. Their excitement caused them to be so "interested" that they requested permission to read their dictionaries for free reading time.

What's Next? "Life (box of cereal) is full of IFs" You will have many choices and make many decisions. God meets you at the intersections of your life. Be careful what you do and who you do it with.

Why It Matters? BIBLE could be interpreted Book of Instructions Before Leaving Earth." Gideon members will be furnishing a Bible for each graduate. They have guide words at the top and Table of Contents similar to dictionaries.

I have prepared bookmarks

with 7 scriptures (one for each day of the week). Genesis 1:1 is the beginning. Revelation 22:20 is the end. Psalm 23 is near the middle. So - God is the beginning and the end - and in the meantime He will be your friend. "Take the name of Jesus with you wherever you go."

## Family Activities

Brenda Noble 585-768-6632

We continue to need items to sell at the Big E this fall. They help to cover the cost of the prizes and upkeep of the building. They could use aprons, mittens, hats, scrubbies, baby sets, kitchen towels, and/or whatever else you can send. Please send the items to me or Eileen Johnson by August 30.

The report forms will be sent out by June and are to be returned by September 15. If anyone would like to see what the requirements for the contests at the Big E, I can send one to you or give you one at State Grange.

## State Lecturer

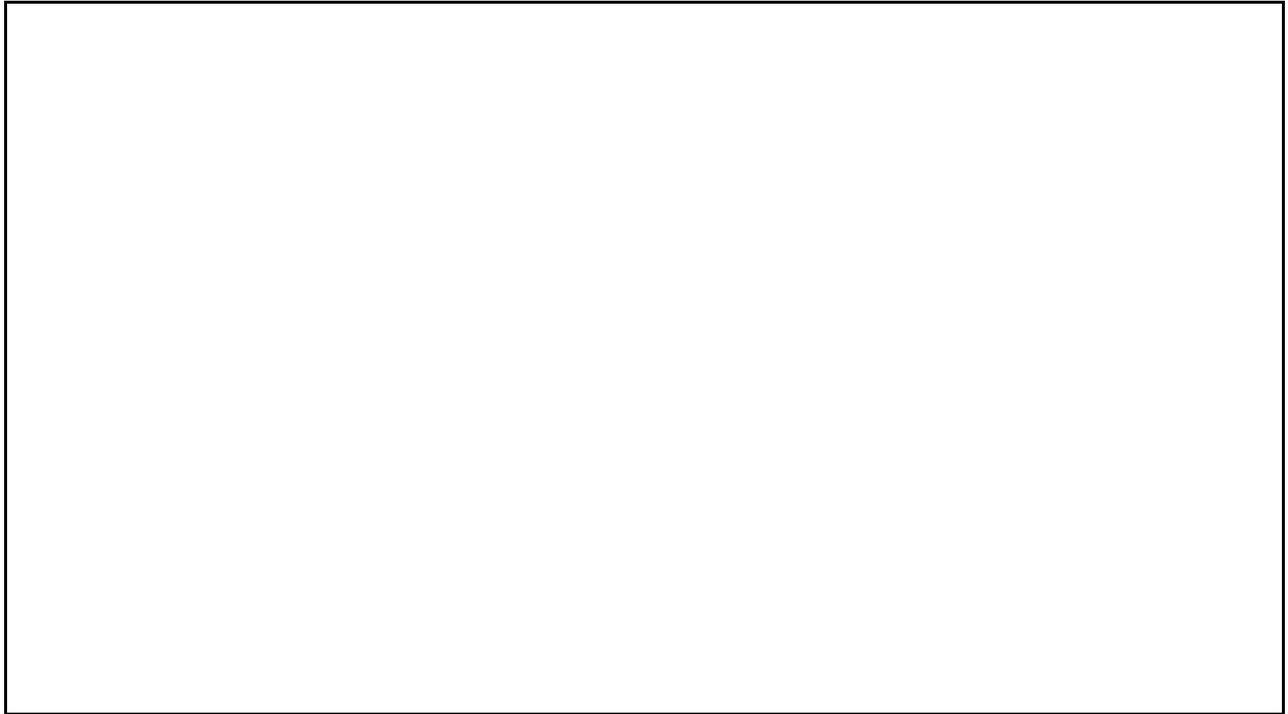
Sharon Croucher 315-462.3067

Congratulations to all the talent, art and photography winners. A complete listing of the winners will be included in the July issue of The Empire State Granger. Grace Schell, Oneida County was chosen Best of Show in the talent contest with her

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mountain dulcimer solo. She will represent New York in the talent show held at the Northeast Lecturers Conference and at the Evening of Excellence at National Grange in November. The photo entered by Art Bush, Jefferson County was named Best of Show in the photography contest. It will be entered in the newly established National Grange Photography contest. Thanks to all who attended the conference and participated in the contests.

The season of fairs, festivals and fun has begun. Our village festival is next week. Our Grange will hold a bake sale at the festival. We used

to think that our Grange was too small and couldn't afford to participate. However, three years ago we decided we couldn't afford not to participate. By having a booth at the festival we become more visible as a community organization and we are able to raise money for our community projects. Will your Grange be represented at your fair or festival?

I am anxiously waiting to hear about all the events Grangers have planned for Gathering Day on July 16<sup>th</sup>. As soon as your plans are complete, please send the details to me so that I can

compile a list of what will be happening across the state. On the day of your event, take lots of pictures and send a report to me. I will be sharing these with our National Grange Lecturer. Above all, enjoy celebrating Grange.

### Junior Grange Camp 2011

  
**Dates:**  
June 26 thru July 1, 2011  
**Contact:**  
David or Traci Crane  
PO Box 104, Avoca, NY  
14809  
Phone: 607-382-5050  
E-Mail: dlcra-  
ne3@yahoo.com