Communication is Key

It would seem in this age of almost unlimited avenues of communication, along with the number of entities using such that the old phrase “lack of communication” would have faded away, but that is hardly the case. Some might argue that lack of communication is actually caused by communication overload, as it seems that we are bombarded by it everywhere we turn. Actually, we always have been bombarded, it is just the mediums that have changed, and move at a faster pace. A lot of us remember morning and evening newspapers, along with extra editions, the ubiquitous highway billboards, etc., but now all of that is at our fingertips, via the remote or internet. Electronic media has increased the speed and the availability of events as well as correspondence. Think of what it must have been like during the time of the founding of our Nation for example, when what it must have been like during the communication process, entrusting the policy matters through the resolution process, entrusting the policy matters through the resolution process, entrusting the policy matters through the resolution process, entrusting the policy matters through the resolution process, entrusting the policy matters through the resolution process.

“Some might argue that lack of communication is necessary, followed by immediate action in some cases. Over the past few years we have attempted through various means to expand our email data base with limited success, with many of the ones that we do have not valid. We would like to be able to do “email blasts” from time to time in order to put legislative issues particularly in your hands that the State or National Grange wishes you to be aware of, or immediate action of some sort is needed. As local Grangers/Granges have created policy matters through the resolution process, entrusting the State and National Granges to make it happen, it stands to reason that we would like you to know our progress, and if a grass-roots effort is needed to assist in the effort. Our email lists are neither sold nor given to non-Grange entities. I am sure that all would agree that making wise determinations is not possible without sufficient information, so it goes without saying that when it comes to Grange life ample

Don’t Harm Agriculture

“The National Grange message to the White House is “Mr. President, do no harm to agriculture.” Our looming trade war with China is serious and will be devastating to America’s farmers and ranchers. Commodity prices at the farm gate are already at levels far below profitability. If current trade posturing does escalate to a full-fledged trade war with China, our country will slip from an agriculture recession today into an agriculture depression tomorrow. China has shown it is more than willing to target America’s food producers with retaliatory tariffs on our ag exports. “China appears ready to target America’s most valuable food and agriculture exports with serious retaliatory tariffs. Soybeans, pork, apples, cherries, wine, grapes, oranges and pistachios appear to be at the top of China’s retaliatory list. Chinese tariffs will close markets, dam up market channels, and cause commodity prices to fall even more. For example, if a 10 percent tariff were to be placed on soybeans, U.S. soybean exports would fall by a third, according to the U.S. Soybean Export Council. A 30 percent tariff would drop U.S. soybean exports to China by 71 percent. “Other countries around the world are anxiously waiting to pick up America’s food and agriculture export markets from a U.S.-China trade war. These lost markets would be very difficult to regain later. We again ask the Administration to do no harm to agriculture.”
Cindy Benson-Pollard

Legislative Article

Is spring here yet? It seems that winter wants to hang on. Mother Nature just doesn’t want to turn the page to warmer weather. I am hoping that by the time you read this, warmer weather and green grass will be the norm and not the exception. Is your Grange legislative work the exception and not the norm? I hope that you are all busy with your legislative work.

Resolutions are starting to find their way in for the 2018 State Session? Have you sent yours to me? Please do not wait to get them in as soon as possible. It helps me greatly if I can get them typed ahead of the September 1st deadline. Do you have an idea and need help with writing your resolution? Here are a few helpful hints. Be sure that you have backup information to justify your resolution. Keep your resolutions to 3 to 4 whereas sections. When you write them, include the reasons why you are taking this position and a brief description of what you want us to do. Finish with the resolved section that tells everyone exactly what you want our position to be. If you need help, please let me know. I will be happy to help you in any way.

Due to circumstances beyond my control, I am postponing the regional Legislative conferences. I am hoping that I will be able to reschedule them later in the year. Please watch this article for further information.

Again, if you need any help with your legislative work, please contact me. I am always glad to help.

