not necessary, and many times what the local Grange has done in the local area weighs a lot more than the significant accomplishments of the National and State Granges. Those items can be pointed out just to make the point that in joining ones opportunities and influence can extend far beyond the boundaries of the local community.

In reach is also important. Many times we don’t think of those of our members who may not be regular attend- ers, but they are still an important part of our organization, and the benefits of Fraternity should be extended to them as well. Our own members fall on hard times, just as much as oth- ers do, and even if there are no difficulties sometimes just a “how are you doing” call can make all the difference in the world.

Our Manual puts both of these perspectives in the same paragraph, in a charge most of us have heard many times, it but bears repeating, because it the key to what we are all about. At the conclusion of the Installa- tion of Officers we find this di- rective: “And now, Patrons, cherishing in our hearts every- thing feeling toward all other orders and associations which seek to promote human welfare, let us with our good works, every hand in hand, for the good of our fellow beings. Let us re- member that amid all that is bright and beautiful in Nature, there is nothing that blooms with such unfading colors, there is no perfume on earth fraught with such fragrance, as the flowers of good works, and the sweet-smelling savour of that pity which feels for the wants and relieves the distresses of our Sisters and Brothers.”

The beautiful thing about our Grange is that it can be what it needs to be in the local commu- nity to get the job done, and that is to our credit. I guess you could say, “That’s the Grange way.”

The Elba Grange was organized on April 21, 1893 at the home of Albert Blood on Barrowville Road, now the home of Leo Jr. & Deborah Starowitz. The first Grange (#1) was formed in 1868 in Fredonia, N.Y., that Grange is still active and functioning. The Elba Grange is part of a network of local, county, State Granges and the National Grange. Granges were formed for the following reasons- Economics – Farmers and all rural businesses were at the mercy of large businessmen (Rockefellers, Carnegies, Vanderbilts, and oth- ers). By joining together and forming cooperatives, they were able to buy and sell at better prices. Minutes of the Elba Grange reflect that agents were appointed for the purchase of insurance, twine, fertilizer, coal, seed, etc.

Political representation - On an individual basis, rural America had little political voice. Grange offered the opportunity for rural Ameri- ca to speak as one voice, a voice that political leaders listened to. Grange supported rural mail delivery (the first of which was tested in Elba), supported women’s right to vote, as well as legis- lative limits on big business. Grange did not support individual politi- cians; Grange supported policies that would benefit rural America. Social - Grange offered the opportunity for friends, family & neigh- bors to meet on a regular basis socialize and stay current on local events. Grange membership was open to all regardless of political, religious or ethnic background; teachers, shopkeepers, professionals, sales reps, laborers as well as farmers were welcome. It was not unusual for their monthly dinners to have 200-300 people. Grange sponsored dances and other social events, offered young couples an opportunity to meet and socialize.

Community - Grange members recognized that a healthy and pros- perous community benefited all. You wanted your neighbor to suc- ceed. A helping hand was extended in the event of sickness, death, fire, or other problems. Classes were held on agricultural practices as well as home keeping. Grange strongly supported the improvement & expansion of the telephone & the rural electric system. Many community activities were supported by Grange.

With the demise of the small farmer and the local shop keeper, many of the economic reasons for Grange have lessened, but Grange still of- fers the opportunity to promote the political, social and community as- pects. Our New York State and Genesee County Granges offer an ave- nue whereby Grange members can formulate and offer legislative pro- posals. Elba Grange still offers the opportunity to have dinner with your neighbor once a month, listen to an interesting speaker and to promote community involvement.

In April of 2018 Elba celebrated its 125th anniversary and inducted 12 new members with an additional 2 members approved but not in- duced. There were also 4 members who joined from the former Oak- field Grange.
Cindy Benson-Pollard

Legislative Article

Spring has finally sprung. This winter seemed to drag on and on. Now we can begin to look forward to flowers, picnics and trips to the beach. Has your Grange planned to have an open meeting for your Grange to invite your neighbors in? This would be a good way to share the legislative work of the Grange and share with them what we are working on to help improve our communities.

We are going to try something new to share information with Grangers regarding the legislative work of the Grange. I follow the committee meetings in the Senate and Assembly. I look at bills that are being presented that we have policy on. As we now have a fairly good email system, I will put together an alert that I need your help. As bills pass to the floor for a vote in their respective houses, I will do a short letter to send to your Senator or Assemblyman to share the Grange’s position on that particular bill. Please share this information with your members and ask them to be a part of our legislative efforts. If you would like to be included on the email list, please let the State Grange office now, so we can add it to our contact list. Together, we can make a difference.

