SPRINGTIME IS OPPORTUNITY TIME

Just as Springtime is the time of renewal in nature, so it seems to generally work out that way in our daily lives, and in the activities in which we choose to participate. Historically Grange membership campaigns were conducted in the spring of the year, and project and program implementation began in earnest with the better weather. As an aside, this would be a suitable time to review, either in the context of a regular meeting, or personally, the content of the First Degree with a very prying eye to discover (or rediscover) the timeless truths beneath the surface. Unlike nature where the renewal happens without human input, we must act on the internal impulses, or nothing is renewed. Spring cleanup, for example, doesn’t happen just because we think it should be accomplished. The same thing is true with our Grange work. As we wrote in the last issue, it is instructive for us that we should establish corporate goals while the new year is fresh in our minds, if any unified rate goals while the new year is. We need to establish corporate goals while the new year is fresh in our minds, if any unified rate goals while the new year is.

A few months of lost time. Basically, there are no ends of opportunities to make an impact on our local and greater communities. So, our goals are quite simple, such as contacting a governmental authority in relation to a Grange policy issue pursuant to a request from the State or National Grange. It doesn’t have to be brought up at a meeting, and voted on, in fact one doesn’t have to go out of the house, but it is important as it makes your voice known, as well as that of the Grange. As stated, numerous times in this column, projects do not have to be complex in order to be effective. Simple is good many times. No community has every possible activity going on that could make it a better place. I suspect that more than a few of our Granges have things going on that could have a much greater impact if the community at large knew about them. In my recent travels I came across a community organization that was having a public baking contest, small entry fee, big prizes, professional judges. The folks that don’t win will be eager to learn why they didn’t, which is primary goal of the program. We’ve been doing baking contests of years, probably most of the entries are from folks that do it every year just so there are entries. Nothing wrong with that but staging a public one will get people into the hall, and while they are there, they will look at the history pictured in whatever form on the walls and learn first-hand what the Grange is about. This activity is just a sample of what can be done, with not a lot of help needed. It will likely not be a big money maker, but a Grange wouldn’t be able to buy the amount of positive publicity they would be getting for free. I’m sure there will be more enthusiasm the second year the program is executed.

At the onset of this column I mentioned the First Degree. I would challenge you to study carefully the narrative presented in relation to emblematic tools of the Degree. There are so many applications on several levels, all of which can encourage and inspire us as individuals and corporately to be of greater service to our communities and mankind in general. Should you feel so inclined, we would be interested in your thoughts on the passage.

In 2019, it’s time to celebrate our everyday heroism as Grangers! This year, our Grange Month theme – that we encourage you to keep going all year long – allows our members to tell the story of our organization one good work at a time. After reminding ourselves and our communities that Grangers are “DOers” and that our work on behalf of our community is natural. It’s “The Grange Way” – in 2019 we recognize the magnitude of impact the sometimes seemingly small acts can have. From free or low-cost meals helping to meet the needs of our neighbors struggling with food security to providing dictionaries to third-graders, which helps to bridge the gap for those without internet or connected devices at home. Grangers are often the uncelebrated heroes that help our hometowns be places to live, love and learn. Take part in the celebration this year with an open house, by sending a letter to your local newspaper editor and by telling our story in a way that connects with a new generation. Don’t forget to include the Super G Grange cape as part of your events. Wear this satin double-sided cape while serving a meal at your Grange Hall, cleaning up a roadside, presenting a dictionary, delivering donated items for your food pantry or during any other outreach activity you have scheduled! Grange Capes and other materials are available from National Grange. Visit the website at www.NATIONALGRANGE.ORG

Many of the materials are “downloadable” such as the poster below, proclamations, Master’s letter and others.

What’s Inside
- Lecturer, Legislative, Pg. 2
- Secretary, Chaplain
- Calendar of Events, Pg. 3
- Community Service, Youth
- Leadership/Membership
- Lecturer, New Members
- Family Activities, Sports
- Grange Trip, Ag Day
- Junior Grange, National
- Grange News
- Contact Information
- Grange Activities, Quilts of Valor
Opinion article

For those of you who know me, you know that I am a Trek-kie. I love Star Trek. In one of the movies, Spock says that the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few or the one. This brings me to think about a current situation that we are facing.

