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100 Grange Place
Cortland, NY 13045

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Master's Column



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As this column is being penned county fair season is in full swing. Fairs present a unique opportunity to show off the Grange in a number of ways, and we should be take every opportunity to avail ourselves of this outlet. We would encourage you to forward any digital pictures you may have of displays and/or activities during your fair week to us,

[\(nysgrange@nysgrange.org\)](mailto:nysgrange@nysgrange.org)

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The Legislative Log



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By the time you receive this edition, the State Fair and Labor Day Weekend will be history and the kids will be back to school already! Time surely marches on and we must keep pace or we will be left behind.

Speaking of keeping up with the crowd, I remind you of the upcoming Legislative Day program scheduled for Saturday, September 24 at Headquarters in Cortland. At this writing we have several confirmed presenters. Emilie Sisson, NYS Association for Rural Health, will impart the goals and objectives of this organization, pointing out where policy of NYS Grange compliments that of the Association of Rural Health and areas where Grange policy might be in need of review. Joining her will be Matt Morgan, Deputy Commissioner of Ag & Markets, sharing his perspectives on the state of agriculture and the role for NYS Grange in these concerns. U.S. House Member, Richard Hanna will be a highlight presenter, sharing with us challenges that face Congress on the national scene. At this writing, I am earnestly working on a Senator and Assembly

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Betsy Huber - National Grange Representative



woman to hold that position. Previously she served six years as Overseer (Vice President) and held many other offices on the state, county, and local levels of the Grange.

From 1992 to 2002 Mrs. Huber was Legislative Assistant to State Representative Arthur D. Hershey (R-13) in his district office. Prior to that she was employed by Lincoln University for three years and by the National Grange for seven years as secretary to the Women's Activities Department.

She is in her fourth term as a Supervisor of Upper Oxford Township, Chester County, and serves as Treasurer of the Chester County Association of Township Officials. She serves on numerous other agricultural and governmental boards, in addition to the Board of Trustees of The Pennsylvania State University.

Mrs. Huber has represented the Pennsylvania State Grange on the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School Board of Overseers since November 2002.

In November 2006 she was elected to the National Grange Board of Directors and in November 2007 she was elected chair of the Board.

She was married to Henry T. Huber, deceased in 2006, for 39 years. They are the parents of three children, grandparents of eight, and have one great-grandson.

The National Grange representative for this year will be Betsy Huber. Betsy is the Chair of the National Grange Executive Committee and past Master of the Pennsylvania State Grange.

Betsy Huber was born and raised on a dairy farm in Chester County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from West Chester High School and attended Millersville and Lincoln Universities. She was a member of the RULE VIII class, which she credits for her success in leadership in many areas of her life.

Since January 2011 she serves as the Legislative Liaison for the Pennsylvania State Grange, advocating for Grange policy in the Capitol and on numerous committees and boards in Harrisburg.

From October 2002 to October 2010 she was elected to four terms as Master (President) of the Pennsylvania State Grange, the first

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Master

for posting on our website. Not only will this show off our activities, but it can provide ideas for future years.

The next major event on the Grange calendar is our annual State Grange Session, held this year at the Hudson Valley Resort, Kerhonkson, NY. The State Session is the most important event of the Grange year, as it is at this time that Delegates, representatives from your Grange and your county, collectively decide the Officers, budget, legislative platform, and focus of the organization for the next year. Sometimes we seem to get the idea that State Grange is something that is out there someplace, doing little except costing the Subordinates money. Nothing could be further from the truth. The by-laws set forth in very clear language that the power of the State Grange is vested in certain of its members known as Delegates. The discussions and subsequent votes by the Delegates determine the direction of the organization. I cannot stress enough the need for individual Subordinates and Pomona to send Delegates to the Session. During the year a portion of your fundraising efforts should be designated to send your delegates to the Annual Session. The unity of action between all levels of the Grange is important if we are to be at all effective. The Founders saw this 140 years ago, and it is still true today, and will be in the future.

By now, each Subordinate and Pomona Grange has received the program handbook. Two copies were sent, one to remain intact for reference by all, and the other to be separated for each committee. Your Officers and Departments have spent a great deal of time and effort on these programs and projects; with the eye to providing opportunities for your members, or potential members to develop their talents, show

off their creativity, participate in friendly competition, inspire others, or just for the fun of it. It is not intended that every Grange should do every program/project in the entire book. It is intended, however, that each Grange should review the entire handbook, membership list in hand, to ascertain which members may be interested in any number of the opportunities presented. So many times we confine our thoughts in relation to interest in projects to those who attend regular meetings, and we do this to our peril.

The ancient Chinese philosopher, Lao-Tzu (604-531B.C.), in his timeless statement said: "The journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step." On December 4, 1867, a small group of men took a single step with the formal organization of the Patrons of Husbandry. Subsequently, thousands of individuals have taken single steps that have translated into thousands of miles of service to mankind. Let us resolve, at this moment in our Grange year to take that single step forward, the first of many toward a successful Grange year.

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Legislative

Member to give us those perspectives (Assembly Member Gary Finch looks promising today. I have only gone through Senators Patricia Ritchie and James Seward and Assembly Members William Magee, Barbara Lifton, Clifford Crouch and Robert Oaks and all have some conflicts prohibiting their attendance, but I am putting the Fifth Degree lesson of Perseverance to the test!) The day starts at 10 a.m. with coffee and Danish, a luncheon break (reservations to be called into Headquarters by September 21, 607-756-7553) and the afternoon program will conclude by 2:30 p.m. What a grand time to take a nice trip

to central New York to view the autumn foliage, pick up the pre-convention packets of proposed resolutions for State Grange, and become better informed to do your legislative work back home this fall!

