Empire State Granger

May/June 2019

WHAT IS YOUR Grange MISSION?

There are any number of old proverbs around that use the alliteratons of boats without oars, ships without rudders, etc., all designed to focus our attention on the need for direction and goals. We all know that a person who desires to be successful in life needs to set goals early on, so that the necessary steps can be taken to accomplish the desired end. Goals are a bit of a balancing act as well, as those that are too specific can result in the same effect as no goals at all.

When it comes to the organizational level, the word goal is generally replaced with the word mission, as while they may be interchangeable in one sense, goals are more appropriately long or short term projects to enhance the overall mission. Just as our personal lives, sometimes the overall focus of an organization needs to be tweaked a bit, just to refresh our thinking if nothing else.

If your Grange has never created a mission statement, it is time to put thought in that direction, or if you do have one, and it has been around for a long time, it might be time to re-think it. Word meanings, usages, phrases, etc., change over time, and what was once a real attention grabber is no longer that. Concise mission statements are important, as they set forth what we intend to and how we intend to do it. Creating a good one is hard mental work, but we think it will be worth the effort, as it will generate enthusiasm to concentrate on why we are involved, and what the mission of our local organization is.

State Grange Masters assembled in which this past February tackled this issue, and after considerable time an effort the following Mission Statement for the National Grange was formulated and adopted:

THE GRANGE STRENGTHENS INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH GRASS-ROOTS ACTION, SERVICE, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY AND AGRICULTURE AWARENESS.

As you can see, it sets forth the general philosophy and methods to accomplish it in just a few words. Obviously our complete mission is more complex, and is fully articulated in the Declaration of Purposes and the Manual, but this 16 word statement states very well what we are about. One can say it looks at the Grange from the 30,000 foot level.

The above mission statement is not designed to be a one size fits all statement. It perfectly describes our national identity, however each local Grange is in its own community with its own peculiarities and needs, and thus should have a statement that focuses on what you are and want to do in your individual situations – in no more than 20 words. I’m sure that in retrospect you will find this to be a rewarding and valuable experience. It could very well serve to re-focus your energies and strategies in relation to the communities you serve, and thus enhance your image and ability to serve.

Congratulations to Britney Mercado for being selected to represent the National Grange at CADCA’s (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) Mid-Year Training Institute in Grapevine, TX this July. National Grange and CADCA have partnered to create a task force of 13-21 year olds that are enthusiastic in wanting to help fight the opioid crisis in America. Britney is a member of Stanford Grange, Dutchess County and will serve with three other Grange youth from around the country. They were selected with a few others from CADCA to create this task force to ensure that we collaborate with CADCA. Their goal is to do some pre-planning on strategic ways Grange Youth can spread that training to rural and small town grass roots America. CADCA builds and strengthens the capacity of community coalitions to create safe, healthy, and drug-free communities.

It supports members with technical assistance and training, public policy, media strategies, conferences, and special events. This is a wonderful opportunity for Britney, and an honor to be chosen. We look forward to hearing more from her later this year!

Social Media: Our Membership’s Salvation

By Theodore “Teddy” S코

Guest Editorial

We are surrounded, in many regards, by media. Are you reading this paper right now? Then you are using media. Have you read any books lately? You used media. There are other forms of media too, such as paintings, but one form that sticks out the most is social media. With social media I can communicate with people from all around the world and they can communicate with me. It has been around for quite some time and it is here to stay.

To use social media is to use any other form of media. If you want to put an event in a local newspaper, you call the local newspaper. If you want to put up a sign for an event, you put up a sign for an event. If you want to broadcast your message wider and faster, you advertise events on social media websites such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and even YouTube to let people all around you know that your Grange does things.

These websites at first seem to be user-unfriendly, but they are quite helpful. First, you will need to create your own email address for the Grange. The two websites that can give you the most valuable email experience, in my opinion, are Google and Microsoft Office. Google has a program called Gmail and Microsoft Office has Outlook. Emails require a first name and last name, preferably the name of the Grange hall making the account; a birthday for the account, this should be the subordinate Grange hall’s charter date; a gender for the account, this one does not matter that much but should be female out of respect for the Graces; and a username and password are necessary, two things that the members who will have access to the account will remember.

