and Grangers have been recognized for their efforts in a chosen project, but I would submit that the reason for doing it was not because of possible recognition. It needed to be done, so the Grange did it. End of story.

Our National Master has chosen “That’s the Grange Way” to be the theme for the 2018 Grange Month emphasis. We would encourage thought on this to begin now, so that a well-planned effective program, activity, and/or display can be executed. With 150 years of history and service to our credit the tools are there to discuss membership with others. Useful items to assist you in preparing for and celebrating Grange Month can be found on the National Grange website, www.nationalgrange.org, right on the home page. Don’t forget to take pictures and share them with your local media outlets, the Empire State Granger, and post them on social media. If we don’t let the general public know who we are and what we are doing they will see no reason to join. We need to remember also that while some may not choose to join, they will still support the work in other ways. This can’t happen if there is nothing coming out of the organization.

Looking at me, “That’s the Grange Way” means leaving no stone unturned to accomplish what needs to be done, be it community outreach and participation, legislative activity, or personal development. It is simply the outworking of the Overseer’s declaration at the opening of each meeting as to why we are there, what we are to be doing, and how we are to be doing it. We would welcome your thoughts on the subject, as we’re sure it means many different things to many people, and all important to our future, just as it has been important to our past.

The New York State Grange sponsors the New York State Agriculture Society’s FFA Chapter of the year award. This year the winner was Pioneer Central School FFA. The chapter is located in Yorkshire, NY in Cattaraugus County.

Pictured in the photograph are State Master Stephen C. Coye on the far right, NYS Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, Richard Ball on the far left with officers of the chapter. The award was made at the annual meeting of the Agriculture Society in Syracuse.

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Pictured in the photograph are State Master Stephen C. Coye on the far right, NYS Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, Richard Ball on the far left with officers of the chapter. The award was made at the annual meeting of the Agriculture Society in Syracuse.

With approximately 100 active members participating in local, state and national events, Pioneer FFA was recognized as the New York State Chapter of the Year at the annual NYS FFA Convention in May 2017. Current officers include: Katie O’Hare - President, Katharina Heitzman - Vice President, Raelleigh May - Secretary, Justin Cope - Treasurer, Peyton Fontaine - Reporter and Paige Williams - Sentinel. Senior FFA advisors are Mary-Lou Genaway and Jon Clayson. The chapter was honored with the National Superior Chapter Award at the 90th Annual National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN in October. To receive this award, members completed several local, state, and national activities in the areas of Growing Leaders, Building Communities, and Strengthening Agriculture. Each activity was documented, and members completed a lengthy application outlining their successes. Representing New York the chapter also took part in five career development events, including Extemporaneouse Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, Chapter Meeting, Agricultural Sales, and Meats Evaluation. Nine members received their FFA American Degrees.

Additional highlights of the year include sponsoring a weekly farmers’ market in the fall hosting a “Farmer for a Day” program for elementary students, attending leadership camp and providing officer training, raising six turkeys and providing Thanksgiving dinners for deserving families, filling 50 Christmas boxes for children around the world as part of Operation Christmas Child, and developing an agricultural literacy program for second graders within the school district.

Pioneer Central School District is one of the largest geographically school districts in New York State. Covering approximately 250 square miles, Pioneer Schools includes parts of Erie, Wyoming, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties and 12 different towns and villages including Arcade, Delevan, Machias, Freedom, Bliss and Wethersfield.

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The decorations have been put away for another year. Winter has come with all its cold and snow. Keep in mind that spring is only two months away (I hope). Don’t let the cold and snow keep you from your Grange activities. Now is a good time to work on resolutions for this year. I would like to thank everyone, especially Joyce Church, who helped with the resolution process at State Grange. I would also like to thank those who vol- unteered to be chairpersons for the committees. Everyone did a great job. I am sorry that I was n’t able to be with you. I missed seeing everyone.

