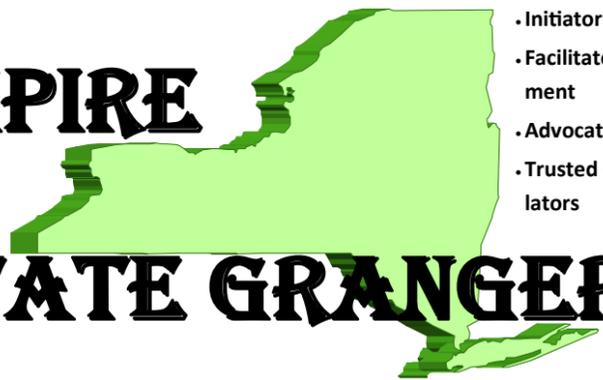


American Values, Hometown Roots

THE EMPIRE STATE GRANGER



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- Facilitator of Leadership Development
- Advocate for Families
- Trusted Conveyor of Issues to Legislators

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January—February 2021

Master's Column

Stephen C. Coye



A New Year

I have heard many say that they are very glad that 2020 is now history. The advent of this decade certainly brought with it its share of challenges, disappointments, high political drama, and perhaps most significantly an almost complete change in how we live our daily lives and go on with our business. The last phrase of the previous sentence unfortunately, but necessarily continuing into 2021.

We are already feeling the impact on all levels of the Grange this year, as like last year, events planned in anticipation of the effects of the pandemic beginning to ease are starting to fall. A major causality Grange wise is the cancellation of the North East Leaders Conference scheduled to be held here in New York, for the second year. It was a tough but necessary decision to make, but as it would appear that even by conference time in late spring there still may be restrictions in place in relation to gatherings, along with a general discomfort on the part of a lot of folks wanting to be in large gatherings even if permitted. Just when we think the end might be in sight, it turns out to be so. Our State Grange calendar was constructed with

the mindset that we will plan and be ready for events to happen as scheduled, and cancel if necessary.

At this time I think it is good to remind ourselves that our Grange is a lot bigger than the walls of our local Grange halls. While our abilities to do in-person activities on the local Grange level may be somewhat limited, we need to remember that on the State and National levels contacts are being made, briefs written, policies advanced, virtual meetings held, etc., all with the intent to improve the lot of our rural communities and its people. Without members in the trenches, none of that happens. Bottom line, members are getting more than their money's worth out of their Grange membership just by what is being accomplished on their behalf up the line. Back in my days of living in Central New York, which is now close to 50 years ago, (gasp) there was a couple who were members of our Grange that were charter members (the Grange was chartered in 1942) and they never again darkened the door of a Grange meeting after the initial one, remaining members until death took them, and their yearly dues were always the first ones paid. They believed that the Grange was a good thing, and was working on their behalf, but had no desire to be active. They worked their farm, and that is all they did. There is a lesson there for all of us, especially now when we may be getting a bit discouraged that we can't seem to do much, that lesson being that we really can't afford not to belong to the Grange, given the tireless and effective work on the National and State levels on our behalf to better our lives. We certainly need active members to make our local organizations viable, and there also has to be room for those that believe in our cause and chose not to be actively involved.

Our 150th Anniversary as a State Grange will be upon us in two short years. Details as to what is being planned will be published in the *Granger* going forward. We hope that you will use this opportunity to share with your neighbors and friends the great accomplishments of

(Continued on page 6)

Grange Scholarships

Cornell Grange Scholarship Continues to Grow and Serve

At the January 18 meeting of the NYS Grange Executive Committee the annual report of the Cornell Grange Scholarship endowment was received from Cornell University showing a value of \$29,388 as of 6/30/20. This fund was established in 1973 by Dr. Bruce Widger, then Grange Trustee on the Cornell Board of Trustees. This fund was started with a \$5000 donation from the NYS Grange. Additional donations were encouraged and received, however, the vast majority of the growth came from the earnings and growth from the University's Long Term Investment Pool.

(Continued on page 5)

Otsego County Granger wins

Dog Training Award

WASHINGTON, January 11, 2021 - Recognizing that work on the family farm takes everyone pitching in and doing their part, including four-legged friends, Farm Bureau launched the Farm Dog of the Year contest three years ago.



The winner of the 2021 Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year award is Bindi, an Australian shepherd owned by New York Granger and Farm Bureau member Sonja Galley. The American Farm Bureau Federation, with support from Nestlé Purina Pet Care, recognized Bindi, four regional runners-up and a People's Choice Pup at the American Farm Bureau Virtual Convention.

"Farm Bureau is proud to partner with Purina for the third annual Farm Dog of the Year contest, celebrating hardworking farm and ranch dogs and the role they play in helping farmers and ranchers produce our sustainable food supply," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "From rounding up livestock to chasing off predators, a farm dog's work is never done."

The contest celebrates farm dogs that work alongside farmers and ranchers to produce nutritious food for families and their pets across America. The contest is popular with farmers and the general public alike, reaching nearly 400,000 users on social media through People's Choice Pup.

Bindi, the grand prize winner of the 2021 Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year award, is five years old and has been part of the family dairy farm since she was a puppy.

"Bindi is especially good at working in tight spaces to help move animals around the farm. She stays calm even when the calves kick up their heels at her," Sonja explained. Bindi's also very protective, and once pushed back a heifer (young cow) that had pinned Sonja in the corner of a pen.

Much like their non-farming counterparts, farmers often benefit from a strong emotional connection with their dogs. "We do a lot of things together, and she's a big source of joy in my life," Sonja said about Bindi.