Opinion Article

One of my favorite TV shows is “The Incredible Doctor Pol.” For those of you who may not have heard of it, the show follows a 75-year-old veterinarian from Michigan. He always goes above and beyond to take care of the animals in his practice area. He is a large animal vet practice so he visits many dairy farms. He is a large animal vet practice above and beyond to take care of dairy farmers across the country. He had raised quite a bit of mon-

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The Federal government is looking to make changes to the milk price insurance program but will those changes in the program come in time. As the new farm bill is crafted, we must be an active voice in letting our legislators know that they need to make the necessary changes to milk pricing structures and the milk price insurance program to be able to help our dairy farmers.

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**NEW YORK STATE GRANGE**

**THE NORTH SHORE**

**Massachusetts**

**May 29-June 1, 2018**

**4 Days/3 Nights**

**Tuesday, May 29**

7:30am Depart North Syracuse - Tops 3803 Brewwerton Road, Airport Plaza

8:30am Depart Rome - Freedom Plaza Parking lot, 205 Erie Blvd.

10:45am Depart Albany - Crossgate Comment, 161 Washington Avenue Ext.

**break stop for lunch on your own**

Travel to the north shore of Boston and check in to the Rockport Inn & Suites in scenic Rockport, Mass. for three nights. The hotel features an indoor pool with a hot-tub, tennis courts and fitness room.

Welcome aboard! this evening step aboard North Shore's most elegant and sleek vessel the Beauport Princess for a dinner cruise! Enjoy the spectacular maritime views of the City, Downtown, Wharves, Lighthouses, Hammond Castle, Rocky Neck, Eastern Point and Dog Bar Breakwater while enjoying a buffet dinner.

**Wednesday, May 30**

Deluxe continental breakfast included at hotel this morning.

9:00am Your guide will meet you at the hotel for a full day of touring.

Travel to Salem and see highlights including the Old Burying Point Cemetery, the Witch Trials Memorial, Historic Chestnut Street, Salem Willows, and more. Learn about the glorious days of Maritime Trade as you view the Friendship docked at Central Wharf. Tour the Salem Witch Museum and learn about the dark days of the Salem Witch Trials. Tour the House of the Seven Gables complex, a collection of period buildings including the oldest surviving mansion in America built in 1668 and Nathaniel Hawthorne's 1804 birthplace. Lunch on own in Salem. This afternoon, follow the scenic gold coast route to Gloucester. This shore road takes you through quaint towns rich with history and past large estates that were once summer homes to the wealthy. Your guide will tell you about Singing Beach and the summer White House of William H. Taft. Make a photo stop at the famous Fisherman's Statue. See the memorial dedicated to the wives of the fishermen. Then travel to Rockport, designated by Walt Disney as one of the most picturesque towns in America, famous for its art colony located on Bearskin Neck.

Continue back through East Gloucester and drive past Bass Rocks where the term "rock bound coast of New England" will come to life. Your guide will relate stories of the "dangerous" fishing industry of Gloucester that was brought to the public's attention in the Hollywood movie, "The Perfect Storm". Don your souvenir Lobster hat for a Lobster Bake Dinner "in the rough" included at The Gloucester House. Pre-select Lobster or BBQ Chicken. Return to hotel at 7:30pm

**Thursday, May 31**

Deluxe continental breakfast included at the hotel

8:30am Depart hotel with your guide for another full day of touring. Travel to the north shore of Boston and check in to the Rockport Inn & Suites in scenic Rockport, Mass. for three nights. The hotel features an indoor pool with a hot-tub, tennis courts and fitness room.

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Another opportunity to communicate with the fine folks of the New York State Grange family, and especially the Secretaries of the organization. Recently a Subordinate (Community) Grange Secretary called me with the question: What are my duties as Secretary? I sometimes am challenged by some who propose certain items of business that I should be doing and are not... or some duties that I think I should be handling and are questioned for doing so. This caused me to pause a moment, giving advice about an office that I have never held in our Grange work. That’s right! I have never served as a Subordinate Secretary, but trust me, since 2011, as State Secretary, I have come to appreciate that role and all that it entails. It was a reasonable question that was thrown my way: What are the duties of a Grange Secretary?

