Expanding our Traditions

All of us have traditions of one kind or another, be they serious, fun, or endearing. All of these traditions share one thing in common, that being their importance to us, even though some of which may seem bizarre or trivial when revealed to those outside of the circle of participants. In that our organization is fraternal in nature, and for good reason, there are more traditions than found in non-fraternal systems, given the teachings and concepts we wish our members to embrace.

The presentation of the body of knowledge we believe necessary to create our fraternal bonds is presented via ritual, as creating a tradition pretty much depends on that, just like the traditions spoken of in the first paragraph, the same activity happening over and over again, in the same way. In our case it is important to distinguish between the teachings and the vehicle of presentation. Unfortunately, many when hearing the word ritual dismiss the entire blue book from their mind, thus throwing out the material because of the method.

Over the past 150 years there have been in some cases substantial changes in the execution of our customs, and I suspect modifications will continue to be made, which is not a bad thing. The important thing is not to neglect the body of knowledge we should all possess in our hearts and minds, because that is where the real tradition begins and ends. I read some time ago that there was a long-standing tradition in the Kennedy family to play a touch football game on Thanksgiving Day, one which incidentally contributed to President Kennedy’s back problem. Obviously, not one of those games was exactly alike, but the fact that there was always a game established the tradition, and a very important one to them.

The title of this article will appear on the cover page of our soon to be released Handbook for the 2018-19 Grange years. We would encourage thinking along those lines as programs and activities are developed over the next two years. Traditions are very important, as they provide the solid foundation upon which our organization rests. As there is much more to the organization than just its foundation, expansion is a necessity, and sometimes the foundation needed to be shored up a bit. The old expression (probably older than the Grange) of not throwing the bath out with the baby out with the bath comes to mind here. We have accomplished great things over the past 150 years, but denying that, and our foundation had a lot to do with that success.

The phrase “Expanding our Traditions” is not an oxymoron. The traditional concepts need to remain, but the expansion part comes into play when we take the opportunities to apply them in creative ways, as opposed to dismissing them as no longer relevant. This phrase can play out in a lot of beneficial ways, and we trust opportunities will be taken in this direction to strengthen our Order.

Support Grange Youth

Lights Parade, Dutchess County Fair, Grange dinners, Penny Socials and the Lions Club Flea Market. Brittany has been described as a leader, smart, energetic and enthusiastic with a cheerful disposition.

During the summer Brittany enjoys babysitting and working at the Big Rock Farm. Summer vacations have been spent volunteering at the fair and Grange Camp. She also enjoys painting, crafts and playing the flute.
Don’t Let the Grange Train Leave the Station Without You

Brothers and Sisters of the Grange have you been reading your ESG carefully? Have you subscribed to our new National Magazine? Remember folks printed media like the Grange at all levels, is called “communication”. The best way we as members can stay informed and “in the loop” is to be observant as to what the writers of our Grange publications are saying.

It can be argued that the Grange started because of unfair practices of the railroad. Isn’t it funny how the tables have turned. It now appears that the “Grange Train” is picking up steam on freshly laid tracks, adding new riders, new cars, and new stations all over the country. Involve all your acquaintances to climb aboard “The Grange Train.”

Kathy E. Miller

One of our new stations is Balmville. Stations under reconstruction and revitalization include, but are not limited to, Elba (Genesee County) and Bethleh (Albany County). These are exciting times for our organization. It keeps our United States families are once again turning to their hometown roots and searching out organizations just like the Grange for help. If you are revitalizing, or organizing a new train station, or merging your tracks into a mutu­ally beneficial station – please let me know I will leave me a message and let me know. Above all else if you need assistance in any of these endeavors, the communication tracks run both directions, so PLEASE let your directors know, we are here to assist.

I’ve heard a few more rumblings about a new station in our southern tier – don’t give up because the wheels turn slowly at first – stay on that track and be patient with your wheels they will pick up steam and chug faster and faster – soon you will be able to participate in forming and guiding Grange groups.

By now you all know when numbers go up, whether it be new members, new Granges I get a big smile….or a funny grin. The Grin says – “yea, it’s work­ing.” The grin says – “and they thought they couldn’t do it.”