Purina donated prizes for the contest again this year. This included \$5,000 in prize money, a trophy plate, a year's supply of dog food and other Purina products for Bindi. The company has been helping dogs



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That's the GRANGE way!

Legislative Column



Cindy Benson-Pollard

Winter is in full swing. Time to curl up with a book or a good movie and some hot chocolate. It is also a good time for the legislative work of the Grange. Maybe do some research for that resolution you have been meaning to write. Now is the best time to get started.

The Legislative policy handbooks have been sent out to you Grange. I hope that you will take the time to look through it. We have marked the policies that we sent to National Grange and were made part of National Grange policy. Again, I hope that you will take the time to look through it and see the policies that we have.

Now is the time when our work with the State legislature begins. The Governor has presented his State of the State address. I hope that you may have had the opportunity to view some or all of it as it was done virtually. It was interesting to watch. He has outlined his programs for the coming year. The new Senate and Assembly committees have already started to meet. Please be on the lookout for our email blasts.

An email blast is our way of communicating with members about issues that are before the State legislature or the Governor. We are looking for your participating in communicating the Grange's position on an issue that is before them and up for either a vote or a signature. If you would like to be on the list, please let us know at headquarters. It is an important way to show our representatives what our policy is and that we need their help and support/opposition. I encourage each of you to be part of this important effort.

Should you need any help or have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I am always happy to help.

Community Involvement

Sherri Taft



The holidays are over, yet the pandemic is still limiting what Granges can do to help the people in their community. Granges all across New York have come up with many creative ways to help their community in the past year. Here are some other ways that we can help our communities during this pandemic.

Many hospitals, rehab centers, assisted living centers and nursing homes are asking people to write small notes of kindness that can be delivered to the patients/residents to help them feel better and less alone when their families and friends cannot visit them. Please reach out to your local facilities to see if they are accepting notes for their residents. The notes can be written at home and brought to a pick up location, such as the Grange Hall, for a designated member to deliver to the facility. Imagine the smiles that would light up the faces of the residents/patients!

How about virtual babysitting? With Facetime and other video services, you can entertain someone's child/children for an hour or so to give the homeschooling parents a break. They can use this break to do some cleaning, take a bath or enjoy some other relaxing activity. Find fun and creative ways to keep the children entertained while their parents enjoy a much needed break.

I know that New York State Grangers are creative and very dedicated to their communities. As always, if your Grange has a community service project that you would like to share with other Granges, please let me know and I will post it on the New York State Grange Community Service Facebook page. I like to share what Granges across our state and country are doing on the Facebook page to give us all ideas on ways we can help our communities.

Times are tough right now for so many people, but we as the Grange should reach out and remind our communities that we are still active and are able to help in whatever way we can. Keep using your creative skills to help your communities!

From the Secretary's Corner



Roger Halbert

The calendar continues to move along, not that we wish for time to be going in great speeds, but I believe there are many in my corner that cannot wait for time to move quickly, to get to a time that might resemble life as we remember it prior to March 2020. If history repeats itself, another such health scare should not grace us during our lifetime. We can only hope.

A word to Pomona and Subordinate Secretaries, you may have been looking for my annual letter and EIN authorization form for State Grange to report on your behalf to the IRS in Ogden, UT. Quite strangely, the IRS did not send forms for State Grange to verify Granges and a contact person last spring. Whether it is because of the pandemic causing procedural difficulties in the IRS or some other reason, State Grange made no report in 2020, typically in the spring each year. I have the authorization forms Secretaries sent me last year on file, and if they are requested by IRS in 2021, we are one step ahead of the request. One Secretary called me to apologize that she apparently lost my letter and form normally sent around January 1... much to her relief that it was not poor housekeeping, as I did not send out such notice this year!

Subordinate Secretaries are reminded to send in the March 31 quarterly report on time... as the March report is used in determining the number of delegates to be seated for that Pomona Grange at the annual session in October. Of course we are holding our breath at this time, not knowing what the conditions will allow for actual attendance at such a meeting. We remain hopeful that we will not need to return to another "virtual" meeting again in 2021. We will keep you all posted as to the reality of an actual session to be held in Corning in October. In the meantime, remember to watch for those "C" and "G" series dollar bills for our collection for two specific projects... statewide cancer fund for a provider of cancer treatments in the area of State Session and NYS's hosting obligations when National Grange Convention comes to the northeast (which is Niagara Falls in

2023!).

The 2021 State Grange Directory was mailed out from our Cortland office the beginning of February so Grange leaders should watch out for it if you have not received it at this reading. There is a small supply of extra copies by requesting such with a call to Marry Liddington in Cortland, 607-756-7553.

We hope this finds you well and weathering the trials of life fairly comfortably. Remember to reach out to ones living alone or who find it difficult to get out for errands. Spring is around the corner and less stressful days will be with us soon if we hang together and persevere.

How About You!

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 Kansas National Grange Session be the one when New York will be on the list.

Telecommunications

Broadband Funds in Relief Package

The \$900 billion COVID relief package provides \$7 billion in new broadband funding that includes these new priorities:

- Purchase of connectivity and devices for low-income individuals
- Additional connectivity for unserved areas and low-income communities
- Telehealth expansion
- Broadband mapping support (to determine the availability of access)
- Additional funding for state and local online learning technology and connectivity
- Support for the Distance Learning, Telemedicine and Broadband Program administered by USDA
- Support for small telecommunications companies to replace Huawei/ZTE equipment with secure equipment

More Telehealth

Health care visits by broadband households increased from 15% in 2019 to 41% in 2020. Widespread adoption of

(Continued on page 6)



State Lecturer



Jolene Pirrone

Master Coye asked us department heads how we felt about continuing project work and events going forward in 2021 and beyond. I let him know that the Lecturer's Program would continue as usual for 2021 to the best of my ability. I know you are all still at work on projects and much was able to be accomplished last year despite the challenges. 2021 will largely be as it was for 2020. There will likely not be a State Lecturer's/Family Activities Conference as such, but projects will be collected and judged.