The legislative handbook has been updated. You should be receiving your copy soon. Please take time to review our current policies. Resolutions that were forwarded to National Grange and were adopted are in bold and italic print. Please be sure to look at those issues.

Now is the time to start work on resolutions for this year. Before writing your resolution, please be sure to review the legislative handbook to see if we have a current policy on that subject. Try to keep your resolution to three “whereas” paragraphs and then your resolved paragraph. If you need any help, please let me know. I will be glad to help.

The legislative handbook has

Looking forward to the Art, Photo, and Talent contests in April. As always, all ages are welcome to participate in the contests. Be sure to check the handbook for the changes in categories for the Art and Photo contests. This will be helpful when you are holding the contests at the Subordinate and Pomona lev- els. Entries may be disqualified if they do not fit into the current categories when being judged. If you need a hand- book, please see your Secretary or contact me with questions.

What is your Grange doing to promote Talent contest entries? Encourage your mem- bers to share their talent at the next Grange meeting as a part of the Lecturer program. Who knows, maybe they will be the next State winner! The State winner will showcase their talent at State Fair on Grange Day, at the Banquet during State Grange, and at National Grange in Stowe, VT. Please see the handbook for details.

Pomona Lecturers: please be on the lookout for packing slips and Talent con- test entry forms in February. This helps with organizing the contest entries. The Art and Photo contest entry items need to be sent to Headquarters by April 15th. The Talent Contest entry forms need to be sent to my home address by April 15th. I look forward to seeing every- one at the Lecturer and Family Activities Conference on Satur- day April 28th!

I hope everyone has had a good Holiday Season. Soon we will be having our annual Con- ference so please make plans to bring a carload on Saturday April 28, 2018. We welcome Valerie Griffin to our commit- tee. Valerie is from Livingston County. The items for the Needlework and Woodworking are due to Cortland by April 20th. They are sometimes judged the Thursday before. The quilt this year is the Bed-size quilt. Juniors are al- ways welcome to enter the con- tests. Last year there was an in- crease Junior entries and one won a prize at the Northeast Ex- position.

I will be collecting items again to send to the Northeast Exposition. They take anything handmade, but the most popular items are nuttens, aprons, scrubs- bies, baby sweater sets, magnets, small ornaments, Halloween/Fall items, slipper socks, kitchen towels, plastic bag holders, and clotheshpin bags. The baking contest is coffee cake without yeast. I have an updated score sheet that will be posted to the website, but let me know if you need an updated score sheet sooner and I can send you a copy. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused. Be sure to get your handbooks from your Secretary for the next 2-year program.

How many of you made New Year’s resolutions? How many of you have broken them already? Did any of you make the resolution that you would become more involved in State Grange? I know I was in the January/February 2018