Let us start by saying the Secretary is the key officer for all communications coming into the Grange and going out to various individuals, from Secretaries from Granges at all levels, and outside groups or agencies. Secretaries are reminded to be prompt, efficient, courteous, brief and yet comprehensive. The work of the Secretary becomes the history of that Grange for years to come, so it is vitally important to reflect the business, the actions taken, the concerns shared, and equal mention of the good times and program thoughts that were a highlight of every meeting. Of course, we all know that I have just summed up in layman’s terms the charge that is imparted in the installation of the Secretary, ceremonious language, true, but it provides the framework upon which specifics can instruct the Secretary on the real nuts and bolts of the job at hand.

To assist the original question- and all those who are reading thus far, let me share some specifics that come to my mind in response to the Subordinate Secretary’s dilemma:

- Prior to the meeting, it is helpful to be organized, that is to have all communications together and to have all bills ready for the Treasurer. These items can be written in the appropriate sections of the minute book to be a valuable time during the meeting.
- During the meeting, as we alluded to earlier, capture the essence of all the business. While reflecting the full discussions as unnecessary, the final motion/action determined by the Grange is important in the minutes. Always remember to include the maker of the motion and the seconder... with first and last names. Too often a Secretary will note down only the first name, while the last name is generally okay for present referencing, in years to come, without a last name, history is lost, particularly if it involves a significant action. It is important to note down the attendance at each meeting as a legal quorum is needed for any business (a minimum of 7 members) if there are concerns with an action taken, that the decision is binding with 7 or more members present.
- The quarterly report to State Grange is due around April 1, July 1, October 1, and January 1. Any time within a month is fine as long as this date is a good rule of thumb. The report is extremely important as it maintains a Grange’s good standing with State Grange, but equally important, it contains the names of deceased members during that quarter and the names of new members taken in, so that they can be added to the mailing roster of communications (the Empire State Grange, being one) to new members soon. Likewise, this includes the annual permission sent to the Subordinate for State Grange to report to IRS on the Grange’s behalf and the annual Officers’ List, that is returned so the State Directory is as complete and accurate as possible. If the names of new leaders are not sent in to Cortland, that Grange leader is missed when communications are sent. Have the reports to the Pomona and State Granges been duly and promptly made? This is a question the Master asks the Secretary during the Order of Business and it refers specifically to the quarterly reports and other requests for response to State Grange and any reporting that is used by a Pomona or State Grange that reflects activity of the Grange. If these reports are not processed with Pomona and State Granges, the Secretary should not hold the Secretary of the Pomona Grange an equal point. As a Secretary, one should not overstate “Yes, Worthy Master.”
- Continuing on communications, too often such letters from State Grange are handled by the Secretary with “The communication is here on the Secretary’s desk if you care to look it over.” Not a good idea as we know that seldom does one take up the opportunity to read the communication after the meeting. If not wanting to read the entire communication, the Secretary should highlight certain areas or be able to sum up the gist of the communication so the reason for it is given to the members.
- Annual dues notices are to be sent to each member of record around December 1, notifying the member of the amount due and the dates that are owed for the ensuing year. This is a requirement in the National Grange Digest. Some Granges wait to close membership on January 1, but the important message here is that it is done annually. Too often, we have inquiries to State Grange asking if we know how much dues they owe as they haven’t received any such notice from the local Secretary. Unfortunately, State Grange has no knowledge of a member’s current standing, that is known only by the local Secretary. This is a good time to point out, that the State Grange is current with their dues to State Grange, a Subordinate Grange pays $7 quarterly or $28 on every member (with the exception of those who have reached 50 years of membership by January 1, 2001). A Secretary should from time to time, discuss with the Master, those members who dues are delinquent (period of delinquency is arbitrary but surely late dues of more than a year is a burden for a Grange). The Master and Secretary can decide when such concerns should be knowledge of the entire membership with the understanding that a Secretary CANNOT just remove a member’s name from the roster when dues are an issue. Suspension can only be legally recorded, having given the member at least two notices and the vote of a Grange is necessary to suspend a member for nonpayment of dues.
- At least annually, the Secretary should review the joining dates of members to ascertain when members are entitled to recognition. Appropriate forms are available for requests for 25, 50, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 and 75 years of membership. Such requests should not be made more than two months prior to the earned date, but if done annually, a member will be duly recognized in the year such is earned. Members deserve such recognition and it is the Secretary that processes the request with the State Secretary.

