



The

New

# York State Grange



## Newsletter

February, 2011

## State Master

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### Defensive Driving Course

Twenty-five years ago in 1985, the NYS Grange embarked upon a community service adventure that ended up serving hundreds of Grangers across the Empire State. This was the Defensive Driving Course and program. Throughout the years, the following dedicated Grangers gave up their evenings, and Saturdays to teach this six hour course of driver safety in New York State. A great deal of appreciation is owed to these Grange leaders who worked with this program, some right down to the very end.

The NYS Grange expresses it's sincere gratitude, in some cases posthumously, to the following for all their efforts during these past 25 years to help Grangers and non-members too to be better and safer drivers: Norris & Neva Woolley; John Pulling; Karen Wilcox; Bruce

Croucher; Lorraine Loucks; Goldie Kropp; Stephen Coye and Meta Riester. (If any other names were left out, please contact Headquarters with same.) The last two instructors were Stephen Coye and Meta Riester. Steve retired three years ago and Meta remained the last instructor until 2010.

When our license came up for renewal, we noticed that the cost was very expensive to renew, fewer and fewer Granges were requesting classes and Meta Riester was the only instructor left to service the entire state. We had attempted in the past to request for additional instructors, and no one came forward. Plus, we learned that retiree groups, libraries, businesses, and the like were offering the course to their own people plus the public and we just couldn't compete. Besides that, it is now offered on line and you do not even have to leave your own home to complete the course. The price range includes from exactly what the NYS Grange charged (\$25) to as high as \$40 per person. The NY Safety Council also offers the

course on line with the same 10% auto insurance reduction for three years and the up to 4-points reduction on your driving record.

Thus, the era of the Defensive Driving Course sponsored by the NYS Grange has passed. We strongly encourage all Subordinate Ganges to continue to sponsor this course as a community service. All you need do to get an instructor is to contact the NY Safety Council, your local Motor Vehicle Department, or retiree groups for same. You can even contact the NYS Grange and we will assist you in locating an instructor.

Thus, again we post accolades to those Grangers who came forth to volunteer to be instructors for the Defensive Driving program. This is a very worthwhile effort and Granges and Grangers must continue to keep in mind that one of the major tenets of our Fraternity in New York is to Build Better Communities and what better way to do so than to encourage the public in our own locals to promote driver safety and good

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1) *Defensive Driving*  
driving habits through Defen-  
sive Driving.

## **Leadership/ Membership**

Al and Vinni Kirmss  
518-756-5721

Is this membership in your Grange? The Master asks the Membership/Leadership chairman, "Is there is any report?" It was a year ago that I first asked that question. Has your Grange changed its attitude toward the membership/leadership committee changed? Is it still the same old thing? Now is the time to reevaluate your membership/leadership committee. All committee chairs and all members should 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 September 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. Thirdly, April is Grange Month. Has your

Grange started planning for this – an open meeting, Granger and Citizen of the year awards and inviting town officials? If not YOU need to start immediately! 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 COMMIT- TEE AND ITS CHAIR- MAN and ALL MEM- BERS 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!**

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*(Continued from page 2) Leadership/  
Membership*

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.

## State Lecturer

Sharon Croucher 315-462.3067

February is here with all the thoughts of hearts and love. It should remind us of our theme – “Building Better Communities with Love”.

February would be a good time to feature a program on heart disease which is one of the health topics this year. Two internet websites that provide good information are: [www.webmed.com](http://www.webmed.com) and [www.medicinenet.com](http://www.medicinenet.com). The cardiology department at your local hospital may have handouts to share.

I have been thinking about that familiar slogan “I Love New York” and how it might inspire some Grange programs. How about an “I Love (your community)” program where people from the community are invited to talk about why he or she loves the community and any suggestions for making it even more loveable. Aim for a positive upbeat discussion. This could be expanded to a county or state.

I was pleased to receive two questionnaires in the mail

today! I hope I receive one from every Lecturer in the next few weeks. I do not need to know your name or Grange, but it would be helpful to know if the responses are from a Community Grange or a Pomona Grange. I neglected to ask for that information on the form.

Stay warm. Think Spring. Browse through those seed catalogs and start planning your garden.

## Sports

Jerry Batsford 607-835-6127

**ATTENTION!  
ATTENTION!**

**The Dartball Tournament was originally scheduled for Easter Sunday. The date has changed to May 1, 2011.**

**ATTENTION!  
ATTENTION!**

### Junior Grange Camp 2011

**Dates:**

June 26 thru July 1, 2011

**Location:**

4-H Camp Bristol Hills  
Canandaigua, NY

**Cost:**

\$160.00 per camper.  
All campers receive a free T-shirt. New classes each year.

**Contact:**

David or Traci Crane  
PO Box 104  
Avoca, NY 14809  
Phone: 607-382-5050  
E-Mail: [dcrane3@yahoo.com](mailto:dcrane3@yahoo.com)

### Comments:

Applications will be mailed the last week of February 2011. All Jr. and Youth leaders, Community Grange Secretaries and campers will receive applications. Applications will also be available on Grange website. All Granges or Grangers wishing to make any donations to assist with scholarships, supplies or to help send a camper to camp, may do so by sending all donations to:

NYS Grange Camp  
100 Grange Place  
Cortland, NY 13045

## Special Announcement

“Cayuga Lake Junior Grange was asked to collect plastic caps off soda, milk and water bottles for a program called Caps for Cancer. There was a four year old boy that would benefit with one cancer treatment for each 1000 caps received. Since announcing it at State Grange in Watertown the kids have counted over 30,000 caps. Many thanks to Opal Sprague and Ross Grange, Chautauqua Co. – they have sent boxes; one was thirteen pounds! Thanks to Marjorie Davis, Helen Mullen, Mary Hares, Paul Pilc and numerous Grangers for helping Jr. Grange sort and count every meeting. I am writing this notice to tell you that the little boy died before Christmas and we are wondering if it was a hoax because we cannot find the

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original source to know where the caps were going. Phone calls to the Cancer Society and Leukemia and Lymphoma Society resulted in them saying they never heard of the program. There are two children in our area that are dealing with cancer and we are hoping that we can help them with treatments. My garage is full of caps, so until we can find the group that is actually giving the treatments, maybe we better put a **HOLD** on collecting. Our sincere appreciation for helping us with this community project. If anyone has a source or knows of a hospital or group that is doing this

please let us know.

**Meta Riester**  
**4743 Silver Street Road**  
**Auburn, NY 13021**  
**315-253-6612**  
[meta\\_r@riesterappliances.com](mailto:meta_r@riesterappliances.com)

## Candy Sale

THANKS TO Cattaraugus, Chenango and Monroe Pomona Granges, Floyd (Oneida), Five Corners and Cayuga Lake Juniors (Cayuga), Baldwinsville (Onondaga), Butternut Valley, Hinman Hollow, Westville and Worcester (Otsego) Granges who sold over 1650

Gertrude Hawk Candy Bars and raised \$393.75 for the "Anything Goes" project. A donation of \$22.00 was also received from Veteran Grange (Chemung) towards this project.

Recent inquiries indicate Granges are willing to undertake this project again this fall. It seems Legislative Day and State Grange session are good times for distributing the candy.

Please feel free to contact me @ [berth@frontiernet.net](mailto:berth@frontiernet.net), phone 607-783-2445, or mail P.O. Box 102, Gilbertsville, NY 13776.