The advent of the new year for thousands of years has been viewed as a time of renewal, be it personal, replete with any number of decisions relating to future improvements, or corporate) and invoking the directions, as in just as short or roundtable discussions as to new directions and focuses that could, or should, be taken. The Grange was birthed 150 years ago in part to heal a divided nation, and with a great deal of success in that. Unfortunately, we find ourselves in the same position today, and while the divisions may look a little different than they did in 1867, they are still there, and need to be addressed. Sometimes it is necessary to look outside the Grange for input in relation to a more effective focus, be it elected officials, clergy, etc. New ideas don’t always flow from the same core. It is completely assuaged to operating in an established way, just as in our personal lives new ideas and direction seldom come from the mirror. It is interesting to note that as the national healing was taking place following the Civil War, unprecedented growth was also taking place, which most likely would not have happened without the healing process going forward. Economic stagnation and divisiveness are related, and our nation can’t afford either of them.

As mentioned in previous columns this paradigm is changing in relation to the willingness of people to join together to accomplish things in their communities. It is completely the choice of existing local Grange units to capitalize on this, or let it go by. Fraternity goes a long ways in assisting people to talk to each other as opposed to by each other, as is necessary to look outside the Grange for input in relation to a more effective focus, be it elected officials, clergy, etc. New ideas don’t always flow from the same core. It is completely assuaged to operating in an established way, just as in our personal lives new ideas and direction seldom come from the mirror. It is interesting to note that as the national healing was taking place following the Civil War, unprecedented growth was also taking place, which most likely would not have happened without the healing process going forward. Economic stagnation and divisiveness are related, and our nation can’t afford either of them.

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The holidays are behind us and winter is here in all its glory. I don’t know about you but I have already had enough of winter. I hope the cold and snow isn’t slowing you down too much when it comes to your Grange legislative work. Now is the perfect time to start your research and write your resolutions. I already have received one for the upcoming State Grange session. Is it yours?

As of the writing of this article, the Legislative Handbook has been updated and will be coming to you and your Grange in the next few weeks. Again, this year, we have put in bold and italics print the resolutions that were forwarded and made part of National Grange policy. I hope that you will take the time to review this important reference guide for your legislative work.

One project down and time to start the next one. At State Grange, I was asked to put together information regarding the upcoming vote in November to hold a constitutional convention in New York. We did have a resolution that set Grange policy opposing the convention. I am hoping to have a handout with more information regarding holding a convention. Although I am not particularly proficient with Power Point presentation, I will try to do one that would be available to you. I am hoping to have this done by March or April. Please watch for a mailing with this information.

Regional legislative conferences are in the formulation stages. Please watch this column for further details.

Should you need any information or assistance with your legislative work, please contact me. I am always glad to lend a hand and do what I can to help you.

In my opinion……

The election is over; the country has chosen a new president. At the writing of this article, his inauguration is only a few days away. Our country has been torn apart by this election. What happened along the way? So many strong feelings were brought out during this election.

Can our country heal from this? I am optimistic that everything will calm down. The Grange can be a source of reconciliation and teaching. Very few organizations are like ours. We may disagree, we may not be happy with the outcome but at the end of the meeting, we leave as brothers and sisters. We need to share this with others in our community. Help heal the wounds on one new member at a time. Let your Grange be a place for healing in your community.

A second time, the Electoral College was called into question. The candidate that won the popular vote did not win the Electoral College. Many have called into question whether this system is really representative of the voting public. The Grange has long supported the Electoral College system. What do you think?

This system only works when everyone participates. I hope that everyone did so. If you didn’t, shame on you. Voting is a privilege that many other countries do not have.