Thank you to the counties who have sent resolutions to me for consideration at this year’s State Grange session in Oneonta. A reminder that all resolutions need to be to me by September 1st to be included in the packet for this session. The sooner you can get them to me would be greatly appreciated. Please do not wait until the last minute to send them all in. I am away at the State Fair for the last two weeks of August, so I like to get this all done prior so that we can Always, a reminder. If you need help in any way, please let me know. I will be glad to help you out. Just let me know.

Opinion Article

As urbanites moved out to the country to enjoy the open air and pristine nature, they discovered the downside of farming. It can be smelly. The Grange supported the “Right to Farm” form that must be signed by home buyers when they purchase a home next to a farm. This was to protect the farmer from unnecessary law suits and legal fees defending their farming operations.

Now what happens if you see someone who you think is violating environmental laws. Should you have the right to initiate a law suit against them? If S3269/A8965 is approved, this bill would allow private systems to initiate an environmental law suit against a land owner who they feel is violating an environmental law.

This could be detrimental to farmers or any steward of the land. Should someone who doesn’t understand the ways of farming or forestry start a law suit that would cost the farmer/forester money to defend his operation. The Grange does not have policy on this. Do you thing we should?

Laura Magrum

State Lecturer

We had a great Lecturers & Family Activities Conference at the end of April with the Photography, Art, and Talent Contest for the Lecturers Department. We had 69 entries in the Photography Contest, 33 entries in the Art Contest, and 12 entries in the Talent Contest. We were excited to see so many great entries in the updated categories for this year!


Best of Show for Photography: Div I – Cathy Galley, Otsego Co.; Div II – Gabriella Hubbard, Lewis Co.; Div III – Emma Williams, Lewis Co. Best of Show for Art: Div I – Cindy Williams, Lewis Co.; Div II – Delany Haight, Dutchess Co.; Div III – Alyvia Fuchs, Wayne Co. Best of Show for Talent: Gracie Schell, Oneida Co. (Vocal Solo). All Photography and Art entries that received a ribbon will be on display at State Session. Cathy Galley’s (Otsego County) photo will be entered into the National Grange photo contest in November. Best of Show for Talent Gracie Schell will perform at the State Fair, State Session, and National Grange Session this year. Prize money for those who received a ribbon will also be handed out at State Session. Congratulations to all!

Page 2 Empire State Granger

May/June 2018

Best of Show Talent Gracie Schell (Left) Laura Magrum State Lecturer (right)
NEW YORK STATE GRANGE
2018 Calendar of Events, Activities, & Dues Dates

June 15
Executive Committee Meeting, Oneonta
Holiday Inn, 11:00 a.m.

June 16
Regional Legislative Conference – St. Law rence Co. – place TBA
Subordinate Dues to State Secretary (Include Membership/Leadership Report)

June 30
Junior Grange Membership & Dues Report
Due.

July 8
State Golf Tournament

July 13-15
NE Youth Conference – Maine

July 15
Empire State Granger Copy Due

July 21
NYS Grange Museum Full Board Meeting & Picnic, Museum

July 27
Executive Committee Meeting, HDQ, 10:00 a.m.

August 7-9
Empire Farm Days, Seneca Falls

August 22 – Sept. 3
New York State Fair – Syracuse

September 1
Community Service Reports due to Director

September 1
National JG Report due

September 1
Grange Day at the NYS Fair

September 15
Empire State Granger Copy Due

September 15
Lecturer’s Reports due to State Lecturer

September 21-23
Youth Weekend – Colonel Harper 1508, Dela ware Co.

September 21
Executive Committee – HDQ – 11:00 a.m.

