



The New York State Grange



Newsletter

March, 2012

State Master

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100 Grange Place
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Recently we were given the opportunity to participate in the annual Lobby Day held by the Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations (CAO) in Albany. This organization, which the NYS Grange is a member, is an umbrella group of twenty four associations representing all facets of New York's diverse agricultural industry. As the policy of the CAO is developed from its member organizations it was a very beneficial experience for us, knowing that the legislation we were asking for is in concert with our NYS Grange policy.

An important bill before the Legislature that deserves our attention is known as the "Let NY Farm Bill" and is sponsored by Senator Ritchie (S4340) and Assemblyman Magee (A5286). These Members of the Legislature are Chairmen of the Agriculture Committees in their respective Chambers. This bill deals

with mandate relief in relation to farming operations, and seeks to reduce paperwork, filing fees, agricultural plated truck registration fees, along with other changes in relation to taxes and fee assessments. The Sponsor's Support Memo for the bill reads in part: "Crushing taxes, ever increasing fees and endless paperwork are stifling needed business investment and are forcing farmers to spend more time pushing pencils and cutting red tape than actually farming. With agriculture facing ever increasing global competition, New York must provide farmers with the tools to succeed in their business, not continue to construct obstacles to doing business that farmers must hurdle on a daily basis." We couldn't agree more. At this point the Legislation has not been passed in either house. You can help, as individual Grangers, by just dropping at personal note to either or both of these Legislators, stating your support for the Legislation. Senator Patty Ritchie's address is 815 LOB, Albany, 12247, and Assemblyman Bill Magee's address is: 828 LOB, Albany,

12248. As each House of the Legislature have their own zip codes, no street address is necessary. Be sure to identify yourself with your local Grange.

A final piece of Legislation we would like to call your attention to is S.5641/A.8329, by the same Sponsors as above. This bill, while not directly State Grange Policy, definitely falls into our interest, as it relates to county fairs. At present there appears to be some confusion in the Law as to what extent local governments can exercise authority over the activities on the grounds during the fair, and throughout the year. This has resulted in a couple of lawsuits, and the possibility of more. This Legislation

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Submissions for Empire State Granger

We are very interested in publishing positive articles about Granges, please submit an article. Include original pictures. Typewritten or electronic submissions are preferred. Send to: Bruce Croucher, 2514 County Road 25, Clifton Springs, NY 14432 or E-Mail to croubr@fltg.net

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clarifies the language of the Law. At this writing the Assembly Bill has been reported to the floor. As stated above, you as an individual Granger can have an impact on this Legislation with a simple note.

During our visits to the Legislators we found them to be genuinely interested in our concerns, and in some cases asked for more information and subsequent meetings. Let us be sure to take full advantage of their willingness to listen to the concerns of rural New York.

Grange Camp


 Grange Camp 2012 will be held at Bristol Hills on June 24th through the 29th. Post cards are being sent to all previous campers and leaders to remind them of the dates. Any questions call Dave Crane at (607) 382-5050 or e-mail dlcane3@yahoo.com or Julia Masti at (607) 776-3625 or e-mail mastifarm@hotmail.com. Applications will be mailed out the first part of April you may download applications from www.nysgrange.org.

Chaplain's Corner

Martha Woolley 716-965-4292

Loving condolences to family and friends of Darrell Joseph Trask, Sr. of Erie Co 11/7/28-1/29/12. Our thanks to him and

Rose for creative display for WNY Farm Show; also to Master Steve Coye for bringing the State display, and Whitmeyers and others who helped man the booth.

“God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and Wisdom to know the difference.” (included in Joe’s memoriam)

Family Activities

Brenda Noble 585-768-6632

Family Activities

The conference in April will soon be here! Please call in reservations to Cortland by April 19, as there is usually no one in the office on Fridays. We hope everyone comes for a good time.

Family Activities will be working with the Lecturers’ Dept. for Quilt Block contest for National Grange. This year the block is to be 10 1/2” x 10 1/2” finished with log cabin pattern and fall colors. One will be selected at State Session to be sent to National Session.

Remember: the baking contest is rolled sugar cookies for judging at State Grange. There needs to be 6 cookies submitted on a disposable plate labeled with the entrant’s name, address, Grange, and county. Also remember for the craft and needlework contest to have the same information with each item and the category they are to be judged in.

Community Involvement

Debbie Vail 845-724-5417

Happy New Year to all, a new year has begun and so has our work. In early January I was invited to the NE Leaders Conference in East Hartford CT with the other NYS Directors and Chairpersons. It was a VERY busy time. On Friday night we met in small groups with other states in our departments. The interesting thing is that we all do the same work and reports but have different layouts of our forms that Granges submit. In many states the Community Service awards fall under the Community Service Department vs. the Lecture’s department. Saturday we had speakers who talked about self growth and leadership. We also met the new National Communication Director and Membership/ Leadership Director. Our National Master was also there and addressed us several times. Sunday was Devotions, reports of committees and the annual meeting of the NE Leaders Association. We had wonderful weather and it was on the warm side.