I don't have a concrete plan yet, but I look forward to seeing everyone's projects. In the meantime, please consult your Program Handbook or the website to find out more about the projects. They are largely the same as last year, but the Photography contest theme for the Time Lapse category is a "Four Seasons" theme. Following that, the handbook will be updated as usual.

I know a lot of you are not meeting as usual or at all. In the handbook, there are suggestions to promote Grange in your community, eg. Poster, Brochure and Newspaper articles. This is something anyone can do at any time outside of a traditional meeting. I challenge you to find ways to get your membership interacting with the public. How about a facebook post? A letter to the town board? Pick a topic and get your grangers communicating! Email me about what you've done in your Grange.

jolene@advancedwebdesign.com

I attended the Northeast Lecturers' Committee meeting via Zoom this month. We voted to try to combine efforts with the Leaders' Conference for 2022 in Maine. This doesn't necessarily indicate a permanent change, but was deemed in the best interest of continuing Grange programming in light of recent events. I have no other information on that at this time.

*Support Grange
Youth*

Youth



Katie Fallon

Wow what a year it has been! Although 2020 left many challenges that made it impossible to meet in person, I think our youth have a lot of accomplishments to be proud.

Of course there are the obvious accomplishments; Britney Mercado of Stanford Grange 808 becoming the 2020-2021 National Grange youth ambassador and Stanford Grange 808 having a distinguished Grange youth program for the year, but I have seen so many accomplishments on social media across the state.

I have seen so many families' posts about their activities with their children during the pandemic. These families continued their work in the community, through Grange, FFA, their churches and many other ways. Yes it is my opinion, but I believe in some way the pandemic has brought families closer together.

There are so many families who really showed their commitments to family values and I encourage you all to please keep me informed what your youth are doing so I can share it on our facebook page! Yes maybe it seems like bragging about your children (that's not always a bad thing) but it also gives other ideas and inspiration.

Two families I follow on facebook that I continually see continuing the Grange mission are the Phelps and Fuchs families. Both of your families have inspired me both personally and in the community and I thank both of your families for sharing your everyday journeys.

Anyone can send me info via email (kathleenef889@gmail.com) or facebook (katie fallon or NYS Grange youth page) and I can share your youths stories!

Everyone continue to be your best selves and stay safe.



Chaplain's Corner



Virginia L. Conner

BIBLICAL ACTION

II Chronicles 7:14: "If my people who are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land".

The first time I heard this verse from II Chronicles it was being sung by a choir. Since that time I have studied it more deeply and realized it is filled with instructions to God's people. Then it ends with a wonderful promise from our Lord God.

1st Step to the promise: "who are called by my name" = those who have accepted Christ as their Savior and are called a Christian. Have you made that decision? **2nd Step:** "shall humble themselves" = do not be proud. **3rd Step:** "pray" = action on our part. **4th Step:** "seek my face" = commune with the Lord often. **5th Step:** "turn from their wicked ways" = stop doing our sinful actions. **6th Step:** "then will I hear from heaven" = God will listen to our pleas and petitions. **7th Step:** "will forgive their sin" = God will forgive us our confessed sins and **8th Step:** "will heal their land" = God will heal our country.

There is much responsibility on our part in the first five steps. We must be diligent in doing each step so that we will see the last three steps come to fruition: God will hear, God will forgive and God will heal.

Now more than ever we truly need a healing in our country on so many different levels. Are you and I willing to do our part?

Closing quote: "The time is always right to do what is right" By Martin Luther King Jr.

Please remember Dorothy Rowland who has gone to the "Great Grange Above"

Perspective

"The family is more sacred than the state." ~ **Pope Pius XI**

"Cherish your human connections – your relationship with friends and family." ~ **Barbara Bush**

"In every conceivable manner, the family is link to our past, bridge to our future." ~ **Alex Haley**

NYS Grange Sesquicentennial

Plan, Promote, Proceed. Plan, promote, proceed what? Why the Sesquicentennial of the New York State Grange which is looming on the horizon. The 150th anniversary of the organizational meeting of the New York State Grange is approaching. This meeting was held on November 6, 1873 in Syracuse.

The Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee has been selected and includes CoChairs Roberta Halbert and Susan Drake (Otsego County), Sharon Croucher (Ontario County), Alice Grimsley (Rensselaer County), Tom Hebiesen (Chautauqua County), Barbara Lavier (Cortland County), Ryan Orton (Dutchess County), Melvin Phelps (Jefferson County), John Schanbacher (Tioga County), Sue Schmidt (Genesee County), and Roberta Severson (Onondaga County).

The festivities will begin with the 150th State Grange Session in 2022. A year of special activities and events is anticipated. The 150th birthday celebration will conclude with the 151st State Grange Session in 2023.

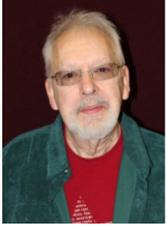
The Celebration Committee will be planning during 2021. These plans will be promoted in 2022. At the 150th NYS Grange Session in 2022 the planning and promotion will come to fruition as we proceed with all the Sesquicentennial activities and events. Any suggestions as we start planning will be welcomed. Contact any Committee member or either of the Co-Chairs-Roberta Halbert phone 607-783-2445 or email berth@frontiernet.net; or Susan Drake phone (home) 607-264-3069, (cell) 607-237-2930 or email rboomds@gmail.com.