This year has seen an outbreak of diseases that has grown to most of the country. This primary aid in this epidemic was those children who were not vaccinated. The virus and who were not vaccinated by their parents. For whatever reason, the parents of these children chose not to vaccinate their child. Many of them chose not to immunize due to misinformation that is widely shared regarding side effects that the immunization may cause. There are some religious factions who do not allow immunizations due to their beliefs. It now puts our young children who have not received their full immunizations at risk. A disease that was once almost completely gone from our society has seen a resurgence due to this issue. When do the needs of the general public outweigh the needs or beliefs of a few?

Chaplain’s Corner

Virginia L. Conner

JUST A SECOND—JUST A MINUTE

How many times a day do you tell someone “just a second” or “just a minute”? It means wait a second/minute or longer. Don’t clutter your resolution with too many whereas sections. Don’t use “just a minute” to you, what is your reaction? Is it, “well never mind, I’ll tell you when you have time”. Or if the person says, JUST A MINUTE!! The tone makes you think that they don’t want to take the time and you quickly dismiss the thought you were going to state. Unfortunately, quite often another change occurs in your day and the specific communication time never occurs. When it’s our children/grandchildren who want a moment of our time and we say “in a minute”, they’ll be out the door and the moment is gone. And we should certainly never say, “just a minute”, to our elderly family members or friends. For the next moment or second may be gone forever.

So the bit of wisdom is to delete the phrase, “just a second/minute” from our vocabulary and replace it with “a positive: I’m listening, talk to me. In Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, it says “there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven”. I am unable to find in those verses the phrase, “just a minute”. Verse 7 says, “a time to be silent (to listen) and a time to speak”.

May we all learn to be listeners and speakers in the moment and not put off someone who needs our attention.

Sympathy is extended to the families of Don Drake and Fred Bolio. Don Drake passed from his earthly home on January 23 and Fred Bolio passed on February 22, 2019.

From the Secretary’s Corner

Roger Halbert

Time marches on and we welcome the spring season…finally! It is a season of anticipation and the renewal of life in so many forms invigorates the soul. With Grange month upon us, we are hopeful that your Grange has decided to engage in some special activity that brings focus to your Grange to remind your community that the Grange is still at work, providing a voice for them in our legislative halls of Albany and Washington, D.C. and along with this, an opportunity to gather with neighbors and friends to enjoy their company and just have fun with them. If you haven’t chosen a special activity, it is not too late and your special event can occur in May or June easily… the important things is that SOMETHING HAPPENS that reminds the community THEIR GRANGE is alive and well!

The March quarterly report is now due! This is an important one for the number of delegates that a Pomona may send to State Session in October, is determined by the member count on the March report. Worthy Secretaries, please submit this report in a timely manner…your county is depending on your numbers!

While on the theme of quarterly reports, National Grange has just notified us of the additional information that will be required on the quarterly state report to national, the number of Pomona members and Junior Grange members in the state. This is going to take some time Protea Granges do not currently report such to State Grange. The numbers of Junior Grange members is available, but due to the fact Junior Granges only report one time during the year, this number will not change during the year, and then there is the issue of more Junior Granges than I can admit that are behind in reporting, even once a year, so it appears that some Junior Granges are on the books but are really not in existence when several years have lapsed with no annual report to reflect otherwise. Stay tuned, as I will need to address how we best handle this request and gather the info that National Grange is now requesting with the June quarterly report to them.

Grange Secretaries should have sent out annual dues notices sometime in December or in early 2019 so that all members are aware of what their dues status is. To all members…please, please, attend to the dues notice when it is sent to you. It makes the “arduous duties” of the Secretary’s job much less burden-some when additional notices are not necessary. Remember, too, that with most Granges, most of the dues you pay to the Subordinate goes directly on to State and State Grange pays half of that amount to National. In rare cases, do Granges have a higher dues amount that allows a portion of the dues to remain with the Subordinate…so again, please take care of it upon its receipt. And remember, each of you is important to our organization…even if you don’t attend regularly… it is our hope that find the presence of a Grange in your community is worth the annual dues that allows you to say “I am a part of that fine organization”!