Now that the Holidays are over, we will be busy once again with Grange activities. This year for the quilting contest we will be doing the Baby Quilts. The baking contest will be Snickerdoodle cookies. We will need 6 cookies on a disposable plate or pan. Be sure to have the recipe, name, address, and Grange name with the cookies. It is also very helpful to have the address, Grange, and County names on the items. We will be successful in gleaning new products such as composite decking, janitorial supplies, shipping pallets, park benches, plus many other products. The money raised is used to provide wheelchair assistance for disabled persons under the age of 21 in the USA. This project does not take much to do, yet provides a great service to the community. Let us find ways to continue to grow the Grange through our community service projects.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Cindy Benson-Pollard

The election is over; the country has chosen a new president. At the writing of this article, his inauguration is only a few days away. Our country has been torn apart by this election. What happened along the way? So many strong feelings were brought out during this election.

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Sports

Jerry Batsford

The New Year is here and it is time to kick off our programs for the New Year. You should starting to be play Dart Ball and getting ready to come to headquarters on April 30th. We have been having only three teams coming out and sure would like a fourth team to come this year so if you can make a team and can come let us know.

Bowling is always the first Sunday of June and this year it will be on June 4th. We bowl one shift now and everyone has fun for the day. Last year we had a youth team and I hope they return this year too.

Golf has changed the date to the third Sunday of July so this year will be July 16th. We will be playing in the western region of the state this year and next. We rotate regions every two years and have the same course for the two years.

Sports are for all members of the Grange and it’s a good way to have some fellowship with other Grangers from around the state. Also it can be a good membership tool too.

Please plan on joining us this year and I hope to see you all at our events.

New York City Grange Trip

There is still room on the May 22-24 New York State Grange trip to New York City. The public is welcome on the trip, as well as Grange members, so please help spread the word to friends or groups that might enjoy this trip.

The hotel that we will be staying at requires the final rooming list and payments by March 20. If someone would like to make a reservation after March 20, there will be a $50 late fee above and beyond the regular fare. There may not be available rooms if someone wants to make a reservation after March 20, so it is important to make reservations before that.

To make reservations, please contact Kathleen E. Hughes, 315-865-8334, 8972 East Floyd Road, Holland Patent, NY 13354. The profits from this trip benefit the Host Fund.

Historian

Carol Bailey

DID YOU KNOW?....

That Grange and woman's suffrage share an anniversary? 2017 is the 150th anniversary of Grange and it is also the 100th anniversary of woman's suffrage here in NY. Both are important in our lives and are linked together. Grange is "Greatest equality club the world has ever seen," stated Eliza Gifford of Chautauqua County. This was based on the service to the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the NYS Woman Suffrage Association and of course Grange. Many feminists portrayed the Grange as the rural wing of the suffragist movement by the 1890s. It was exaggerated by some but Susan B. Anthony and historians later took them seriously.

The Independent Order of Good Templars which preceded the Civil War and then expanding after the war had admitted women before the conflict. This was probably the first formal organization to allow women. We still count the Grange as the first however.

Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas, a wealthy widow from New York City, distributed literature to promote the Grange. She gave help to other organizations that supported education, and worked for all workers, both rural and urban. In 1879 she joined William Saunders in the American Workers Alliance, who had moved from on the Grange.

A Mrs. Howland of NJ proposed equal dues for women and men in the Grange (at the time and later sisters paid less.) She and her husband were both delegate to National Grange in 1874. She "surprised members by sitting at the same table as the men rather than on a separate set of benches for women at the side of the room." The Howlands had many radical views in that Victorian Age.

Men were cautious about admitting women to Grange as they feared it would encourage equal suffrage, which it did. These feelings were shared by the brothers of the North and South. One Vermonton said, "if women were allowed a part in running the organization pretty soon some fool would advocate that they vote in general elections."

And 1862 a doctor reporting to the US Commissioner of Agriculture called a farm wife "a laboring drudge." Towards the end of the 19th century Grange sisters stated various improvements needed to reach the ideal. They included being treated as a partner and the home would be a model of beauty, luxury and art. This was far from the reality.

Aaron Gross, author of Mentor in the Grange and Homes of Patrons of Husbandry, stated, "Women's gentle influence, her instinctive perceptions of righteousness and purity—all these are needed in the Grange, and also in society at large." Grosch wanted women released from the seclusion of rural homes and brought into the larger world. He did not refer to women's rights however.