September 22
State Legislative Day – HDQ

September 29
State Officer Practice HQ 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM

September 30
Subordinate Dues to State Secretary

October 19-23
State Grange Annual Session – Holiday Inn, Oneonta

October 23
Executive Committee Meeting, Holiday Inn, Oneonta

November 3
NYS Grange Museum Annual Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Museum

November 13-17
National Grange Session, Stoweflake Resort, Stowe, VT

November 15
Empire State Granger Copy Due

December 30
Subordinate Dues to State Secretary

Family Activities

Brenda Noble

I thank everyone who attended the Lecturers & Family Activities Conference. We had a great, full day of activities. If anyone needs a new score sheet for the Coffee Cake Contest, please let me know and I will send you one. It has been updated since the printing of the Handbook. If anyone has items for the Northeast Exposition, send them to my address by August 20. I thank everyone who has already given me items. I have a list of items that are great sellers, if you need any ideas for items to make. Please let me know if you would like one. Important note when making corn packs, the corn needs to be frozen for a while before making them to be sure there are no bugs.

We had fewer entries for the Craft & Needlework Contest this year. The results are as follows: Woodworking – 1st Clinton Hall, Otsego Co.; 2nd Daniel George, Allegany Co.; Jr level – 1st Logan Pocock, Genesee Co. Small Quilted Wall Hanging (Machine Done) – 1st Priscilla Marigliano, Otsego Co.; 2nd Vicki Lewis, Lewis Co.; 3rd Viola Horton, Steuben Co.; HM Pat VanLare, Wayne Co. Bed-size Quilt (Machine Done) – 1st Marianne Cuulla, Otsego Co.


I continue to urge the Juniors to enter any of the contests in order to continue to carry on the contests into the future.

Does your Jr. Grange or Plus 1 members do community service projects? If so, now is the time for them to submit their own community service report? National Grange has begun a new program for Community Service for the Junior Grangers this year. Each Junior Grange or plus 1 member should enter a short report/booklet not to exceed three pages (front and back). There is a cover page that is to be put with the report. If anyone would like a copy of it, please feel free to contact me and I will make sure that you receive it. The report is to include a short paragraph about the project, a newspaper article, pictures and a paragraph from the Junior Grange leader about how this impacted the community and what the Junior Grangers learned from the project. Any projects completed after December 1, 2017 can be entered into this year’s contest. If anyone has any questions, feel free to contact National Grange Community Service Director Pete Pompper at mbehachgranger@gmail.com.

The ‘C’ bills that are being collected will be donated to the Baptist Cancer Institute in Oneonta. Please keep collecting them and bring them to the State Grange so we can give this facility a sizeable donation.

Community Involvement

Sheri Taft

2018 National Grange Convention Coordinator
Laura Magrum

The National Grange Hosting committee met in Vermont in April to tour the Stoweflake Resort and Conference Center. The facility is absolutely beautiful! Just a reminder that Thursday November 15th, 2018 is New York’s Day to Host and we will need volunteers for that day. Look for further information in the mail or contact me directly for questions. The Community Service Project this year is to collect personal care items that will be donated to Veterans organizations in each of the host states. I will be collecting these items at State Grange. I still have limited sizes of Hosting Shirts available in 2XL and 3XL, short and long sleeve. Short sleeve shirts are $10 and Long Sleeve shirts are $15. Let me know if you have questions: Phone (585) 813-8238 or email lenoble88@aol.com.
We hope this finds you and your Grange busy at work, preparing for the busy summer months that gets us outside and enjoying the beautiful countryside.

Since the last article, notices have been sent to each Pomona Secretary and Portoright for the upcoming State Grange Session, to be held October 19 – 23 in Oneonta, New York. This year’s convention is hosted by Otsego County Pomona Granges. I know from personal experience that the Granges are busy with planning and excited about hosting this 146th session.

Room reservations can be made at this time by calling the Holiday Inn, 5206 State Highway 23, Oneonta, 13820. The telephone number is 607-433-2250. Please note that effective August 1, the location becomes a Quality Inn, so if making reservations after that date, do not be alarmed if greeted with “Quality Inn.” You have reached the right place. Everything stays the same, except the name. Identify yourself with the NYS Grange block of rooms. Room rates are $89 plus 12% tax for either a room with two queens and limited views of the road. As I got closer, he never looked up but kept chewing on the road. As we approached, he sat down

