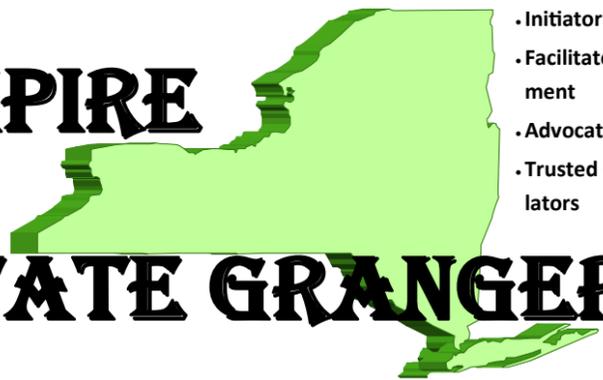


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January February 2022

President's Column

Stephen C. Coye



A NEW GRANGE YEAR BECKONS

Now that the annual State and National Grange events are in the books, along with elections and installations of officers in local Granges, it is time to gear up for the 2022 Grange year. By way of a reminder, the State Grange is not physically publishing the program handbook for 2022-23 at this time, however all of the opportunities presented by each Department are on our website, under each respective departmental heading, and may be printed from there. We trust this extra effort will not be a burden. We would encourage the program folks of each Grange to gather around a kitchen table, examine the offerings of the respective departments, and plan a schedule for the year, and do it right along if it has not been done already. Once the schedule is set, circulate it among all of your members, as there may be interest in entering one or more of the contests available among those who cannot attend meetings.

This coming year, like 2021, will continue to be a "restart" year. While 2021 saw a fair amount of recovery from the shut-downs of 2020, there is still a long ways to go, and caution still

has to be the watch word. Caution was the word used, not hibernation. The tone at 100% of the events that we have been able to attend over the past few months, both large and small, has been "Wow, it is so good to be able to meet together again." The ability to meet virtually was tremendous, and that will continue to have a significant presence from now on. There are distinct advantages, as it allows folks who have removed from close proximity to their local Grange to continue to attend and participate. Two years ago a hybrid meeting such as this would have been pretty much an unknown. Technology is indeed a wonderful thing, offering greater opportunities and abilities for its use at record paces. However it cannot and will not be able to replace the connection of folks being in the same room, visiting as well as working, and picking up much more of the important non-verbal communication that isn't observable in virtual situations. By now we all have a good idea of what is safe and what isn't. Each Grange is at liberty to develop policies that exceed present protection guidelines if desired. The bottom line is that Covid is going to be with us for a long time, probably longer than most of our lifetimes, however its impact through the efforts of the scientific community have been greatly diminished. Some of us can remember the Polio pandemic, and the havoc it played on society not to mention the strain on healthcare. It was thought at the time that there would have to be a permanent "new normal" but with the development of effective vaccines it was all but eradicated, and life returned to the "old normal."

We would encourage local Granges to hold in-person events that include the community. People want to get back together, let's give them that opportunity. It doesn't have to be elaborate, just interesting and inviting. If your facility has the capability to welcome virtual attendees as well, go ahead with that. It might offer the opportunity for friends to see each other and visit for a bit that no longer live close enough for physical attendance. The opportunities are endless, let's show our communities that we can be ahead of the curve.

New York State Grange

The 149th Annual New York State Grange Session was held in Corning, New York. This year's session was somewhat back to normal. Most people felt comfortable in gathering together as a group. There were some wearing masks, but not all. The attendance at the banquet was average number. The number of resolutions was below average. But were of good quality. The ability to hold committee meeting virtually before the session reduced the amount of time necessary at the session. The discussion of the resolutions on the floor was handled smoothly. Please see the legislative column to see the results.

All of the department reports were given and their contests and program awards were presented. Please see the individual columns for further information.

One of the highlights was the presentation by Agriculture Commissioner Ball. He attended virtually again this year and gave the attendees a good overview of agriculture in the state. He praised very highly the efforts made by farmers and producers in doing their share to mitigate some of the food distribution shortages that occurred during the pandemic. Much was learned about how to react in food emergencies.

A very important discussion was held regarding the Pomona Granges. Brother Phil Prelli from Connecticut was able to join us virtually to explain some of the things done in his state to help make Pomona Granges more effective. No final conclusions were reached regarding the consolidation and restructuring of Pomona Grange jurisdictions.

The State Grange Executive Committee was pleased to have the assistance of Sydney Gross, a student at Syracuse University in helping to better understand the location of Grange members and Grange Halls around the state. She also took the data from a survey regarding Pomona Granges and put it into a more understandable form. More study of her report is needed.

On the left is a photo of a group led by Patrick Kane of Steuben County who provided entertainment at the annual banquet. Several numbers were "Sing-a-Long" which were enjoyed by the members.



The Grange has been doing a community service event at the session. Non perishable food has been collected and given to a local school or food pantry. Below is a photo of this years collection.

Another community service project that culminates at the state session is the "C-Bill" collection for cancer. See Roger Halbert's final column for details. Below is a photo of the check presentation.



The Gerald Eastman award is presented annually to a person or couple that exemplify outstanding Christian Principles through their

(Continued on page 7)

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Legislative Column



Cindy Benson-Pollard

The holiday season is here. We are all making plans to spend time with family and friends as we get ready to say goodbye to another year. Although the year is ending, it is also time for your Grange to be planning its upcoming year's events. I hope that you will include the legislative work of your Grange in your upcoming events. Opening your hall to the community and share with them the work the Grange is doing to make your community a better place to live.

2021 State Grange session is complete. I want to take this opportunity to again thank those delegates who agreed to chair the session committees. Your leadership helped the session move along smoothly. It was a pleasure working with all of you. Included in this issue of the Granger are the resolved statements of resolutions that were adopted at this session.