"The love of family and the admiration of friends is much more important than wealth and privilege." ~ Charles Kuralt

"You are born into your family and your family is born into you. No returns. No exchanges." ~ Elizabeth Berg

"The family that prays together stays together." ~ Al Scalpone

Leadership Membership



Barton Snedaker

This article may appear to be disjointed but it does follow a thought process which is especially important at this time.

Good Morning/Afternoon, welcome to Membership/Leadership. My name is Barton Snedaker and I am here as the Membership/Leadership Director from New York State Grange. How am I doing so far?

How many of you have ever had the opportunity to make a presentation in front of your boss? Well, my boss is here in the flesh. Joe Stefanoni is the National Grange Leadership/Membership Director. Pretty high powered presenters don't you think? Of course his boss is here, too.

Joe had nothing to do with choosing the title of this program so he may be just as surprised as the rest of you. "What have I done?" I would love to be able to say that in the robot voice from a computer - try. Before we are finished you will hear me say that at least four times and in four different ways.

In my mind membership and leadership are inextricably cut from the same cloth. You can not have one without the other. In some ways it is the same idea as the chicken and the egg.

I am all for history and its preservation. I do have to admit that the terms Master and Overseer do seem a little insensitive and hinting at racism. Some Granges, including the national level, have gone to the titles of most other organizations of President and Vice-president. If your Grange finds the former distasteful or outdated then change them to the latter, especially if you think it is keeping people from joining. It would be very interesting to develop some other form of address to distinguish our leadership from the ordinary.

If you have read to this point you may very well be thinking - What?

As you probably know by now the Northeast Leadership Conference has been put off again by Covid 19. What you have read was the beginning of my presentation for that meeting. The message is still a good one, especially as we begin 2021. As you have read many times before in this column - Words Matter. Not only that but the way we say them also matters. During Covid many of us have wondered what we are to do - to keep safe - personal-

ly, with our families, at work, in other organizations and in our Granges. If you say the four words to yourself with the emphasis on a different word each time you will actually get - if not a different question - at least four different possible answers.

I spent a restless night not long ago and I was thinking about another famous catchphrase from a few years ago. "If you build it they will come." So let's look at a possible thought thread from a combination of those two sentences. With Covid decimating many organizations, one way to change it would be "If you re-build it they will come." Is that true? So what is it that you will be able to ask yourself in a post-Covid world? Which word will get the emphasis in your response.

What I came up with is "If you ask them to HELP re-build..." If your Grange has been an important part of your community - now may be the time to ask that same community for help to get back. In this case I believe that the question with the emphasis on the third word is the one we most need to keep our focus on.

What have you done to keep your Grange vital and active for the past year? What can you do to make it so (or keep it so) in the future? Think of your own leadership skills which you can offer at this time. Covid is not over but the light at the end of the tunnel seems to be getting closer. Stay safe out there so you can continue being a Worthy Brother or Sister Patron.

Junior Grange



Gail Chamberlain

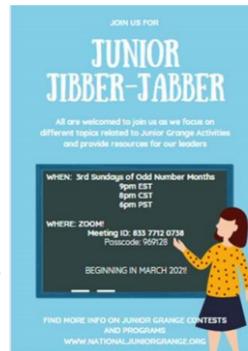
I hope you all are keeping warm and having a great winter season, enjoying the snow. Get outside and enjoy sledding, snow shoeing, skiing, building snow people or snow angels. The New Year is an excellent time to get started on Junior activities and programs! And everyone needs to get outside and enjoy life. Continue to follow the pandemic/CDC guidelines and be safe.

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. During this time a child may need the Junior Grange programs, activities and variety.

The NYS Handbook includes 2021 with the 2021 crafts in this ESG issue. If you go to the National Grange website, www.nationaljuniorgrange.org, you will find the 2021 National Junior Grange Program Guide. The theme for 2021 will continue to be "Cultivating Connections". The Host State is Kansas, Ag Awareness is Ecosystem. You can learn about all the Junior Awards and contests including, Cape of Honor, Junior Historian, Sign, public speaking, Craft, Quilt block, and many more. The Passport Program now has over 60 passports and continues to grow.

There is something for everyone no matter what the interest. One of the new categories is "Careers". The National Director is always looking for new passports, also looking for someone able and willing to make/sew ambassador sashes and is also starting bi-monthly zoom meetings on the 3rd Sunday of the odd months called Junior Jibber Jabbers for leaders to inform and grow leaders. They also have snapchat, user name - national-grange.



2021 Junior Grange Craft Projects

All projects will be judged in groups as follows: Ages 5-8; 9-11; and 12-14 Birthdate as of Jan. 1

All crafts need to be labeled with Name, age, address, Junior Grange, County

Note: Each Junior Grange is allowed to send a total of 15 craft projects to States Grange for state-level judging. Plus OJAY crafts.

You may send one for each age group for all five projects. Junior dues MUST be up to date/current.

Hand Pies

Use any filling, may be bought or homemade. Make dough or crust. Make a 4"-6" shell. Add filling and fold in half to bake. Place 4 on a disposable paper plate/container for judging. Must include recipe.

JUDGING: Flavor - 40% Appearance - 30% Texture - 30%

Butterfly Craft

Use any medium such as paper, felt, beads, plastic canvas, ribbon, etc. Make a butterfly craft. Can use one or more butterflies - may have a base. May decorate in any manner, using any medium. Finished size not to exceed 6"x6"x6"

JUDGING: Creativity - 40% Workmanship - 30% Appearance - 30%

Cinnamon Scents

Ingredients - up to 6 Tablespoons applesauce, 10 Tablespoons ground cinnamon.