Taking A Chance

Virginia L. Conner

Winter seems to have finally released its tenacious grasp, spring sprang and we are blazing headlong into summer. The seasons of Preparation and Culture have been crushed together with amazing speed. I don’t know how the weeds attained such a foothold in the gardens. There are snow damaged fences to be repaired. On the farm there is always something that can or needs to be done. Re-hanging a gate, building a feeder, replacing a window. All of this work must be done along with the daily chores of feeding animals, milking, cleaning barns, starting and tending crops. Any farmer reading this can add a few more to the list. I’m sure. It’s called husbandry. We, as all you know, the Grange is also known as the Patron’s of Husbandry. We are called upon to not only tend to our farms, but to tend to our Granges as well. The physical upkeep of our Granges requires many hands. Cleaning, mowing, painting, cleaning snow (not for awhile I hope) are all chores that need to be shared and completed willingly. We also need to be tending our Granges in other ways, perhaps less visible or physical. Are your membership records up to date? Have you looked closely at them to “clean them up”? Are your State and Pomona reports promptly completed and submitted? Do you have an annual calendar of events? Do you need to do some fundraising? Have you reached out to members who have not been to a meeting in a couple of months? Do you have members you would use a friendly call or visit to invite them back into the fold? Is it time to poll your members to determine their interest or wishes on the path ahead? Are there resolutions which can be written and sent up the line to form National Grange policy? Have you planned community service projects that can include all your membership somehow? Have you invited members to take part in activities or a leadership role they might not otherwise know about? Just like on the farm, in the Grange there is always something that can be done.

On a related topic. It was brought to my attention by another Granger, that my previous article covered it out as if we were talking only about Granges in specific towns or villages. That their focus remained centered only on their particular Grange. He made an excellent point when he suggested that active Granges which have received members from closed ones make it part of their mission to include the closed Grange. A connection to their neighboring area has not had a Grange for years. What fertile ground for recruitment? Can it become a leader Granger. A connection to their past, might find that there are interesting things that the closed Grange can or needs to be done. Like on the farm, in the Grange there is always something that need to do. Re-hanging a gate, building a feeder, replacing a window. All of this work must be done along with the daily chores of feeding animals, milking, cleaning barns, starting and tending crops. Any farmer reading this can add a few more to the list. I’m sure. It’s called husbandry. Well, as all you know, the Grange is also known as the Patron’s of Husbandry. We are called upon to not only tend to our farms, but to tend to our Granges as well. The physical upkeep of our Granges requires many hands. Cleaning, mowing, painting, cleaning snow (not for awhile I hope) are all chores that need to be shared and completed willingly. We also need to be tending our Granges in other ways, perhaps less visible or physical. Are your membership records up to date? Have you looked closely at them to “clean them up”? Are your State and Pomona reports promptly completed and submitted? Do you have an annual calendar of events? Do you need to do some fundraising? Have you reached out to members who have not been to a meeting in a couple of months? Do you have members you could use a friendly call or visit to invite them back into the fold? Is it time to poll your members to determine their interest or wishes on the path ahead? Are there resolutions which can be written and sent up the line to form National Grange policy? Have you planned community service projects that can include all your membership somehow? Have you invited members to take part in activities or a leadership role they might not otherwise know about? Just like on the farm, in the Grange there is always something that can be done.
Sports
Carl Bullock

The Dart Ball tournament was held at State Grange Headquarters on April 29, 2018 and we had four teams participating. North Cameron Grange came in first place, Cortland County came in second place, Hamptonburg came in third place and Dutchess County came in fourth. Everyone had a lot of fun.

Can’t wait to see everyone at the State Bowling Tournament on June 3rd. Forms have been mailed to everyone so please get your forms back to me as soon as possible.

Youth
Paula Turner  Elaine Smith

The Spring Youth Leadership Weekend was held in conjunction with the Lecturer/Family Activities Conference and Dart Ball Tournament in Cortland. We camped at the Cortlandville Grange Hall in Homer, and prepared our breakfasts and Saturday dinner there. Just letting other Grangers know that you don’t have to cook for us to host us as we can be quite self-sufficient; although we do appreciate your cooking for us too!