Dick and Janice were both very involved in State Grange ac- tivities and have recently relocated in North Carolina. They would love to keep in touch with New York Grangers. Send them a message!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>Junior Grange Annual Dues Report due.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 4</td>
<td>NYS Agricultural Society Meeting – Syracuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 5</td>
<td>Empire State CAO Meeting – Syracuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>Empire State Granger Copy Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 13-15</td>
<td>Youth Winter Weekend, Stanford Grange 808, Dutchess Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 19</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting, HDQ, 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>NYS Grange Museum Executive Comm. Meet ing, 10:00 a.m. Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1-3</td>
<td>Western NY Farm Show – Erie Co. Fair grounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>CAO Lobby Day, State Capitol, Albany</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22-24</td>
<td>Central NY Farm Show – State Fair Grounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Empire State Granger Copy Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Executive Committee – HDQ – 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>Subordinate Dues to State Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1-30</td>
<td>GRANGE MONTH – Plan a special public event/activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>Junior Workshop/Retreat -- Headquarters</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Art/Photo Entries due at HDQ for Judging</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Trait Entry Reports Sheet due to the State Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>Woodworking, Quilting, &amp; Needlework due at HDQ for Judging</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>NYS Grange Museum Full Board Meeting – 10:00 a.m. Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Regional Legislative Conference – Steuben Co. place TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting, HDQ, 12:00 noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Lecturer/FAC Conference – HDQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>State Dart Ball Tournament – HDQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Empire State Granger Copy Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17-19</td>
<td>NYS FFA Convention – Rochester</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>NYS Grange Museum Cleanup Day, 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 29- June 1</td>
<td>State Grange Motor Coach Tour – Massachua sets North Shore</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>State Bowling Tournament – Cortlanes Bowling Alley, Cortland</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting, HDQ, 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>Regional Legislative Conference – St. Law renco Co. - place TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>Subordinate Dues to State Secretary (Include Membership/Leadership Report)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>Junior Grange Membership &amp; Dues Report Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 8</td>
<td>State Golf Tournament</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 13-15</td>
<td>NE Youth Conference – Maine</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>Empire State Granger Copy Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>NYS Grange Museum Full Board Meeting &amp; Picnic, Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 27</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting, HDQ, 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 7-9</td>
<td>Empire Farm Days, Seneca Falls</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 22 – Sept. 3</td>
<td>New York State Fair – Syracuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Community Service Reports due to Director</td>
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<td>September 1</td>
<td>National JG Report Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Grand Day at the NYS Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Empire State Granger Copy Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Lecturer’s Reports due to State Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 21-23</td>
<td>Youth Weekend – Colonel Harper 1508, Delaware Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 21</td>
<td>Executive Committee – HDQ – 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>State Legislative Day – HDQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>Subordinate Dues to State Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 19-23</td>
<td>State Grange Annual Session – Holiday Inn, Oneonta</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 23</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting, Holiday Inn, Oneonta</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>NYS Grange Museum Annual Meeting, 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 13-17</td>
<td>National Grange Session, Stowflake Resort, Stow, VT</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>Empire State Granger Copy Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 30</td>
<td>Subordinate Dues to State Secretary</td>
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</table>

**NEW YORK STATE GRANGE**

**2018 Calendar of Events, Activities, & Dues Dates**

**THE NORTH SHORE**

**Massachusetts**

May 29-June 1, 2018 4 Days/3 Nights

**Tuesday, May 29**

7:30am Depart North Syracuse – Tops 3803 Brewerton 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

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 Beaupoint 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, a historic ship 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 local fishermen who died while traveling 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 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 Lexington and stand on the Lexington Green and learn how the farmers rallied to meet the British, and where the first shots were fired. In Concord you'll stop at the North Bridge, see the Minute Man Statue and hear of the famous authors who lived and wrote in the area, such as Alcott, Hawthorne and Thoreau as you pass by some of their homes. Lunch is included at Colonial Inn - pre-select Chicken Pot Pie or Yankee Pot Roast.

This afternoon, take a guided tour at the Orchard House - Louisa May Alcott's home and where she wrote and set her beloved classic novel, Little Women. At the Concord Museum, see the famous "one, if by land, and two, if by sea" lantern.

Return to the hotel late afternoon and say goodbye to your guide. Enjoy the rest of the evening to explore downtown Rockport and have dinner on your own.

**Friday, June 1**

Deluxe continental breakfast included at hotel.

Begin your journey home with a stop at Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site. After touring this National Park Service site, a stop will be made at Yankee Candle and Museum for lunch on own and shopping time before returning home with your fond memories of the North Shore.

**NEW YORK STATE GRANGE**

Arrangements by: Tours By Design, Inc. PO Box 29, Hickley NY 13352 (315)831-3082
Likewise, the 2018 Subordinate annual password is sent to the Subordinate Secretary with the March 2018 quarterly report form. If a Grange has not paid its December 2017 quarterly report, the 2018 password is NOT sent until payment is received.

The State Office has received concerns by more than a few Granges that have been notified of non coverage from the National Grange Mutual Insurance Co. where they have had coverage for years. We have been told that a Grange should contact their insurance agent and there is coverage available, with a slight increase of maybe around $70 annually, but coverage is available. Another suggestion is to contact the website https://ontarioinsco.com/find-agent/?ZipCode=14548 and you can find the nearest Patron’s Co-agent in your geographic area that may assist you. If you would need more personal service, contact Keith at 585-289-9560, extension 223 and he will be happy to help you find coverage if your Grange has been notified of such insurance lapse.