We have a wide range of issues that will face delegates at our annual meeting next month. Among them are agricultural products in restaurants, hydrofracking, salary caps for school superintendents, air traffic controllers, compact fluorescent bulbs, sex selective abortion, tracking devices, tougher texting-while-driving laws and pension forfeiture for elected officials. This range suggests to me that the Grange is diverse and while our interests are deeply grounded in agriculture, we are equally concerned about other issues that face rural dwellers and our families that live here.

To all Legislative Chairpersons, if you have not received the Legislative section of the new State Handbook for 2012-2013, please contact your Subordinate or Pomona Grange Secretary who has the information for you. Included in the materials is a list of our current legislative priorities and guidelines on how Granges can promote them in our communities and how to work with your state and federal elected officials. Regional legislative meetings are set up for 2012 and 2013...check out the dates and locations... save that date that may be in your immediate area so that other Grange activities will not conflict with it. We hope that you will make efforts to hold some community meeting

that will educate your neighbors on one of our legislative priorities for the coming year. Let them know that Grange is a leader and has the structure in place to be a direct voice for them in Albany and Washington, D.C.

We look forward to seeing you in Cortland on September 24 and at our annual Grange meeting October 21 through 25 in Kerhonkson.

IT'S ONLY MY OPINION

This past month a news release in our local papers (probably yours as well as it was produced by Associated Press) shared some startling data, not necessarily surprising, but when seen in print, it did jar the soul a bit: "Rural America now accounts for just 16 percent of the nation's population, the lowest in our nation's history." The article continued: "The latest 2010 census numbers hint at an emerging America where, by mid-century, city boundaries become indistinct and rural areas grow ever less relevant. Many communities could shrink to virtual ghost towns as they shutter businesses and close down schools, demographers say." How does that make you feel, that by mid-century, you will become "less relevant"? Some will say: "I won't be here by that time" but it is a transitional thing, and while we are all STILL HERE, the statement informs us that each of us is becoming "less relevant" with each passing year. That does define you and me, right now... we're becoming less important with each passing year, a very troubling thought.

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The Empire State Granger
Published 6 times annually
The New York State Grange
100 Grange Place
Cortland, NY 13045

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Third class postage paid at Cortland, (#57). Subscription Rate a portion of member dues is paid as a subscription to the Empire State Granger.

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Executive Committee: Richard Church, Chair, Stephen Coye, Master, Virginia Conner, Grange Secretary, Roberta Harrison, Executive Committee Secretary, Ted Schwabrow, Roger Halbert

Postmaster: Forward address changes to
100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY 13045

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Only My Opinion

Many places posted some of the biggest losses over the past decade as young adults left and the people who stayed got older, moving past childbearing years. Demographers shared that some of the most isolated rural areas face a major uphill battle, with a broad area of the country emptying out. Many rural areas can't attract workers because there aren't any jobs, and businesses won't relocate there because there aren't enough qualified workers. So they are caught in a downward spiral." A real serious problem for rural dwellers.

And in early August, the U.S. Postal Service announced the review and potential closing of 3700 rural post offices across the country. Although we as Grangers realize the need to cut our budget and restrain from unnecessary spending, we feel this is an objectionable assault to the day-to-day businesses and livelihood of rural America. According to the released list, 112 rural Post Offices in New York State are targeted for probable closing. We know that the Grange played a significant role in bringing about Rural Free Delivery and it appears to be the right time for a re-awakening of that once larger-voice. Make yourself visible and audible to your U.S. Senators and House Member to reflect a perceived sleeping giant and instead of a decaying lifeless breed. National Grange is organizing a campaign and I would presume that NYS will pick up the banner also.

This whole alarming situation also parallels the decline in actual Grange numbers. Is it any wonder that with the declining population in rural America...literally all across the country...that an organization like the Grange whose roots center around rural issues has been on a slippery slope for too many decades now? This is a call to action

on the part of leaders at every level of our Grange organization! I can recall some 10-15 years ago, as National Grange's Membership Director, sitting in the Washington, D.C. offices with other national department directors and then National Master Kermit Richardson...on more than one occasion... debating this very issue: What is the Grange? What does today's Grange need to take on, look like, or change to...to be that leading organization for rural America and its families? How much of today's Grange must we lose to pick up on issues or programming that will attract those growing numbers of families that need something like the Grange in their lives? The recent statistic of only 16 percent of Americans living in rural areas sheds some light on this pivotal question. It is a most scary situation to be told we are becoming "less relevant," a dying part of society... the part that produces our food and sustenance! When we boast of being the rural family fraternity, it is falling on deaf and uncaring ears! Unfortunately, it is not a message that means anything to most of society.

It is past time for New York State Grange...and yes, National Grange...to take stock of the world around us, to make some hard decisions on the role that Grange must take... which may involve some real hard changes in our programming and what we look like...to inform and attract those people in urban and suburban America that will allow us to join forces with them and they with us. What will it take for the Grange to be viewed as the family organization for all families regardless of where they live... in rural, suburban, urban or inner city areas? We can't fight the reality of the numbers...if we continue to claim to be the rural family fraternity as our strongest asset to attract new ones to our fold, we automatically

continue to slide the slippery slope of no return. It is a lesson that we have yet to learn.

Hey, it's only my opinion!

State Grange Secretary



NYS Grange Secretary
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The 139th State Session of New York State Grange is October 21-25 at the Hudson Valley Resort, Kerhonkson, NY. Please read over the Session Program elsewhere in this issue and plan to attend. Here's some additional information: Grange room rate is \$97 plus 10% tax. Approximate meal prices: breakfast \$10.40; lunch \$12.60 dinner \$20.80 plus there will be a la carte choices available. The Grange \$5.00 registration fee is for anyone who receives a packet. The Host Counties are: Columbia, Dutchess, Orange-Sullivan, Putnam-Westchester and Ulster.

Remember to bring canned goods for the Make A Difference Day on Saturday, October 22nd. They are given to a local food pantry as a Community Service project from New York State Grange.