The 2018 Journal of Proceedings is at the printer’s at the writing of this article. All Granges that returned an interest slip to order a copy for your Grange’s reference, will be receiving a copy most likely by the end of April.

Please use these last few weeks of the colder, last days of winter, to prepare for a glorious spring, complete with renewed interest and vitality, ready to showcase our Grange’s in action!

Legislative Article

Spring has arrived. It is nice to see green grass; the first daffodils and tulips are showing their colorful heads. Everyone is anxious to get outside and enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather. How is your legislative work going in your Grange? Have you planted the seeds to get your Grange involved?

Have you been taking part in our email blast information? We have sent three out since the start of the legislative session in January. Did you get the information? If you are not on the email list and would like to be please share your email information with State Grange. We will be glad to add you to the list. This is a good way for everyone to help with the legislative efforts of the Grange. Your legislators will know that you are interested in what is happening in Albany and you can share the Grange message with them. When you contact your legislator, be sure to be courteous in your email/letter. You should start your letter by a short introduction of yourself and the Grange, tell them why you are writing, and why you are asking for their support or opposition to the bill that you are writing about. Close your letter with a thank you for their support or opposition of your position. Our email requests give you that basic outline. We hope that you will use it.

How are your resolutions doing? Here are a few tips to help you with your resolution writing. Be sure to follow “KISS.” “Keep it short/ sweet.” Don’t clutter your resolution with too many whereas sections. Hopefully, you shouldn’t need more than three or four whereas section in your resolution to explain why you are writing the resolution. These sections should include topic of your resolution and supporting facts for the position that you want to take. The resolved section should be able to stand alone. If you need help with writing a resolution or information, please contact me. I will be happy to help you in any way I can. It is not too early to mark your calendar for our annual legislative conference. Keep the date of September 28 on your calendar for our annual legislative conference in Cortland. Please watch this column for further details as we get closer to the date.

Cindy Benson-Pollard

March/April 2019
### NEW YORK STATE GRANGE

#### Calendar of Events, Activities, & Dues Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 30</th>
<th>Subordinate Dues to State Secretary</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 1-30</strong></td>
<td><strong>GRANGE MONTH – Plan a special public activity/event</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Art/Photo Entries due at HQD for Judging</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Talent Entry Report Sheets due to the State Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>Woodworking, Quilting, &amp; Needlework due at HQD for Judging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>NYS Grange Museum Full Board Meeting – 10:00 a.m. Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting, HQD, 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26-28</td>
<td>Spring Youth Weekend - Cortland</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Lecturer/FAC Conference – HQD</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Regional Legislative Conference – Genesee Co. - place TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>State Dart Ball Tournament – HQD</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2-4</td>
<td>NYS FFA Convention – Syracuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Empire State Granger Copy Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>NYS Grange Museum Cleanup Day, 10:00 a.m., Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 28-31</td>
<td>State Grange Motor Coach Tour – Massachusetts sets South Shore</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>State Bowling Tournament – Cortlanes Bowling Alley, Cortland</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting, Watertown, 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>Regional Legislative Conference – Albany Co. - place TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>Subordinate Dues to State Secretary (Include Membership/Leadership Report)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>Junior Grange Membership &amp; Dues Report Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 12-14</td>
<td>NE Youth Conference – Connecticut – Tentative date</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 14</td>
<td>State Golf Tournament – place TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>Empire State Granger Copy Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>NYS Grange Museum Full Board Meeting &amp; Picnic, Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 21-27</td>
<td>Grange Camp – Camp Wyomoco, Varysburg, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 26</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting, HQD, 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 5-7</td>
<td>Northeast Lecturer’s Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 6-8</td>
<td>Empire Farm Days, Seneca Falls</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 21 – Sept. 2</td>
<td>New York State Fair – Syracuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 31</td>
<td>Grange Day at the NYS Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Community Service Reports due to Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>National IQ Report due</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</td>
<td>Executive Committee – HQD – 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 27-29</td>
<td>Fall Youth Weekend – North Cameron Grange 355 – Steuben County</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 28</td>
<td>State Legislative Day – HQD</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>Subordinate Dues to State Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 18-22</td>
<td>State Grange Annual Session – Hilton Garden Inn, Watertown</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Museum Dinner at State Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting, Hilton Garden Inn, Watertown</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>NYS Grange Foundation Annual Meeting, Hilton Garden Inn, Watertown</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2</td>
<td>NYS Grange Museum Annual Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 5-9</td>
<td>National Grange Session, Doubletree, Bloomington/Minneapolis, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>Empire State Granger Copy Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 30</td>
<td>Subordinate Dues to State Secretary</td>
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**Community Involvement**