Roger Halbert

From the Secretary’s Corner

It is a good idea for the Secretary to request that Grange’s membership roster to check the list that State Grange has against what you believe are your current members. This helps to keep the mailing list current and to reconcile any differences that the local Grange might show and what is currently on State Grange’s record. Call Mary Liddington at Headquarters 607-756-7553 to request a roster and she will be happy to provide one either electronically or hard copy by land mail.

Forgive me for a longer article than usual but the duties of the Secretaries are quite encompassing. I hope this helps Subordinate Secretaries to better understand the office. And there will most likely be something that I have forgotten to include in this list, but I believe these items are crucial in getting a Subordinate Secretary on the right track for the most part.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you and please don’t hesitate to call with a question. Happy Spring and best wishes for opportunities to share “The Grange Way” with those around you.

State Grange Historian

Carol Bailey

DID YOU KNOW... That the first jewelry for Grange was designed by one of Oliver H. Kelley’s brothers? That brother was William H. The first officers’. jeweled were rustic squares that looked like twigs or split rails with a letter in the center representing the office. The Gothic motif was derived from the most popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing. The State Grange Historian, April/May 2018

Page 4 Empire State Granger

(Continued on page)
We hope to see many people come to State Grange Headquarters in Cortland April 28th for the Speech, Sign-A-Song, Radio Spots, and Talent Contests at the Lecturer/ Fraternity Activities Conference. All contestants please arrive by 10:45am and be signed up ahead of time as was stated in the last Empire State Granger. Contact Paula or Elaine with any questions.

The Northeast Youth Conference will be July 13-15 at Fair Haven Camps, Brooks Maine (check out the camp website) The price will be the same as last year $111. We need to know you are going by May 1st with registration forms and checks in the mail to Elaine Smith by the date on the forms. NEYC is a great gathering of Grange youth from seven states that begins on Friday evening, July 13th and concludes at noon on Sunday after the drill team competition and the Spirit Stick presentation. The Regional Public Speaking, Sign-A-Song and Grange Jeopardy contests take place at NEYC. The full conference schedule and registration forms can be found on Facebook -“NYS Grange Youth” or by contacting Paula Turner @ xraypaulal@yahoo.com or 607-377-1736 to be added to our E-mail list or to request a paper copy to be mailed to you. Please support your youth and encourage them to join us at this exciting conference.

Community Involvement

Sheri Taft

“We really cannot do any community service projects! There are just too few of us to make any difference in our community.” Has this been a discussion at your Grange meetings? Are your Grange members frustrated because they feel that they cannot accomplish anything in any way? Take wisdom from the words of Margaret Meade, anthropologist, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Are you wondering how your small membership can indeed make a difference in your community? Does this mean that your Grange has to take on a large community service project to better your community? Absolutely not! Ask your Grange members what they think they could do to better their community. Helping people with house work or yard work, taking people grocery shopping or to the doctor if they do not have transportation or simply visiting people who cannot get out too often are all ways that we can help out our communities. Collecting gently used clothing at your Grange Hall, then donating the clothes to a local clothing drive is community service too. By donating the clothes, you are helping community members with limited resources have decent clothes to wear. Do any of these projects require a great deal of time, money or people? They do; therefore they are projects that any Grange can successfully accomplish. You are changing the world one person at a time when you help community members in even the smallest of ways.