Women can hold any office in Grange, however, in the early years it was rare for women to be master, overseer or executive committee member. NYS Grange even warned against women holding those offices. That view against women suffered a setback when Sara Baird of MN became state master in 1893.

Many served as lecturers where the women’s view was often stated and thus influenced the brothers. Many sisters also published articulated writings in Grange journals; some used pen names. Some wrote short statements that were pieced together as essays.

In TX women were attracted to programs and activities involving children. The outgrowth of this was the Juvenile/Junior Grange. Leaders believed that women needed to be stirred up to keep the Grange alive in TX at the time. The juvenile movement spread across the country.

As we celebrate the Grange birthday this year let us remember the role women played in the Grange and in efforts of voting rights.

More of this connection of Grange and woman's suffrage will continue in another column. Much of this information is from Sisters of the Grange: Rural Feminism in the Late Nineteenth Century by Donald B. Marti, from Agricultural History, Vol. 58, 1984.

Chaplain's Corner

Virginia L. Conner

I was hanging curtains recently and while at the top of the step I found a sag that the curtains looked pretty good from my view. However, if you move the curtain, you know what happens next! Once off the ladder and a few steps away the curtains looked awful! While on the ladder I was too close to see that I had not evenly...

(Continued on page 4)
so often the case in this day and age. Let us resolve to do whatev-er necessary to impact our indivi-
dual communities, enlisting the help of all who will join us in the pro-
cess, and maintaining the will to make it happen, no matter how long it takes.

amazing opportunities to its stu-
dents, it is also community mind-
ed. Founded in 1951 by Richard Strangeway, Tri-Valley FFA has com-
mitted itself to community service and creating community minded youth. At school, the pro-
gram boasts of a 40-raise bed commu-
unity garden - built and managed by students in grades 6-12. The students do everything from preparing beds, to ordering seedlings, to watering, maintain-
ing and harvesting. Everything collected is sent to local food banks for distribution to those in need. The chapter also helped establish a “Backpacks for Kids” anti-hunger program. Thirty-four back packs are filled bi-weekly by donations collected around the school and communi-
ty. These go home with youth to provide food on the weekends. In addition, members also collect turkeys and other food items to make the holidays happier for over 40 families in the communi-
ty annually. Participating in FFA for four to six years, members can graduate with over 1,000 community service hours!

spaced each panel and that the valance was not centered on the rod. 

During the straightening pro-
cess, I realized that it is not that the way with life? Quite often we are too close to situations, events etc. to see the whole picture. So we need to step back and take a good look to where we need to be in order to straighten the wrink-
les, folds and smooth out differ-
ences with others. 

Philiains 2: 3-4 says, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vainglory, but in humility con-
side others better than yourself. Each of you should look not only to your own interests but also to the interests of oth-
ers.” When we make amends, the relationships with others will heal and just like the curtains everything will be centered with proper folds. Life will become a smoother and straighter road to travel

why we run our meetings like we do and how we have been and can continue to be a voice for many people. This is part of the “Apathy Not Allowed” pro-
gram and we as Grangers are a voice for Education, Safety, Consumer/ Consumers, Agriculture, Women, and Transportation/ Communication. This week-
end we were also the first audi-
cence to be informed of the in-
coming Video/ Digital Record-
ing Contest sponsored by Na-
tional Grange. First place is $1000! More information about this is elsewhere in the ESG. Bruce Croucher wore another of his many hats, Public Speakers Director for NYS Grange. He enlightened us on the process of publishing the Empire State Granger, and the many steps involved from roughly submitted articles to final printed copy. A workshop led by Elaine Smith, Co-
Director of the Youth Depart-
ment and a Food, Nutrition Con-
sumer Sciences (Home Eco-
nomics) teacher, was entitled “SOS (Save Our Shirts, Skirts, Pants, Jeans & Jackets) . It was Sewing 101: Basic Mende-
ing. Participants brought gar-
mets that needed to be mended and everyone got a chance to show off their new skills.