I am in the process of updating the legislative policy handbooks from the work that completed at State Grange. I hope that these books will be in your Granges by early January. I hope that you will take a few minutes to review our policies. Included with the handbook will be the pamphlet that outlines the 2022 priorities that were chosen to by the delegates. Please be sure that you include this in your review of our policies. These are available for you to share with your community. I hope that you will do so.

At this time, I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season. May the joy of this time be an integral part of your family celebrations.

The following are the result of action taken at the 2021 State Grange Session

AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENT

FLOOD PLAIN MAPS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange request the State of New York adopt flood plain maps that reflect current data.

BEVERAGE PLASTIC PACKAGING

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would require the use of 100% biodegradable products such as brewing waste products for beverage packaging such as six-pack rings thus reducing

waste in landfills and oceans.
ARTIFICIAL PHEASANT PROPAGATION
RESOLVED that New York State Grange opposes current legislation to amend environmental conservation law which would end the states participation in the Artificial Pheasant Propagation activities or any similar legislation.

PFAS (PER-and POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES) IN DRINKING WATER

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation to reduce PFAS (Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) chemical exposure in drinking water to a safe level around the United States.

RELIEF FOR AMERICA'S SMALL FARMERS ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports passage of the Relief for America's Small Farmers Act or any similar legislation that would provide up to \$250,000 in loan forgiveness for three types of federal loans for small family farms who have earned \$300,000 or less over the past 5 years.

DAIRY MARGIN INSURANCE LOCATION CALCULATION

RESOLVED, that We support legislation in any future farm bills that would require the Secretary of Agriculture to use data from each state to calculate average feed cost and actual dairy production margins in order to improve the federal dairy insurance program by more accurately reflecting the labor, transportation, and feed costs experienced by farmers in different regions.

EDUCATION

TRADE SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE/TUITION

RESOLVED that New York State Grange recommends that trade schools that prepare students to enter the work force be included in the Rebuild America Schools Act or similar legislation, including upgrades to existing buildings, information on these schools, and the opportunities offered to graduating students, and be it further **RESOLVED** those students would be allowed to attend trade schools' tuition-free as an alternative to community college should those students wish to pursue a different education opportunity.

PROHIBITION OF MARKSMANSHIP AND/OR SHOOTING PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange is opposed to any additional amendments or legislation that would prohibit marksmanship and/or shooting programs for Public School students.

CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT RE-

SOURCES

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports New York State Senate Bill 1930, or other similar legislation directing New York State Education Department and other agencies to develop resources for assessing language development in children's language and communication methods from birth to 5 years for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, be it further **RESOLVED** that New York State Grange also supports extending this policy to children with other underlying causes of language delay.

FEDERAL ISSUES

UNDERRIDE CAR CRASHES

RESOLVED that New York State Grange highly encourages the Department of Transportation to require trucking companies use the newer and stronger rear guards, along with the front and side guards on the semi-trailers to help prevent underride car crashes by small cars when involved in a traffic accident.

FEDERAL CONGRESSIONAL TERM LIMITS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports enactment of legislation that imposes term limits for Representatives and Senators in the Congress of the United State.

FORCED ARBITRATION INJUSTICE REPEAL (FAIR) ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would prevent companies from imposing forced arbitration as a precondition for buying a product or using a service, and instead, allow consumers to choose arbitration willingly to settle a dispute or opt to have their dispute heard in a court of law.

STOP TIP-OVERS OF UNSTABLE, RISKY DRESSERS ON YOUTH (STURDY) ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission to adopt a stronger, mandatory stability standard for clothing storage units within one year of enactment. Such standards must include specified testing related to tip overs, including an increased weight limit to simulate children up to six years old, testing under real world conditions such as climbing, carpeted floors, and open drawers, inclusion of smaller clothing storage units, and new, strengthened warning requirements for all such products entering the U.S. market.

HEALTH

NURSING HOME ABUSE

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports any cur-

rent or proposed legislation investigating and prosecuting nursing home abuse.

PROTECTING HEALTH CARE WORKERS FROM AIRBORNE INFECTION DISEASES

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports specific federal regulations protecting health care workers from airborne pathogens that may lead to death by assuring a plan is in place for obtaining necessary personal protective equipment.

THE CHOOSE HOME CARE ACT OF 2021

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports the Choose Home Act of 2021 which gives patients choice of post-hospitalization care in the home rather than institutional care.

HEAVY METALS IN BABY FOOD

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation to reduce the amount of heavy metals in baby food such as cadmium, inorganic arsenic, lead, and mercury.

MEDICARE PART A HOSPITALIZATION

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation to amend Medicare Part A so that if a person on Medicare Part A is placed in observation status, it should be considered "admitted as an inpatient" to the hospital and that Medicare Part A covers the cost.

AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES TO DISTRIBUTE BLOOD

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports current or proposed legislation which would authorize air transport service providers to store, distribute and transfuse blood products at all of their facilities and to distribute human blood and blood products while providing air transport services.

STATE ISSUES

PAROLE AGE ELIGIBILITY

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would allow the Board of Parole to evaluate all inmates over the age of 55 who have served at least 15 years of their sentence for parole and that a public safety assessment be made to ascertain if the inmate is safe to be released under parole supervision.

AUTOMATED SPEED CAMERAS IN HIGHWAY WORK ZONES

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation for automated speed cameras in highway work zones.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR VEHICLES TRANSPORTING WEAPONS AND/OR AMMUNITION

RESOLVED that New York State Grange is opposed to New York Bill A-1815 (or similar legislation) that would require all motor vehicles transporting 5 or

more weapons and/or ammunition to have separate storage areas secured by padlock or combination lock.