The 2018 State Grange Directory should be sent out to officers of record hopefully around February 1. Be watching for it. Should you have questions about the duties of Secretary, always feel free to contact me. Questions on supplies for the office or general store items are handled by Sheila at the Head-quarters office and you can reach her at 607-756-7553; or if you have questions pertaining to addresses for members or if a Subordinate Secretary would like to review the membership roster we have for your Grange, contact Mary at the same number and she will be happy to send you such to which changes/corrections can be made. Until next time, best wishes in your recording duties.

Some of you may not typically attend our regional or be hosting your own (NC/ME) this year, but you may have members who are unable to make your regional due to work or school schedules and wish to have this opportunity to qualify for Youth/ Junior programs and more. You can read the full schedule (and share it) below or with the attachment and register online at tiny.cc/MAGLC18 or using the form attached to the PDF schedule.

For members in our region unable to attend you can still be part of the event! We will be doing two service projects (Juniors will do a related project making cards/writing letters to Police Officers and their families). We hope all Youth and adult attendees/region members will donate at least one item from each list:

LIST 1 (Homeless Period Project & Women in Crisis)
- Individually wrapped maxi pad
- Individually wrapped feminine wipes
- Individually wrapped liners
- Individually wrapped tampoons

If you do not want to purchase a product from this list, consider clipping coupons and making a donation of $5 so that we can pick them up from the local store Friday night.

LIST 2 (Police & Leo Family Appreciation – Westminster Police Dept. – 40 total sworn officers; 14 dependent children; about a dozen spouses, so we need FEWER contributions from this list and highly encourage donations from LIST 1)
- Facemask or body lotion (women’s scent) or shower gel (men’s scent)
- Travel hand sanitizers, travel tissue packs
- Granola Bars, Snack Packs (any variety), hard candies (any kind), individually wrapped candies/candy packs with candies that have a hard outer shell (ex. Tootsie Pops, Werther’s Original filled candies)
- $5-10 gift card to Subway, Dunkin Donuts, Burger King or other chain restaurant

DONATIONS CAN BE SENT TO: Amanda Brozana Rios RE: MAGLC18 8120 Craddock Road Greenbelt, MD 20770

The Empire State Granger
The Mid Atlantic Grange Leaders Conference will be held in Westminster, MD, March 16-18. It is for ANY Grange member but includes all the fun of a Regional Junior/Youth Conference and resources of a Leader’s Conference (with the addition of Lecturer’s materials).

Roger Halbert
Empire State Granger
PayPal
Send money to rhalbert@nysgrange.org
or
PayPal.me/RogerHalbert

POSTMASTER: Return undeliverable copies to The Empire State Granger, 100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY 13045

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Postmaster: Forward address changes to 100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY 13045

Support Junior Grange

Empire State Granger
The New York State Grange Youth had their 2018 Winter Leadership Weekend at Stanford Grange, Dutchess County on January 12th–15th with 22 in attendance plus a few other visitors. Friday night included games, tasty snacks and fellowship. Saturday’s workshops included an inspiring photography workshop by Carl Mueller, an accomplished photographer and member of Stanford Grange; and Parliamentary Procedure (Parli-Pro) workshop led by current and former National Grange Youth Ambassadors Tessa Taft and Shannon Russo. We also did an impromptu workshop on presenting creative skits in anticipation of even better skits on Contest Day in April. Other activities of the day included a coffee cake bake-off challenge; a tour of Wing Castle in Millbrook, and square dancing in the evening with caller Sandy Corey. The youth learned several calls and dances, and are excited to have this new skill to practice! Vespers were led by Teddy Secor on Friday, and Saturday by Sasha Secor, both of whom are from Stanford Grange.