**Sherri Taft**

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**Youth**

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Paula Turner, Elaine Smith

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The 2019 Winter Youth Leadership Weekend was held at Ravena Grange in Albany County on Feb 22-24th, due to the storm in January. We had an awesome 3 team photo scavenger hunt; an excellent Scotland presentation by Shannon Ruso; and visited the NYS Museum in Albany. For community service, we made 200 “Busy Books for Children”, that were donated to Albany Medical Center. These are crayons and coloring pages to help keep young patients and siblings occupied while waiting in the ER.

We also had a skit workshop with some interesting results; a group trivia challenge game, and game and fellowship time. Evelyn Lawton led the worship/reflection service to end the weekend. Thank you to the Ravena Grangers for their great food and hospitality.

The next youth weekend will be in conjunction with the Lecturers/FAC and Contest Day in Cortland April 26-28th. We will be sleeping at Cortlandville Grange Hall, and going to Contest Day followed by a workshop. We plan on going bowling, and please bring a digital device to be used in another short workshop. Katie Fallon, National Grange Outstanding Young Patron, will also be there to enlighten us about changes to the National Youth Program. The Spring Weekend will end on Sunday, with many of us competing in the State Grange Dart Ball Tournament.

We hope to see many people come to State Grange Headquarters in Cortland April 27th for the Speech, Sign-A-Song, Radio Spots, and Talent Contests at the Lecturer/Family Activities Conference. All contestants please arrive by 10:45am and have been signed up before April 7th, as was specified earlier. Contact Paula or Elaine with any questions.

As of writing this, we are still awaiting more details on the Northeast Youth Conference scheduled for July 12-14 in Connecticut. All we know for sure is that it will be our time to surrender the Spirit Stick that we were awarded at the 2018 Conference.
When the person comes make sure to introduce them to other members, but don’t tell them that she is overheard. It may help if you have previously identified other members who will act as monitors. Throughout the meeting if you are in a position where you can not be one.

In one of my earlier columns I know I said something about your Grange needing a reason to exist. Here comes more heretical talk. It is not to hold membership drives. Your community and your Grange should see your raison d’etre as community service and being visible and viewed as an important force in your area. Being seen as a positive influence in your community may do more for member recruitment than anything else you can do. Everyone doing something is a much better message to put forward than one person doing everything.

The following is not a paid political ad. It is however another suggestion for reading by Lecturers, Masters and the Executive Committee in your Grange, if not by all Grangers.

Available through national Grange is the book Exploring Traditions - Celebrating the Grange Way of Life by Walter Boomsma. The book is a collection of essays written during the Grange’s 150th anniversary year. They are enlightening, challenging and of interest to any Granger interested in the growth and development of our fraternity known as The Grange.

STROKE IDENTIFICATION: During a BBQ, a woman stumbled and took a little fall - she assured everyone that she was fine (they offered to call paramedics). She said she had just tripped over a brick of her new shoes.

They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food. While she appeared a bit shaken up, Jane went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening.

She had suffered a stroke at the BBQ. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke, perhaps Jane would be with us today. They didn’t die. End up in a hospital, hopeless condition instead.