After making your email account, which will allow you to receive and send out information quite effectively, you will need to start a
Legislative Column

April showers and more May showers have brought on the flowers of spring. I enjoyed looking at the beautiful color of the tulips I have in my garden on the side of our house. Soon summer will be here with picnics, swimming and fishing. Has your Grange planned its summer legislative activities? How about an open meeting to share our legislative work with your community?

Have you been participating in our legislative blasts? State government is in high gear. We have already sent out several blasts. This is a very good opportunity to get your members involved in the legislative work of the Grange. Issues we have addressed so far includes school bus safety and toy safety of children toys. If you would like to get these emails directly, please send your email address to State Grange and ask to have it included in the blast list. If you do get it, please be sure to share it with your members and encourage them to send the emails to their representatives.

It seems like a long way off but I have been starting to think about our annual Legislative Conference. This will be held in September at Grange Headquarters. I am always open to suggestions for speakers. If there is some particular topic you would like to hear about, please let me know. If there is someone you would like to hear from, please let me know. I try to get as much of the schedule set before Jim and I leave for the State Fair. A reminder that resolutions to be considered at this year’s State Grange need to be by September 1st. This is important so that I can have everything ready to be distributed at Legislative Day. Have a happy summer!!

Cindy Benson-Pollard

From the Secretary’s Corner

At this writing, Pomona Granges are acting on their delegate lists for the upcoming State Session to be held in Watertown, October 18 – 22. Only Granges who March 2019 quarterly dues are paid at State Grange are eligible to send delegates to the annual meeting. These are determined by the rotation schedule per each Pomona district. This is important for each Subordinate Grange Secretary to have their Grange’s dues sent to State Grange in a timely manner. If they were not in by the official mailing to Pomona Secretaries around May 1, a Grange may still correct the situation by addressing this immediately and the Pomona Secretary can check with me to verify that dues have been received and the Grange can be eligible for inclusion in the Pomona’s delegation. Pomona Secretaries are to send in the delegate list to the State Secretary by August 15.

For those who wish to make early reservations for the State Session, the contact info is: Hilton Garden Inn Watertown, 1290 Arsenal Street, Watertown, New York 13601. Reservations can be made by calling: 315-779-3000 and rates are $107.95 plus 11% tax. Within easy walking distance down a sidewalk, is also the Holiday Inn Express at 11621 Mount Morris Road, Watertown, New York 13601. Rates are $99.95 by calling 315-779-1234. In either case, state that you are attending the State Grange Convention so that the lower rates will apply to your stay. There is limited number of handicapped accessible rooms at either site, so if this is a concern, you will want to make them known in advance.

Members attending State Session will need to be in possession of the 2019 annual passbook or show a 2019 dues card issued by your Secretary. If you are a Golden Sheaf Member, that card will also assure smooth passage at the registration table. The silent auction will again be held this year… a fun event that raises some monies for State Grange. The Executive Committee is inviting Pomona Granges Monroe through Wyoming Counties to provide an item for the silent auction table this year. Subordinate and Pomona Secretaries… be on the lookout for the notice and form of 2019-2020 Officers Lists. It will be sent out near the end of June and is to be sent back ASAP so that the names and contact info of your leaders will be available at Headquarters for the coming year and will be included in the 2020 State Grange Directory. PLEASE, take care of this item when it arrives, as soon as you have the needed info.