The Session Banquet is on Friday, October 21st at 6 PM. Tickets for the turkey dinner are \$27.00 each and are to be ordered through your Delegate-at-Large.

Delegates – The Session Committees begin their work on resolutions at 2 PM on Friday, October 21st. Please register at the Grange registration table before attending your committee meeting.

Since this will be the final column I write for the Granger, I want to say that it's been my pleasure to serve

you as State Secretary for the past 20 years.

"I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble." Quote from Helen Keller

LEADERSHIP and MEMBERSHIP



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Well the summer is fast coming to an end, fair season is in full swing and we are beginning to bring in and preserve our harvest. The Grange year is also beginning to wind down. We have or are about to elect officers and appoint committees for the next year. It is also time to file all of our reports for the year. This makes us take a look at what we did this year. We can look at our successes and think about our not so successes. I will not say failure because I remember what one of our daughter's high school teachers told her class, "There is no such thing as a failure only an incomplete success." Every incomplete success is a chance to learn and grow.

In the Grange we should take this approach in all we do. We may not succeed at all we do but we should always stand back and evaluate what happened. Why did we not succeed? Did we not look at all of the things that would need to be done? Did we not recruit enough help to do the work properly? Did we not attempt to do something that we as a group did not have

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our whole heart in or that was not important or relevant to us or the community? Whatever the reason, we should not look down on the Grange, ourselves or the community. We just need to determine how we can improve the next time. As we learn in the first five degrees we must have faith in God that we as a Grange will succeed, have hope that we will find the way to succeed, have charity and respect for each other and our neighbors so as to improve the Grange and community, have the loyalty to Grange to follow the precepts of our organization and the perseverance to learn and continue in all we do.

And always 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.

Does Your Grange Have A Painted Curtain???

These curtains were painted scenes that often had advertising around the edges. They are usually quite large, 10' x 8' in size. If so please send a photograph with your delegate to the State Grange Session.

Chris Hadsel of "Curtains Without Borders" will be doing a presentation. She is currently cataloging these painted curtains from around the country.

HAVE YOURS INCLUDED!

State Lecturer



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Here we go again! A new Grange year is beginning with all of its opportunities. Welcome to all new Lecturers and welcome back to those who are continuing to serve in this very important role. I congratulate you and thank you for accepting the challenge.

Lecturer's reports, Pen-In-Hand submissions and Sally Benson Award applications are due to me on September 15th. Even if the deadline is past please fill out the report form and send it to me. The information is valuable to me. Pomona Lecturers, please remember to send your symbol craft entry to State Grange. They are due to me by Saturday morning of State Grange session.

The Pomona Lecturers Association will be meeting at State Grange. They will also be selling snack items. Donations of items are needed. Items should be wrapped in portion size. Candy and popcorn balls have sold well in the past. Also diabetic friendly items have been requested. The proceeds from these sales help to send our talent winner to the North East Lecturers Conference and to National Grange as well as provide prize money for other contests.

The 2012-2013 handbooks have been distributed. Each Lecturer should receive the Lecturer's department section from the Grange Secretary. If there is still a problem, let me know. It is important that all lecturers have the new handbook information. Our theme

for 2012-2013 will be "Building Better Communities Through Education, Enrichment and Enthusiasm". It speaks to how the lecturer's program fulfills its important role in the Grange meeting and for the organization as a whole. It can be developed in many ways. I look forward to hearing how it is used in Granges across the state.

See you in the beautiful Hudson Valley in October!

Community Involvement



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This summer seemed to fly by quicker than in the past years. It's hard to believe that my mail box has been full of Community Service Reports. Please drop me an E-mail if Granges have consolidated or closed in your Pomona so that I don't include them in the count of 100% participation.

I would like to thank all the Granges and Granges for you hard work. Please remember that Community Service/ Involvement are only accepted if the Grange as a whole works on the project vs. members who do activities on their own, like visiting nursing homes, helping with meals on wheels or belong to other civic organizations. If you Grange or Pomona would like a workshop on the subject please let me know so we can set one up.

Again this year we will be having our annual collection for an area food bank. Along with food they can always use diapers, baby food, large tubes of toothpaste and shampoo; items that normally can not be purchased with food

stamps. Again the BIG CUP will be out; there is always a need for silent donations. If you can't come to session or bring food please bring a donation for the cup to send with the food.

I hope every one is thinking about the projects that they can start on for next year and some type of new project will be worked on by your Grange.

Thank you for all the time and effort you have put in this year and keep up the GREAT work. Many times we do the work and we may not get the Thank You!

Family Activities



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The annual reports are due to me as soon as possible. I read all of them, and they are helpful in planning programs in the future. I thank everyone who has already sent these in.

There are still cookbooks available at Headquarters if anyone would like the Cookbook on Canning and Freezing. I still have not heard on the Cookbook for the Northeast on Appetizers and Salads.

Youth

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The youth are getting ready for State Session from October 21-23 at the Hudson Valley Resort. We will be doing the 5th degree on Saturday. On Sunday we

(Continued on page 5)

New Grange Members

Albany Co.

Ravena #1457
Rodney Krzykowski

Chautauqua Co.

Villanova #604
Charles David Fryer
Sharon Fryer
David Klein

Delaware Co.

Walton #1454
Lorraine Shively

Jefferson Co.

Kirkland #684
Sylvia Fahsel

Oswego Co.

Sandy Creek #127
Edith Roof
Bev Stevens
Gary Stevens

Otsego Co.

Pierstown #793
William Dennis
Butternut Valley #1533
Linda Smith

Saratoga Co.

Milton #685
Barbara Kerr

Steuben Co.

North Cameron #355
Charlene Taft
Lewis Taft

Tomkins Co.

Enfield Valley #295
Sandra Miller

Ulster Co.

Highland #888
David Dodd
Kitty Katzke

Wayne Co.