After breakfast on Sunday, Rev. Jan Brooks, Stanford Grange Chaplain, led the Inspirational Service with the theme of “Fear Not.” We then toured the Taconic Distillery and learned about the science and business plan of this agricultural operation. The afternoon consisted of our community service project - preparing and serving a stuffed shells dinner. The traditional trek to Holy Cow Ice Cream Shoppe in Red Hook was followed by a presentation featuring Irwin and his human, Stephanie Rhodes. Irwin is a therapy dog and works in Stephanie’s Agriculture Science classes at Stissing Mountain High School in Pine Plains. The evening concluded with a Dartball Tournament and vespers.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Stanford Grange for hosting and planning the weekend. “Mama T,” Therese Fallon, your meals were AMAZING! Also, many thanks to Dutchess County Pomona, Freedom Plains Grange, Union Vale Grange and Ginny Ward for their monetary donations, which make this weekend a great success and keeping it affordable for our youth!

Upcoming events
The youth sponsored contests - Public Speaking; Prepared Speech, Radio spot, Improptu Speech and Sign-A-Song; Individually or Group will be held on April 28th at Headquarters along with the Lecturer Family Activities Conference and the Lecturer’s talent contest. Those planning to enter the Speech and Sign-A-Song contests should contact Paula (xraypaula@yahoo.com), or Elaine (esninnith6@gmail.com) by April 1st. The age categories are: Youth 13 ½ - 21; Young Adult 22-35; and Adult 36+. The age of the contestant as of January 1, 2018 determines the age group. Start preparing now for this eventful day!

The Spring Youth Leadership Conference will be held in Cortland in conjunction with the Contest Day and the Dartball Tournament, April 27th – 29th. Northeast Youth Conference will be held July 13-15th in Maine. Please check your e-mail or NYS Grange Youth on Facebook in March for more information on the Spring Weekend and NEYC schedule and registration forms. Contact Paula to be added to the e-mail list or check with someone in your grange who has access to e-mail and/or Facebook.

FLYING THE U.S. NAVY'S COLORS

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A huge thank you to everyone who brought food to State Session for the Cato-Meridian Backpack Program. The facilitators of the program were very grateful for all of the donations.

Dear Friends of the New York State Grange,
The Cato-Meridian Back Pack Program would like to express a sincere thank you for your generous donation of food. A sincere thank you also to the Allegheny County Pomona Grange #94 and the Saratoga County Grange #305 for their monetary donation. Your generosity helps us to meet the needs of our需要est families. You gifts will nourish their bodies and their minds. We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,
The Cato-Meridian Back Pack Program

As we are in the middle of winter and are experiencing some bitterly cold temperatures, are we thinking of our elderly and shut-ins? If you have a neighbor or someone you know that is not able to get out very easily, now is the time to check on them. Perhaps clear their sidewalks and driveways of any snow that has accumulated from recent snow storms. A trip to the grocery store to buy them groceries, help them take care of their animals, or perhaps even take them out to an event on a clear day would make their day shine. All of these activities count towards your community service project for the 2017-2018 program year.

As always, keep track of everything you do so that it is easier to put together your Community Service project for September 1, 2018.

We would like to thank Grangers that we have the State Dartball Tournament on Sunday the 29th of April, the State Bowling Tournament is Sunday, June 2nd, and the State Golf Tournament is Sunday July 8th. We’ve had some interest in holding a corn hole/bean bag tournament so we’re getting some thoughts together on that and will keep everybody informed. I hope everybody’s New Years is getting off to a good start!

On an old man’s shirt was written a sentence that’s ATTITUDE.

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.