And now a personal note regarding State Session. After due consideration by the Committee, I believe it is time to look to other individuals to serve as State Grange Secretary for the coming term. Over the last eight years, I have been able to comfortably handle the duties from a home office, so distance to Cortland for daily trips or even frequent trips to Headquarters is not an issue. The job does entail a fair amount of work throughout the year, an average 15 hours a week, more during some periods of the year. As I plan to be enjoying some time in Florida next winter, I believe the job requires someone that is not “out of the office” for 4-6 weeks at a time. The State Master will be providing a list of duties for all offices soon, as this year is their first year for a full slate. Delegate-at-Large should come prepared prior to their arrival in Watertown to select the best candidates for our State Grange officers. Any parties with questions about the job of State Secretary are encouraged to contact me… and I would be available to help with a transition into the new year.

Best wishes to all the Granges who will be holding election of officers soon… a time for renewed energy.

May/June 2019

2019 NEW YORK STATE GRANGE
YE OLDE OX ROAST
WORKER/SHIFT INFORMATION SHEET
DATE AND TIME WORKED IN 2018
PLEASE FILL IN BELOW AND RETURN TO ADDRESS AT THE BOTTOM:
MY COUNTY
OR SUBORDINATE GRANGE
YES OR NO
WOULD LIKE TO WORK:
FIRST CHOICE:
DATE
SHIFT TIME
SECOND CHOICE:
DATE
SHIFT TIME
NUMBER OF TICKETS NEEDED
(NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS COMING)
NAME OF CONTACT PERSON:
ADDRESS
PHONE NO. 

YOUR TICKETS WILL BE SENT TO THE CONTACT PERSON INDICATED ABOVE. IT WILL BE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE SURE ALL VOLUNTEERS HAVE THE NECESSARY TICKETS. (Tickets are purchased based on workers needed for each shift; please be sure to order the correct number of tickets.)

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN JULY 15, 2019.

SEND TO: CINDY BENSON-POLLARD
401 CHARLES AVENUE
SYRACUSE, NY 13209
CONTACT PHONE WHILE AT FAIR: 315-413-9335

Chaplain’s Corner

Birds Must be I have arrived at the age of becoming interested in watching and feeding the birds! Virginia L. Conner

May/June 2019

All of a sudden this new interest in birds has caused me to be more attentive to habits – particularly in how they treat other birds. If they want to be little piggies and hog the feeder, they chase away the other birds. Some will wait their turn and perch on a higher branch and chirp a lovely tune like they are serenading the other birds who are dining at the feeders.

But then there’s another bad habit that really upsets me. Have you noticed the number of broken bird eggs on the ground? Why are they there? It’s likely a bad bird has found a nest and pushed out the eggs and they break on impact with the ground. No longer will there be a fledgling coming from that egg.

I have often wondered why do birds do that? Are they jealous or are they just mean birds who want to hurt the hearts of possible new parents? Do they need an attitude adjustment?

As I watch the birds, I wonder how we can apply their actions to our lives. Are you a bad bird or a good bird? Do you stand near your nest and protect it from predators? Or are you a bad bird who robs another’s nest of precious eggs deposited there for future young to come into the world?

I pray that you are all good birds who are “feeding the hungry, harboring the homeless and the widows and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world”.

Roger Halbert

 contractor indicated above. It will be their responsibility to be sure all volunteers have the necessary tickets. (Tickets are purchased based on workers needed for each shift; please be sure to order the correct number of tickets.) Please return this form no later than July 15, 2019. Send to: Cindy Benson-Pollard 401 Charles Avenue Syracuse, NY 13209 Contact phone while at fair: 315-413-9335
program was started by Dick Patten in 1988 when he was the National Grange Community Service Director to honor an outstanding firefighter and law enforcement officer each year. Recently, National Grange added Teacher of the Year as well. Each State that participates in this program chooses a firefighter, law enforcement officer and teacher of the year from the applications submitted and the winners are then forwarded to National Grange for consideration. National Grange chooses one winner from each category to be the National Firefighter, Law Enforcement Officer and Teacher of the Year.

More information about this program is available in the 2018-19 New York State Grange Handbook under the Community Service section. The application is also included in the handbook or on the New York State Grange website at nysgrange.org. The applications are due to me by September 1, 2019. If anyone has any questions, feel free to contact me at (315)380-2294 or kidsbreak1@yahoo.com.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to the State Grange Youth Fund in memory of Fred Bolio, past State Youth Director. This is a great opportunity to help offset the overall cost of camp, please send your donation to: New York Grange, 100 Grange Place, Cortland, New York 13045 and write “Grange Camp” on the memo line.