Eureka #46
Jordan Marr
Caroline Mattoon

VanLare, Tom Fuchs and Shylo Fuchs. I would like to thank you all for coming out to enter our events and a special thanks to Carl Bullock who is our Golf Chairman.

Next year we are working on going to the Western region as this was our last year in the northern area. We decided that to keep the cost down next year we will not give out trophies and prizes. Here are a list of the 8 teams that played and what order they finished.

- 1st Eureka Grange
- 2nd Cuyler B's
- 3rd Green Gophers
- 4th Clifton Springs 1
- 5th Clifton Springs 2
- 6th Ball Chasers
- 7th Adams Acres
- 8th Clifton Springs 3

As our events have finished for the year we are still hoping for some more donations to the Special Olympics. If you haven't sent your donations yet you can send to the NYS Grange Secretary or bring them to State Grange Session and turn them in. I would like to thank Carl and Cindy Bullock and Linda Batsford. Along with all the Grangers that join us for fun this year. The new programs for the next two years are due to be released soon.

Chaplain's Corner

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"Seek and ye shall find" - At a recent rodeo as the multitude was settling in for the evening, we contemplated where 4 people could possibly sit. My daughter discovered one open space. After we were seated, we realized the folks in the row ahead of us had previously been our neighbors. Through ensuing conversation, we learned the mother had not been to the rodeo since 1954 and the daughter-with her 4 children- were visiting from Illinois! A coincidence? or God being anonymous while steering us where we needed to be!

Our Vacation Bible School theme is the story of Joseph and his various experiences with Jeremiah 29:11 being the basic scripture. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you (plans I have for you), saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end (to give

you good results).

Sometimes we can't predict what the outcome of a journey will be or know all the unexpected turns our paths may take, but be assured our Lord and Savior is aware and caring for our needs and is with us along the way.

May God's comfort and strength abide with you and yours. Especially Kay Gallo-way sister of Gail Chamberlain

Thank you to Oliver Orton for dedicated service and thank you to Steve Coye for accepting the responsibilities of Master.

CANDY SALES

Due to recent communication from the Gertrude Hawk Candy Company has necessitated a revision to the pricing notification given in the August NYS Grange Newsletter. Bars would still sell at \$1.00 each, however the profit would change to the Community Grange and NYS Grange each clearing \$20.00. So for each 100 bars ordered, a total of \$80.00 would need to be sent to me for processing. Please refer to the prior newsletter communication for other important details.

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Youth

will be opening the session with a new drill. We will also be playing volleyball, bocce ball, badminton, and doing crafts. Please come to the State Session and support the youth members. They work hard and appreciate your support.

Sports



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The summer seems to be passing by very fast and the sports department has had another successful year with our Dart Ball, Bowling and Golf events. We had increases again with all three events had a least one more teams over last year. Golf was held on July 10th and this year we had 8 teams. We crowned a new champion team. Good job Wayne County as Eureka Grange came in first. The team members that played were Scott

Calendar of Dates, 2011

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 AI & Vinni Kirmss, Directors
September 15 - Robert A. Earlandt 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

Scholarship Winners

The DeNise Agriculture Scholarship is available to Grange, FFA and 4H members who are pursuing a career in an agriculture related field. This scholarship is supported by a fund donated by Howard Denise of Monroe County



James A. Congdon, Dunkirk, NY Chautaugua County – James is the son of Duane R. and Michelle A

Congdon. James wishes to attend Alfred State College. He has been an active 4 H member and participated in the Beef Project and the Rabbit Project. He played baseball and football in high school. James likes to hunt deer and turkey. He plans on playing football and baseball at college.

Nicholas R. Congdon, Dunkirk, NY Chautaugua County – Nick is the son of Duane R. and Michelle A



Congdon. Nicholas wishes to attend Alfred State College. He has been active in 4 H and participated in the Rabbit Project and the Beef Project. He played baseball in high school. He plans to participate in baseball in college. He loves to hunt and do other outdoor activities.

The Susan Freestone Award was established for Junior Grangers seeking higher education in New York State. The scholarship was originated to honor Susan Freestone of Interlaken who served as National Grange Junior Director.

Lauren Nicole Mullen, Stafford, NY Genesee County –



Lauren is the daughter of Robert W. III and Regina Mullen. Lauren is attending Berry College in Mount Berry, GA in the Animal Science – pre Vet program. She plans to use her skills for helping people in underdeveloped areas and countries. Lauren was a member of Stafford Junior Grange # 312 where she served as Master, Executive Committee, Treasurer, Steward, Lady Assistant Steward and Flora. She also attended camp and participated in the Junior Talent. She is currently a member of Stafford Community Grange # 418 where she has served as secretary.. She has also served as a camp counselor. Lauren has participated in the 4 H horse program and the tractor certification program. She is a member of Lambda Sigma, Block and Bridle, Prevet Club, Alpha Zeta, intramural sports, Student Government and is in the Bonner Scholars program. Her passion is community service.

Ashley Doris Kent, Pine City NY - Ashley is the daughter of Steven M and Yvonne M. Kent. Ashley is enrolled at Corning Community College and plans a career in social work. She is particularly interested in helping those with Downs Syndrome. Ashley enjoyed studying Spanish language and culture in high school and was a member of the National Honor Society. She participated in the Marching Band and was a section leader. Ashley was a member of Olive Branch Junior Grange # 553 in Schuyler County. She enjoyed making projects and helping people. She is a member of Olive Branch

Grange # 42. Ashley like to go to the races and being outside. She also likes to read.