Saturday morning Jackie Turner presented a Power Point about her recent trip to Togo, Africa. She wore a bright green, colored, typical “Sunday Best” African dress, which was made for her by a local African tailor. Jackie went to Takassou-Kondji, Togo with her friend Yves Dushime. He is a native of that village; but is now a US citizen. They have started “Project Life For” which is raising funds for fresh water wells to be dug in that region of Togo. It is amazing to see where the Youth of NYS Grange are going.

The Leadership weekend began on Friday evening with fellowship, games and snacks. Heidi Henderson, 2017 NYS Grange Young Adult Ambas-
dor, organized the Vespers for Friday evening.

Now about those members that attended the Winter YOUTH LEADERSHIP Weekend. Did the ages at the start of this article look typical of YOUR Grange meetings? Remember at the start of the article it was stated, that it would be written in REVERSE order? Well, those ages were transposed too. Our Grange Youth are young, vibrant, and of course, always DELIGHTED!

If you would like to have a Youth or Young Adult Ambas-
sador speak at your Grange or special event, please invite them. Their contact infor-
mation is...

Tessa Taft 2017 NYS Grange Youth Ambassador 
Phone: 315 385 4900 
Address: 12544 Ira Station

Looking for more information about these up-
coming events at the NYS Grange Youth Facebook Page and future editions of the Empire State Granger.
Stephen C. Coye, Master
100 Grange Place
Cortland, NY 13045
607-756-7553
E-Mail Steve@nysGrange.org

Roger Halbert, Secretary
State Secretary
83 Spring Street, PO Box 321
Gilbertsville, NY 13776
607-783-2691
rhalbert1@stny.rr.com

Carolyn (Kay) Bailey, Lecturer
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okay631900@hotmail.com

Cindy Benson Pollard
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vlconner48@yahoo.com

Brenda Noble, Family Activities
7973 Telephone Road
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585-768-6632

Kathy Miller
Leadership Membership
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(585) 356-9113
kathvilletmiller@yahoo.com

Sherri Taft
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Elaine Smith, Paula Turner Co-Youth Directors
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Salina, NY 14879
607-776-9730
xraypaula@yahoo.com

Gerald Batesford, Sports
1199 Church Street
Cortland, NY 13045
607-835-6127

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

Gail Chamberlain
3627 Co. Rte. 21
Whitehall, NY 12887
518-499-1028

Gene Ormsby
NYS Fair
Grange Building Superintendent
376 Canisteo Street
Hornell NY 14843
585-808-1043
gernn55@earthlink.net

Emily and Matt Shoup
Camp Directors
40 Parkwood St. Apt. B1
Albany, NY
camp@nysgrange.org

Many of you may not be aware that many communications are only being sent from National Grange by e-mail. If you have e-mail and are not receiving information from the National Grange you should send an e-mail to National Grange and include your e-mail and that of anyone else in your Grange who might be interested in getting information.

Send to: Stephanie Wilkins
swilkins@nationalgrange.org
You can also find information on the National Grange Website www.nationalgrange.org.
State Grange is also establishing an e-mail list. Send to: nysgrange@nysgrange.org

Photos above and Left:
Butternut Valley Grange presents dictionaries to Gilbertsville Mt. Upton School. Each fall they contact the schools to see how many 3rd grade students are in school that year and always leave one for each teacher and a few extras in case new students arrive during the year. This year Butternut Valley Grange ordered 96 dictionaries for the two schools. Its a community service project. Twenty eight dictionaries were presented to the Gilbertsville Mt. Upton School third graders and their teachers, Mrs. McMullen and Mrs. Bennett on Friday, January 13 by members of the Butternut Valley Grange. Students will be using the dictionaries in their classrooms during the school year. This is a Community Service project sponsored by the Grange. Grangers helping with the presentation were Kenny Butler, Roberta Halbert, Norm Ritchey and Laura Hall.

Kirkland Jr. Grange had their annual Christmas party on Sunday Dec. 18th, and presented information about Jr. Grange and include your e-mail and that of anyone else in your Grange who might be interested in getting information.