Thank you to everyone who supports the Grange Camp program!
ever, it may be beneficial to choose part of the national mission statement to focus on. Is it possible for your “small” Grange to adopt a family in need. Groceries, rides to appointments, fuel oil assistance, rent help, or some other “small” way you can help. This aid can be done anonymously through a school or church if you do not want the family to know what the who, the why and the how of your Grange helping be known, but not the who.

If you do not meet “in full” form for awhile, do it. Seven members, an American flag and an open Bible make an Official Grange meeting. At that meeting during the order of business decide what one topic or problem you want to be advocates for. Is it a local issue, national, state, national, voting rights, infrastructure problems, children’s/human rights, on which the members can agree and figure out your game plan. Involvement in a community is the best way to be seen and appreciated but keep your Grange, your natural ad ocacy. Find a way to connect with the agricultural community around you, determine what needs are there, and offer where you think you can. Writing resolutions, supporting ag days, etc. If you are a failing or ailing Grange look for a local FFA Chapter. There are many ways to partner with them through community service, leadership development and so on. Offer the support you feel your Grange is capable of. Also during my phone visits, and at the Leadership conference, I talked to more than a few Masters who feel like they don’t know what they’re doing or whether they are doing it right. Some have been Grange members for a few years and do not feel as if they know all they should. Part of this may be due to them being obligated and not seeing or experiencing the degrees. Many of them feel like they need help. SO, I need volunteers to help meet each need through outside resources or MENTOR. My idea is to pair Masters pres/counselors so they can feel overwhelmed with those who have experience (and may not have an active Grange of their own). I believe this may be workable through phone contact and one or two in person visits - if they are possible. If you are reading this and fall into either category, please contact me. I will attempt facilitating these connections. It is difficult, at best, to develop leadership potential in someone no one to emulate or assist you in doing so. The Grange is rooted in Faith, Hope, Charity and Fi- delity. Remember that as you continue to find ways to thrive.

Barton Snedaker

Depressed, despondent, disheartened, despairing, distraught, down – maybe. Destroyed or destroyed – no. After completing the last few phone calls to local Grange masters I have to admit I was slightly at least one (if not all) of those first words. If anything it has made me more determined to find avenues of assisting local Granges to succeed. There are Granges which have not had “regular” meetings in two years or more, others seem to be Granges of one or two members who are just barely holding on - while trying to do everything. Granges whose members are all in their mid to late eighties (and older). Or any combination of those attributes. The old saying is that desperate times call for desperate measures. It appears that now may be that time for many of our Granges. At the outset, the Grange found itself building during and because of desperate times. Large corporations (railroads especially) seemed to have all the power and wealth. Forward thinking men and women devised a plan to thwart that external control of their lives and livelihood. Joining together into an organization that understood there was strength in numbers and power in fraternity. The cohesive group became much more powerful than the lone individual in demanding change and progress. The outcome was respect for their tol, their knowledge and their product - which benefited the entire country.

While pondering this dilemma I was able to attend the North East Region Leadership Conference in Norwich, CT. Betsy Huber, national Grange president unveiled the brand new mission statement of national Grange. I think it may be just what I needed to assist me in offering help to struggling Granges.

The Grange strengthens and supports individuals, families and communities through grassroots action, service, edu- cation, advocacy and agri-cultural awareness. Granges are encouraged to develop their own individual mission statement. If you are one of the Grange types I mentioned earlier it is very unlikely you are going to want to do that. And I agree... How-

Laura Magrum

On Saturday, April 27th the Lecturers and Family Activities held the Annual Conference and Tales Center Day at Cayugan festivals in Cortland. We had approxi- mately 55 in attendance for the day. We would like to give a huge THANK YOU to Cayugan Grange for preparing lunch for the day. The judging for the photo and art contests was done on Friday and was on display for the Conference Day. This year we had 49 photo en- tries, 22 art entries, 6 talent en- tries.