NY State Grange Session is scheduled for October 10 – 24th in Auburn. Don’t let yourself get derailed, try to attend part, if not all, of our session. Come and see for yourself your hard working “Grange Train”……in the inter­im keep thinking….chugga, chugga, “I think I can”….I know I can”….`

legislator Article:
The second regional legisla­tive conference that was sched­uled for Chenango County had to be cancelled due to a lack of speakers for the event. I apolo­gize for the late notice but we just did not receive enough. I am sure that everyone will agree with me that this year has been one of the rainiest we have had in a long time. It seems that everyone knows that anything growing will be observant as to what the communications track run both directions, so PLEASE let your directors know, we are here to assist.

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Sports
Carl Bullock

The New York State Bowling Tournament Golf Tournament went very well and everybody seemed to have a good time. We had ten participating teams in bowling and five teams in Golf this year. The results of the bowling is as follows: Cortland County Pomona Grange came in first, Dutchess County Grangers came in second, Livingston Pomona 76ers came in third and Wide Awake Grange came in 4th. The results of the Golf Tournament are as follows: Cortland Buzzards, Cortland County, First; (Dave Nagel, Cathy Nagel and John Buchanan) Adam’s Acres, Wide Awake Grange, Second; (Nancy Adams, Jason Adams and Marvin Adams) U. S. D. #3, Clifton Springs Grange, Third; (André Croucher, Kevin Marvin and Pinky Tiebout) Hopeful Birdies, Clifton Springs Grange, Fourth (Sharon Croucher and Terry Dixon) and the Par Busters, Clifton Springs Grange, Fifth (Henry Kelsey, Andrea Ackles and Bruce Croucher).

I want to thank Linda Batsford and my wife for helping me with running the bowling tournament and for figuring out the prize money, and a special thanks to Sheila Gregoire for helping us with all the invoices and for Ken South in helping his patient. I did also like to thank Bruce Croucher for assisting with the Golf Tournament. Congratulations to everyone and I hope you had a good time!

(Continued from page 2)

Legislative

Ontario are suffering greatly from all the rain. The lake levels are the highest they have been in over a decade. Many areas along the lake are finding shore erosion happening. It has interfered with many businesses who depend on the lake for their business. These businesses are seasonal and only have the summer to earn all their income for the year. How can they make up for this loss?

Many have blamed the high lake levels on the International Joint Commission for keeping the levels of the lake high for shipping purposes and I see this in the river low. This Commission is made up of representatives from the United States and Canada. The Commission monitors the levels of the lake and tries to keep it at the optimum levels for everyone. The Commission has opened the locks and is letting more water out of the system to bring the levels down. The levels are starting to come down but it is slow and may not be able to help these businesses recoup their losses.

The Grange has a policy in our current policy handbook that encourages the “Commission to recognize the effect of low water levels in the St. Lawrence River on the economic condition of upstate New York and to do all within their power to alleviate the situation.” Should they do more to keep the levels of the lake and the river down? Should they have a policy that spells out what should be done when lake levels abnormally rise due to flooding?

Do you think we should modify our statement? Do we need it stronger or weaker?

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The results of the 2017 New York State Bowling Tournament were as follows: 1st Place: Clifton Springs Grange, Third; 2nd Place: Wide Awake Grange, Fourth; 3rd Place: Adam’s Acres, Wide Awake Grange, Second; 4th Place: U.S.D. #3, Clifton Springs Grange, First.

From the Secretary’s Corner

Roger Halbert

It appears the season of hec- tic “busy, busy” is upon us. While enjoying all that outside fun and heightened activity, we close one Grange year and embark on a new one. For some Granges, election of officers has occurred, maybe even the installation to get you off to a fresh start. This suggests the appointment of committees and the desire to address new projects. The list for Officer and Committee Chairs was sent to each Secretary of record (Community and Pomona Grange) July 1 so that communications will go to the right officer/chairperson from State Grange during the 2017-2018 year. Worthy Secretary, if you have not sent this in, please take a few moments and do so. These are included in the Directory that goes to the printer soon after the first of the year.