“I would encourage every Grange family to subscribe, as I know you will enjoy it.” Juanay Payne, Cooynams Hollow, NY

A new quarterly magazine put out by the National Grange. There are a lot of interesting and worthwhile articles in it, and it helps me to keep up to date with what is happening around the Country, and all of that for $14.00 a year. I signed up last year so that I could get the first issue, and have enjoyed it so much that I just renewed for this year.

I would encourage every Grange family to subscribe, as I know you will enjoy it.” Juanay Payne, Cooynams Hollow, NY

SINCERE THANKS

Dear Grange Friends, This is a personal letter to each of you who reached out to me during my time of illness with pneumo-

nia from January 18 to February 6th. I want to thank you sincerely for your cards of get well and encouragement wishes, for your calls and emails and most importantly for your prayers.

In the Bible John 15:15 says, “I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth, but I have called you friends”. Read these examples of friends in God’s Word: God and Abraham in Isaiah 41:8; Naomi and Ruth in Ruth 1:16-18 and David and Jonathan in 1 Samuel 18:1.

In the King James version, the word “friend” appears 53 times and the word “friends” appears 49 times. And so it is important to follow Christ’s example and have friends in our lives.

As the saying goes: “Make new friends but keep the old; one is silver and the other is gold”. They are both precious metals just like our friends are precious.

You are all precious Grange friends. Thank you for your love, concern and prayers.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I just wanted to say hello to a lot of the folks I used to see around the State during the years that Bob was State Treasurer, and even after that. We miss seeing you. I think we attended 58 straight State Grange Sessions. I’m still very active in my Grange and the Albany Co. Pomona Grange.

I also wanted to share how much I have appreciated Good Day!, the new quarterly magazine put out by the National Grange.
thinking.

1. Perhaps the most difficult question to think about and answer honestly. Do you really want new members? If you determine your answer is "No," then you need go no further. If "Yes!" please proceed.

2. Are you as an organization doing a good job of staying fresh with new ideas and innovations? Do you represent yourselves in your community as an active and viable organization to which people want to belong?

3. Even though The Grange holds on to long established traditions, does that prevent you from keeping your image fresh in your community and state?

4. What have you done to dispel the belief we are a cult or secret organization?

5. Why are you doing that is new and exciting? Just because we have rituals which are 150 years of our history does not mean we have to remain static and unresponsive to new ways of thinking and doing.

6. Do you have a Membership Committee or coordinator? Have you discussed seeking out community members who would be an asset to your fraternity and asking them to join? Are you an organization this person would want to be part of? Are there current Grangers who are great at bringing in new members? Do you have brothers or sisters who keep new patrons from wanting to join?

7. Are you a strong force in your community? Does your Grange participate in community days, at school events, county fairs, or other area activities?

8. Do you have a brochure that can be distributed at these events that provides the information about your Grange - meeting place and time, contact person, etc. Are community service projects a part of your regular operations? Are they timely and needed?

9. Have you taken the National Grange Wellness Test? How did you do? Did you send your results to National and gotten their suggestions in return?

If you should invite me to visit your subordinate Grange then these, or similar, questions would most likely be the basis of our interaction and discussion.

the youth who participated in the separate degrees for men and women in 2013 at the Kelley Farm. The Grange Museum also has some on early sashes that are displayed.

Original regalia consisted of sashes of white muslin or linen with a red cord of worsted wool braid. These sashes were worn over the right shoulder and tied in a knot. Women also wore aprons of the same material and trimmed likewise.

Wearing aprons also but with a flapped pouch were the men. Theirs however were of brown or buff nankeen and lined with brown book muslin. Printed or embroidered on them were a plow and the words, "Patrons, plow deep." The museum has several of these also. In my personal collection of Grange artifacts is a cooper stamp with the group's name, the partnership and farming. The various colors signified certain qualities. White, then as now, represents purity, faith and sincerity. Russet, the color of the plowed earth, is remind us that our sustenance comes from the good earth. Red or scarlet signifies intensity and earnestness. Pink combines the qualities of red and white as well as youth, modesty and springtime. Gold represents truth and fidelity.