The Sports Program kicked off on April 28th with the State Dart Ball Tournament with four teams participating. Stanford Grange came in first place. Although Ryan Orton said he never scored a home run in his life, he scored his first, second, third and fourth home run during the tournament.

FDR & Dollar General
By Deborah L. Smith
Master Dutchess County Pomona
FDR and Dollar General.
Hmm...that’s a very unlikely combination! Dollar General didn’t exist way back when. If it had, would President Roosevelt have stopped in with his little Scottie dog, Fala, to say hello to the staff? Can you imagine the bargains Eleanor Roosevelt would have found?

So what does FDR have to do with Dollar General, you ask? Well, FDR was a member of Chapel Corners Grange #872 in Hyde Park. The Grange Hall was built on the corner of Dorsey Lane and Violet Avenue (Route 9G). This is now the site of the proposed new building.

Sports
Carl Bullock
The Sports Program kicked off on April 28th with the State Dart Ball Tournament with four teams participating. Stanford Grange came in first place. Although Ryan Orton said he never scored a home run in his life, he scored his first, second, third and fourth home run during the tournament.

Dutchess County
By T. Joseph O'Donnell
Family Activities
We had a great weekend for Lecturers’/Family Activities Conference. Everyone had a great time enjoying everyone’s company and seeing all the entries for the contest. It is a good time to connect with others from across the state. We thank Carol Bailey for talking about vintage clothing. She tied it to Grange and named some women of History.

There were fewer entries in the woodworking and needlework contest, but there was some great competition among the entries in some categories. The winners were as follows:

Stuffed Toy: Ballard
Plastic Canvas: Whidad
Stitch: Wayne Co.

Ball: No. 3, Pete Johnson, Oneida Co.

Sewing of the Cloths of Hope: Judy Bristow, Orange Co.

Wall Hanging Hand Done: Holly Williams – Lewis Co.

Machine Done: Logan Pocock, Genesee Co.

Mixed Media: Alyvia Fuchs, Wayne Co.

Best of Show winners for Art: Div I – Cindy Williams, Lewis Co.; Div II – Isabella Deyo, Albany Co.

Talent Contest winners: Vocal Solo 1st: Sophia Metras, Onondaga Co.; 2nd: Connie Johnson, Oneida Co.

Instrumental 1st: Alice Wilser, Dutchess Co.


The members wanted their own Hall and they mortgaged some land at the intersection of Violet Avenue and Dorsey Lane. The members themselves built the Hall and it opened in 1914. The Grange School was eventually torn down and local residents began to talk of the area around the new Grange Hall as Chapel Corners. In 1929, the Grange School was torn down and the Grounds became known as Chapel Corners Grange. As a side note: the Charter for Chapel Corners Grange reads as “Chapel Corner,” but the sign on the Grange Hall in a 1938 photo shows the name as Chapel Corners.

What about Chapel Corners Grange #872? By all accounts, they were once a very active and thriving Grange. They were mentioned regularly, along with many other Granges, in the local newspapers. There was always something going on at Chapel Corners. They started exhibiting at the Dutchess County Fair in 1899 – the same year they organized. They held annual turkey suppers, hedge, and quaker sales. They organized dances and card parties. There were food sales where they sold everything from baked goods to salads. They enjoyed Field Days and, at various times in their history, had a baseball team, a Glee club, and a dartball team. They played and ministry shows. It was noted in one newspaper article as to an upcoming dance: “The members of (Chapel Corners Grange) are noted as entertainers and there is little doubt that this fair will be up to the usual standards.”