It only takes a minute to read this.

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke - totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

RECOGNIZING A STROKE

3 steps. STR. Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions: S *Ask the individual to SMILE T *Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Colloquially) i.e. Chicken Soup R *Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS. If the person has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

New Sign of a Stroke

Stick out Your Tongue!

NOTE: Another ‘sign’ of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue.

If the tongue is ‘crooked’, if it goes to one side or the other that is also an indication of a stroke.

It comes from a National Grange brochure from a few years ago Recruiting Members By Being a Grange Ambassador. It says there are four steps. The first is set the stage. This can and needs to be done by all your members and it is really easy. Be proud of being a Granger. Talk about your involvement or upcoming events, wear or display the Grange emblem on a coat, a hat, a t-shirt, a pin, a business card frame, your front door, a window decal or bumper sticker on your car - any number of ways. Doing so may get a friend, relative, neighbor or complete stranger to ask you, “What is the Grange?” That question leads right to the next step. Answer their question and then ask some of your own to find out about them. About their family, their job, their concerns about the community, are they looking for a way to make a difference (this question is especially important for millennials), what do they value, do they have hobbies, and so on.

Make sure you listen to their answers and responses. I must be committing Grange heresy by saying - You then need to determine if this person may be a good candidate for membership. Not everyone is cut out to be a Granger. If you think they would - then invite them to a meeting, or a business card, tri-fold brochure or handout of some description to give them is always helpful. It serves as a reminder of your conversation. Be sure to get contact information so you can follow up with a phone call to remind them of the upcoming meeting or event. Offer a ride if it is warranted.

The Lecturer and Family Activities Conference Day is coming up on Saturday April 27.

Come join me and let’s work on fellowship for a day of contests – Talent, Public Speaking, and Sign-a-Song. The Art, Photo, Woodworking, and Needlework Contests will also be on display.

Show your support for your fellow Grangers and celebrate the end of Grange Month. Please call Grange Headquarters in Cortland if you plan on attending, so that we can get a count for lunch. Lunch will be served by Cuyler Grange and the cost is $10.

Also, save the dates of August 5-7, 2019 for the Northeast Regional Lecturers’ Conference to be held in Massachusetts. The theme this year is “Down on the Farm.” It is for ALL Grangers to attend not just Lecturers. There will be interesting workshops filled with ideas for you to implement in your Granges back at home.

The cost per person ranges $220 for a triple, $265 for a double, and $330 for a single room. More information will be coming in the mail.
Family Activities

Brenda Noble

I hope everyone has been very busy and we will have lots of entries for the contest in April. They are due to Cortland by April 20th. We hope many are planning to attend the Conference on April 27th. Come see all the entries for the handwork and woodworking contests, the Talent, and Public Speaking contests. Lunch will be $10. Please call Grange Headquarters in Cortland to let us know how many are attending to plan for lunch. I will also take items for the sale at the Northeast Ex-position. They need mittens, aprons, baby sweater sets, magnets, small ornaments, Halloween/Fall items, slippers, socks of all sizes, plas-tic bag holders, clothespin bags, and kitchen towels. I need them by August 20th. The proceeds from the sale of the items help to maintain the building and prizes for the contests.

The baking contest is Chocolate Jumbles. Please note that in the recipe provided in the handbook, 3 squares of baking chocolate is equivalent to 3 ounces. When the recipe was published, the baking chocolate squares were 1 ounce each compared to the ½ ounce squares now.

I hope to see many of you all at the conference in April!

Sports

Carl Bullock

This year's sports program will begin soon. The Dart Ball Tournament is scheduled for April 28th. We ask that the teams that will be participating let us know by April 14th. Checks for entrance may be brought the Grange Headquarters on the 28th. The price will be the same as last year ($25 per team). Donuts, Coffee and soda will be available for $1 per person.