ACCESS TO BROADBAND INTERNET

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that will provide funding and improved infrastructure to make broadband internet service available and affordable to all of New York State.

OUTSOURCING NEW YORK STATE JOBS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports all New York State government agencies, that contract with private businesses to efficiently conduct business, contract with private New York businesses rather than seek out of state vendors. Thus, helping New York's unemployment problem and also setting a good example to all New York citizens to do business "at home."

TAXATION/FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

NEW YORK GAS TAX

RESOLVED that New York State Grange opposes the Gas Tax as part of the Climate & Community Investment Act. **CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT** **RESOLVED** New York State Grange opposes legislation that would add additional carbon taxes and fees while we are in the process of implementing the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act that was signed into law in 2019 and set New York State's goal of being carbon neutral by 2050.

NY State Grange Priority Issues 2022

- We support fair pricing that accurately reflects the labor, transportation and feed costs experienced by farmers in different regions that will provide a fair price for farm products.
- We encourage adequate funding for programs and training programs that will encourage good environmental stewardship programs for agricultural landowners.
- We support reforms to immigration regulations and fair labor practices for agricultural workers.
- We support implementing better security and safety measures in schools as well as preventive programs that will provide a safe environment for the education of all students.
- We encourage agricultural, career and trade school education for students who are interested in this type of training.

- We support continued funding of Social Security that is sufficient for future generations without increasing eligibility age.
- We support legislation that would limit the use of eminent domain power to public projects and exclude the taking of property for private economic development.
- We support expanded Medicare to include observation stays as inpatient status for Medicare Part A coverage.
- We support adequate funding and improved infrastructure to make broadband internet service available and affordable for all residents in rural areas.
- We support legislation that would require all mandates to be funded by the government who is the originator of the mandate.

LETTER TO EDITOR

To President Stephen Coye NYS Grange

I am terribly dismayed at the recent article from the Empire State Granger in regards to the proposed changes in the format of the organization on the national level. The current trend to bow to the whims and feelings of a few to the detriment of the history of the organizational founding is wrong.

The Grange was founded on the principles of agriculture and farming at the time. We need to remember history not rewrite it. The terms that the founding fathers of the Grange used were in no way disrespectful to anyone. In fact, for example, part of the ritual states that women were equal and an integral part of the Grange. They were revered at the time, something that was innovative in the era that the Grange was founded. If you follow the process, these people would rewrite the bible and the references contained within. I am not ready to throw away the traditions of the years and the ritual of the organization that has been in existence for centuries.

I have been a lifelong (over 65 years) member of the Grange and proudly held several offices in both the Pomona, Subordinate and Junior (Juvenile) levels. I have received all seven degrees, and I feel that the organization that I have supported through the years has lost sight of the role that it should play in the community, and its leadership has lost the spine of the founding fathers.

If this is the way of the future, then the Grange will have to move without me.

I expect you to relay to the National Grange my displeasure of the wholesale changes without input of the membership.

I also request that this letter be submitted as a letter to the editor of the Empire State Granger for publication in the immediate future so that others can see that the proposals are not met with blind compliance by all.

Dick Rowland
Greenfield Grange #807

A Treasured Tradition with the Future in Focus

The special traveling 150th Birthday Cake fundraiser was revealed and on display at State Grange. Our goal is to have 150 candles added to the cake recognizing Grangers or Granges. To order a candle for the cake find the order form located in this paper. The following have been celebrated with candles on the cake: Helen A. Schroeder, Bird-sall Grange #1117, Bernard & Irene George, Gerald Batsford, Kirkland Jr. Grange #116, Ted Schwabrow, NYS Junior Grange, Stephen C. Coye, Lois Dehner, James Burrell, Gerald Burrell, Joyce Wiltsey, NYS Lecturers' Assoc., Barbara M. Lawton, Lodi Grange #213, Edward G. Dowd, Richard & Cecelia Pilc, Lester Pingrey, Bill Hodges, Noel & Ina Jo Clawson, Past First Lady Florence Curtis, Past State Master Russell Curtis, Robert & Georgianna Halbert, Helen Halbert, Butternut Valley Grange #1533, Eureka#46&Newark#366 Granges, Donald A. Drake, and Otsego Co. Pomona Grange #16. Thank you to everyone who helped us get off to a fantastic start with this project.

Thanks also go to Melvin Phelps for designing the Sesquicentennial Logo which consists of the numerals 1 and 5 with the Grange emblem in place of the zero. Wording above the numerals is "New York State Grange" and below the numerals is "Sesquicentennial 1873-2023". Our beautiful banner has been designed by Roberta Seversen with assistance from Melvin Phelps. Thanks go to both of them for this creative effort.

We should be proud of what the Grange has accomplished. Along with a feeling of pride we want to establish a spirit of positive action and determination. As we "Focus on the Future" invite others to become Grange members. Just one new idea or one new member can make a difference.

Sesquicentennial Co-chairs:

Roberta Halbert, 607-783-2445

Susan Drake, 607-264-3069

This is a sample of the certificate that donors will receive



Below is the Sesquicentennial Banner



A Treasured Tradition With The Future In Focus

NYS Grange Sesquicentennial Committee

Candle Order Information

Fundraiser for Celebration expenses is a birthday candle for the traveling birthday cake (Limit 150 candles).

Have a special past or present member's name applied to a candle or the name of a Grange

Candles with names will be added to the cake as ordered

Order or pay directly to Committee Co-chair Roberta Halbert

This cake will be traveling to various events and the regional celebrations until October of 2023 and then will be on view at State Grange Headquarters. Recognize a special member or put your Grange on the cake!