SNOW – SICKNESS – SOUP

Seems like the three “s’s” has taken over many communities this winter. The snow has certainly been a challenge to walk in it, to drive on it and to move it from here to there. But we do live in the Northeast! Since we cannot change the weather, we must accept it and be willing to adjust “our plans” to what God has given us. We can choose to play in the snow or to hibernate inside with books, games, puzzles and conversation with family. The sickness-known as influenza-has shown up in many homes as an unwanted pest. The flu is attacking people of all ages and sometimes whole families are struck down with the fever. Many have tried to thwart this unwanted illness by getting the flu shot but now we learn that the shot is ineffective for the strain of flu that is floating on the airways. So we continue to do what we can to protect ourselves. Psalm 121 provides comfort: “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth.”

The third “s” is soup. A bowl of hot, hearty, homemade soup can make a person feel so much better when delivered with a smile. Soup is like a kind word spoken in love that can chase away the germs and lift our spirits to wellness.

I pray you are warmed by the Word of God and a bowl of homemade soup.

A Bowl of Soup

That’s FAITH
When you throw babies in the air, They laugh because they know they will catch them.

That’s TRUST.
Every night we go to bed Without any assurance of being alive the next morning, But still we set the alarms to wake up.

That’s HOPE.
We plan big things for tomorrow In spite of zero knowledge of the future.

That’s CONFIDENCE.
We see the world suffering, But still we get married and have children.

That’s LOVE.
On an old man’s shirt was written a sentence, so I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.

That’s ATTITUDE.

AUTHOR IS UNKNOWN

Page 5 Empire State Granger

January/February 2018

Youth

Paula Turner  Elaine Smith

Sports

Carl Bullock

I would like to remind Grangers that we have the State Dartball Tournament on Sunday the 29th of April, the State Bowling Tournament is Sunday, June 2nd, and the State Golf Tournament is Sunday July 8th. We’ve had some interest in holding a corn hole/bean bag tournament so we’re getting some thoughts together on that and will keep everybody informed. I hope everybody’s New Years is getting off to a good start!

Community Involvement

Sherri Taft

Six Little Stories

Once all of the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer all the people gathered, But only one boy came with an umbrella.

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Chaplain’s Corner

Virginia L. Conner

Sing the Praises of Grange

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.

SNOW – SICKNESS – SOUP

Seems like the three “s’s” has taken over many communities this winter. The snow has certainly been a challenge to walk in it, to drive on it and to move it from here to there. But we do live in the Northeast! Since we cannot change the weather, we must accept it and be willing to adjust “our plans” to what God has given us. We can choose to play in the snow or to hibernate inside with books, games, puzzles and conversation with family. The sickness-known as influenza-has shown up in many homes as an unwanted pest. The flu is attacking people of all ages and sometimes whole families are struck down with the fever. Many have tried to thwart this unwanted illness by getting the flu shot but now we learn that the shot is ineffective for the strain of flu that is floating on the airways. So we continue to do what we can to protect ourselves. Psalm 121 provides comfort: “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth.”

The third “s” is soup. A bowl of hot, hearty, homemade soup can make a person feel so much better when delivered with a smile. Soup is like a kind word spoken in love that can chase away the germs and lift our spirits to wellness.

I pray you are warmed by the Word of God and a bowl of homemade soup.
Immigration

For the Grange, a stable, consistent, and legal labor force is at the center of the immigration debate. No sector of the economy is more reliant on foreign-born labor than agriculture and, as immigration to the United States has begun to slow, many farms find themselves with a severe labor shortage. Additionally, many studies have shown that each lost worker on the farm can result in the loss of 2 to 3 more jobs ‘upstream’ or ‘downstream’ in sectors like packaging, transportation, and advertising. To add to that the fact that the migrant workforce has consistently declined since 1990, more than a 60% loss, and we can see that America is facing a new and unique labor crisis. But what can we do?

Grange policy comes down to three important tenets: stability, predictability, and legality. By encouraging the federal government to expand or streamline the H-2A Visa program, farms can receive the seasonal workers they desperately need at fair market wages. E-Verify programs, while a positive start to enforcing legal immigration, threaten to disrupt agricultural labor forces if they are ‘rolled out’ too quickly. The Grange encourages states and the federal government to implement E-Verify programs only when their effects on the local labor force have been thoroughly researched. By working with groups like the Agriculture Workforce Coalition (AWC), we’re able to ensure that rural America is able to produce to their fullest potential, while still respecting U.S. law and the rights of legal immigrants.