Preparations for State Session are in the works big time as we write this article. All roads will lead to Auburn on Friday, October 20 when the committees meet at 2 p.m. to study and act on resolutions submitted by Pomona Granges. The entire session is held at the Holiday Inn, 75 North Street, Auburn and the agenda is planned to conclude early in the day on Tuesday, October 24. For room reservations, please call 315-253-4531 and be sure to state you are part of State Grange convention as special rates are given for Grange guests until September 18. The rate for a room with double beds is $99 plus 13% tax and there are some rooms available for $109 plus 13% tax. There is a limited number of handicap rooms upon request, first come first served. While we realize that committee meetings go on Friday morning and evening, it is requested that Worthy Officers come first, in order to get the best seating possible. Worthy Secretary, if you have not sent your report forms, please do so as soon as possible.

We have not sent this in, please take a few moments and do so. These are included in the Directory that goes to the printer soon after the first of the year.

As I suggested at the service, a way to survive the turbulence of circumstances around us is to cling to a solid rock – one that is high above the raging waters and large enough to sit upon. A rock upon which we can hear the voice of our Creator.

The flooding that our area in Cayuga County has experienced these past two weeks in July has been so forceful that three hundred pound and heavier boulders have been washed downstream. Therefore, the “rock of choice” that we need to survive is Jesus Christ. He is the Rock as stated in First Corinthians 10:4. Which reminds me of the hymn, “On Christ the Solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand”. Yes, that is The Rock we need to trust and build our lives upon.
POMONA CHAPLAINS: Please send to me the names of Grangers in your county who were Sixth Degree members and have entered the Grange Above this past year. Thank you to the Chaplains who have already responded.

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National Grange on Friday November 22-24th. Cost will be $25. Please plan now to join us there and RSVP to Paula by September 15th.

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Samantha Wilkins. Jomni and Samantha, along with Grangers across the country, feel that deaf awareness is very important. At Samantha’s request, Jomni has been traveling to regional conferences to perform sign-a-song workshops in an effort to increase participation in that contest. Juniors and adults of any age can participate. Jomni performed her sign-a-song to inspire those attending this conference to promote the contest in their Granges.

Jomni has also been performing a honey bee awareness workshop as part of the new Junior Grange Awareness Award. She enjoyed touring the Massachusetts State Apiary and the beautiful UMASS Pollinator Garden which is sponsored by the Massachusetts State Grange.

Jomni also enjoyed participating in the weekend’s activities. We all learned about the Pollinator Garden that is in the shape of a Grange emblem. We also participated in the MSGYLA (MA State Grange Youth Leadership Association) meeting. They discussed and voted on two very interesting resolutions. After the Banquet and ice cream sundaes, a group Trivia Game rounded out Saturday evening and was enjoyed by all.

The worship service on Sunday will be adored by everyone who will be hosting the NEYC July 13-15, 2018.

Massachusetts won the drill competition with Rhode Island in 2nd place. We had decided in April to not compete in the drill this year. RI also was awarded the Spirit Stick to display in their state until next July.

Youth will be working the evening shift at the NYS Fair Grange Ox Roast on Saturday, August 26th this year. Remember to contact Elaine or Paula by September 1st to apply to be a Youth Ambassador for 2018. We need one male and one female each year who are between the ages of 16 and 21, and two more age 22-35.

At 6th this grade, please remember to send applications for the Robert A. Earlard Award to Elaine or Paula by Sept. This is for youth interested in legislation and needs to be submitted by the youth members’ grace.

Fall Youth Weekend details are still being finalized, so youth can check facebook in September for a schedule or in an e-mail. We will be at Butter Valley Grange #1533 in Otsego County on September 22-24th. Cost will be $25. Please plan now to join us there and RSVP to Paula by September 15th.