The State Bowling Tournament will be held on June 2nd at Cort-Lanes in Cortland. Bowling will start at 12:30 pm. There will be a meeting first. Linda Batsford will be run-ning the tournament this year as Cindy and I will be in South Car-olinas attending two grandson’s graduations. It is imperative that you return all entrance forms to Linda by the deadline given (May 17th) to make sure she has time to notify the Bowling Alley of who will be there and have the sheets ready. Again, Linda is handling this alone so you will need to make sure you have the papers back to her in time. Linda’s address is 1199 Church Street, Cortland, NY 13045 and her phone number is 607-855-6127. Entry fees can be brought on the day of the tourna-ment if you don’t have time to include a check when you return the entrance form.

The golf tournament will be held on July 14th (not the 8th as listed in the last Granger calendar). This year we will be golf-ing at Orchard Valley in LaFay-ette, NY. Price will be $23 per person and this price includes the caddy. Tee time is 1:00. Forms for golf will be available at the bowling tournament.

We hope giving everyone this advance notice gives you time to start putting your teams together and we hope to see everyone come out and have fun.

We thank Linda Batsford ahead of time for accepting the task of running the bowling tourn-ament. Not an easy task for one person to do!

Ag Day in DC

Katie Fallon, New York

Ag Day offers Grange Youth opportunity to put face on rural

On Thursday, March 14, the National Grange celebrated Na-tional Ag Day, taking part in several events throughout Washington, D.C. and taking the message of agriculture’s important role in our national economy to the Hill.

National Youth Team members—Young Falcons Britney Oli-ver, Washington; Katie Fallon, New York; and Youth Ambassa-dors, Rylee Furr and Zac Mazag, both of North Carolina—met with Senate and House leaders in the morning and afternoon, dis-cussing issues such as ag labor, rural broadband expansion and im-ported drugs to name a few.

This is a great annual event and we are so proud of our Youth and staff who attended,” Huber said. “They are helping to raise awareness and put a face on rural that is immeasurable in impact.”

While there were many high points during the day, one of the more visible was shared on social media by Rep. Dan Newhouse, who interviewed Oliver about the importance of youth entering careers in agriculture and those supporting farmers and ranchers. Check out the interview here.

The group, including National Legislative Director Burton Eller, National Youth Director Mandy Bostwick and National Membership and Leadership Development Director Joe Stefkeni, traveled to a briefing on the state of agriculture at the Press Club in the afternoon and took part in discussions with others interested in agriculture during an evening reception on the 13th at the U.S. Capitol.

During that evening event, Huber reconnected with Sen. Pat Roberts, a 2018 recipient of the National Grange’s prestigious Champion of Rural America Award.
At the 147th Annual Session of the National Grange, at Manchester New Hampshire, the delegates adopted changes to requirements for Junior Grange membership which allows for individual Junior Grange membership in any Subordinate/Community Grange. This means any Subordinate/Community Grange can have a Junior Grange Program with as little as one child age 5 to 14 years of age. That is the “1” part of the program. The “+” part of the program is that you don’t have to stop at 1, it is just the starting point. By using the Junior Grange 1+ Program, any Subordinate/Community Grange, anywhere in the nation, can start with a single Junior Grange-age child and build a Junior Grange program from there. The process to start a Junior Grange 1+ Program is easy.

The Junior Granger completes an application, submits it to a Community/Subordinate Grange, and receives the Junior Grange Obligation from the Subordinate President. At that point, the Junior member may participate in any and all of the age-appropriate contests and activities open to them.

As your Junior membership grows, make plans to charter a full Junior Grange in the future. All Junior Grange 1+ members will automatically become members in the newly chartered Junior Grange.

Below are some of the materials that are available in the Junior Grange section of the website

WWW.nationalgrange.org

1 Plus Program

On March 25, the National Grange and nearly 50 other ag groups sent a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee urging the full funding of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network.

As part of the letter, the groups noted that, “…farming is a high stress occupation. Financial risks, volatile markets, unpredictable weather, and heavy workloads strain farmers, ranchers, and farm workers’ mental well-being. To make matters worse, 60% of rural residents live in areas that suffer from mental health professional shortages.”