We had many entries in the talent and speech/signing contests held on April 28th at Headquarters. Congratulations to the following winners in the speech and signing contests:

Prepared Speech Young Adult:
1st place-Kathleen Fallon, Dutchess County
2nd Place-Emily Shoop, Albany County
3rd place-Teresa Thomas, Albany County
Prepared Speech Adult 36+:
1st Place- Therese Fallon, Dutchess County
Improptu Speech Youth:
1st Place-Jackie Turner, Steuben County
2nd Place-Matthew Horton, Steuben County
3rd Place-Jackie Turner, Steuben County
Improptu Speech Young Adult:
1st Place- Teresa Thomas, Albany County
2nd Place- Matthew Horton, Steuben County
3rd Place -Jackie Turner, Steuben County
Sign-a-Song: Novice:
1st Place- Jonni Tarbell, Genesee County
2nd Place- Jackie Turner, Steuben County
Sign-a-Song: Hobbyist
1st Place- Tessa Taft, Onondaga County
2nd Place- Teresa Thomas, Albany County

All of the first place winners have the opportunity to compete at the Northeast Regional Youth Conference that will be July 13-15th at Fair Haven Camp, Brookville, ME. Anyone can enter sign up when mailing the registration to enter the impromptu speech contest at Regionals. After returning to the Grange Hall, our Young Adult Ambassador, Katie Fallon, led a great workshop on how to apply for a job, including filling out applications. This included learning how to present ourselves; what to wear for a job interview as well as interviewing tips.

Please remember to invite Katie to your Grange meetings or events during the rest of her year as Ambassador. Her contact info is in the State Grange Directory. Saturday evening we played Glow Mini Golf at Shipwreck Golf Amusement Center, which we learned is the largest glow mini golf center in the nation! We enjoyed ice cream treats at “Brain Freeze” and then discussed all of our upcoming events and programs, and had a Grange trivia quiz. The three youth chosen to represent NYS in Grange Jeopardy at the NEYC are Kathleen Fallon, Dutchess Co., Shannon Russo, Albany Co., and Christian Taft, Onondaga Co. We had some table game time and our vespers by Jackie Turner on “Listening to God” ended the evening. A good time was had by all!

All Grange Youth: Please consider joining us at these weekends. Fall Youth Leadership Weekend will be September 21-23rd at Colonel Harper Grange in Delaware County.

Any youth who want to be considered for the upcoming year’s Youth Ambassador, age 16-21, or Young Adult Ambassador, age 22-35, will need to contact Elaine or Paula before September 1, 2018. The deadline for National Grange Youth Officers Team is also September 1st. This is a great opportunity to experience National Grange and we know New York has the potential to send 2, 3 or even 4 youth officers. Please check out the application in the National Grange Handbook easily found online @ nationalgrange.org.

Public Seaking and Sign-a-Song winners: L to R Teresa Thomea, Sasha Secor, Kathleen Fallon, Therese Fallon, Jonni Tarbell, Tessa Taft
Due to circumstances beyond the control of the State Grange, the Ox Roast will have a new location starting in 2018. The previous building was in need of so much repair that the State Fair decided to demolish it instead. The new location is a bit closer to the Grange exhibit building and on the same street as previous. Work is currently in progress to get things ready for the upcoming state fair. Many of your Granges have already received information on how you can assist.

Granges have also received information on how to help during the fair. This is a very important fundraiser for the State Grange. It takes much effort and a great deal of volunteer help to provide service to attendees of the fair. Please seriously consider having a team or to join with others to form a team to help serve the delicious Ox Roast meals. Following are some photos of the present appearance of the new building that will house “Ye Olde Ox Roast”
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:

New York State Grange
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 the reverse side or additional pages)

New Grange Members

Allegany Co.
Almond # 1102
Jacob Roulo
Larry Watson

Columbia Co.
Copake # 935
Rose Aulino
Len Barham
Bob Callahan
Mark Fischweicher
Andy Fisher
Patricia Fisher
Alan Friedman
Kathy Friedman
Carol Gansowski
Stanley Gansowski
Steven Gubler
Fiona Hutchinson
Peggy Lewis
Constance Lopez
Linda Macquade
June Makela
Susan Masseretta
Jane Peck
David Pells
Stephen Sanborn
Steve Savarese
Terry Sullivan
John Viscardi
Richard Wolf
Delaware Co.
Colonel Harper #1508
Frank Ciulla
Marianne Ciulla
Dutchess Co.
Stanford #808
Mark Burdick
Soo Kim
Pleasant Valley #838
Pamela Petrelli
Onondaga Co.
Taft Settlement #473
Sara Facteau
Oswego Co.
Richard #993
Donna Addington
Tioga Co.
North Barton #45
Robin Baldwin
James Ellis
Shelly Ellis
Wyoming Co.
Curriers #1273
Matthew Hammond
Jennifer Nourse
Beverly Waiteck Waite

National Grange President Betsy Huber said: “The Medicare Part D is a foundational program for seniors living in rural America. With recent changes to cost-sharing incentives and an out-of-pocket cliff looming in 2020 that could raise seniors’ costs by $1,500, Part D beneficiaries need decisive Congressional action in order to protect their access to lifesaving medications. As access to medical care continues to decline throughout the countryside, Part D becomes even more vital to us. On behalf of all rural Americans, who continue to face barriers to treatment, we urge all representatives to join Reps. Schneider and Kelly in calling for solutions to these pressing issues.”