A little bit about William H. Kelley. He is listed along with Oliver H. and Charles Kelley in the June 1855 census of Otego Township in MN. The brothers had no livestock or opened land. However each of their houses was valued at one hundred dollars, considerably more than most of the others ($10 to $25) in the area.

When land was offered for sale in Northwood, a town site, on April 17, 1856. Charles Kelley purchased 145 acres on December 18, 1856. In the spring on May 4, 1857 Oliver purchased 127 acres. Price paid per acre was $1.25. William soon tired of the partnership and farming. Walking to St. Paul he secured a job in a clothing store.

Charles Kelley was involved with Grange in the development of Northwood, a town site Oliver founded. It was not a great sales success. The Panic of 1857 ended that endeavor. The losses took a toll both financially and emotionally on Oliver.

Talking about the brown soil, I found this quotation in some prose and think it is appropriate to this and Grange in general. "Human vanity can best be served by a reminder the howver vast his accomplishments, man owes his existence to a six inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains." - unknown. Information was found in Knights of the Plow by Thomas Woods.
What a wondrous time is spring, trees budding and flowers blooming. A great time to bloss-
on and expand your Junior membership! April is Grange month and an excellent time for promoting your Junior Grange and exciting activities! Help your Junior Leaders – let’s get more Junior members and give them the leadership opportunities for personal growth. Refer to the NYS Grange handbook for our state Junior program and crafts. If you haven’t been on the Na-
tional Grange web page (www.nationalgrange.org), I en-
courage you to check it out. Click on the Junior Grange sec-
tion and see the new opportunities National Junior Director - Saman-
tha Wilkins has developed. From learning citizenship through the legislative Fly-in to continuing the Awareness program with the “pollinators”, I have a copy of the color page for Juniors – if you would like a copy.) Then there is a new national craft, make after creating your own cross-stitch pattern and also a Junior Grange Jeopardy Contest. She has also introduced a JG Pen pal pro-
gram and currently spotlighting the Postal Museum merit badge. She has also developed a calendar of activities that can assist you with your Junior meetings/ activities. Remember to let me know of your activities and if you have any questions.

Have you had a chance to read the Grange “Good Day” magazine? A quarterly publication of the National Grange is an excellent way to keep up to date on what the Grange is doing and planning. The last issue had a 4 page letter written by our New York member Jenni Tarbell, highlighting her experience as the 2017 National JG Ambassa-
dor.

As our Junior theme says, and I believe it is up to all of us as Grange members to assist our Junior leaders help our Junior members to, STAND UP, SPEAK OUT.

New Grange Members

Chautauqua Co.
Fredonia #1
Annette Syril

Delaware Co.
Colonel Harper #1508
Leona Alexander
Cathy Tompkins
Lloyd Tompkins

Dutchess Co.
Stanford #808
Linda Secor
Michael Teter

Stone Church #1561
Santina Visicaro

Erie Co.
Hamburg #1293
Sandra Bennett
Eileen Findley

Jefferson Co.
Kirkland #684
Richard Campany

Otsego Co.
Butternut Valley #1533
Valerie Haynes
Laurel Johnson
Lucinda Newell
Saratoga Co.
Milton #685
Laura Kemmerling
Rue Kemmerling

Schuyler Co.
Glenville #1531
Norman Miller

Seneca Co.
Interlaken #160
Martha Morrow

Steuben Co.
North Cameron #355
Bethany VanSkever

Ulster Co.
Plattekill #923
Susan Romano

Congress is on a two-week Easter recess until April 9. Before leaving Washington, the lawmakers man-
aged to pass a $1.3 trillion omnibus spending package to fund the government through the September, the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The bill was loaded with extraneous non-appropriations provisions as it became possibly the last legislative train to leave the station before midterm elections. Many of these add-on provisions were considered must-pass legislation by congressional leaders that would have a tough time making it through both houses the remainder of this year in the growing contentious political climate in Washington.