Membership at Chapel Corners thrived. When they organized in 1899, they had 37 charter members. By 1916, the average attendance at their meetings was at least 70. It was reported in a newspaper in 1930 that they initiated 23 new members at one meeting. In 1940, at an annual Installation Ceremony,
Junior Grange

The Juniors that attended the Leadership Day at Cuba Grange in April were truly Junior Grange Heroes in training (Heroes in Training being the current Junior Grange theme). One of the activities was, while wearing the Junior Grange Hero Cape, tell us what their Super Power would be and why. Very interesting. The awareness program this year is “Dairy.” Not only did participants work on their posters and brochures, lunch consisted of tasting many different kinds of cheeses, yogurt, and other dairy foods. Some of the cheeses were from local Cuba cheese shop. Everyone loves cheese curd! And did you know Cabot cheese is lactose free? The merit badge program has changed to the Passport Program. We worked on the Kelly Farm Passport, watching the Kelly Farm CD and answering questionnaires. The passports can be placed in a folder/binder. More passports will become available with time from the National Director. Opening and closing ritual was practiced and new friendships formed. There are many new and changing activities in the Junior Program. You can check out all on the National Grange website under Junior Grange. Pen-pal, talent, public speaking, Passports, Community Service activities. Just remember, to let us know what your members are doing and participating in. If I can help you in any way, please let me know.

Remember to check your NYS Grange Handbook. The Junior (red) section has information and also the membership/dues report which are due in June. Plans for the next 2 year handbook are underway. Check out the other Grange departments, Junior members can participate in FAC (needlework, quilt block), Lecturer (Art/Photography, talent), Youth, (public speaking, sign) and Sports (bowling, dirtball). Another Junior Leadership Day is scheduled in September in Jefferson County. Plan on joining us! Always fun and good fellowship - as well as learning.

Junior Leadership Day at Cuba Grange

Junior Grangers at work and at play

Gail Chamberlain

NATIONAL GRANGE FLY-IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

The National Grange Fly-In to Washington, DC was April 28-May 1. A total of twenty-two Grange members from eleven states met with thirty-one members of Congress or their staffs. The group also was briefed by Anne Hazlett, Senior Advisor, Rural Affairs, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, and by Preston Wise, Special Counselor to Chairman Pai at the Federal Communications Commission.

The National Grange focused on priority public policy issues that need action by Congress and the federal agencies during 2019. These actions include disaster relief, rebuilding rural infrastructure, passing the Student Agriculture Protection Act, legislation to protect online privacy, upgrade rural broadband coverage maps, emerging broadband technologies to reach rural areas, maintaining the Lifeline program for rural residents, the dangers of importing non-FDA-approved prescription drugs, and prescription drug discount rebates to patients to lower out-of-pocket costs at the drug counter. Grange members also urged Congress to take action on pending bills in Congress that address patient prescription drug costs.

Census of Agriculture Documents Change

The USDA’s latest ag census shows that the major trends in agriculture since 2012 are continuing:

- Dairy farm numbers declined 17 percent but milk sales increased 4 percent as dairy operations grow larger and smaller producers are squeezed out. Overall, the number of all farms decreased by 3.2 percent.
- The number of farmers increased by 6.9 percent as young, beginning and female farmers took on decision-making roles.
- The average age of all farmers rose to 57.5 years compared to 56.3 years in 2012.
- One in four producers is a beginning farmer with less than 10 years of experience and an average age of 46.3 years.
- A record low 105,453 farms produced 75 percent of all sales, down from 119,908 farms in 2012.
- Ninety-six percent of American farms and ranches are family owned.

AG WORKFORCE AND IMMIGRATION CONSERVATION, LAND AND WATER HEALTH CARE

New Dairy Margin Coverage Program

The 2018 Farm Bill authorized the DMC which is a voluntary risk management tool that offers dairy producers financial protection when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by producers. Sign-up for the DMC begins June 17 through USDA’s Farm Service Agency.