Group Sign-A-Song L to R: Tessa Taft, Christian Taft

Prepared Speech Christian Taft

Prepared Speech (Young Adult) Katie Fallon

National Junior Grange Ambassador 2017 Alexandria (Jommi) Tarbell with National Junior Grange Director Samantha Wilkins

Jomni Tarbell from Genesee County, NY and the National Grange Junior Director Samantha Wilkins.
As a family organization, the National Grange is proud to be supporting and spreading the word about Text4baby. Text4baby was created just over a year ago to give expectant families and new mothers health and nutritional information through the first year of the baby’s life. The U.S. ranks 29th in infant mortality, tying with Slovenia and Poland, and Text4baby is an excellent tool in helping us improve care for our most precious and vulnerable citizens. Anyone can sign up completely free using only their cell phone. Pregnant women, new moms, family members or any interested party can enroll by texting BABY to 511411. Subscribers will receive up to three free text messages each week, timed to their due date or the child’s birthday, which will provide them with information on how to improve their health and the health of their baby. The only information interested parties need provide is their due date or their child’s birth date and their zip code. So far, over 135,000 users have signed up for this great program. Text4baby is backed by community health organizations, cell phone providers, health care providers, government health agencies, businesses, and various community organizations.

For many years the National Grange conducted an active Deaf Awareness Program which led to many valuable projects that enabled our members to learn more about deaf people and their challenges. In many cases, great relationships were also built with the deaf community. A fund was developed within the National Grange Foundation for the purpose of supporting deaf activities within the Grange. Because funds are still available, this grant program is being offered to assist states with funding various deaf awareness activities.

**National Grange Deaf Awareness Grant Program Application**
CAN YOU HELP US??

The countdown started last year as soon as the State Fair ended. The countdown is reaching fever pitch as we get closer to August 23rd. The Great New York State Fair is only a few months away. Do you feel the excitement?

Last year there were many changes to the fair. There have been more changes this year. Would you like to know what has changed? One major change has happened. The fair will be 13 days this year. It will start on August 23rd.

Your Grange may have already received our letter asking for your help at the Ox Roast. This is an undertaking that we cannot do alone and hope that you will consider helping us. This is the one big fundraiser that the State Grange does each year. We hope that you and your Grange will consider working a shift to help us to make this an

OTHER SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING YEAR.

If your Grange is not able to send a team of workers this year, if you haven’t helped recently, would you please consider sending and/or joining a team to work at the fair this year? The shifts run from 11 AM – 4:30 PM and 4:30 PM – 10 PM. Each shift requires 6 to 8 people. The dates of the fair are August 23rd through September 4th.

Please complete the Worker/Shift Information Sheet form and return it to us at the above address as soon as possible prior to July 15th. Should you have any questions, please contact us. We can be reached during the evenings at 315.413.9335.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and your help in this endeavor.

2016 NEW YORK STATE GRANGE—YE OLDE OX ROAST WORKER/SHIFT INFORMATION SHEET

DATE AND TIME WORKED IN 2016: __________

PLEASE FILL IN BELOW AND RETURN TO ADDRESS AT THE BOTTOM:

MY COUNTY __________ OR SUBORDINATE

WANTED TO WORK:

FIRST CHOICE: ___________ SHIFT TIME: ___________

SECOND CHOICE: ___________ SHIFT TIME: ___________

NUMBER OF TICKETS NEEDED:

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS COMING: ___________

NAME OF CONTACT PERSON: ____________________________

ADDRESS: _________________________________________

PHONE NO: (___) ___________.

YOUR TICKETS WILL BE SENT TO THE CONTACT PERSON INDICATED ABOVE. IT WILL BE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE SURE ALL VolUNTEERS HAVE THE NECESSARY TICKETS. (Tickets are purchased based on workers needed for each shift, so there will be a limited number of tickets.)

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN JULY 15, 2017.

PLEASE SEND TO: CINDY BENSON-POLLARD

401 CHARLES AVENUE

SYRACUSE, NY 13209

CONTACT PHONE WHILE AT FAIR: 315-413-9335

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!! SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!!
Tara Nicole Bergstrom lives in Katonah New York and is the daughter of Rudolph and Elena Bergstrom. She has one brother, Conor, who attends Marist College. Tara continues her studies at Cornell University majoring in Animal Science. She is pursuing a career in either Animal Science and plans to pursue the business side of Animal Science hoping to run a veterinary clinic.