Again this year we need to receive 25% of the Community Service Reports for the National prizes. Last year we made it by 1 with the help of our State Officers. PLEASE submit the reports even if you don’t do the scrap book. The scrap books will be judged as in years past. Please have all materials to me by September 1, 2012.

Some ideas for easy Community Service are to collect small personal items like shampoo, soap etc. that you get on a trip and donate it to an area homeless shelter, or some other type of shelter in your area. Many

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Granges have dinners and like to cook, make a meal with donations of food or money from members for an area shelter or other residence you have in your area.

I have been asked to do a presentation in St. Lawrence County in the spring. If any one else would like a visit to discuss Community Service / Involvement please let me know so we can set up a date. Thank you for all the time and effort you put in, and keep up the GREAT work. Many times we do the work and we may not get a Thank You!

Sports

Jerry Batsford 607-835-6127

Spring is almost here so start planning your teams to join us this year. I am listing the dates as a reminder for everyone. Bowling entry forms will be mailed the first week of April.

Dart Ball April 29th 2012
Bowling June 3rd 2012
Golf July 8th 2012

Note as soon as I have the name and place of the Golf Tournament I will let everyone know. This year we head back to the Western part of the state. I hope to see everyone at our events this year as it nice to enjoy having fun and see good Grangers.

Leadership Membership

Al and Vinni Kirmss 518-756-8721

We are underway in planning for 2012. We have a degree day scheduled in Erie County on Saturday May 19. All five degrees will be given with a Potluck lunch/dinner between the fourth and fifth degree. All Grangers

who live in that part of the state and never received the first five degrees are invited to do so at this time. Also, any Grangers who have received the degrees are welcome to come see them again. Details as to place and times will be published later. We are also, planning a degree day at Ravena Grange in June. Details will follow. We hope to see many of you at one of the degree days. These degree days are the perfect time to learn more about the ritual and teaching of the Grange.

Again, we would like to remind everyone that at National Session our State Master pledged that New York State Grange would in 2012 organize 1 new Grange, reorganize 1 Grange, continued revitalization of Pomona Granges and have no net membership loss. In addition the State would organize 2 new Junior Granges. I hope that all current Grangers will help the State in keeping this pledge. If we all work together we can achieve this and maybe even more. If you have any suggestions on how we can reach this goal or need help in implementing a project in your Grange please contact us.

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 every-

one 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

Youth

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

In order to do the speech competition at Spring Weekend April 27th to the 29th you must call the youth director and sign up by April 20th. The Camp Director will be present at Otselic Grange on Saturday April 28th to speak with camp staff.

Look forward to seeing everybody at Otselic Grange on Friday April 27th.

State Lecturer

Sharon Croucher 315-462-3067

I hope that many of you have entries for the Art, Photography and talent contests. Each Pomona Lecturer may send the first place winner in each category of the Art and Photo contest to the State Competition. Any Granger may enter the State Talent Contest. There is no local elimination for the talent contest, but the Pomona Lecturer needs to report any entries to the State Lecturer by April 15th.

April is Grange Month with Gathering Day scheduled for April 21st. Grange Month packets have been mailed to Grange secretaries. It contains lots of important information that can be used during Grange Month and throughout the year. Be sure to publicize your activities. I will again be collecting pictures and information about

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Gathering Day activities to forward to the National Grange Lecturer.

Brenda and I look forward to seeing you at the Lecturer/Family Activities Conference Day which will be held at the State Grange Headquarters. The Art and Photo and Needlework entries will be judged and on display. We will hold the Talent Contest and Youth Public Speaking contests beginning at 11:00 AM.

Come enjoy a day filled with activities and information. The day begins at 9:00 AM. With coffee and doughnuts. Please call the State Grange Headquarters by April 19th to make reservations for lunch.

Trademarks

The National Grange has gotten the Grange Logo as a registered trademark. The shape and colors and very well defined and the ® symbol is used for indicating that purpose. When using the Grange Logo the ® symbol always appear below and to the right of the Logo.

American Values, Hometown Roots is the new National Grange "tagline" The type font is black-adder ITC.

Candy Sales

THANK YOU to Cayuga Lake Juniors, Greece (Monroe), Fairport (Monroe), Floyd (Oneida), Hinman Hollow (Otsego), Butternut Valley (Otsego), Cuba (Allegany), Almond (Allegany)

Granges plus Jefferson, Monroe and Otsego County Pomona Granges who took the challenge and sold 1600 Gertrude Hawk Candy Bars. Additional quantity of 150 bars was also sold at State Grange Session in October.

A total of \$410.50 which included \$10.50 from cutlery was turned into State Grange Headquarters for the "Anything Goes" project. Greece and Fairport Granges also donated their profit of \$80.00 to the hosting fund.

Would your Grange consider participating in this years fall campaign? You can contact me at phone 607-783-2445, e-mail berth@frontiernet.net or by mail P.O. Box 102, Gilbertsville, NY 13776. Details with the candy company still have to be worked out.