Place cinnamon in a bowl, slowly add applesauce and work/mix until it has a smooth, claylike consistency (some applesauce has more moisture). "Flour" rolling pin and pastry mat generously with cinnamon and roll out to about 1/8" thick, Using cookie cutters or free form, cut out various shapes from the dough. With a toothpick or nut pick, may mark details on cut-out shapes (optional). May also make a hole in each with a straw etc, to thread string or ribbon for hanging.

Place shapes on a cookie sheet at 120 degrees, Bake about 1-1 1/2 hours, turn off heat and leave overnight to harden. May decorate in any manner use several to make a craft. Final size not to exceed 12"x12"x12". **Note: NOT EDIBLE**

JUDGING: Creativity -40% Workmanship - 30% Appearance - 30%

Sand Art

Use white glue and make a design, picture, shapes, lines, etc. on a piece of cardboard, poster board, cereal box etc. any color (not copy paper or lined paper for it is too thin) not to exceed 8 1/2" x 11". Cover your glue with salt, shake off extra salt. Dry. In separate bowls, place 1/2 teaspoon of water with 2-6 drops of food coloring for each color. Using an eye dropper drop color(s) on salt, (experiment with amount of glue and salt, some colors may overlap.

JUDGING: Creativity - 40% Workmanship - 30% Appearance -30%

"Bott" (sometimes called hex/ Nano bot)

Using any materials such as battery operated tooth brush, legos, motors, recycleables, pullback or wind-up toys, wheels, rubber bands, etc., make a movable and functional "Bot of your own creation. DO NOT USE A KIT. Size no larger than 6"x6"x6".

JUDGING: Creativity - 30% Workmanship - 40% Appearance - 30%

State Grange Historian

Carol Bailey



DID YOU KNOW...

That some agricultural history was made in 2020? A wide range of topics were covered.

The federal jurisdiction over bodies of water was changed in early 2020. Phase One trade deal between the US and China went into effect. There was supposed to be some improvement of trade with Canada and Mexico too.

When the corona virus pandemic struck in March farms and agribusinesses continued to operate as essential. Many other businesses were forced to close. Farms expanded or originated delivery services to consumers. Many farm markets found ways to serve the public while maintaining safety measures.

As hand sanitizers soon became in short supply, distillers in the state started switching over to making it. During this critical time some farms were forced to dump milk even though there was no milk in stores. Donations of milk were soon made to help with the oversupply and to help the needy.

Meat packing plants were forced to close because of outbreaks of COVID 19 causing a shortage of meat. However Walmart opened a meat processing plant in Georgia in January.

This was probably the first time in most peoples' memory that there had been a shortage of food and other staples. The last time was in World War II when there was rationing. However this should serve as a wake up call of how fragile our food supply is.

With the pandemic special events were forced to cancel. Maple weekends were one of the first casualties of the virus. Most county fairs and state fairs were forced to be cancel. Some parts of fairs went virtual. Granges and 4-H were shuttered or went virtual.

Many also lost out on their usual fund raising events through the summer and fall. Some Granges managed to do drive by dinners or other fund raisers. It took some ingenuity but it worked.

Many farm organizations denounced racial discrimination during the summer. Also some brands changed product names because of the connotation of suppression of blacks. Good Humor ice cream trucks changed their tune because sometimes the lyrics were changed to racist words. Dean Foods and Borden's were both sold as a result of bankruptcy.

The dietary guidelines issued in 2020 did not include whole milk again. Burger King said it would add lemongrass to suppliers' animals in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The science behind this is questionable.

Weather affected farming also. Whether it was draught, flood or wind, growing of crops was effected. In the mid west the derecho caused billions of dollars in damage.

On a lighter note Tiz the Law, a NY horse, won the Belmont Stakes in the first leg in the Triple Crown. Farming was at the top of Gallup poll as most respected industry with grocery in second place. Pennsylvania has the most young farmers of any state according to USDA while most north eastern states rank fairly high also. New Holland Agriculture, the farm machinery company, notes 125 years in business. It began as small machine shop.

Although this is very recent history it is worth noting as agricultural events impact us in many ways. Think food, think environmentally, think economically.

Most of this information is from the periodical *Lancaster Farming*.

Item of Note

Assemblyman Brian Manktelow (R, C, I) of the 130 Assembly District was appointed Minority Conference Secretary by Assemblyman Will Barkley, Minority Leader. Manktelow also serves on the Assembly's Environmental conservation and Local Government Committees, as new assignments. Other committees that Manktelow will continue on are Banks, Small Business and Veterans.

Assemblyman Manktelow was a farmer in Lyons and is a member of Eureka Grange.

Family Activities



Brenda Noble

Happy New Year everyone! We hope everyone is trying to stay well. Grange activities continue to be a challenge that we will have to work into getting back into a regular schedule. We wish to remember the Rowland family with the passing of Dorothy. We remember all the work Dorothy and Henry did for the Family Activities Department.

We are planning for the judging of crafts and handiwork. This year we will have baby quilts and plastic canvas (instead of latch hook). I have pamphlets for the Northeast Exposition if anyone needs one, please let me know. We are not yet sure if the Northeast Exposition will take place, but we will plan in the event that it does. The baking contest this year at State Session will be scones, and gluten free cookies will be next year.

We are working on the Lecturer's/Family Activities Conference in April. We are not sure if it will be cancelled or if we will postpone it to a later date. Regardless of whether the conference takes place, the crafts and handiwork will be judged. We will get more details out to you when it is finalized.