Name of Honoree (Print Clearly)

(Circle one) RED CANDLE \$10 BLUE CANDLE \$25 GREEN CANDLE \$50 PINK CANDLE \$100

If ordering by mail enclose a check for the circled amount made out to **New York State Grange**

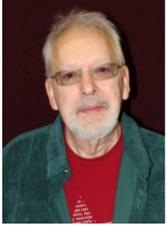
on check memo line add 150th Anniversary Candle

Name of person or Grange _____

for Appreciation Certificate _____

Mail to: Roberta Halbert, PO Box 102, Gilbertsville, NY 13776

Leadership Membership



Barton Snedaker

For quite awhile I have attempted, unsuccessfully I might add, to come up with a cute, memorable way to say that without "U" there is no Grange. The closest it gets is grunge and that is hardly appropriate. The more I pondered on it the clearer my answer became. There is no Grange without YOU. There would be no members, no leaders, no Graces, no Lecturer. No Chaplain, no President, Steward or assistants. This is not to say that those officers and titles make the whole Grange. Without YOU there would be no community service, committees, no contest entries, no hospitality, no ritual or salutation.

A continuation of this idea is that Granges need to keep the members already on their rolls just as much as they need to recruit new ones. If your Grange is holding onto its membership is it developing them into leaders? Just as Grange is a grassroots organization flowing from local Grange to National, so should our leadership. This concern was brought into very clear, sharp focus at state session. For the election of officers, a complete slate this year, we had only one name per position. Many officers wished to remain in their elected office because they felt "cheated" out of a year of serving. That aside, we should be able to have at least two names on the ballot for each office. One from the suggestions of the Delegates-at-large and one or more suggested by the delegates from the floor.

Don't get me wrong. I am in no way complaining about the officers we have. They are all doing a fine job. What I am saying is that when the time comes to elect more, new leadership for State Grange we need to have a fuller slate from which to choose. How we get it is up to the local and Pomona Granges.

An idea was passed on to me from Peter Croucher at State Grange. We all know we need to be finding youth and young adults as new members of our order. But, they are or will be starting college, jobs and careers, families and other pursuits. Perhaps an untapped resource is those members of your community that are newly retired. They no longer have the need to be on time to work and many of them all of a sudden have much more time on their hands. What a perfect asset to your or any Grange. Ask

around your churches, organizations and communities. You will be able to find out who they are. Asking never hurt anyone and it may be the only way someone will know about the Grange. All they can do is say yes or no.

Another idea was passed on to me during a phone call from a Granger trying to find an active Grange for a person she had met at a meeting of another organization. Open up your Grange hall to other agricultural groups - not a totally new idea. As other groups have shut down, the Grange may be the perfect place to offer facilities. Some Granges have no rent for other agricultural groups* - 4H, goat, sheep or dairy clubs, rural cooperatives, organizers of farmers' markets, etc. When you do have a group use your Grange make sure you have information about The Grange and yours in particular ready for the guests to pick up. Granges used to be the hub of activity in many rural communities. Now they need to get their doors open to that community as Covid begins to wind down and things get back to "normal".

*Suggesting or asking for a donation would not be out of the question.

Youth



Katie Fallon

The youth had an amazing time at State Convention in Corning NY! They worked on community service project, went to session, had a field trip to the local glass museum and opened State Grange session Sunday morning. We had five youth members receive their 6th degree and they were excited to get their 7th degree. Congratulations to State youth Master Sasha Secor on a wonderful job leading the youth and the rest of the team on their opening drill.

Danielle Caguit was named the 2021-22 State Young Patron of NY! Congratulations Danielle and please contact me to invite her to your Grange this year.

At National Convention in Wichita, Kansas the NYS youth had a huge presence. National Ambassador Britney Mercado (NY) finished her term as Ambassador and was on the youth Parlipro team. Sasha Secor was a fellow and was very busy reporting on all the activities at National Convention. Ben and

Elizabeth Van Kleeck were National Youth officers and on the Parlipro team. Julian Couse, Ryan Orton and Katie Fallon were also on the Parlipro team.

The NYS Parlipro team finished in 2nd place and Katie Fallon won best chair.

We had 4 youth from NY receive their 7th degree and we were all honored to be present for Bruce Croucher's retiring performance.

Thank you to all who have supported the youth this fall on all their endeavors.

The winter youth weekend is Martin Luther King weekend at Stanford Grange 808. Please rsvp by January 5th.

Chaplain's Corner



Virginia L. Conner

ANGELS AMONG US

Those of you who were at the Memorial Service at State Session know that my theme was Angels. You might also be wondering what I did with the extra handmade angels on the display boards. Well, here is the story.

Roger and I arrived at the Session hotel on Thursday and unloaded (with the assistance of Steuben and Allegany County Grangers) the cargo trailer of Session equipment etc from Grange Headquarters. Therefore, we had Friday to relax. We chose to sit in the hotel lobby and watch Grangers arrive, register and then proceed to unload their vehicles.

This is where I began noticing wonderful things happening - Grangers helping Grangers - holding doors, carrying luggage, helping get items into the elevators, giving directions to committee meeting rooms etc. etc. Grangers making a difference in someone's life by simply being a helper and bringing smiles to tired, weary faces. It was a wonderful sight to observe and that is when I knew what I would do with the extra angels.

You see I had 14 angels on the boards. The first three were given in memory of special Grangers at the Memorial Service. That left eleven angels to give to people who were "making a difference" in someone's life. So on Sunday and Monday each angel found a heart to make joyful and a new home in which to abide.

Hebrews 13:2: "Don't forget to receive strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares".