Robert Leo Masti, Cameron, NY Steuben County – Robert is the son of David J. and Julia



L. Masti. Robert has been accepted at Stony Brook, Purdue and Rochester Institute of Technology. He plans to work towards a Doctorate in Physics with an emphasis on Astro-Physics and Relativity. Robert enjoys Physics and Calculus and has had high honors in his school subjects. He is a member of the National Honor Society. Robert was a member of North Cameron Junior Grange #725 and served as Master, Overseer and Secretary. He is currently a member of North Cameron Community Grange # 355. He has served as Gatekeeper. He participated in the Angel Food Network and the litter picking program. He was in charge of the Thanksgiving Dinner and helped clean the Oregon School House. Robert was also involved in 4 H and Boy Scouts of America. He played tennis, lacrosse and soccer in school and was a member of chess club. He plans to start a Grange while at college. He also enjoys fishing.



Benjamin Inglis Kauppi, Corfu, NY Genesee County – Benjamin is the son of

Dwight R. Kauppi and Stephanie Inglis. Benjamin plans to attend Monroe Community College pursuing liberal arts. After graduation he plans to attend a four year college. He was home

schooled and enjoyed music theory. Benjamin found learning a second language very challenging. Benjamin was a member of East Pembroke Junior Grange # 324. He was very involved in the Junior Projects and Contests. He was named Outstanding Junior Granger three times in succession. He is currently a member of East Pembroke Grange # 1157 where he serves as Overseer. He attends the State Youth Conferences and the Northeast Youth Conference and has attended National Grange. He continues to help the Junior Grange when needed. Benjamin was also a 4 H member and won many awards in 18 different categories in the county. He particularly enjoyed working in community service and horticulture. He served as a teen assistant at the Ulster County Fair. In college he plans to continue his community service as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Benjamin enjoys his work as a ski instructor for young children. He holds a black belt in traditional karate. Benjamin enjoys traveling, GPS activities and socializing with friends on the internet.

Bonna Jane Milem, North Rose, NY Wayne County – Bonna is the daughter of Phillip and Jane Milem. Bonna currently attends SUNY Potsdam and is majoring in Childhood and Early Childhood Education. After receiving her degree in Education she would like to enter the Peace Corps and work as an ASL and Braille teacher. She is learning the be an EMT and would like to use these skills in the Peace Corps. She enjoyed English and Physical Education in school. She likes keeping herself physically fit. She was a member of Rose Junior Grange #654. She enjoyed camp and doing projects and earning merit badges. She learned sign language at camp. She is a member of

Rose Community Grange and helps with projects when she is home from college. Bonna was active in 4 H. She did presentation on the local and district levels. She is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America and the Campus Rescue Squad. She is also a student mentor. She is also accomplished in origami.



Jackie Ariel Turner, Savona, NY Steuben County – Jackie is the daughter of John E. and Paula J. Turner. Jackie has been accepted at Corning Community College and Roberts Wesleyan. She would like to pursue a degree in social work and Youth Ministry. Jackie would like to attain a Masters Degree and become a Youth Pastor. Jackie enjoys Math and English in school. She has also studied Spanish and guitar. She received 3 presidential awards for being on the High Honor Roll for 3 marking periods per year. Jackie was a member of Coopers Junior Grange # 774 and North Cameron Junior Grange. She served as Treasurer, Lecturer and Lady Assistant Steward.. She was also Master at North Cameron. Jackie is currently a member of North Cameron Community Grange # 355. She is Lady Assistant Steward. She helps with roadside pick-up, dairy princess committee and the Angel Food Network. She is also involved with Pomona Grange. Jackie is a member of the Savona Federated Church Youth Group. She helps with transportation and devotionals. She is always ready to talk with young people when they need it which is her inspiration to youth ministry. Jackie played volleyball and softball in school and was team captain in both sports. She was a class officer and on the student council. She

definitely wants to play volleyball at college. She enjoys hunting and fishing with her dad.

Host Fund Activities at State Grange and Trip!!!!!!

The Host Fund Committee will again have a “New to You” Sale Table at the State Grange Session. We will be selling small used items such as books, jewelry, decorations, dishes, etc. If you have any items to donate, please bring them to State Session or have your county delegate bring them.

A spring motor coach tour is being planned. It will be to Gettysburg, and will include the new Sight and Sound show, “Jonah.” The itineraries will be ready for State Session. Watch for more information in upcoming issues.

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). Please identify the people in your photographs. Send To: Bruce Croucher, 2514 County Road 25, Clifton Springs, NY 14432 or E-Mail to croubr@fltg.net



On Tuesday, August 23, The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that rural communities in 18 states will receive more than \$103 million in funding for projects that will provide broadband access to underserved rural communities. The money will fund 23 projects across the country and is expected to create hundreds of new jobs.

Ed Luttrell, President of the National Grange, applauded the announcement, saying “the future of businesses, schools, and hospitals in our rural communities depends upon our access to affordable broadband services. There is still a long way to go in regards to bringing these rural communities in line with non-rural communities. In order to bridge that digital divide, we must continue to speak and fight for our underserved communities.” The majority of this funding is in the form of infrastructure loans, which comprises five projects totaling \$90 million. These loans are in addition to the \$192 million in loans the USDA announced in late July. About \$13 million of the funding is through the USDA’s Community Connect Program, which extends grants to construct, acquire or lease facilities to deploy broadband to economically challenged communities. These projects require a matching contribution and must serve an area where broadband is not available.

Ed Luttrell, President of The National Grange commended the decision by USDOT regulators to listen to opposition from the Ag community and refrain from imposing new regulations on the transport and operation of agricultural equipment.

“We are very pleased that the USDOT listened to America’s farmers and ranchers,” Luttrell said, after more than 1,700 individuals and organizations submitted comment on the inquiry posed by the USDOT Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) listed in the May 31 federal register. The request for comment, which probed the public opinion on several issues, included whether farm equipment operators should obtain commercial drivers licenses (CDLs) if they used public roads.