Letter below:

Dear Chairmen Bishop and Hoeven and Ranking Members Fortenberry and Merkley,

We, the undersigned agriculture and rural organizations representing millions of members across the country, thank you for your work on behalf of American agriculture. We appreciate the inclusion of the pilot program to address farmer stress and suicide in the fiscal year 2019 appropriations bill. We recommend fully funding the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) for FY 2020 and ask for your support.

The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized the FRSAN, which provides grants for extension services, state departments of agriculture, non-profit organizations to provide other entities to provide stress assistance programs to farmers, ranchers, farmworkers, and other agriculture-related occupations. Eligible programs include farm helplines and websites, training programs and workshops, outreach services, and home delivery of assistance. The $2 million provided for a pilot of the program in the FY 2019 appropriations bill will create an on-ramp to full program implementation.

As you know, farming is a high-stress occupation. Financial risks, volatile markets, unpredictable weather, and heavy workloads strain farmers and ranchers. Net farm income in 2018 was nearly 50 percent less than it was in 2013. While current projections suggest slight improvements in 2019, a significant rebound could be years away.

As the Subcommittee develops the FY 2020 agriculture appropriations bill, we urge you to fully fund the FRSAN at $10 million. This funding will be critically important in meeting the needs of farmers and ranchers as they endure increasing financial and mental stress.

Sincerely,


Farm Bill Implementation

Despite the recent 35-day government shutdown that halted work on the new farm bill, USDA is about ready to announce the timeline for implementing revisions to programs. The legislation made relatively small changes to the 2014 farm bill and is generally considered “farmer friendly” by producers. At the farm bill listening session in Washington February 26, USDA was pressed to act quickly on dairy and conservation provisions. The Farm Service Agency expects Dairy Margin Coverage signup to begin June 17 with payments start-
Protein Demand

The demand for plant and animal protein food products shows no sign of letting up. With steadily rising incomes, especially in developing countries, consumers appear to want more and more protein-laden foods. Trend-watchers are betting on robust growth in production and consumption both in the U.S. and worldwide. These pundits also look for a spectrum of cultural diets, nutrition and health concerns, and animal welfare to continue their mixed influences on demand for high-protein foods.

Support for Wildlife Services

The National Grange joined over 200 farmer and rancher, landowner, hunter, avitation, wildlife management and state government groups to support continued funding for USDA’s Wildlife Services. The groups gave examples to the House Appropriations Committee leadership of the need for an effective Wildlife Services presence where wildlife control is necessary. Wildlife damage to fruits, vegetables, crops and livestock has reached almost $1 billion annually. The spread of wildlife-borne diseases to humans, livestock and other wildlife is a growing concern.

Food Stamps Limelitght Again

Just two months after the farm bill food stamp/SNAP debate was settled, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report shows that at least $1 billion in food stamp benefits are fraudulently used. GAO found many stores were “selling” cash instead of food. For example, a store might give a person $50 in exchange for $250.00 per camper. Campers and interested counselors!

Grange Camp needs YOU! Grange Camp will be held July 21-27, 2019 at Camp Wyomissing, New York. Campers will enjoy many of the usual activities at camp along with some new activities. More information will be mailed out in the very near future so be checking your mailbox. For more information, feel free to contact Sherri Taft at (845)380-2294 or kidsbreak1@yahoo.com or Ryan Orton at (845)868-7869 or rorton808@yahoo.com. We look forward to seeing many familiar faces and many new faces at camp this year.

Bipartisan Support for Major Land Conservation Bill

By a bipartisan vote of 363-62 the House has approved sweeping public lands legislation that designates more than a million acres of wilderness for environmental protection (prohibits all development and the use of most motorized vehicles), numerous conservation measures and permanently reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Under the Fund, fossil-fuel companies, rather than taxpayers, cover a major portion of protecting public lands.

Revised Definition of “Waters of the United States”

The EPA and Corps of Engineers are inviting public comment on a proposed rule to more closely define the scope of waters federally regulated under the Clean Water Act. The agencies propose to interpret the term “waters of the United States” to encompass traditional navigable waters, tributaries that contribute perennial or intermittent flow to such waters, certain ditches, certain lakes and ponds, and wetlands adjacent to other jurisdictional waters. The agencies propose as a baseline concept that all waters are not “waters of the United States”. Farmers, ranchers, landowners and many others see the proposal as a major improvement over the original WOTUS rule.