On Monday at State Session, word was received that Brother

Henry Rowland, Saratoga Co. had received his Heavenly Degree in the Grange Above. My sympathy to the Rowland family.

Family Activities



Brenda Noble

Family Activities

It was great to see so many at State Grange Session this year! We received 5 awards from the Northeast Exposition: Embroidery 3rd Place - Karen Wilcox, Jefferson Co.; Counted Cross Stitch 3rd Place - Letitia Pickering, Monroe Co.; Quilted Wall Hanging 2nd Place - Charlotte Brenon, Jefferson Co.; Baby Afghan 2nd Place - Letitia Pickering; Child or Adult Garment Sewn 3rd Place - Elizabeth Morin, Albany Co.

New York provided a quilt to raffle for charity at the Northeast Exposition. I thank Valerie Griffing from our committee and her sister for making the quilt. They raised \$5,502 in the raffle that was given to Shriners Children's Hospital. This was the most they have ever raised in a quilt raffle. The store, where they sell the handmade items, also did very well, and had close to a record in sales as well. The proceeds help to upkeep the Grange building and support judging in the contests. I thank everyone for their help!

We had 14 entries for the scones baking contest on Saturday of Session. There were all different kinds, some sweet and some savory. The results were 1st Cathy Stark, - Dutchess Co.; 2nd Ismay Payne - Albany Co.; 3rd Jackie Campbell - Wayne Co.; HM Dale Nagel - Cortland Co., Deb Barnes - Chenango Co., Martha Babbitt - Rensselaer Co., Paula Turner - Steuben Co., Chris Ankin - Oneida Co., Anna Ritchey - Otsego Co., Rhonda Davis - Jefferson Co.

We had an Idea Fair on Sunday evening with recipes for gluten free cookies and we did a craft of a beaded angel. For the 150th New York State Grange Anniversary in 2023, we also provided directions for the Churn Dash quilt block using blue and white colors. We will accept entries from everyone for these quilt blocks at State Session in 2022. We will then have the quilt blocks put together into a quilt to be raffled off at the State Session in 2023 for the anniversary. If anyone needs directions, please let me know.

Junior Grange



Gail Chamberlain

JG Craft Winners at 2021 State Session

Many crafts from across New York were brought to State Session in Corning, where each received a ribbon. I am pleased to award the following Best of Show rosettes, with prize money attached to the crafts. Blue will be listed first; then red, then white. Judging was on the Danish system with each craft judged on their own merit. Some categories did not qualify to have all three rosettes awarded. We remind crafters to follow the rules and be careful of size limitations.

Hand Pies

5-8 Jonah Peck, Jefferson Co. Blue Rosette
Annabel Maring, Washington Co. red ribbon
9-11 Jonathan Peck, Jefferson Co. Blue Rosette
Cody Bolton, Washington Co. red ribbon
Leonara Kunuria, Albany Co. red ribbon
12-14 Nathan Frost, Jefferson Co. red ribbon.

Cinnamon Scents Craft

5-8 Paige Darling, Washington Co. Blue Rosette
Jonah Peck, Jefferson Co. blue ribbon
9-11 Gabby Hubbard, Lewis Co. Blue Rosette
Jonathon Peck, Jefferson Co. red ribbon
Hannah Sands, Albany Co. red ribbon
Cody Bolton, Washington Co. red ribbon
12-14 Steven Frost, Jefferson Co. Blue Rosettes
Kylee Bolton, Washington Co. red ribbon
Trinny Pearson, Lewis Co. red ribbon

Sand Art

5-8 Annabele Naring, Washington Co. Blue Rosette
Don Sands, Albany Co. red ribbon
Jonah Peck, Jefferson Co. blue ribbon
9-11 Jonathon Peck, Jefferson Co. Blue Rosette
Gabby Hubbard, Lewis Co. Red Rosette
Cody Bolton, Washington Co. red ribbon
12-14 Steven Frost, Jefferson Co. Blue Rosette
Kylee Bolton, Washington blue ribbon
Brayton Hubbard, Lewis Co. red ribbon

Butterfly Craft

5-8 Paige Darling, Washington

Co. blue ribbon
Don Sands, Albany Co. blue ribbon
Hunter Slate, Jefferson Co. red ribbon
9-11 Gabby Hubbard, Lewis Co. Blue Rosette
Jonathon Peck, Jefferson Co. Red Rosette
Cody Bolton, Washington Co. White Rosette
Cody Bolton, Washington Co. blue ribbon
Hannah Sands, Albany Co. red ribbon
12-14 Steven Frost, Jefferson Co. Blue Rosette
Kylee Bolton, Washington Co. red ribbon
"Bott" 5-8 Jonah Peck, Jefferson Co. Blue Rosette
Don Sands, Albany Co. blue ribbon
9-11 Hannah Sands, Albany Co. red ribbon
Jonathan Peck, Jefferson Co. red ribbon
Gabby Hubbard, Lewis Co. red ribbon
12-14 Steven Frost, Jefferson Co. Blue Rosette.
OJAY Steven Frost, Jefferson Co. Blue Rosette
Junior Grange members from Steuben and Allegany counties at State Session performed the opening and closing ceremonies using the Alternative JG manual adopted by National Grange 2006 during the Sunday afternoon program. Junior Grange enthusiasm is always displayed. Thank you to them and the leaders and parents for all their hard work. Boxes were collected for the "kids helping Kids" project, thank you to all the Granges who brought boxes to State Session and for those that stayed in their communities.
State Master Stephen Coye (also National Executive Committee) and National Grange Pomona Kay Stiles were Junior Grange honored guests. Also Honored guests included Past State Junior Directors, Karen Wilcox and Emily Ormsby who were recognized and greetings to the Juniors were received from Beverly Martin. A collection of \$100 from the State Directors and others was presented for a pink candle for the 150th Birthday cake for the State Grange celebration planned.
Camp co-director Ryan Orton and Matt Horton lead us in the Bear Song, and Pizza was enjoyed after the program.
A big THANK YOU for all the generosity with the collection taken prior to the Junior program on Sunday. The money is used for the cash envelopes for State craft rosettes.