Farm Bill Tackles Feral Swine

Between funds authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill and additional funds appropriated by Congress, USDA now has $30.5 million in fiscal 2019 to reduce feral swine damage to crops and land across 35 states. Wild hogs destroy anything in their path including crops, land, fencing, roads, wildlife and can spread disease to domestic pigs. The agriculture community continues to push Congress to pass legislation that would assure producers access to sufficient, flexible, legal and dependable labor. The House Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship held a hearing in early April on the availability of farm labor to meet seasonal and year-round needs. There appears to be increased bipartisan support in the House for an agriculture-only workforce bill. But judging from past experience, there will be pressure to add a pathway to citizenship for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (Dreamers) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiaries to any immigration legislation that makes it to the House floor. The more provisions that are added the less likely the bill is to pass. In the meantime, the Department of Labor is collaborating with USDA to streamline the H-2A visa application process for ag employers.

Permanent conservation easements are generally presumed to benefit the natural environment, but their purpose and results can vary widely. For agriculture, they can be double-edged swords, protecting and preserving farming and ranching or, conversely, blocking some farm uses forever. House Agriculture Chairman Colin Peterson says he wants to review these easements with a common-sense approach “to think about what we’re doing, why we’re doing it, and what effects these easements have.” Peterson intends to review all types of conservation easements as part of hearings on farm bill implementation. Most farmers and ranchers prefer working-land conservation initiatives rather than land-idling conservation programs.
Youth Call to Action

Would you lobby for agriculture’s youth? Well, here’s your chance. First, ask your U.S. Representative in Washington to cosponsor H.R. 1770, the Student Agriculture Protection Act, sponsored by Representative Frank Lucas, R-Okla., and Representative Collin Peterson, D-Minn. This bill exempts tax on the first $5,000 in proceeds from the sale of livestock or agricultural projects for FFA or 4-H participants. Second, ask your Representative to cosponsor an amendment to include Grange Youth in the bill. Let your Representative know if you need the contacts for your Representative. Also please tell us if your Representative will cosponsor a Grange Youth amendment.

Grange Camp

Calling all campers and interested counselors! Grange Camp needs YOU! Grange Camp will be held July 21–27, 2019 at Camp Wyomissing, 2780 Buffalo Road, Varysburg, NY 14167 (21 miles south of Batavia) in Wyoming County. The cost will be $250.00 per camper. 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 Sheriff Taft at (315)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.

Grange Museum

Come see Grange history. The New York State Grange Museum will be open on June 15 and 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Located on the corner of Rt 13 and Grange Place, the museum has exhibits of woman’s suffrage, regalia, and quilts. Part of the museum is set up for a Grange meeting with all the necessities. Make it a day and visit the Brockway Museum for their activities.

Executive of the Nation with a Silver Star Certificate.

At attendance in this historic event were 250 Grange members, 93 being from Chapel Corners. Other Dutchess County Granges present were Upton Lake, Stanford, Poughkeepsie, Falkill, Pine Plains, Rhinebeck, Amenia, Freedom Plains, Millerton, Rock City, Arthursburg, and Union Vale (only 5 of these Granges are still in existence today.) And, lest we forget, the Secret Service was also in attendance that night. Back in the day, Grange was a very secretive organization with secret handshakes, passwords, and salutations. Only those that had attained membership were allowed into meetings. Mrs. Roosevelt was only allowed in because she had been a Grange member for several years. So, what then of the Secret Service? None were Grange members and they were not to leave the President’s side. Apparently a compromise was reached and, during the opening and closing ceremonies, the Secret Service men were quarantined behind the piano in the meeting room where they stayed, facing the wall, until they were told they could return to the meeting.

Like so many Granges, Chapel Corners membership began to decline and they sold their building in the 1970s. Since then, the Grange Hall has been home to several businesses. Chapel Corners Grange folded around 2004, having only about 18 members left, all elderly. It’s sad to think that Chapel Corners Grange has already faded into history and the building may soon be torn down and replaced by a convenience store. Of the 26 Granges that once thrived in Dutchess County, there are only 9 left. Of these 9, two are in the process of merging and one is inactive. FDR once said in regards to his Grange membership, “If for many years I have been a member of the Grange, I have felt at home in it because it embodies the finest flavor of rural life which I myself have known and loved. Beyond this, it has been an instrument for expressing in useful activity the highest sentiments of our closest relations with our fellow citizens.”
Beaver Falls Grange Presents Certificates

Beaver Falls Grange #554, Lewis County, met on May 4th at Brookside Senior Living in Lowville, NY to present certificates for years of membership in the Grange. Members, 24 in all, had earned certificates for continuous membership in the Grange ranging from 40 years to 85 years. David Brass, Special State Grange Deputy, from Jefferson County presented the awards. Bonnie LaSalle presented a program with information about each member’s Grange experience.