Concerns About Imported Drugs

The demand for plant and animal protein food products shows no sign of letting up. With steadily rising incomes, especially in developing countries, consumers appear to want more and more protein-laden foods. Trend-watchers are betting on robust growth in production and consumption both in the U.S. and worldwide. These pundits also look for a spectrum of cultural diets, nutrition and health concerns, and animal welfare to continue their mixed influences on demand for high-protein foods.
concern about federal and state initiatives to import prescription drugs. Grangers depend upon accessible, affordable, effective and safe prescription drugs. Cheaper prescription drugs delivered by mail from Canada seem like a perfect answer to their needs, right? No, not really. Counterfeit and possibly dangerous drugs via this route are a distinct possibility. The Grange is particularly concerned about the safety and effectiveness of counterfeit drugs produced in third world countries and transshipped through multiple other countries before they reach American patients. To make matters worse, Canada says it has no regulatory responsibility to assure the safety and effectiveness of these transshipped prescription drugs coming into America.

Give Drug Rebates Directly to Patients

HHS Secretary Azar has proposed a major change to the drug purchasing and rebate system. His plan calls for prescription drug discounts by drug makers to be offered directly to patients instead of insurance plans and pharmacy benefit managers. National Grange President Betsy Huber issued a statement stressing that the proposed rule gets the middlemen out of the way and will lower prescription drug costs for those with chronic conditions. “We look forward to working with Secretary Azar and his team to assure rural America actually does see lower drug costs and does receive better access to treatment.”

Public Wary of “Medicare for All”

According to a Hill-HarrisX poll released in February, just thirteen percent of respondents want “Medicare for all” if it means the end of private insurance. Respondents were clearly saying the health care system is broken to some degree but there was not consensus around how to fix it. Health care policy is proving to be challenging for both political parties.

Quilts Of Valor—Catherine Roberts’ Dream

The dream was as vivid as real life. I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered around, dragging him down into an emotional gutter. Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and wellbeing. The quilt had made this dramatic change.

The message of my dream was: Quilts = Healing

The model appeared simple: have a volunteer team who would donate their time and materials to make a quilt. One person would piece the top and the other would quilt it. I saw the name for this special quilt. It was a Quilt of Valor, a QOV.

Quilts of Valor have been awarded to veterans at the 2018 National Grange session in Vermont. New York was honored to have two veterans recognized, Tom Hebeisen from Fredonia Grange and Alma Jean Heidenreich from Taft Settlement Grange. The Grange delivered approximately 100 dictionaries to students in March while providing some useful information on how to use the handy reference guide.

“The Grange was founded on the idea to make sure children in rural areas received a good education,” said Bruce Croucher, a retired Midlakes educator who is a member of the Grange. “It’s always been centered on education, not only for children but also adults on farms. I know some of the students are really excited about receiving it. It may be the first book they’ve ever owned.”

“Words for Thirds” dictionary program is a nationwide initiative endorsed by the National Grange to provide dictionaries to encourage the development of good reading habits and verbal comprehension skills early in life. The Clifton Springs Grange supports the effort by delivering and raising funds through fundraisers and other efforts to purchase the books.

The local Grange has been delivering the dictionaries to Midlakes students for about 12 years now. Besides definitions, the dictionary lists American presidents, the 50 states, and the world’s longest word: A 1,909-letter behemoth that’s too long to spell out.

Sharon Croucher, a retired Midlakes librarian, showed the students how to use the dictionaries during the visit and encouraged them to write their names in the inside cover to prevent inadvertent losses.

“This is one that will probably help you right up through middle school,” she told the students.

The Grange delivered the dictionaries to students taught by Natalie Dreis, Ashlee Upchurch, Christi Williams, Jessie Moringello, Karen Busby and Ali Estes.