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Community Involvement

Sherri Taft



This year we received twenty-nine Community Service reports from across New York State. The reports were a joy to browse through to see what Granges have been doing this past year. The judges truly enjoyed reading the reports, it opened their eyes to all the good that Granges do for their communities. The final results are as follows:
1st place – Stanford Grange #808, Dutchess County
2nd place – Butternut Valley #1533, Otsego County
3rd place – Interlaken Grange #160, Seneca County
4th place – Marcellus Grange #464, Onondaga County
Congratulations to all of these Granges!

As we are coming upon the holiday season, how can your Grange help the members of your community? Are you able to donate money to a local Christmas Bureau to help purchase gifts for families in need? Do you have knitters and crocheters in your Grange that can make hats and mittens? These items can be given to local school districts for students that come to school without hats or mittens to keep them warm. Perhaps you can host a "Parents Night Out", a time for parents to go Christmas shopping while leaving their children in the competent hands of

your Grange members. Even if you have a small Grange with only a few active members, there are many things you can do to help your community.

More Love Letters is a letter writing campaign that writes letters to people to help cheer them up during the holiday season. There are many heart wrenching stories of people who could use some cheer on their website, moreloveletters.com. Perhaps at your Grange meetings in the next couple of months, you can look up a few of the stories and choose who to write some letters to. The letters could be written at a Grange meeting, either as a Lecturer's Program, or during the meal prior to or the refreshment time after the meeting. Such a simple thing, yet the impact will be felt for a long time to come for the recipients of the letters. Please find ways to help your communities during the next few months. Between the holidays and the upcoming cold weather, many people will need our help. Let's make the world a little brighter for those around us.

As the handbooks are not being mailed out this year, please visit nysgrange.org to find that Community Service handbook for the next two years. It can be printed off and put in your Community Service bag for a quick reference.

As always, if I can be of any assistance to you and your Grange, please feel free to reach out to me, I will help in any way that I can. I truly enjoy traveling to Granges and offering ideas on ways to provide community service in your neighborhood.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

State Lecturer



Jolene Pirrone

If you haven't checked out the new program book — do so now. It's available on the website, or you can send me an email and request a paper copy. If you have done so already, do it again! Because I made a couple of important changes as a result of some feedback I got from State Session and by email.

In short, I reversed the order of a couple of projects. My original thoughts when composing the material in June turned out to be difficult to time correctly in practice. You spoke, I listened. At any rate, this should not negatively impact anyone, since the changes should make it easier, not harder to participate.

Our featured topic for this year is the Fire Service. Did you know many firefighters are frontline medical providers as well? It's true! Fire companies also carry many volunteer EMTs. With provider shortages and extra demand this season, these dual volunteers are perfectly situated to pick up the slack in the community. Please consider inviting a representative of your local fire company to speak to your Grange about how they support you and your neighbors.

One on-going project is the Dictionary Project AKA Words for Thirds. I have been tickled to see all the kids on Facebook smiling with their new dictionaries. This is a super easy project to participate in. It's nice to give the kids their dictionaries in the beginning of the year, but they would be just as excited to receive them a little late. It's not too late! Even if it is, you can think of it as being really early for next year. Get started here: <https://www.dictionaryproject.org/sponsor-project/>

I just got an email about the Leadership Conference. I am encouraged to see that there is some forward movement on this. I look forward to our upcoming Zoom meeting to discuss the schedule and responsibilities of State Lecturers. I'll keep you all updated.

Please email with comments and questions or for a program book: jolene@advancedwebdesign.com



Roger Halbert

As I wrap up remaining loose ends from the Secretary's station, I am delighted to share with you all the results of our collection of "C" and "G" bills since October 2020 thru this year's State Session. The "C" bill collection is presented to a cancer treatment center in the geographic location of State Session for a statewide community service project. The "G" bill collection goes towards New York State Grange's portion of hosting the National Convention when it comes to the northeast... and this time, in 2023 it will be in Niagara Falls, so our excitement builds!

Following are results of the "C" bill collection for this past year: Albany: \$364; Allegany: \$84; Cayuga: \$59; Chautauqua: \$63; Chenango: \$36; Columbia: \$46; Cortland: \$16; Dutchess: \$353; Franklin: \$ 25; Jefferson: \$137; Lewis: \$35; Monroe: \$20; Onondaga: \$175; Ontario: \$26; Otsego: \$275; Rensselaer: \$100; Seneca: \$20; Tioga: \$21; Tompkins: \$25; Wayne: \$513; Wyoming: \$40; unaccounted sources: \$13 for a grand total of \$2,446.

The collection of "G" bills shows the following: Albany: \$406; Allegany: \$127; Cayuga: \$120; Chautauqua: \$71; Chenango: \$36; Columbia: \$35; Cortland: \$38; Dutchess: \$45; Erie: \$26; Franklin: \$25; Jefferson: \$309; Lewis: \$36; Monroe: \$85; Onondaga: \$245; Ontario: \$313; Otsego: \$547; Rensselaer: \$200; Seneca: \$20; Steuben: \$100; Tioga: \$42; Tompkins: \$22; Wayne: \$60; Wyoming: \$30; unaccounted sources: \$3 for a grand total of \$2,941.