“Such operators are currently exempt by USDOT policies and efficiently regulated by state departments of transportation,” Luttrell said. “Being able to safely get crops and workers to and from market are more important to farmers and ranchers, than anyone else. Their livelihoods depend on it. Had USDOT imposed new rules related to the day-to-day operations and transport of crops and equipment on those in rural America, especially farming and ranching communities, it would have added burdens to an already overregulated industry without offering additional safety.” The Department of Transportation Office of Public Affairs, responded to the sea of comments on August 10, by saying the office had “no intention of instituting onerous regulations on hardworking farmers.” More specifically, that “after considering the public comments, the Agency has determined that farmers who rent their land for a share of the crops and haul their own and the landlord’s crops to market should have access to the agricultural CDL exemptions given by the states. The FMCSA has [also] determined that most States have already adopted common sense enforcement practices that allow farmers to safely move equipment to and from their fields.”

*New York
State Grange
139th*



*Annual Session
Hudson Valley Resort
Kerhonkson, NY
October 21 - 25, 2011
Program of Events*

Friday, October 21

10:30am-6:00pm

Registration - Lobby
3:00pm - Hotel check-in
(earlier as rooms are available)

1:00pm New delegates meeting, Session Committee Chairs

2:00pm Junior Projects check-in

2:00pm Session Committee Meetings, Delegates attend their assigned committees only. Room assignments on the back of this program.

5:15pm Milk Punch

Reception, Lobby

6:00pm Annual Banquet

Speakers: NYS Dairy Princess, Senator K. Gillibrand

8:15pm Lecturer's Program

~ Sharon Croucher, Lecturer

Saturday, October 22

7:00am Pomona Lecturer's Assoc.

8:00am Registration - Lobby

State Officer's Practice, Baking Entries

9:00am Official Opening of the 139th Annual Session of the NYS Grange in the Sixth Degree, Lower to Fourth Degree, Recognition of Past Masters, Honored Guests and Officials, Quorum Call

Five Minute reports

~ Virginia L. Conner, Secretary

~ Kenneth Smith, Treasurer

~ Richard Church, Chair

Executive Committee

~ Virginia Dehner, Chair

Audit Committee

9:30am Junior Project judging

11:00am Recess

Session Committee meetings

11:30am Conferral of Fifth Degree, Rehearsal for Sixth Degree

1:00pm Committee Meetings

3:00pm Reconvene

3:00pm Reports of

Departmental, Project and Program Chairs:

~ Roger Halbert

Legislative Director

~ Debbie Vail

Community Involvement/Service

~ Brenda Noble

Family Activities

~ Al and Vinni Kirmss

Leadership/Membership

~ Sharon Croucher

Lecturer

~ Carol Bailey

Historian

~ Gerald Batsford

Museum Corp Board

President

~ Emily Ormsby

State Fair director

~ Letitia Pickering

Fund Raising Chair

~ Roland and Joanne Shea

Ox Roast Chairs

~ Roland Shea

Headquarters Task Force

5:30pm Closing in the

Fourth Degree

7:30pm Seating of State

Officers

Speaker: Betsy Huber,

Chair, National Grange

Executive Committee

Conferring the Sixth Degree

Closing in the Fourth

Degree

After closing - Youth

Officers Rehearsal

Sunday, October 23

8:15am Memorial Service

~ Martha Woolley,

Chaplain

9:00am Youth Officers

Open in the Fourth Degree

Youth department Annual

Report

~ Julia Masti, Director

Earlandt Award

Presentation

Committee Reports - Action

11:30am Recess

1:30pm Reconvene

Gerald Eastman Award

Junior Department Annual Report

~ Gail Chamberlain,

Director

3:00pm Long Term Care

3:30pm Historic Curtain

Preservation

4:00pm Closing in the

Fourth Degree

5:30pm Museum Board

Dinner Mtg.

7:30pm Ice cream Social

and Idea Fair

8:00pm Delegate-At-Large

Mtg.

Monday, October 24

8:30am Opening in the

Fourth Degree

Appointment of Election

Committee

Election of Officers and

Museum Directors

Committee Reports - Action

11:00am Speaker Darrel

Aubertine, NYS

Commissioner of Ag &

Mkts

Noon Recess

1:45pm Reconvene

J. W. Allen, NYS FFA

President

Work Shop

~ Sharon Croucher,

Lecturer

Committee Reports - Action

5:15pm Recess

7:00pm Reconvene

Committee reports - Action

Tuesday, October 25

7:30am State Officers'

Breakfast

9:00am Opening - Fourth

Degree

2011-2012 Budget

Approval

Committee Reports - Action

Installation of Officers

Conclusion of Business

Official Closing of the 139th

State Session of the New

York State Grange

Historian

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

DID YOU KNOW?:

That the first juvenile, now junior, Grange was organized at Huron, Wayne County New York?

In a local Grange history there is a brief description. On April 2, 1904, it was voted to organize a Juvenile Grange and on May 3, 1904, it was organized. State Master Elliott B. Norris of Sodus organized it as Juvenile Grange No. 1 in NY. The first master was Clarence Wraight and Mrs. W. W. Lefavor was the matron.

From a history in 1936 it was noted that after being dormant for awhile, it was again flourishing. It was again reorganized in the centennial year of 1967. This was under the direction of Junior Deputy Mrs. Roy (Helen) Heit.

The Junior Grange and the Community Grange have been closed for some time. I have no record of when the junior one closed but the subordinate closed in 1987. However this historic hall where the first Junior Grange in NY was organized still stands. In 1991 at the behest of Huron Town Historian Carol Flint the Town of Huron purchased this building for one dollar from and with the cooperation of NYS Grange.

It was in need of a new roof and other renovations. Wayne County Pomona Grange donated \$1000 towards the new roof. Brush was removed and the building has been painted. Currently there is no electricity or bathrooms. Some of the furnishings are still in the building including tables and chairs and some dishes.

It is part of a group of historic buildings owned by the town and opened for special events. In May the

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Historian

buildings were opened to the public when a local boy made Eagle Scout. Four Wayne County Grangers hosted in the Grange Hall. There was Grange memorabilia on display as well as a listing of Civil War soldiers from Huron. About fifty people visited and learned about the Grange.