The following is the letter from representatives Bradley S. Schneider and Robin L. Kelly

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi,

Prior to passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), seniors essentially had no coverage for prescriptions filled in the Part D “donut hole”, which exists prior to reaching eligibility for catastrophic coverage. We strongly supported provisions in the ACA that addressed this flawed design by phasing out the donut hole over a ten-year period, and we are encouraged by recent efforts to accelerate the closing of the donut hole a year earlier than planned. As representatives of sizeable aging and vulnerable populations, we believe that reducing seniors’ prescription drug costs should be a top priority.

While we applaud efforts to ease near-term cost burdens on seniors, there are two major concerns related to Medicare Part D coverage that we want to highlight, which could negatively impact beneficiaries.

First, seniors stand to face an immediate $1,500 increase in out-of-pocket costs starting January 1, 2020. Under the current Part D design, when a beneficiary reaches a specified out-of-pocket spending threshold, they exit the donut hole and enter catastrophic coverage. Due to the expiration of provisions in ACA, in 2020 there will be a dramatic increase in the beneficiary costs required to reach catastrophic coverage. As a result of this “cliff”, beneficiaries will be required to spend nearly $7,000 annually in total drug costs before catastrophic coverage begins. This is a significant increase from the current threshold for reaching catastrophic coverage and a substantial amount of out-of-pocket spending for a senior living on a fixed income.

As older beneficiaries are thrust into an arena where they are left to pay more, it is our fear that many seniors will opt to forgo necessary care, which could lead to more serious health conditions and higher costs. This stands to have a disproportionate impact on individuals from vulnerable populations, persons of color, and those with lower incomes and poorer health.

In addition to these concerns about increased costs for seniors, the Bipartisan Budget Act drastically changed the allocation of costs for the other stakeholders in the Part D donut hole. These changes could undermine coverage and ultimately hurt the long-term sustainability of the Medicare Part D program. We must ensure that the cost-sharing burden amongst stakeholders is designed to maximize beneficiaries’ ability to access necessary medications and incentivize stakeholders to keep program costs down.

Congress should work this year to address the Medicare Part D donut hole cliff to avoid this significant and sudden increase in seniors’ out-of-pocket costs in 2020, and restore the reasonable balance of cost-sharing liability within the donut hole so that the unintended consequences of the BBA don’t result in increased costs for beneficiaries and Medicare.

We look forward to addressing these major concerns to improve the long-term health of Medicare Part D and ensure that the program continues to play a critical role in improving the lives of seniors.
Now is the time!!!!

Across the country states are achieving a net gain in membership. Many have made this goal repeatedly in the last few years. New York State is within easy reach of a net gain in membership; it will only take each Grange in the state to gain one new member. Let the Vermont National Grange Session be the one when New York will be on the list.

Kirkland Junior Grange Agri-connection Trip

Members of Kirkland Junior Grange (located in Redwood, NY) experienced the maple syrup making process for their Agri-Connection project this year. Their tour took place on Saturday March 24, 2018, coinciding with New York State's Maple Weekend. The day really peaked their senses as they collected sap in the crisp cool morning at Steve and Kay Peck’s farm in Antwerp, NY, and enjoyed the smells of Spilman's Sugar Shack in Gouverneur, NY where the kids heard how the evaporator and reverse osmosis equipment transforms maple sap into syrup. Last, they returned to the Peck Farm for pizza and ice cream, enjoyed the taste of maple wax on snow, and held their own pint of maple syrup to carry home as a reminder of their day.

Otsego County Pomona Grange Booth at Sundae on the Farm

Grangers greeting attendees and giving information out concerning the Grange were Dayle Allen, Barton Snedaker and Norman Ritchey members of Butternut Valley Grange in Gilbertsville on Sunday, June 3 at event held at the Cooperstown Holstein Corporation. Barton Snedaker is also the New York State Grange/Membership Director.