When you read this edition of the Empire State Granger, most of the Secretary's duties are being addressed by my successor, Ryan Orton, the newly elected Secretary of the New York State Grange. My duties will conclude with the printing of the 2022 State Grange Directory and assembling and having the printed copy of the 2021 Journal of Proceedings. My goal is to have both done and delivered to the Cortland office by March.

I have fond memories of working with many of you, especially the Secretaries of Subordinate and Pomona Granges the last ten years. Thank you for the privilege of serving you. I expect that you will give your fine cooperation to Ryan Orton as he tackles the job of the "most arduous duties" of Secretary.

In the meantime, happy Granging and we look forward to seeing you along the way!



State Grange Secretary



Ryan Orton

"The office shall seek the man, not the man the office."

This quotation from the Grange Declaration of Purposes was utilized and implemented at the 149th Annual Session of the New York State Grange when I was elected to the Office of State Grange Secretary. My Father, Past State Master/President Oliver Orton, taught me this quotation at a very young age, and it has been something I've lived by my whole life both in and out of Grange.

For my fellow Grangers across New York who don't know me, I am a member of Stanford Grange #808 in Dutchess County. I was a Junior Grange member, and began learning the duties of this Office when I was elected Secretary of my Junior Grange at the age of 10. I am the Secretary of Stanford Grange #808 and Dutchess County Pomona Grange #32. Grange has been in my blood since birth. My parents and grandparents on both sides of my family are Grange members. Grange goes back to my Great Grandparents in Genesee County. Along with my Father, my Great Grandmother, Helen Keller, served as a State Grange Officer – Lady Assistant Steward from 1937 – 1939 and Lecturer from 1939 – 1943. Growing up in the Grange, I benefitted from many experiences as a Junior Granger and Youth Granger including State Grange Youth Ambassador, State & National Grange Youth Officer, and

John Trimble Legislative Participant at National Grange. During the day, I am the 8th Grade US History Teacher at Stissing Mountain Junior – Senior High School in Pine Plains in Northern Dutchess County. I love teaching Middle School – it's really fun watching them learn to love history, and I never know what will come out of my students' mouths! The Grange is part of my curriculum, and I bring Grange paraphernalia to my classroom, set it up like a Grange Hall, and teach my students about the Grange through living history. They really enjoy it, and it introduces our organization to them. Unlike most of what I teach in my class, the Grange is alive and still working in the community! I am also the Co-Advisor of my school's Student Council and Mock Trial Team.

It's been a long time since we've had a State Secretary working full time while serving in this Office. It will be a challenge to balance everything I do for School, Grange, and Church (I am the Organist at the First United Presbyterian Church in Pine Plains and also serve on the Church Session). But, I promise to do the best I can. Thank you to the State Grange Delegates for placing your confidence in me as your new State Secretary. I look forward to the challenges before us as an organization remembering the oft quoted saying throughout the pandemic, "We're all in this together!"



Be a star and add a few new members to your Grange. The New York State Grange would like to join several others and have a net gain in membership. It almost happened last year.

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church work and their Grange Work. The award this year went to Ralph and Cindy Williams of Lewis County. They are pictured below with State Master Coye.



This year was also the year for a full election of officers for the State Grange. I was encouraged that Granges from around the state think of those who could serve as state officers and to make them known to the delegate at large from their county, A resume of the individual should be included so that appropriate selections can

be made to present to the delegate body for consideration. Following is the list of officers for the next two years.

- Master: Stephen C. Coye—Albany County
 - Overseer: Elaine Smith—Delaware County
 - Lecturer: Jolene Pironne—Columbia County
 - Steward: Matthew Horton—Steuben County
 - Assistant Steward: Christian Taft—Onondaga County
 - Lady Assistant Steward: Sherri Taft—Onondaga County
 - Secretary: Ryan Orton—Dutchess County
 - Treasurer: Kenneth Smith—Delaware County
 - Chaplain: Virginia Conner—Cayuga County
 - Gatekeeper: James Dowd—Allegany County
 - Ceres: Fannie Mallette—Wayne County
 - Pomona: Sarah Barber—Columbia County
 - Flora: Paula Turner—Steuben County
 - Executive Committee: Bruce Croucher—Ontario County
- There were also two members elected to the Museum Board of Directors: Roland Shea Sr.—Oneida County and Patricia VanLare—Wayne County

National Grange

The National Grange Convention was held in Wichita, Kansas. The National Session was also back to near normal. Tours of the area were held prior to and during the convention. The hotel was right on the river and many enjoyed walking in this beautiful area. Nearby was a monument to the “Keeper of the Plains” which was encircled by fire periodically.

Resolutions that were of National importance were presented, discussed and acted upon. New York had several presented this year. The National Grange also held committee meetings virtually prior to convening in Kansas. The most dramatic of the resolutions regarded the proposal to divest of the National Grange Headquarters in Washington, DC. The building is aging and in need of serious repair work including elevators, Electrical and plumbing as well as a thorough updating of all systems. It is no longer a class A building as it was when built. It would require millions of dollars to bring it up to appropriate specifications. It is also the only non-government building in the area. The last few years there has been a great deal of turmoil in this part of our nations capitol and damage has occurred to the building. There have also been times when barriers were established several blocks away for security purposes and tenants had a great deal of difficulty getting to their offices. There is a great concern that listing the building would initiate a “condemnation” proceeding by the federal government. There are very strict rules concerning who can own property in that area.

After an extended period of discussion the painful decision was made to sell the headquarters. The process will take at least two years. Appraisals will need to occur to put the Grange in a good position if the condemnation process is invoked. The Federal Government cannot just take the property without compensation. The plan is then to rent property for a period of time and then decide where to locate a Grange Headquarters.