Tara is a member of the Women’s Varsity Sailing Team at Cornell. She was one of eight selected to join the team on the Spring 2015 Southern Training Circuit. She is also a member of the Pre-Health Program, Pre-Vet Society and the Big Red Leadership Institute. Tara particularly enjoys her coursework in Genetics Financial Accounting. Tara currently has an internship with Bostick Murphy & Company, CPA, PC where she assists with tax season preparation. She did an internship with PepsiCo last winter where she worked with their Supply Chain Management Team learning about supply chain optimization. In addition, Tara serves as a Social Media Consultant.

Tara is a member of the Yorktown Grange where she participated in the Yorktown Grange Fair. Tara spends her summers working as a sailing instructor and coach at the Shattemuc Yacht Club on the Hudson River. For the upcoming season, Tara will serve as the Youth Sailing Program’s Director. The club director describes Tara as well organized and responsible, a great role model and leader for any young adult. She is trustworthy and hard working.

Tara has a strong interest in running and a passion for general health and fitness. She hopes to run a half marathon before graduating from college.

National Grange News

Grange Legacy Family Commendation

In honor of the Grange’s 150th birthday, the National Grange is starting the Grange Legacy Family Recognition program to honor those families that have had five or more generations involved as Grange members.

We give recognition to individuals who have been a Grange member for 25, 50, 75, 80, and even 90 years, and we want to recognize families.

Anyone can nominate a family, including family members themselves, but they must include information as to whom of the family was a member in what Grange with clear five-generation or more lineage.

The first honorees will be recognized at National Convention in Spokane, Washington in November. The family will receive a certificate, and each family member can receive a copy upon request.

Guidelines:
1. Deadline is Thursday, October 5, 2017. Any entry received after deadline will not be recognized in 2017.
2. Must have at least 5 generations of Grange members, including junior members.
3. Anyone can nominate a legacy family
4. Families will be recognized at the 2017 National Convention in Spokane, WA

Please print clearly and neatly:
**Family Last Name(s):** ____________________________ State: __________

1. Generation Name(s):_________________________# of Years if possible:____
   Name of Grange & number: _______________________________

2. Generation Name(s):_________________________# of Years if possible:____
   Name of Grange & number: _______________________________

3. Generation Name(s):_________________________# of Years if possible:____
   Name of Grange & number: _______________________________

4. Generation Name(s):_________________________# of Years if possible:____
   Name of Grange & Number: ______________________________

5. Generation Name(s):_________________________# of Years if possible:____
   Name of Grange & number: _______________________________

6. Generation Name(s):_________________________# of Years if possible:____
   Name of Grange & number: _______________________________

7. Generation Name(s):_________________________# of Years if possible:____
   Name of Grange & number: _______________________________

Submitted by:

Name: ____________________________
City: ____________________________
State: __________
Zip Code: __________
Phone number: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________
Date submitted: ____________________________

In order to be recognized at the 2017 National Convention, application must be in by Thursday, October 5, 2017

How many copies of the certificate do you need?

(The family will receive the number of copies submitted, no additional copies will be printed.)

Please include a picture of the family or the family members, if possible

(Any photo(s) submitted will become property of the National Grange, and may be used in future publications)

Please return to: Loretta Washington
Sales, Benefits, Programs and Membership Recognition Director
National Grange
1616 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

The picture of the race car is the #68 SST modified owned and driven by Nathan Michielsen. He races at Wyoming County International Speedway in Perry, New York. He is a member and officer of Eureka Grange #46 in Lyons, New York. Nate is the son of State Lecturer Kay Bailey and grandson of Grange Historian Carol Bailey.

(Continued from page 1) Scholarship Award

Tara has a strong interest in art and is doing a staycation or stuck inside because of the rain trying a new art medium and work up a new project for the art contest. Categories for the art contest are: Oils &Acrylics; Charcoal, Pencil, Crayon, Marker; and Mixed Media (including watercolor) with a maximum size of 24”x36”x1”. For the mixed media think possibly of paper maché, folded paper, anything that has a little dimension to it.

Have a great summer, take in a fair or two, take in a race or even sponsor a car (advertising in a whole new place), enjoy family and friends.