Farm Bill

As Washington tries to craft a Farm Bill for 2018, the National Grange will continue to fight for legislation that will keep the interests of rural America at the forefront without sacrificing the rights or funding that many of us rely on. The National Grange has outlined a few specific issues that we believe must be in play in the coming years’ Farm Bill. Good conservation practices ensure that we get the most out of our land while continuing to practice good stewardship. The 2018 Farm Bill will need to focus on conservation practices such as wildlife buffers, cover crops, wetland enhancement, and grasslands preservation. These will allow us to continue reaping the benefits of a healthy environment, without sacrificing the food or productivity that the United States needs to survive. Funding the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) will give landowners better opportunities to enhance their own land while improving their conservation skills.

The Grange will continue to push for safety net programs for farmers in the upcoming farm bill. Making crop insurance work smarter and cover broader cases will allow farmers to survive without fear of unpredictable environmental disasters. By linking food assistance programs with agricultural safety nets, the benefits of a healthy environment, without sacrificing the food or productivity that the United States needs to survive. Funding the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) will give landowners better opportunities to enhance their own land while improving their conservation skills.

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I hope you all are keeping warm and having a great winter season, enjoying the snow. Get outside and enjoy sledding, snow shoeing, skiing, building snow people or snow angels. The New Year is an excellent time to get started on Junior activities and programs!

The Junior Grange program will help a child to become a leader and begins the process of laying a foundation for them to grow and develop themselves into adulthood. If you go onto the National Grange website, under Junior Grange, you will find the 2018 Junior Grange Program Guide and 2018 Merit Badge Program. The 2018 theme for Juniors is Stand Up & Speak Out for the Junior Grange. This theme was made by the 2017 National Junior Ambassador, our own Jonni Tarbell from NYS. There are new programs, contests, and changes to the requirements for JG Ambassador, Super JG requirements, JG Jeopardy, Legislative Junior Experience, Handy Craft Contest, 2018 Awareness Project theme, and a 12 month guide for your Junior Grange meetings. There are deadline dates to all programs, contests and reports for the National Program. You will see National JG program continues also with Creative Art, Creative writing, mini-scrapbook, photography, Public Speaking, and Sign-a-song.

**Leadership/Informational Workshop Schedule**

**April 7, 2018 @ NYS Grange Headquarters**

NO cost for JG members/Leaders/Parent/Grange participants

2018 – Stand Up and Speak Out for the Junior Grange.

**Saturday, April 7**

9:00 Registration (coffee cake, drinks)

9:30 Welcome - Gail Chamberlain, NYS JG Director

NYS Grange Master – Steve Coye

Grange in the Spotlight

Camp Update

9:45 Workshop – Team Building

Tessa Taft, NYS Youth Ambassador

Heidi Henderson, NYS Young adult Ambassador

10:30 JG State and National Programs – what you should know

11:00 Disaster Preparedness – fire company

12:00 Ritual/JG Jeopardy

12:45 LUNCH

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The New York State Grange Handbook for 2018-2019 became available in the fall. Here you will find the Junior Grange section for our own State JG program which includes our own program, ideas, and crafts. We know you cannot do everything in these programs. We are giving you the information to help Junior members and Junior Leaders in their own meetings and community.

Join us at the Junior Leadership Day this year on Saturday, April 7. The schedule and registration form (please return to me by March 23) is in this issue. As always, there is no cost, we serve coffee cake, snacks and lunch. Come to learn of changes, share ideas, participate and join in fellowship. All Junior members including 1+ members, Junior Leaders, parents, Grange members are welcome to attend. I am happy to announce the appointment of Kelly Frost (Jefferson County) to the State Junior Deputy. I am sure she will be a great asset to our State Junior Committee and activities and knowledge. Welcome Kelly!