(Continued from page 1) Grange Scholarships

The most recent recipient is Damian Hill, Colonel Harper Grange, Stamford, the son of Dwayne and Marylee Hill, of Harpersfield.



Daman transferred to Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) where he graduated this past December from the Dyson School in Applied Economics and Management, with a specialization in Agribusiness management.

The original, and continuing, purpose of the Cornell Grange Scholarship is to aid students, like Damian, transferring from a NYS college, in particular, from one of the original Agricultural and Technical Colleges or Community Colleges in NY State into CALS at Cornell. Any student Grange members, or members of NYS Grange families with plans to transfer to Cornell/CALS, are encouraged to apply by June 1, 2021.

The Grange also offers the June Gill Scholarship for those who pursue a career in nursing. The DeNise Scholarship for those interested in a career in agriculture. The Susan Freestone Scholarship for other studies.

Questions can be addressed to Sheila Gregoire at the NYS Grange Headquarters at nysgrange@nysgrange.org or calling 607-756-7553, or to Richard Church, NYS Grange Executive Committee Chair at rac15@cornell.edu, or 315-272-6371.

Who Owns the Biggest Farm??

We probably wouldn't have guessed the fourth wealthiest person in the world, Bill Gates, is America's largest private owner of farmland with 242,000 acres in 18 states across the country. But Gates is not the largest total landowner. That spot goes to Liberty Media Chair John Malone who owns 2.2 million acres of ranches and forests. CNN founder Ted Turner owns 2 million acres of ranch land across eight states. Even Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos is investing in land with 420,000 acres mainly in west Texas.

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Phone (607)-756-7553 FAX (607)-756-7757, E-MAIL NYSGRANGE@NYSGRANGE.ORG

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Editor Bruce M. Croucher

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



(Continued from page 1) Master

the Grange, on all levels, and that more can be done with their help and support.

Logo Design Challenge

Thank you

To everyone who submitted designs for the National Grange Convention Logo. We are looking forward to the session and presenting products with the Logo leading up to the session.

Keep your eyes peeled for future announcements.

New Grange Members

Albany Co.

Bethlehem #137
Kathryn Blenis
Mary Carrey
Ray Durloo
Michelle Williams

Cortland Co.

Cuyler#449
Daniel Richardson

Delaware Co.

Colonel Harper #1508
Dawn Richards

Dutchess Co.

Stanford #808
Ronda Secor
Mark Silverman
Stone Church #1561
Elizabeth Goldschmire

Fulton Co.

Mayfield #683
Daniel Brower
Tammy Luberto

Genesee Co.

Corfu #142
Karen Bridge

Otsego Co.

Schenevus Valley #1201
Regina Weinert
Butternut Valley #1533
Barbara Rossanda
John Rossanda
Morgan Williams

National Grange Social Media Guidelines

Grange Website and Electronic Social Media Code of Conduct

All websites, Facebook groups or pages, and all other internet based social media platforms representing the Grange must be under the jurisdiction of a Subordinate/Community, Pomona, or State Grange.

Each website must be clearly identified as being a Grange website and must have contact information on or within one easily identifiable click from the home or index page.

Each Facebook or other social media platform must be clearly identified as being a Grange sponsored page or group and have a Grange contact person easily identified on the page.

No partisan or sectarian comments, opinions, statements, or endorsements may be posted on the website or page.

No negative or inflammatory (designed to insult or belittle) comments, opinions, or statements toward any Grange or level of the Grange or toward any member of any Grange may be posted on the website or page.

No inflammatory (designed to insult or belittle) statements, comments, or opinions toward any non-member, including public officials may be posted on the website or page.

All policies of the Grange posted on the website or page must be clearly labeled as to which Grange or level of the Grange that has adopted the policies.

All content, including advertisements, must be within the guidelines of the Digest, By-Laws of the State Grange with jurisdiction, and By-Laws of the Grange operating the website or page.

Staff Changes at National Grange

Joseph Steffanoni, National Grange Membership Director, has taken another position outside of National Grange. Amanda Brozana Rios will move from her current position to the Membership Director position. Kennedy Gwin from Washington State will become the new Communications director replacing Amanda.

Kennedy has been working very closely with Amanda in communications and is very talented.

Amanda has exciting plans to promote membership. Stay tuned for developments.

Contact Information

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(Continued from page 2)

virtual care is rapidly increasing the demand for ways to integrate connected devices with physician workflows to meet patient demand.

Closing Rural Telehealth Gaps

The Health Resources and Services Administration has been awarded \$8 million to fund the Telehealth Broadband Pilot project to access the broadband capacity available to rural health care providers and patient communities. Also created was the Rural Broadband Initiative, a cross-cutting, multi-department move to coordinate programs working to expand and improve telehealth access.

Congress Asks for Accountability

A broad bipartisan coalition

if 153 senators and representatives is asking the Federal Communications Commission to thoroughly vet the \$9 billion in rural broadband funding awarded to internet providers last year through the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. The legislators are urging the commission to validate that each provider has the technical, financial, managerial, and operational skills to deliver the services they've pledged. The RDOF is designed to close the digital divide that has existed since the beginning of the internet by investing in the construction of rural broadband networks.



The National Grange is pleased to announce the Recognition Program for the year 2021. The program will recognize and honor the achievements of families in the Grange community. State chapters are encouraged to nominate families for national recognition. Each family selected will receive a certificate and a featured article at the National Convention. The families will also be published in the National Grange magazine. The deadline for nominations is September 10, 2021 and should be sent to the

National Grange News CORNER



President Biden's Team is Coming Together

Following his inauguration on the 20th, President Biden's cabinet team has been rapidly coming together. So far top-level picks such as Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen, and Secretary of State Antony Blinken have been confirmed, with votes on Secretary of Transportation nominee Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandra Mayorkas, and Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo expected soon. As well, President Biden has moved faster than most previous administrations in appointing thousands of lower-level political positions throughout agencies in order to jumpstart his agenda.