Gathering Day

July 16, 2011, was proclaimed by the National Grange as Grange Gathering Day. The National Grange Lecturer, Pete Pomper was inspired by the grand turn out for the rededication of the National Grange Headquarters. The number of people that gathered in Washington DC was so large that the festivities could not be contained at the Grange Headquarters. Since congregating in Washington DC as an annual event did not seem feasible, it was decided to hold an annual event called Grange Gathering Day. Grangers were asked to schedule a local event at which Grangers would get together and celebrate being Grangers. July 16 was chosen as the date and events were planned across the country. In New York, the State Grange Lecturer was to spearhead the event and notices were sent out and articles were written for the Empire State Granger about the event. Reports were solicited as well as photographs that would show the events. The State Master also decided to hold several summit meetings about the Pomona Grange this date. Some areas had other gatherings in conjunction with those events. Here are some of the reports that were received.

Genesee County: Since the

date fell on the day that preparations were being made for the Genesee County Fair, the gathering was held in conjunction with that project. Refreshments were prepared and enjoyed by the participants and a Grange message was delivered. Extra refreshments were shared with others working at the fair grounds. After the church service the next day, there was also a presentation about the Grange

Erie County: The Grange held a picnic on the 16th and shared fraternity with other Grangers. When the Pomona Officers were attending the summit, others enjoyed games at the hall.

Cortland County: The Cortland County Pomona Grange scheduled a bus trip to the "Windmill" a nearby flea market. They also enjoyed a dinner cruise from Watkins Glen.

Seneca County: Grangers held a picnic at Lodi State Park. Grangers and non-Grangers alike participated. **Monroe, Wayne and Ontario Counties:** A picnic was planned at a town park in Farmington. Grangers from these counties gathered and enjoyed fellowship and fun. Refreshments were provided by the Pomona Granges and others brought a dish to share. It was good to have some Grangers that we had not visited for a few years attend this event.

We are sure that many other events were held that were not reported. Perhaps next year we can learn of many more celebrations around the State.

Right: Wayne and Ontario Grangers waiting for lunch. Most of those in this picture were the ones who organized the day. There was quite a bit of planning to make sure we had a location that would be convenient for all and that all of the arrangements were made to have food and drink for all.



Cortland County organizers at the Windmill. This bus trip was one of many that are organized by the Cortland County Pomona Grange. They have much fun and learn about the area on these trips. You would enjoy going along. Grangers and Non-Grangers welcome.



Above Cortland Co. Waiting for the boat. Below Seneca County Grangers at the Lodi Park Lunch looks good.



More on next page



Above: Monroe County Grangers



Above: Ontario County Grangers



Photograph on right: Past State Master Wendall Chamberlain and wife Virginia gathered with their family for the celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary. We all congratulate them for this wonderful milestone of their lives. Pictured are: front row from left to right are Wendall, Virginia and son Steve. Back row from left to right are: Gerald, Carl, Brian, Ellen (Chamberlain) Woolley. Daughter Sharon was unable to attend the family gathering.



Above Left: Helen and Wally Palen, Butternut Valley Grange, 2011 Outstanding Grangers

They joined the Grange in September of 1997 and then two years later received the fifth degree, sixth degree and seventh degree. Helen has held various offices in the local Grange including Secretary for many years and presently is Lady Assistant Steward. On the Pomona level she has served as Chaplain and currently, Flora. She participated in the 6th degree Rose Drill in Binghamton and was also on the team that performed it during the Sixth Degree Conferral at the National Grange Convention in Rochester in 2004.

She has served as clerk of the Presbyterian Church session, co-moderator of the Church Women's Association, and continues as a member of the church choir, the County Advisory Board of the Office of the Aging and Town of Butternuts Planning Board. I'm not sure when she has time, but she enjoys cross stitch and crafts, plus sharing her delicious baked goods and cooking whenever an event happens whether it be for the Church or Grange.

Wally has served on the Butternut Valley Grange Executive committee and is presently serving as Gatekeeper for Pomona Grange. He also served on the Presbyterian Church session. He was a school bus driver for GMU. Spare time sees him getting in a few rounds of golf at Colonial Ridge. He is an immaculate grounds keeper for their home and their large garden keeps them both busy with canning of vegetable, etc. for winter enjoyment as well as their children enjoying the fruits of their labor. Wally also enjoys feeding and bird watching, and woodworking.

Both have served on the degree teams and have been active on Butternut Valley's Fair Exhibit committee and the County Grange Fair Activities committee during fair week. They enjoy the pinochle card club which meets during the winter and early spring months with 10 other players. They are always great hostesses for special gatherings at their home.

Earlier this month, on April 2, Wally and Helen Palen celebrated their 61 years of marriage. Keeping busy and sharing of themselves in so many ways has obviously helped this couple to remain young at heart.



Eureka Grange, Wayne County presented the following awards: Picture (L to R) Werter Cooney 60 yrs, Michael Cooney 25 yrs, Joseph Sapp III 25 yrs, John Facer 55 yrs.

State Grange Secretary Virginia Conner presents a longevity award to Bernard Riester. Brother Riester has been a member of Grange in Cayuga County.