For the past several months, the agriculture community was guardedly optimistic that action on the new farm bill would begin by April in the House followed soon thereafter in the Senate. Agriculture committee leaders and committee staffs in both the House and Senate had been negotiating legislative details and writing a draft bill title-by-title by section-by-section for months. Just days before the recess, rumors leaked out that the food assistance title of the House draft contained work requirements for able-bodied men to be eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Rank and File Democrats on the House committee, feeling they should have been involved earlier in SNAP discussions, announced they would not vote for the farm bill in its present form. This action brings farm bill progress to a halt for the foreseeable future.

Prospects for Hill action on other priority legislative initiatives such as immigration, agriculture labor workforce, infrastructure, healthcare and telecommunications are dimming and could get pushed into 2019. Trade continues to be a contentious economic, political and diplomatic issue in Washington, around the country and among our international trading partners. As the Administration threatens to place tariffs on imports from certain countries, those countries quickly prepare restrictive retaliatory tariffs against American exports. U.S. food and agriculture exporters are expected to suffer the most from a trade war.

In addition to appropriating funds to run the federal government through September 30, the omnibus pro-
vided a legislative vehicle to pass a plethora of unrelated items deemed must-pass by congressional leader-
ship and by the constituency of those pieces of legislation. Here is a summary of several items that interest Grangers:

Broadband $600 million for the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a new rural broadband loan and grant pilot program, $30 million for a grant program to finance rural broadband transmission in eligible are-
as.

Co-op Tax Fix
The recent tax bill contained an unintended consequence known as Section 99A. This deduction was de-
signed to give pass-through entities (the way many farms are structured) benefits similar to corporations whose tax rate was slashed to 21 percent. Farmers who sell to co-ops could deduct 20 percent of their gross sales while farmers who sell to other companies can only deduct 20 percent of their net business income.

The 199A “fix” states farmers can now deduct 20 percent of net farm income regardless of the entity they sell to.
DeRuyter Elementary School 3rd graders
Cuyler Grange #449 delivered them this month and for the first time, we were allowed to take a photo of the children. Linda was even given a hug by one of the young students.

Pictured above one of the children getting a “high Five” from the Easter Bunny. Above Right is the Toddler section of the Egg Hunt waiting for the signal to begin. Each year the Clifton Springs Grange holds an Easter Egg Hunt for the children from the Midlakes Primary and Intermediate school. Like most projects there is considerable planning and preparation work. Posters are put up in local businesses and solicitation is made from local stores for donations for the egg hunt. The local florist donates “Webkins”, the Explore! Bookstore gives several books Tops Market donates candy for the eggs. Other donors donate prizes for adults, such as oil changes from Lannon’s II Garage, Hair Care Products from Artistic Hair and Haircuts from Demarco-Buckley Salon. The Grange also contributes from its treasury to have an Easter Basket for each age group and monetary prizes.

Several hours are spent putting candy and prize certificates into about 3000 plastic eggs. The eggs are divided into four different age groups to make it fair for children of all ages. The groups range from Pre-School through sixth grade. The prayers then begin that it will be a nice day for the hunt. Over the years all kinds of weather have occurred, from pouring rain, to wind to snow drifts. So far the children have been undaunted. Grange members, friends and members of the Rotary Interact club have been on hand to distribute the eggs. Finally the hour of 11 AM arrives and the collection of eggs begins. The children are asked to remove their prizes and return the eggs to the totes for reuse the following year. If prize certificates are found they go to the prize table to collect their “loot”. A random drawing is made to give out the adult prizes.

By 11:30 prizes have been collected and the cleanup begins. Everything is packed up and stored for the next year. Many of the parents thank the Grange for holding the event and compliment them on their good planning. Thank-you notes are written to those who contribute and an ad is put in the local “Merchandiser” to thank the community.

The Chamber of Commerce also helps to advertise on their website and when possible the director has helped to fill Easter Eggs. The camaraderie in planning and preparing gives members a good feeling about doing this community service project. As is often said, “A Good Time Was Had by All”