President Biden Lays Out COVID-19 Relief Plan

With his cabinet coming together, President Biden has laid out his first legislative priority: a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill. In the \$1.9 trillion package are another round of stimulus checks at \$1,400, billions of dollars in aid for schools, state and local governments, small businesses, unemployment benefits, and vaccine distribution. As well, the package includes larger overhauls including an increase to a \$15 minimum wage, expanded paid leave for workers, increased tax credits for families with children, and an extension of an eviction moratorium. Despite efforts from the White House to gain Republican support for the bill, no Republican has indicated support for the current version and so, while the White House continues outreach, Democrats in the House and Senate are already pushing the bill through the complicated budget reconciliation process which will only require the support of Democrats to pass.

President Biden Signs a Flurry of Executive Orders

Like all other modern Presidential administrations, President Biden has spent his first week in office signing numerous executive orders. These orders generally target one of the four crises which his team has identified as the largest currently facing America, including COVID-19, the economic downturn, social justice, and climate change. As well President Biden has signed a number of miscellaneous orders targeting traditional Democratic priorities.

On COVID-19 Biden has signed orders to invoke the Defense Production Act to increase necessary vaccine supplies, purchase 200 million more vaccine doses, mandate masks on Federal property and interstate travel, require negative coronavirus tests to travel to the United States, create task forces focused on supply chains and equitable access, and canceled plans to leave the World Health Organization.

On the economic crisis, President Biden has signed an extended eviction moratorium, paused federal student loan payments, directed government agencies to have \$15 minimum wage for all government contractors, signed a 'buy American' memorandum for Federal agencies, and created workplace COVID-19 protections.

On social justice, President Biden has signed orders to emphasize diversity in allocating Federal funds, end Department of Justice contracts with private prisons, condemn xenophobia against Asian Americans due to the origins of the coronavirus in China, end the ban on transgender service in the military, enforce sex discrimination rules in the case of LGBT+ individuals, place a moratorium on deportations for 100 days, end construction of the border wall, end the ban on individuals entering the US from certain Muslim-majority countries, and strengthen DACA protections.

On climate change, President Biden has signed orders to rejoin the Paris Climate Accords, cancel permits for the Keystone XL pipeline, place a moratorium on new oil and gas leases on Federal land, paused pending environmental orders from the Trump administration and placed many others under review to likely be rescinded, and created various climate policy councils and task forces to focus the administration's efforts to combat climate change.

President Biden has also signed many other miscellaneous orders and will likely continue to issue executive orders at a rapid pace through the early weeks of his administration.

Pandemic Relief for Agriculture

On December 28, President Trump signed the Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020 which included \$900 billion to combat the pandemic and \$1.4 trillion in annual appropriations to run the federal government for FY21. Agriculture and food assistance relief provisions include:

- Expanded hunger and food assistance.

- Market loss payments to row crop producers, cattle producers, dairymen and contract growers.

- Purchase of agricultural products for feeding programs

- Loans to food processors, distributors, farmers markets and others.

- Support to offshore aquaculture

- Support to timber harvesting and hauling businesses

- Additional funding for local agricultural market programs, farmer training and outreach, specialty crop block grants, farmer stress programs and more.

In early January, Agriculture Secretary Perdue authorized an additional \$1.5 billion food purchase to be distributed through the Farmers to Families Food Box program. Then on January 23, President Biden signed an executive order increasing SNAP (food stamp) benefits and expanding them to the over 40 percent of recipients who are already at the maximum benefit. Hunger among Americans is growing more serious. According to a recent Census Bureau tracking survey, 14 percent of all adults reported their household didn't have enough to eat the previous week.

Agencies Fight Over Animal Biotechnology

In mid-January, Secretary Perdue and Admiral Brett Giroir, M.D., head of the Public Health Service, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the regulation of agricultural animal biotechnology innovation. The MOU gives USDA animal biology regulatory oversight and FDA will ensure the safety of products derived from new technologies and animals developed using genetic engineering. USDA already is the lead agency regulating plant biotechnology. Since the signing however, FDA Commissioner Stephan Hahn has pushed back on the idea of sharing regulatory jurisdiction.

Rural Residents Hesitant on COVID Vaccination

A December Kaiser Family Foundation poll reported rural respondents gave three main reasons for refusing vaccination:

- They were not worried that they or a family member would become infected

- The seriousness of the pandemic is overblown

- Vaccination is more of a personal choice than a community responsibility

The groups most likely to be vaccine-hesitant are Republicans, people ages 30-49 and rural residents in that order. The groups most likely to get vaccinated are Democrats, households with serious health conditions and urban residents in that order. The survey noted, however, vaccine hesitancy has been steadily dropping since September. Another barrier to vaccination in rural areas is access. One in three rural counties do not have a pharmacy connected to a national chain or network that has signed on to participate in the federal COVID Vaccine program.

Overall Vaccination Acceptance Up

Morning Consult is tracking the public's attitudes on vaccination, social distancing, and comfort, plus political and institutional leadership. The share of adults who now say they would get a COVID-19 vaccine hit 60 percent for the first time since July. Interestingly, there is even a partisan divide on vaccination with 74 percent of Democrats and 49 percent of Republicans indicating they would get vaccinated. Vaccine willingness is up 19 percentage points among Hispanic adults and 10 percent among Black adults.