If you have any questions on any of the programs, State or National, please give me a call – leave a message and I will get back to you.

**CELEBRATE GRANGE MONTH**

One hundred fifty years—what a milestone! This year’s Grange Month should be filled with celebrations in every Grange, coast to coast! We have a proud history of supporting, educating, advocating, and entertaining rural Americans. Very few organizations last for 150 years so this is our time to celebrate.

Our theme for 2018 Grange Month is “That’s the Grange Way.” Following up our Doers theme from 2017, it’s the Grange Way to be doers, to volunteer and give and contribute to life where we live. To be outstanding citizens and be the bridge between two sides who won’t compromise. To teach the world how to get along, what faith, hope, and charity really mean in everyday life. How to love others even if you don’t like them or don’t agree with them. We want to tell the world what the Grange Way means, and why they should care, why they should want to join us and help with our efforts to improve lives from the grassroots up.

The following items are available from National Grange Order at the National Grange website www.nationalgrange.org Or call 1-888-4 grange

- Grange Month Cover Letter
- Grange Month Poster (letter size)
- Grange Month Poster (black & white)
- External Sesquicentennial Proclamation
- In House Sesquicentennial Proclamation
- Grange Month Health Survey
- 5-Minute National Grange PBS Video
- Grange Month Citizen Award

\*
**Otsego County**

Photo above: Westville Grange and the 150th year of National Grange at the Middlefield Historical Society festival. In the picture are Les Rathbun and Shirley Tabor. Many people stopped and remembered family belonging to the Grange and asking for information about the Grange in general. It was a great day. Middlefield Historical building is in the town of Middlefield and resides in the old school house.

**Tompkins County**

Dryden Dairy Day – 34 years of Promotion History

Organizers of Dryden Dairy Day, a 34-year tradition in the Dryden area were recognized with the Ag Promotion Award, sponsored by Alpha Zeta Fraternity at Cornell University, Kreher’s Farm Fresh Eggs, and the NY FFA Foundation. The award recognizes individuals and groups for their efforts to improve the understanding of agriculture in NYS. Although it began as a one-day event as a Dryden Grange service project, it’s evolved into a celebration of “June is Dairy Month.”

Educational opportunities are coordinated weeks before the actual Dairy Day. Cut-out cows with dairy-centric messages – called “Cows in Times Square” -- sell for $20, and are painted and displayed by groups, businesses, and families. Dryden School District elementary school students participate in an annual coloring contest. On Dairy Day itself, a huge parade with over 50 participants takes place. In 2016, an estimated 3,000 people attended Dairy Day and festivities hosted in Montgomery Park. Montgomery Park is traditionally filled with activities for all members of the family, including cows for petting, farm equipment, games, crafts, and demonstrations. Local farmers are available to answer consumer questions. Cartons of milk sell for a dime; hand-dipped ice cream for just a quarter. For many attendees, visiting Dairy Day farm animals is the first time they have ever seen or interacted with real dairy cows. The Dryden Dairy Day committee also awards a $300 scholarship to a graduating senior in the Dryden School District who is accepted to college to study an agriculture-related field.

Social media and paid advertising help promote Dryden Dairy Day. Compounding the dairy message beyond the thousands attending events is newspaper coverage by four major daily newspapers, two weekly newspapers, an ag publication, and local radio.

**Empire State Granger**

January/February 2018

**Trenton – State Fairground**

Dairy princess contest later this year. Following the dinner the group enjoyed square dancing. There were about 125 people in attendance.

**Allegany County**

Allegany County held its annual Pomona Grange banquet at the Belfast Fire Hall. The Fire department provided a buffet dinner with turkey and ham and dressing, squash, mashed potato and gravy and peas. There were also desert and beverages. The dinner was preceded by milk punch served by the Allegany County Dairy Princess Elizabeth Burrows aided by her sister. Elizabeth has already been to many events in the area and will compete in the state...