Send to: Stephanie Wilkins
swilkins@nationalgrange.org
You can also find information on the National Grange Website www.nationalgrange.org.
State Grange is also establishing an e-mail list. Send to: nysgrange@nysgrange.org

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Kirkland Jr. Grange had their annual Christmas party on Sunday Dec. 18th, and presented information about Jr. Grange and received awards for their projects. A more detailed article will follow from Karen Wilcox, the Kirkland Jr. Leader.
Photos on left:
For the picture standing in the doorway, the children are (from left to right) Caden Slate, Macenzie Tedford, Steven Frost, Jon Slate, Nathan Frost, and Mattison Leeson.
For the picture around the table, the names are Mattison Leeson, Macenzie Tedford, Steven Frost, Nathan Frost, Jon Slate, and Caden Slate.
The National Grange in conjunction with the National Grange Sesquicentennial Committee is proud to announce the 2017 150th Anniversary Four-Minute Movie Contest!

Break out your video cameras or even your smart phones and help us tell your Grange story through the medium of film! We want to commemorate our members and our stories through the production of four-minute movies that can be used to tell the world how amazing Grangers and the Grange are! Get creative as you or a group of participants put together your own four-minute movie celebrating Grange! And here’s the best part: The prizes sponsored by the National Grange Foundation!

The top three finalist submissions will receive up to a $200 travel stipend, Friday and Saturday night accommodations (one room per submission finalist) at the 151st Annual Session of the National Grange in Spokane, Washington and two tickets to the Celebration banquet where the winning movies will be shown and first, second, and third place awards announced!

**First Place: $1000 Cash Prize!**

**Second Place: $500 Cash Prize!**

**Third Place: $250 Cash Prize!**

All entries will be judged on content, quality, and creativity following a designated grading rubric (See attached). The top seven videos will be part of a social media popularity vote August 15 - August 31, 2017, with the top three favorites moving on to the finalist round at National Session in Spokane, Washington on November 11, 2017.

**Some suggestions to get your wheels turning include—but are not limited to:**
- How Grange has impacted my life
- A Specific Grange Story: Our history and heritage
- Why I love Grange!
- Specific Grange accomplishments, wins, and successes
- Why I joined the Grange, why I stay

**Deadlines:**
- June 1, 2017: SUBMISSIONS OPEN
- August 4, 2017: SUBMISSIONS CLOSE, midnight PST
- August 15 – August 31, 2017: Top seven finalist popularity voting contest
- September 1, 2017: Top three finalist announced
- November 11, 2017: Prizes awarded at National Grange Celebration Banquet

**Rules and Details:**
- This contest is open to all Grange members!
- Videos must not exceed four minutes in length (not counting credits).
- Individual members may only enter one submission, but may also be included in an additional group submission.
- All entries must be accompanied by a completed submission form and waiver no later than MIDNIGHT (PST) on AUGUST 4, 2017.
- Late entries will not be accepted.
- The Sesquicentennial Committee reserves the right to close the Four-Minute Movie Contest at any time due to lack of interest or less than twelve quality submissions by close of submission deadline on Friday, August 4, 2017.
- All entries remain the property of the creator, but to qualify for any prizes, a waiver allowing the Grange to use the video for promotional purposes must be signed at time of submission.
- Members of the Sesquicentennial Committee will qualify the top seven videos to move onto the public voting round. The top three videos will be judged by a qualified judge outside of the organization’s membership.
- Due to large file sizes, submissions should be uploaded to DropBox, Google Drive, or similar program. Submissions will be considered complete upon receipt of sharing link emailed with entry form to 150videocontest@nationalgrange.org

**What we ARE looking for:**
- Smart, funny, poignant, and emotionally engaging four minute movies that celebrate a specific or personal story within Grange