Around the Grange

Altamont Fair



Altamont Fair: Glenridge Jr Grange won certificate for best exhibit at the Fair Pictured from L to R Michael and Nichole Narvareta, Steve Coye, State Master

Dryden Grange Open Meeting

Dryden Grange sponsored an open meeting with three County Legislators from the Dryden and Groton area to discuss county budget problems, the proposed 2% tax cap and traffic laws being considered to control heavy loads on county rural roads. While only a small number of taxpayers were present, the Legislators, Brian Robison, Martha Robertson and Michael Lane (also a Dryden Grange member) effectively discussed these areas. Handouts included a colorful pie chart showing how the budget is divided, including mandates from the state and areas under consideration for cutting. This year, they reported, that the state has asked for two budgets - one "pre" cuts, one "post" cuts. Unfortunately the programs being discussed for elimination will impact all communities and will be "pretty devastating to the public in general". Not a great message to hear! The tax cap was also discussed, with the feeling that it is not a realistic solution with all the mandates the state imposes. Suggestions to help with budget funding were no salary increases, health care consortium between counties, early retirement and income tax funding of mandates

Another topic of discussion was the continual redistricting, giving unfair advantage to incumbents in elected positions. Mike Lane, County Legislator from Dryden suggested the only solution would be an independent committee to set area and state district lines and eliminate gerrymandering, which often results in odd shaped and illogical lines. He reported that there are some areas in the state where an independent commission is now, with bi-partisan approval, in effect.

Unfortunately, due to time constraints, the traffic issue was not discussed. Dryden Grangers were thanked for their support of the community and their outreach.

Does Your Grange Have A Painted Curtain???

These curtains were painted scenes that often had advertising around the edges. They are usually quite large, 10' x 8' in size. If so please send a photograph with your delegate to the State Grange Session.

Chris Hadsel of "Curtains Without Borders" will be doing a presentation. She is currently cataloging these painted curtains from around the country.

HAVE YOURS INCLUDED!

Dryden Grange



Dryden Grange presented their 2011 Community Service Awards at a "Community's Invited and Welcome" Meeting during Grange Month. Over forty members and friends were present to honor Marge Albern and Diane Yacavone for their years of service to the greater

Dryden community.

Marge is well known throughout McLean for her tireless efforts as a crossing guard in front of the Cassavant Elementary School (part of the Dryden School System), and for helping those in need of clothing, blankets, toys or just in need of a smile or hug. However, Dryden Grange honored her specifically for the establishment and continuation over the past several years of a program she named CALLING ALL TEENS. McLean is a small community with nowhere for non mobile pre-teens and teens to go so Marge worked with the elementary school to provide that place. She opens the school several nights a week, feeds them, plays games, arranges work projects and even helps with homework for kids of all ages. The school principle spoke on Marge's behalf saying that her work through this program has had a positive impact on the teens and the whole community in the form of more pride in their school and town, less vandalism and lots of community service performed by the McLean young people. The kids themselves spoke on behalf of the program, many waiting to be old enough to follow brothers or sisters to the school at night.



Diane was honored for her years of collecting bottles and cans for monies which she donates to the DREAM FACTORY, a not-for-profit program that fulfills the dreams of terminally ill or handicapped children - whether for a vacation, professional ball game or a new bedroom. Last year and her family donated over \$10,000, raising that money primarily through the cans thrown in the "bottle wagon" in her yard, and also with a bowling tournament and raffle at Thanksgiving time. Poignant remarks from Diane's family were a tribute to her hours of work. The family's commitment to service was a legacy from their father, Charlie Miller, a life long Dryden Grange member. He started the bowling fund raiser in honor of his wife so it seemed only right that after his death, the family continue on in their names and all help - though readily admitting that Diane does most of the work!

It should be noted that Dryden Grange is good at recognizing Community Service - our past recipients for the last five years have also been honored by the Tompkins County Trust Foundation at the end of May and both Marge and Diane followed that path. The recipients of that award receive a \$1500 gift to be given to the charity of their choice. Anne Grant, Dryden Grange secretary, is faithful in making sure their nominations are passed on. Both were very grateful to Dryden Grange for their recognition at the local level, and then followed by an award from the Trust Foundation that will benefit each of their programs.



Hard at work here!
Art Kinney....for two days our Chautauqua County Pomona Grange was involved with the History Fair at the Chautauqua Suites in Mayville. Our booth reflected on our Grange History from all

the Granges in our County. A lot of action at our booth and Linda Kesby and I enjoyed our two days with it. Assisting us also was Martha Woolley, Opal Sprague, Lois Kesby, and we thank all who attended. This was a total success for us, and we got to met many, many folks.



Pleasant Valley Grange #888, Dutchess County presented awards to the following: picture (back L to R) David Brands 50 yrs, Henry Kading 60 yrs, Robert Albrecht 65 yrs; (front L to R) Margaret Russell 55 yrs, Helen Doland 60 yrs, Virginia Rossway 70 yrs. Also receiving awards, but not pictured were: Robert Dibble 25 yrs, Frank Brinkerhoff 65 yrs, Warren Wigsten 65 yrs, Dorothy Traver 70 yrs



Photo Left: Youth enjoyed some time at the beach during trip to NE Youth Conference. Photo Right: Youth group in uniform for the NE Youth Conference. Entered in the drill competition



Left: Master Richard Brooks presented the Community Service Award to John Phelps. John is a dedicated member of Albight Grange #440. He was a major contributor when working on refurbishing the Grange building. John sees that repairs are made on the hall, plows the snow in winter John is always ready to help a

Dryden Grange neighbor



Dryden Grange recognizes longtime members on Aug 4 (l-r) front row Clinton Cotterill, 70 year seal; Joyce Sherman, 60 year seal; Virginia Conner, State Secretary, who presented awards; second row Charles Cuykendall and Richard Church, 55 year seal, and John Dedrick, 50 years, Golden Sheaf booklet.



Photo Left: As Membership/Leadership Directors Al and Vinni Kirmss were proud to welcome on August 8, 2011, 14 new Grangers as members of Copake Grange in Columbia County.

Photo left: Greece

Grange #311, Monroe County presented a check to Unity Health Foundation in the amount of \$5,000. They have also donated several televisions and over the last few years a total donation of \$35,000. Picture is Charlotte Hutton, Master, Cindy Muxworthy, Treasurer and Timothy Balconi of Unity Health. Mr. Balconi is also a member of Greece Grange