(Continued from page 4)

*** OJAY (Older Junior and Youth) Project**

Older Junior Grange member (age 10-14) as well as Youth members up to the age of 18 may enter an item such as a scrapbook, banner, poster, report, craft, digital photography, needle-point, wood, sewing etc. Item must have been completed in the past year. May be folded/compacted and able to fit in a 12"x12"x12" space for ease of transport and display. All entries will be judged at State Grange session.

JUDGING: Creativity – 30%
Workmanship – 40% Appearance – 30%

(Continued from page 1) Sonya Galley

and cats live longer, healthier lives through scientifically based nutritional innovations for more than 90 years.

“The Farm Dog of the Year contest embodies Purina’s belief that people and pets are better together, and we are proud to help recognize the Galleys, Bindi and all of the great farm dogs across the U.S.,” said Jack Scott, vice president of sustainability at Purina. “Purina has a long history of sourcing nutritious ingredients from American farms to make our high-quality pet foods. We salute farmers and the important work they do to steward their land and help feed generations of people and pets, with the help of their amazing dogs who help enrich lives on and off the farm.”

A panel of judges with expertise in the pet care industry, veterinary medicine and communications reviewed 90 nominations to select the 2021 Farm Dog of the Year.

Judging criteria included the

dog’s helpfulness to the farmer and his/her family, playfulness and their role in making life better on and off the farm.

Farm Bureau members submitted written responses to questions, photos and video clips to nominate their dogs for Farm Dog of the Year.

People’s Choice Pup

Runner-up Sawyer was also named People’s Choice Pup in a social media contest with online voting as part of the overall competition. Sawyer won bragging rights, a year’s supply of dog food and other Purina products.

About Nestle Purina Pet-Care Company

Nestlé Purina PetCare creates richer lives for pets and the people who love them. Founded in 1894, Purina has helped dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives by offering scientifically based nutritional innovations. Purina manufactures some of the world’s most trusted and popular pet care products, including Purina ONE, Pro Plan, Fancy Feast and Tidy Cats. Its more than 8,000 U.S. associates take pride in the company’s trusted pet food, treat and litter brands that feed 49 million dogs and 66 million cats every year. More than 500 Purina scientists, veterinarians, and pet care experts ensure the brand’s commitment to unsurpassed quality and nutrition. Purina is part of Nestlé, a global leader in Nutrition, Health and Wellness.

Purina is a sponsor of the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture’s Night In at the American Farm Bureau Virtual Convention.

Silver Spoon Dairy LLC is a 60 cow registered Holstein Farm. Owned and operated by Dave and Cathy Galley and daughter Sonja located on State Rte 51, Garrattsville, NY

**NEW YORK STATE GRANGE
2021**

Calendar of Events, Activities, & Dues Dates

Special Note: Items noted with ** are the responsibility of the State Grange and are being scheduled with the possibility of future cancellation/modification due to Covid-19.

March 12	Executive Committee – HDQ – 11:00 a.m.
March 15	Empire State Granger Copy Due
March 30	Subordinate Dues to State Secretary
April 1-30	GRANGE MONTH – Plan a special Public activity/event
April 15	Art/Photo Entries due at HDQ for Judging
April 15	Talent Entry Report Sheets due to the State Lecturer
April 18	NYS Grange Museum Full Board Meeting – 10:00 a.m. Museum
April 20	Woodworking, Quilting, & Needlework due at HDQ for Judging
April 23	Executive Committee Meeting, HDQ, 11:00 a.m.
April 23-25	Youth Spring Weekend – Cortland **
April 24	Lecturer/FAC Conference – HDQ **
April 25	State Dart Ball Tournament – HDQ **
May 13-15	NYS FFA Convention – Syracuse
May 15	Empire State Granger Copy Due
May 15	NYS Grange Museum Cleanup Day, 10:00 a.m., Museum
June 6	State Bowling Tournament – Cortlandes Bowling Alley, Cortland **
June 18	Executive Committee Meeting – Corning Radisson
June 30	Subordinate Dues to State Secretary
June 30	Junior Grange Membership & Dues Report Due
July 11	State Golf Tournament – place TBA **
July 15	Empire State Granger Copy Due
July 17	NYS Grange Museum Full Board Meeting & Picnic, Museum
July 23	Executive Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., HDQ
August 3-5	Empire Farm Days, Pompey
August 20 – Sept. 6	New York State Fair – Syracuse
September 1	Community Service Reports due to Director
September 1	National JG Report due
September 4	Grange Day at the NYS Fair
September 15	Empire State Granger Copy Due
September 15	Lecturer’s Reports due to State Lecturer
Sept. 17 – Oct.	Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) – West Springfield, MA



Grange Activities

Clifton Springs Grange # 1042 recently partnered with the Clifton Springs Area YMCA to hold a “Sweets for the Sweet” cookie sale to benefit both groups. Since fundraisers were cancelled in the spring the Grange was in need of funds to purchase dictionaries and to carry out other community projects. The “Y” is in the middle of a major renovation project. The Grange approached the “Y” with the cookie sale idea last fall. The two organizations have been cooperating since then to accomplish our goal. As a result the Grange was able to present the “Y” Director with a check for \$150.00 and have \$150.00 for the Grange treasury. We plan to continue “cultivating the connection”.



Check Presentation. Sharon Croucher, Master, Todd Freelove YMCA Director, David Michaels Asst., Bruce Croucher



Above: Decorating the packages, Pinky Tiebout and Kerry Croucher
Right: Cookie packages ready to go



Above: Bruce putting on final touches.