New York State had a very nice group of members attend the convention. Here is a photograph of most of those who were in attendance:



From Left to Right: Ben Van Kleeck, Brittany Mercado, Terese Fallon, Elizabeth Van Kleeck, Katie Fallon, Sasha Secon, Sharon Croucher, Bruce Croucher, Julian Couse, Ryan Orton and Stephen Coye. Attending but not pictured were Matthew Horton and his father, and Lois and Linda Kesby.

Wayne County



Members of Eureka /Newark Granges of Wayne County Pomona Grange help Lincoln Grange making fruit baskets for Lincoln’s shut-ins.

Left to right: Pauline & Bill Walz, Kay Bailey, Brian Campbell, Fannie Mallette, Pat VanLare, Carol Bailey, Allan Mallette, Deb VanLare and Jackie Campbell.

Newark and Eureka Grange had 41 in attendance for a pancake and sausage dinner. Santa made an appearance to give special gifts to 8 kids. The adults exchanged gifts as well. New York State Grange Ceres Fannie Mallette visited with Santa. Pat VanLare did a program of Christmas around the world with help from others reading each of the 20 countries Christmas festivities and Carol Bailey did a candle lighting ceremony. All enjoyed the evening.



Flora and Her Attendants



Ceres and Her Attendants



Pomona and Her Attendants

Cortland County

Cuyler Grange #449 member Barb Lavier organized a open house meeting with 27 non Grangers attending. 10 membership applications were passed out.



Delaware County



Col Harper Grange members who are veterans, set up a display at the Stamford library on Veterans Day. We included the names of heroes that had gone to Stamford school.

Otsego County



Butternut Valley Grange #1533 Six of our session delegates were first time attendees and we are very proud of that. They all reported having had an excellent experience and would love to go again. Front row - Barton Snedaker and Gladys (Sammie) Tabor. Back row - left to right - Tom Hornbeck, Calvin Wilcox, Pat Hornbeck, Doug Roberts, Sandy Stoy and Dave Stoy.

Pomona Study Committee

The Pomona Study Committee has been working very hard to establish the best way to make the Pomona Grange a more integral part of the Grange program. Several meetings were held across the state to gather information. Surveys were also sent to a number of individuals to get opinions about the Pomona Grange. The committee has also looked at the location of Granges and Grange members across the state. The different regions that have been traditional for Grange activities was also studied.

It was decided that the committee needed someone to put that information in a form that would give good insight as to the next steps that should occur in determining the course of the study. One of the committee members had insight into someone to achieve this task.

Sydney Grosso was interviewed and chosen to complete the task. The following will give you some knowledge for the choice.



I grew up in Lafayette NY surrounded by apple trees and lot of land to play on. I was always active as a kid between sports, school, and working around the house with my dad. I have always been a busy person with very little down time and not much room to spare. I have 4 horses, a cat, dog. Then we raise chickens, pigs, and turkeys for meat. We also have a garden we manage for fun and my dad loves going above and beyond and planting over 6,000 garlic every year. We also make our own homemade sausage and apple cider. In high school, I would play a sport every season, golf, volleyball, lacrosse, while managing other clubs like international club, Shakespeare club, and yearbook committee. I also was class president and senior year I became student body president and loved it. One of my favorite roles I was involved in was attending our Guatemalan refugees' classes during my study halls or lunches to teach them English and translate for them in class. I would also help them studying and assist with homework. I would walk over to the elementary school and help the 1st grade refugees learn new studies and help them with English. Even though I devoted a lot of my time to sports and clubs, I always made FFA and The Onondaga County Dairy Promotions as my focus. I was in FFA from 7th grade to when I graduated receiving my Greenhand, Chapter, and State

degree. In my junior year I was president of FFA and held events like haunted houses, flower sales, and community events. My senior year I was fortunate and won states to compete at the national level for job interview. Also, my junior year of high school, after being a dairy ambassador for 3 years, I became alternate Onondaga Dairy Princess. I would attend state fair events, teach children at schools, and promote dairy at organizational events. Being dairy princess was one of my favorite activities I was involved in, and I love the program. Then I applied to Syracuse University where I first was a biochemistry major but later discovered I had a greater passion for Public Health and Policy Studies. I am enrolled in a 4 + 1 master's program and have been taking grad courses since sophomore year. Furthermore, since I had been studying Spanish for 6 years in high school, and loved the language and culture, I wanted to minor in it. My freshman year, I became part of RHA, Residents Hall Association, where I was the programmer for my hall. I created several new activities for hall every month and had weekly meetings, both in hall and campus wide. My freshman year I joined a sorority, Alpha Xi Delta, to make new friends and be able to raise money for organizations like Autism Speaks and the Rescue Mission. My sophomore year I became an RA, Residential Advisor, which entails: managing my floor of 60 residents, conducting roommate agreements, international conversations, individual meetings with each person, conducting floor and community events, being on call, and attending weekly meetings. I work for the manager of David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics - Syracuse University where I assist around the office, making excel sheets, and helping professors in class. I work as a writer for LaunchPad as well as a mentor for an Inclusive ++ Program. Additionally, I am a TA, Teaching Assistant, where I quickly adapt to new situations helping students and the professor with class material. Lastly, I am a research Assistant for a lead poisoning lab in Falk college. Overall agriculture has always been my backbone and I wouldn't be the person I am today without it. It shaped me to be a leader, a strong individual, and improved my communication skills more than anything. In conclusion I love keeping myself busy but always try to make time for my other hobbies like skiing, training my horse, and photography. I will be going abroad, hopefully, to Madrid next semester to finish my Spanish minor and with all hopes to become bilingual. I'm not exactly sure what my future holds, my hoping to gain more experience through internships, but I have been interested in the possibility law school, the FBI, or a higher government position.