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DeNise Scholarship
Tara Nicole Bergstrom

While you are out and about this summer be sure to snap a few pics for the photo contest next spring. The categories are: Patriotic; Dust to Dawn (no flash); and Historic Sites. If you are doing a staycation or stuck inside because of the rain try a new art medium and work up a new project for the art contest. Categories for the art contest are: Oils &Acrylics; Charcoal, Pencil, Crayon, Marker; and Mixed Media (including watercolor) with a maximum size of 24”x36”x1”. For the mixed media think possibly of paper maché, folded paper, anything that has a little dimension to it.

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(Continued from page 1) Scholarship Award

Samantha plans to participate in various Education Clubs as well as academic organizations during her stay at Fredonia. In her spare time, she enjoys going to Point Gratist Beach to collect sea glass. Samantha is a member of Curriers Grange where she served as Ceres 2013 through 2015. She continues involved in her church and in her community, and working at various Grange functions.

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The effect of the wildfires, as they have for farms throughout the nation, has required measures. Both programs have mitigated the disastrous economic impacts by the Buffet Foundation. Petitions to local US Representatives and to the Farm Journal Foundation, where the funds were matched again, were signed by attendees asking that the up-front assistance for the current year be adequately funded in the 2018 Farm Bill. The new crop insurance program has been more successful in 2018 compared to 2017, but insurance is still less than 50% paid in many instances. The two Senators from New York have been instrumental in lobbying the US Congress for assistance.

Granger Sam Becker sits by Milton Grange’s table at Saratoga County’s urban/rural mixer, Sundaes on the Farm, featuring Stewart’s ice cream and Shelly Smith’s pies at King Brothers Dairy and Kings ransom Farm, Schuylerville, NY. A raffle of items donated by a Grange member brought in $276, which was matched by the Grange, and sent to the Farm Journal Foundation, where the funds were matched again, to help support the local food bank.

The Gerald M. Eastman Award, The Gerald M. Eastman Award, first awarded in 1978, is presented annually to an individual Granger or Grange couple who exemplifies Christian principles and influences others in a positive way. This monetary award will be presented during the State Grange Session each October. Nominations for the Eastman Award should be sent by September 15:

Attn: State Grange Secretary
100 Grange Place
Cortland, New York 13045

Nominations received after September 15 will not be considered for the current year’s presentation. Please forward the following application form as well as supplemental statements that will present the nominee’s qualifications and attributes that the Award recognizes.

Nomination Form

We nominate
Grange, No., and County ____________________________
Telephone ____________________________
Address ____________________________
Signature of Nominator ____________________________
Telephone ____________________________
Address ____________________________
Grange of Nominator ____________________________

Additional Documentation About the Nominee
(please type or write legibly, using additional pages)

Saratoga County

The whole Votetilla

The 100th anniversary of Women’s Suffrage in New York was marked by a week long journey from Seneca Falls to Rochester via the Erie Canal. The “Votetilla of boats carried the distinguished passengers of Lucretia Mott, Reverend Samuel May, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Carrie Chapman Catt, Clara Barton, Antoinette Brown Blackwell, Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells Barnett, and Sojourner Truth. Each day the Votetilla stopped in villages along the canal. Each village planned special events to mark the historic occasion. In Lyons, Carol Bailey, New York State Grange Historian presented a reenactment of the 1903 Susan B. Anthony speech to the National Grange Convention in Syracuse New York. From Lyons the group continued to Newark where the distinguished guests mingled with the crowd before each on presented a speech that she or he had given to promote the cause of voting rights for women. In talking with Miss Anthony she expressed her appreciation for the support that the Grange had given to women’s suffrage.

Votetilla Boats

Frederick Douglas

Bowling Tournament

The New York State Grange bowling tournament was again held at Cort-Lanes in Cortland, NY. Ten teams participated in this friendly competition. Teams consist of four players with mixed genders.

Each team bowls three games against another team, changing lanes after each frame. The tournament is a handicapped tournament so that if you bowl in a sanctioned league then you would have an average and a handicap. If you do not bowl in a league, then you are assigned a standard handicap. The team scoring the greatest number of pins for the three games is the champion. There are prizes for the highest team scores. Prizes are awarded to high games for men and women and high series for men and women. Individuals will only be awarded the highest prize in each category. No one wins more than one prize.

It is a fun day with good fellowship and a chance to see people that you haven’t seen recently. Try it!!!!