**What we are NOT looking for:**
- Slide shows or PowerPoints of still images/photos with voice over narration
- A broad history of the Grange
- An “How to” video for current Grangers, i.e. “How to Grow Membership,” or “Successful Lecturer’s Programs”
- Negative or critical views of the Grange, Grangers or aspects of Grange History
- Quickly produced movies/low quality

**Timeline:**
- February: Contest released to members (article placed in February edition of Good Day!)
- March: Conference call for members, Q & A on contest, reiteration of what we are and are not looking for; date TBD
- April: Lecturer’s Program in a Box on short films (T.J. will do with Chris Hamp and Amanda)
- May: Conference call for members, Q & A on contest, reiteration of what we are and are not looking for; date TBD
- July: Conference call for members, Q & A on contest, reiteration of what we are and are not looking for; date TBD
For over 150 years, the National Grange has worked to improve the lives of rural Americans all across our great nation. Our Legislative Department works hard to bring America’s farmers, ranchers and other rural residents the resources they require to stay current and competitive in today’s ever-changing global and local economies. The United States has the safest, most efficient and abundant food supply on earth and the National Grange is dedicated to preserving that incredible status. In addition to protecting the state of our agricultural sector, the Grange works on a host of issues affecting rural America, such as:

**Broadband Expansion**

**Postal Healthcare**

**Agriculture Education**

**Debt Reduction**

**And many others…**

A dedicated nonpartisan grassroots organization since 1867, all Grange policy begins in our 2,100 local Grange chapters and works its way up to National where our dedicated National Grange Legislative Department works to implement these goals and values at the federal level in Washington, DC. Through this democratic process, the Grange will continue its mission of protecting and preserving the livelihoods of rural Americans and ensuring that they enjoy the same access to quality goods and services as their urban counterparts.

If you have any questions regarding the Grange’s policies or legislative priorities, please call the National Grange office, at 202-628-3507 ex. 114 or via email to beller@nationalgrange.org.

For more than 140 years, the Grange has been a leader in the fight to bring prosperity and opportunity to farmers and rural Americans. Born in the aftermath of the Civil War, where nearly one in eight Americans were killed, wounded or left homeless from the effects of the great conflict, there was no active, representative civil government for the former Confederate states. This triggered large migrations of people seeking a new start, from both the north and south, toward the previously sparsely settled territories in the Midwest, the plains and the pacific coast. Large and powerful new corporations (using loopholes in state laws to reorganize themselves as “trusts”) captured nearly complete legal control over the application and distribution of products and services arising from new technologies, such as railroads, telegraph, oil refining, and steel production. Protests against the economic power of these monopolies would be the catalyst for civil uprisings all over the nation, and most importantly the creation of the Grange and “Granger Laws.” These laws and court appeals would set the cornerstones of corporate citizenship that are still used today.

Just as the issues for rural Americans have changed, we too at the National Grange have evolved to meet those needs. Today our issues range from protecting the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers through the most efficient agriculture legislation and regulation, to advocating for the build-out of affordable access to high-speed broadband in rural areas. We realize the importance of affordable, sustainable health care as well as making sure rural schools can provide the same quality education as their urban counterparts.

**Opportunities to Impact Federal Legislation**

The National Grange Legislative Department annually hosts a two-day fly-in at which any member who attends receives information on some of the most current issues of interest to the organization and visits their Congressional representatives to advocate for rural America and agriculture. In 2013, the 23 Fly-In attendees heard from Rep. Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) on the movement of the 2013 Farm Bill and were present when a representative from RAM received the first William Saunders Award for Rural Awareness. More than 40 scheduled Hill meetings between members and their Senators or Representatives allowed attendees to talk about issues such as the Farm Bill, rural broadband and health access, the LifeLine program, the second Amendment, and state or regional issues of interest.

Photos in left column: Butternut Valley Grangers enjoy their Christmas celebration with singing, an impromptu pageant and a little silliness
Youth Workshops and activities at the Weekend at Wide Awake Grange in Ontario County. Twister, Unreal Bowling, Farm Visit (robotic milking), sewing and mending, mission trip to Toga and National Grange information (legislative and 4 minute movie. And of course food.