55 year members - Ashley Marolf, Dorothy Gordon, Lawrence Gordon, Muriel Hancock’s son accepting for her and NYS Grange Deputy David Brass

30 year member - Ralph Williams with NYS Grange Deputy David Brass

70 year members - Phyllis Hannah, Catherine Marolf, Jesse Schantz and NYS Grange Deputy David Brass

85 year member - Anna Gordon with her son 55 year member Lawrence Gordon and NYS Grange Deputy David Brass

80 year member - Lucille Sauter with NYS Grange Deputy David Brass

60 year member - Rita Carroll with NYS Grange Deputy David Brass

Bethlehem Grange #137 Celebrated Grange Month and Everything Else at Once!!

Carol Carpenter was the coordinator and presenter for the Bethlehem Grange #137 Community Service Awards ceremony. The day began with an opening prayer, followed by the presentation of the Proclamation declaring April as National Grange Month, to Carol Carpenter, Master, by the NYS Assemblywoman, Patricia Fahy. Patricia Fahy spoke about her personal history and knowledge of the work of the Grange, as she also congratulated us for our 145th year in continuous operation as Bethlehem Grange #137. She also recognized the fact that our building is on the National Historic Registry, and all of our hard work that goes into maintaining such an old building.

Carol Carpenter then presented the Community Service Award to Capt. Shaun Wagner, of the Glenmont station of the Selkirk F.D., for his work as a fireman, and potentially saving the life of a gentleman at the Town Park, while there at a group party, by performing the Heimlich maneuver on the gentleman. Shaun was supported by the Chief, the other Captains, and many other firemen, all in their dress blues. In attendance, were also many of the Fire Auxiliary members.

The Community Awards Ceremony included the presentation by Carol Carpenter, the National Grange awards in Appreciation to Veterans for their service, to Veterans Edward F. Deyoe, her father-in-law, for his service in WWII, as General Patton’s number two man, known as “Shorty”, and his service in Africa & Italy, and John E. Deyoe, her husband, for his service in the Vietnam war. The honor of presenting two National Grange Awards of Appreciation to two Veterans, and to a father & son, from WWII and Vietnam, was an honor that wasn’t lost on any of those present.

This was climaxed by the presentation of the two Quilts of Valor, to the two Veterans, by Kenny Barnes of the Quilts of Valor Foundation. These quilts are all handmade and personally presented to Veterans, to thank them for their service. Father and son, Edward F Deyoe and John E Deyoe were each presented their own Quilt, with a certificate from the QOVF, and the Quilt was then wrapped around each Veteran’s shoulders. The QOVF has handmade and presented over 250,000 Quilts to date, to Veterans in the United States and Canada.

Livonia Grange #1180 of Livingston County presented a display regarding Grange in the prominent storefront window of the Livonia Historical Society. The Livonia's Historical Society's window is in "downtown" Livonia. Many people walk by this window to our local restaurant and consequently stop to look at the display. Livonia Grange #1180 considers the collaboration with the Livonia Historical Society and the Grange to be a mutual win-win situation.

The 73rd Annual Rural Life Sunday service was held at Interlaken Grange. High Priest of Demeter was the speaker for the service. Blessing of Soil and Seed: Noel Clawsen, Martha Morrow, Elnora Creswell and Phillip Stannard was also part of the service. The service also included several hymns including “The Plowing Song” The pianist for the day was Emille Sisson. The readings were Mark 4 1-9, 26-29, 30-32.